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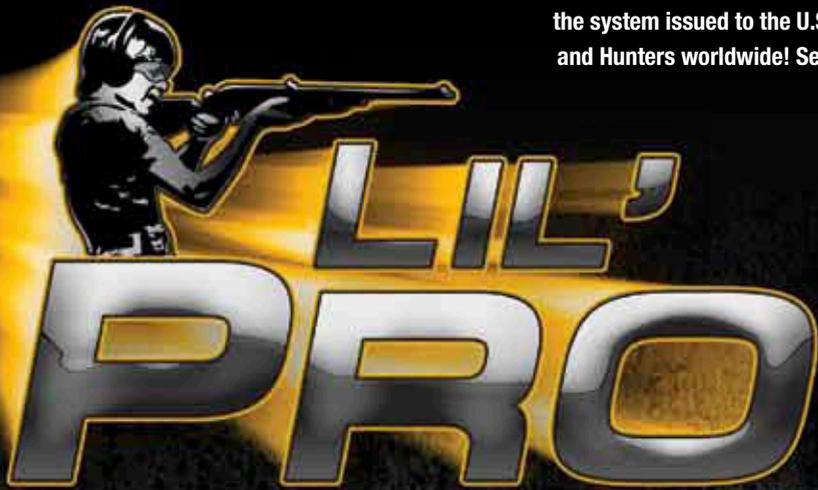
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GUNS

MAGAZINE

JUNE 2011
Vol. 57, Number 6, 667th Issue



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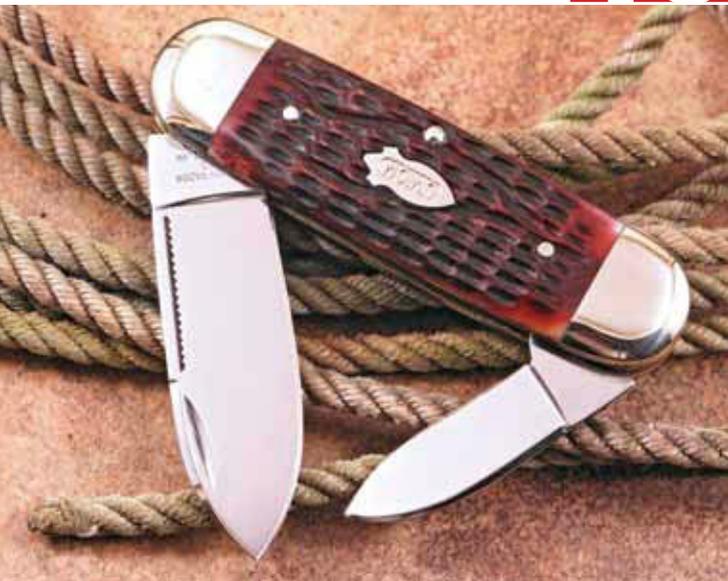
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Illegal To Hunt With Circuit Judge

In the April 2011 issue of *GUNS Magazine*, author Holt Bodinson talks about his ability to shoot a limit of doves with the Rossi Circuit Judge. The "Circuit Judge" is a .45 Long Colt/.410 shotshell revolver-type rifle. If you look at the pictures in the article, it shows the 5-shot cylinder fitted with a removable plastic "plug" so the hunter can "comply with the game laws."

We have reviewed the article with folks in the Migratory Bird Management program. It appears that the plug can be removed without disassembling the gun. Disassembling is a key component to our regulations in 20.21(b) on what hunting methods are illegal. Since you can remove the plug without disassembling the firearm, the Migratory Bird Management Office has advised us that this gun should be deemed as illegal to use to take migratory birds.

Our regulations state that no persons shall take migratory game birds:

20.21(b) With a shotgun of any description capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a 1-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells.

However, this restriction does not apply during:

(1) A light-geese-only season (greater and lesser snow geese and Ross' geese) when all other waterfowl and crane hunting seasons, excluding falconry, are closed.

(2) A Canada goose only season when all other waterfowl and crane hunting seasons, excluding falconry, are closed in the Atlantic, Central and Mississippi Flyway portions of Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire,

New Mexico, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming, as set forth below:

(i) During the period of September 1 to September 15, when approved in the annual regulatory schedule in subpart K of this part; and (ii) During the period of September 16 to September 30, when approved in the annual regulatory schedule in subpart K of this part.

Kevin Garlick
Special Agent in Charge
Office of Law Enforcement
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"Special Event" Camo

Tell John Taffin I'm pulling for him; get well ASAP. It gave me the willies the first time I saw a picture of him with a semi-automatic in his hands instead of a sixgun. It borders on the absurd. It is just wrong. Lots of guys gave Duke a hard time over the Hawaiian shirt. I thought it a bit odd until I realized he could easily sneak up on bad guys in a flower garden that way. Sort of a special event camo.

I don't know how you came across Pat Covert, but you have got the right guy. I met him at a knife show long ago, and as you all can see, he knows his stuff, and can make a knife along with the best of them. I'd like to know, but never will, what he really thinks about some of the silly grinds and designs I see these days. Some of these blades would be in their own way if you tried to use them, and be extremely difficult to sharpen. One thing that needs to be said is that there is a reason professional hunters and survival trainers carry a sheath knife over a folder, and so should you when going into the wilds. You have two great magazines there and I hope they live on forever.

Chris Johnsen
via e-mail

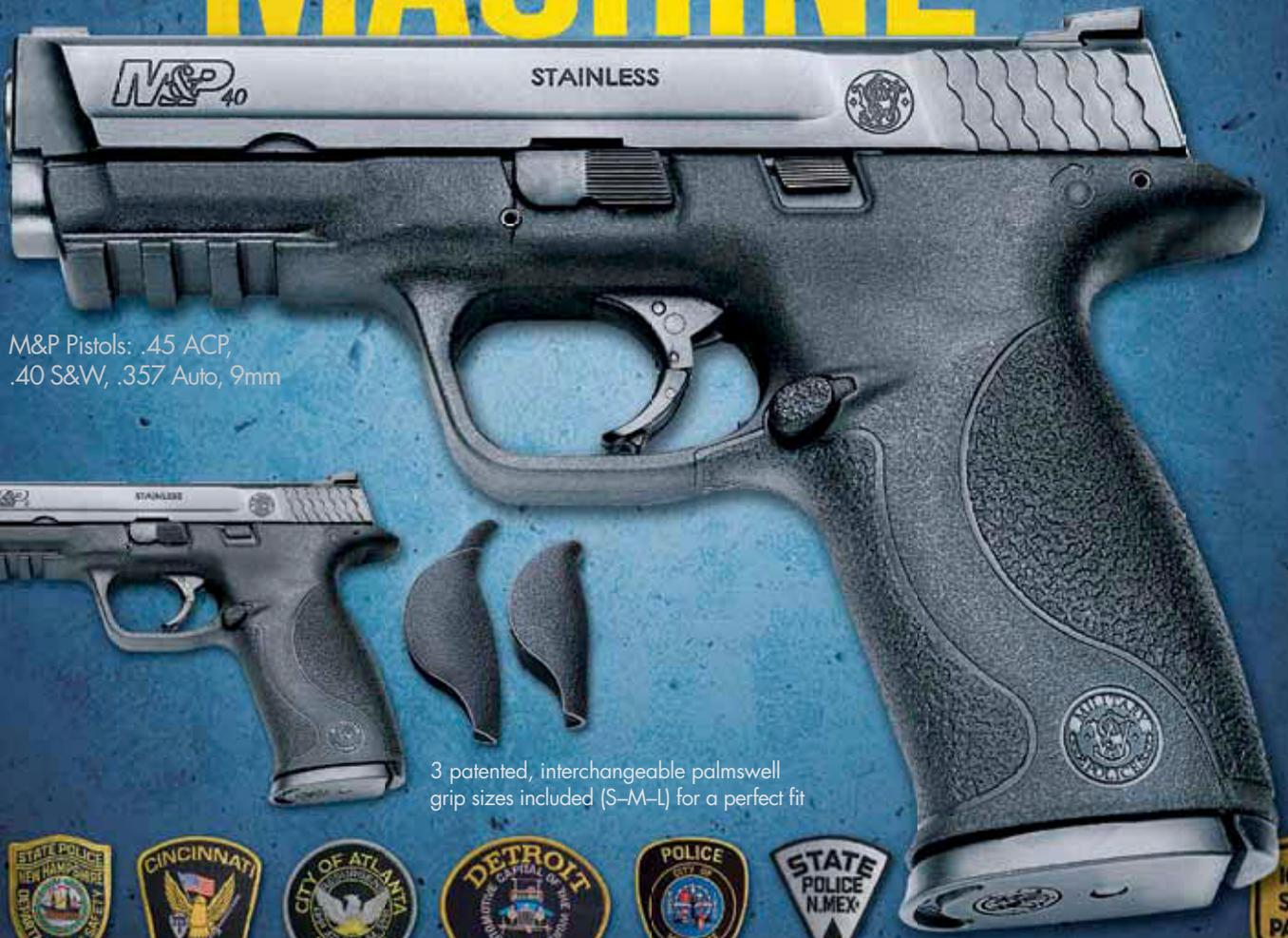


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“GOING TO THE MOUNTAINS!”

“We’re going to the mountains! We’re gettin’ outta here!” Jed Eckert, *Red Dawn*, 1984.

After many years we have sort of a standard joke here at the ranch. We are removed from much of the mass humanity of the big cities, with the house and range being at 5,500' in the mountains of southern Oregon. Being somewhat remote, we often hear, “Man, if it goes south, like real Armageddon, I am going to the mountains to get away from the city and hide out!”

Well, this is funny after a fashion and even funnier now as there is a YouTube gig where sort of South Park-like characters talk of “going to the mountains.” Bluntly, it is hilarious and even more so because I have said these exact words to many students over the years. They come up with the “going to the mountains” and my response is “man have you ever been in the mountains? Especially in the winter?”

With images of the Wolverines from *Red Dawn* in their head, I issue a smiling but firm reminder: perception vs. reality in this case is a big deal—and dangerously misleading. So even if you “go to the mountains,” assuming the roads are open, your cell phone, GPS and other electric

junk will not work. Which, if it “goes south” is probably OK, as all that crap will simply point someone to your location. That will be a bad idea since you are going to the mountains to hide, right?

I’m pretty sure all that stuff will be down eventually anyways, the batteries will die or the satellite systems will be shut off by the remaining entity in charge of the new rodeo. Anyways, you need something to haul all your junk to the mountains and, since it is the mountains, eventually you will run out of roads so you’ll want to be able to pack all your stuff into the mountains to your retreat. Remember: “pack in” like on your back in a pack.

So cars, trucks, etc. are a good deal as they carry lots of stuff, but only so

far. And motorcycles? Remember, as they say in Texas, “Y’all be mindful of all them there cables strung across the roads.” Yeah, bike guys are going to be in for a shock when they “go South or North” because many who live in the mountains plan on obstructing the easy routes of travel like forest roads, paths, trails and so forth, or it could seem that way to the fledging wannabe Wolverines.

Just Kidding!

OK, we’ve had some fun and you can decide how serious this all is. There are a couple of things you should know about the mountains—I mean since you’re coming to live here and all.

Guns

In really crappy cold weather, your black AR will not work as you might hope. This is because your city-like lube will be in trouble here in the mountains when it is like 0 degrees outside for nearly all of January and most of February—maybe even March and April, which will be better but really wet because it rains a lot in the mountains, but I digress. The rifle (personal experience and tested information from a very knowledgeable mountain man John Noveske) has proven the use of a medium/light oil on the bolt/carrier and action spring in *cold* weather.

When it does warm up (if you live through the mosquito hatch) and the weather becomes more moderate

This photo is not out of focus, the blowing wind and snow of your new mountain home makes life difficult—and cold. Staying low is important. Staying warm maybe another thing.





