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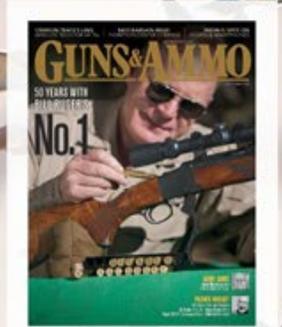
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PUBLISHER Chris Agnes

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EDITOR Eric R. Poole
MANAGING EDITOR Chris Mudgett
ASSOCIATE EDITOR Laura Kovarik
ASSOCIATE EDITOR Katie McCarthy
ART DIRECTOR Michael Ulrich
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Michael Anschuetz
GROUP ART DIRECTOR David Kleckner
SENIOR EDITOR Garry James
SENIOR FIELD EDITOR Craig Boddington
HANDGUNS EDITOR Patrick Sweeney

CONTRIBUTORS

Tom Beckstrand, Jeremy Cantrell, Mark Fingar,
Brad Fitzpatrick, Skip Knowles, Kyle Lamb,
Lukas Lamb, Dana Loesch, Richard Nance, Alfredo Rico,
Jeremy Stafford, Sean Utley, Len Waldron, Keith Wood

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR Al Ziegler

ENDEMIC AD SALES

NATIONAL ENDEMIC SALES MANAGER
Jim McConville (440) 791-7017
WESTERN REGION Hutch Looney (818) 990-9000
WEST REGION Tom Perrier (605) 348-4652
SOUTHWEST REGION Michael Garrison (309) 679-5054
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WHERE-TO-GO/MARKETPLACE
Mark Thiffault (800) 200-7885

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Kathy Gross (678) 589-2065
MIDWEST ACCOUNT DIRECTOR
Kevin Donley (248) 798-4458
WEST COAST, MIDWEST & MOUNTAIN
ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Carl Benson (312) 955-0496
DIRECT RESPONSE ADVERTISING/NON-ENDEMIC
Anthony Smyth (914) 693-8700

OUTDOOR SPORTSMAN GROUP

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER Jeff Paro

CORPORATE

EVP, GROUP PUBLISHER, HUNTING AND SHOOTING Mike Carney
SENIOR VP, TV OPERATIONS, GROUP PUBLISHER, FISHING Steve Hoffman
VP, FINANCE & OPERATIONS Derek Sevcik
VP, CONSUMER MARKETING Peter Watt
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VP, DIGITAL SALES David Plante
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SENIOR DIRECTOR, PRODUCTION Connie Mendoza
DIRECTOR, PUBLISHING TECHNOLOGY Kyle Morgan

OUTDOOR SPORTSMAN GROUP, DIGITAL

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EDITORIAL DIRECTOR, FISHING Jeff Simpson
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR, HUNTING/SHOOTING Randy Hynes

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ON BILL McMILLAN

I read Patrick Sweeney's column, "Geometry & Anatomy," in the July 2016 edition. The photo on page 25 showing Ray Chapman, Elden Carl and Bill McMillan caught my eye. It is very rare that I run across a name of someone I have actually met. I first met Lt. Col. William W. "Bill" McMillan Jr. in 1975 while attending classes at Miramar College as part of training to become a Reserve Deputy with the San Diego County Sheriff's Office. Bill was our small arms training officer and was one impressive handgunner. I had the pleasure of briefly rubbing elbows with McMillan during and following my training at Miramar and while serving with the sheriff's reserve. His impressive career and accomplishments in the world of handgunning are truly noteworthy and the lessons I learned from him still form the basis of my handgun technique. Perhaps you should consider a feature article on this U.S. Marine, Olympian and law enforcement small-arms training officer. Those interested in learning more about McMillan may find it at wmmcmillan.info. I have been a subscriber of Guns & Ammo magazine for nearly four decades and have enjoyed your many great articles over the years. Bravo Zulu to you and the rest of the G&A staff.

Bill Palm, SCPO, USN (ret.)
Lampasas, Texas

IS .357 SIG LIKE .357 MAG?

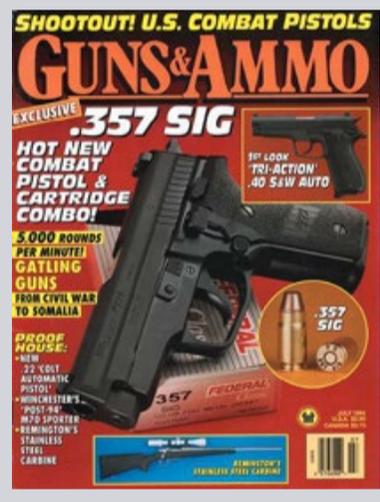
Hey Patrick Sweeney, I just finished reading your Handgunning column in the August issue on the

.38 Super. It was a great piece. You briefly mention that .357 Magnum took the thunder from the .38 Super, but you didn't mention that another round — the

JULY '94

This issue introduced the then-new .357 SIG cartridge and a pistol to chamber it: the SIG Sauer P229. Though the 13+1-round capacity P229 was adopted by many police departments, the .357 SIG was subsequently selected for issue by *even more* agencies until its popularity waned in the early 2000s.

Federal was the first brand to load ammo for it, a 125-gr. JHP that traveled at 1,352 fps with 507 ft.-lbs. of impact energy. These numbers are similar to that of a light .357 Magnum round loaded with 125-gr. bullets and fired from a 4-in. barrel.



.357 SIG — which approximates the .357 Magnum.
Ted Herrera
Email

Ted, the .357 Magnum stole the thunder of the .38 Super for a host of very good reasons; it actually delivered performance that exceeded that of the Super. In a normal sidearm for the time — a 4-inch or 6-inch barreled N-frame — the .357 Magnum could deliver a 158-grain bullet at over 1,300 feet per second (fps). (The books say 1,450 fps, but I've never fired such a



load, seen such a load or talked to someone who has.) Revolvers were the de facto police sidearm of the time, and it was easier to train up to the .357 than switch to the 1911. And, for the lesser motivated, we can always use .38 Special ammunition in a .357 Magnum without much of a downside. The .357 SIG? It delivers no more than the Super does, given the same-length barrel. It gives you that performance with an excessively exuberant flash and muzzle blast. The .357 SIG is unforgiving of a handloader's mistakes, and it does all this with a shape that limits magazine capacity. If you are a savvy .357 SIG handloader, using a full-size pistol and willing to subject yourself and your range buddies to the bark, you can marginally exceed the .38 Super performance. I may be a bit biased, as three decades of use with the .38 Super has won me loot, glory, guns and fame. The .357 SIG? Not so much.
— P. Sweeney

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MORE RIMFIRE, PLEASE

My friends and I want to see more articles about .22LR, .22WMR, .17, etc., handguns and rifles. These are what we use more often for hunting and carry on our land. Yes, we have larger [firearms] for personal protection and hunting, but why carry a .45 to hunt rabbits or snakes? Also, most small game can be taken with a .22. With the number of manufacturers turning out rimfires, G&A should spend more time there.

Richard Helms
Email



REAMING GOLD

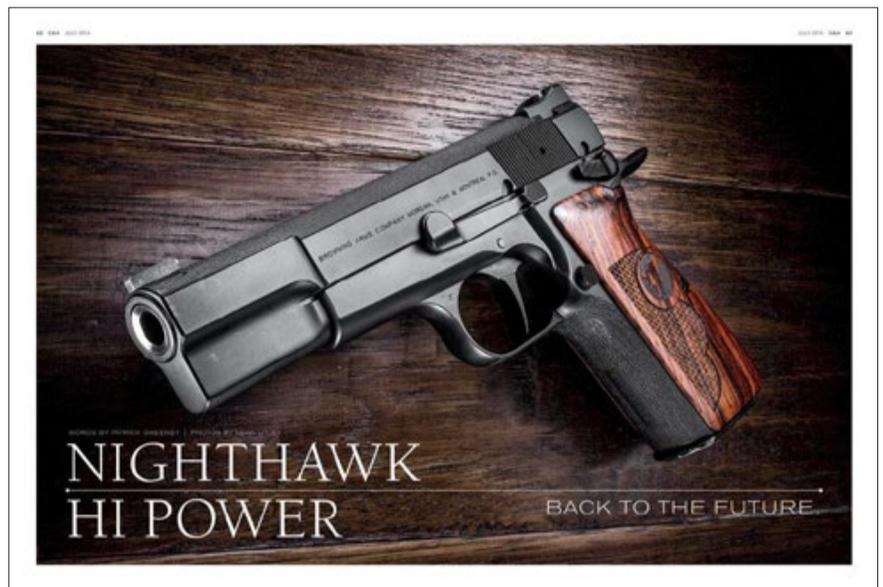
In his article "Bricks of Gold," Tom Beckstrand wrote, "Chambers in factory rifles see the entire range of SAAMI specifications, from the tightest cut with new reamers to the largest cut with reamers drawing their last breath." I believe the situation is the reverse. A new reamer is made to the outer (largest) limit of the chamber tolerance. As it is used, it wears down and becomes smaller; when it grows dull, it is sharpened, reducing its size further. When it finally reaches the low end of the tolerance range, it is discarded or reground to a different cal-

iber. So the larger chamber is cut with the new reamer, while the smaller and supposedly better chamber was cut with an old, worn-out reamer. Small-scale custom makers cut fewer chambers and can afford to begin with a smaller reamer, so custom rifles will often have "tighter" chambers. The same is true for the reamers used to make loading dies, cartridge forming dies at the ammunition factories and so on, each of which has its own set of tolerances. All in all, it is something of a manufacturing miracle that we almost never experience problems with ammunition, factory or handloads that will not fit and fire in a rifle chambered for the appropriate cartridge.

Jim Keenan
Middletown, Maryland

WATCHING BULLETS FLY

I have something to share with you that may be of interest to other readers as well. I had a unique thing happen while I was doing some target practice to unwind after work this evening. I took out my Ruger 10/22, equipped with a 4x28 Weaver rimfire scope for some target practice. I hadn't fired it for a while and wanted to make sure the scope was still zeroed. It is a certain time of year (today is the first day of summer as I write this) that the sun is nearly at my back on my range at home. It was 5:30 p.m., the sun at my back, my target 55 yards away in the shade. Upon firing, I could actually see the bullet heading to the target. This wasn't



muzzle flash, it was seen about halfway to the target. The only thing I can think of is the base of the bullet is shiny, I didn't blink upon firing and the bullet had a shaded background it was zipping toward. I saw this a dozen times out of the 40 shots fired. And no, these weren't CB caps — they were Federal 36-grain high velocity long rifle rounds. I have witnessed this phenomenon once before under completely different conditions. Shooting very light handloads out of a .45 Colt revolver over snow-covered ground at about 25 yards. You could actually see that big, dark base of the bullet at about 750 fps going toward the target. I swear I'm not pulling your leg.

Glenn Meeks
Sevierville, Tennessee

HIGH PRICES

A Nighthawk Custom 9mm Hi Power for \$2,895? That is a hangar queen! A showpiece! A collectible! [It's] certainly not a carry gun, not a gun one wants to subject to the elements. It might get scratched or even dirty! The same goes for \$2,000 optics and rifles you review. I'm not poor but certainly not rich either.

Get real! Not everyone is the professional hunter or shooter and can afford or need such luxuries! Would you buy a Rolex and go hunting in the woods with it? Give us real people articles on affordable shooting and accessories. I don't mind the occasional story on something fancy, but in the same magazine you showcase Colt's three new "spears." They are too high priced, too. I wonder if any of them actually perform any better than my Glock 17? I fear that many of these companies are pricing themselves out of the common markets. The price on many ARs is going sky-high, too. There are some still priced well, but so many at twice the price they should be. Keep in mind the basic ARs have been around since the 1960s. That's pretty old technology. Yes, there have been many improvements to the basic AR, but not enough to warrant the high prices of some companies. I really like Guns & Ammo, but mostly read it now for the reader feedback, identification and values, and historical gun articles. Just wanted to have my say.

Butch Levin
Email



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you for taking the time to submit your question to *Guns & Ammo*. Look for a more thorough response in an upcoming issue of *G&A*. — E. Poole

GET WITH THE TIMES!

OK, time to bring Garry James into the 21st century. I doubt you have many readers who are interested in pre-20th century firearms. His last article on "The Yanks Worst Carbine" put me to sleep. Poll your readers and find out how many have a Gallagher carbine. Better yet, how many have even heard of a Gallagher carbine?

Consider that I'm 70 years old and enjoy reading about early 19th century firearms. However, even I am out of the antique blackpowder crowd. Maybe you need a younger writer who is more in tune with guns your readers use for hunting or at the range in this 21st century. If all Garry has in his safe are guns 150 years and older, he's missing the fodder most of us want. I have asked some of my friends who also subscribe to your magazine and they agree with me. Old guns have a place but not in your magazine. Reviews on them must go. Let's limit the time frame to the Spanish-American War and later. How about a Winchester Model 88 for starters? Or a Model 600 Remington? How many readers would pass up a Model 100 SKB 20 gauge. They're all old and discontinued, but they can still be found at gun shows, pawn shops and some gun stores. Perhaps Garry could steer us away from a problem gun with a comprehensive review on something I might find on the used gun rack?

Mike Zorn
Email

Mr. Zorn, with all due respect, from what I hear and the letters I receive, you are in the distinct minority in regard to the content of Mr. James' articles. That said, the *G&A* team is working on developing a new column to spotlight and test 20th century classics. If we had time available and unlimited resources, I would assign a story for each category of small arms spanning every period to begin with the hand cannon. — E. Poole 

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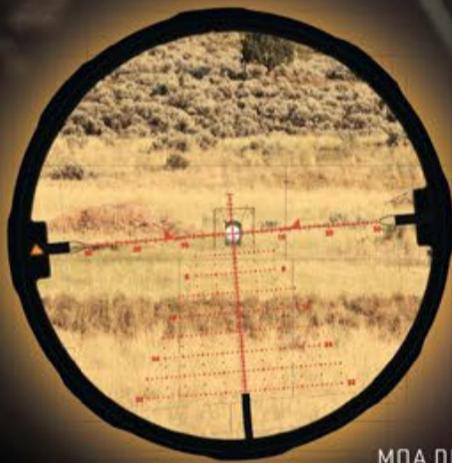
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Taking the Single Shot Challenge to New Mexico with Ruger's No. 1.



ERIC R. POOLE

@GUNSANDAMMOMAG

THE ALIEN BUCK

I PICKED UP MY FIRST

Ruger No. 1 less than 10 years ago. Admittedly, I had little interest in the famous one-shot levergun until I read a compelling article by former G&A editor J. Scott Rupp. (Rupp is now at the helm of G&A's Handguns and RifleShooter magazines.) The story centered around Yamaha's invite-only Single Shot Challenge and featured a No. 1 cham-



bered for the then-new 6.5 Creedmoor. He managed to successfully use it to harvest a four-by-four Texas mulie, and today, I still can't think of a better platform to evaluate a rifleman's mastery of his skill set in the field.

The No. 1 is a reflection of American ingenuity, refinement and prestige. In designing it, we know that Bill Ruger found inspiration in the Scottish Farquharson rifle and with Alexander Henry's forend. Lenard Brownell, Ruger's hired gunsmith for designing the No. 1 stock, did a timeless job marrying these influences with the action. In fact, little has changed about it since the rifle was first revealed on the cover and within the pages of Guns & Ammo's October 1966 issue. In 1973, Ruger tried to supplement its single-shot lineup with the introduction of the No. 3, which is a similar single-shot rifle given a different lever and breechblock lockup, a barrel band that wrapped around the forend and wood that lacked checkering. The No. 3 cost significantly less and was only offered in the most popular chamberings. It should have had greater appeal, but it was discontinued in 1986.

Even after 50 years, the No. 1 lives on as

one of Bill Ruger's proudest achievements. In that time, the No. 1 has been offered in more chamberings than any other factory rifle. (G&A editors have counted more than 60.) The smallest caliber is the .204 Ruger and the largest was the .450 3/4-inch Nitro Express (NE), John Rigby's first NE cartridge. Craig Boddington confirmed to me that "Ruger never made one in

a .17," and, although custom riflemakers have altered the bottom of the receiver to accept larger bores, "the .450 [NE] was as large of a cartridge case as the No. 1's barreled action would accept."

Yamaha's Single Shot Challenge allowed participants to bring any rifle in any caliber with the objective of taking the largest mule deer. To succeed, a hunter needed to successfully stalk a mature buck and apply the fundamentals of marksmanship using a precision rifle chambered for a capable cartridge. Bullet placement is critical since a hunter's goal is not to wound and have to shoot again. In 2011, my invite appeared, and I took my No. 1 chambered for the .300 Ruger Compact Magnum (RCM) to New Mexico. The .300 RCM was designed in partnership between Ruger and Hornady, and it was released in 2008. It was aimed at hunters who longed for the performance of a .300 Win. Mag. in a shorter footprint for smaller actions. I jumped on the bandwagon early, though it has never seemed to catch on.

In my hands, I managed to successfully complete the Single Shot Challenge. While other hunters searched a drought-stricken landscape for a trophy mulie, I chose to hunt differently. This part of New Mexico was the land of alien sightings, so I had my heart set on a cull buck that looked like it could have been abducted. With broken antler tips and twisted G2s, an alien buck appeared on the last evening of my last day. From 140 yards, he fell dead from a single shot from my No. 1.



Ruger No. 1	
Type:	Lever action, falling-block breech
Cartridges:	(2016) .243 Win., 6.5 Creedmoor, .275 Rigby, .308 Win., .35 Whelen, .44 Rem. Mag.
Capacity:	1 rd.
Barrel:	20–28 in.
Overall Length:	36.5–44.5 in.
Weight:	7 lbs.–9 lbs., 3 oz.
Stock:	American walnut
Finish:	Satin blued
Trigger:	3 lbs., 8 oz. (tested)
Sights:	Blade (front); U-notch, folding (rear)
MSRP:	\$1,500
Manufacturer:	Sturm, Ruger & Co. 603-865-2442, ruger.com

SPITTING IMAGE

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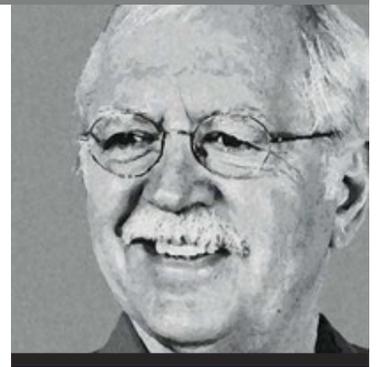
SIG P226 ASP



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“These 8-inch-barreled 9mms are scarce reworks that can bring pretty good bucks.”

IDENTIFICATION & VALUES



GARRY JAMES

GARRY.JAMES@OUTDOORSG.COM



WALTHER PP (PRE-WAR), 90 – 95%: \$1,625 – \$2,350

PHOTO: JAMES D. JULIA

PRE-WAR WALTHER PP

Q: I have a Walther PP pistol of some interest. On the left side there is the Walther flag logo with the markings, “Waffen Walther, Zella-Mehlis (Thur).” A line below all this is “Walther’s Patent Cal 7.65 m/m,” then “Mod.PP.” On the right side, through the ejection port on the barrel, is a lazy “N” and a crown, and the same thing is on the slide. On the frame is the number 781XXX. On the backstrap in factory lettering is “R.F.V. 1664 W.” The gun is in probably 90- to 95-percent condition. I can find no other markings on it. Any information you can provide would be very nice.

J.L.D.
Email

A: Sounds pretty straightforward. You have a pre-war Walther PP. (The “crown N” proof mark was changed to an “eagle N” in 1939, though there was some overlap.) The “R.F.V.” grip markings stand for Reichsfinanzverwaltung (Reich Finance Administration). Pistols so marked were issued to Nazi customs officials and border guards. In 90- to 95-percent shape,

according to the Thirty-Seventh Edition Blue Book of Gun Values (bluebookinc.com), your pistol is worth \$1,625 to \$2,350.

A DUO OF AUTOS

Q: I have two “antique” pistols that I would like to know their worth for insurance purposes. One is a Colt Pocket hammerless pistol, .32 caliber ACP, SN 129XXX. I have modified this pistol to also handle .380 ACP. The second pistol is a Luger, Erfurt 1911, with all numbered parts, including the screwdriver/loading tool. Both pistols have good bluing and good bores. The Luger has a holster in good condition.
J.E.B.
Email

A: Because of space limitations, I normally try and hold Q&As to one firearm

per query, but yours are uncomplicated, so I’ll break the rule this time. First off, neither of your pistols qualifies as an antique. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives’ (ATF) definition of an antique is any firearm manufactured in and before 1898. There are some other qualifications on specific types, so it’s worthwhile to check with authorities to determine what they are. Now to the guns. Your Colt 1903 Pocket Hammerless with “good bluing” was made in 1912. If you have done nothing structurally to the pistol in the course of your conversion, and assuming it can be returned to its original configuration, it’s worth in the \$450 to \$550 range, assigning 80- to 90-percent condition. The 1911-dated Erfurt would run about \$1,200 to \$1,500; with the holster, assuming it has military markings and is complete and in good shape, add another \$250 to \$400.

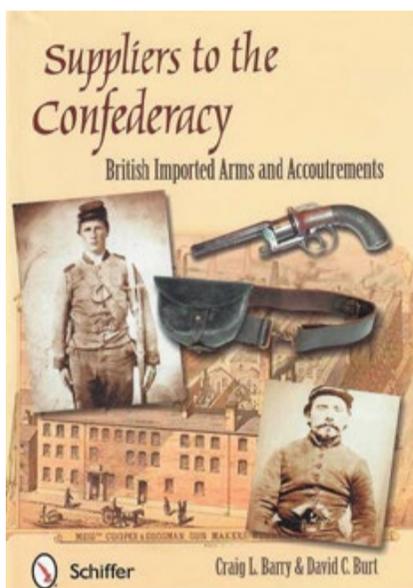
RARE CZ?

Q: I thoroughly enjoy reading your articles in G&A. They are very well written, and I can tell they have had extensive research. My uncle brought back some guns from World War II, one being a semiauto pistol. I’ve been trying to find

THE AUCTION BLOCK

A hyper rare and extremely desirable Winchester Model 1876 1 of 100 rifle sold for the impressive sum of \$230,000, including premiums, at the March 15, 2016, James D. Julia auction. This .45-75-caliber rifle was one of only eight of the 1 of 100 rifles produced, and it is considerably more rare than the better-known 1 of 1000 Model 1873. It is lightly engraved and has a flame-grain, finely checkered straight American walnut stock. The arm was received in the Winchester warehouse on Nov. 16, 1877, and shipped the same day. Condition is quite good, and though showing use, there is much finish still remaining. For more information about this and future auctions, contact James D. Julia, jamesdjulia.com, 207-453-7125.





RECOMMENDED READS

“Suppliers to the Confederacy” Volumes I and II, By Craig L. Barry and David C. Burt, Schiffer Publishing, 2013, 2016. 192 pages (Vol. I); 304 pages (Vol. II)

Despite the efforts of Yankee skippers to try and stop Rebel blockade runners, a surprising amount of materiel was imported to the Confederate States from Great Britain. Uniforms, arms, ammunition and accoutrements made it to Southern ports, some of it right up to the last days of the war. The two volumes of “Suppliers to the Confederacy” offer a terrific sampling of English weaponry and gear acquired by Southrons. These full-color books are chock-full of useful and heretofore unavailable information, incorporate a large selection of common and arcane equipment, and offer superb descriptions and detailed analyses of how and when materiel made it to American shores. Volume II is especially valuable in providing detailed descriptions of many of the English gunmakers. These excellent works are available from the publisher (schifferbooks.com) or most common book outlets. **\$40** each

information on it. Any that you could provide would be greatly appreciated. It is marked on the top of the slide “CESKA ZBROJVKA A.S. PRAZE 485XX.” And on the side of the slide, “CZ 26.”

D.K.

Elk River, Minnesota

A: *Your uncle brought back a CZ Model 24 manufactured by Česká zbrojovka. There seems to be some folklore connected with the existence of an elusive “CZ 26,” but enough of these “rare” pistols turn up to indicate that they are 24s, which were probably made in 1926. If you compare your gun with pictures of CZ 24s, you’ll find it’s a dead ringer. Caliber should be .380 ACP. Some 175,000 CZ 24s were made between 1924 and 1938. They were issued to the Czech military and also sold commercially, but some will be found with Kriegsmarine markings and Nazi proofs. Your pistol appears to be a civilian variant.*

COMMERCIAL ARTILLERY LUGER

Q: I bought this at a gun show when I was a young man. It appears to me, with all the parts that I can visually see and fieldstrip, that it’s a matching piece. However, there is no date on it, and if I had to guess, I would say it’s some sort of commercial Luger from the 1920s as opposed to military. I know, given the decades ago that I bought this, it is probably a mere percentage of what it might be worth, but given that, I would classify it at 85 to 90 percent. What



DWM LUGER 1920 COMMERCIAL ARTILLERY MODEL, 85 – 90%: \$2,400 – \$3,500

PHOTO: JAMES D. JULIA

might you think it’s worth?

M.S.

St. Louis, Missouri

A: *Your photos appear to indicate you have a 1920 Commercial Artillery Model Luger manufactured by Deutsche Waffen und Munitionsfabriken (DWM). These 8-inch-barreled 9mms are scarce reworks that can bring pretty good bucks. In the condition you describe, your pistol is worth in the \$2,400 to \$3,500 range.*

VIETNAM U.S. HI POWER?

Q: In 1964 to ‘65 I was in the 5th Special Forces Group, Vietnam, stationed at its headquarters in Nha Trang. During my time there, we were allowed to carry personal sidearms. I purchased a Browning 9mm pistol with “US ARMY” or “US MILITARY” (I forget which) markings. After a time, it was starting to pit, so I had it nickel-plated in town since there was no bluing capability available. My understanding of the history of these pistols is that they were issued to Special Forces to evaluate as a possible replacement for the .45. I brought it home with me in 1965, and four or five years later sold it to a gun shop in Toledo, Ohio.

Can you please confirm or refute my assertion?

Everyone I have talked to since that time has told me that there never was a military issued Browning 9mm pistol.

M.K.

Email

A: *You don’t mention the Browning model you had, but based on the date I’m going to assume it is a Hi Power. I have heard tales of some members of Special Forces in Vietnam officially or unofficially carrying Hi Powers, but for the life of me cannot recall any mention of them being marked. This might be a good one to put to G&A’s readers. Does anyone out there have other-than-anecdotal information about U.S. military marked Brownings being issued to troops during the Vietnam War?*

MYSTERY REMINGTON 1100

Q: I recently purchased a used Remington 1100. The gun is beautiful. It has gold etchings on both sides of the receiver, and the wood is beautiful.

The ID number is N446XXXV. Can you tell me what I bought, and what it’s worth?

T.S.

Email

A: *You didn’t mention it, but the “V” suffix on your*

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HAVE AN HEIRLOOM? Curious about a vintage firearm? Email Garry at garry.james@outdoor.sg.com, or send a description with detailed photos to Gun Room, Guns & Ammo, 2 News Plaza, 3rd Floor, Peoria, IL 61614. Please include your name and state of residence.

Due to the volume of requests each month, personal replies are not possible. The most interesting or unusual queries are answered in Guns & Ammo magazine.

gun's serial number indicates it is a 12 gauge. Based on the nice wood and gold-washed receiver decoration, it sounds like you have a Model 1100 "1 of 3000" Field model — though the serial number doesn't seem to bear this out. I'm afraid I would need a more complete description and/or photos to be able to give you a more precise evaluation. FYI, and probably apropos of nothing relating to your query, Model 1 of 3000s were built in 1980.

PRE-WOODSMAN
.22 REFINISH?

Q: I was hoping you could help me with a decision concerning this little Colt Automatic in .22 Long Rifle. It is serial 35XX, and the overall condition

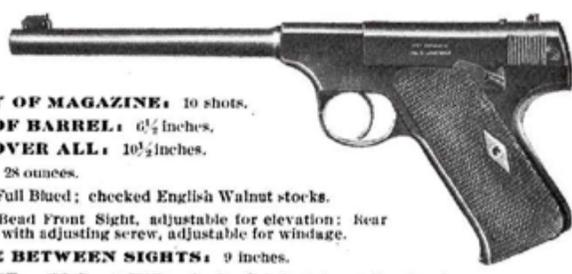
A

Colt Automatic Pistol

CALIBER .22, TARGET MODEL.



TRADE MARK
Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.



CAPACITY OF MAGAZINE: 10 shots.
LENGTH OF BARREL: 6 1/2 inches.
LENGTH OVER ALL: 10 1/2 inches.
WEIGHT: 28 ounces.
FINISH: Full Blued; checked English Walnut stocks.
SIGHTS: Bead Front Sight, adjustable for elevation; Rear Sight, with adjusting screw, adjustable for windage.
DISTANCE BETWEEN SIGHTS: 9 inches.
CARTRIDGE: .22 Long Rifle, rim fire (lubricated cartridges) only.
Note: We recommend the use of either "Lesmok" or "Semi-smokeless" ammunition.

This is the only automatic pistol now made to handle the standard caliber .22 Long Rifle cartridges, and will prove most popular with shooters, sportsmen, trappers, and others desiring a high-grade pistol adapted for this economical and easily obtained ammunition.

The pistol is equipped with a Safety Lock which, when the arm is cocked, may be pushed upward, thus positively locking hammer and slide. This Safety Lock is located within easy reach of the thumb of the hand holding the pistol and may be instantly pressed down when raising the pistol to the firing position. It also acts as an indicator showing whether or not the pistol is cocked.

Accidental discharge is absolutely impossible with the Colt Automatic Pistol.

is good. The bluing is worn. I'd say 40 percent at best with very minor freckling in a few spots. There is damage to one of the grips (right side), but is otherwise in excellent working condition. I received it as a gift from my father's best friend

and do not plan to sell it, but I would like to have it professionally restored. My question is on current value and if restoration would hurt or help with the value going forward. By the way, I love your column and it is one of my first reads when I get

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my G&A in the mail each month.

Dale R.
Paris, Texas

A: From the photos you sent, your Colt Pre-Woodsman doesn't look all that horrible. Yes, it's seen better days and value is not high, but unless the barrel has been replaced — which was not uncommon with these guns because of the use of early corrosive ammo — there is nothing you can do to it restoration-wise that will increase its interest or worth. The serial number indicates it was built in 1916, making it an early gun (Pre-Woodsmans were in production from 1915 to 1927). If it were mine, I'd leave it alone. It has lots of character.



GERMAN TARGET PISTOL: \$500+

GERMAN TARGET .22

Q: I first want to thank you for your coverage on Gun IDs and values. It's my favorite part of G&A magazine and on TV as well. I hope you can answer my query on the history of this gun. It's a .22-caliber single-shot I acquired several years ago. It has no "naming" convention, just several proof marks

on the side and under the barrel. It shoots all types of .22 Long Rifle, and it has a real light (hair) trigger. I assume it was used as a training pistol in its time. It is very accurate and is in great shooting shape. I would like to know where and when it was made. The marks appear turn of the century to mid-1940s. I included a picture with

an image of some of its markings. Your help would be graciously appreciated. Keep up the great work. P.F.

Ashford, Washington

A: You have a German single-shot .22 target pistol made sometime between 1900 and the 1930s. In fact, I have a picture of one virtually identical to yours in a 1930s-vintage Waffen und Munition (WUM) catalog. The side-swinging breechblock was a common arrangement on everything from good grade targeteers (such as yours) down to little pocket cheapies. For your information, in 1930, a pistol such as yours sold for \$5.36. Today, you could increase that figure about a hundredfold. 

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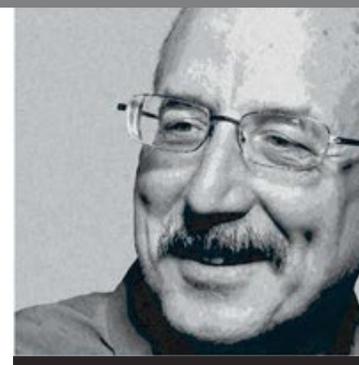
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PATRICK SWEENEY

INVESTING IN YOUR COLLECTION

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER. Knowledge is wealth. The Dutch became rich world travelers because, early in the Age of Exploration, they found out how to get to and acquire the goods the wealthy would pay money for. Today, we take for granted that everything we need (or want) to know can be found on the internet. Before the web, we had books. Some of us still do.

Though it started by Jim Cook as "Barry Fain's Private Blue Book of Gun Values" in 1981, Steve Fjestad took it over in late 1982 for the book's third edition. I was working at gun shops in those days, and in order to make a living we had to know what firearms sold for and then buy them for less. We gained this knowledge by cruising gun shows, visiting other gun shops, memorizing vast amounts of information and paying for auction results. We'd even photocopy and trade (or sell) those results because knowledge was valuable.

Details mattered. I have a pre-World War II Winchester Model 70 that I paid a post-war price for back in the 1980s. I recognized that the safety pivoted the "wrong" way. A short time later, I got a smokin' deal on a .30-'06, and the seller was happy to have unloaded just another one of his deer rifles.

And then the Blue Book of Gun Values had to democratize it all. When the first volumes hit the market, all of us who worked in gun shops tried to keep this knowledge under wraps. *There exists a list of all the guns out there and the current market price? We can't let the customers know!*

Market dynamics being what they were, and Fjestad being the relentless promoter that he was, we stood no chance in keeping the knowledge to ourselves. (Which was a good thing.)

Even with good memories and extensive gun show cruising, none of us could remember or know everything. Even when we got together and tried to bring each other up to

date, we had no chance of covering all the subjects. There were some areas we specialized in or were more familiar with, and others we had no interest in.

Fjestad built a network of contributors, scoured the information sources and compiled lists. Then he built on that. I recently asked him if his approach is any different today.

"We don't use auctions as the be-all and end-all," Fjestad said. "They'll tell you the high prices, but not the fair-market value."

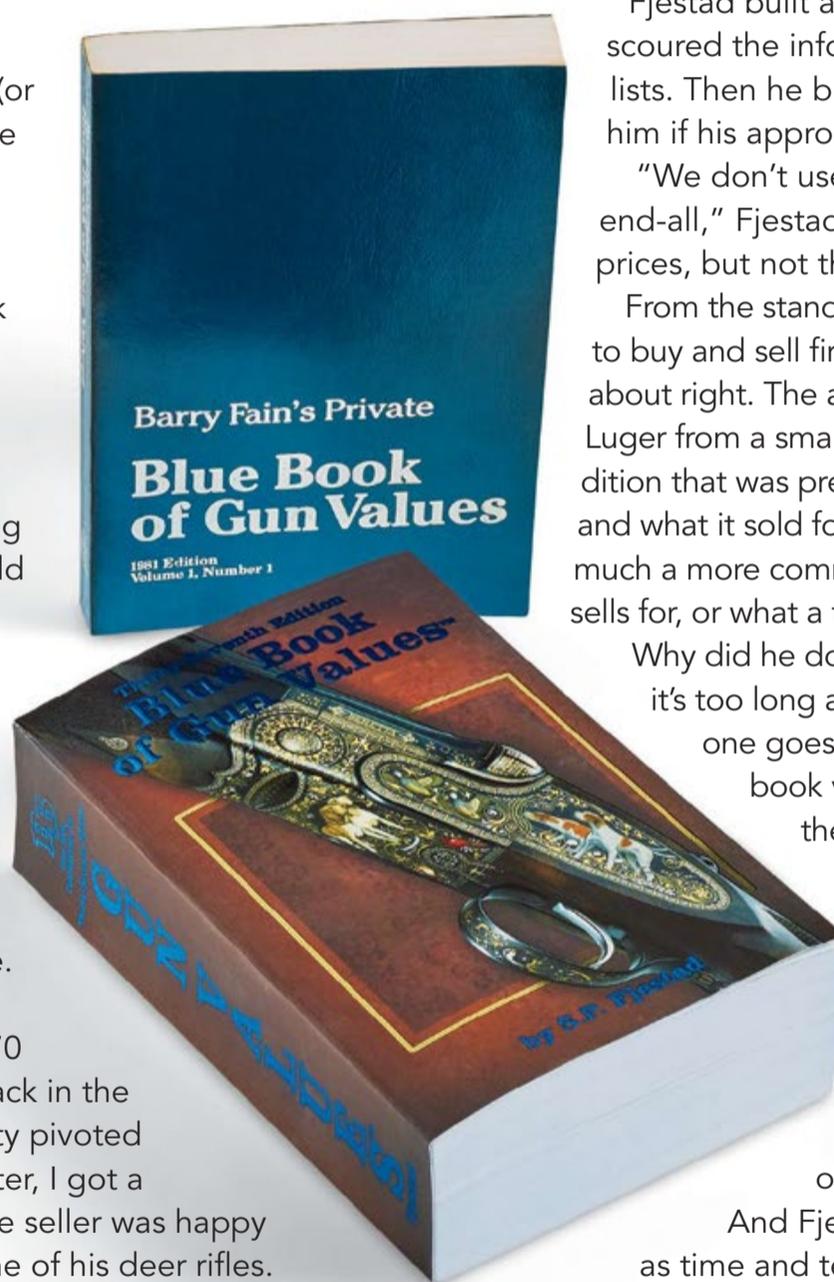
From the standpoint of someone who used to buy and sell firearms for a living, that sounds about right. The amount paid for a specialty Luger from a small production run, in pristine condition that was previously owned by a celebrity, and what it sold for at auction doesn't tell us how much a more common World War II bring-back sells for, or what a fair price to pay for it would be.