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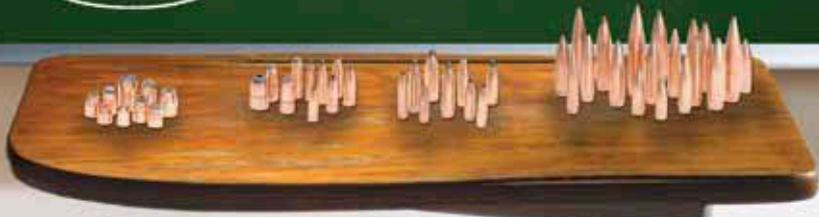


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RANGING SHOTS



This well camoed guy is maybe not blending well in his new environment. Blending correctly in your new home means having cover-ups of some nature.



to even hot, (remember sunscreen at your new high-elevation home or you'll turn into a lobster) now use light grease on the action spring/buffer and the same grease can be used on the bolt and carrier. Don't confuse which lube for the correct time of the year, as the light grease will get real tacky and sluggish to a point of failure if it is real cold out. The cycle of operation will slow and it will fail.

The single biggest point is *do not over lube your rifle*. Many of the failures we see with the rifles are caused by over lubrication that gathers more crud, which in turn shuts down the rifle. Dry, clean magazines means taking the ammo out of the magazines regularly and cleaning them (don't worry, you won't have much else to do



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in the mountains except take care of your gear and hide... and try to stay warm... and try to find food... and find or make water... just subtle things).

For bolt-action rifles, keep the bolt, chamber area and where the lugs lock up clean and dry. On M1A-type systems light grease is always correct and if it gets cold I get almost all of it off the rifle. Truly the "little dab'll do ya" is true on the rifle. AKs follow the same rules as the M1A-type rifles. On all of the above keep the magazines and ammunition as dry and clean as possible.

Although many people poo-poo them, the MagPul magazines are good because they come apart easily for cleaning, so most of your attention can be directed to cleaning the magazine spring and putting clean ammo back into the magazines. Under calibers, I would stay with what you know to be most popular .223/5.56, 7.62x39, .308 and maybe a .300 Win Mag and so on. Handgun calibers are easy, even if handguns are not all that functional for mountain work, 9mm .40 S&W, .45 ACP. I would avoid exotic ammunition for your mountain guns, as chances are you might not be able to find the "Cosine-Indicating Computerized Environments Gathering .33/398 Bazooka Tactical



This stuff (below) may be useful in the mountains. This other stuff (above) may not be so useful in the mountains.



Operator" ammunition. There's not much of that here in the mountains from what I have seen.

A set of iron sights on whatever your rifle is might be a good thing. A .22 something might be good for small-game taking after the Omaha steaks and beer run out, and the .22 LR is pretty quiet for food gathering. You probably won't want to share your newly acquired scrawny rabbit with the motorcycle gangs that moved into the woods when you did.

Water resistant—eventually there is no such thing as waterproof, at least in the mountains—warm layered clothing. Remember colors or cover-ups, as your cool digital something will be an eyesore in the newly fallen 3' of snow you're hiding in.

Get some good boots, as those Fuzzy Uggy things won't cut it here up high. Consider a first aid bag—or at minimum bring an EMT with you (I have Heidi) as the hospital is closed up here in the mountains. And for God's sake don't get hurt, as the dust off chopper—you'll need an flo-orange air panel so they can find you—will mark your mountain hideout to others.

If you want a good pack get an Eberlestock. And most of all... welcome to the mountains y'all. **GUNS**

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—J. of San Bernardino, CA



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RIFLEMAN

• DAVE ANDERSON •

TRIGGERS And grip.

The fundamentals of accurate shooting are (1) the gun must be held as motionless as possible, and (2) the gun must be held the same way for every shot. The fundamentals apply whether the firearm is a handgun, rifle or a piece of artillery.

We can't hold the rifle absolutely motionless shooting in the field. The sight system accomplishes two things: It helps us index the rifle on the target we are trying to hit, and it shows us how steady our hold is. The essence of marksmanship is to control the trigger in order to release the shot while the sights are indexed on target.

With an optical sight (scope or red dot) anyone can figure out in a matter of seconds, how to index the system on target. With a few basic lessons most people can quickly figure out how to improvise a rest in order to hold the rifle reasonably still.

But learning trigger control takes time and effort. I don't know of any shortcuts. In fact, I think it is a skill we never stop learning and never really master. Let's start by describing what it is we are trying to accomplish. The best description I've read is from the handgunning great Bill Blankenship, whose record of national and world titles would take this entire page to list.

Blankenship used the term "positive pressure" to describe trigger control: the trigger is pressed straight back at a constantly increasing speed, without imparting any movement to the firearm. Blankenship wrote, "Do not mistake the term positive pressure. It does not mean sudden. It means gradual without hesitation... because pressure is constantly increasing, this does not require great lengths of time." (from *The Pistol Shooter's Treasury, 2nd Edition*, ©1973, Gil Hebard).

Blankenship noted at the start of each competition season he would first spend one to three weeks practicing nothing but the trigger press. He would rest his arm across a chair so as not to concern himself with holding the gun still, then focus on the sights and press the trigger through, over and over again.

The objective was to make the trigger press a subconscious skill. In competition he could simply concentrate on holding the gun still. When the sight picture was acceptable,

this subconscious skill would press the trigger through to break the shot.

Better Triggers, Better Shooting

A quality trigger pull makes trigger control much easier. Shooters focus (perhaps too much) on weight of pull which is just one factor, and not the most important one. I have rifles with single-stage pulls, double-stage pulls, a couple with set triggers and with pull weights running from 1 pound to 3-1/2 to 4 pounds.

I can manage most any reasonable trigger provided it is consistent. A pull which varies more than a couple of ounces from shot to shot, or which has "creep" or "steps" in the pull, has to be fixed or replaced. I can shoot such a trigger from a bench rest but from offhand or other field positions I can't stand it.

A welcome change in recent years has been the improvement in factory trigger pulls. Ron Coburn of Savage deserves great credit for the introduction of the Savage AccuTrigger. Today many popular rifles have quite decent pulls out of the box.

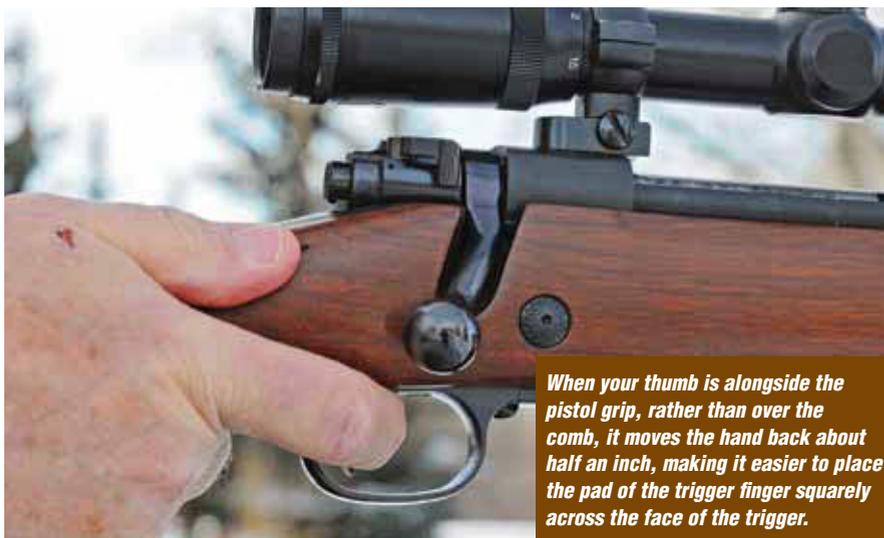
If the factory trigger can't be adjusted to a satisfactory pull, there are quality replacements available. The easiest way to see what's offered for your rifle is to check Brownells online or get the current catalog. Triggers I've used with excellent results include Jewell, Rifle Basix, Shilen and Timney and there are others, which I am sure are very good as well.

Grip Variations

The most popular way to grip a rifle with the shooting hand is with the thumb across the pistol grip. I used this hold for decades and was as convinced of its correctness as I am of the sun rising in the east.

A few years ago, taking some photos of Jerry Miculek shooting a rifle, I noticed he keeps the thumb of his right (shooting) hand laid along the right side of the rifle, roughly parallel to the bore.

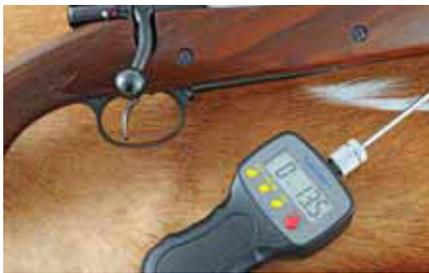
I decided to try this grip, mainly to prove to myself it wasn't as good. Well, I've decided I like this grip better. It lets me move the hand a bit



When your thumb is alongside the pistol grip, rather than over the comb, it moves the hand back about half an inch, making it easier to place the pad of the trigger finger squarely across the face of the trigger.



Dave requested a 3-pound pull on his Al Biesen custom Winchester 70. This is an average of 10 tries, with a variation of no more than an ounce either way.



In its "unset" mode, the trigger pull of this CZ 550 breaks at about 4-1/2 pounds. Pushing the trigger forward puts it in "set" mode, from which it breaks at a touch with a pull under a pound.



Yes, a semi-auto rifle can have a top-quality pull. The Jewell trigger on this Les Baer rifle has a 2-stage pull, breaks at 26 ounces and is completely reliable.

further back so the pad of the trigger finger can rest squarely across the face of the trigger. I seem to grip the rifle more lightly, and the trigger finger seems more relaxed.

I first started using this hold for bench shooting, where it helped avoid "steering" or placing sideways pressure on the rifle with the shooting hand. Eventually it came to feel so comfortable and natural I use it for all shooting positions (though of course not with a thumbhole or "AR"-style stock).

It's not something I feel adamant about and others may not like this grip style, but give it a try. You may like it.

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New shotgun ammo for 2011.

What drives the firearms industry faster than any other factors? It's new calibers and improvements in ammunition. In the world of shotgunning, our calibers seem to be pretty well set in concrete. What keeps the buzz up are innovative pellet and slug designs and higher and higher payload velocities. The year 2011 is no exception, with the appearance of some really wild stuff.

The first odd shot shape I ever came across was contained in some FN shells loaded in Belgium. The lead shot was formed into perfectly square-faced cubes, and the shell that held them was marketed under the label, "Dispersante." You could call it a spreader load of sorts, designed for close work in upland covers or for hunting ducks and geese over decoys. Being square with sharp edges and corners, the "Dispersante" shot had a reputation for really cutting up tissue and organs at close range. Well, the "Dispersante" concept is back again under a new, improved label.

Hex Shot

Winchester is calling its new cubical-shaped shot, a hexahedron, or "Hex" for short. The new approved-for-waterfowl Hex shot

features rounded, not sharp, edges and corners. Because of its shape, it can be more easily stacked inside the shot cup providing up to 15 percent more non-toxic shot in each shell. The 12-gauge Hex loads are available in 3" and 3-1/2" with 1-3/8"- and 1-5/8"-ounce payloads of BBs or No. 2s at 1,400 fps and will be introduced under the "Blind Side" label. "They'll never see it coming!" Get it? Or as the additional ad copy reads, "Hex Shot is designed to hit waterfowl like high-velocity tumbling bricks—creating massive wound channels, preventing over penetration and maximizing energy deposit and knock-down shock within the bird."

Complementing the Hex shot is a new wad called the "Blind Side Diamond Cut Wad." "Diamond Cut" refers to three diamond-shaped

petals located along the sides of the wad, that deploy once the wad exits the muzzle and act as tiny air brakes to separate the wad from the shot column. Winchester claims the new wad greatly improves patterns at all ranges. We've requested some "Blind Side" ammunition for testing and will report on the results as soon as we receive it.

Slug Loads

There are some wicked new slug offerings this year from a Latvian firm, D. Dupleks, and an old favorite, Brenneke.

The most interesting of the D. Dupleks slug designs is a clever blending of a polymer wad, core and bore-riding bands with a metallic, lead-free exoskeleton (actually steel) that peels out into six cutting blades upon impact. The photograph of an expanded D. Dupleks slug illustrates the concept of the design.

The slug is not designed to exit, but to expend all of its energy within the target. Its terminal effect depends upon the type of slug and what kind of tissue or bone it strikes. The slug is either designed to stay together as an enlarged cutting machine or designed to fragment with the six steel petals shearing off the main body of the slug and following separate trajectories, creating six separate wound channels.

What caught my eye at the SHOT Show was D. Dupleks' 2-1/2" .410 slug loading, the DUPO 7 Short Magnum, featuring a 110-grain slug with a muzzle velocity of 1,670 fps. The DUPO 7 has been optimized for use in the Taurus Judge and Circuit Judge models. The .410 slug itself is designed to expand in diameter to 1" and then fragment creating seven wound channels. This is a wicked load which will find an additional home when Smith & Wesson's new 6-shot, .410 revolver, the "Governor," begins arriving on dealers' shelves. D. Dupleks offers a variety of high-tech slugs for the 12, 16 and 20 gauges available from the US distributor, DKG Trading.

Brenneke of America is coming on strong, with a variety of improved slugs now being loaded for them by Polywad for strict quality control



The Blind Side Diamond Cut Wad as used in Winchester's Hex load deploys diamond-shaped air brakes to separate wad and shot.

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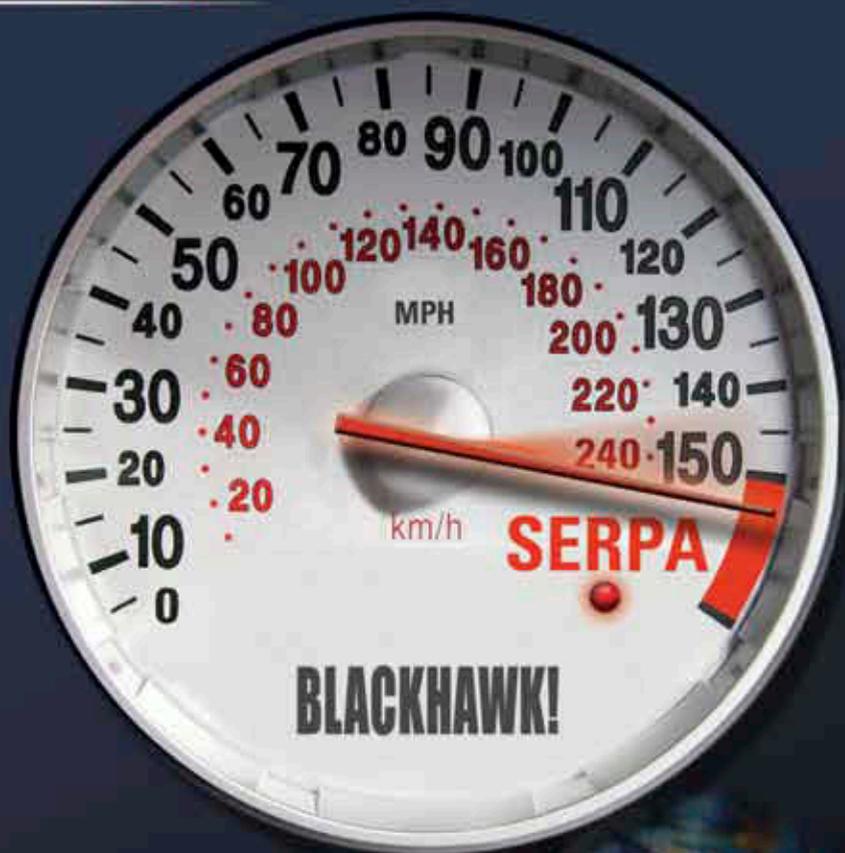
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purposes. Brenneke slugs follow more conventional lines, but they're highly accurate and stable from either a smoothbore or rifled-shotgun barrel while offering deep penetration with minimal deformation.

The new Brenneke catalog is an eye opener. It is filled with color photographs of comparative slug tests made by Tom Burczynski, the terminal ballistics genius who invented bullets like the Hydra-Shok. Every page illustrates the terminal performance of five competing brands of slugs compared to a Brenneke design. It's revealing data.

What's exciting in the line this year are a new .410 slug, a new 28-gauge slug and a 12-gauge "Tactical Home Defense" slug. The box of the .410 slug, which is a 1/4-ounce slug at a velocity of 1,500 fps, mentions its application in revolvers as well as shotguns.

Equally handgun compatible will be the 5/8-ounce, 28-gauge slug at a velocity of 1,450 fps when loaded in the outrageous 28-gauge "Raging Judge" revolver just introduced by Taurus. That said, it's darn nice to have a slug load for the pleasant shooting 28 gauge. I'll be carrying a couple in my coat during the next dove season for the occasional itinerant coyote.

Reduced Recoil Slug

The 2-3/4" 12 gauge, reduced recoil, Tactical Home Defense loading is designed for maximum impact, while minimizing over-penetration to protect innocent bystanders. It features a full-diameter 438-grain slug with a velocity of 1,256 fps, which expends all of its energy within the first 13" of a block of ballistic gelatin.

Non-lethal shotgun ammunition is an attractive alternative to many homeowners for either self-defense or critter control. Lightfield makes and markets a variety of non-lethal, rubber and polymer projectiles, including loads for the 20 gauge and .410.

Lightfield is quick to point out that although their non-lethal projectiles



Winchester's new Hex shot takes the form of a rounded-off cube. Because of its smoother shape, cubic Hex shot can be accurately stacked inside a wad for an increased payload.

are perfect for pain producing warning shots and minimize any danger to innocent persons nearby or in adjoining rooms, they could, at close range or when delivered to the head, neck, spine and upper chest area, do serious injury.

The .410 2-1/2" loading features four 41-caliber rubber buckshot with a total weight of 42 grains. Fired from a 18"-barreled shotgun, the buckshot have a velocity of 1,400 fps. Velocity from a 4"-barreled revolver was 1,150 fps and from a 2" derringer was 1,000 fps.

The 20-gauge 2-3/4" shell is loaded with two 60-caliber rubber balls, having a total weight of 67 grains and a velocity of 900 fps from an 18" barrel.

The 12-gauge 2-3/4" loadings include a kitchen sponge-looking, multi-fingered, rubber star with a weight of 75 grains, a velocity of 850 fps and an effective range of no more than 15 yards. A longer ranging, 73-caliber, hard-rubber slug with a weight of 130 grains and

a velocity of 600 fps, is designed to be shot from cylinder or IC barrels only.

Whether lethal or non-lethal, shotgun ammunition innovations in 2011 are pretty impressive. **GUNS**

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MONTANA MUSINGS

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

CAVITIES The mould ones.

In the past 50 years, I've had precisely one cavity in my teeth. That's good. As pertains to handgun bullet moulds, one cavity is bad. That's an area where I want lots of cavities—at least three and maybe four.

I learned this the hard way in 1968 because upon getting my very first US Model 1911A1 .45 ACP I could only afford a single-cavity bullet mould. It was Lyman 452374 for a 225-grain roundnose. Pouring enough bullets to feed that pistol was bad enough, but then our local chief of police began allowing his son and me to take out the department's Thompson submachine gun. Several times I stayed up near all night casting bullets and loading .45s so we could shoot that thing for less than an hour the next day. That experience soured me on single-cavity moulds for handgun calibers.

RCBS

By 1971, I was a hardcore .38 Special/.357 Magnum shooter and coincidentally money was a bit freer. So I ordered a Lachmiller brand 3-cavity mould for a 150-grain semi-wadcutter. Talk about a change! Never again did I have to stay up till the early morning hours to have enough handgun bullets—at least for that bore size. I cast tens of thousands of bullets with that Lachmiller mould. It's still with me and casts bullets as good as when new.

Eventually the Lachmiller firm was absorbed by RCBS, but the latter company made a big mistake, in my humble gun'rter opinion. They stopped making bullet moulds holding more than two cavities. Don't get me wrong. I am a great fan of RCBS bullet moulds, currently there are dozens on my shelves with nary a bad one among them. But I've been told their mould making process precludes cutting ones with three or four cavities. That's too bad because they have some very well thought out handgun bullet designs. Which means you will shoot lots of them, which in turn means a double-cavity mould is a lot more work.

Lyman & Ideal

Lyman is our oldest name in bullet moulds. It dates back to about 1926 when the Lyman Gunsight Corporation bought out the Ideal company that had been in the bullet mould business since the 1880s. At one time Lyman offered bullet moulds for virtually every metallic cartridge you might reload. Their handgun moulds came in 1-, 2- and 4-cavity versions. For some reason they ignored triple-



Duke's all time favorites as pertains to handgun bullet mould cavities are triple ones, such as this Redding/SAECO mould (above) he uses for .30 Carbine bullets. At one time Duke thought that bullet moulds with each cavity cut for a different design were intriguing (below). He found out in practical use they were not so great.



cavity moulds.

When I was a young and still relatively inexperienced caster, one of the more intriguing moulds I encountered was a Lyman "four holer" in which each of the cavities was a different design of .45-caliber handgun bullet. I was very close to plunking down the cash for it when this thought entered my head, "What if I end up favoring one of the cavities more than the others? Then in practical effect I'm back to casting with a single-cavity mould and a much heavier one to boot." So I passed it up. Still the concept intrigued me, and years later at a gun show, upon seeing a used Lyman double-cavity mould with one hole as a .45 and the other

For casting bullets for handguns Duke prefers 3- and 4-cavity bullet moulds.



as a .38, I bought it. I was correct the first time—it's a relatively useless thing in a practical sense.

Now possessed of two vintage .45 ACP submachine guns and many more pistols and revolvers chambered for that round I have finally corrected my 1968 mistake. My most recently acquired handgun bullet mould is a 4-cavity Lyman one for bullet 452374. For my many 9mm Parabellum firearms I've had very good luck with Lyman's mould 356242 for a 120-grain roundnose, but alas, Lyman only offers that one as a 2-cavity mould.

Redding

In the 1980s Redding Reloading Equipment added the SAECO line of bullet moulds to their catalogs. These are made in 1-, 2-, 4- and—happily for me—3-cavity versions. I have such for their bullet 302, a 120-grain gas checked, roundnose which is fed to my assortment of .30 Carbines. Also I have a 3-cavity 442 for a 246-grain roundnose meant for .44 Russian and .44 Special. Once I borrowed a friend's SAECO 442 3-cavity mould. Then I timed myself for exactly an hour using both moulds alternately. Over 500 good .44s were poured in 60 minutes.

At this point a reader might be excused for thinking, "Duke the above



This is Duke's casting setup for handgun bullets. Note the big pile of fresh cast bullets at lower right.

paragraphs indicate you have a soft spot for triple-cavity bullet moulds. Why favor them over 4-cavity moulds?" It is so and here's the reason. In the four decades since I bought my first triple-cavity mould, I find that seldom has one been opened after a pour that did not contain three good bullets. On the other hand, it seems that quite often when I open one of my 4-cavity bullet moulds after a pour, it also contains three good bullets. Perhaps it's just a failing on my part but that's the cause of my mild prejudice about bullet-mould cavities.

Regardless, I'll end this with one prediction. That is that jacketed bullets

are going to continue to climb in price. The worldwide metals market insures that. So people who like to shoot handguns a lot are going to begin pouring their own in greater numbers and they're going to think like me. That is, the more cavities the merrier—except in regards to teeth.

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HANDLOADING

• JOHN BARNES •

HANDLOADING THE .338 LAPUA MAGNUM

The big rifles and big bullets are long on performance.

The .338 Lapua Magnum was developed as a military sniper cartridge to bridge the vast gap between the 7.62 NATO (.308 Winchester) and the .50 BMG. The original search was for a round that could reliably penetrate several layers of body armor at 1,000 meters with a reasonably portable rifle. After some testing, 33 caliber appeared to be the likeliest candidate, and the original specifications were for a 250-grain bullet started at 3,000 fps.

Essentially the .338 Lapua is a necked-down .416 Rigby, with the body slightly shortened. Water capacity with a 250-grain Sierra MatchKing seated to the standard overall cartridge length of 3.68" is right around 98 grains. This is only about 5 grains more than the smaller .340 Weatherby Magnum case, itself capable of pushing a 250-grain bullet to 2,900+ fps. But the Lapua case weighs over 100 grains more, with very thick, hard brass at the case head, making it more reliable in extreme conditions.