Why did he do it? "Strictly by accident, and it's too long a story to tell," said Fjestad. "No one goes to college to become a gun book values writer and publisher after they graduate." (His acquisition of the reference guide actually sounded like it could be an interesting story.)

There's still a lot of work that goes into determining the "as-new" price and the depreciation as wear, care or the environment takes its toll.

And Fjestad has adjusted his methods as time and technology advanced.

What condition is a firearm in? Since the 11th edition (1990), the Blue Book walks us through that determination, too. Don't be surprised if the family heirloom you've always thought of as being in perfect



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PYTHON – .357 Mag. cal., 2 1/2 (disc. 1994), 3 (a.k.a Combat Python, disc., very scarce), 4, 6, or 8 in. barrel with vent rib, Royal blue, polished nickel, or Electroless Nickel (known as Royal Coltguard) satin nickel finish, fully shrouded ejector rod, adj. rear sight, checkered walnut grips (standard prior to 1991, and fitted on some SKUs much later), rubber Hogue monogrips (2 1/2 or 4 in. barrel), or rubber target (6 or 8 in. barrel) grips, 38-48 oz. A few late production guns included both a wood and rubber grip set. Mfg. 1955-1996.

As one of the few hand fitted revolvers ever produced, Python values have risen dramatically in recent years, especially early revolvers and any that remain in NIB or near NIB condition. Over time, the value distinctions group the Python into 4 overall groups by period. These four groups are as follows: Early (circa 1950's) production with full checkered grips and high polish Royal blue, other early pre-suffix serial numbers up to about 1969, other production up to about 1990, and finally, 1990s production. In general, the older the Python, the higher the value.

* **Python Blue or Royal Blue Finish (Mfg. 1955-1969)** – first letter prefix or suffix used in ser. no., began in mid-1969 with the letter "E".

4 or 6 in. barrel	N/A	\$3,500	\$2,650	\$2,000	\$1,500	\$1,100	\$900
2 1/2 in.	N/A	\$4,250	\$3,750	\$2,675	\$2,250	\$1,750	\$1,200

condition comes up short. Gun collectors and buyers are a pretty cold-blooded bunch and some represent the cheapest people on Earth. Overlooked details are what they'll focus on. The Blue Book gives us this information by way of a grading section containing color photos on glossy paper, each with a description explaining why the sample is, say, a 40-percent exemplar. We can't take it personally; we all have firearms that we value more than the Blue Book price lists. That's why they remain heirlooms.

Of course, marketing for Fjestad was pretty simple, if arduous. As gun dealers, we only had to take one look at the current book, and then we bought one — right then and there. As customers found out about it, they had to have one, too. When there was a new edition, we'd upgrade. Still, it took awhile to build momentum in sales.

"The First Edition, published in 1981, wasn't an immediate success," Fjestad recalled.

The Blue Book has always been more than a dry listing of models and their values scaled to condition. We also find such details as when a particular model was introduced, and if it's no longer made, when it went out of production, what calibers it was available in, rarity, etc. Each manufacturer listing starts with a paragraph and a thumbnail sketch of the maker, so you have a sense of who they were, where they were based and what they made.

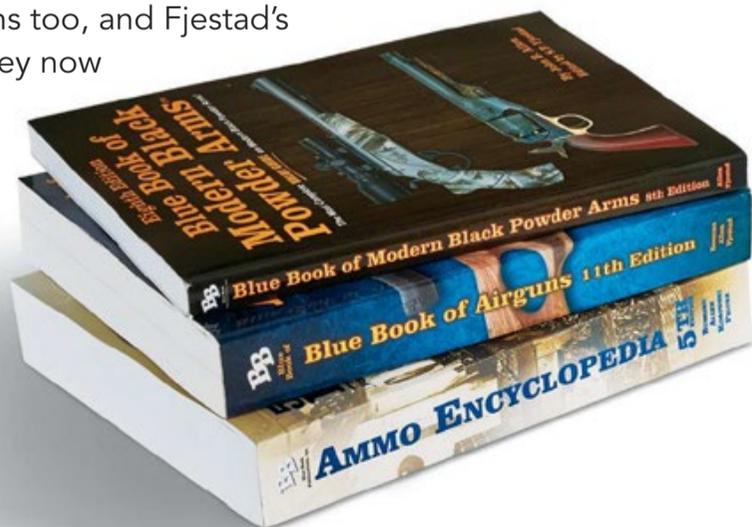
Today, the title lineup is more than just the latest version of the Blue Book of Gun Values. There are now specialized volumes for particular market segments. There is the Tactical Firearms Values, Ammunition Encyclopedia, Book of Colt Firearms, three titles on engraving and engravers, and eight different pocket guides, each focused on a particular manufacturer. There is an Airguns book (in its 11th edition, no less), Modern Black Powder Arms and more Colt titles.

Digital readers have options too, and Fjestad's team uses the information they now obtain and include from collectors and retailers. Blue Book titles are available in paper form, on CD or as an online subscription.

Printing was a strange business when the first edition was published 35 years ago. Do you want to

Each make and model description contains detailed information about manufacture, variants and a scale of values based on features and condition. Blue Book deserves credit for developing this easy-to-read layout. Blue Book's unique 6 – by – 9-inch size layout has maxed out its page count for its binding — 2,512 pages.

When the knowledge gained exceeded the space one book could hold, Blue Book devoted new volumes to that information. You want more on airguns, ammo, tactical guns or something else? Blue Book has it. **\$35 – \$85**



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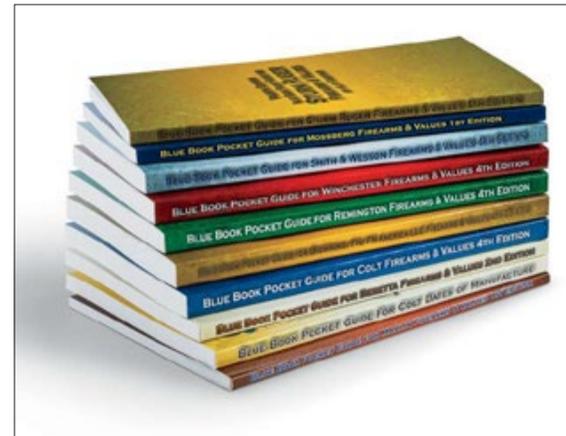
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publish a book? No problem. The printer made 10,000 copies because that was the minimum cost-effective run. I'm sure a 5,000-book run could have been printed, but it would have cost the same. Half of that initial run went into the dumpster when it was time to update information for the second edition. Fjestad told me that an original is now worth \$125 on the used-book market. I believe it.

I had one of the first editions, bought when it was new. And I was cheap, too. By the time I replaced it with the fourth edition — I could skip one or two and not suffer — my original was dog-eared, with notes written inside and coffee stains on various pages. I'm certain no one would be willing to pay \$125 for that old copy, even if I still had it.

There's an old adage that "three moves are as good as a fire." I've moved so many times and had to cull the excess in my life each time that I'm happy with the brand-new Thirty-Seventh edition that now sits on my shelf. It is always within arm's reach. As I scan the shelves, I realize it is accompanied by three other Blue Book titles.

I asked Fjestad a time-travel question: What firearm would have been the best investment were it possible to tell our younger selves what to purchase?

"You should have bought a [Colt] Python or a Boa," Fjestad said. "Better yet, [I should have] bought a nickel Python, with a short barrel, and left it untouched in the box — unfired. They appreciated at twice the rate gold has."

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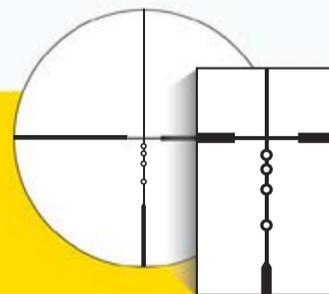


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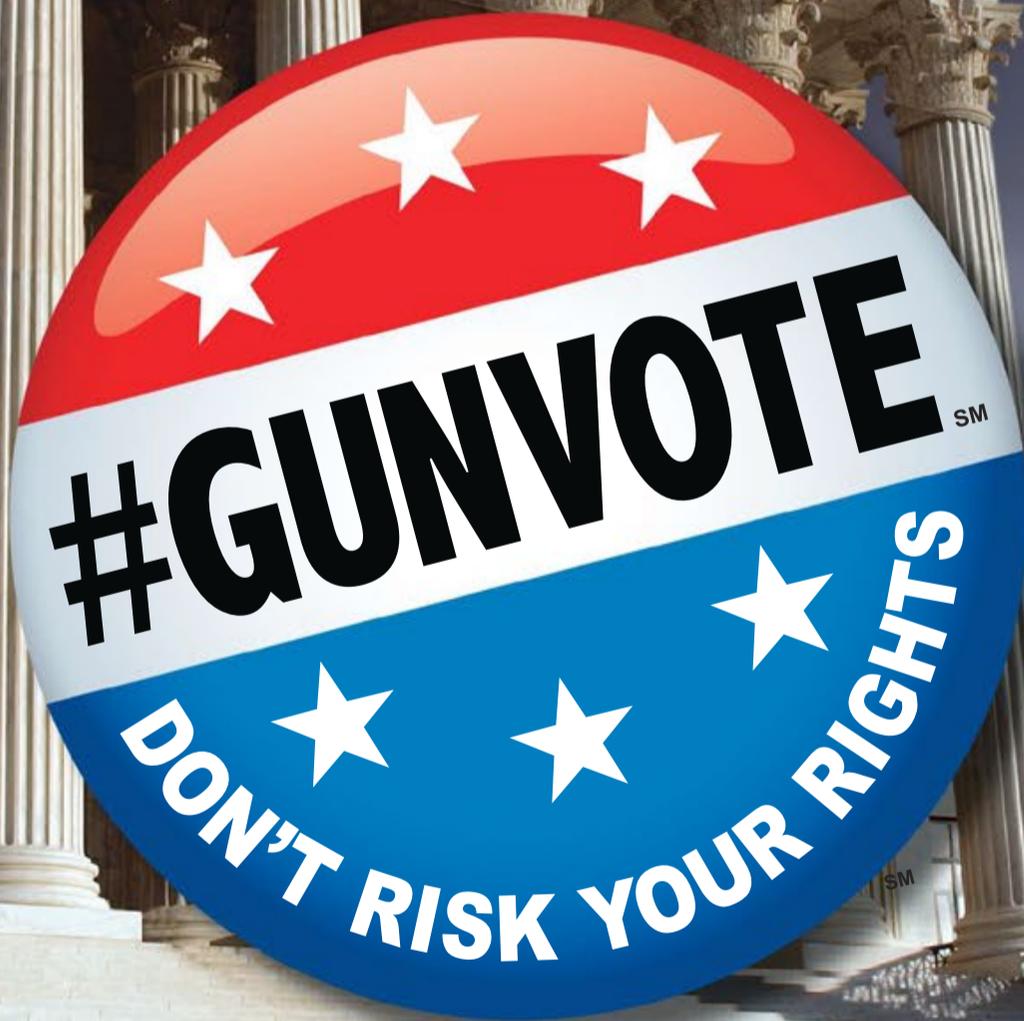
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The FirstSpear SSV holster works for carrying handguns with popular Streamlight- or SureFire-model pistol lights attached. The SSV is ideal for AIWB or IWB carry. **\$100**



For the duration of this 60-day evaluation, a FirstSpear Line One belt made of BioThane was worn. **\$68**



FIRSTSPEAR SSV

IF YOU'VE EVER WORN A UNIFORM, you might already know of the folks behind FirstSpear. That's because so many people that work at its design and production facility near St. Louis used to work at Eagle Industries. Started in March 1982 by John Carver, Eagle Ind. is now a subsidiary of Vista Outdoors, Inc. In 2010, Carver's son, Scott, created FirstSpear and built a team that includes many former Eagle employees, military veterans and a forward-thinking braintrust of rapid-development engineers hired to solve gear problems for the Special Operations community and law enforcement. In addition to offering its own products, the production facility and design team allows FirstSpear to offer private-label manufacturing for respected names such as Hill People Gear.

FirstSpear focuses on developing lightweight, durable products that can function as standalone kit or integrate

with platforms like its Strandhogg armor carrier. The SSV carry rig tested here is a component system that functions just as well with other FirstSpear systems. Given the nature of its duty bound end users, the SSV belt holster is only offered for a few handgun models popular with military, police and armed contractors. Recently, FirstSpear expanded its SSV holster's capability to include pistols with lights attached. However, light combinations are also limited to the most widely used including Streamlight's TLR-1 and TLR-2 and SureFire's X300 and X400 series. FirstSpear has recently added the low-profile XC1 to its list of light-mounted holster offerings, which addresses the most trending method of concealed carry: a compact, double-stack 9mm with a light attached. The SSV offers modular security retention, an exterior face that masks visual and near infrared (IR) signatures, and includes a

lanyard to tether around a pant's belt loop in the off chance that an improperly clipped holster is unintentionally withdrawn with the pistol. (The holster separates from the pistol during the draw stroke.) The holster is a Level 1 friction-fit design featuring a single tension-adjustable screw.

The SSV worked excellently with the FirstSpear Line One belt made of BioThane, an almost indestructible and wear-resistant combination of no-slip urethane-covered nylon. Developed for the Naval Special Warfare (NSW) community, this comfortable and high-strength belt is 1½-inches wide, weighs less than a half pound, and won't ever crack, peel or stiffen in frigid temperatures as leather does. BioThane is also impervious to sweat and water, and it will not stretch or lose its original shape. Buckles are given a Cerakote treatment, and belts are sold in either black, coyote (tan) or mahogany colors.

60-Day Carry To evaluate FirstSpear's carry rig as it relates



The SSV holster features a plastic IWB J-hook belt clip for 1½-inch belts. A cord serves as a belt-loop lanyard.



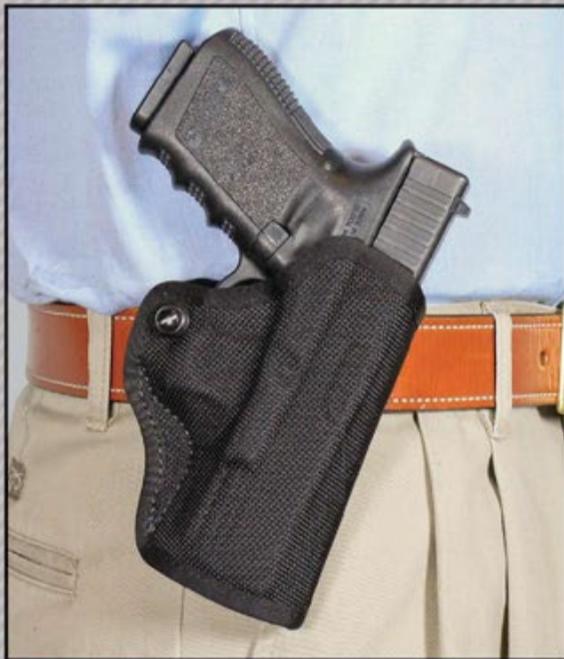
A spare reload was carried in a matching SSV In-The-Belt Magazine Pocket. \$75

to the concealed carry user, the SSV holster was ordered for use with a Glock 19 Gen3 equipped with the new Sure-Fire XC1 pistol light. A spare magazine was also carried inside the belt with the SSV single pistol-mag pocket. These components were worn with the Line One belt.

The SSV can be used as an inside the waistband (IWB) holster or worn appendix carry. For most, a mid-size pistol such as a G19 with XC1 attached will be as large of a package as is comfortable to carry in the appendix position. This position can't be beat for speed in drawing from concealment. If you live by the second NRA rule for

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FirstSpear	SSV Pistol Holster
Materials	Polymer (shell/belt clip), rubber (bushing), steel (screws/eyelet)
Carry Type	AIWB or IWB
Retention Type	Level 1, friction w/ lanyard
Adjustability	None
MSRP	\$90 (w/o light); \$100 (w/light) (tested)
Handgun Fit	Glock 19 Gen3 (tested)
Accessory Rail Accommodations	Yes; SureFire XC1 (tested)
Positions to Carry	Appendix or behind the hip
Average Time to Attach	25 seconds
Comfort Rating	3/5
Concealment Clothing	Untucked shirt or jacket
Average Draw-to-Fire Time	1.13 seconds
Manufacturer	FirstSpear, 636-349-4820, first-spear.com

Draw-to-fire time is the average of five clean draws from under a concealed garment producing an A-zone hit on a stationary target positioned at 21 feet.

gun safety, "ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot," it is a safe method to carry. Draw times averaged between .9 seconds and 1.2 seconds measured using a PACT shot timer during G&A's tests.

The SSV, belt and spare magazine's holster look and wear as they did on Day 1. No break-in of the SSV was required. The lanyard was effective in snagging the holster and separating it from the pistol on the rare occasion it came out with the pistol, and it barely slowed our times. The

pistol light added width at the muzzle, which did cause soreness against the inner hip bone after sitting for long hours.

This is a highly functional carry rig. I recommended it. For the money, the Line One belt is a must-have. 

— Eric R. Poole



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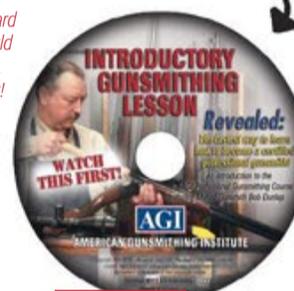
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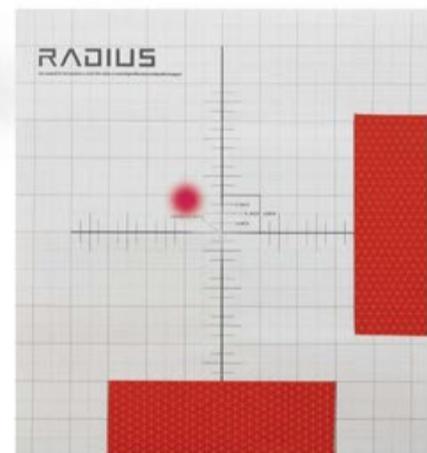
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CHRIS MUDGETT

GAEDITOR@
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A unique zeroing target is provided with the Radius, allowing the laser unit to be co-aligned with an optic using an integrated red laser. Zeroing can be accomplished quickly at distances between 20 and 100 yards without firing a shot.



RANGE ESTIMATION SIMPLIFIED

SUPPRESSOR GIANT SILENCERCO acquired Southeastern Weaponry Research (SWR) suppressors in August 2011 and moved production to SilencerCo's facility in Utah. The SWR acronym lives on; however, now it's an abbreviation for SilencerCo Weapons Research. SWR is a new division with a mission to deliver affordable technological advancements to the civilian market, technology that has largely remained unavailable due to ownership restrictions and high costs.

The premier product coming from SWR is its Radius, which is designed to be a firearm-mounted laser rangefinder co-aligned with an existing riflescope. Once zeroed, the Radius remains in-line with the aiming point of the optic's reticle. The unit has two modes of operation: constant and manual.

Constant operation provides distance updates every second and is ideal for engaging multiple targets or tracking targets at unknown distances. Manual mode requires the shooter to press the ranging button located on the unit or the supplied remote pressure pad to measure the distance to a specific target. Manual mode works well to confirm

yardages on known distance (KD) shooting ranges or for discreet ranging in low-light conditions when utilizing night vision devices.

An integrated rail mount uses a throw lever for quickly attaching and detaching the Radius from the host firearm or rail-equipped optic mount (i.e., scope ring rail cap). SWR recommends mounting the Radius at either 3- or 9 o'clock positions on the rifle forend or at 12 o'clock, above the primary





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SilencerCo SWR Radius	
Range:	1,761 yds. (reflective target) (tested); 1,000 yds. (non-reflective target)
Temp. Range:	-20 deg. F – 120 deg. F
Height:	2.3 in.
Length:	5.8 in.
Width:	2.96 in.
Weight:	1 lb., 2.2 oz. (w/ batt.)
MSRP:	\$1,000
Manufacturer:	SilencerCo 801-417-5384 beyondhuman.com



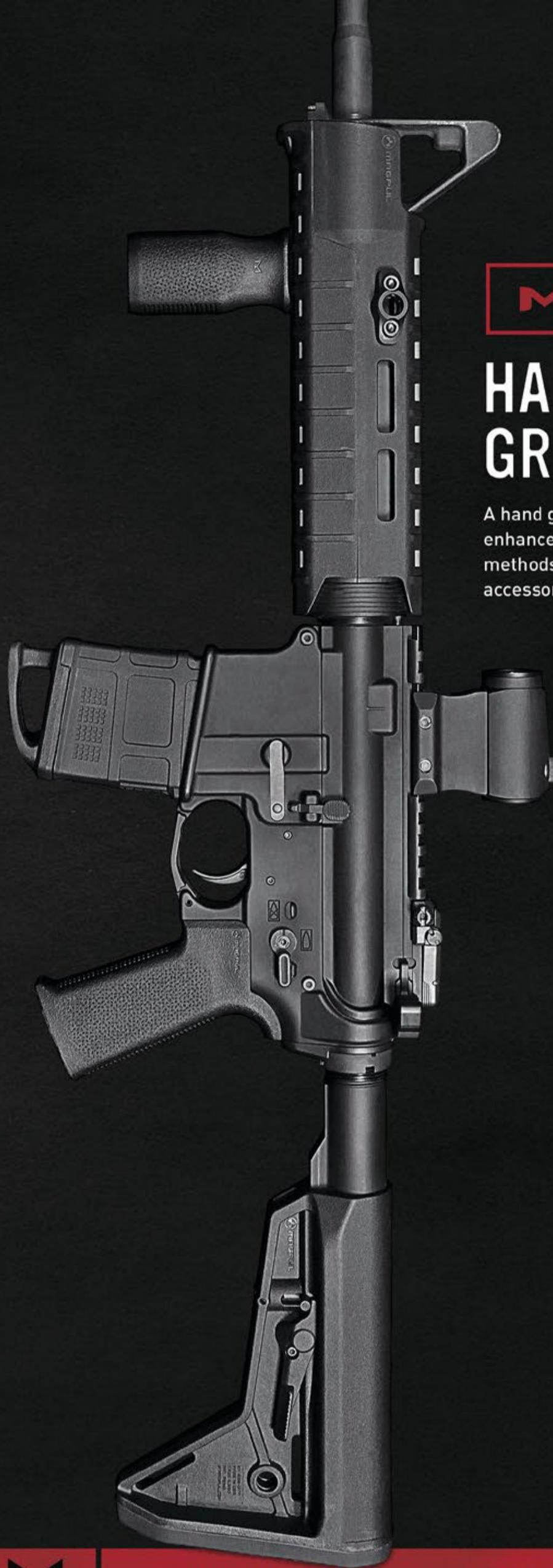
optic. The display can rotate — a clever idea indeed — to ensure that the screen is always readable.

The Radius weighs a hefty 18 ounces. It provides continuous ranging for up to 12 hours on two CR123A lithium batteries. Maximum range is suggested to be 1 mile (1,760 yards) in absolute ideal conditions and when aimed at a highly reflective target. I've successfully ranged targets midday out to 1,761 yards (the line-of-sight limit at my range). G&A's result is confirms SWR's spec but will likely go well beyond a mile.

There are three separate range readings within the display. Distance information is offered in your choice of yards or meters. The largest number is the strongest reading, while the two smaller numbers are the second and third strongest ranges should a shooter anticipate an interference.

Perhaps it's the heft, but the Radius' casing appears incredibly tough. And it should feel that way because it's built with a high-impact aluminum housing that's given submersible qualities. The Radius has a waterproof rating of IP67, which means it remains watertight even after being submersed at a depth of 1 meter for 30 minutes. **G&A**

The Radius can be mounted on long-gun forends at either 3- or 9 o'clock. G&A's preference is 12 o'clock, which locates the unit just forward of the scope's elevation turret. This placement helps balance the rifle and allows the user to maintain a full cheekweld on the stock, only needing to glance upward to see the range.



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CALIBER: 5.56 NATO
BARREL: 10.5", 12.7", 14.7", 16.1"
WEIGHT: 7.0 LBS [16.1"]
LENGTH: 26-29" / 32-35.25"
MUZZLE THREADS: 1/2X28 TPI
RIFLING: 1/7" RH

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Controlled-Round-Feed Actions Leupold VX-3i 4.5–14x50mm



TOM BECKSTRAND

HERE'S TO YOU, MR. BLUE

I take issue with Tom Beckstrand in his March issue's column featuring the Ruger Guide gun. He states that controlled-round-feed actions are no more reliable than push-feed actions. He is definitely *wrong*. My personal experience with Remington 700 actions has resulted in more than one occurrence of "jumping the cartridge" in the chamber resulting in lost time clearing the action. — E.J. Blue, email

MR. BLUE,

YOU SOUND LIKE A PASSIONATE ADVOCATE for the controlled-round-feed (CRF) actions, and I certainly appreciate passion. It's what drives this industry and sparks some great debates.

About our differences in opinion concerning CRF and push-feed actions, your experiences with failures in push-feed actions provide a great starting point.

Prior to any meaningful debate on which action type is better, we must understand the source of feeding failures. Many might be surprised to learn that feeding failures rarely have anything to do with the bolt face or what's happening there.

The majority of feeding failures in bolt-action rifles revolve around issues with the internal box magazine. You mentioned multiple examples of push-feed actions "jumping the cartridge" in your email. The No. 1 cause of that particular problem is the feed lips on the internal box magazine (a cheap and thin piece of sheet metal) having too little engagement with the rounds. The minimal engagement allows the cartridges to prematurely rise up and hit the feed rails on the bottom of the receiver, where they want to stay as the bolt moves forward. The bolt moves the cartridge along the feed rail until it either jams on the feed ramp or the bolt slides over the base of the round. The root cause is the feed lip geometry on the internal box magazine and the overexposure it gives the round to the feed rail, not the extractor configuration on the bolt face. Also, too much engagement on the feed lips causes cartridges to pop up into the action when we pull the bolt back aggressively.

However, CRF actions can experience unique feeding problems that push-feed

actions do not. The CRF action was designed around long, skinny cartridges like the .30-'06 and 8mm Mauser. These types of rounds feed well in a CRF action and have the fewest problems. Try stuffing short, fat magnum rounds in a CRF and feeding can get dicey.

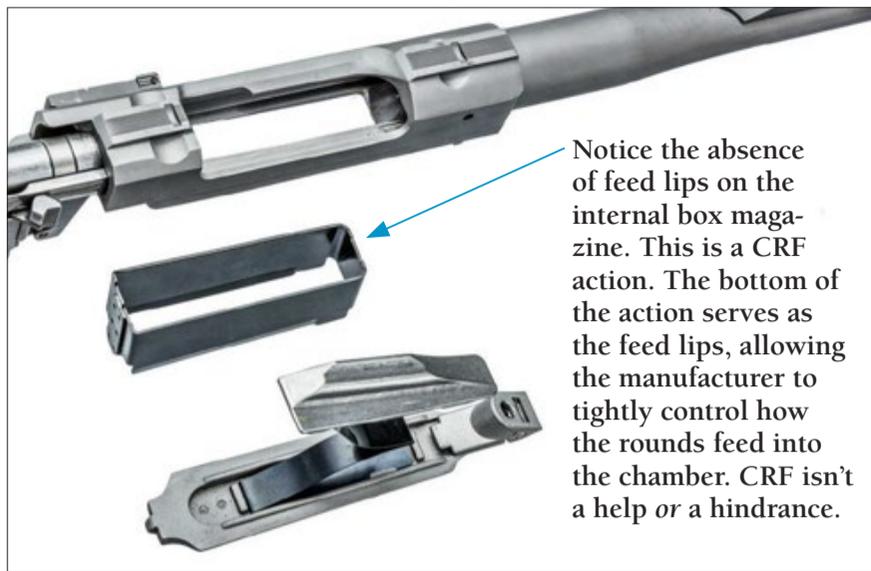
The approach angle of a short, fat round is much steeper in any action type. As we push the bolt forward on a CRF action to feed a round, the cartridge slips up under the extractor where the extractor needs to hold it tight to the bolt face. Long cartridges have a very shallow approach angle as they feed from the magazine into the chamber, so the bottom of the case head doesn't need to move very far off the bolt face to allow for reliable feeding.

The short fatties have a steep approach angle, so the case head has to twist quite a bit to allow the nose of the round to enter the chamber. This requires more clearance between the extractor and bolt face to allow the round to twist. The problem is a loose-fitting extractor can't hold the case tight against the bolt face, so now our ejector struggles to eject the old case from the action when we pull the bolt to the rear.

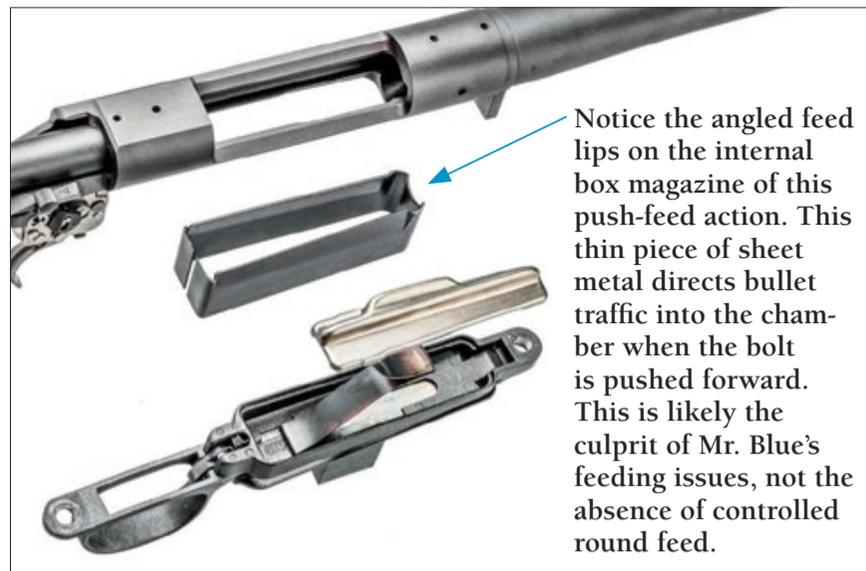
Failure to pull a CRF action completely to the rear will leave an empty case on the bolt face. When we push forward to feed another round, the new cartridge moves up under the fired case and traps it in place. Short-stroking a bolt usually occurs when we're in a hurry. Having two rounds trapped on a bolt face that we've just rammed forward is one of the ugliest malfunctions to clear, and cartridges with a .473-inch head diameter (anything based on the .30-'06 or .308 case) jam the worst. Might as well go get yourself a beverage because it's going to take a while.

The answer to the feeding issues you witnessed on push-feed actions and many





Notice the absence of feed lips on the internal box magazine. This is a CRF action. The bottom of the action serves as the feed lips, allowing the manufacturer to tightly control how the rounds feed into the chamber. CRF isn't a help or a hindrance.



Notice the angled feed lips on the internal box magazine of this push-feed action. This thin piece of sheet metal directs bullet traffic into the chamber when the bolt is pushed forward. This is likely the culprit of Mr. Blue's feeding issues, not the absence of controlled round feed.

of the problems CRF actions also face is to look for rifles with center-fed detachable box magazines. Center-fed magazines are taking the rifle industry by storm, and the absence of feeding issues is a big part of why that's happening.

The latest rifles from Savage and Ruger all have center-fed detachable box magazines (on push-feed actions, no less). The reason this is happening is because a center-fed magazine *wants* to feed well. The round only has to come up to move into the chamber. It doesn't have to make any turns to the left or right depending on where it sat in the internal magazine.

The detachable box magazine is also easier to tailor for the cartridge. Manufacturers can better control magazine width and the feed lip geometry on a rigid detachable magazine than they can on one thin piece of sheet metal

that sits inside the rifle. Putting a detachable box magazine in a CRF action also means the manufacturer doesn't have to worry about getting the extractor in the exact spot to get the round to feed and eject right.

This has been a long answer to a short statement, but feeding in a bolt-action rifle is more complicated than it might seem, and it's not fair to punish an action type for problems that originate with the internal box magazine. Push-feed actions are every bit as reliable as CRF actions. As far as empirical evidence to support my argument, I'd refer you to the sniper rifles independently adopted and used by all of our branches of service. They are push-feed actions sitting over center-fed detachable box magazines and have been for years. In an arena where targets shoot back and feeding issues can mean life or death, I can think of no greater endorsement.



IMPROVED & PRICED LESS

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY that a best-selling scope gets better and more affordable, but that's exactly what Leupold did with the new VX-3i. Based on the VX-3, the "i" model has a slightly smaller turret housing and improved lens coatings that make the scope perform better at dawn and dusk. Crazy as it might seem, Leupold sells the new scope for a couple hundred dollars less than the older VX-3.

The big news for the VX-3i is the lens coatings, a subject that gets treated a lot like witchcraft in the media, but it doesn't need to be. When light hits a lens, some of it reflects off the surface. The wavelength, or color, of the light that reflects depends on the light's composition (this changes throughout the day) and the lens material. The best way to manipulate how much light reflects is by using

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Leupold VX-3i 4.5-14x50mm	
Power:	4.5-14X
Objective:	50mm
Tube Diameter:	30mm
Elevation Adjustment:	.25 MOA per click
Windage:	.25 MOA per click
Reticle:	Duplex
Length:	12.2 in.
Weight:	16.5 oz.
Eye Relief:	3.6 in.-4.4 in.
MSRP:	\$845
Manufacturer:	Leupold & Stevens, Inc. 800-538-7653 leupold.com



This VX-3i has capped turrets, but other models are available with custom turrets etched to match a specific load.

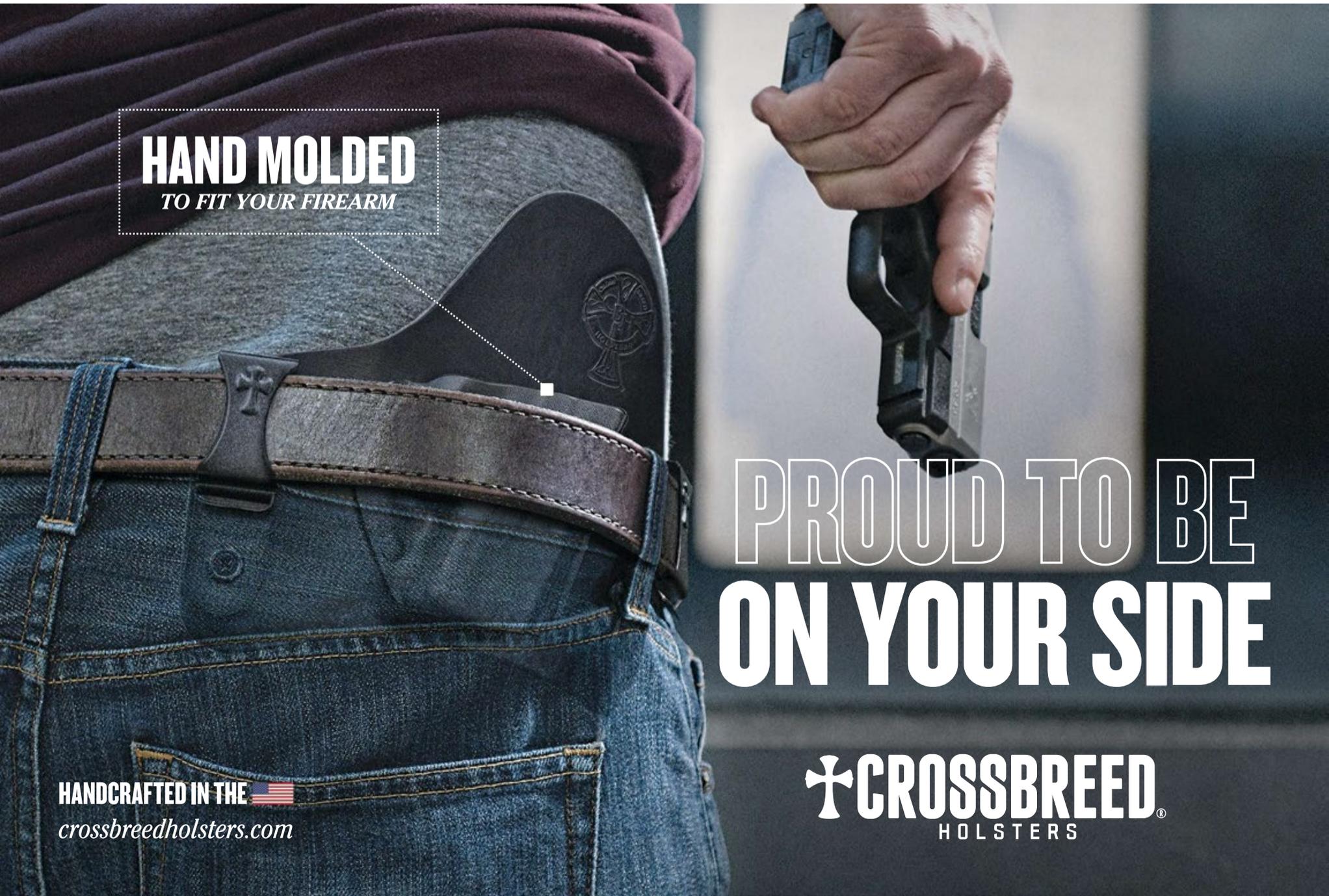
Leupold put money and effort into improving the light transmission during dawn and dusk when blue-wavelength light dominates.

lens coatings. Lens coatings also give the light correct focal length and keep the image sharp. The less light reflects, the higher the transmission and the better the image.