In addition to military and police use, the .338 Lapua has become increasingly popular among long-range hunters, plus civilians who just like long-range shooting. The cartridge does present some problems in sporting rifles due to the .588" rim. Not many bolt faces are capable of handling this diameter. This is one reason many hunters who want "big .33" performance use the .340 Weatherby or .338 Remington Ultra Magnum instead, since their rims are the standard .532" to .535" of classic belted magnums. There are a few

commercial hunting actions designed to take the Rigby-size rim, however, including the CZ 550 Magnum and the Weatherby Mark V. (Weatherby's own .338-378 Magnum is the only commercial .338 with more powder room than the Lapua—but it doesn't have that "tactical" cachet.)

While the .338 Lapua case is often regarded as huge, its bore-to-powder-space ratio is about like that of the .243 Winchester, 6.5/284 Norma and .300 Winchester Magnum. Those cartridges are nowhere near the top end of their caliber's powder capacity, and are known for being relatively easy to get to shoot accurately.

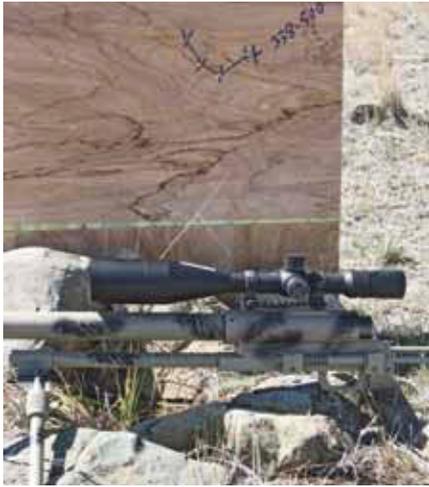
While the .338 Lapua was originally designed around 250-grain bullets, many if not most long-range shooters use heavier bullets. Probably the most popular for a number of years has been Sierra's 300-grain MatchKing, but more recent additions have been a 300-grain Berger VLD and a 265-grain Barnes Tipped Triple-Shock X-Bullet.

Bullets

Obviously the Barnes TTSX is designed specifically for hunting, but many hunters use 300-grain match bullets with good results. Sierra discourages this, but Berger doesn't, one reason their VLDs have become more popular among hunters in



The Savage 110 BA is a typical tactical-type rifle, weighing just under 18 pounds scoped.



The 500-yard target with the .338 Lapua ULR was shot on a breezy spring day, but even the horizontal spread was under 1 MOA.

recent years. The other reason is that Berger VLDs work quite well on big game, as I can personally attest. It is also the reason Berger sells a line of VLDs specifically for hunters, in "hunter orange" boxes rather than the traditional Berger yellow. There's also no reason, of course, not to use traditional .338 hunting bullets in the cartridge, such as the 250-grain GameKing that Sierra suggests, rather than their target bullets.

I tested two very different .338 Lapua rifles in the past year. The first was a ULR (Ultra Long Range) single-shot from The Gun Room LLC, a small Montana company run by Pete Noreen and his son Phil. They're kept completely busy turning out ULRs in chamberings from .338 Lapua to .50 BMG; testament to the increasing popularity of long-range shooting.

ULRs are not your average hunting rifle, even though Phil uses his regularly on elk, including a Boone and Crockett-class bull taken in 2010. Complete with a 5.5-22X Nightforce scope, the test rifle weighed 38 pounds, thanks mostly to a 32" barrel measuring 1-1/4" all the way out to the muzzle, so it's not going to be carried far on foot. Some modern elk hunting, however, consists of sitting in a place where a lot of country can be glassed, with any visible elk shot from the same spot.

The second rifle was one of the new Savage Model 110 BAs, a tactical-type bolt-action repeater that, with a 5-20X Trijicon AccuPoint, weighed "only" 17.9 pounds. The 26.5" fluted barrel measures .900" just behind the muzzlebrake, and the rifle comes with the Savage AccuTrigger.

The ULR was tested just before the Berger 300-grain VLDs appeared; so 300-grain Sierra MatchKings were

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tried with three powders. All the loads grouped about the same, well under an inch at 100 yards. Longer-range testing was done with a load using Hodgdon Retumbo, because it exhibited the lowest shot-to-shot variation and the highest muzzle velocity. The 500-yard group was by necessity shot on a breezy spring day, the reason for both horizontal and vertical group measurements. The

Noreens needed the rifle back after that, but I have no doubts 500-yard groups would average closer to the vertical spread of 2.44".

The Savage showed more definite load preferences, something to be expected with a lighter-barreled rifle weighing less than half as much. The most accurate load turned out to be the 300-grain Berger with Ramshot Magnum. It wasn't as fast



Despite its reputation, the .338 Lapua isn't a huge round, especially when compared with the muzzlebrake on the Noreen ULR.

.338 LAPUA HANDLOADED AMMO PERFORMANCE GUN: NOREEN ULR, 32" BARREL

BULLET (BRAND, WEIGHT, TYPE)	POWDER (BRAND)	CHARGE (GRAINS)	VELOCITY (FPS)	GROUP (INCHES)
Sierra 300 MatchKing	Magnum	87.0	2,768	.66
Sierra 300 MatchKing	N560	82.0	2,806	.87
Sierra 300 MatchKing	Retumbo	90.0	2,878	.87
Sierra 300 MatchKing	Retumbo	90.0	2,878	*

Notes: Groups shot at 100 yards. *On a breezy day, this group fired at 500 yards was 4.87" (horizontal) by 2.44" (vertical).

.338 LAPUA HANDLOADED AMMO PERFORMANCE GUN: SAVAGE 110 26.5" BARREL

Sierra 250 MatchKing	Magnum	95.0	2,968	1.06
Sierra 250 MatchKing	Retumbo	96.0	3,040	1.30
Sierra 300 MatchKing	Retumbo	90.0	2,808	1.06
Berger 300 VLD	Retumbo	92.0	2,772	1.44
Berger 300 VLD	N570	89.0	2,667	2.12
Berger 300 VLD	Magnum	88.0	2,678	.68
Berger 300 VLD	Magnum	88.0	2,678	*3.79

Notes: All groups shot at 100 yards except *, which was shot at 500 yards.

as the Retumbo load, but groups were significantly smaller in this rifle, as were shot-to-shot velocity variations. The 500-yard group was shot on a calm day, so was essentially round and under a minute of angle.

The velocity difference between the barrels was around 90 to 120 fps with the same loads, around 15 or 20 fps per inch. Temperatures were about the same during both tests, around 40 degrees.

The only brass I could come up with during the ULR test was Norma. As usual it was excellent stuff, but by the time the Savage was tested I'd acquired some genuine Lapua brass, also of course excellent. Both brands weighed within less than 5 grains of each other, not enough difference

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HANDLOADING

to affect velocity. The primer used throughout was the Federal 215M, plenty for the relatively short powder column. My standard Redding full-length dies produced very straight brass and ammo.

Both rifles were equipped with large muzzlebrakes and were quite comfortable to shoot. The ULR's brake was so effective, in fact, that when combined with the rifle's weight, I could sometimes watch bullet holes appear in the 100-yard targets. (I stress sometimes, because the big brake also caused a small windstorm, making me blink reflexively even behind my shooting glasses.)

The .338 Lapua is not just a tactical round. It also works very well on gongs, paper, rocks and big game out to very long range. And in the right rifles it's just a lot of fun to shoot!

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OPTICS

• J A C O B G O T T F R E D S O N •

GLASS WITH CLASS

Swarovski riflescopes and binoculars.

Last year, in an article about Swarovski's new BRX and BRH reticle system, I asked the question whether "Glass with Class" costing upwards of \$2,000 to \$3,000 is worth the price over "Budget Minded Optics" costing only \$300 to \$500. This article will help answer that question.



The Swarovski 10x42mm binocular is shown with the Z5 3.5-18x44mm P 1" diameter main-tube riflescope. Note both the ocular and objective lenses on the binocular are protected with quality, perfect fitting covers not subject to loss. Chipping an objective lens of a high dollar optic on a rock will make you a believer.



The main focus wheel on the Swarovski EL is pulled back to adjust the diopter and then pushed back, which locks the diopter at the desired setting. This prevents rotating the diopter adjustment and having an unfocused binocular when speed is of the essence. A camera adaptor is supplied and can be attached as shown in this photo. The small tab attached shows how to use a camera with the attachment. The ocular lenses can be twisted out for eyeglass wearers. Unlike any other binocular Jacob is familiar with, the eye cups on a Swarovski binocular can be removed for cleaning.

Swarovski shares the top of the "World Class Glass" list. No one beats their resolution, contrast, clarity and lack of aberrations in sporting optics. They were kind enough to send two offerings I thought would be a fit for our readers.

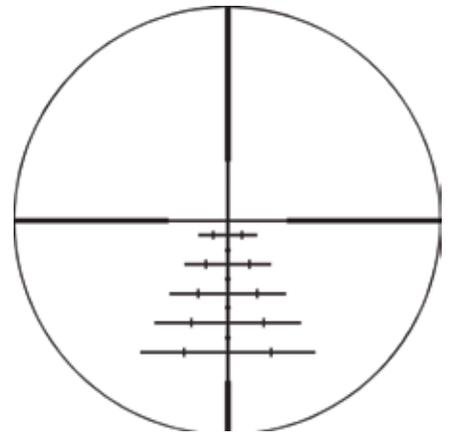
Z5 3.5-18x44 P Hunting Scope

The 3.5-18x44 P scope is a new model with fast diopter focus and parallax adjustment. It has simple, clean lines and typical Swarovski elevation and windage turrets. Clicks are .7cm at 100 meters or .25" at 100 yards. It has a 1-piece, 1" diameter tube. The Z6 models have 30mm tubes.

Swarovski optics are famous for their lack of aberrations, fine resolution, beautiful contrast, clarity and perfect color balance. This scope, and certainly the new EL binoculars, are no exception.

It is difficult to gain much insight into why Swarovski is among the best money can buy. Searching either the pages of their brochures or their website does not supply the technical answers. Search the technical articles given by bird watchers and only an optical scientist would understand the jargon. So I began pumping Tom Hogan of Swarovski for the answers.

Both the new Z3 and Z5 series have five layers per side on each lens of their SWAROTOP anti-reflective coatings, an increase over their previous three. The coatings are various metals applied in gaseous form. Although this increases light transmission, they also "tweak" what the real view will look like.



As explained in the December 2010 column, this model incorporates the BRX reticle for holdover and windage. The new BRX has numerous holdover bars and dots, as well as vertical wind bars at the half points. Swarovski supplies approximately 50 BRX/BRH decals showing the long-range zeros for the elevation holdover bars of many of today's popular cartridges. Supplied as well is a sheet with 500 different cartridges to which the decals can be adapted as well as blank ones you can work up yourself.



Swarovski has retained their "pull up" turret to zero the elevation and windage dials on the Z5 rifle scope. This model has a parallax adjustment wheel located on the left side.

The Z5, as well as the Z6 series, have the same patented 4-coil-spring design to stabilize the erector tube. These springs are placed such that they counter the pressure applied to the erector tube from the elevation and windage turrets. They greatly reduce shock to the erector tube and the chance of a reticle breaking from heavy or repeated recoil. It is

also an extremely expensive method for holding zero. Their rectangular-shaped internal-adjustment range increases available elevation adjustment over a square adjustment shape.

The main tubes are made of a lightweight alloy material, and the glass in all of the riflescopes are made of the very highest grades with intense engineering of available coatings.

Aberrations, clarity, resolution and contrast are all related and are the result of the total design of the optical system. Swarovski pays particular attention to engineering the colors of the spectrum to all hit the same focal point, which contributes greatly to the quality of the resulting product.

EL 10x42 Swarovision Binocular

Over the past 10 years, the 10x42mm binocular has risen to the top of the chart in popularity. Of course, there are times when an optic of less or more power fits your needs better. But the underlying criteria for an optic depend on your needs and pocketbook. Needs are often subjective. However, if you decide mechanical reliability, armor, superior resolution, contrast, color balance and lack of aberrations are worth the money, then Swarovski bears significant consideration.

Swarovski divulges very little detail about coatings, lenses, light transmission, etc., and getting that information is like pulling teeth. Yet some now rate the Swarovski ELs as the best in the industry, beating out all other world class offerings. Again, the question is why?

Key Features

Field Flattener Lenses: These lenses are located between the prism system and the ocular-lens system. They perform two key tasks. 1) They allow for perfect edge-to-edge clarity. 2) The Field Flattener Lenses virtually eliminate distortion, which has several facets to it. Distortion can make an object look taller, flatter, barrel shaped, pin cushioned or any shape other than natural. Take any binocular and focus it on a telephone pole 25 to 50 yards away. Now move the binocular side to side keeping the telephone pole in the field of view. Notice how the pole seems like it is "bending." If you do this with a Swarovision binocular, the pole will not "bend." There is also something called "rolling distortion." Objects coming into view appear to get larger as they approach the center of the image, and smaller as they leave the image. For example, if you move the

Z5 3.5-18X44 P RIFLESCOPE

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3.5X to 18X
EYE RELIEF:
3.74"

LIGHT TRANSMISSION:
Greater than 90 percent
INTERNAL ADJUSTMENT RANGE:
58" elevation, 36" windage

CLICK VALUES:
.25"

LENGTH:
14.29"

WEIGHT:
15.9 ounces

MAIN TUBE:
1"

RETICLE:
BRX
RETAIL:
\$1,665.56

EL 10X42 WB SWAROVISION BINOCULAR

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MAGNIFICATION:
10X

OBJECTIVE LENS:
42mm

EXIT PUPIL:
4.2mm

EXIT PUPIL DISTANCE:
20mm

FIELD OF VIEW:
336' at 1,000 yards

SHORT FOCUS:
4.9'

INTERPUPILLARY DISTANCE:
2.2" to 2.9"

TWILIGHT FACTOR:
20.5

SUBMERSION TIGHTNESS:
13'

WEIGHT:
28.2 ounces

RETAIL:
\$2,754.44

binocular across the cars in a parking lot, you will see that affect. Swarovski's do not have that aberration.

HD Glass: High Definition glass has been introduced into the Objective Lens System. The purpose of HD glass is to get the maximum or optimum contrast of images in view and minimize color fringing. Most manufacturers do this by simply adding Fluoride to a specific lens. Swarovski Optik has taken this a step further by "tweaking" certain glass

types with other coating technology in the HD lens, to obtain the maximum contrast that cannot be achieved by the use of Fluoride alone.

Larger Ocular Lenses: The ocular lenses are now 25mm in diameter for both the 8.5X and 10X models. This change has allowed the eye relief to be increased to 20mm in both magnifications. These new larger oculars have increased the field of view in the 8.5x42 to 399' at 1,000 yards and the 10x42 to 336' at 1,000 yards respectively. The longer eye relief makes them more user friendly for eyeglass wearers. That, in conjunction with the Swaroclean coatings, makes external fogging of the eye lenses when warm eyes meet cold glass temperatures, virtually impossible. The larger oculars also improve resolution.

Close Focus: The close focus in the new Swarovision EL has been further reduced to 4.9', a feature of particular importance to the birding community. The close focus of the old ELs was advertised at 8'.

Normally, the addition of the larger oculars, additional HD objectives, and additional Field Flattener Lenses, would make the instrument heavier. This has been offset by building a more compact roof-prism system and a new manufacturing and machining process that have made the already light magnesium housing even lighter.

The Swarotop (anti-reflective) and Swarodur (anti-reflective and scratch resistant) coatings have been further enhanced on the Swarovision. These anti-reflective coatings have been increased by 57 percent throughout the system. The Swarobright Mirror coatings on the prism have been improved, increasing color transmission that improves contrast.

One benefit of all these changes is that "better color transmission equals better contrast" and the light transmission is now higher than on previous EL models.

The benefit to the hunter of all these improvements in contrast is that "small details" will now become more visible in the lower-light conditions of dusk and dawn.

The focus wheel has also been completely redesigned. About one turn will get you from infinity to 10'. A little less than another turn will get you from 10' to 5'.

If you can't afford, or simply would not spend the money required to own top-quality glass, don't ever look through it. You will be spoiled forever. Have you ever seen something you wanted and could not have? It can create a lot of frustration. **GUNS**

HANDGUNS

• MASSAD AYOUB •

TOO MANY BULLETS? The “why” of high-capacity magazines.

Since the Tucson atrocity, many have attacked your right to own normal- to high-capacity magazines. Consider the good reasons for keeping them.

The January 2011 atrocity in Tucson, Ariz., focused the more clueless pundits on “assault weapons” and “high-capacity magazines” yet again. In days, legislation was introduced in Washington to ban anything that could fire over 10 rounds before reloading. Psycho killer Jared Loughner reportedly used a 33-round magazine in the Glock 19 he was able to legally acquire because his lunatic behavior had slipped through society’s cracks.

First, some clarification. The 33-rounder for the G19 is a true “extended magazine,” that is, lengthened to protrude from the butt of the pistol so it can hold more cartridges than the model was originally designed for. The first case I can recall of criminal use of such devices goes back to the early 1930s, and lengthened 1911 magazines for .45s and .38 Supers converted to machine pistols by Baby Face Nelson and John Dillinger by outlaw gunsmith Hyman Lebman. Think about it: how many such cases have you seen in between that, and Loughner’s murderous spree?

The standard-capacity magazine for a Glock 19—that is, the round count it was designed for—is 15 cartridges. And that’s the proper terminology: “standard capacity.” The anti-gun crowd wants to ban any magazine that holds more than 10 cartridges. Called “Clinton magazines” in our circles since we were restricted to them from 1994 to 2004 by Bill Clinton’s “Assault Weapons Ban,” they are properly called “reduced-capacity” magazines.

Examples Of Need

As to those who rant that high-capacity magazines have no place even in legitimate personal defense, perform a Google search for “Beverly Hills Jewelers Shootout, Richmond, Virginia,” in which store employees had to resort to multiple lesser-capacity guns to finally win a shootout

with multiple armed robbers. Do a Google search for Los Angeles watch repair shop owner Lance Thomas, and count how many times he had to resort to multiple guns in his several shootouts with armed robbers. Each moment one of the good guys had to pause to drop one handgun and reach for another was a moment in which they could have been killed... and in which a pistol with an extended magazine could have made a positive difference.

Before the Clinton ban, New York cops were the first to get stuck with 10-round magazines, when their anti-gun commissioner was forced to allow them to switch from .38s to 9mms. Years before, when the officers of the NYPD Stakeout Squad had to shoot it out with armed robbers, they carried multiple guns because the 6-shot .38s of the time often ran out of ammo too soon. Stakeout Squad alumnus Bill Allard discussed one gunfight in which he emptied a shotgun, a revolver and a semi-automatic pistol before he finally put two armed robbers down for the count... and reloaded the semi-automatic after his third gun ran dry, because he couldn’t be sure the fight was over yet.

And, bear in mind, the short-lived Stakeout Squad was placed inside retail businesses they had reason to believe would be hit by criminal gunmen. The Squad doesn’t exist anymore. Multiple armed gunmen still do... and armed citizens have to survive encountering them before they can call the police. NYPD cops were eventually allowed 15-shot magazines, because six shots had proven to be insufficient too many times and 10 shots wasn’t that much more promising. The most popular gun on NYPD (the cops there buy their own) is the Glock 19—the exact same gun being painted as a tool of the devil by the anti-gunners in the wake of



As first noted by Gary Slider, the length of the 33-round magazine probably gave the senior-citizen female the leverage to take it away from a strong, young male spree-killer.



Here’s a standard-size, reduced-capacity 10-shot magazine for a Glock 19. It would have been much harder to take away from the gunman in the grasp shown, yet quick to reload.



This Glock 19 is fitted with the 33-round extended magazine. Grip stippling is by David Maglio.

the Tucson atrocity. It is also a hugely popular gun among law-abiding armed citizens, who know that when the cops aren't there to protect them they're on their own. People who are responsible for defending themselves and others see the tactical value of more ammo on tap.

Also, consider an excellent point brought to my attention by Gary Slider at the outstanding gun owners' resource on related laws, the handgunlaw.us site. Gary mentioned that when 61-year-old Patricia Maisch ripped the second extended magazine away from 22-year-old Jared Loughner and kept him from reloading his gun and continuing the killing, the length of the 33-round mag is what probably gave her the leverage to do so. An ordinary magazine held in a normal reloading grasp would have required her to grab his wrist, and a strong young man could simply have pulled out of her grasp and continued. Ironically, Slider is very likely correct: the killer's use of the long magazine is what probably allowed that courageous woman to take it away from him, prevent him from reloading and stop the murders.

Yes, I can see why those whose plan is to cower in fear or lie down and play dead in the face of a mass murderer, would fear a gun which could fire many shots.

But I can also see why those whose plan is to fight back, should be allowed the same level of firepower the monsters already have. And, when you think about it, this often really is the demarcation line between those who appreciate high-capacity magazines, and those who want to ban them. **GUNS**

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FILES

Milling machines for the masses.

When civilians think of custom gunmaking shops, many see buildings bulging with lathes, milling machines, jig borers, surface grinders and the like. Indeed, many do but in serious gunsmithies, the humble file is still the most important metalworking machine in the place. For some jobs, there is no substitute in terms of speed, handiness and flexibility. A few hundred words will barely scratch the surface of the subject of files, but we'll cover some basics for home craftsmen.

As always, the MSC catalog will have an excellent primer on most any machine-tool subject. Files are no exception. If you do not already have this catalog, you owe it to yourself to lay hands on one, not only for the wealth of useful tools for sale but also for the excellent technical descriptions and discussion of their uses. The Brownells catalog is another source and will often have dedicated gunsmithing files not available in mainstream suppliers.

I use a file nearly every day in my shop. We'll need to remove lettering from a barrel or receiver, preparatory to applying new caliber markings. A sight blade will need to be cut to height for regulation and shaped. Some will need serrating with a checkering file. Occasionally, sear surfaces on hammers need re-angling. S&W ratchets need to be filed in to set carry-up timing. Custom parts need shaping. Grips and stocks need shaping and detailing. The list could go on until next week.

If you do not use files much and don't know where to start, you will need some sort of general-purpose file simply to remove material and true surfaces, flat or otherwise. My own preference is for untapered files so I use lots of "hand" files. Hand is a term of art in the file world, describing shape not source of power. These come in a variety of cuts (coarseness) and lengths. The longer the file you can manage, the better in terms of operator precision. I suspect for most of us, the 8" length is handiest. Although "pillar" files are tapered over their main filing surface, their narrow width-to-thickness ratio makes them handy in confined spaces and slots.

From there, you will eventually find you need other shapes, either to get into acute corners or to provide contouring. Triangle and knife-edge barrette files are especially useful for hammer-sear surfaces and double-action revolver ratchet work. Untapered-rounds files

from 1/16" to 1/4" or so are essential for shaping parts and herding holes around. Same for half-round files. If you do any sight work at all, a selection of checkering files is essential for serrations, let alone checkering.

Don't hesitate to regrind files if indicated. Oftentimes, you will need a 'safe' edge and will wish to remove cutting surfaces to protect a work surface. You may need a sharper corner or edge to properly clean up an interior corner. While you can use a bench grinder, I like to use a belt grinder with a squared, trued platen. Just keep a water bucket handy and don't let the file overheat, else it might be de-tempered and softened.

Files are not a place to skimp on quality. Run from cheap imports and use only the very best domestic or European files you can afford. Nothing more discouraging than to be filing away, achieving a smooth surface only to have a deep gouge appear in your work without apparent cause.

Care And Feeding

Good files are expensive and demand care. They are hard as the back of God's head and will chip very easily if banged around with each other. I never let files touch each other. All of my files are stored in individual plastic sleeves to minimize damage. I never let them clog with chips, and attack them with a file card or scribe at the first hint of loading. Otherwise, gouges will result in your work and mean extra polishing time. Files should be kept clean and free of grease and oil. Bear in mind files only cut in one direction, so try to lift a file off work or at least release heavy downward pressure when retracting for the next stroke. This will slow wear a great deal.