Think of light in terms of the color spectrum. Daylight has elements of the entire spectrum, and each has its own wavelength. The most troublesome color to transmit is blue with its very short wavelength. The light from the blue end of the spectrum is what's most prevalent at dawn and dusk, so Leupold put their effort into giving the VX-3i a very high

transmission rate and correct focal lengths for that type of light. This allows the shooter to have better resolution in low light and while looking for dark objects in shadow. Low light and objects hidden in shadow are the name of the game in hunting, so this is a big deal for sportsmen.

While coatings are hard to see in a gun shop, the performance gains are very real. The VX-3i might not look any different on a webpage or in a store, but when you're on a hunt, the "i" is the way to go. 



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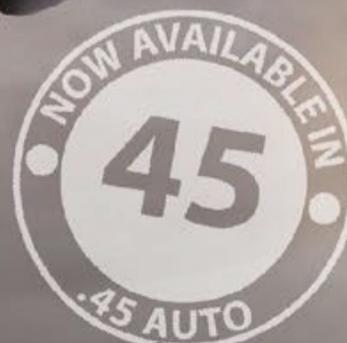
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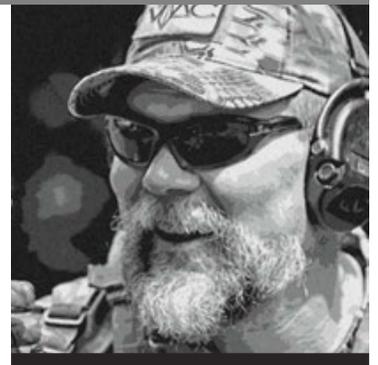
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How to practice when you only have a box of 50 rounds to work with.



SGM KYLE LAMB [RET.]
VIKINGTACTICS.COM

TRAINING DAY FOR PISTOLS

WE ARE ALL GOOD AT MAKING EXCUSES and passing blame. The coffee was too hot. I was tired. The dog ate my homework. Well, copping out on your homework is one thing, but skipping a chance to train is another. If you don't have a lot of time or money to spend on ammunition, I want to highlight a few ways to make your range session worth the \$10 to \$20 you shell out for 50 to 100 rounds. Action pistol shooting champ Rob Leatham commented that he prefers to practice with the best ammo to eliminate every possible problem in training. For a sponsored shooter, I agree — he needs the best for every practice session. But do the rest of us?

More than likely, we can get away with ammunition that functions reliably in our firearm and will penetrate one sheet of paper. The point is, every training session doesn't have to be with costly personal protection hollowpoints.

So, let's say for the sake of argument that you have a \$10, 50-round box of the finest fodder available at the local gun shop. You head to the range for your lunch hour and want to make the best use of your time. So after polishing off your sandwich on the drive, how in the world do we get any training from merely 50 rounds of ammunition? If we have a plan, we can definitely be successful.

I am a proponent of accuracy at the beginning and end of every practice session. This portion of our practice separates the men from the boys and sets the tone for the rest of our time behind the gun.

With the first 10 rounds, work on accuracy at 25 yards. I prefer to shoot at dots or bullseye targets instead of silhouette targets for this. If time is of the essence, I prefer to only use a bullseye target for all my drills. If you are being careful with your cash, a cost efficient option is a paper plate. Just use a blank white plate or spice it up with a Magic Marker to give yourself a refined aiming point. If

you don't feel your skills allow accuracy at 25 yards, then find the right distance. Fifteen yards should be your minimum distance from the target when working on accuracy.

Distance amplifies issues, so backing up will help you define marksmanship problems. If you stand at the 5-yard line, you aren't really accomplishing much other than feeling good about yourself.

After firing 10 slow-fire accuracy rounds, move on to more difficult pistol manipulations. If you are carrying your pistol in a holster at the range, part of your accuracy standards can be coming out of the holster for each shot. I like to conduct fast-slow draws integrated with the 10 accuracy rounds. Fast-slow draws are my way of

working on the draw without sacrificing accuracy. I move my hand to the pistol as fast as possible, acquire the perfect shooting grip, then slowly and methodically move through the rest of the draw, culminating in a slow, deliberate shot. The distance doesn't dictate the

draw speed. At 25 yards, I can still fast-slow draw and fire. Taking the time to get a perfect shot is extremely important; a smooth draw followed by a perfect shot is what we are looking for.

After the first 10-round accuracy phase of the training session, move on to manipulation drills.

3-Reload-3-Reload-3 One of my favorites is to load three magazines with three rounds each. Start with the draw, fire three, reload and fire three, reload and fire three more. This allows you to get draws and multiple shots into your bullseye target. The reloads are done as quickly as possible, no stopping between magazines. You should also be using a shot timer (if you have one) to determine the





PHOTO: LUKAS LAMB

speed of your draw and reloads. We are still pushing for accuracy, but it will degrade slightly when shooting faster. This shooting should be 5 to 10 yards from the target depending on skill level.

Multiple Targets Now load three magazines with seven rounds each. At this point you will need two targets. If you have the ability to place these targets 3 paces apart, that would be best. If you can't, then put the targets as far apart as possible on your target stand. The next several drills will incorporate the draw, driving the gun and reloads.

Start with a draw and one shot per target, alternating back and forth until you have fired a total of eight rounds. Since the magazines only have seven, you will have to conduct a reload to make the eighth and final shot. Once you have fired the eighth round, stop and re-holster.

The next drill is another multiple target drill and requires two rounds per target for a total of eight rounds. Using the same two targets, fire two rounds per target until you have fired eight rounds. This means you will run out of ammo after your sixth round and have to reload in order to fire the last two. After firing the eight rounds, re-holster.

The next drill is a "shoot until dry" drill. You have the magazine in the pistol and it has a total of five rounds. Draw and fire five single shots, alternating between the two targets downrange. Once you have finished, you are at 40 rounds. Hopefully you are warmed up and have built some confidence. Now it is time to slow it down again.

Load two of your magazines with five rounds per magazine. The next drill is intended to focus on strong hand and support hand accuracy; this is how we finish our training session. Incorporating the draw, if possible, we fire a five-shot group for accuracy with the strong hand only, followed by a five-round group for accuracy with the support hand. Start with one target and, if you feel confident, incorporate

PISTOL TRAINING WITH 50 ROUNDS

10 rounds from 15 to 25 yards slow fire (10 rounds)

Start from the holster, if possible, for every shot. Fast-slow draws.

3-Reload-3-Reload-3 (9 rounds)

Start with the pistol in the holster and three magazines of three rounds. Draw and engage your target with three rounds, conduct a slide-lock speed reload, shoot three more rounds, conduct your second speed reload and shoot the remaining three rounds.

Single shots on multiple targets (8 rounds)

Start with three magazines loaded with seven rounds each. On the start signal, draw and shoot single shots on each target, alternating until you have fired eight rounds.

Two rounds on multiple targets (8 rounds)

Draw and fire two rounds per target, alternating until you have fired eight rounds.

Single shots on multiple targets (5 rounds)

With the remaining ammunition in your magazine, fire one round per target, alternating. All from the draw.

Strong hand only (5 rounds)

Load one magazine with five rounds. From the draw, fire five rounds into your target, maintaining high accuracy standards.

Support hand only (5 rounds)

Load one magazine with five rounds. Use caution if you draw support hand only. If this drill is new, start with the pistol in your hand. Fire five rounds with the support hand for accuracy.

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driving the gun on multiple targets. No matter if shooting rifle or pistol, *always* incorporate the support side. This type of shooting not only builds confidence, it also increases your skill set with both hands.

So, what are our goals when we visit the range? We may not always have the time or resources to shoot for hours with unlimited rounds, unlimited targets and on a Special Operations budget, but we should always have a plan, and we should execute that plan as closely as possible.

Building Blocks You may look at these drills and scoff at their simplicity. Adding the pressure of a shot timer and scored targets gets you into the competitive spirit, even if it is just against yourself. If you are lucky enough to have a friend or family member that can shoot with you, the stakes are even higher. If you are bored with this 50-round training regimen, add your own drills to liven it up. Spread



PHOTO: LUKAS LAMB

Don't come up with excuses! Eat your lunch, flip over the paper plate and start shooting. Any time you can spend on the range will do your mind and skill set well.

the targets farther apart on the range or increase the distance. If that still doesn't get your blood pumping, conduct the drills while shooting on the move. That might be humbling at first, but your confidence and competence will increase with practice. **G&A**

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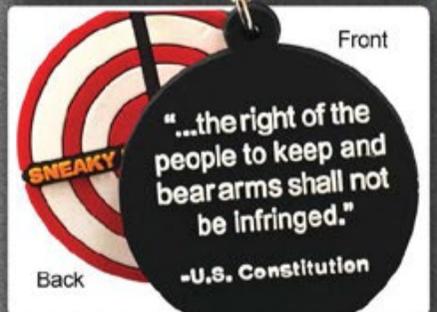
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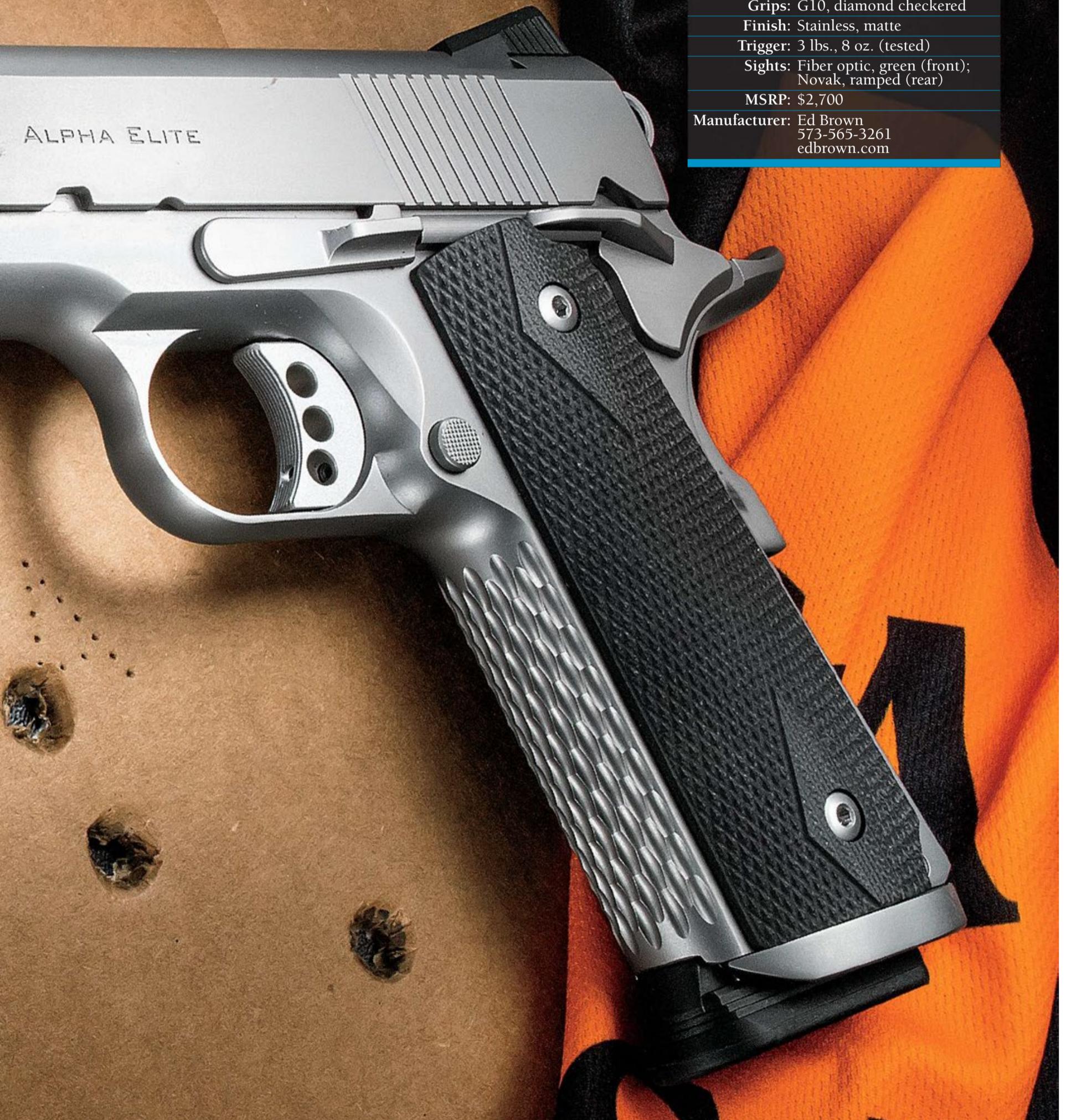




IN THE A-ZONE

ED BROWN COMMEMORATES IPSC'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY.

WORDS BY PATRICK SWEENEY | PHOTOS BY SEAN UTLEY

**Ed Brown IPSC Edition**

Type: Recoil operated,
semiautomatic

Cartridge: .45 ACP

Capacity: 8+1 rds.

Barrel: Ed Brown, 5 in., stainless

Overall Length: 8.75 in.

Weight: 2 lbs., 9 oz.

Grips: G10, diamond checkered

Finish: Stainless, matte

Trigger: 3 lbs., 8 oz. (tested)

Sights: Fiber optic, green (front);
Novak, ramped (rear)

MSRP: \$2,700

Manufacturer: Ed Brown
573-565-3261
edbrown.com



EVERYONE KNOWS that there was a time when the .45 ACP 1911 ruled IPSC ranges. Well, that isn't entirely true. Oh, from the early 1960s through the late 1980s, you would have certainly found more 1911s than anything else on the ranges. And for many years, they would have been chambered in .45 ACP. But many pistols vied for loot and glory on those competition ranges. The .45 ACP 1911 was what we all used as the yardstick, but we were experimenting like mad, looking for every advantage. I competed in IPSC/USPSA matches with a couple dozen different handguns during that era. Some can still be found on the ranges now that we have multiple equipment divisions. But if you ask your gun club members to define the classic IPSC competition pistol, you'll overwhelmingly get the reply: "A single-stack 1911 chambered in .45 ACP."

That is what Ed Brown makes, and now they have made one for the 40th anniversary of IPSC. The year 1976 was auspicious. Not because it was the year that gave us the embarrassment of a peanut farmer for president, not because the Pittsburgh Steelers won the Super Bowl for their second year in a row, not even because of the Bicenten-

nial. No, that was the year of the Columbia Conference and the forming of IPSC. I wasn't there, but only because I didn't hear of it in time to attend.

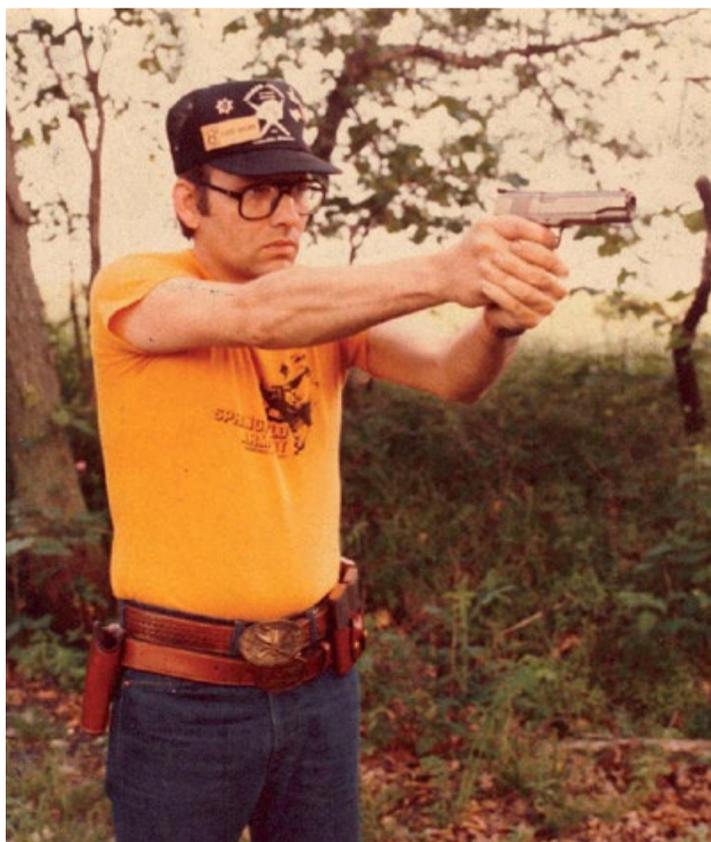
It's the 40th anniversary of that conference, and Ed Brown has made a pistol suitable for competition to honor it. It is the IPSC Edition of the Alpha Elite.

Ed Brown's crew starts with an all-stainless-steel ensemble.

The frame, slide and barrel are all Government-size, with the improvements that have stood up to the test of time — plus a few extras.

The slide is round topped with cocking serrations only at the rear and LoMount Novak sight dovetails front and back. The rear sight is beautifully fitted and centered in the slide, and the front sight is centered and has the bottom "shoulders" beveled to get them out of the arc of the slide top radius. The ejection port is lowered and beveled both on the rear face and the interior rail of the slide. The latter is an area often overlooked (then and now) in a lot of builds, and it can lead to dented case mouths until it is corrected. None here, as G&A's testfire proved.

One upgrade since the "good old days" is the front sight.



Ed Brown takes aim with one of his classics. In the '70s, they shot steel guns and wore leather gear.



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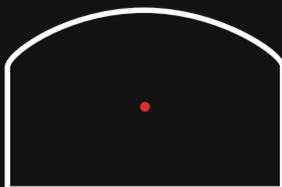
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2.5-MOA Dot

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Fieldstripping the Ed Brown IPSC Edition reveals a combination of stainless steel parts and traditional components, most notably the guide rod.

PERFORMANCE

LOAD	VELOCITY (FPS)	ES	SD	BEST GROUP (IN.)	AVERAGE GROUP (IN.)
Browning 230-gr. FMJ	866	48	19	1.65	2.14
SIG Sauer V-Crown 230-gr. JHP	924	25	10	1.7	1.94
HPR 230-gr. JHP	840	29	11	1.75	2.06
ASYM Match 230-gr. FMJ	812	50	19	1.75	2.22
Aguila 230-gr. FMJ	809	28	13	1.8	2.07
Hornady Action Pistol 230-gr. XTP	782	22	10	1.95	2.15
*H&G 200-gr. #68, 5.8-gr. of W231	900	41	16	2.1	2.44

Notes: Accuracy is the result of five, five-shot groups over a Champion shooting rest at 25 yards. Velocity is the average of 10 shots measured by LabRadar set to record at 15 feet from the muzzle. * An asterisk denotes the author's handload.

Back then, we simply used serrated black patridge sights with a bit of a ramp to the aiming face. Brown's new IPSC Edition has a fiber optic front sight. It is shipped with a green insert, but it is easy to replace or change should you want some other color.

The barrel is an Ed Brown Match in .45 ACP with a traditional feed ramp. The recoil system is also traditional, lacking a full-length guide rod. The barrel is held in the slide by means of a standard-design bushing, marked "DVC," and holds in the traditional recoil spring retainer. None of this would have gotten a second glance in 1976. What worked then works now, and Ed Brown kept it that way with this one.

Back in the day, we would hard-chrome plate our competition guns once we were sure they were done, in order to protect the finish from the rigors of practice. I asked Travis Brown, now at the helm of Ed Brown Products, why they went with stainless.

"We have never offered plating, not sure why we would want to," Brown said. "Stainless looks great, is durable, [affordable] and easy to refinish. We can also coat [these guns] with our Gen4 if the customer wants colors, such as black, bronze, gray."

Well, back then, stainless wasn't always an option, and it was sometimes on the soft side. The alloy Brown uses *isn't* soft and will last a good, long time. There are two deviations from the stainless ensemble: the ejector and the extractor. Each are spec'd from a different alloy for operational reasons. You want an ejector that will withstand hundreds of thousands of impacts, and you want an extractor that will withstand hundreds of thousands of flexations. Brown chose the appropriate steel alloy for each, matching the slide alloy be damned.

The slide and frame are a marvel of fitting and proof that modern technology has its place. In 1976, if you wanted a tightly fitted 1911, you handed it off to a pistolsmith who literally pounded the rails with a hammer to swage them to a tighter fit to the slide. While it worked, it didn't always last. The IPSC Edition fit, like all Ed Brown pistols, is both modern and traditional. The rails of the slide and frame are each surface-ground precisely to the blueprints and then hand-lapped for a smooth fit that has no wobble. One of the tests I perform on a new 1911 is to hold the frame firmly and see if I can make the slide move side-to-side, rock or twist. This one didn't.

The fit is exemplified by the gaps you can see at the rear. As in, there aren't any. If I may jump ahead a bit, this is also the case with the grip safety. The fit of the grip safety to the frame, where it pivots, is impressive. Back in 1976 (and for many years

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The magwell opening has a large but unobtrusive funnel.



The low-profile Novak-type sights are masterfully fitted to the slide. The dovetail shoulders of the front fiber optic sight are even blended to the contour of the slide's arch.

afterward), many a custom pistolsmith would have been envious of that fit. It is *perfect*.

On the frame, the same exquisite fitting goes into the other controls and parts. The grip safety is the original — and best — high-ride grip safety: the Ed Brown beavertail with memory grooves. Once we saw it at the 1987 USPSA Championships, there was no other grip safety that would do. The thumb safety is also by Ed Brown, and back then, Brown put an angle in the middle of the paddle, one that made it more comfortable and easy

to use. The thumb safety is fitted in a particular way that I really like, and I have found it to be the one I prefer; it is more difficult to press up to safe than down to fire. Not that it is sloppy or soft in flipping to fire. No, it has a crisp feel and firm click, but I can't push it back up with my thumb. In a stressful situation, I'm going to have all the adrenaline I need to get it from safe to fire. I don't want it inadvertently going back up to safe. Once the fracas has been settled, I can use an extra finger to boost it back to safe. You may look at it and say, "I thought everyone had an ambi safety

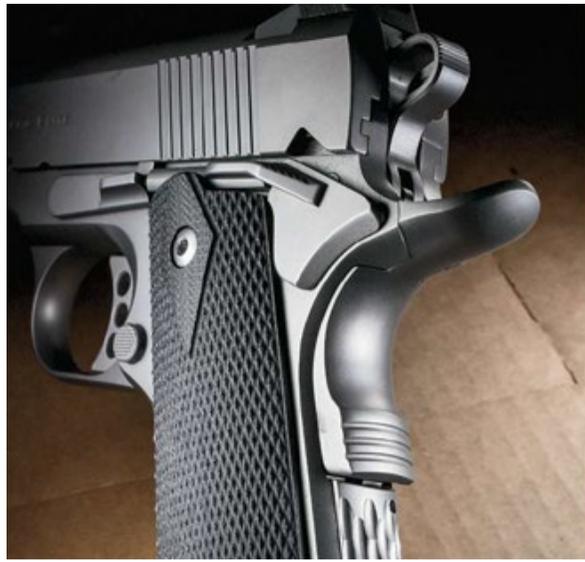


THERE'S A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE OLD WAY AND THE SMART WAY.





The controls are classic Ed Brown parts. The frontstrap and mainspring housing are done in Brown's revered non-slip treatment: Chainlink I.



The fit of the slide and grip safety to frame is flawless. It would have been the envy of any pistolsmith back in the day, and it is still noteworthy. With that much bearing surface, it will outlast the shooter. The grip safety, once it appeared in 1987, was the best to be had. It still is. The IPSC Edition has the confederation's logo on the slide.



back then." Well, many did, but a lot of us didn't. I didn't. If you just have to have an ambi safety, Travis Brown and the crew can accommodate. (Just make sure you note that on the order form.)

The mainspring housing and frontstrap are treated to a distinctly non-'70s, no-slip pattern: Chainlink I. This is comprised of alternating rows of dished grooves machined into the surface of the mainspring housing and frontstrap. We used to pride ourselves on having needle-sharp 20 LPI checkering and practically bleeding from it. If, after a practice session, your hands didn't

look like you'd been playing with a basket full of hyperactive kittens, the checkering wasn't sharp enough. We know better now, and Chainlink I is great at non-slip without the blood.

At the bottom of the grip is an added magwell funnel, so you will have fast and smooth reloads. This is also stainless, which maintains its unassuming appearance. The grips are double-diamond checkered G10, which is hard to beat and hard to beat up.

And the trigger? Crisp, clean, 3½ pounds and minimal overtravel. So, I was expecting big things at the range, and that's pretty

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CLASSIC AMMO: H&G 68



For decades, the standard pistol powder in IPSC competition was Winchester 231. The best bullet to use was an H&G 68 or clone. The “68” is a semi-wadcutter,

but the nose of the bullet is far enough forward that its meplat (the flat part) has its radius at a location that corresponds to the radius of the 230-grain roundnose (RN) at that point forward of the case mouth. As a result, the 68 fed as well as, or better than, hardball. The 231 is a fast-burning pistol powder. It isn't the fastest, and it is too fast burning to be of much use for magnum loads, but in-between, it was (and still is) hard to beat.



A ball powder, 231 meters very consistently, and since it could also be used in many other handgun cartridges (.38 Special, 9mm, etc.), those of us who competed bought lots of it. When I was clawing my way up the standings, I bought 231 in 8-pound kegs and 200-grain H&G 68s in the ten thousand

batches. In the course of a year, I'd go through three kegs and almost a third of a ton of bullets. The recipe? Put 5.8 grains of Winchester 231 under the H&G 68 loaded to an overall length (OAL) of 1.250 inches. Use any large pistol primer, taper-crimp the case mouth to a diameter of .468 inch.

To feed Ed Brown's IPSC Edition, I only had to step into the shop, dust off the press, install the .45 ACP toolhead and shell plate, and adjust the powder measure for 5.8 grains. I had classic ammo falling into the ammo bin minutes later.

At the range, it performed exactly as I remembered, right down to the smoke, which is

why this combo isn't seen as much anymore. A lot more shooters are competing with other calibers. The 9mm, .38 Super and .40 all have found acceptance with competition shooters. Many of those shooters opt for plated or jacketed bullets, and there are powders that have improved on 231's economy and consistent metering.

Some might question the velocity and the power. A 200-grain bullet at 900 feet per second (fps) delivers a 180 Power Factor. That's not light. Well, in the old days, the threshold for Major was 175, and you didn't want to slip under. So, we built in a cushion and learned to shoot with stout loads. — P. Sweeney

much what I got. I tested the IPSC Edition with a variety of loads that would have been in keeping with our competition needs back in 1976 and with everyday carry today. Yes, a full-sized all-steel 1911 isn't exactly a compact pistol, but it is eminently controllable, even with hot loads. And with the right holster, it is wearable. I ought to know; I used to do just that.

The groups were excellent in size, uniform in shape and pleasingly compact. There weren't single-cluster rat-holes, but if you are in the habit of proclaiming any pistol that won't shoot down to an inch and a half at 25 yards as “inadequate,” you're going to have to sit down at a shooting bench and show us how it's done. At no time did the Ed Brown IPSC Edition ever give even the

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slightest hint that it was going to cause a problem. It never failed to fire, extract or eject, and it locked open every time the magazine was empty. And let me tell you, back in 1976, that wasn't something that was a guarantee out of any pistol except a full-custom pistol off the bench of a Master.

And the classic load, the one we all used back then? You can see why we loaded our own. Accurate, reliable, powerful and, in this new pistol, a steady workhorse.

You might be asking, "Do I need a relatively plain, single-stack 1911 that runs me a latte less than \$2,700?" Hey, if you want non-performance-enhancing bling, I say, *Go for it!* The world is full of shiny, noisy stuff that is meant solely to impress others. But if you want performance, then this is a smoking hot deal. The Ed Brown IPSC Edition is a pistol that has been built to much better specifications than what was available to us in the early years of the Reagan administration, which was the heyday of single-stack IPSC. It is more accurate, reliable, has a better trigger and greater durability than



IPSC was established to promote, maintain, improve and advance the sport of shooting. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the 40th Anniversary IPSC Edition goes to IPSC.

we could get back then. The price? Adjusted for inflation, we would pay less for the Ed Brown IPSC Edition than we would have back then for a pistol that wouldn't have been as good as this one. There's also the time. In those days, we'd have had to pay for a Colt 1911, testfire it to make sure it wasn't a complete dog, and then find a good pistolsmith to build it. The wait would have been anywhere from an interminable six months up to two years for the 'smith to rebuild it. In the end, we would have

paid more for a lesser pistol.

All this in a zippered Ed Brown pistol case, with a warranty, two eight-round Ed Brown magazines and an owner's manual. Plus, you get the extra swank of the IPSC logo, the 40th anniversary and the knowledge that this is an investment you will probably never have the time, money or ammo to wear out. Plus, this pistol represents one of the most affordable ways to own a *real* Ed Brown 1911. You don't have much time to think about it. This edition becomes IPSC history after Dec. 31, 2016.

★ THE GENETICALLY ENGINEERED ★

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AR15
7.62x39mm
[bolt face]

Mk47
7.62x39mm
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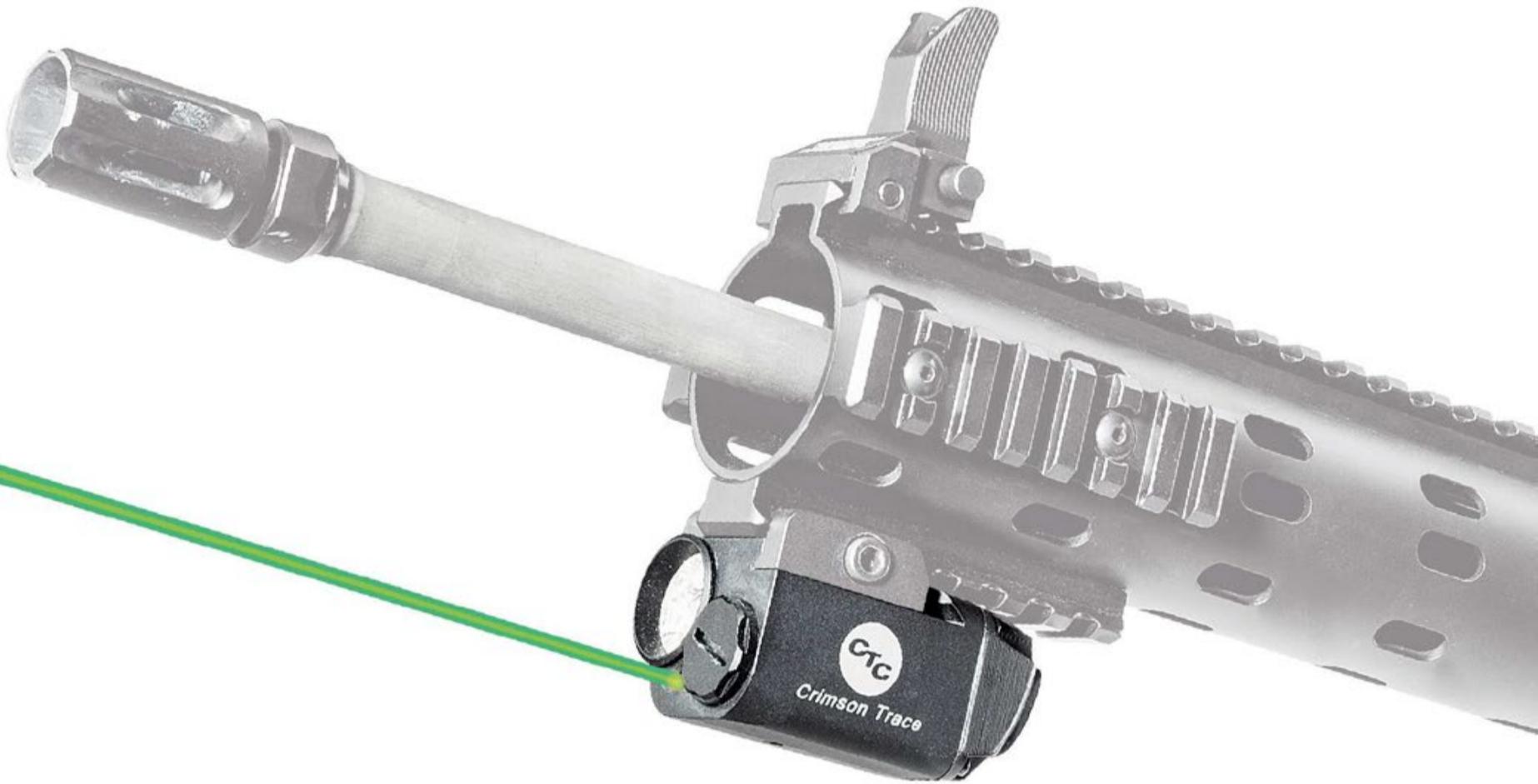
★ AKS13 KRINK model shown with optional equipment.

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GO WIRELESS

CRIMSON TRACE'S LiNOx SYSTEM
BRINGS NO-CORD TECH TO THE AR-15.

WORDS BY RICHARD NANCE | PHOTOS BY ALFREDO RICO





WHEN DETERMINING

whether or not to shoot someone in self-defense, the more information you have, the better. That's one of the reasons handheld flashlights are so popular with defensive handgunners. Of course, since a long gun such as an AR-15 requires the use of both hands, firearm-mounted lights are the only viable option.

The need for having a light mounted to a long gun was apparent long before dedicated long gun lights were commercially available. This inspired MacGyver-like ingenuity, resulting in unwieldy D-Cell flashlights being taped to the forend of a long gun before heading into harm's way. While certainly better than fighting blind, this setup left much to be desired. Fortunately, technology has taken us out of the duct-taped D-Cell era and into the age of compact lights.

Today, there are several light mounting options for the AR-15. Some are forend replacements while others are designed to mount directly to an accessory rail. In some cases, the light unit comes with a wired pressure pad activation switch.