Odd as it may seem for a hand tool, files are very dangerous tools to use and can produce some nasty wounds. While using a file on a lathe to shape or smooth a part is a common, accepted practice, it is a practice fraught with peril. If you ever have lathe chuck reach out and grab a file, you can end up with whole or partial files flying around the shop, sometimes embedding in your hapless self. It pays to be extremely careful around the lathe. But, even filing at your vise can



Files come in endless variety. You'll be adding more and more as time goes on. Buy the best you can afford.



This custom Ruger revolver topstrap (above) was all shaped with a file. Part and parcel of good file work is a good vise and, often as not, some sort of holding fixture. This rough machined Keith No. 5 base pin latch lever (below) is ready for shaping with files.



get you in trouble. Files can snag and lurch. Even if careful, very small files can shatter. If you are stupid enough to use a file without a handle, expect to get a file tang stuck in your palm or wrist from time to time. Just keep your tetanus vaccination current. Safety glasses or goggles are obligatory for file use at any time.

Resign yourself to the fact that files, like other cutting tools wear out. Wood requires the very sharpest and freshest of files, so canny file operators will never use wood files on metal until wood files are retired. A slightly dull file will still work OK on metal for a while. The good news is that files can be resharpened surprisingly well and at considerable savings over the costs of a new one. Resharpened files may not work well enough for fine work, but will work fine for heavy stock removal.

The humble file is responsible for all the great gunmaking ever done. While most of us could never get a job operating a file in a great London gunmaking house, a little basic skill will go a long way in more prosaic environs. Some things still have to be done the simplest way.

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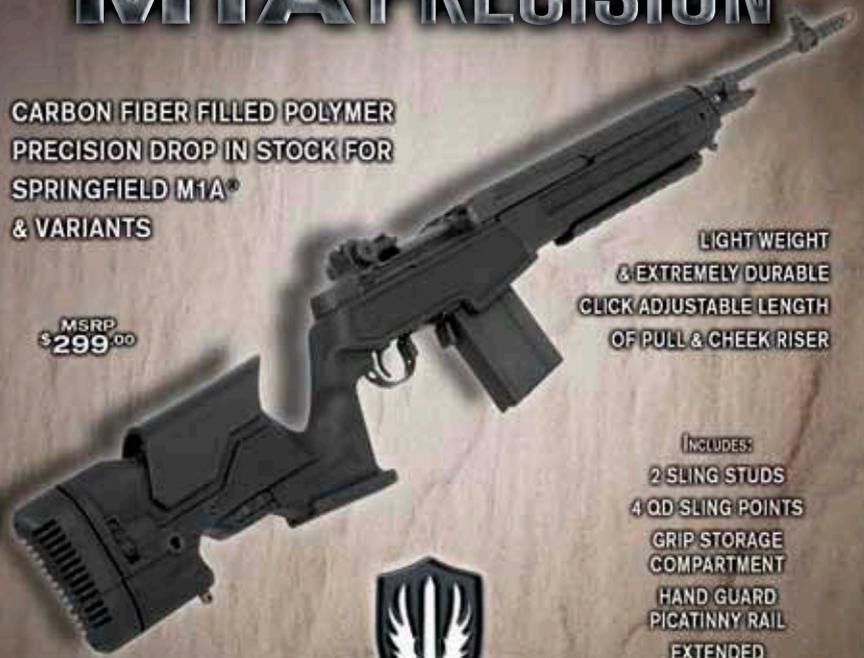
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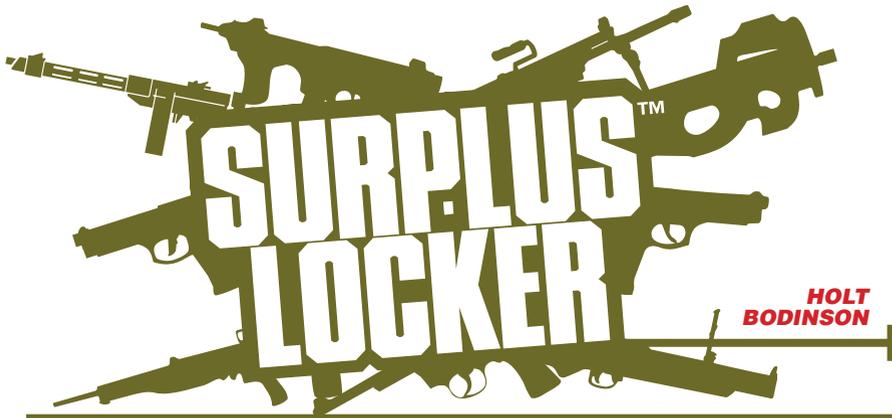
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LEARN IT, LOVE IT

Recent additions to the Surplus Locker library.

One of the most enjoyable sidelines to collecting and shooting milsurps is delving into the rich literature on their development, deployment and performance. The quality of the scholarship, data, photographs and increasing access to heretofore classified information have proved remarkable in terms of the final printed product.

The only downside to this outflowing of new arms literature has occasionally been the cost of the book. Unfortunately, our local libraries don't seem to stock them. Here's my pick of some of the best to hit the

bookshelves in the last few years.

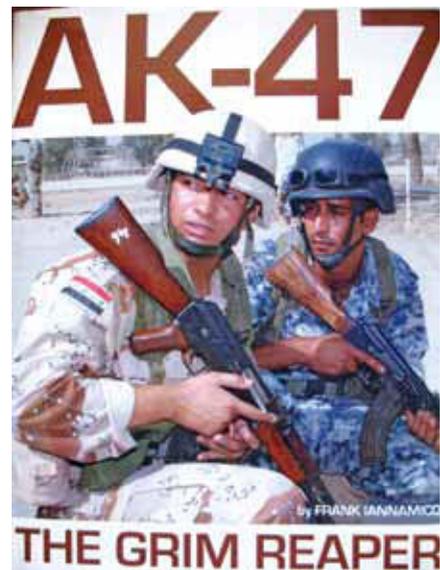
The Gun by C.J. Chivers

Chivers, a former Marine Captain and Pulitzer Prize winning senior writer and past Moscow bureau chief for the *New York Times*, has written an incredibly riveting story about the Kalashnikov assault rifle and its role in modern foreign policy and warfare. The central theme of the book is the geo-political role the Kalashnikov has played in post-war Soviet foreign policy and how the establishment of Kalashnikov manufacturing facilities throughout the Soviet's sphere of influence tied that sphere to Moscow. The result was not only the division of the world into two competing power blocs, but the uncontrolled, overproduction of millions-and-millions of AK/AKMs which, in the author's view, have destabilized the world.

A parallel theme in the book is the very late development of the M16 as a competing "assault rifle" and its unenviable record during the early years of the Vietnam war. In a "no holds barred" analysis, the author meticulously documents the M16's early failures and names the names of those in the military-industrial complex who tried their best to cover up the debacle. *The Gun* is a good read with events and facts carefully annotated in over 30 pages of bibliographical notes.

AK-47—The Grim Reaper by Frank Iannamico

Rather than being a sweeping geo-political study of the AK-47,



Iannamico's AK-47 is 860 pages of solid information about every variation of the AK.



Another page from the AK-47 discusses the obscure, Serbian AK variant in 7.62 NATO.

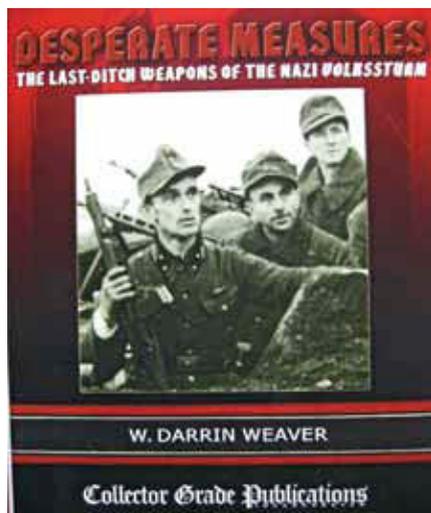


The full color pictures in the AK-47 make the identification of AK designs easier than ever.

Iannamico gets down to the nuts and bolts of the model. After 860 pages, he not only covered the development of the Kalashnikov, but also documented every model variation of the design and national production facility now known in extensive detail.

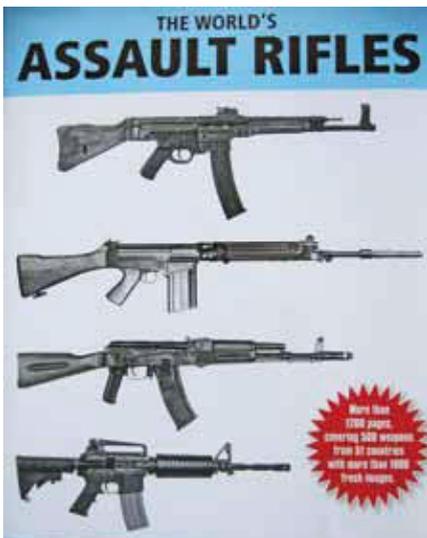
The close-up, black-and-white and color photographs contained in this tome are invaluable for identifying AK variants and worth the price of the book alone.

Of special interest to collectors are several chapters devoted exclusively to the semi-automatic variations of the AK series, both pre- and post-ban imports, as well as a company-by-company study of the American firms now producing new AK/AKM models. Additional chapters are devoted to AK accessories, ammunition, optics,



Weaver's *Desperate Measures* (above) is a fascinating study of Germany's least known weapons deployed at the end of WWII. The crude, bolt-action 8mm VG1 (below) was produced by a number of major German arms firms.





The World of Assault Rifles (above) contains pictures and data on assault-rifle designs that have never before appeared in the popular press. This young lady (below) is packing a very distinct and successful Croatian VHS assault rifle.



bayonets and grenade launchers. If you had to own only one book on the AK, this is it.

The World's Assault Rifles by Gary Paul Johnston and Thomas B. Nelson Best known for his earlier 2-volume work, *The World's Submachine Guns* and *The World's Machine Pistols and Submachine Guns*, Thomas Nelson has partnered with gun writer, Gary Paul Johnston, to produce a stunning 1,216 page study of the modern "assault rifle," beginning with the appearance of the German Sturmgewehr in 1944.

The first two chapters, devoted to assault-rifle ammunition and assault rifle operating and locking systems, help to define exactly what an "assault rifle" means. The following 69 chapters consist of a country-by-country, model-by-model history of modern assault-rifle design and performance.

The result is humbling to even the most informed of collectors. There is successful, national, assault-rifle

models covered in this book that have never been pictured or described before in the popular press. Again, this is a case in which the photographs and technical tables are worth the price of the book alone.

In the "300-meter world in which soldiers live or die," the modern assault rifle has permanently displaced the main battle rifle as the weapon of choice. The Johnston and Nelson work stands out as a singular and scholarly study of the evolution and refinement of this essential design.

Desperate Measures: The Last-Ditch Weapons of the Nazi Volkssturm by W. Darrin Weaver

Organizing 6,000,000 old men and boys into a hastily organized "Volkssturm," the "People's Army" or more literally, the "People's Assault," in the closing months of WWII, Germany manufactured a series of last-ditch, simple weapons that have never before been so well documented and illustrated. This is an absolutely fascinating book for any student of small arms.

Arms for the Volkssturm ranged from the anti-tank "Panzerfaust" to bolt-action rifles with sheet-metal receivers, Sten copies and clones, simplified M98 Mausers, a people's "Sturmgewehr" and even a variety of "people's" pistols and revolvers.

If you've never heard of the Walter VG1, the Spreewerke VG2, Rheinmetall VG3, Mauser VG4, Steyr VG5, Gustloff Volkssturmgewehr, Volkssturm Maschinengewehr or the Mauser sheet-metal Volkspistole, you're in for an eye-opening treat. Weaver's in-depth, richly illustrated study contains information and pictures of last-ditch, emergency small arms never before appearing in English language publications.

German Secret Armament Codes Until 1945 by Michael Heidler

There have been other books devoted to German manufacturing codes for small arms, but none approach the accuracy and comprehensiveness of Heidler's new 500-page work that covers not only the codes associated with small arms and ammunition, but every other kind of military equipment like medals, knives, daggers, belt buckles, uniforms, vehicles, radio equipment and even ships and airplane parts.