The advantage of the latter is that the switch can be mounted anywhere along the rail. The disadvantage is that there is a wire to contend with. However, thanks to Crimson Trace, there's now



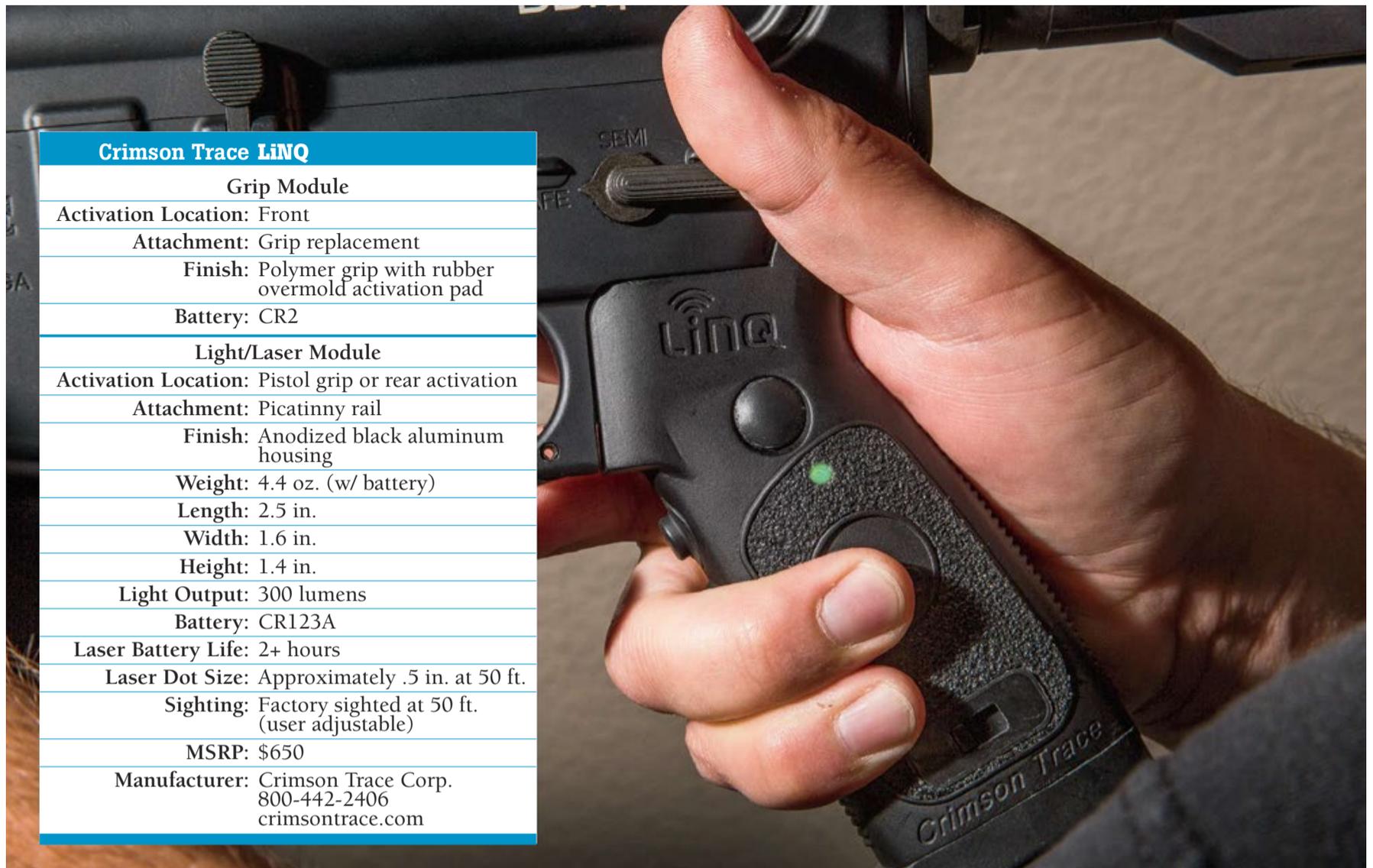
a wireless AR-15 light option, which just so happens to include a green laser.

Crimson Trace's new LiNQ System consists of a replacement pistol grip and a light/laser module that mounts to the forend of an AR-15. The light/laser module is easily mounted to Picatinny (or similar) accessory rails. The pistol grip attaches with a single bolt, as with a typical AR-15 pistol grip.

The two components pair wirelessly in approximately 30 seconds. A sync light indicator stops blinking when the

pairing is complete. Once the LiNQ system is wirelessly paired, it stays that way. The secure, individual connection will not affect nor be affected by other wireless or radio frequency (RF) sources.

LiNQ can be used in four modes: laser and light, laser only, light only, or laser and strobing light. The user can easily change modes by depressing a button on either side of the pistol grip for approximately two seconds. (The buttons are easily accessible yet positioned high enough that they aren't likely to be accidentally activated.) The module contains an activation pad, allowing the light/laser to be operated with the lead hand if desired. As with the buttons on the pistol grip, depressing the activation pad for about two seconds changes the mode.



Capitalizing on the company's innovative Instinctive Activation technology, the light and/or laser are controlled at the pistol grip with the middle finger of the firing hand. Not only is the firing hand more dexterous, activating the light and/or laser is more intuitive

when the controls are contained in the pistol grip. This also gives the user the flexibility of placing the lead hand anywhere along the forend, as opposed to being relegated to a certain position in order to activate the light and/or laser.

LiNQ outputs a 300-lumen LED white light for threat identification and a powerful green laser for simplified aiming. Lasers enable the shooter to aim precisely without having to shift their focus back and forth from the sights to the threat. With a laser, the shooter merely aligns the laser dot on the target and presses the trigger. This is a tremendous advantage when you take into account that in a life-and-death encounter, it will be difficult (at best) to take your eyes off the threat.

The laser is easily adjustable for windage and elevation. The pistol



The grip module features a serrated frontstrap and backstrap, and textured sides. A button on each side offers activation and mode changes, and an LED indicates battery level.

grip has a master on/off switch that enables users to deactivate the unit, but other than to specifically train with iron sights, I don't see a need to turn the unit off. The grip is powered by a CR2 battery, and the light/laser module runs on a CR123A battery.

As a police officer, firearms instructor and gun writer, I've tried almost every type of firearm-mounted light and laser on the market. I've steered clear of wired units because wire management can be cumbersome. Initially, they are difficult to set up because you have to secure the cord to prevent it from snagging on something, which could damage the unit or violently pull the forend in an unintended direction.

To make matters worse, many wired units utilize adhesive-backed pressure pads for activation. These pads tend to shift, which can make activating the unit quite a challenge. Finally, many of the pressure pads are so complicated that you never know what mode you're going to activate.

The LiNQ is unlike any light/laser unit I've used. Those familiar with Crimson Trace's Instinctive Activation know that all you



need to do to activate the light and/or laser is acquire a proper shooting grip. With the LiNQ, the unit is activated by the rearward pressure of the middle finger of the firing hand on a perfectly placed button on the front of the pistol grip.

The duration of light/laser illumination can be precisely controlled by simply relaxing or flexing your finger as appropriate. You can even change modes on the fly by depressing a button located on either side of the pistol grip.

The LiNQ's white light beam is wide and powerful without being so bright as to self-blind the user during a search. The reflection of an ultra-bright light off of a light colored wall or, worse yet, a mirror, can wreak havoc on our vision. When it comes to lumens, more is not necessarily better. A 300-lumen output seems appropriate for a weapon-mounted tactical light.

There's a reason the LiNQ features a green laser. Although red was the laser color of choice for years, it is well established that green is easier for the human eye to see. A green laser is particularly beneficial in daylight or other well-lit environments, which tend to wash out a red laser. Technological advancements have facilitated smaller, more affordable green lasers with increased battery life.

Of the four available modes, I preferred the strobing light and laser. The strobing light enables you to locate and identify a possible threat, just as a steady beam of light does. However, a strobing light can be disorienting, causing the threat to suffer a



The LiNQ's grip module is powered by a single CR2 battery, which can be accessed by removing the cap with a coin.

considerable loss in peripheral vision and depth perception, and it can even disrupt their balance. Hence, a strobing light is not only advantageous to you, it is detrimental to your adversary, making for a true win-win situation.

LiNQ is the most advanced, user-friendly AR-15 light/laser unit on the market. Being able to control the mode and activate the unit with Crimson

Trace's Instinctive Activation is a definite advantage, and since there are no cords to contend with, the light/laser module can be mounted anywhere along the forend, whether or not it's within reach of the lead hand.

From illuminating the threat to delivering accurate fire, the LiNQ has you covered. With an MSRP of \$694, the system isn't inexpensive. (Quality kit never is.) However, when we consider all the benefits it provides, the value is readily apparent. Crimson Trace is a company that stands by their products. LiNQ comes with a three-year full warranty and free batteries for life. 

NEWSFLASH

July 25, 2016 Smith & Wesson announced that it acquired Crimson Trace Corporation for \$95 million. smith-wesson.com

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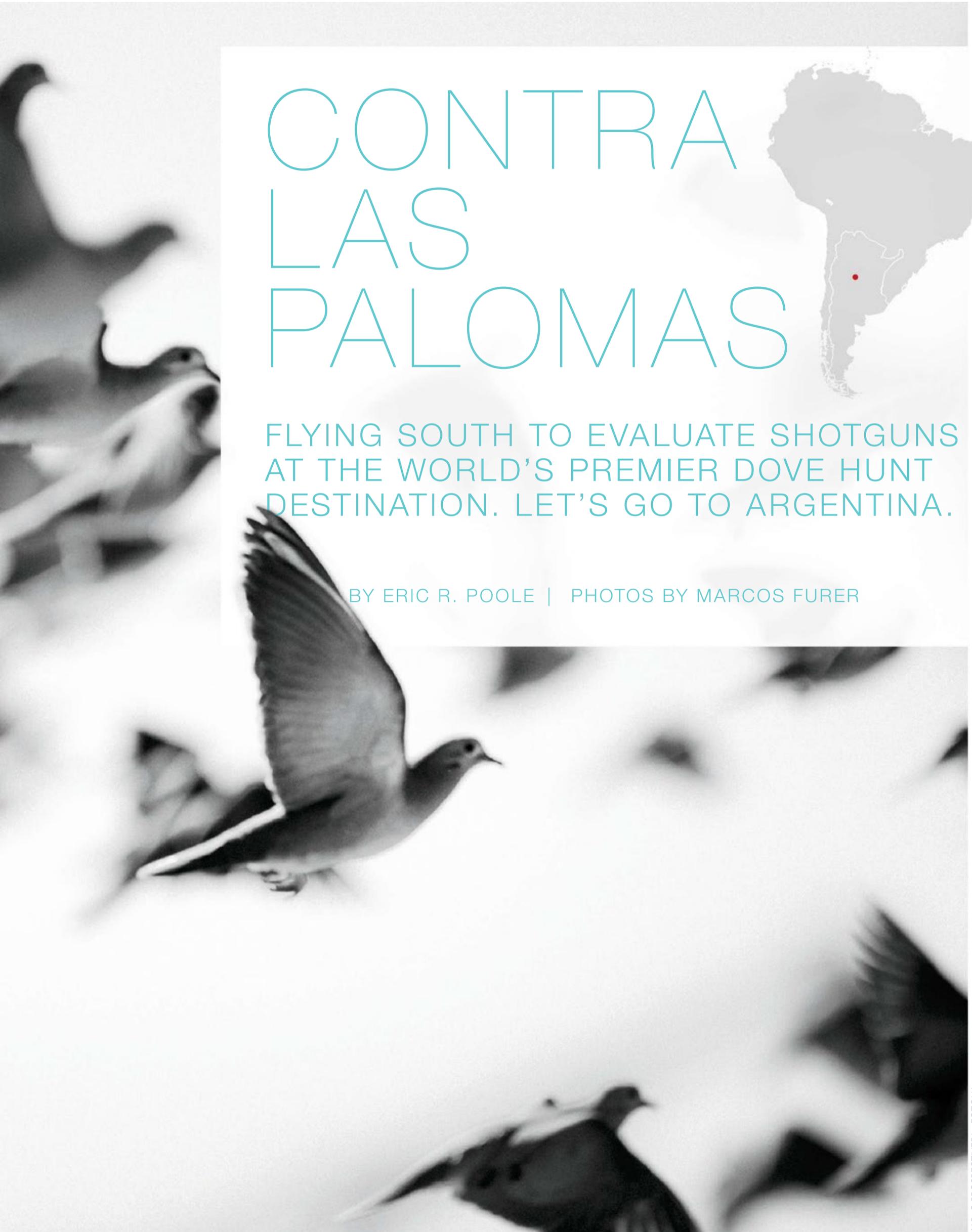


CONTRA LAS PALOMAS



FLYING SOUTH TO EVALUATE SHOTGUNS
AT THE WORLD'S PREMIER DOVE HUNT
DESTINATION. LET'S GO TO ARGENTINA.

BY ERIC R. POOLE | PHOTOS BY MARCOS FURER





I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED IT, but I really wasn't ready to be wonderstruck by the sight of more than 20 million doves. No, that number is not a misprint. If you've watched the film, the scene instantly conjured memories of Alfred Hitchcock's 1963 horror film, "The Birds." Only these avians were not trying to kill people, and we were well-armed with shotguns.

I started dove hunting when I met my bride's Illinois family in 2008. Her uncle and U.S. Air Force retiree, Steve Bernhardt, took me through my first steps in dove hunting at Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area. It's a 16,550-acre conservation site in central Illinois. Woken up during the dark hours of morning, I remember having breakfast with Bernhardt and one of his sons, Tristan, before driving to a repurposed house, signing my name on a clipboard and waiting for a lottery drawing to take place later that morning. It was first come, first serve, and more than 100 hunters had shown up for a chance for rights to an unclaimed spot along the edge of a sunflower field, but there was space for only half of us. It was a competitive process because once a person's name was drawn, they were issued a numbered permit panel and walked up to a map on a wall to pick the best spot still available. My number was one of the last ones called, but I did manage to nab a place for my lounge chair near the Bernhardts'. Hunting began at noon and ended sharply at 5 p.m.

The daily limit was 15 birds, but shooting on Illinois' opening day is always fierce. One lonesome dove might have

to dodge a continuous cloud of No. 6-, 7½- or 8-shot pellets thrown up at it for several hundred yards. That first year, I was little threat as the doves would become wise and veer off before reaching me, affording only long shots I had never practiced for. If memory serves, I may have only brought down two or three that day, one of which was almost certainly caught in a crossfire with Tristan.

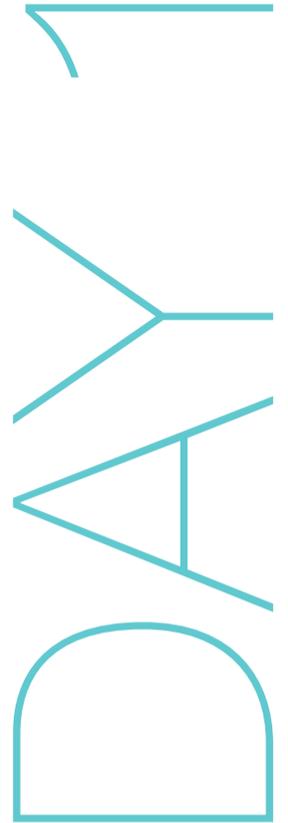
Nearly every September 1 since, I was in a dove field. I love seasoning and grilling dove meat for my family, and I've been humbled by a thing or two along the way. In regard to guns, you don't need an expensive autoloader to be successful. My uncle (in-law) Steve has never spent much for a shotgun, yet he's no less successful at bagging doves or his limit of waterfowl.

"You don't need one of those fancy shotguns," he'd say. "Just be sure to bring one that works and hits what you're aiming at."

Last season, I took that advice to hunt the most legendary destination for dove hunting in the world: Córdoba, Argentina. There, I set out to prove that one of my go-to brands of dove guns was a best buy, while evaluating three new offerings from Stoeger. After setting foot for a day in beautiful Santiago, Chile, I flew east across the jagged and snow-covered peaks of the Andes mountain range.

Landing at Córdoba City and driving 53 miles north, I caught up with six industry friends who traveled through Brazil to get to Córdoba Lodge. This resort is the newest addition to several relaxing locations in Argentina and Uruguay operated by outfitter





David Denies Bird Hunting (daviddeniess.com). I was joined by outdoor writer Brad Fitzpatrick and his wife, Bethany, Natalie Krebs of Outdoor Life, and Stoeger's Keith Heinlein, Carter Miller and Tom DeBolt. We were there as a test team to evaluate the capabilities of Stoeger's newest offerings at the world's dove capital. This trip was the first time that this brand's shotgun had been evaluated like this, a proving ground known for cooking barrels, melting handguards and bruising shoulders.

The M3020 shotgun is a 3-inch, 20-gauge semiautomatic that's inertia driven and can also feed 2¾-inch shells. Barrels are complete with a ventilated, stepped rib and feature a red fiber optic front sight for quick shooting in almost any lighting situation.

Most readers have heard of inertia driven technology with a rotating, locking bolt head. Differing from gas-operated systems, it's often argued to be the world's most reliable system because gas and burnt powder exit the barrel and are not used to cycle the action. Undoubtedly, it's clean, has few wear-and-tear parts, is fast cycling and is adjustment free.

M3020 shotguns are lighter than their 12-gauge counterparts, and I noticed the sore effects after firing 1,525 shells my first day, according to my assigned gun bearer, who was always there to assist in speed reloading my mag tube while encouraging me to stay with it and fire more and more shells. I shared a blind on Day 1 with general manager Tom DeBolt. He, too, was taken aback by the M3020 and was left impressed by the fast-handling 20-gauge. DeBolt emptied 53 boxes of Argentina's Activ 7/8-ounce loads of No. 7½ and downed 762 birds.

Stoeger M3020	
Action Type:	Inertia operated, rotating bolt, semiautomatic
Gauge:	20
Capacity:	4+1 rds
Barrel:	26 in., 28 in. (tested)
Overall Length:	47.75 in., 49.75 in. (tested)
Weight:	5 lbs., 10 oz. (tested)
Trigger:	5 lbs., 3 oz. (tested)
Sights:	Bead; red fiber optic (front)
Stock:	Synthetic, checker textured
Finish:	Black oxide (steel), hard-coat anodized (aluminum)
Accessories:	Chokes (1C, M, XFT), T-wrench
MSRP:	\$600
Manufacturer:	Stoeger Industries 800-264-4962 stoegerindustries.com



There are many reasons why Córdoba is an excellent dove-shooting destination: a temperate climate that allows birds to nest up to five times each year, a lack of shooting pressure from Argentine hunters, plentiful rainfall, fertile soil and many places to roost. This has all been untouched and is now being guarded as the government considers hunting an important economical resource. Increased grain production and the insatiable demand for corn and soybean products have resulted in

more acreage planted by the agribusiness than ever before, which means that Argentina is now an expansive dove factory.

What happens with all the doves after they've been hunted? I asked the same thing of Guillermo Magnani, Córdoba Lodge co-owner and manager, shortly after my arrival.

"David Denies participates in a feeding program that provides meals for thousands of impoverished children. You could imagine, they sometimes get tired of eating so much dove. Guests will eat some of their harvest, but much of what remains goes to the eagle



population. Eagles will follow hunters in the field and wait for the shooting to start. When there's a lot of action, we will remind guests to pay attention to avoid unintentionally peppering an unafraid eagle that may fly into the area to capture a wounded dove. There are so many doves, you can safely assume that our eagles have become picky eaters."

Part of what makes high-volume dove hunting so intriguing is the training it provides. As the action continues, shotgunners can't help

but improve their skills. Swarms of doves approach at different speeds from all directions, presenting a great variety of shots: high overhead incomers descending swiftly, low crossers that speed across the blind, and many that sneak from behind and turn away. Sometimes doves are paired, while others fly alone. There are times when doves suddenly rise up from a field all at once and form a moving wall that makes it hard to pick out and stay with a single flyer. It is impossible to replicate this action and gain this much from any type of practice. By the second and third

LOYALIST

PATRIOT

PATRIOT ORDNANCE FACTORY



days of hunting and hitting birds flying in multiple directions at varying speeds, shooting becomes instinctive. It has been said that if you're a shooter averaging 50 percent accuracy when you arrive, you'll go home hitting 70 to 80 percent of the shots you take. On Day 1, my accuracy was 52 percent and by Day 3 my average was up to 72 percent. After dove hunting Argentina, you'll dust almost everything thrown at a clay range.

At lunch, pairs of shooters come down from the hills and feast on several courses of meat in a safari-like hut. Meals are lean and naturally spiced with onions, peppers and *chimichurri* sauce. Every dish lacks the preservatives Americans are used to. After a light salad, mesquite-grilled meat dishes are continuously brought out until you've had your fill. Flame never touches the meat, and their blend of natural seasoning and sea salts create meals that are unique to this part of the world and unequal in mouth-watering flavor.

An afternoon *siesta* was always offered after lunch, but we always deferred. Torture testing of the Stoeger shotguns was our focus. As the *pop-pop* of gunfire echoed through the valleys, our attentive gun bearers kept our shotgun magazines stuffed. With each bird intercepted, they'd punch a counter. On my best single afternoon, I learned afterward that I had downed 728 doves.

That number is more of a testament to the functionality and reliability of Stoeger's shotguns. Though the brand might be an unfamiliar name to some, Stoeger has been in business since 1924. Currently, its doubles are made in Brazil and semiautos manufactured in Turkey. Looking back six years ago, Stoeger only offered a semiauto 12 gauge with a 3-inch chamber. Now, Stoeger sells an updated M3000 with a 3-inch chamber, the M3500 with a 3½-inch chamber and the 20-gauge M3020. Each are available wearing black synthetic stocks or Realtree APG or Max-5 camouflage, but the M3000 is also offered with traditional walnut furniture. All three models averaged similar trigger pulls on our scale and all featured chrome-lined



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Stoeger M3500

Action Type: Inertia operated, rotating bolt, semiautomatic

Gauge: 12

Capacity: 4+1 rds

Barrel: 24 in., 26 in., 28 in. (tested)

Overall Length: 46 in., 48 in., 50 in. (tested)

Weight: 7 lbs., 13 oz. (tested)

Trigger: 5 lbs., 8 oz. (tested)

Sights: Bead; red fiber optic (front)

Stock: Synthetic, checker textured

Finish: Realtree Max-5

Accessories: Chokes (IC, M, F, XFT), T-wrench

MSRP: \$780

Manufacturer: Stoeger Industries
800-264-4962
stoegerindustries.com

barrels with chokes included.

The M3500 is one of the most affordable semiauto shotguns to feed a 3½-inch shell on the market. It's not only well suited for upland game birds, but it is ideal for waterfowl and turkey hunters. The inertia-driven system handles loads between 2¾ to 3½ inches without adjustment, which was evaluated and proven to me on this trip to Argentina. I credit much of its reliability to the fact that the bolt only has three moving parts, which also means that the action is fast enough to keep up with my trigger finger.

"When we launched the M3500," Heinlein recalled, "we wanted it to be a highly functional and reliable gun. Once we got that right, the [action] became the chassis for all of our semiauto shotguns."

The larger M3500 is 2 pounds heavier than the M3020 and seemed to recoil less. I have never fired so many shotgun shells in a single day than I did on Day 1, therefore I wasn't surprised that my shoulder was tender and lightly bruised for that experience. Perhaps it was the long massage at Córdoba Lodge that night, but the soreness and bruising from the constant pounding was gone by the afternoon of Day 2. I eventually concluded that the 12-gauge M3500 was a more comfortable shotgun for its weight and balance. It swung and mounted extremely well, and I had no problems enduring the occasional fast follow-up shot or engaging birds as far as 80 yards with one-shot results. The M3500 is a shotgun I've grown confident with, and I have no qualifying reservation in recommending it. I finished Day 2 having gone through 11 more boxes than the previous day — and with no nagging soreness.

My counterpart in the blind was Heinlein, who was a great amount of fun to hunt with and offered a comedic spirit and competition to the day. Our skills improved to such a degree that we'd try to shoot a dove at just the right moment so that it would fall into our blind. Heinlein was certainly more skilled at it than I, sometimes even shooting one of my doves off its course. I can't remember having a better time shooting and laughing.



IRISH SETTER BOOTS

For hunting Argentina, the author recommends the Wingshooter from Irish Setter Boots. Good for covering ground, these lightweights proved to be one of the most comfortable boots G&A has tested. They feature a 9-inch waterproof dry leather construction, high-traction Prairie White-color outsole and were crafted specifically for bird hunters. **\$195**



DAY 2



Stoeger M3K 3-Gun

Action Type:	Inertia operated, rotating bolt, semiautomatic
Gauge:	12
Capacity:	4+1 rds
Barrel:	24 in.
Overall Length:	45.75 in.
Weight:	7 lbs., 6 oz.
Trigger:	5 lbs., 9 oz. (tested)
Sights:	Bead; red fiber optic (front)
Stock:	Synthetic, textured, black
Finish:	Black oxide (steel), hardcoat anodized (aluminum)
Accessories:	Extended Chokes (C, IC, M), T-wrench
MSRP:	\$700
Manufacturer:	Stoeger Industries 800-264-4962 stoegerindustries.com

You'd be astounded at how well you could shoot if you could fire 1,000 to 1,500 rounds every day. For my third and final day in the dove fields, I teamed up with Carter Miller, who is a technical support manager and 3-Gun shooter. More of a serious personality, he hunted as if he were training for his next competition, wearing a tactical shell-carrier for a chest rig and reloading several rounds at a time. It was only appropriate that I evaluate the new Stoeger M3K in his presence.

Though the M3K comes with a standard magazine tube for being an import, I borrowed Miller's, which had

been recently enhanced with a blue, laser-engraved 10-shot-capacity magazine extension from RCI-XRAIL.

"The M3K is based on the M3000 platform," Heinlein said. "It was designed to be a race-ready 3-Gun shotgun."

And race ready it is. This is the shotgun used by Stoeger's own shotgun team including the Yackley 5, an entire family of respected 3-Gunners, and Ryan Muller. Not only does the M3K have an enlarged, blue-anodized aluminum charging handle and bolt release, the loading port is larger and the mag tube assembly is polished for the smoothest operation. The 24-inch barrel is complete with a red fiber-optic sight and extended choke tubes. The trigger? Well, the M3K trigger is the same as the other models with a little grit in takeup, but it serves the purpose just fine.

I was accused of "flock shooting" several times, which is when a dove hunter just points the barrel at a wall of birds and starts aimlessly pulling the trigger. "No," I'd reply. "That's just how fast and accurate the M3K is. I can transition faster between birds with this gun." Recoil is manageable, and the controls make getting back into the action a quick afterthought during a reload. I especially liked the large, triangular safety positioned just behind the trigger. It was intuitive to locate and disengage when it was time to start shooting again.

At \$700 retail, the M3K joins Stoeger's lineup of aggressively priced semiautos. Given the volume of birds and shells expended, this experience was as much of a torture test as it was a hunt. There were *no issues*. I suspected that these shotguns would perform well, but in my opinion, they overperformed. 



The RCI Xtension available for the Stoeger M3000 and M3K shotguns can carry 10, 2¾-inch shells or nine 3-inch shells. Custom engraving is available. Visit xrailbyrci.com. **\$99**



3
A
D



IN THE EARLY 1970s, paleontologists Niles Eldredge and Stephen Jay Gould challenged widely held notions of how species evolve when they wrote a scientific paper outlining what they referred to as “punctuated equilibrium.” If you’re unfamiliar with the term, it’s a model of evolutionary biology stating, in short, that evolution happens very quickly in response to changes in the surrounding environment. In a rapidly changing world, organisms must adapt very quickly or they face inevitable extinction.

When Eldredge and Gould developed their model of punctuated equilibrium, I doubt that either of them imagined that their theory could be applied to rifle manufacturing, but the last decade has seen the bolt-

action rifle market develop into an adapt-or-die environment. In the not-so-distant past, buying a cheap bolt gun meant putting up with some headaches: terrible triggers and so-so accuracy. The sages of the time told us that we got what we paid for. If we wanted a rifle fitted with all the bells and whistles, it was going to cost us.

That’s simply not true today. The modern budget rifle is being asked to include features that weren’t demanded of middle-market guns a few years ago, and competition among brands has never been more fierce. One company that isn’t afraid of competition is Thompson/Center, and they’ve jumped into the budget-rifle ring with a brand new offering: the Compass.

FOLLOW MY LEAD

THE T/C
COMPASS
ATTEMPTS TO
LURE BUDGET-
RIFLE BUYERS
IN A NEW
DIRECTION.

WORDS BY
BRAD
FITZPATRICK

PHOTOS BY
MARK FINGAR

Thompson/Center Compass

Action type: Bolt-action, centerfire

Cartridge: .30-'06 (tested). Available in nine other calibers from .204 Ruger to .300 Winchester Magnum

Capacity: 5+1 rds.

Barrel: 22 in. (tested) or 24 in.

Overall Length: 41.5 in.

Weight: 7 lbs., 4 oz.

Stock: Black synthetic

Finish: Blued

Trigger: 3 lbs., 8 oz. (tested)

Sights: None; Weaver bases included

Price: \$400

Manufacturer: Thompson/Center Firearms
866-730-1614, tcarms.com



The Compass has a lightweight injection-molded stock. The barrel floats freely so that it doesn't degrade accuracy potential.



Muzzle devices are growing in popularity, and T/C is making it easy to add a suppression device by including a threaded muzzle with a removable cap.



Synthetic stocks help keep both weight and cost low. The pistol grip and forearm have so-called "traction panels" with raised ridges.



The Compass is a push-feed bolt gun that follows the current trend of utilizing a one-piece machined receiver with a minimized ejection port, reducing overall cost while retaining a high level of rigidity for consistency. Speaking in terms of accuracy, the 22-inch, free-floated, matte blue barrel (24 inches for magnum calibers) comes with Thompson/Center's (T/C) 5R rifle system, which has less-sharp edges on the lands. This design leads to less bullet deformation. The rifling is designed to improve barrel life, ease cleaning and produce tighter groups, and it's part of the reason that T/C can promise sub minute-of-angle (MOA) accuracy from a rifle that is priced below \$400. In addition to its 5R rifling, the Compass' barrel also comes with a threaded muzzle with a thread protector. With more and more shooters attaching suppressors to their rifles, it makes sense for T/C to offer the Compass with a threaded muzzle. There are still relatively few budget bolt guns that are suppressor-ready. The Compass is ideally suited for shooters who might want to put a suppressor on their rifle, even if they don't intend to do it right away.

Like many other budget guns, the Compass wears a basic

black injection-molded stock with a cheekpiece and V-shaped texturing. These are called "traction panels" by T/C and they're on the pistol grip and forearm. Unlike its Venture brand mate, the panels on the Compass are not inserts but part of the stock's mold. They're aggressive but not obtrusive, and there's a finger groove on the forearm for even better control. In my opinion, these traction panels are not beautiful, but they get the job done, and functionality is key on a firearm in this price point.

One of my least favorite things to do when purchasing a new rifle is to buy scope bases. It feels rather like buying a new car and having to haul it to the tire shop before you can drive it. In this case, T/C ships the Compass with Weaver-style bases pre-mounted, so it's easy to find affordable rings. Besides, if you're buying a budget rifle, you probably don't want to spend a whole

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lot of money getting it to the field.

The controls are rather simple: There's a three-position wing-type safety like that of the Winchester Model 70, a feature that rarely makes its way onto affordable rifles. A three-position safety means that we can load and unload the rifle with the safety engaged, which is a good thing. On my particular sample, the wing safety had a stainless finish, just about the only thing on the exterior of the Compass that wasn't jet black. The left-rear side of the receiver has a large rocker-style bolt release button, and the SAKO-like three-lug bolt has a corresponding channel cut into it so it's very easy to align when placing it back in the receiver.

Left: The Compass comes with a three-position safety. The large bolt handle has a functional 60-degree lift.

Above: Weaver-style bases are included, so mounting a scope is quick and inexpensive. The rocker-style bolt release is also visible.

The bolt body is the same diameter as the three locking lugs, which reduces bolt wobble when working the action. One lug contains the stainless steel extractor, which can be removed.

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Though the bolt body and handle are given an almost black finish, stainless steel parts like the safety selector lever and the firing pin are attractive in matte stainless.



The bolt body is oversized, which means that the trio of locking lugs up front are the same diameter as the bolt body (unlike the SAKO bolt). The result is a smooth bolt stroke made glass-like by the clean, black finish on the body. There's no rattle or slop, just a smooth, slick, fast bolt stroke for quiet early-morning loading in the pre-dawn woods and fast, precise follow-ups. Having three lugs up front means that the large bolt handle only has to rise 60 degrees rather than the traditional 90-degree lift on two-lug rifles. This, of course, prevents bashing our knuckles on scope rings. The Compass' bolt handle rises just parallel with the top of the action when opening for extremely fast follow-up shots.

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I try to work my bolt slowly on the range and catch my brass, and that's an easy process with the Compass: Simply bring the bolt back with your thumb and index finger, extend the other three fingers of the shooting hand, and the plunger-type ejector plops the empty case right into your mitt. T/C has a history of adding creative bolt knobs to its rifles. (Remember the butter-knife design on the Icon?) The Compass received a narrow, bell-shaped, tactical-style knob with rings. It's a design I happen to like and that immediately identifies a racked rifle. It makes me think, *Oh, this one here must be the Compass.*

Detachable, plastic box magazines are to modern budget bolt actions what pop-up headlights were to sports cars in the 1980s. Amidst a sea of mediocre, hard-to-fit, straight-feed mags, the Compass' rotary job is something of a standout. It isn't the only rotary design in this price category, but it's a damn good one. It's short and rather wide with an interior spindle that neatly aligns the cartridges held within. In standard calibers it will hold five rounds neatly tucked in that circular injection-molded cocoon and magnum magazines will hold four rounds. Loading these mags isn't a chore either,



T/C's rotary magazine holds five rounds of .30-'06 ammunition tucked around a spindle. For a plastic magazine, the Compass' is well designed and locks in place with minimal effort.

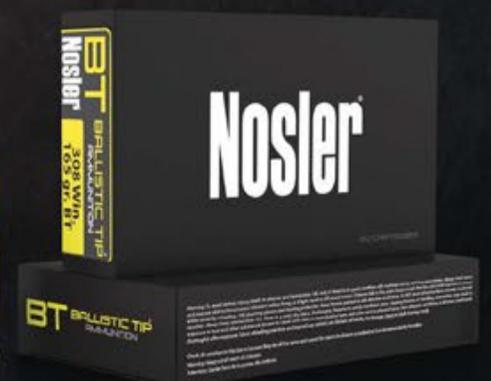
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The Compass comes with a user-adjustable trigger between 3½ and 5 pounds. There is minimal takeup and the breaking point is sharp and predictable.

and it's also not very finicky about precise magazine placement in the rifle. I could reload, stuff the fresh magazine in the well and expect to hear a *click*. The magazine release is located just ahead of the magazine in a recessed slot that's easy to find. I didn't experience a single feeding problem or malfunction whatsoever.

The heart of this budget-rifle renaissance centers around better triggers and improved accuracy. While precious few gun buyers are going to quibble over the shape of a bolt knob, bad triggers and lousy accuracy are fatal flaws. The Compass absolutely had to impress in these two areas to stand a chance of elbowing its

way into good standing in this over-crowded market. And it did.

The trigger is user-adjustable from 3½ to 5 pounds, and T/C promises that it comes from the factory set at 3½ pounds, which I found to be true. That's a tad heavy for some shooters, but I found it acceptable, and accuracy didn't suffer in my hands. While only one of the three loads tested actually averaged under an inch, another was so close that it was within a hair's breadth of MOA. I was impressed with the consistency across the board in that all three factory ammunition loads printed three groups with minimal variation from smallest to largest. It

doesn't take much time to figure out what load will do well in this gun with consistency like that.

The Compass was built with hunters in mind, and it seems obvious. The matte black barrel doesn't produce glare in the midday sun, and the durable stock is ready for some rough-and-tumble rides in rifle scabbards and ATV racks. One cool feature of this rifle is that the lettering is not stamped into the steel but rather printed on the metal. I was worried that this lettering would rub off with time but that doesn't seem to be a problem.

At 7¼ pounds, the Compass is neither light nor heavy, but

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PERFORMANCE

LOAD	VELOCITY (FPS)	ES	SD	BEST GROUP (IN.)	AVERAGE GROUP (IN.)
Hornady 165-gr. SST	2,734	35	15	.77	.89
Federal 165-gr. Nosler Ballistic Tip	2,742	39	16	.9	1.04
Browning 155-gr. BXR	2,855	56	21	1.2	1.34

Notes: Accuracy results are the average of three, three-shot groups at 100 yards from a fixed rest. Velocity figures are 10-shot averages recorded on a Caldwell Ballistic Precision digital chronograph placed 10 feet from the muzzle.

budget-rifle buyers will appreciate the weight because it is both portable and heavy enough to absorb a substantial amount of recoil. Overall balance is good, and the rifle points naturally.

Without question, we are in the midst of an evolutionary period in bolt-action rifle design. Competition is prevalent and not every model will persevere. Adapting is key. The Compass has the features that hunters demand at a price almost anyone in the market for a hunting rifle can afford: \$400. In this thrive-or-die market, I think that the T/C Compass has what it takes to stand up in com-

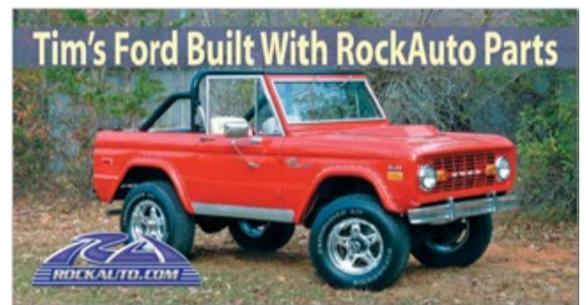
parison to already popular economy rifles such as the Browning AB3 (\$600), Marlin X7 (\$400), Mossberg ATR (\$366), Remington 783 (\$450), Ruger American (\$450), Savage Axis (\$375), Tikka T3 Lite (\$675) and Weatherby Vanguard (\$650). There's nothing pretentious about the austere new T/C Compass, but it's priced right and it shoots well. It's unlikely that all of the new bargain rifles will survive, but based on the Compass' feature list, price and accuracy potential, I'm betting that the T/C Compass will be one of the last of these firearms standing. **G&A**



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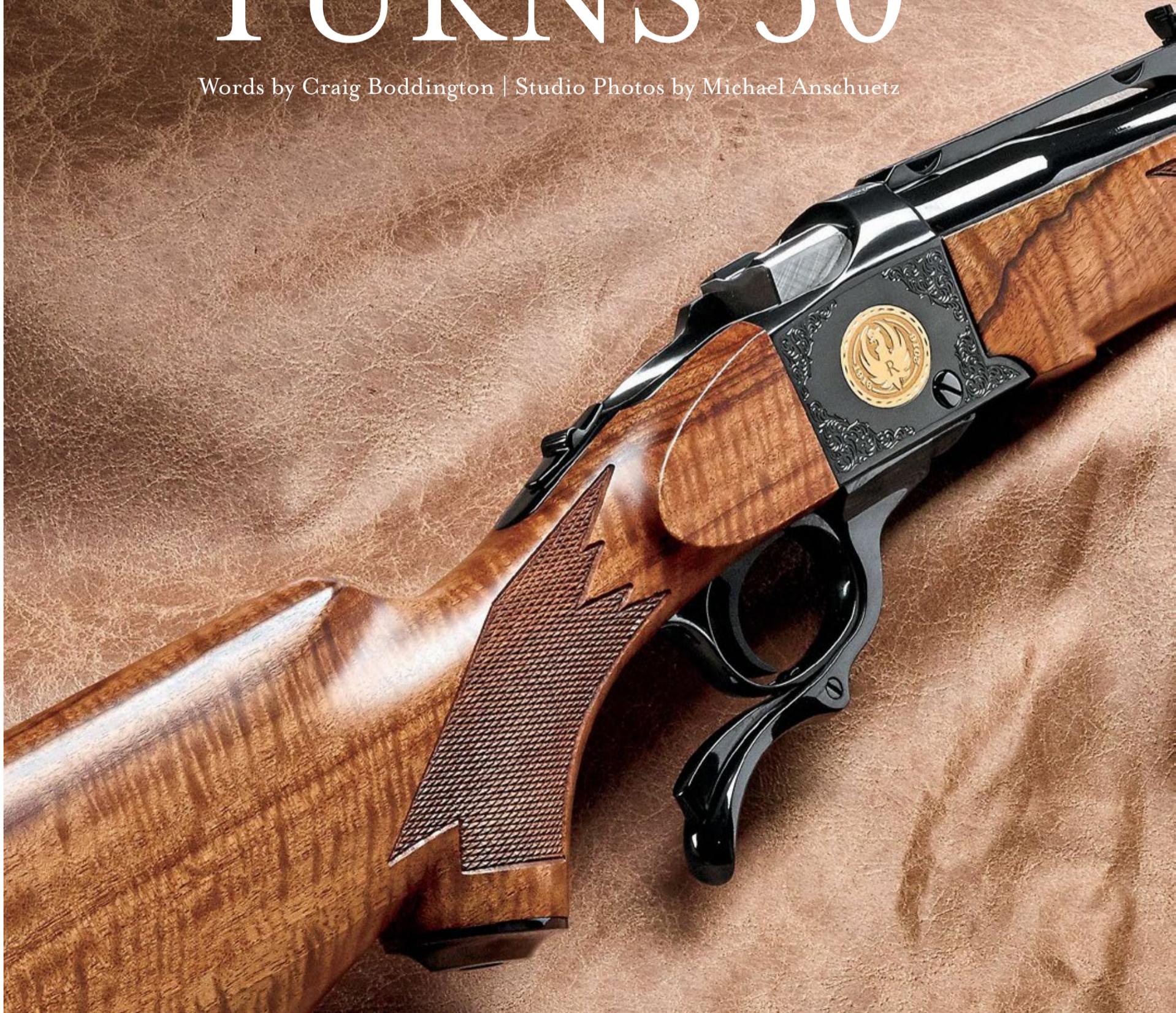
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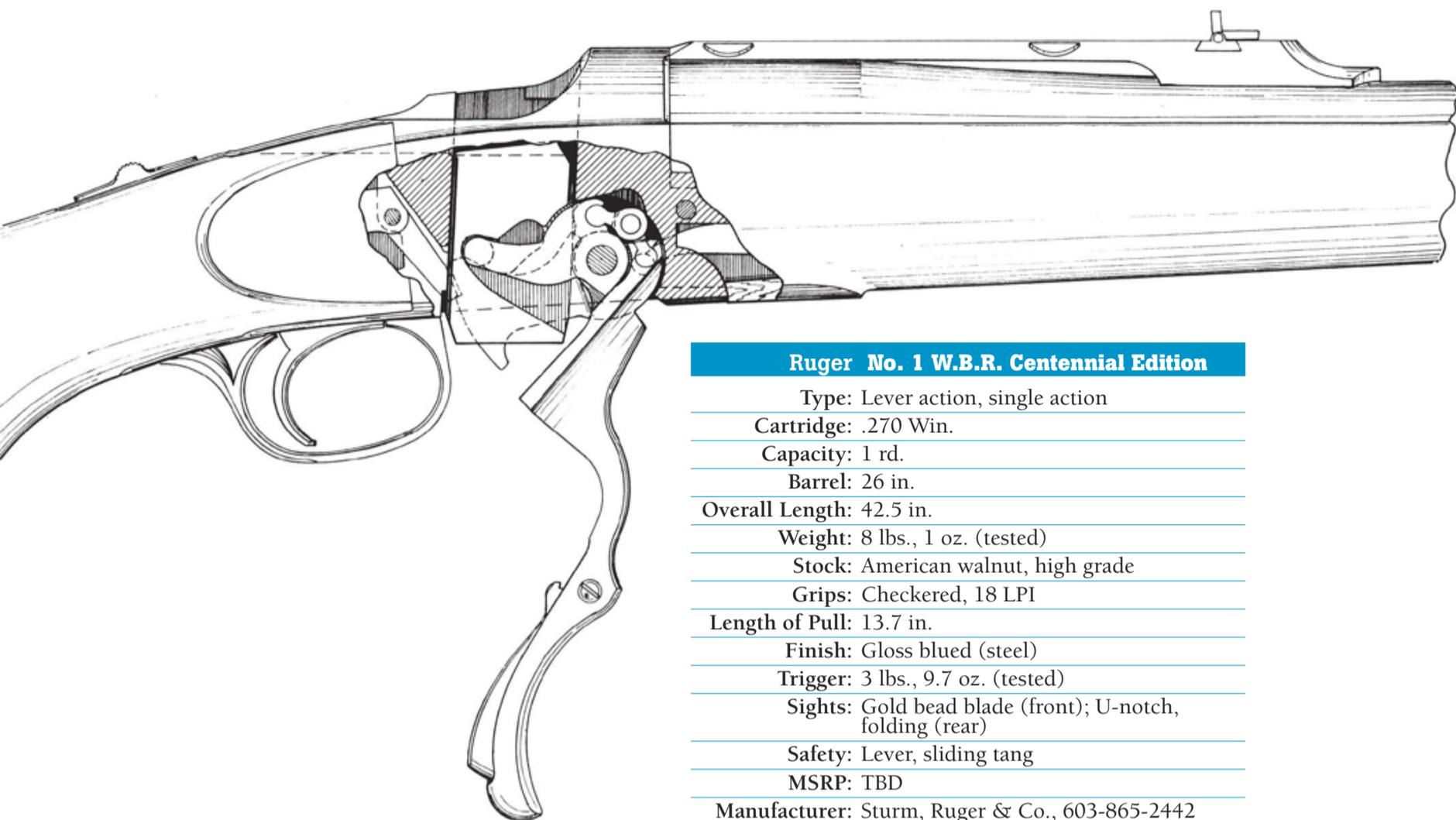
THE RUGER No. 1 TURNS 50

Words by Craig Boddington | Studio Photos by Michael Anschuetz





AND ITS CREATOR,
WILLIAM B. RUGER,
TURNS 100



Ruger No. 1 W.B.R. Centennial Edition

Type:	Lever action, single action
Cartridge:	.270 Win.
Capacity:	1 rd.
Barrel:	26 in.
Overall Length:	42.5 in.
Weight:	8 lbs., 1 oz. (tested)
Stock:	American walnut, high grade
Grips:	Checkered, 18 LPI
Length of Pull:	13.7 in.
Finish:	Gloss blued (steel)
Trigger:	3 lbs., 9.7 oz. (tested)
Sights:	Gold bead blade (front); U-notch, folding (rear)
Safety:	Lever, sliding tang
MSRP:	TBD
Manufacturer:	Sturm, Ruger & Co., 603-865-2442 ruger.com

LYNDON JOHNSON was president in October 1966. Already the Vietnam War wasn't looking so good: On October 25, then-Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara stated, "enemy ... forces are larger; terrorists and sabotage have increased ... we control little ... of the population ... the enemy almost completely controls the night." At home, pitcher Sandy Koufax clinched the third World Series pennant in four years for the Dodgers. In our little world, shooters were still scandalized by Winchester's sea change from pre-1964 to post-'64. Remington's 7mm Remington Magnum and its Model 700, both still fresh offerings, were all over the pages of gun magazines. So was the then-new .22-250 Remington along with the .223 Remington, which became the upstart military cartridge, the 5.56 NATO. Much in the gun news were wild claims about its "tumbling" on impact, creating an effect far beyond its paper ballistics. There was another new company, and everybody wanted to know what Bill Ruger would come up with next.

In October 1966 (as today), animated covers were rare for Guns & Ammo, so it was a departure when that month's cover featured gunwriter Roger Barlow loading a .243 car-

tridge into a nice-looking falling block single-shot rifle. This was, in fact, the world's first look at the Ruger No. 1, 50 years ago. At that time, America's darling lever action, though still popular, had given up much ground. The bolt-action rifle was king, the slide action rifle was fading into history, and although semiautomatic sporting rifles had a following, the incredible popularity of the AR platform lay far in the future. The Ruger No. 1 would carve out its own niche. It would be followed by other modern single-shot actions and reintroductions of classics, together creating sort of a sub-culture of single-shot fans. But in 1966, many

people thought Bill Ruger was out of his mind to introduce a one-shot rifle.



Bill Ruger (second from right) poses with his friends and a wild boar in Corbin Park, New Hampshire, with his new No. 1. Right to left stands Ed Nolan (marketing at Ruger), Bill Ruger, G&A founder Robert Peterson and Knieland Wheeler (later, Bill Ruger's caretaker). The gentleman holding the scoped No. 1 is unknown.

Success & Lineage William B. Ruger was always extremely pleased with his Ruger No. 1, and any firearm in continuous production for 50 years must be judged an unqualified success. That said, the Ruger No. 1, although steady, has never been a huge seller for Sturm, Ruger & Company, with production numbers more limited than most Ruger models. There are two obvious reasons for this. First, in this age of repeating actions, not everyone

is interested in a single shot. Second, the No. 1 has always been a “prestige model” for Ruger and more expensive to make and purchase than most Ruger firearms.

This was especially true in 1966. The No. 1 was a radical departure. At that time, Ruger was primarily a handgun manufacturer. The company was founded on the semiautomatic .22 pistol and grew quickly with revolvers such as the Bearcat, Blackhawk and Single-Six. In 1966, the Model 77 lay two years in the future. Ruger’s entire rifle line consisted of its .44 Carbine (1961) and the fairly new (1964) 10/22. The 10/22 would become the world’s most popular .22 rifle, but by the end of 1966 less than 23,000 had been manufactured. Both existing Ruger rifles were good looking and sweet handling, but both were basic semiautos.

From the beginning, the Ruger No. 1 was quite different, and although the variations became endless, the basic rifle has changed little. The No. 1 is an extremely elegant and classic design from butt pad to muzzle and everything in between. I’ve said it often and have no qualms about repeating it: The Ruger No. 1 is, to me, the *most beautiful* production rifle ever made. This struck me as a teenage subscriber when I saw G&A’s October 1966 cover, and I’ve never changed my mind. The stock was designed by Lenard Brownell, a well-known custom gun-maker brought into the Ruger fold. The No. 1’s stock and the Model 77 stock that followed were pure Lenard Brownell, American Classic and classy.

As was the case so many times in his career, Bill Ruger was crazy like a fox with his No. 1, but it wasn’t that radical of a departure for him. He was a huge fan of fine vintage firearms. Over time he had in his personal collection a number of English double rifles, shotguns and classic single shots.

The golden age of the breechloading single-shot rifle was probably the 1870s into the 1890s. In those days, repeating actions that could house the most powerful cartridges for large game didn’t yet exist. The Winchester 1876 Centennial Model came close, and the John Browning-designed Winchester 1886 came closer. Still, they couldn’t accept the largest Sharps and Remington blackpowder cartridges

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or the British Black Powder Express rounds. Famous American single shots included John Browning's Model 1885 Winchester, the Sharps and the Remington Rolling Block (all of which are now available). Most of America's best-known single-shot actions were exposed hammer designs. Since the scope era began, exposed hammers presented some challenges, but across the pond, there were several hammerless falling block designs, extremely strong and readily adaptable to use with modern optics.

The Ruger No. 1 owes much of its external appearance — and a fair amount of internal operation — to the Farquharson action, invented and patented in Scotland by John Farquharson in 1872. Much lineage is also owed to his fellow Scotsman Alexander Henry. His last name is commemorated in the famous Martini-Henry hammerless falling block rifle. Henry invented the rifling used, but the majority of his falling block sporting rifles were exposed hammer designs. One important tilt of the hat to Henry, however, is that his Schnabel forends carried a distinctive



forward-angled line behind the forend tip. Brownell incorporated this feature into the short forends of Ruger No. 1 Light Sporters and Tropical rifles. From the beginning, and to this day, Ruger terms this the “Alexander Henry forend,” always accompanied by a barrel band forward sling swivel.

With its massive breechblock, the falling block action is extremely strong, and was among few blackpowder actions able to easily make the leap into the higher pressures of smokeless powder. The basic Farquharson-style action needed a bit of modernization, of course, but Ruger’s primary contributions included, mechanically,

Continued on page 98

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Photo: Wes Doss, Khyber Training

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WILLIAM BATTERMAN RUGER TURNS 100



Former G&A contributor Jim Carmichael discusses investment casting with Bill Ruger while inspecting a revolver frame on tour of Pine Tree Castings in New Hampshire.

William Batterman Ruger passed away on July 6, 2002, at the age of 86. He would have been 100 on June 21, 2016. I wish I could say I knew him well, but I did not. Within this article you will often find him referred to as “Bill Ruger,” as he was known, but in person I can assure you, he was always Mr. Ruger to me. Though occasionally irascible and always confident of his convictions, I can say that, to me, he was always kind and cordial even though, to a young gunwriter, he was nearly a god-like figure. As a firearms genius he is often compared to greats such as Samuel Colt, Oliver Winchester, John Moses Browning and Peter Paul Mauser. For certain he ranks with them, but there were differences. Unlike some, he was a genuine “gun guy” with a deep and abiding personal fascination in using the firearms he designed. Unlike most of them, he was not only a shrewd businessman, but he combined both firearms acumen with manufacturing genius.

Fascinated by firearms from an early age, Ruger started work on a light machinegun for the military in 1938, continuing that development with Auto Ordnance through the war years. After the war, his first manufacturing venture, Ruger Corporation, was short-lived, but the best was yet to come. He had a concept for a simple yet elegant blowback-operated .22 semiautomatic that could be manufactured effectively and inexpensively. It carried styling lineage from the Luger P.08, but could be priced to compete with the leading .22 pistols of the day.

Ruger was 33 years old when he and Alexander Sturm founded Sturm, Ruger & Co., based on Ruger’s design for the Standard Pistol. It would be unfair to Ruger and his late-partner Sturm to say that relations were smooth from the start. Like most fledgling companies, there were challenges. One of the biggest was Sturm’s untimely death in 1951 at

the age of 28. Of course there were difficult times, but by combining firearms knowledge with manufacturing genius, Bill Ruger, at the helm of Sturm, Ruger & Co., succeeded at a far younger age and in a far shorter time than the other firearms greats he is so often compared to. His Standard Pistol was a runaway success, but one of the best decisions of his career came in 1953 when he decided to gamble on the relatively new technology of investment casting to make the frames for his new Single-Six revolver. The rest is, indeed, history, with Ruger’s Pine Tree Castings in New Hampshire still making parts for Ruger firearms and other firearm manufacturers as well.

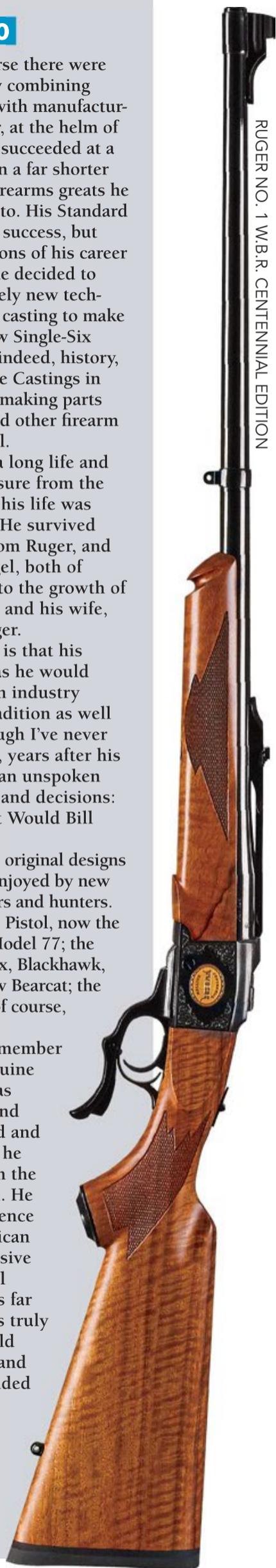
Although he lived a long life and got tremendous pleasure from the fruits of his success, his life was not without tragedy. He survived the death of a son, Tom Ruger, and son-in-law, Steve Vogel, both of whom were integral to the growth of Sturm, Ruger & Co.; and his wife, Mary Thompson Ruger.

His primary legacy is that his company continues as he would want it, not just as an industry leader, but rich in tradition as well as innovation. Although I’ve never heard it put this way, years after his passing there seems an unspoken rule in deliberations and decisions: “WWBRD” or “What Would Bill Ruger Do?”

Many of Bill Ruger’s original designs are still with us and enjoyed by new generations of shooters and hunters. The original Standard Pistol, now the Mark III family; the Model 77; the Mini-14; the Single-Six, Blackhawk, Redhawk and the New Bearcat; the timeless 10/22; and, of course, the Ruger No. 1.

It’s important to remember that Ruger was a genuine shooter and hunter, as well as an inventor and industrialist. He used and enjoyed the firearms he designed, not only on the range but in the field. He had extensive experience hunting North American game, and also extensive experience on several African safaris and as far afield as Iran. He was truly impactful to our world and in our industry, and the company he founded remains an industry giant still making, as Ruger demanded, firearms that real shooters would enjoy and could afford.

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Continued from page 95

a greatly advanced and exceedingly reliable extraction-ejection system, far better than on any 19th century action, and a far better trigger. Hardly unimportant, and as part of Ruger's credo, the rifle had to be manufactured affordably. Ruger was a pioneer in precision investment casting, which was the real secret to and enabler of the No. 1. Many of its key parts, including the receiver and its elegant lever, are finished from precise castings.

From R.L. Wilson's "Ruger & His Guns" (Simon & Schuster, 1996), Bill Ruger had this to say about his beloved No. 1:

"Single shots are a marvelous type of rifle. You can't shoot very fast, but you can shoot well, and they're certainly handy and light and dandy. When all is said and done, they are among my real favorites in firearms. The Alexander Henry is, of course, very similar to the Sharps, but more refined. The Henry is the rifle that started a whole train of good British single-shots. The British made a lot of them, as well as the Americans, and there is, of course, the Scottish Farquharson.



When I started thinking about the No. 1 rifle the Farquharson was sort of a natural one to begin on. The big thing about these single-shot rifles is you just don't have so much of the gun constituting the action, thus the compact action shortens the overall length. Anyone who likes rifles appreciates these qualities as well as that special atmosphere about a single-shot. It may not appeal to everybody, but it's certainly very important to a lot of people.

Our rifle, of course, is more sophisticated than the Farquharson, and has a very potent ejector of our design. I wanted a hammerless action with a dropping block, but the available interior space of the Borchardt-type action did not permit the inclusion of the trigger and other features which we felt were required. I must say I am pleased that so many of the world's truly great hunters have taken to the No. 1 rifle."

The 50th Anniversary There is no dispute that William Battenman Ruger (June 21, 1916 to July 6, 2002) would have been 100 years old on June 21, 2016. There is, however, confusion over the

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50th anniversary of the Ruger No. 1 rifle. The Ruger Collectors' Association will be quick to point out that the Ruger No. 1, serial number 1, left the New Haven factory in early 1967, with serial numbers in that initial year running through 2230. They will thus point out, correctly, that the "official" 50th anniversary of the Ruger No. 1 is 2017, not our current year of 2016.

So, how was it that G&A managed to have a No. 1 on the cover in October 1966 and a photograph of another in its feature? Let's back that off a bit. Even in our digitized age, print magazines still have lead times, so without any question that '66 cover was shot no later than July '66, more than six months before the actual release of the "first" Ruger No. 1.

The article that accompanied that cover is bylined "Staff Report." It could have been written by Roger Barlow (who is shown on the cover), or it could have been written by my old boss, Thomas J. "Tom" Siatos, then-publisher of Guns & Ammo. I didn't know Barlow, but I knew Siatos and it reads a lot like his work. Either way, the article provides a partial answer: "At the time this article was written only five prototype rifles had been constructed and actual production of the final design was still a month away." A spec chart accompanying the article also states optimistically: "Deliveries to Dealers: Planned to begin in September 1966."

That this didn't happen is hardly unusual. Unexpected delays are part of almost any manufacturing process. In those days commonly, and sometimes today, manufacturers tend to jump the gun (note the pun) on announcing new products. It disappoints readers and leaves

the magazine and its writers holding the bag. Historically, Ruger was legendary for this. Today? Not at all. By rigid corporate policy, leaks are stifled until products are ready to ship. Back then it was all too common, but a leak this far out was unusual — even then. G&A's founder, Robert E. "Pete" Petersen and Siatos were very close to Ruger. Perhaps Barlow was as well. I'm just speculating, but in 1966 the upcoming No. 1 was not only a departure, but also a pet project of Bill Ruger's. And, just possibly, a controversial project within his company. (It seems unlikely that *only* outsiders thought Bill Ruger had lost his mind.) So it's



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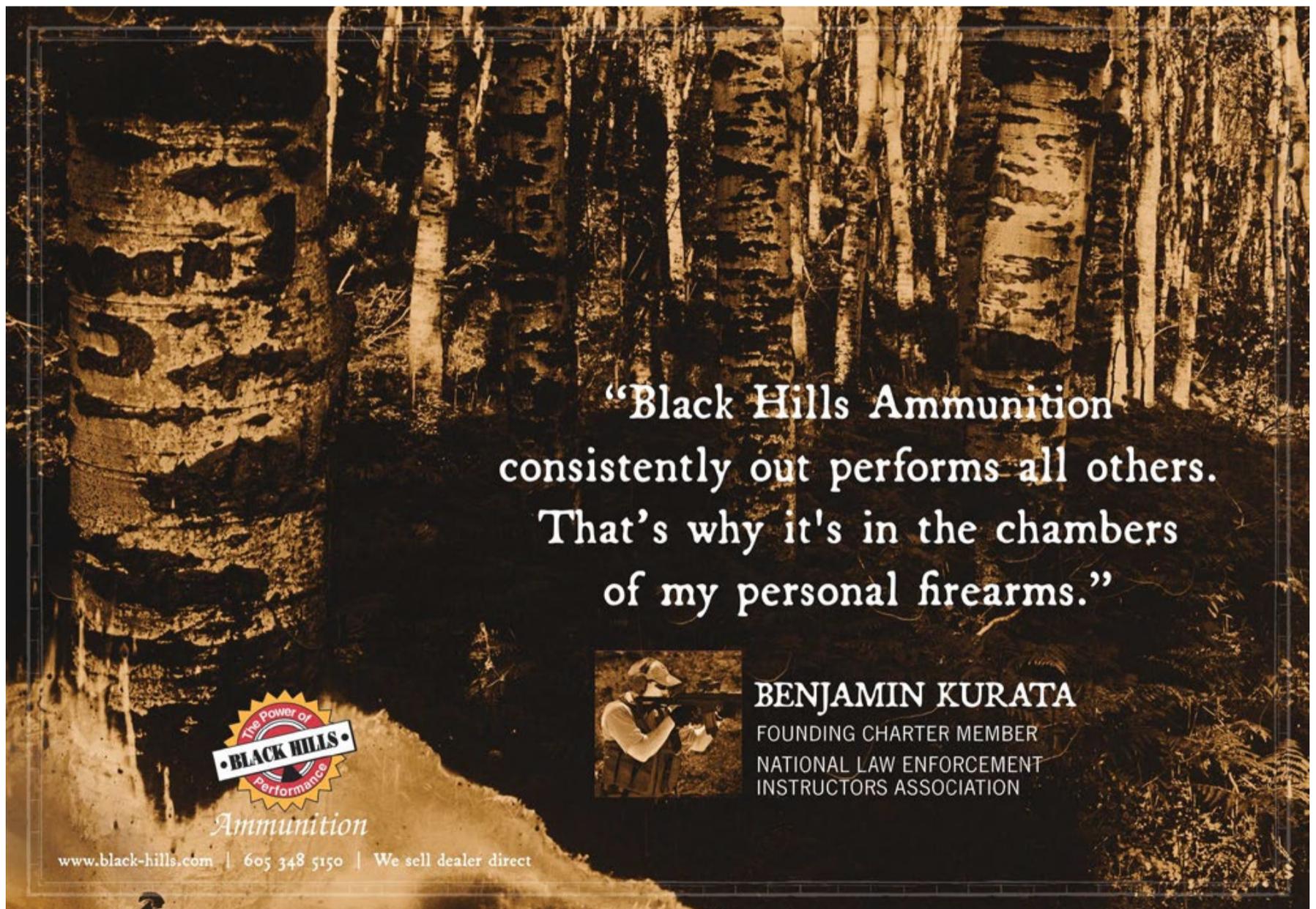
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RUGER NO. 1 CHAMBERINGS

According to G&A's best available sources, including the notes of Ruger collector and historian Tim Hutton and Jason Cloessner of Lipsey's, the following, in caliber ascension, is an accurate list of factory chamberings for the Ruger No. 1 (and No. 3) through 2016 (including .44 Magnum, which was released for the first time in 2016). Many of these were very limited production, and this list does not include one-off custom shop chamberings.

- .204 Ruger
- .218 Bee
- .22 Hornet
- .222 Remington
- .223 Remington
- .22 PPC
- .22-250 Remington
- .220 Swift
- 6mm PPC
- 6mm Remington
- .243 Winchester
- .250 Savage
- .257 Roberts
- .257 Weatherby Magnum
- 6.5mm Creedmoor
- 6.5x55mm Swedish Mauser
- 6.5mm Remington Magnum
- 6.5-284 Norma
- .264 Winchester Magnum
- .270 Winchester
- .275 Rigby
- .280 Remington
- .284 Winchester
- 7x57mm Mauser
- 7mm Remington Magnum
- 7mm Shooting Times Westerner
- 7mm-08 Remington
- .308 Winchester
- .30-'06 Springfield
- .30-30 Winchester
- .30-40 Krag
- .300 Ruger Compact Magnum
- .300 H&H Magnum
- .300 Winchester Magnum
- .300 Weatherby Magnum
- 7.62x39mm
- .303 British
- .338 Ruger Compact Magnum
- .338 Federal
- .338 Winchester Magnum
- .35 Whelen
- .357 Magnum
- 9.3x62mm Mauser
- 9.3x74R
- .375 H&H Magnum
- .375 Ruger
- .375 Winchester
- .38-55 Winchester
- .404 Jeffery
- .405 Winchester
- .450/.400-3-in. Nitro Express
- .416 Ruger
- .416 Remington Magnum
- .416 Rigby
- .44 Remington Magnum
- .460 Smith & Wesson
- .45-70 Government
- .450-3¼-in. Nitro Express
- .458 Winchester Magnum
- .458 Lott
- .475 Linebaugh
- .475 Turnbull



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only a tiny leap to assume that Ruger wanted his friends Petersen and Siatos (who had similar tastes in firearms) to have a look at his new project. Inevitably, the cover was shot, the story was run, and months passed before the first “real” No. 1 was produced.

Since 2015, Lipsey’s (lipseys.com) has been the exclusive distributor of the Ruger No.1. Commemorating Bill Ruger’s 100th birthday in 2016, a very special run of 100 Ruger No. 1 rifles was commissioned. Photos of serial number WBR-001 graces a few pages of this article. The William B. Ruger Centennial Edition commemorative is based on Bill Ruger’s personal favorite No.1, a gorgeous 26-inch-barrel .270 Winchester engraved by A.A. White. The W.B.R. Centennial Edition commemorative features similar engraving done by Baron Technologies, with special serial numbers and upgraded wood. Collectors and Ruger No. 1 fans, prepare to stand by. In 2017, Lipsey’s will release an official 50th Anniversary edition of the Ruger No. 1. As in October 1966, let it be known in history that the news of Ruger’s No. 1 was read



A much younger Boddington with a good Wyoming pronghorn, taken in 1978 with a Ruger No. 1 in .243 Win. and a 95-grain Nosler Partition. This was the author’s first No. 1. At this time he had owned it for about a decade.

about in Guns & Ammo first.

My Life with the No. 1. In the late 1960s, my dad and I had a friend, Dale Brashears, who had a friend who had a big prairie dog town quite far east of the major populations, thus not too far from our home near Kansas City. We had our deer rifles, but we didn’t have a proper varmint rifle. It was probably 1968 when we went to Simmons in Olathe, Kansas, and traded for a used Ruger No. 1 Standard

model in .243 Win. Wood varies on any factory rifle, but this one had a gorgeous stock and was topped with a Leupold 3-9X scope. In those days of fixed 4X optics, a 3-9X was our idea of a real varmint scope.

We shot a lot of prairie dogs with that rifle, and, later, I used it for quite a bit of deer and pronghorn hunting. Accuracy was consistently exceptional, and although I’d worshipped the No. 1 from afar (since I saw it in G&A in October ’66, right?), that particular rifle started a lifelong love affair. I can’t tell you how many Ruger No. 1s I’ve owned, or how many test rifles I wish I

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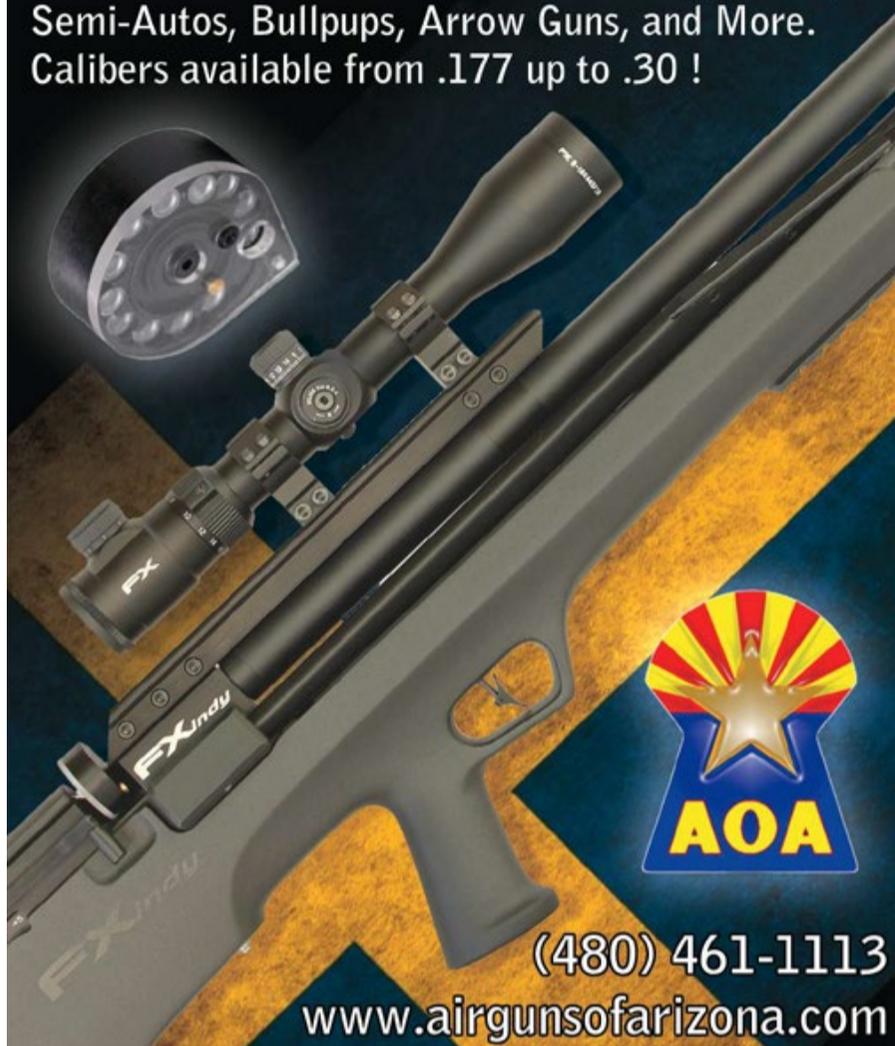
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Caliber: **9MM**
Capacity: **31+1**
Barrel Length: **16"**
Sights: **No Sights**

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Brittany Boddington used a No. 1 in .405 Winchester with heavy 400-grain loads to take her first Cape buffalo, a fine Zimbabwe bull.



G&A's February 1980 issue featured a review of a Ruger No. 3 in .375 Winchester by the author.

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had bought. In the latter group, the Ruger No. 3 was a simplified, plainer version manufactured from 1973 to 1986. I never owned one, but when I was the junior guy at G&A, circa 1980, I got to do a field test on a No. 3 in .22 Hornet and .375 Winchester. Of the many No. 1s that slipped through and past my hands, those No. 3s shot so well that they are the ones I most wish I'd kept!

For years my go-to varmint rifle was a heavy-barrel No. 1 in .22-250. I have no idea why I let it go, but that's a fairly common refrain with me and my guns. Today my go-to varmint rifle is another No. 1. My current Varminter wears stainless and laminate, chambered for .204 Ruger, at least equally accurate and consistent. There was a Light Sporter (1-A) in .270 Winchester that I just loved; it was light and handy. I hunted with it a lot, but it was a bit subject to barrel heat (more about that later). Then there was a .405 Winchester. I had no idea what it was for, but it was too interesting so I bought it anyway. Then I had an epiphany. With that strong action and 400-grain .411-inch bullets it could be loaded up to .450/.400 Nitro Express ballistics. I gave it to my daughter, Brittany; she's taken a lot of smaller game with standard .405 loads, and she's taken Cape buffalo, water buffalo and such with hopped-up loads.

I suppose that gave me the idea. It was sort of at my instigation that Hornady revived the .450/.400-3-in., and the Ruger No. 1 Tropical was the first modern rifle chambered to this grand old cartridge. My wife, Donna, and I shot the first Cape buffaloes to fall to the new .450/.400. A few years back I worked with Ruger

on a special run of No. 1s, a five-rifle series in “African calibers,” matte finish with upgraded iron sights, detachable mounts, and English walnut. I have all five and have hunted with them: 7x57, .300 H&H, .375 Ruger, .450/.400-3-inch and .450-3¼-inch Nitro Express. The .300 H&H is the single most accurate No. 1 I’ve ever owned. In that light rifle, the .450 is one of the hardest-kicking guns I’ve ever owned. Hindsight being 20-20, I intend to keep the No. 1 I have now ... and I’m sure there will be more.