As a result of the Versailles Treaty at the end of WWI in 1919, Germany's armament industry was virtually put out of business. Mauser began manufacturing consumer products while other firms moved their defense business offshore or covertly took over armament companies outside Germany.



Heidler's German Armament Secret Codes is a definitive work and an invaluable reference about the markings found on WWII German arms.

By 1925, Germany had begun a secret, domestic rearmament program and "company markings for non-permitted arms companies were introduced" by the German military. After a fascinating historical introduction to the development and methods of "decoding" the secret code system, Heidler has organized his book into a 2-part, cross-reference work. One part lists the codes alphabetically with the associated name and location of the firm, while the second part lists the names and locations of the firms alphabetically with their associated secret codes.

Heidler's book is the most definitive reference we have for the German code system. It's a labor of love and an essential reference work for collectors.

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OUTTM of the BOX

JACOB GOTTFREDSON

A BETTER WAY TO RANGE Pride-Fowler's New 2.5-10x40mm RR900.

I have written about and followed the Pride-Fowler series of scopes since their inception. I liked their first line of scopes, and they just keep getting better. With their new tactical entry, I am even more impressed. Like many other American companies, they provide the specifications and the Japanese build them accordingly.

I happen to be a fan of their reticle system. This one, although following the same concept, is a quite radical departure from their signature reticle. It is a progressive subtention design, using the same subtention increments they have in the past. This new scope, however, incorporates a unique ranging system that I found quite innovative for the military or law enforcement, although the system could be used by hunters or competitors as well. For the rest of

us, the scope can be obtained with Pride-Fowler's original RR800 design in the near future.

The one sent to me is a 1st focal-plane reticle. That means, of course, you will not get confused by trying to range at the wrong power (that is done on occasion for a reason, but I will not complicate the issue here). The Pride-Fowler scopes have typically been second focal-plane reticles, and ranging was done at full power. Many of their scopes are straight-



Although somewhat small and unobtrusive, the new Pride-Fowler scope has everything. Jacob gives it high marks in all categories. While it is primarily intended for the military and law enforcement, it would make a great scope in many genres. Note that the elevation and windage dials are capped and protected. The new Pride-Fowler scope offers fast diopter focusing to make the reticle sharp.

RR900 2.5-10X40

MAKER: PRIDE-FOWLER INC.
1518 ARROW HWY, SUITE B
LA VERNE, CA 91750
(877) 817-6019
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/
RAPIDRETICLE

MAGNIFICATION:

2.5X-10X

OBJECTIVE DIAMETER:

40mm

MAIN TUBE DIAMETER:

30mm

OCULAR DIAMETER:

43mm

EXIT PUPIL:

13mm (2.5X), 3.89mm (10X)

EYE RELIEF:

3.82"

INTERNAL ADJ. RANGE:

60" elevation & windage

CLICK VALUE:

.5 MOA

CLICKS PER REVOLUTION:

50

LENGTH:

13.5"

WEIGHT:

23.63 ounces

RETAIL:

\$1,999

power scopes, so that problem would not arise. The new scope is variable. Since the reticle is in the 1st plane, the distance between the bars remains proportional to the image at all powers. Thus, ranging on any power works. It does mean, however, that the reticle becomes increasingly smaller as the power is decreased.

As is typical with Pride-Fowler scopes, the bars are progressively incremental, gauged to represent the flight path of a series of bullets at X velocity and Y ballistic coefficient. This one is made to follow the ballistic path of the .308 with 150-, 168- and 175-grain Sierra MatchKing bullets at velocities in the range of 2,600 to 2,800 fps with a 26" barrel at sea level and standard conditions. But with the use of ballistic software, the reticle can be used for any bullet in any caliber—more about that in a minute. Wind compensator lines are set for a 10 mph max wind.

The scope's main tube is 30mm and the body is made from high-quality aircraft aluminum. The reticle is fully illuminated, using a rheostat to vary its brightness and is powered by a 2032 3V button Lithium battery. One important new feature is the zero stop on the elevation dial. Once the scope is zeroed, say for 100 yards, the dial is removed and turned so that zero on the dial is at the indication mark on the manifold and the dial is secured in place again. A knurled ring with a set screw is moved up until it contacts the dial and is tightened in place. If

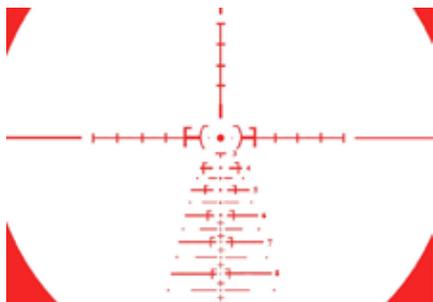
the shooter forgets what revolution he is on, or it is night, he simply turns the dial until it hits the stop. He then knows he is once again zeroed at 100 yards.

The scope's objective lens is 40mm, giving the shooter 4mm of exit pupil, meaning that nearly maximum light is transferred to the average human eye.

Image quality is top drawer. Resolution is excellent, contrast excellent, and I could not detect any aberrations. Color balance is very good with no bleeding or fringing. Lenses are made by Light Optical Works, Ltd., Japan, one of the best lens makers in the world. The reticle



The steel LaRue target is 11-3/4" wide by 24" high. The head is 6". The red dot is slightly less than 3" in diameter. The group was shot at 600 yards with 168-grain Black Hills Match ammo from Jacob's Nesika .308 rifle. After sighting in at 100 yards, Jacob went to 600 yards and put the point marked "6" on the vertical crosshair on the LaRue. This is the result in a mild, switching cross wind. It doesn't get much better than this.



The Pride-Fowler reticle provides ranging, holdover and wind holds as well as illumination. The reticle is crisp black and sized correctly in Jacob's opinion. The brackets are designed to range either the shoulders or the head. When illuminated, the entire reticle turns red; a rheostat is used to vary brightness.

is sized correctly in my opinion and is very sharp once the diopter has been adjusted.

Testing

I mounted the scope on a Nesika-built sniper rifle and sighted it in at 100 yards. Removing and turning the elevation and windage dials to zero is fast and effective. Once that was accomplished, I turned the zero stop to touch the elevation dial, tightened it down and proceeded to the 600-yard line.

This scope allows you to either dial up to distance and right or left for windage, or use the reticle to both range and for holdover and windage. Mounted in the rings I use on this rifle, it requires 16" of elevation to hit at 600 yards with Federal 168-grain Gold Medal or Black Hills 168-grain Match.

I dialed in the 16" for 600 yards, winds were mild and the first, 5-round group was in the bull at about 1 MOA. I returned the scope back to the zero stop, held on the appropriate holdover bar and let fly. The wind was squirreling from 3 to 9 o'clock, so the round was off and about 3" low. I sprayed the bullet hole on the steel with white paint, returned to the 600-yard line, and sent five down range with a bit of a wind hold. The group was still a weather report, but the required bar was right in there. The point is that I could dial for 600 or use the holdover bars and get the same exact result—about 1 MOA in the bull.

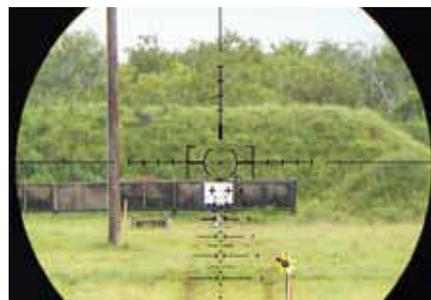
Pride-Fowler's design is excellent, and the ranging bars seem to work to estimate distance as well. Military personnel are taught to range enemy personnel (and other objects) using Mil-Dots, which, by the way, does not work out as well as you would hope. While the ranging bars in this design seem a little busy, they work reasonably well and certainly better than Mil-Dots. In my opinion, there are many advantages to some of the ranging-bar designs these days over the original Mil-Dot, yet I have seen men who can do phenomenal things using Mil-Dots.

The brackets assume an 18" average frontal profile of a man. The small lines bisecting the brackets have a space at the center of 9"; considered the average size of a man's head. The partial semi-circle at the junction of the main crosshairs is 9" at 100 yards. This is predicated on the average human body size.

Again, it is a real advantage to have a reticle built specifically for your cartridge, barrel and velocity range, also predicated on standard conditions at sea level. Put the 600-



Pride-Fowler's turret manifold incorporates both parallax adjustment and illumination on the left. The elevation and windage dials are .5 MOA. A zero-stop ring is located at the bottom of the elevation dial, a huge help when you forget what revolution you are on, particularly at night.



Note that the image is focused to the edges in the Pride-Fowler scope. This indicates that there is little curvature of field. Also note that the telephone pole is not bent, indicating no pincushion or barrel distortion. Overall the glass is excellent. Light Optical Works, Ltd., located in Japan, is one of the world's premier lens makers. Although difficult to see, the steel LaRue target is below the large paper target on the backer and is bracketed by the 600-yard hashmarks.

yard dot on the 600-yard target and Voilà! A hit.

Problematically, not everyone lives at sea level or has a 26" barrel and might not even like shooting 150-, 168- or 175-grain Sierra MatchKing bullets. The result is that the 600-yard dot might not hit the 600-yard bull. But don't worry, you can use any cartridge, bullet and velocity ballistic-coefficient/conditions you desire and make the reticle work perfectly with the use of any modern ballistic software.

The Pride-Fowler 2.5-10x40mm RR900 is a top-quality scope with great glass and very useful elevation and windage dials, holdover bars, illumination, parallax adjustment and an innovative zero stop. I would not hesitate to put it on my rifles, and when the original RR800 reticle hits the market, it will make a great scope for any American competitor or hunter.

GUNS

OUTTM of the BOX

RICK STAPLES

CZ HAMMER CLASSIC

Old school looks with modern performance for clays and game.

I am a vintage skeet and clays shooter, and yes, I mean both guns and the shooter as well. When CZ-USA came out with their Hammer Coach gun several years ago, I immediately liked it, except—the barrels were too short. The action and feel and fit were right, just a bit abbreviated on the front end. I pestered some of the CZ folks at trade shows to put some longer barrels on the gun. Evidently I was not the only one.

When I learned they had in fact, cataloged the Hammer Classic, I was at my local dealer pestering him. Jeff Neumann at the Bullet Hole in Overland Park, Kan., was able to get one in the store.

The Hammer Classic is a 12-gauge gun with 30" barrels and weighs 7.3 pounds. It has a length of pull of 14.5" to a steel buttplate, a solid raised rib and—best of all—it has a sliding safety like a conventional hammerless gun. I know some purists will frown on that, but for me it works great.

The CZ Hammer Classic has double triggers. Personally, I like double triggers on a SxS field gun. It makes choke selection quick and easy. I also think it makes great sense for sporting clays too.

If I have a complaint about the gun

it would be the wood. On my gun the wood is not anything to rave about. It is functional and it fits, but I would like to see an upgrade to the wood. I realize this would make the gun more expensive. It is nice to have a very functional and reliable SxS hammer gun that costs less than \$1,000. The fit of the wood on my gun is very good. I have some name SxS guns not fitted this well. The receiver is color case hardened and contributes to the vintage appeal.