Chamberings & Variations Although the Ruger No. 1 action has changed but little, it has been offered in several styles and configurations, and in stainless and laminate as well as blued steel and walnut. The most common are: 1-A Light Sporter, light barrel, Henry forend, open sights; 1-B Standard rifle, medium barrel, semi-beavertail forend, no open sights; 1-H Tropical, heavy barrel, Henry forend, open sights; 1-S Medium Sporter, medium barrel, Henry forend, open sights; 1-V Special Varminter, heavy barrel, semi-beavertail forend, target scope mounts; 1-RSI International, 20-inch barrel with Mannlicher stock, open sights.

The big difference with the No. 1 is it has been factory chambered to, I believe, more different cartridges than any other factory rifle: more than 60 (not including one-off custom shop jobs). The Ruger action is pretty much a one size fits all. To my knowledge, it has never been factory chambered to a centerfire .17, so in caliber ascension it starts with .204 Ruger; in

power it starts with .218 Bee. In terms of pressure, it has no limitation with any sporting cartridge but there is an upper end to the size the action can handle. I have seen custom jobs resulting in a .470 Nitro Express No. 1, but most Nitro Express cartridges above .450 (and including the .450 No. 2 and .500/.450) are based on the .500 Nitro Express rim and base diameter. This is too big for the action, so serious custom work is needed to ensure proper operation. Thus, the most powerful cartridge ever chambered to the No. 1 is probably the .458 Lott, while the “largest cartridge” is the old straight-cased .450-3 ¼-inch Nitro



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Express. (Yeah, I talked them into that one, too.) This case pretty much maxes out the action, but if you're a real glutton for punishment, the action has the strength and that big case has the capacity, you can go a lot farther than the traditional 480-grain bullet at 2,150 feet per second (fps)!

Performance The Ruger No. 1 can be exceedingly accurate, but it has a not-altogether-unwarranted reputation for being a bit finicky. To some extent this is caused by the mid-point forend screw securing the forend to the ejection spring housing. When colleague and former G&A gunwriter Jon Sundra started out, he did most of his hunting with the Ruger No. 1. It takes custom work, but he learned that accuracy could be, if not improved, made more consistent by getting rid of the forend screw and modifying the rifle so the forend was secured at the action.

This is not simple work, and I've never gone that route. My spin is that there is rarely a problem with heavier barrels. I've never seen accuracy problems, or even finickiness, with Special



Varminters or Tropical rifles, both with heavy barrels. Most Standard Rifles and Medium Sporters I've encountered have also shot well. My .300 H&H, for instance, is a Medium Sporter configuration, and it's capable of quarter-inch groups (but no factory rifle from anyone can do that consistently). I have no experience with the full-stocked International, but most of the challenges I have

encountered have been with Light Sporters: Light barrel and forend screw, probably complicated by that incredibly gorgeous barrel band and forward sling swivel. In most cases it hasn't been a genuine accuracy problem, but more a matter of having to work really hard to find a load the rifle likes. It took forever to find a load that my 7x57 likes, but once found it's very repeatable. As with any light barrel, rapid heating and impacts "climbing" can also be an issue.

As with any factory rifle, some will be more accurate than others, but one thing I've found consistent: Bill Ruger's extraction/ejection system works! In thousands of rounds and dozens of

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rifles, I've never seen a Ruger No. 1 fail to extract and eject, each and every time. Interestingly, it works just as well with rimless cases as well as rimmed. And, like most Ruger products, what a godsend to have integral scope bases on the quarter rib. I've never seen a problem there, either!

Capabilities & Limitations

Aside from sheer looks and short overall length, part of the charm to the Ruger No. 1 is

the one-shot ethic. With practice you can get pretty quick about dropping another cartridge into the chamber. The No. 1 can certainly be loaded more quickly (and with less movement) than any break-open or exposed-hammer single-shot design, but not as quickly as any repeater. So the single shot is part of the charm, and also the primary limitation. I have done quite a lot of dangerous game hunting with Ruger No. 1s, and I have no reservations about it. But I am generally not hunting dangerous game alone, and I think it's a bad idea to do so.



This Zimbabwe buffalo was the first buffalo taken with Hornady's .450/.400-3-inch Nitro Express load and also the first taken with a Ruger No. 1 in that chambering. One 400-grain bullet did the job.

Otherwise the No. 1 is suited for just about any hunting, with a qualifying statement. By its nature the No. 1 is either fully *loaded* or fully *unloaded*; while the tang safety is very positive, there are no half-measures. In my view, this makes it a good choice for supervised beginners — just like a single-barrel shotgun. It remains unloaded until the mentor says, “load up.” This fact, however, serves as a limitation under some cir-

cumstances. For instance, on a horseback hunt, its flat profile is wonderful in a saddle scabbard, but clearly it must be unloaded, so a cartridge is one more thing to fumble with if you have to jump off a horse for a quick shot.

There's one thing more about the single-shot rifle concept that, although purely psychological, actually has tremendous impact: You know that, in all likelihood, you're only going to get one shot. That makes you extra careful, which is definitely a good thing. **G&A**

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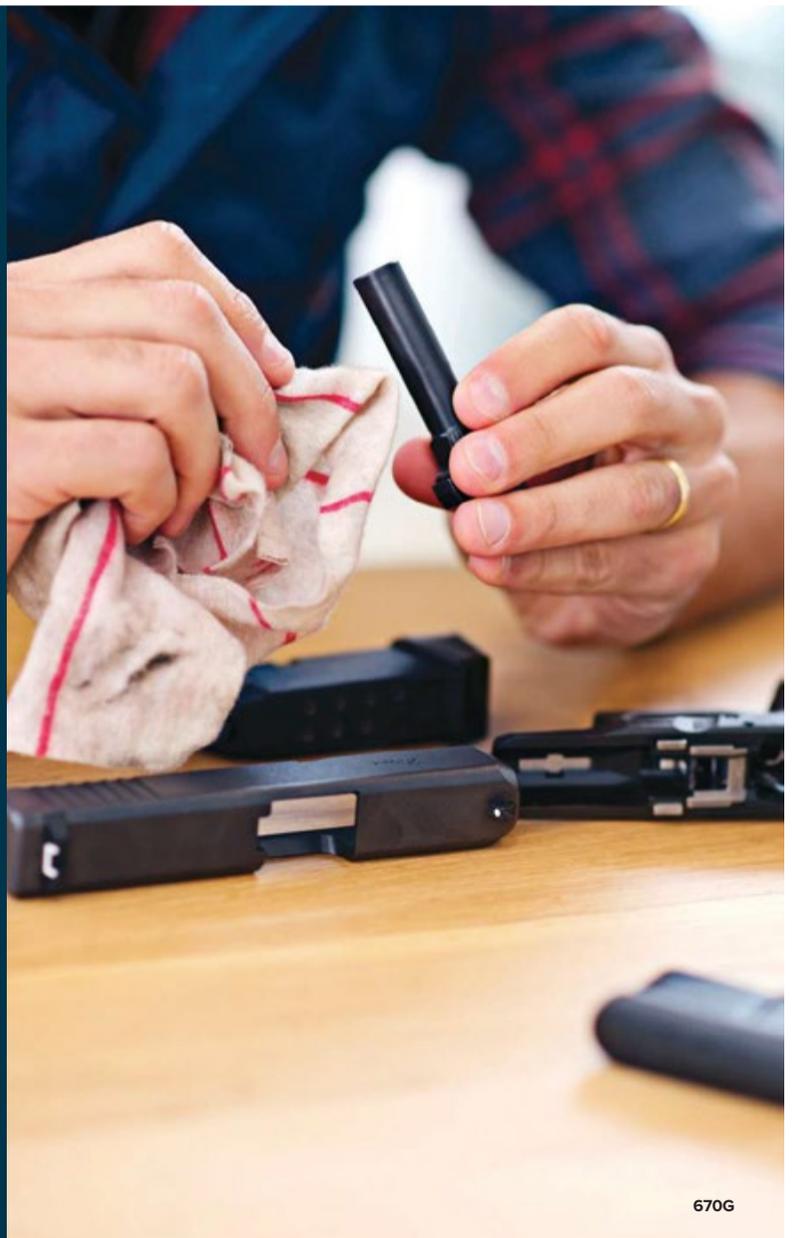
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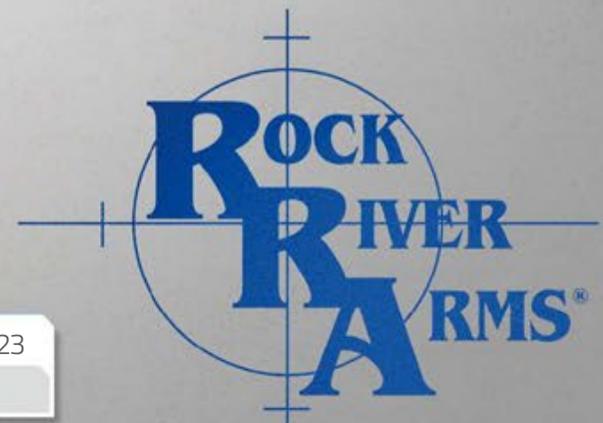
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THE NEW G&A gets the industry's first look at three new carry pistols. HOTNESS

Words by Patrick Sweeney | Photos by Sean Utley



HONOR DEFENSE HONOR GUARD 9mm



Honor Defense Honor Guard	
Type:	Striker fired, semiautomatic
Cartridge:	9mm
Capacity:	7+1 rds. (standard); 8+1 rds. (extended)
Barrel:	3.2 in., 410 stainless steel
Overall length:	6.2 in.
Width:	.96 in.
Height:	4.6 in.
Weight:	1 lb., 6 oz.
Finish:	Ferritic nitro-carburized (steel)
Frame:	Polymer; steel (chassis)
Sights:	Orange dot (front); white-dot U-notch (rear)
Trigger:	6 lb. (tested)
Price:	\$500
Manufacturer:	Honor Defense 678-943-8035 honordefense.com

Perhaps the best-handling new pistol this year.

THERE ARE A LOT OF DETAILS that go into selecting a suitable self-defense tool. Reliability, ease of controls and accuracy are all important, but one that many overlook is hand-feel. The Honor Defense Honor Guard is a pistol that has no shortcomings in feel. Every person I've handed it to shares the same opinion.

The Honor Guard is a single-stack 9mm, with the short magazine holding seven rounds and the extended option holding eight. The frame is a polymer housing with a chassis inside. The chassis accepts all the working parts, and the shell only holds the magazine and provides our hands a place to be. There was a time when a magazine that didn't hold nearly half a box of ammunition was considered lacking. Since then, we've found that comfort does have a place in daily carry, and a slim pistol (the Honor Guard is under an inch thick) is more likely to be carried.

The frame is extensively covered with texturing, and the non-slip treatment looks at first glance to be coarsely woven cloth. That's the molded-in surface. Inside is a unitized chassis that holds all the working parts, and if you ever have to disassemble to clean it, the chassis comes out as an assembled unit.

The slide is also heavily grooved for a non-slip grip. To make the Honor Guard as slim as possible, the slide stop is low and tightly fitted to the frame. Proper tactical manipulation calls for working the slide on a locked-back reload, and Honor Defense gives us every opportunity to

hang onto the slide when doing so. The grooves are not only on the front and rear sides, but they wrap over the slide's top.

Interestingly, the striker housing in the Honor Guard is machined out of stainless steel rather than out of polymer, as we find on many other striker-fired guns.

The compact barrel has an integral feed ramp, and the locking and unlocking happen by means of a cam shelf on the bottom of the barrel. The muzzle is given an 11-degree crown, a simple cone back to the bore, which is tough and looks good. There's a large extractor on the right side, and the Honor Guard never failed to pull fired empties out and toss them aside.

The front and rear dovetail will accept readily available G42/G43 sights. The blade front and notch rear have a three-dot sight system. The front dot is bright and orange, while the rear dots are white. Their size makes it wicked fast on close-range speed drills, but too coarse for Bullseye target shooting. A couple of interesting details on the sights: The rear sight blade has the ramp on the rear to reduce the possibility of a snag on the draw, and the front is a shoulder, so you can do one-handed manipulations if you want (or need) to.

The trigger is not as light as some might want on a carry pistol, but that was a design decision by Honor Defense. They could have made the trigger pull lighter, but that would have come at the expense of a stiffer recoil spring. They decided to make the recoil spring lighter and to offset



the heavier (to some, anyway) trigger pull by making it a crisp one. It also has a short reset. I have some bad habits from the old days, and short reset means nothing to my trigger finger, but for those with good habits, the short reset of the Honor Guard will serve you well.

The Honor Defense line is rated for +P ammo and, given the empty weight of 22 ounces, it will likely stand up to a steady diet of +P ammo better than you will.

In accuracy testing the Honor Guard, I kept getting the impression that it just wasn't delivering. Then I actually looked at the numbers and realized what was going on. I had spent the morning testing a fabulously expensive custom pistol with match ammo. I'd spent the afternoon testing the Honor Guard with hot carry ammo. Of course it seemed lacking in accuracy. Had I not just tested the custom one, I'd have been happy with the accuracy of the Honor Guard.

And the price? In an era where it seems like every hot new firearm requires 10 Franklins to purchase, the \$499 list price for the Honor Guard is refreshing and welcomed. (We've found the Honor Guard between \$449 and \$479 at the counter.)

PERFORMANCE

LOAD	VELOCITY (FPS)	ES	SD	BEST GROUP (IN.)	AVERAGE GROUP (IN.)
Horn. Critical Duty 135-gr. FL	1,000	22	10	2.8	3.15
Win. Defend 147-gr. JHP	950	28	11	2.95	3.38
Winchester Train 147-gr. FMJ	921	66	26	2.95	3.6
Federal 124-gr. HST	1,070	20	7.7	3.05	4.15

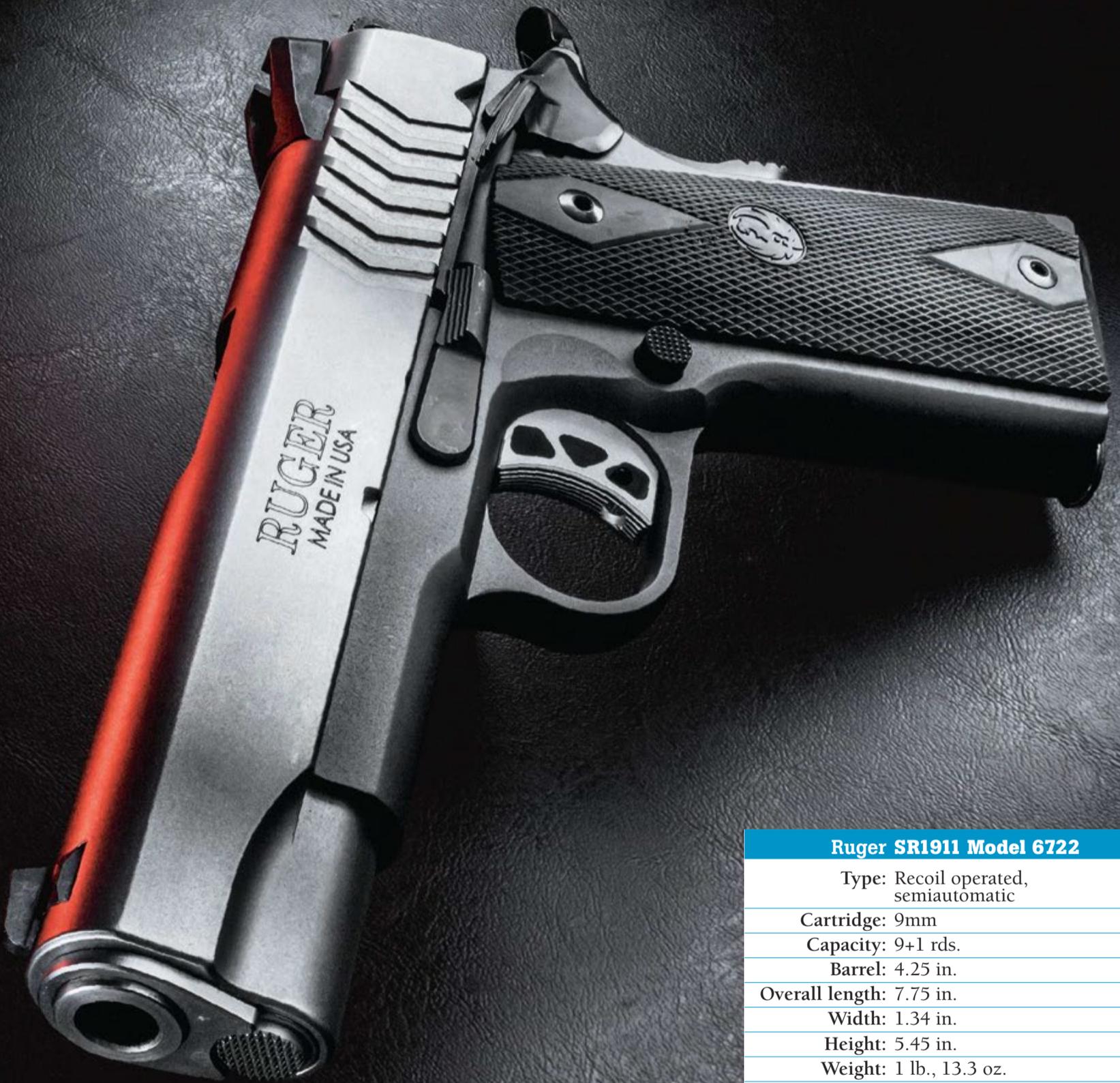
Notes: Accuracy is the average of five, five-shot groups at 25 yards using a sandbagged rest. Velocity is the average of five shots using a LabRadar chronograph set to record 15 feet from the muzzle.

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RUGER SR1911 LIGHTWEIGHT COMMANDER 9mm



Ruger SR1911 Model 6722	
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Cartridge:	9mm
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Barrel:	4.25 in.
Overall length:	7.75 in.
Width:	1.34 in.
Height:	5.45 in.
Weight:	1 lb., 13.3 oz.
Finish:	Brushed stainless (slide); gray anodized (frame)
Frame:	Aluminum alloy
Sights:	Blade (front); notch (rear)
Trigger:	5 lbs., 8 oz. (tested)
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When a plastic, striker-fired, single-stack 9mm won't do.

RUGER HAS ADDED a lightweight and compact 9mm to its 1911 lineup. The Commander-style barrel is shorter than a Government size, and the slide is shortened to match. This trims three-quarters of an inch off of the full-size SR1911 length. The SR1911 Model 6722, hereafter known as the 9mm Commander-style, is a traditional 1911 in that it has the trigger mechanism that John Browning designed. There's no firing-pin-blocking safety lever or plunger; it's just a Series 70-style setup. The inertia firing pin is manufactured from titanium, and its significantly lower mass shortens lock time and decreases the miniscule possibility of a dropped pistol discharging.

The slide is stainless and has a brushed finish; the Novak sights on top are fitted to Novak transverse dovetails. The ejection port has been lowered and beveled on the back edge to make the life of our spent cases a bit better. (We don't have to worry about sorting dinged brass.) The barrel is secured by a conventional bushing. Ruger machines both the barrel and bushing from the same bar stock in the same CNC machine. Fit and concentricity are therefore even better controlled.

The extended thumb safety is a low-profile unit, but an eminently useable lever on the left side. (No ambis here.) The grip safety is a high-ride beavertail with a memory groove speed bump, and the rear curves of the beavertail are scalloped.

These relief cuts keep the beavertail from hammering the web of our hand in recoil, even though we all know a 9mm isn't going to kick that hard. The magazine release button is blued carbon steel, as are the thumb safety, grip safety and the slide stop lever. The mainspring housing is flat, checkered and made of aluminum.

Grips are rubber, molded into a double-diamond checkered pattern and sport the Ruger logo. They are refreshingly slender.

While making a traditional 1911, Ruger just couldn't help but to enhance it. The barrel has an integral feed ramp, and the frame is machined to accommodate it. The 9mm cartridge has a maximum pressure of 35,000 pounds per square inch (psi), but there are many factory +P and +P+ loads to be had. It is a prudent step to make the barrel with an integral ramp, as it offers more support to the cases and that support covers more of the case itself.

The barrel hood has a small groove machined into it to act as a loaded chamber indicator. The slide has an interesting pattern for the cocking serrations: chevrons that point toward the muzzle. There are no forward slide serrations.

On the frame, the one weak point of the 1911 design is the safety plunger tube. Ruger sidestepped the whole problem and simply made the plunger tube an integral part of the frame.

The barrel and bushing are not the only parts machined in CNC stations. The slide

and frame are also CNC machined, and the fit and function is smooth.

An attribute of the 1911 that many find favorable is the trigger pull. With a single-stack frame and a clean and crisp trigger pull, shooting is a joy, and accurate shooting is easy. Ruger installed a lightened aluminum trigger and a skeletonized hammer to wring out the full potential of the design.

The new Ruger SR1911 9mm comes in a cardboard box with two nine-round magazines. One should not expect a 9mm 1911 to recoil very briskly. This was nicely accurate with one surprising anomaly. The trigger had the tiniest *click*.



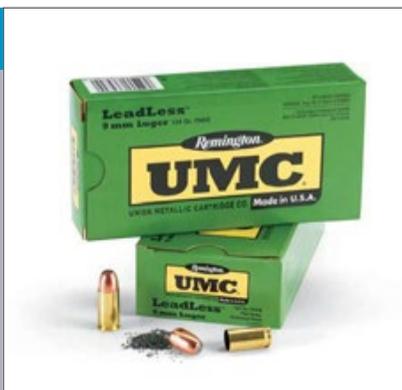
PERFORMANCE

LOAD	VELOCITY (FPS)	ES	SD	BEST GROUP (IN.)	AVERAGE GROUP (IN.)
Hornady Crit. Duty 135-gr. FL	991	20	14	1.25	1.55
Browning BXP 147-gr. X-Point	961	12	5	1.65	2.25
Aguila 115-gr. FMJ	1,108	35	14	1.8	2.55
Win. Defend 147-gr. JHP	932	14	5	2.2	2.45

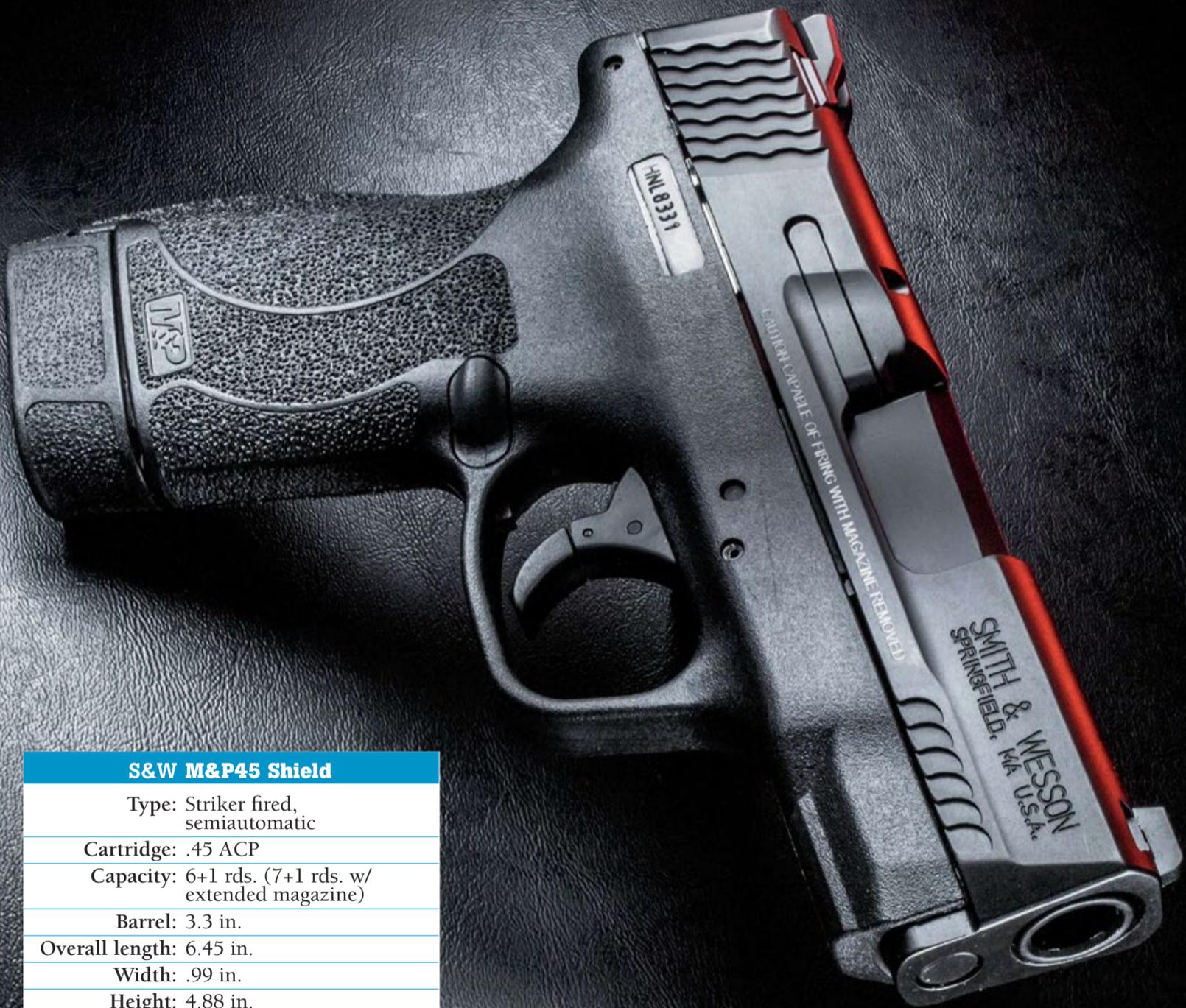
Notes: Accuracy is the average of five, five-shot groups at 25 yards using a sandbag rest. Velocity is the average of five shots using a LabRadar chronograph set to record velocity at 15 feet from the muzzle.

"LEADLESS" UMC 124-GR. AMMO

Many shooting ranges, both indoor and outdoor, are going lead-free. Due to proclaimed environmental concerns for outdoor use and actual health issues for indoor use, this is a trend likely to continue. Remington recently introduced Leadless ammunition under their UMC brand, which is an economic solution to high-volume training. These are not light loaded practice rounds. Remington designed them to mimic the characteristics of its carry loads. From \$23/box (50 rds.)



SMITH & WESSON M&P45 SHIELD .45 ACP



S&W M&P45 Shield	
Type:	Striker fired, semiautomatic
Cartridge:	.45 ACP
Capacity:	6+1 rds. (7+1 rds. w/ extended magazine)
Barrel:	3.3 in.
Overall length:	6.45 in.
Width:	.99 in.
Height:	4.88 in. (w/ flush magazine)
Weight:	1 lb., 4.5 oz.
Finish:	S&W Armornite
Frame:	Polymer w/chassis
Sights:	Three dot; blade (front); U-notch (rear)
Trigger:	6 lbs., 8 oz.
Price:	\$480
Manufacturer:	Smith & Wesson 800-331-0852 smith-wesson.com

A Shield with more *powweerrrr!*



THOSE WHO INSIST on big-bore handguns for carry are faced with a dilemma: A big bore usually means a *big* pistol. And when you fit a big bore into a small pistol, you usually end up with something that is not fun to shoot. Smith & Wesson breaks that trend with its M&P Shield in .45 ACP.

S&W has also designed the Shield so that it has a thumb safety — for those who feel a thumb safety is a good thing.

The M&P45 Shield is the newest M&P, and it builds on the proven record of earlier models. The .45 has the same 18-degree grip angle for natural pointing, and it has nothing more than a scaled-up approach to feed .45 ACP. The polymer shell has a pinned locking block and trigger block. The two pinned-in blocks, held tightly by the polymer shell, create the rigid framework for a clean and crisp trigger pull. The listed trigger pull for the M&P45 Shield is 6½ pounds. The one G&A tested was less. We have tested single-action pistols (the Shield is a striker-fired design) that had trigger pulls that were not as clean, crisp or easy to use as this one. The trigger made it easier to extract the M&P45's accuracy potential.

The slide and barrel are precision-

machined in-house at S&W's CNC machine centers and then given its Armornite corrosion-resistant finish.

The transverse dovetail sights are steel and have the now-expected three-white-dot arrangement. Should you prefer, there are many aftermarket options for night sights and fiber optics available.

For the M&P45, S&W also added some benefits. First, there is a new non-slip grip texture that is better at keeping a hard-kicking pistol solid in our grip. It also added forward cocking serrations. The Shield is a compact pistol holding a big cartridge, and you want to have all options open when it comes time to work the slide.

Like its smaller brethren, the M&P45 Shield is slim at just 1-inch thick. When we consider the width of a round of .45 ACP, then add in the thickness of a magazine shell, the polymer frame and the working tolerances a magazine must have in order to smoothly fit in and fall out, this 1-inch measurement is amazing.

The magazine is also an interesting subject. At the top it is a normal single-point, single-stack magazine. But shortly below that, S&W has widened it. It isn't a double-stack; it's more of a stack-and-a-half. The end result is an extra cartridge in a mag that would otherwise be low on capacity. The flush-fit magazine holds six rounds and the included extended mag carries seven. The extended magazine also adds enough length that it is possible to get one's entire

hand onto the grip. This makes practice and accuracy testing a lot easier. The best carry mode would be to use the extended magazine as the in-the-pistol carry mag and the other as a reload.

The barrel is short at 3.3 inches, but one of the great attributes of the .45 ACP is that it does its work with mass and bullet diameter. It does not lose much velocity. At a light-for-caliber 20½ ounces, the M&P45 Shield is expected to kick. However, recoil was not as bad as we expected. The flex of the polymer shell soaks up much of the recoil, and the expected snap and soreness never happened. This does not mean it is *soft* to shoot. This new .45 Shield is not for brand-new shooters. It is not for plinking, and expect to bring your A game if you want to build skills with it.

Short guns are not always easy to shoot accurately. Short guns in big calibers can be particularly difficult. This M&P45 Shield proved exceptional and disproves these rules. When the worst group — and one fired with carry ammo — measures less than 3 inches, it is difficult to fault the pistol being tested. It's a shooter!

If you do not feel a thumb safety is needed, then S&W can accommodate your preferences. The M&P45 Shield can be had either way: thumb safety or no thumb safety. It is also available for a reasonable list price of under \$500. You know your local gun shop will have it for less than that. It's worth every dollar. **G&A**

PERFORMANCE

LOAD	VELOCITY (FPS)	ES	SD	BEST GROUP (IN.)	AVERAGE GROUP (IN.)
HPR 230-gr. JHP	756	24	11	1.7	2.6
Win. Defend 230-gr. JHP	790	15	6	1.75	2.25
Browning BPT 230-gr. FMJ/FP	791	13	5	1.9	2.15
Horn. Action Pistol 230-gr. XTP	706	13	5	2.1	2.5

Notes: Accuracy is the average of five, five-shot groups at 25 yards using a sandbag rest. Velocity is the average of five shots using a LabRadar chronograph set to record velocity 15 feet from the muzzle.

BLUETOOTH EAR PRO

Walker's Game Ear has just debuted an impressive set of electronic hearing protection called the Razor XV. These feature-rich ear pro have rechargeable Bluetooth technology built in, enabling users to listen to music and take calls while still protecting their hearing. The retractable ear buds sit comfortably in the ear canal, while the flexible collar sits behind the neck. It doesn't interfere with gun handling. \$160





Nikon is Spot On.

MONARCH 7

Words By Eric R. Poole | Photos By Michael Anschuetz

WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO pass on a buck on the first day that we'd be willing to shoot on the last day, but that is exactly what I did near Waurika, Oklahoma, last November. I was hunting over an expansive wheat field from a box blind, and since first light I watched two young eight-points feed and spar no more than 20 yards outside. An hour later, they wandered to the edge of the field when their heads snapped to look behind them. I could see the white tips of a noticeably wider and mature 10-point appear, who easily fought off the youngsters minutes later. All the while, I measured his distance at 250 yards using a Nikon Prostaff 7i Laser Rangefinder. I had time to consider the shot, so I plugged Nikon's windmeter into my smartphone and opened Nikon's Spot On ballistic app.

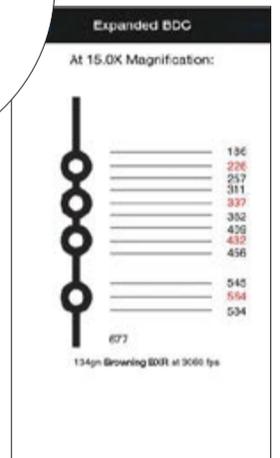
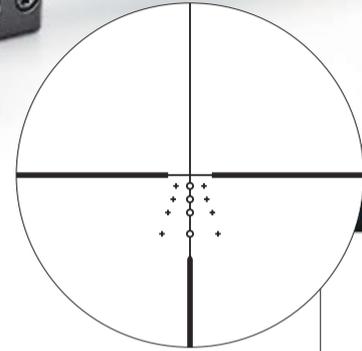
Nikon's Advanced BDC reticle in its new Monarch 7 scopes has four aiming points that correlate to the bullet drop referenced in the Spot On app and hold-off marks for wind. At the range, I tested this system to 600 yards, which is more than enough



distance to take care of any shot I'd need while hunting. I could have taken the 10-point and spent the following four days in camp. Instead, I decided to hold out for a 14-point monster I overheard the guides discussing the night I checked in.

Over the next few days, I saw plenty of deer but most were juvenile. On the last morning, I unsuccessfully tried stalking the ghost-like 14 and began to regret not shooting the 10-point. In another blind that evening, I caught the golden hour's sunlight casting its warm glow on the field as the 10-point from day one walked out to bask in it. With my phone and windmeter in hand, I downloaded the temperature, elevation and humidity. Spot On took this information and recalculated the holdover distances for the scope's reticle. Looking through it, the glass gave me confidence as though I could split hairs. A second later I did. With one shot from my .270, the buck fell. And less than a minute later, so did a curious doe I ranged at 280 yards. Two shots and two hits at two different distances filled my tags.





Nikon Monarch 7 SF A-BDC	
Power:	4–16X
Objective:	50mm
Tube Diameter:	30mm
Elevation Adjustment:	.25 MOA per click
Windage:	.25 MOA per click
Reticle:	Advanced BDC
Length:	14.8 in.
Weight:	1 lb., 6.9 oz.
Eye Relief:	3.6 in.
MSRP:	\$1,000
Manufacturer:	Nikon 800-645-6687 nikonportoptics.com

This is the new Monarch 7. Available as a 2.5–10x50mm, a 3–12 x56mm or a 4–16x50mm. All are second focal plane (SFP) optics. These scopes are among Nikon’s top-tier lineup and can be had with or without illumination and with two different approaches to compensating for bullet drop at various distances.

Nikon’s new Advanced BDC reticle is glass etched and works as a crosshair featuring holdover aiming points. These “aiming points” are intended to be utilized with Nikon’s Spot On ballistic-match technology to give us the exact point of aim at various yardages. Rather than guessing and holding over using an imaginary line, we can now improve the ethics of our attempts on game by using Spot On technology. Additionally, the Advanced BDC reticle includes wind-compensating cross marks to the left and right of the lower sighting post. These windage marks are calibrated for a 10 mph cross wind when the rifle is zeroed at either 100 or 200 yards.

Some shooters may not carry a smartphone into the field or will never trust a BDC reticle. The Monarch 7 addresses this by offering its custom-order XR turrets for dialing elevation to a specific load. Depending on the situation, I’ve used both methods.

With custom XR turrets, we have the *option* to dial-in the correction for elevation and still hold the crosshair for where we want the bullet to go. We can custom match the distances inscribed on the elevation dial to the specific ballistics of a load and environmental conditions. As a result, we can dial in exactly and hold the crosshair precisely on the target. There’s a voucher that comes with the purchase of these scopes to custom-order an XR turret for your load. You may also want to order additional turrets for other loads, velocities or environmental factors due to location or season.

The new Monarch 7 is a little different from the Monarch 5 in that it has a 30mm maintube rather than a 1-inch tube. And the Advanced BDC reticle with hold-offs for windage below the center post can only be found in the Monarch 7. The larger 30mm maintube translates to larger lenses, a bigger resolution sweet spot and a wider field of view (FOV). However, we also benefit from the Monarch 7’s quick-focus eyepiece, locking side focus adjustment knob and its generous yet consistent eye relief. In reference to



Multiple layers of coatings allow for a bright, sharp and clear sight picture.



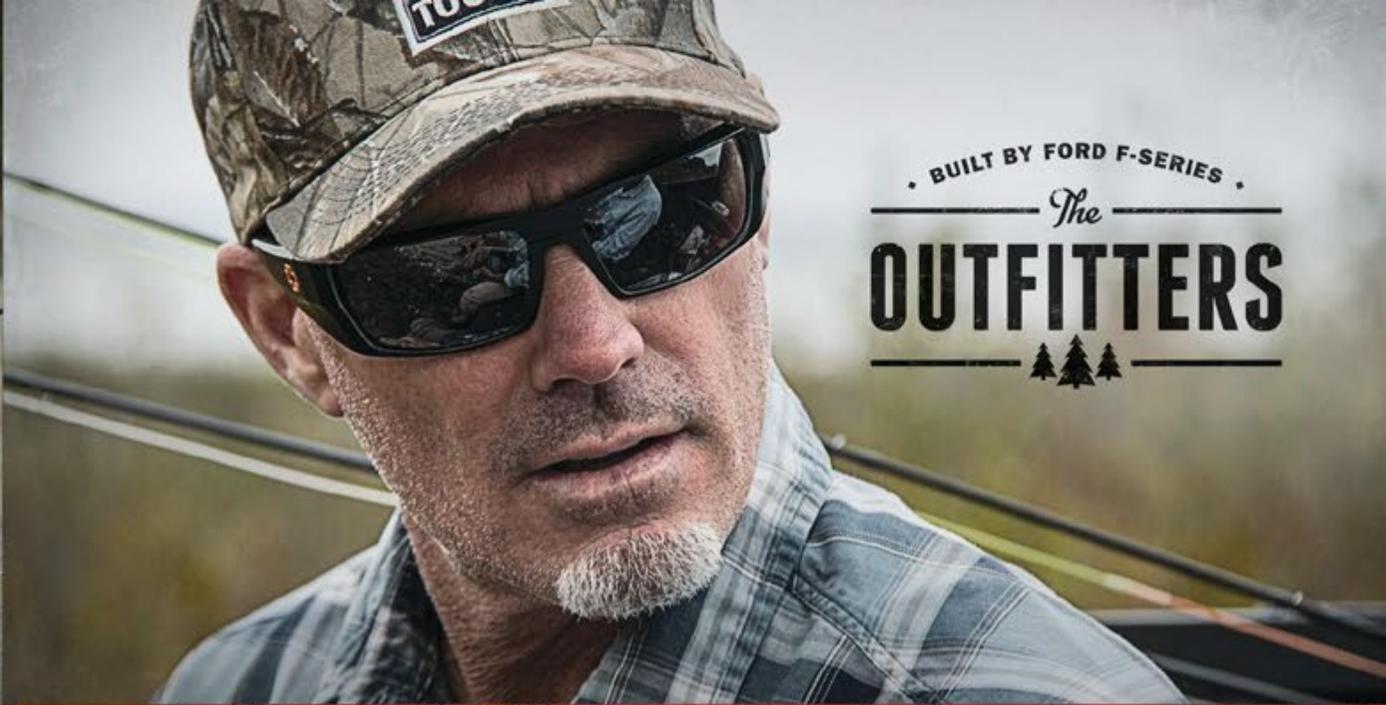
The power ring features a dial with an easy-to-find fin for quick turning.



The Monarch 7 integrates spring-loaded turrets and a locking side-focus parallax.



Both windage and elevation turrets are capped to protect adjustments.



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Nikon Prostaff 7i Rangefinder

Measurement:	8–1,300 yds.
Power:	6X
Objective:	21mm
Angular FOV:	7.5 deg.
Power Source:	1 CR2 lithium battery
Length:	4.4 in.
Weight:	6.2 oz.
Eye Relief:	.72 in.
MSRP:	\$300
Manufacturer:	Nikon 800-645-6687 nikonsportoptics.com

the FOV, consider that the Monarch 3, with its 1-inch tube and power ring set at maximum magnification, measures 25 feet. The Monarch 7's field of view is 30 feet, which is 15 percent more than a scope with a 1-inch tube. We also benefit in having a 30mm maintube by getting more range of internal adjustment. This becomes important to shooters who dial their turrets to hit targets beyond 400 yards. The Monarch 3 and Monarch 5, both with 1-inch-diameter tubes (and in comparison to scopes with the same 4-16X magnification), feature 43 and 45 MOA adjustment ranges, respectively. The Monarch 7, with its 30mm tube and etched Advanced BDC reticle, offers 58 MOA of internal adjustment. That's almost 30 percent more adjustment than the aforementioned 1-inch models.

Most hunters I've surveyed don't dial in their adjustments, and that's where the holdover points of the Nikon Advanced BDC reticle really shine, particularly when using the Nikon Spot On system. Hypothetically, at maximum magnification (like 16X in a Monarch 7 4-16x50mm), the lowest hold point may be 553 yards. Say we want to shoot a target we've ranged with our laser rangefinder at 900 yards. When we shoot at longer ranges, we can dial down magnification for a wider FOV. Simply consult the information from the Spot On app on your smartphone. It may read that the fourth BDC circle represents 900 yards at 6X. (I'd also consider using the new windage marks according to the information obtained from the Nikon Spot On windmeter. Wind at your location will have an adverse effect on trajectory the moment a bullet exits the muzzle. Each point on the reticle represents a 10mph crosswind.)

When talking about hold-off points in a reticle, we want a glass-etched reticle. It's a stronger reticle than older wire crosshairs, and I don't know of another scope that offers hold-off points for wind using a wire reticle. The anti-reflective coatings that Nikon applies to the lenses ensure that the reticle is sharp and provides good contrast, and if we have an illuminated (IL) version of this scope, different portions of the reticle can be turned red for aiming without cluttering the window.

Before I hunt, I print out an expanded BDC reference chart for 6X that I pin up in my blind or carry in my pocket. This little piece of paper makes for quick reference when I have two hands on my



MODE BUTTON



POWER/FIRE
BUTTON



The Prostaff 7i Laser Rangefinder is 6X and offers long eye relief for a rangefinder, .72 inch by G&A's measurement.

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Download the Nikon Spot On app for free or visit spoton.nikonssportoptics.com. Nikon's Ballistic Wind Meter plugs into the headphone port and inputs real-time windspeed and direction information to the Spot On app, resulting in precise aiming solutions and wind drift compensation. The windmeter costs \$40.

rifle and can't waste time fumbling for it in my pockets. (I come up with this information before the season starts.)

It's summertime as I write this, and I'm at the range sighting in for this next fall and winter. This is the time of year when hunters are trying out new optics and gaining confidence in a particular setup. Shooting, for me, is a bit of a ritual, and the Nikon Spot On is the system I've been using to minimize human error. I keep Nikon's windmeter with me, which costs about \$40, and I have the Spot On app downloaded to my phone. I always carry a rangefinder and binos in my truck because knowing the distance to a target increases my precision. As I've been evaluating the Nikon Monarch 7 series this year, I've also worked with the Nikon Prostaff 7i Laser Rangefinder, which is the same one I used in Oklahoma last year to harvest my 10-point and an old doe. Having gone through the U.S. Marine Corps' training on this subject, I can verify that it's a lot easier to push a button on Nikon's rangefinder than memorize subtensions and do math in the field.

Owning the Monarch 7 with the Advanced BDC reticle is like making an investment in the quality of your shooting. Not only will the Nikon Spot On system educate us as riflemen, these products are intuitive to use, portable and built to last. There is no reason to miss the buck that walks out on the last day. **G&A**



NIKON MONARCH 7 8x30 BINOCULARS

We don't spot game or survey the field using a riflescope, so it's important to carry a set of binos. Investing in a good pair saves grief and can last a lifetime.

Nikon has improved on the Monarch series with its Monarch 7, a roof-prism bino that utilizes premium extra-low dispersion (ED) glass, as well as proprietary lens and prism coatings. These enhancements have pushed clarity and resolution to new levels. It offers almost the same level of brightness that is naturally viewed by the naked eye.



The Monarch 7 is lightweight, has an incredible field of view paired with vivid image quality and accurate color rendition. Close-focus measured 8 feet and a comfortable eye relief at .67 in.

The body is given rubber armor, which withstood

normal field use as well as G&A's unique testing process. The central focus knob rolls smoothly and multi-setting click-stop eyecups are extremely comfortable. Competitively priced against other premium binos, spending is quite unnecessary. **\$380**



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WORDS BY GARRY JAMES | PHOTOS BY JILL MARLOW

Inland Mfg. M37 Trench Shotgun

Type: Pump action
Gauge: 12
Capacity: 4+1 rds.
Barrel: 20 in.
Overall Length: 39.75 in.
Weight: 6 lbs., 11 oz.
Stock: Oil-finished walnut
Length of Pull: 14.25 in.
Finish: Parkerized
Trigger: 7 lbs., 12.5 oz. (tested)
Sights: Bead, brass
Safety: Crossbolt, trigger block
MSRP: \$1,260
Manufacturer: Inland Manufacturing
877-425-4867
inland-mfg.com





A 1966-vintage Ithaca ad extolls the virtues of the Model 37, which was just about the same time some trench guns based on that pump-gun's action were seeing use in the Vietnam War.

If you've always wanted to own an ITHACA—this is the year to get it!

Ithaca Guns are probably the most made guns in America because they're not attached out on machines. They are well hand-crafted to give you the pleasure of the machine in quality.

Take one Model 37 Featherlight. It's a classic Ithaca design and function. Lighter weight lets you shoot faster, get more action quicker. Check features: forged barrel, over-galvanic steel receiver, beautiful checkering on American Walnut stock all fitted to make this the champion of all shotguns.

The Model 37 is available in 9 models including the famous "Magnum" Model 37. All have Ithaca's exclusive bottom ejection, which prevents back-chatter and jamming.

Interchangeable barrels. Right or left-hand barrels.

Featherlike action. In short, smooth, lightning fast. The amazing "Raptor" four angle "light" porting system, hand-crafted of the finest stainless steel for the quiet, balanced operation of the gun.

Model 37's come in 12, 16 or 20 gauge in the model you prefer for you... from \$129.95 to \$179.95.

If you're considering a quality step-down shotgun for yourself or the younger shooter in your family, make sure to see Ithaca's "Intermediate" Superlight®. The standard 12 gauge in right for equal game and gun. The 20 and 28 gauge come in Standard or Special Youth models. All Youth models have a shorter barrel and Ithaca's new Anti-Shock Pad that really works. The standard or mighty 12 Gauge Superlight... 20" or 24" in the 400. The best gun of having the quality design in the gun, only \$129.95 to \$159.95, depending on model.

Ithaca Guns are not sold everywhere—only at Ithaca Franchised Sporting Goods Stores where the men behind the counter know guns. Visit the one nearest you and ask him to show you the Ithaca's Featherlight and Lightning 20's, the world's most complete line of shotguns, including Ithaca's new 800 line of Intermediate's and the Ithaca's Superlight. He'll not only tell you—he'll show you why! This is the year to see an Ithaca.

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THERE'S LITTLE DOUBT that the pump or semiautomatic trench shotgun, and its close associate the riot gun, are formidable small arms. Combining the handiness of a short-barreled scattergun with the ability to get repeated shots off in a hurry while spraying various sizes and combinations of shot — depending upon range — over an increasingly wide area, has appealed to the military, police and homeowner alike for more than a century.

I must admit that I'm not the world's most enthusiastic shot-gunner. But trench and riot guns really do grab my attention. It's probably due to their military and law enforcement heritage. Apparently I'm not alone, for prices of original, unaltered trench guns of all periods seem to continue rising even in a slightly down collector market. Values on some of the more common guns, such as Winchester Model 97s and Model 12s, can still be pretty hefty. Fortunately, Inland Manufacturing of Dayton, Ohio, through its marketers MKS Supply and in association with Ithaca Guns Co., is now offering a dandy new product that promises to satisfy those desirous of a martial-mien 12 gauge — but more about this anon.

Trench guns, as their name implies, first came into use by American troops in the trenches of World War I. Incarnations of civilian guns were offered by Winchester (Model 1897 and Model 12) and Remington (Model 10). These handy repeaters immediately drew the ire of the Germans who filed an official protest claiming their use was in violation of the 1907 Hague Convention. Uncle Sam saw things differently, however, and the trench gun became a fixture in the Great War and other conflicts to follow.

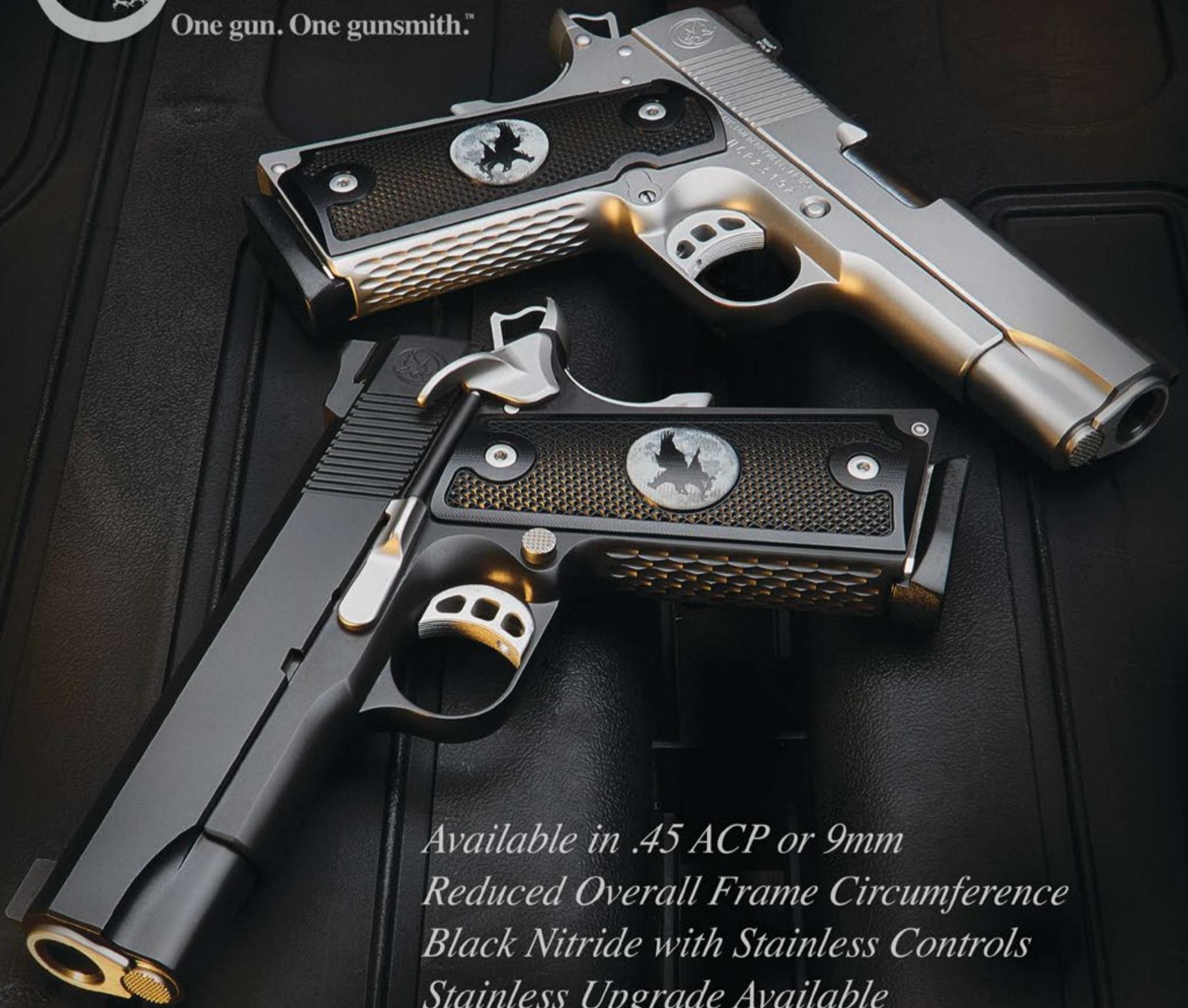
While both trench guns and riot guns have short barrels (normally around 20 inches) and are cylinder bored, there are differences. While the riot gun is more or less an abbreviated version of a sporting arm, the trench gun traditionally sports a muzzle attachment that allows the piece to be fitted with a bayonet, has sling swivels and a pierced metal handguard, also called a heat shield. The bayonet used on the premier trench guns and others thereafter was the Model 1917, a blade introduced by the British in 1913 for an experimental .276-caliber rifle, which they subsequently used on their similarly configured Pattern 14 Enfield Rifle. As the .303 Pattern 14 was made for the Brits by Remington

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The Parkerized Inland/Ithaca Model 37 Trench gun (above) is a ringer for the variant of the 12-gauge pump used in the Vietnam War (below).

and Winchester, when the Yanks entered the war and produced their own .30-'06 version of the gun, the same bayonet dubbed, like the rifle, the Model 1917 went along with the package.

Principally, trench guns are employed for more tactical work, while riot guns, in the military at least, are primarily used for such things as riot control and guard duty. Early on, police also adopted the riot gun as an integral part of their arsenals, and they remain so today.

For a company as venerable and prolific as Ithaca, it's a bit odd that one of its signature products, the Model 37 pump gun, didn't see more military usage than it has. Based on an earlier John Browning patent, the Model 37 was introduced by Ithaca in 1937. Its mechanism was simple and robust. Like a number of slide actions, the bolt itself had no locking lugs, as it was lifted up when the slide was moved forward and, after locking into position, is held securely below by the slide, which locks it in place.

An advertisement for Creedmoor Ammunition. On the left, a man in a military uniform (green cap, olive shirt, green pants) stands with his hands on his hips. A 'GUNNY APPROVED' logo is in the top left corner, with a signature 'R. Lee Ermey' below it. The Creedmoor Ammunition logo is in the top right. The text 'LISTEN UP!' is written in large, bold, white letters across the middle. Below it, 'PREMIUM AMMO - FACTORY DIRECT' is written in smaller white letters. On the right side, there is a large, detailed image of a brass bullet. At the bottom, the website 'WWW.CREEDMOORAMMO.COM' is displayed in white capital letters.



The main distinguishing features on the trench gun are the bayonet adaptor and the ventilated steel handguard.

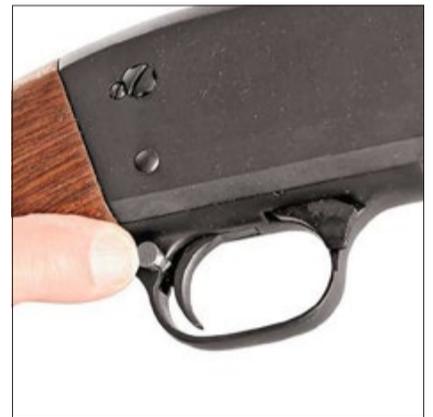
Markings on the Inland M37 indicate Ithaca's manufacturing and Inland's proprietorship and also mimic the U.S. Ordnance bomb and inspector's initials seen on the guns used during World War II.

One of the shotgun's most endearing features is its bottom ejection. This allows for efficient disposal of empties, and as shells are also loaded through the lower ejection port, it's easy to use by either right- or left-handed shooters.

Various incarnations of the Model 37 have been offered over the years in 28-, 20-, 16- and 12-gauge. It's one of those time-tested products that, despite the introduction by others of more space-age designs, because of its manifest, practical, no-nonsense



A slide release lever on the front-right of the triggerguard allows the action to be worked to empty the magazine without pulling the trigger.



The safety on the M37 is a simple, effective crossbolt at the rear of the triggerguard.

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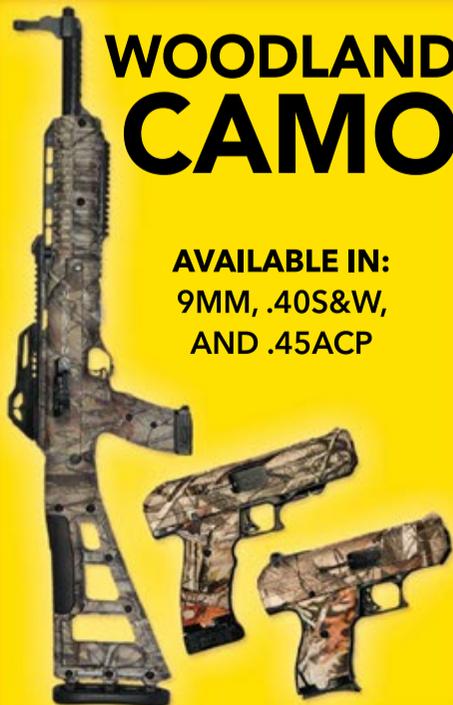
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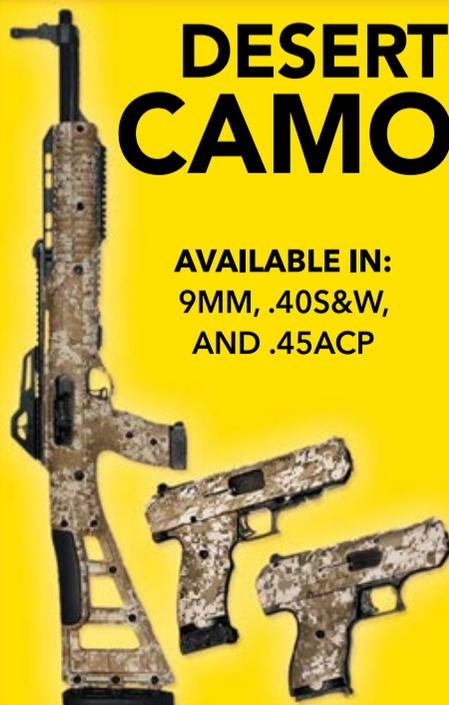
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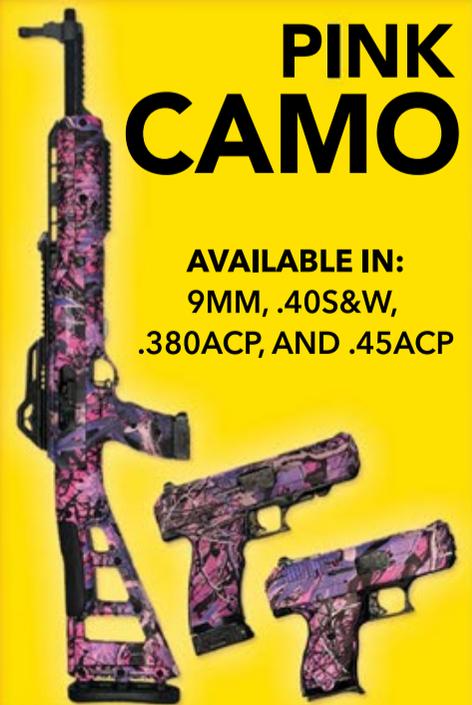
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Left: Test ammo used with the Inland M37 was Hornady 2¾-inch 00 buckshot. It's shown here with late World War II-vintage M19 brass 00 Buck military issue shotshells manufactured by Remington. The latter was used early in the Vietnam War.

Below: During the Vietnam War, due to the lack of World War I/World War II-style M1917 bayonets in inventory (bottom), new versions with plastic grips (top) were manufactured under contract in the U.S. and Canada.



The markings on this Vietnam-era 1917 bayonet indicate it was made by General Cutlery of Fremont, Ohio.

attributes, perseveres and can be relied upon to provide continued good service. Its merits have especially been appreciated by law enforcement, including the largest police forces in the country, such as Los Angeles and New York, adopting versions as their scatterguns of choice.

World War II saw considerable trench gun usage with Remington, Savage, Stevens and Winchester providing the lion's share of product. The U.S. government also contracted with Ithaca for Model 37 trench guns, but records show that ultimately less than 1,500 were delivered. Ithaca diverted most of its arms



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The Inland M37 Trench Shotgun performs much as expected with 10-, 15- and 20-yard spreads coming in at 1¼, 4 and 5¾ inches, respectively. Ammo used was Hornady Critical Defense 2¾-inch 12-gauge 00 buck.



manufacture to 1911A1 .45 ACP pistols. Ithaca also supplied some M37 riot guns and standard-length barrel training guns.

World War II-issue Ithaca trench guns featured a high-polish blue finish, plain walnut stock and plain buttplate. As well as standard markings, the receivers were stamped with a U.S. Ordnance bomb insignia and "R.L.B.," the initials of Col. Roy L. Bolton, chief of the Rochester, New York, Ordnance District.

During the Vietnam War, the M37 again was called into service. Configured much like its World War II predecessor, the Vietnam-era Ithaca, rather than being blued, was Parkerized and had a small "U.S." stamped on the forward portion of the right side of the receiver. The quantity of these guns delivered is unknown, but it is presumed to be quite limited as, like the World War II Ithaca trench gun, they are quite scarce on today's collector market.

Interestingly enough, it was found that by the 1960s, stocks of the older wooden-gripped 1917 bayonets had virtually disap-

peared from government stores, so contracts were let out with General Cutlery in Fremont, Ohio, and Canadian Arsenal Ltd. in Long Branch, Canada. These "updated" 1917s have checkered plastic handles, plastic scabbards and are Parkerized. As well, the blades were about a half-inch shorter than the originals. Vietnam 1917 bayonets are much scarcer than those of World War I-vintage and, correspondingly, bring higher prices.

According to the Thirty-Seventh Edition Blue Book of Gun Values, a World War II Ithaca Model 37 trench gun in 98-percent condition will bring \$20,000! Even a military riot gun in similar

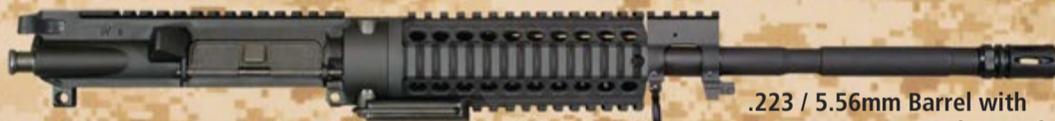
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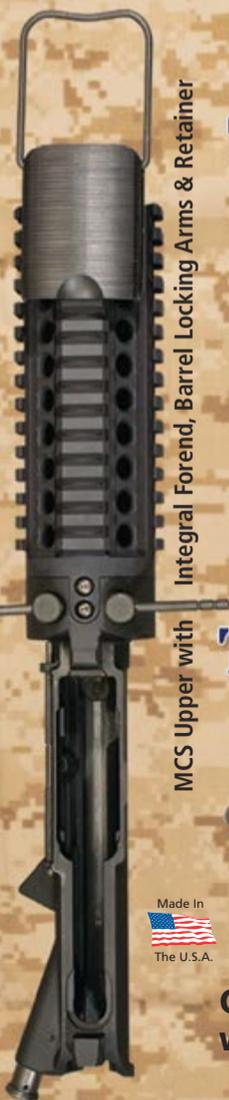
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Four 12-gauge shells can be loaded into the M37 magazine through the ejection port on the bottom of the receiver. With a round in the chamber, capacity is five shells.

shape runs in the \$6,000 range. Vietnam '37s, while also scarce, are listed at \$8,500. That's still not inexpensive, and I must admit that I can't tell you when I last saw one offered for sale. At these prices, it is easy to understand why any proud owner would have to be somewhat circumspect about firing his original.

As noted earlier, this situation has been alleviated by Inland Manufacturing, who is now offering a Model 37 Trench Shotgun exclusively manufactured for them by Ithaca. Featuring the inimitable



Empties are efficiently ejected from an opening in the bottom of the receiver.

'37 action, the Inland product is a superb re-creation of the period piece, with only a couple of minor variances from the real article.

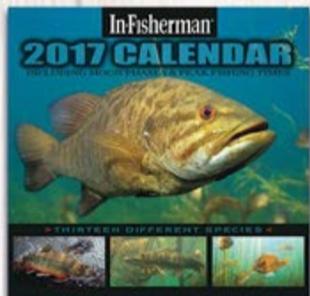
As the Inland M37 Trench Shotgun is made by Ithaca, the action is the real thing. The gun retains the identical button safety at the rear of the triggerguard and slide release on the front. It loads and ejects from the bottom of the receiver and has the same simple knurled-knob barrel removal system. Ithaca is still offering the Model 37 under its own brand name in a number of different 12-, 20- and 28-gauge incarnations — everything from Defense Gun models to several variations of sporting arms.

As per the period M37 trench gun, the Inland product is a 12 gauge, has a 20-inch barrel, plain oil-finished walnut stock, plastic buttplate, four-plus-one capacity, Model 1917 bayonet adapter,

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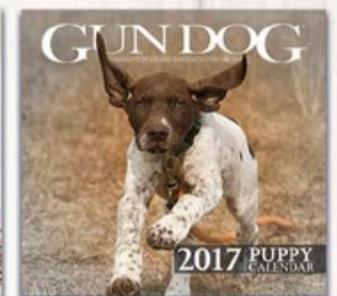
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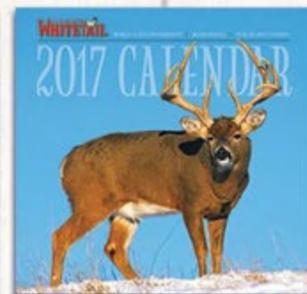
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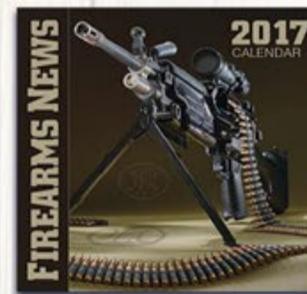
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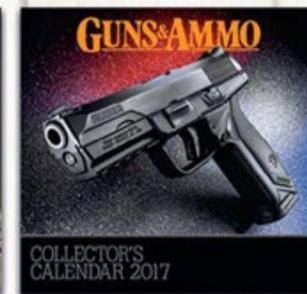
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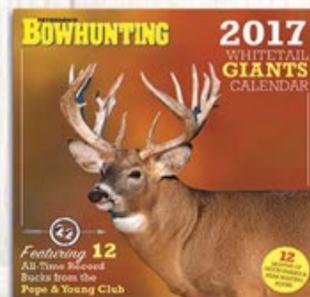
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The Inland M37 functions beautifully, though recoil is stout given the plain steel buttplate and light weight.

ventilated heat shield and sling swivels. The cylinder-bored barrel is 20 inches long and the gun's overall length is a quarter under 40 inches. It weighs in at around 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ pounds. Finish is Parkerized, which would be the Vietnam-era standard, though the receiver is inappropriately marked with the World War II Ordnance bomb and "R.L.B." stamping, which would have been seen on the blued version. Unlike the originals, which were chambered for 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch shells, the Inland 37 will accept 3-inchers.

There is no question that a trench gun looks like it means business. It does! Inland's handsome re-creation carries on the tradition in spades. The fit and finish of the piece is superlative and a solid tribute to the original. In fact, it's a gun that I would be proud to have in my own martial arms collection, new-made or not!

I've fired a number of Ithaca '37 sporters in the past, and even an original World War II Trench Gun. I can attest that the new Inland M37 is the equal of them all. There are few mysteries that issue from firing a cylinder-bore shotgun with a 20-inch barrel. Depending upon the shot size, type of shell and ranges, results are generally going to be pretty predictable, as was the case with this gun.

Using Hornady 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch 00 buck Critical Defense shotshells at 10 yards, the spread was 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches; at 15, it ran 4 inches, and at 20 yards it came in at 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches. While the military generally



The Inland M37 Trench Gun is an efficient, ergonomic shotgun that, as well as its historical interest, would make a suitable arm for personal defense.

opted for 00, many shooters prefer 000 or even No. 4 birdshot, which I am sure the Inland Trench Shotgun would also handle with aplomb. Being something of a purist, the 00 suits me just fine. Due to the plain buttplate, the gun does smack the shoulder a bit, but it's nothing the average shooter can't handle.

The action was smooth and easy to operate, with rounds being chambered, fired and shucked as fast as I could work the action. The gun does have a disconnect, so one cannot slamfire the Inland as one could the original World War II and Vietnam versions.

For those of you, like myself, who think there are few angrier-looking guns than a trench gun with fitted bayonet, be assured that the barrel adaptor on the Inland will accept either a World War I, World War II or Vietnam-era U.S. Model 1917 bayonet

with no problem.

There are a number of short-barreled defense shotguns on the market, but to my knowledge, the Inland M37 is the only one in trench gun configuration. This means that those of us who want an example of such an arm in their collection can do so for a reasonable price. Actually, the Inland M37 serves a two-fold purpose: It's a nostalgic military-style shotgun that can plug up a hard-to-fill gap in a military collection, but one which can also be used as a practical defense arm. **G&A**

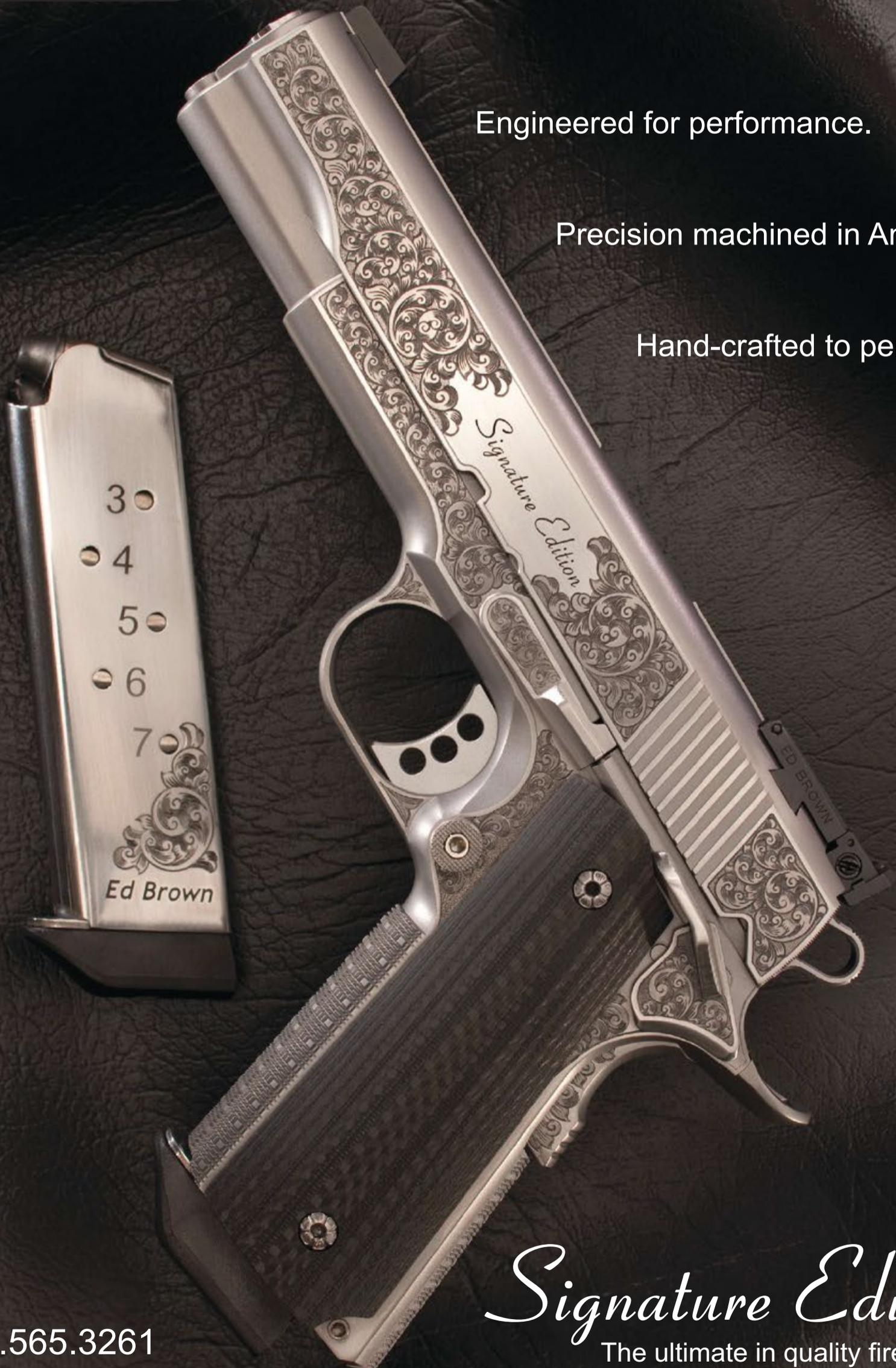
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The Samson Mfg. flip-up rear sight co-witnesses with the "F" marked front sight post and provides 1/2-MOA-per-click windage adjustments. A stainless steel clamp adds security for a rifle that can get knocked around.



Plastic handguards might not be en vogue, but the aluminum heat-shields are proven to work as intended to reduce heat felt by the user after sustained sequences of fire.



The bolt carrier is made from 860 steel, while the bolt is constructed of 158 Carpenter steel. This should avoid premature lug wear, thanks in part to a limited amount of sulfur and phosphorus added to the steel alloy.

Del-Ton Echo 316M

Type:	Direct impingement, semiautomatic
Cartridge:	5.56 NATO
Capacity:	20, 30 rds.
Barrel:	16 in.; 1:8-in. twist
Overall Length:	32.75 in. (collapsed); 36.5 in. (extended)
Weight:	6 lbs., 13 oz.
Stock:	M4-type
Grip:	A2-type
Length of Pull:	11.75 in. (collapsed), 14.5 in. (extended)
Finish:	Type III hardcoat anodized
Trigger:	8 lbs. (tested)
Sights:	Fixed (front); Samson folding (rear)
Safety:	Two-position selector
MSRP:	\$822
Manufacturer:	Del-Ton, 910-645-2172 del-ton.com





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Based off its performance and features offered for the money, Del-Ton, a North Carolina-based company, makes AR-pattern rifles very efficiently. The Echo 316M team

tested and checked all of the boxes for what to look for in an AR-type rifle at a very reasonable price.

The Echo 316M is a no-frills AR made from quality components. And after G&A's testing, it appears that Del-Ton didn't take any of the usual shortcuts to save a few bucks. Common shortcuts include: 1:9-inch twist barrels (the most common and least expensive), bolts and bolt carrier groups of dubious provenance, and not including a forward assist or dustcover.

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The 316M has a chrome moly vanadium (CMV) barrel. It's a couple of steps above the cheap 4140 barrels found on rifles that normally compete in this price category. Vanadium is a good fit for chrome moly barrels because it gives the steel a tight and irregular grain that resists throat erosion.

The barrel is 16 inches, has a carbine-length gas system and a straight medium profile that makes a lot more sense than the M4 contours that are popular on most inexpensive rifles. The medium contour adds some additional weight to the rifle, but it also helps the barrel resist the accuracy-destroying effects of heat.

The 316M comes with a 1:8-inch twist rate and a 5.56x45mm chamber. Most inexpensive rifles have a 1:9 twist rate that does well with bullets weighing 62 grains or less, but sometimes struggle with projectiles 69 grains and heavier. Del-Ton's selection of the 1:8-inch twist rate lets the rifle shoot any weight bullet with equal accuracy, as range testing demonstrated.

G&A's test rifle had a fixed front sight post and a Samson backup rear sight. The front sight post is "F" marked, so the rear sight lines up correctly to allow zero. The rear backup sight has two apertures. The larger aperture is for use at closer ranges or in low light, and the smaller aperture is for shots at longer distances.

The polymer M4-style handguards are low profile and have aluminum heat shields inside that do a great job keeping heat off the shooter's support hand. Heat shields are one of those things that you don't really think about until the day you shoot a couple of magazines quickly through the rifle. These handguards have heat shields, a feature frequently overlooked on rifles at this price point.

The handguard on the 316M is much preferred to the traditional Colt offering because the slender profile is more comfortable in the support hand. The Del-Ton handguard doesn't feel like the fat end of a baseball bat. The smaller handguard is something shooters appreciate after spending a few hours holding the rifle. The smaller diameter is also convenient if you like to wrap the support hand's thumb around the handguard.

The bolt and bolt carrier are made from the materials originally specified by Eugene Stoner, the father of the AR-15. The bolt carrier is made from 8620, and the bolt is made from Carpenter 158. Bolt material is important because it is the first thing to break when a rifle starts consuming a steady diet of thousands of rounds. The lugs on either side of the extractor (where



Del-Ton incorporates the same style stock and double handguards that U.S. troops use.



The castle nut that holds the buffer tube and stock onto the lower receiver is properly staked.

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Manufacturing these bolts using Carpenter 158 helps the lugs resist breaking because the alloy contains very limited amounts of sulfur and phosphorus, tramp elements that give irregular fatigue cycles. In addition to making the bolt from the correct material, Del-Ton high-pressure tests and magnetic-particle inspects (MPI) them to ensure that only the highest quality bolts make it into its rifles. It's a lot of legwork and inspection time, but the effort ensures reliable operation.

The castle nut that holds the buffer tube and stock onto the rifle is properly staked. This often-overlooked step is why we occasionally see buttstock assemblies that spin freely on some AR-15s. Should the castle nut come loose, the whole tube and everything attached to it can unscrew from the lower receiver. Proper staking is a small step, but one that is often forgotten. Del-Ton got it right.

The pistol grip and buttstock are the usual inexpensive fare. The pistol grip is the A2-style, and the buttstock looks exactly like the M4 stocks issued to soldiers. The stock has a sling loop at the toe to allow shooters options.

Time at the range with the new Echo 316M demonstrated stronger performance than expected from a non-free-floating barrel. Quality free-floating barrels will usually average around 1.2 to 1.3 MOA for five shots at 100 yards. The types of handguards that allow the barrel to free float are why these rifles usually cost \$200 to \$300 more than



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HPR 55-gr. FMJ	2,858	183	70	1.13	1.66
Federal GMM 69-gr. HP	2,577	56	21	1.2	1.68

Notes: Accuracy is the average of five, five-shot groups fired from 100 yards. Velocity is the average of five shots measured using MagnetoSpeed V3 chronograph.

one with a non-free-floated barrel.

This Del-Ton averaged 1.55 MOA but did it with the handguards attached to the barrel. This is not optimal from the accuracy standpoint because resting the barrel across a sandbag will affect the round's point of impact (POI). Variations in pressure on the support will move the

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Introducing our first ProTac® lights engineered with rugged, integrated mounts for MIL- STD 1913 rails. The 350 lumen ProTac® Rail Mount 1 can be powered by either one AA alkaline or one CR123A lithium battery. The ProTac® Rail Mount 2 puts out an incredibly bright 625 lumens using two CR123A lithium batteries that lights up objects nearly 300 meters away. And both come standard with a pressure activated remote switch that features separate buttons for momentary and constant on as well as our TEN-TAP® programming. All this at the great value you expect from Streamlight.

BURN SAFELY

with the
Stainless Steel
BurnCage™

PERFECT FOR:

- Sensitive financial documents
- All burnable household waste*
- Old leaves and branches

STAINLESS STEEL CONSTRUCTION is lightweight, durable, and portable (it folds for easy storage).

PERFORATED LID and sidewalls maximize airflow and trap embers.

1600° TEMPERATURES mean more thorough burning with less ash.

* Always check local ordinances before burning.

2 SIZES!

No more **UNSAFE** and **UNSIGHTLY** rusty barrel!

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GUNSANDAMMO.COM



While not the latest muzzle device, the A2 “birdcage” compensator is the benchmark flash hider that all others are judged by.



The “F” marked front sight allows the desired alignment with the rear sight for a proper zero.

POI. Attaching the handguards directly to the barrel is much more economical, which is why we see it so often.

The excellent accuracy from this 316M came from its heavy-contour barrel that is less influenced by the handguards than a skinnier barrel. While it didn't do quite as well as a free-floated barrel, a rifle with a free-floating barrel is going to be at least a couple hundred dollars more expensive. For the price of this Del-Ton rifle, a 1.55 MOA average is excellent accuracy.

The other potential concern was over gassing. AR manufacturers love to do this because it minimizes some malfunctions but at the expense of long-term parts' lives. Since the barrel on the 316M is unique to Del-Ton, it was prudent to pay attention to how it was gassed.

It's gassed just right. G&A tested three loads through the rifle with bullet weights of 55, 60 and 69 grains and saw consistent ejection for all three. All fired brass landed directly to the right of the rifle with no ejector swipes or extractor marks on the case rim. Over-gassed ARs will chew up the case heads because the bolt is trying to extract the brass while there is still significant chamber pressure. This rifle had an H-buffer used in conjunction with the carbine-length gas system. The combination proved ideal for the diverse group of loads tested.

The 316M retails for \$821.92 and can probably be found at the gun shop in the low \$700s. That's a great price for the amount of rifle that comes with it. This rifle has a properly configured and appropriately gassed barrel, quality bolt and bolt carrier and above average furniture for this price point. It even comes with a forward assist and a dustcover ... 

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Grip, Forend & Buttstock Kits

OverMolded® RIFLE STOCKS

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Gun Owners Set To Get Free Survival Food

Farmers vow to keep up with the rush to supply every gun owner who logs onto FreeFoodKit32.com or calls toll free 1-800-365-7675 and beats the deadline to claim their free 72-hour survival food kit.



Gun owners are flocking to claim their free 72-hour survival food kit before the deadline.

In a crisis, your number one need is food. But not just any food.

What everyone needs is good-for-25-years survival food that you can rely on when the time comes that food is scarce.

Well right now – in what is truly an unprecedented move – 72-hour Food4Patriots survival food kits are being given away to readers who are gun owners as long as they log onto FreeFoodKit32.com or call the special toll-free number below and beat the program deadline.

“This is all happening because we’re worried that the people in Washington have an agenda that is about more than just guns and ammo,” explained Tim Boyle, a spokesman for the company.

“Control the food, control the people.”

We already know that they’re coming after our guns ... food could be next, and none of us wants to ever rely on this or any government to keep our families fed.

Experts say that everyone should have at least a 72-hour supply of non-

perishable food on hand at all times.

Unfortunately, too many people make the mistake of choosing products that were never intended to be survival food. They end up with expensive stockpiles that are too big and too bulky to move, should an emergency force them to leave their homes.

Chances are, their foods were not packaged for a 25-year or more shelf life. Most are not.

And if they were unlucky enough to stock up on MREs, they’ll be depending on a product that can actually make you sick if you eat it for too long.

Food4Patriots survival foods are made of the finest ingredients, grown and packaged right here in the USA. They taste great. They provide the nutrition you need. And they were developed specifically for use in emergencies – although a lot of folks sometimes like them for a quick meal or snack.

Boyle explained, “These are home-style meals that we package in airtight and resealable military-grade Mylar pouches that keep them fresh and delicious until they’re needed. Your

family will enjoy meals much like they’re already eating every day.”

Every 72-hour kit that’s being given away contains four servings each of such familiar dishes as Liberty Bell Potato Cheddar Soup, Blue Ribbon Creamy Chicken Rice, Travelers Stew, and the always loved Granny’s Homestyle Potato Soup.

The company’s usual price for the 72-hour kit is \$27.00 plus shipping. But gun owners who act quickly can pay only the \$9.95 shipping and handling fee through this program.

“We’re trying to ensure no gun owner gets left out, but they have to hurry because we have a limited supply of the 72-hour kits we can give away,” Boyle warned. “Once word got out that readers could get free survival food, our phones have been ringing off the hook. We actually had to add extra agents to keep up with the incredible demand.”

There is still time to take advantage of this free food offer, but be aware the program will end no matter what at midnight, October 31, 2016.

HOW TO GET YOUR FREE 72-HOUR SURVIVAL FOOD KIT:

Food4Patriots is committed to giving a free 72-hour kit to everyone who logs onto FreeFoodKit32.com or calls 1-800-365-7675. Just give the agent the approval code shown below. Provide your delivery instructions and agree to pay the \$9.95 shipping and handling fee for each kit claimed. That’s all there is to it.



1-800-365-7675



FREEFOODKIT32.COM

Approval Code: **72FREE** Offer Cut-Off Date: 10/31/2016

How Does Harbor Freight Sell GREAT QUALITY Tools at the LOWEST Prices?

We have invested millions of dollars in our own state-of-the-art quality test labs and millions more in our factories, so our tools will go toe-to-toe with the top professional brands. And we can sell them for a fraction of the price because we cut out the middle man and pass the savings on to you. It's just that simple! Come visit one of our 700+ Stores Nationwide.

SCISSOR SUPER COUPON

20% OFF

Limit 1 coupon per customer per day. Save 20% on any 1 item purchased. *Cannot be used with other discount, coupon or any of the following items or brands: Inside Track Club membership, Extended Service Plan, gift card, open box item, 3 day Parking Lot Sale item, automotive lifts, compressors, floor jacks, saw mills, storage cabinets, chests or carts, trailers, trenchers, welders, Admiral, Badland, CoverPro, Daytona, Diablo, Earthquake, Franklin, Grant's, Holt, Jupiter, Lynxx, Maddox, Portland, Predator, Stik-Tek, StormCat, Union, Vanguard, Viking. Not valid on prior purchases. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 1/6/17.



88365599

SCISSOR SUPER COUPON

FREE

WITH ANY PURCHASE

3-1/2" SUPER BRIGHT NINE LED ALUMINUM FLASHLIGHT



LOT 62522
65020
62573/69111
69052 shown

\$4.97
VALUE

LIMIT 1 - Cannot be used with other discount, coupon or prior purchase. Coupon good at our stores. HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Offer good while supplies last. Shipping & Handling charges may apply if not picked up in-store. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 1/6/17. Limit one FREE GIFT coupon per customer per day.



88350263

PITTSBURGH AUTOMOTIVE

#1 SELLING FLOOR JACKS IN AMERICA™

ALUMINUM RACING JACKS

- Lightweight aircraft aluminum
- Pit crew quality design

WOW SUPER COUPON

- Weighs 34 lbs.
- Lifts from 3-1/2" to 14-1/8"



Customer Rating
★★★★★

LOT 60569 shown
68053/69252
62160/62496/62516

**RAPID PUMP®
1.5 TON
ALUMINUM
RACING JACK**
\$59.99

SAVE \$60

~~\$89.99~~ comp at \$119.99



88352754

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SCISSOR SUPER COUPON

- Weighs 52.6 lbs.
- Lifts from 3-3/8" to 18-1/2"



NEW
Customer Rating
★★★★★

LOT 62531
62309 shown

**RAPID PUMP®
2.5 TON
ALUMINUM
RACING JACK**

SAVE \$50

\$149.99 comp at \$199.99



88356353

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SCISSOR SUPER COUPON

- Weighs 56 lbs.
- Lifts from 3-3/4" to 19-1/4"



Customer Rating
★★★★★

LOT 62248/62530
68052 shown

**RAPID PUMP®
3 TON
ALUMINUM
RACING JACK**

SAVE \$80

\$169.99 comp at \$249.99



88365598

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HEAVY DUTY STEEL JACKS

- Precision welded construction
- For professional mechanics

SCISSOR SUPER COUPON

- Weighs 74 lbs.
- Lifts from 5" to 18-1/4"



Customer Rating
★★★★★

LOT 69227
62116/62584
68048 shown

**RAPID PUMP®
3 TON HEAVY DUTY
STEEL FLOOR JACK**
\$79.99 comp at \$141.88

SAVE \$61



88366302

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SCISSOR SUPER COUPON

- Weighs 73 lbs.
- Lifts from 2-7/8" to 20"



Customer Rating
★★★★★

LOT 62326/61253
61282 shown

**RAPID PUMP®
3 TON LOW PROFILE
HEAVY DUTY STEEL
FLOOR JACK**

SAVE \$180

\$89.99 comp at \$269.99



88346451

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SCISSOR SUPER COUPON

- Weighs 99 lbs.
- Lifts from 2-5/8" to 23-3/4"



Customer Rating
★★★★★

LOT 68050/62310
60678 shown

**RAPID PUMP®
2 TON LOW PROFILE
LONG REACH
STEEL FLOOR JACK**

SAVE \$100

\$119.99 comp at \$219.99



88354406

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SCISSOR SUPER COUPON

2 PIECE VEHICLE WHEEL DOLLIES
PITTSBURGH AUTOMOTIVE

Customer Rating
★★★★★



LOT 60343
67338 shown
• 1500 lb. capacity

SAVE 41%

\$49.99 comp at \$85.99



88357097

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SCISSOR SUPER COUPON

PITTSBURGH AUTOMOTIVE
6 TON HEAVY DUTY STEEL JACK STANDS



LOT 69596
61197/62393
38847 shown

SAVE 50%

\$39.99 comp at \$79.99



88358199

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SCISSOR SUPER COUPON

PITTSBURGH MOTORCYCLE
1000 LB. CAPACITY MOTORCYCLE LIFT



- Lift range: 7" to 30"

Customer Rating
★★★★★

LOT 69904
68892 shown

SAVE \$874

\$299.99 comp at \$1173.99



88349288

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SUPER HIGH GLOSS FINISH

"We Are Impressed With the Quality... The Price is Incredible"
— *Car Craft Magazine*

INDUSTRIAL QUALITY EQUAL TO CABINETS THAT SELL FOR UP TO \$6000
QUALITY EQUAL TO SNAP-ON



YOU WON'T FIND A BIGGER, BETTER CABINET FOR THIS PRICE

INCLUDES FREE DRAWER LINERS

INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH



- Rolled edges on drawers for superior rigidity
- Strong and smooth ball-bearing slides



- Gas struts on lids for easy opening and closing



- Heavy-duty casters for mobility when fully loaded

SUPER COUPON

US GENERAL PRO **A** **44", 13 DRAWER ROLLER CABINET**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

LOT 69387/62744
63271/68784 shown

SAVE \$660

- 2633 lb. capacity
- Weighs 245 lbs.
- 14,200 cu. in. of storage

\$369⁹⁹

comp at \$1029.99

88382793

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SUPER COUPON

US GENERAL PRO **B** **56", 11 DRAWER INDUSTRIAL CABINET**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

LOT 69395
67681 shown

SAVE \$1100

- 3458 lb. capacity
- Weighs 441 lbs.

\$699⁹⁹

comp at \$1799.99

88390582

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SUPER COUPON

US GENERAL PRO **C** **30", 5 DRAWER TOOL CART**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

LOT 69397/61427
63308/95272 shown

SAVE \$230

- 704 lb. capacity

\$169⁹⁹

comp at \$399.99

88370503

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SUPER COUPON

US GENERAL PRO **D** **44", 8 DRAWER TOP TOOL CHEST**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

LOT 62500
68787 shown

SAVE \$631

- 559 lb. capacity

\$279⁹⁹

comp at \$910.99

88381632

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SUPER COUPON

US GENERAL PRO **E** **18" SIDE CABINET**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

LOT 62661/68991 shown

SAVE \$633

- 206 lb. capacity

\$179⁹⁹

comp at \$813.29

88376541

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SUPER COUPON

PITTSBURGH PRO **3/8" DRIVE PROFESSIONAL FLEX-HEAD RATCHET**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

LOT 62321

SAVE 76%

- Chrome vanadium construction
- Low-profile flexible head
- 72 tooth ratcheting mechanism

\$16⁹⁹

comp at \$71.46

88372155

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SUPER COUPON

US GENERAL PRO **F** **18", 7 DRAWER END CABINET**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

LOT 62580/68785 shown

SAVE \$2020

- 457 lb. capacity

\$179⁹⁹

comp at \$2200

88385642

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SUPER COUPON

US GENERAL PRO **G** **56", 8 DRAWER TOP CHEST**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

LOT 62662/61370 shown

SAVE \$630

- 1628 lb. capacity
- Weighs 260 lbs.

\$399⁹⁹

comp at \$1029.99

88390705

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WOW SUPER COUPON

US GENERAL PRO **26", 16 DRAWER ROLLER CABINET**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

LOT 61609/67831 shown

SAVE \$623

- 1060 lb. capacity
- 14,600 cu. in. of storage

\$329⁹⁹

comp at \$952.99

88378569

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SUPER COUPON

POWDER-FREE NITRILE GLOVES HARDY™ PACK OF 100

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

Item 68498 shown

SAVE 62%

\$5⁹⁹

comp at \$15.99

SIZE	LOT
MED	68496/61363
LG	68497/61360/97582
X-LG	68498/61359

YOUR CHOICE

88374759

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SUPER COUPON

US GENERAL PRO **56", 8 DRAWER TOP CHEST**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

LOT 62662/61370 shown

SAVE \$630

- 1628 lb. capacity
- Weighs 260 lbs.

\$399⁹⁹

comp at \$1029.99

88390705

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 • No Hassle Return Policy • On All Hand Tools

At Harbor Freight Tools, the "comp at" price means that the same item or a similar functioning item was advertised for sale at or above the "comp at" price by another retailer in the U.S. within the past 180 days. Prices advertised by others may vary by location. No other meaning of "comp at" should be implied. For more information, go to HarborFreight.com or see store associate.

SUPER COUPON

PITTSBURGH AUTOMOTIVE

4" MAGNETIC PARTS HOLDER

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

LOT 62535/90566 shown

SAVE 66%

\$1.99 comp at \$5.99

88411710



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SUPER COUPON

CHICAGO ELECTRIC

90 AMP FLUX WIRE WELDER

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

LOT 61849/62719 68887 shown

No Gas Required

SAVE \$50

\$99.99 comp at \$149.99

88390815

WE CARRY A FULL LINE OF WELDING WIRE



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WOW SUPER COUPON

29 PIECE TITANIUM NITRIDE COATED HIGH SPEED STEEL DRILL BIT SET

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

LOT 5889/62281/61637 shown

SAVE 78%

\$12.99 comp at \$59.97

88424770

NEW



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SUPER COUPON

4 PIECE 1" x 15 FT. RATCHETING TIE DOWNS

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

LOT 63056/63057/60405/63094 63150/61524/62322/90984 shown

SAVE 57%

\$7.99 comp at \$18.85

88424400

HaulMaster



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SUPER COUPON

PREDATOR GENERATORS

4000 PEAK/3200 RUNNING WATTS 6.5 HP (212 CC) GAS GENERATORS

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

LOT 63079/69729 63080/69676 shown

SAVE \$179

\$289.99 comp at \$469

88403880

70 dB Noise Level

CALIFORNIA ONLY



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CENTRAL PNEUMATIC

SUPER COUPON

"The Perfect Compressor with Powerful, Quiet and Consistent Airflow... Plus We Love the Low Price" - Street Trucks Magazine

2.5 HP, 21 GALLON, 125 PSI VERTICAL AIR COMPRESSOR

- Air delivery: 4.7 CFM @ 90 PSI 5.8 CFM @ 40 PSI

- Long life oil-lubricated motor
- Reduced vibration stabilizers

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

Heavy duty 2.5 HP motor

Single capacitor motor with thermal overload protection

SAVE \$337

\$159.99 comp at \$497



LOT 69091/67847 shown 61454/61693/62803

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SUPER COUPON

2 HP, 29 GALLON 150 PSI CAST IRON VERTICAL AIR COMPRESSOR

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

- Air delivery: 5.9 CFM @ 90 PSI 7.3 CFM @ 40 PSI

SAVE \$99

\$339.99 comp at \$439



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SUPER COUPON

3 GALLON, 100 PSI OILLESS PANCAKE AIR COMPRESSOR

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

- Air delivery: 0.6 CFM @ 90 PSI 1 CFM @ 40 PSI

SAVE 49%

\$49.99 comp at \$98.62



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SUPER COUPON

- Air delivery: 4.5 CFM @ 90 PSI 5.5 CFM @ 40 PSI

2 HP, 8 GALLON 125 PSI PORTABLE AIR COMPRESSOR

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

LOT 69667 68740 shown

SAVE \$59



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SUPER COUPON

- Air delivery: 5.3 CFM @ 90 PSI 6.2 CFM @ 40 PSI

2.5 HP, 10 GALLON 125 PSI OIL LUBE AIR COMPRESSOR

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

LOT 62802/67708 shown 61490/62441/69092

SAVE \$109



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WOW SUPER COUPON

- Air delivery: 2.5 CFM @ 90 PSI 3.4 CFM @ 40 PSI

1.5 HP, 6 GALLON 150 PSI OILLESS PROFESSIONAL AIR COMPRESSOR

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

SAVE \$69



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SUPER COUPON

RETRACTABLE AIR HOSE REEL WITH 3/8" x 50 FT. HOSE

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

SAVE \$129

\$59.99 comp at \$189



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SUPER COUPON

1/2" INDUSTRIAL QUALITY SUPER HIGH TORQUE IMPACT WRENCH

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

- 700 ft. lbs. max. torque

SAVE \$180

\$79.99 comp at \$259.99



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WOW SUPER COUPON

CENTRALPNEUMATIC 20 OZ. GRAVITY FEED SPRAY GUN

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

SAVE 79%

\$9.99 comp at \$49



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SUPER COUPON

NEW BADLAND

LOT 62435
61673 shown

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

SAVE 51%

\$19.99
comp at \$40.99

88444668

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SUPER COUPON

NEW BADLAND

**WIRELESS WINCH
REMOTE CONTROL**

LOT 61474
69229 shown

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

SAVE \$80

\$29.99
comp at \$109.99

88448527

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SUPER COUPON

**HITCH RECEIVER
MOUNT FOR WINCHES**

LOT 69106

SAVE 33%

**UNIVERSAL CHANNEL
WINCH MOUNT**

LOT 62446
90476 shown

YOUR CHOICE

\$39.99
comp at \$59.99

88434079

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SUPER COUPON

NEW BADLAND

**3/8" x 65 FT.
REPLACEMENT WINCH
CABLE WITH HOOK**

LOT 61667

SAVE 28%

\$29.99
comp at \$41.99

88439580

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SUPER COUPON

**42" OFF-ROAD/
FARM JACK**

PITTSBURGH AUTOMOTIVE

LOT 60668/6530 shown

• 3-1/2 ton capacity

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

SAVE 23%

\$45.99
comp at \$59.99

88435763

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SUPER COUPON

SAVE \$453

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**Innovation Leads to
Top Performance**

Highly efficient, low amp-draw
6 HP state-of-the-art Neutron
Motor that is packed with muscle
to maximize pulling capacity and
deliver superfast linespeeds.



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OFF-ROAD WINCHES

**12,000 LB. ELECTRIC WINCH
WITH REMOTE CONTROL AND
AUTOMATIC BRAKE**

LOT 61256/61889
68142/60813 shown

**Reliable and Dependable
When it Counts Most**

Safety first, with the state-of-the-art
completely sealed solenoids,
sliding ring gear and automatic
load holding brake.

**Heavy Duty Rugged Battle
Tested Construction**

Re-designed and re-engineered
super efficient planetary gear train,
aircraft grade galvanized steel wire
rope that has a breaking strength of
14,400 lbs. and salt spray resistant
coatings to combat corrosion.

\$299.99
~~\$399.99~~
comp at \$752.99

SUPER COUPON

OFF-ROAD WINCHES

**9000 LB. ELECTRIC WINCH
WITH REMOTE CONTROL
AND AUTOMATIC BRAKE**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

SAVE \$100

\$249.99
comp at \$349.99



LOT 61346/61325/62596/62278 shown



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SUPER COUPON

POWERSPORT WINCHES

**5000 LB. ELECTRIC WINCH
WITH REMOTE CONTROL AND
AUTOMATIC BRAKE**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

SAVE \$157

\$169.99
comp at \$326.99



LOT 68144 shown
61384/61605



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SUPER COUPON

POWERSPORT WINCHES

**3500 LB. ELECTRIC WINCH
WITH REMOTE CONTROL
AND AUTOMATIC BRAKE**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

SAVE \$312

\$119.99
comp at \$432



LOT 61604/61383
61257 shown



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SUPER COUPON

POWERSPORT WINCHES

**2500 LB. ELECTRIC WINCH
WITH WIRELESS
REMOTE CONTROL**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

SAVE \$100

\$59.99
comp at \$159.99



LOT 61258 shown
61840/61297/68146



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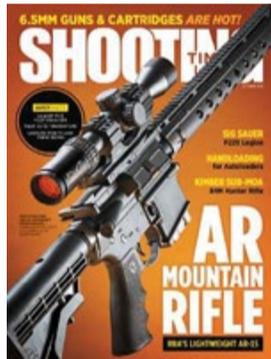


THE CLASSICS: 1891 MOSIN-NAGANT RIFLE

The 1891 Mosin-Nagant rifle served as the primary Russian battle rifle through both World Wars, and it saw service in many conflicts throughout the 20th century. Garry James examines a rare Remington-made Mosin-Nagant that was produced in the U.S. in 1917 for export to Russian troops during World War I.

READ ABOUT IT AT gunsandammo.com/classics-mosin-nagant

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AIRING THE WEEK OF

GUNS&AMMO television

2016
29
AUGUST



The SIG Sauer MPX 9mm is a headliner this week. G&A editors go through its features in the show's "At The Range" segment.

2016
5
SEPTEMBER



Hornady raised the bar on long-range rifle bullet accuracy using Doplar radar in developing its ELD and ELD-X line. Watch and find out how.

2016
12
SEPTEMBER



G&A reviews a new shotgun accessory kit from Blackhawk that converts a pump-action field gun to one that's dressed for personal defense.

2016
19
SEPTEMBER



Walther has made believers out of handgunners by showcasing well-grounded German engineering in its new Walther PPQ .45.

2016
26
SEPTEMBER



Kimber continues to be a trendsetter and expand its semiauto lineup, and you're going to be impressed with its new offerings in the Kimber Pro CDP II family.

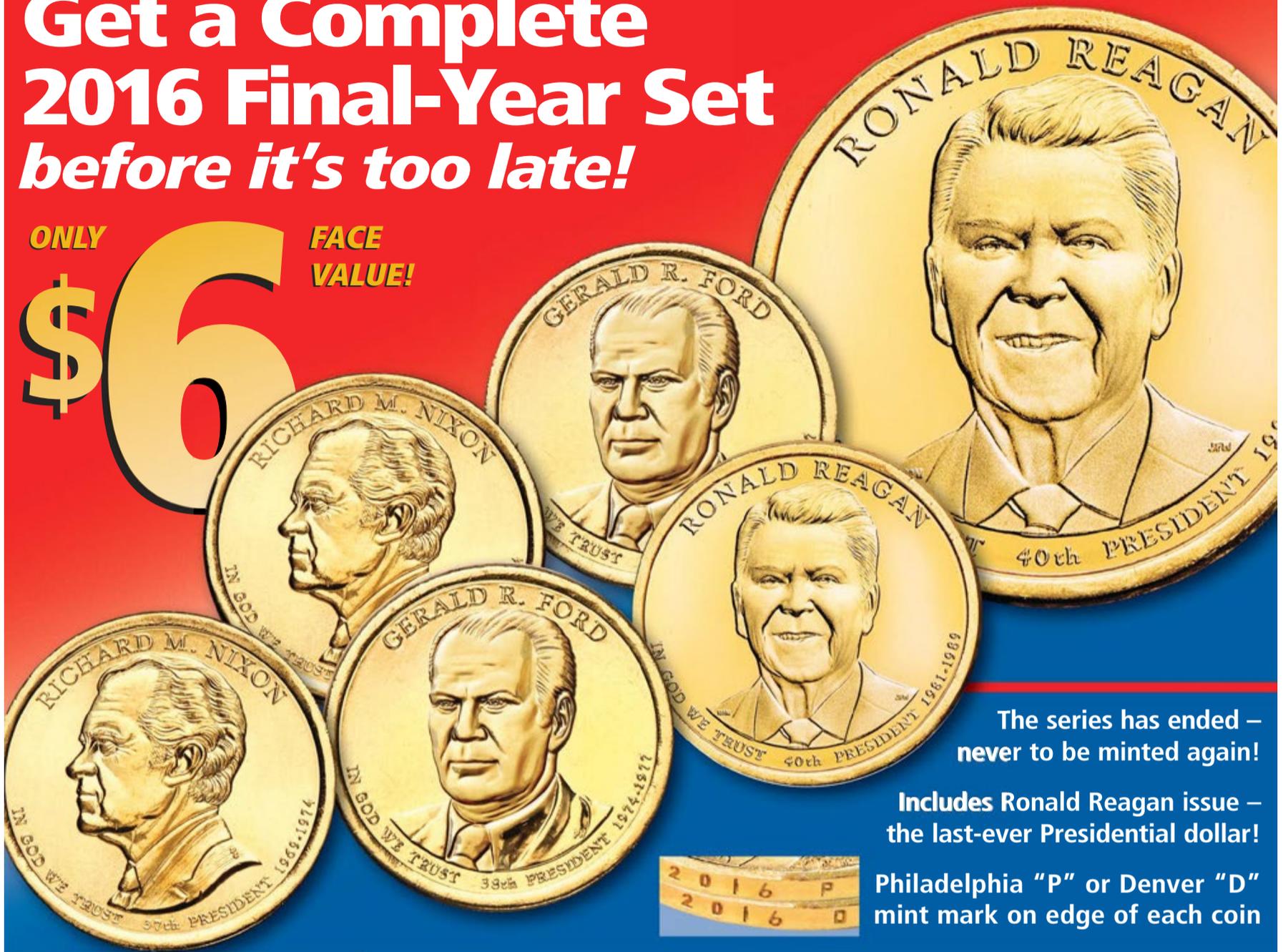
AIR TIMES ARE EASTERN

Monday 1:00 p.m.
Monday 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday 12:00 a.m.
Thursday 2:00 p.m.

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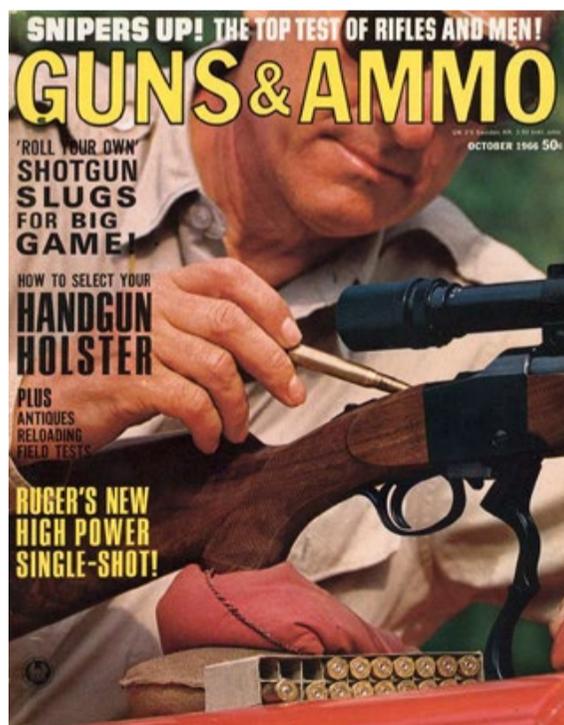
SPENT CASES



MAN & MACHINES

ROGER BARLOW loved guns and cars. Born March 4, 1912, in Minneapolis, his family moved to New York and he later moved to California. He made his living as a Hollywood producer, director, writer, photographer and, after World War II, he worked as an exotic car dealer. He split a showroom with a Nash dealer in Beverly Hills, California, and sold cars to the likes of Ansel Adams, Gary Cooper, Bing Crosby, Robert Frost and Clark Gable. He lived life through racing and shooting and writing about his experiences. For more than 35 years, Barlow wrote for motor magazines, including *Autoweek*, *Car and Driver*, *Motor Trend* and *Road & Track* and penned articles on firearm developments for *American Rifleman*, *Guns*, *GunSport*, *Guns & Ammo*, *Shooting Times* and *Sports Afield*. Many of these titles were once created and owned by the late publisher Robert Petersen, who shared interests and a friendship with Barlow.

Barlow's passion for both cars and guns often merged in his photography and writing. Even while writing about



firearms and hunting, he included illustrations and comments on the performance of the vehicles he was driving. Though he had several pieces written about Chrysler, Ford and General Motors, his personal letters indicate that he was more interested in foreign brands, such as Bugatti, Fiat, Mercedes-Benz, Rolls-Royce, Rover, Talbot, Volkswagen and Volvo. While posing for the October 1966 *Guns & Ammo* cover photo on the introduction of Ruger's No. 1, another photo in the series (above) was discovered in G&A archives illustrating that he was evaluating the single-shot rifle atop the hood of a red 1966 Land Rover Series II Station Wagon.

Barlow was an accomplished racer who won several events in the early 1950s behind the wheel of a blue Simca, his self-described alter ego. As a driver, he made many trips across the U.S. in cars, such as the 1936 DKW and a Nash 600. He completed his 100th crossing between Dec. 26, 1988, and Jan. 2, 1989, at the age of 76 in a 12-cylinder Jaguar. Barlow died on May 9, 1990. 



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