I took the gun to the skeet field and worked it out. With the 30" barrels and the 7.3-pound weight, keeping the gun moving on clay targets is not a problem. No one would accuse the gun of being whippy. I was lucky to get the gun prior to the World Vintage Classic event in Lexington, Ky. This

HAMMER CLASSIC

MAKER: HU-LU
ANTALYA CADDESI NO: 58
42710 - HU-LU
BEY-EHIR / KONYA
TURKEY
IMPORTER: CZ-USA
P.O. BOX 171073
KANSAS CITY, KS 66117
(800) 955-6615
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/CZ-USA

ACTION TYPE:

Sidelock, exposed hammer

GAUGE:

12

CHOKE:

5 (F, IM, M, IC, C)

CAPACITY:

2

BARREL LENGTH:

30"

LENGTH OF PULL:

14-1/2" (front trigger),
13-1/2" (back trigger)

DROP AT COMB:

1.5"

DROP AT HEEL:

2.3"

OVERALL LENGTH:

47-1/2"

WEIGHT:

7.3 pounds

FINISH:

Black chrome barrels, case-hardened receiver

SIGHTS:

Single bead

STOCK:

Turkish walnut

PRICE:

\$917

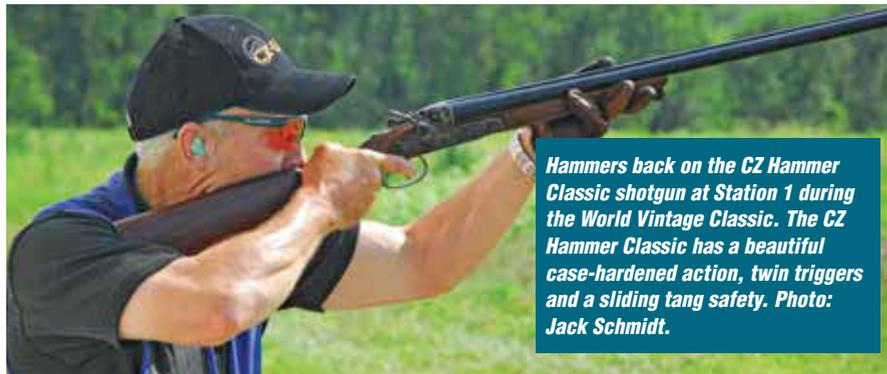
vintage event is ramrodded by one of the nicest men you will ever meet, Hal Hare.

This event requires the shooter to call for the target, and experience what seems to be the longest 3 seconds, or less, delay before the target is thrown. This harkens back to the 1935 rules of skeet.

It is entertaining to watch. I caught myself several times shaking like a German Shorthaired pointer, waiting for the bird to flush.

On a beautiful June day I was able to make the practice pay off. I won the doubles skeet event and was runner-up in the hammer-gun skeet event of the vintage classic with the CZ hammer gun. Since then I have shot trap with it and many more skeet rounds with no complaints—other than I miss a target or two—but that isn't the gun's fault.

Just recently I traveled to South Dakota to open the pheasant season just outside of Draper, S.D. I hunted there with the Miller Matthews Outfitters. Clayton Miller was able to put our party of 10 into the middle of pheasant hunter's heaven. I was in the right place at the right time, and the Hammer Classic worked like a charm. I soon had a limit of the beautiful



Hammers back on the CZ Hammer Classic shotgun at Station 1 during the World Vintage Classic. The CZ Hammer Classic has a beautiful case-hardened action, twin triggers and a sliding tang safety. Photo: Jack Schmidt.



The CZ Hammer Classic delivered Rick with a day's limit of pheasants in South Dakota using the IC and Modified choke tubes. Photo: Greg Moats.

birds in the game bag.

The sliding tang safety allowed me to carry the SxS cocked-and-locked in the field. The ability to select the tighter choked or more open barrel came in very handy. I was able to enjoy shooting a nice modern hammer gun, with modern ammo, without the worries of having to cock the gun as a bird flushed.

The Hammer Classic comes with screw-in chokes that enhance its versatility. For skeet, I use two cylinder chokes. For the pheasant hunt, I used IC and Modified and they worked like a charm. Five chokes come with the gun, Cylinder, Improved Cylinder, Modified, Improved Modified and Full. I checked the tubes with a micrometer and they measured within the proper range for each designation.

Besides being a great bird and clays gun, I would think the cowboy-action shooters would really like the Hammer Classic. The 30" barrels would be a great aid in managing recoil and muzzle rise. The gun is equipped with extractors only. True, it would be slower to reload than a slick '97 or hammerless gun, but I think it would be a lot of fun.

If you are a SxS fan like me, and you would like to shoot a hammer gun with modern ammo, you would not



While somewhat off-putting to purists, the tang safety allows you to carry the gun with the hammers cocked afield.

go wrong to consider the CZ-USA Hammer Classic for clays, game or cowboy action.

I have always been a side-by-side shotgun fan. My first shotgun was a Richland Arms 20 gauge my dad bought for me from Gateway Sporting Goods in Kansas City. That gun was traded long ago, but I wish I had it back. My father was a SxS fan and I guess that genetics applies.

Now, if I can just convince CZ-USA to build a 20-gauge gun with a set of companion 16-gauge barrels; that would be a great Hammer Classic game-gun set!



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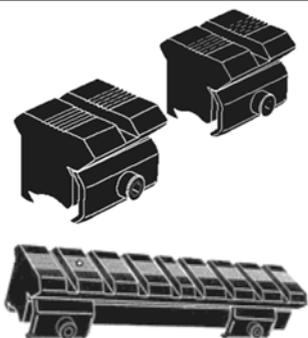
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Q&A

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

• JEFF JOHN •

Holsters

Q: I read about the FMK 9C1 and loved it so much that I purchased one. However, I have found it difficult to find a holster for this particular firearm. How do I choose a holster for a new weapon from a new manufacturer?

*Fabio Andres Castillo
via e-mail*

A: It takes leather makers a long time to offer a holster for a new model firearm, mostly because they want enough guns in circulation to justify making a pattern and then a production run. However, Uncle Mike's has a variety of holsters that will fit just about any new gun for a start, from the simple Sidekick to concealment models, all at very reasonable prices.

UNCLE MIKE'S
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9200 CODY
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66214
(800) 423-3537
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/UNCLE-MIKES

Fun Targets

Q: Sir, you now have the best magazine covering the "Sporting Gun" field. On page 34 of the January issue, John Taffin has a picture of pistols on the targets featuring silhouettes of animals with target circles. Where can I buy this target? We have a small gun club that wants to shoot 50-yard .22 rimfire silhouettes. I have contacted Champion, National and several target makers to no avail.

*Phil Brakebill
Mineola, Texas*



John Taffin's Aimpoint-sighted Ruger .22 (above) rests atop the Alco AN-5 animal silhouette target. Thompson Targets offers realistically sized targets of squirrels and other game animals. The gun on the bottom is an Aimpoint-sighted Browning Buckmark. Photos: John Taffin



A: Thanks for the kind words! The targets at the top of page 34 are AN-5 Alco targets from the firm's Shooting Gallery set. The ones below are from Thompson Target. Both firms offer a wide variety of targets for hunting preparation, self-defense training and just plain fun targets. Check out the new Zombie targets.

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SLIP-JOINT RESURGENCE!

THE AGE-OLD POCKETKNIFE MAKING A STRONG COMEBACK.

Pat Covert

Folding knives have undergone a technology boom in the past 15 years with much of the attention being focused on the latest, greatest locking mechanism. Yet one of the more interesting trends in the cutlery industry today, is the resurgence of “slip-joint” folders. In substantiation of the adage, “what is old is new again,” the old-fashioned 2-handed folder is making a comeback as traditional manufacturers and custom knifemakers are experiencing a revival period, while those making hi-tech folders grapple with stricter knife laws at home and abroad.

The technology behind the slip joint is simple: the blade has a short, notched tang that cams against a backspring and once it overcomes the mid-point, the spring tension snaps the blade into the open position, holding it into place with spring pressure. To close the blade you simply reverse the action and allow the spring to snap the blade back into the handle.

Slip-joint sales slipped when the tactical folder took the cutlery world by storm in the mid-1990s, bringing with it the advent of the modern day Michael Walker-designed liner lock and other locking mechanisms that followed. The mindset became all blades should have locks, yet the reasoning for that is subjective.

The average knife owner only uses a knife for daily chores, most of which require slicing. For such light use, a slip joint works perfectly fine. In fact, large slip-joint knives perform very well in the field when using forward motion on the blade for tasks such as shaving and slicing. When using a prying or twisting action, both of which may cause a blade to fold inadvertently, a lock makes a lot of sense, but for everyday use slip joints have proven



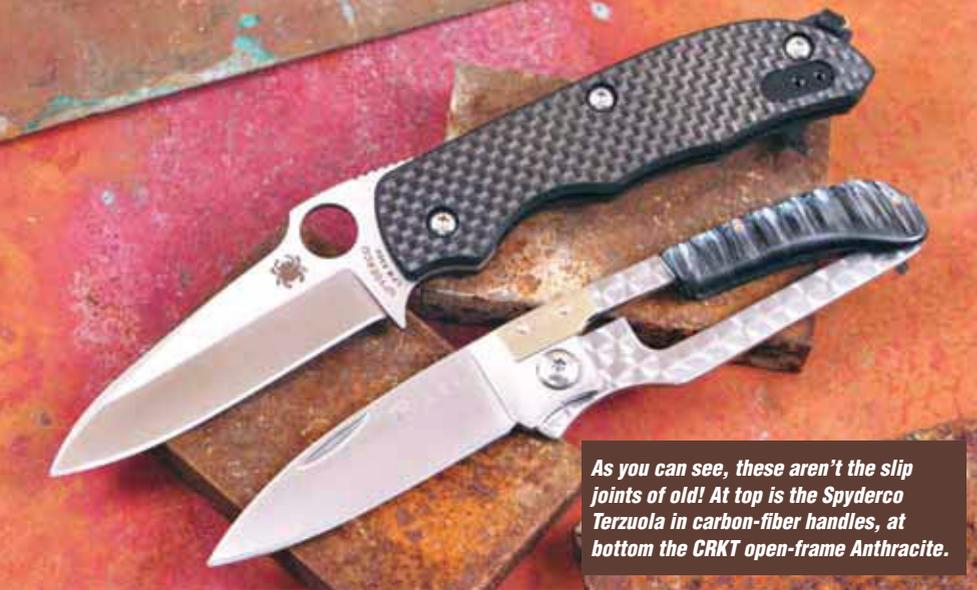
Custom slip joints (above) run the gamut. At top is the loaded-for-bear Bob Dozier Utility Hunter in natural Micarta handles, at bottom a fancy Serpentine Jack in stag by Tim Britton. Slip-joint patterns (below) can range from utilitarian, such as the Great Eastern Cutlery Swayback Jack shown at top, to the highly specialized like the A.G. Russell Boxcar Jack “hobo knife” at bottom.



themselves worthy over time.

One reason slip-joint folders are making a comeback is the increase in governmental restrictions both here in the US and abroad. In June 2010, a district attorney in Manhattan tightened restrictions on knife owners and dealers by grossly interpreting their definition of what they loosely define as a “gravity knife.” According to New York law a gravity knife is “any knife which has a blade which is released from the handle or sheath

thereof by the force of gravity or the application of centrifugal force which, when released, is locked in place by means of a button, spring, lever or other device.” The DA took this to mean any folding knife with a locking blade or, the overwhelming majority of all folders of modern design produced today. The law will no doubt be challenged, but for the time being no manufacturers are shipping folding knives with locking mechanisms to the state of New York. In the midst of all



As you can see, these aren't the slip joints of old! At top is the Spyderco Terzuola in carbon-fiber handles, at bottom the CRKT open-frame Anthracite.



Originally a liner lock, the Spyderco Kiwi is now offered as a slip joint. Both a stag handled and plain stainless steel frame version is available.



The UK Penknife was developed by Spyderco for sale in restricted markets. Shown here are two of several in the line: a Rescue model (top) and the standard model in gray handles (bottom).

this, slip-joint folders are not involved. Spyderco is the only knife manufacturer that has jumped into the modern slip-joint market feet first, offering a broad line of folders called SLIPITS. Marketing Director Joyce Laituri tells *GUNS*, "Our foray into non-lockers started with the United Kingdom crackdown on knives. Our distributor there focuses on the firearms industry but has healthy knife sales. Both his and our thinking was 'people are not going to unlearn

the benefit and function of carrying a cutting tool.' He saw it coming and requested a high-performance, modern Spyderco knife that folded, had a pocket clip, offered reliability and was legal. We made him a SLIPIT called the UK Penknife."

Spyderco's move into the slip-joint arena has paid big dividends since the New York ruling. According to Laituri, "Our president Sal Glessner saw a need and started making non-locking SLIPITS. We took ridicule for

it in knife circles, but we are probably one of the few knife manufacturers still shipping knives into New York while life continues under the new restrictions."

Spyderco believes in slip joints. There are six different models of the UK Penknife and the company has introduced a smaller version, the Urban. On the top end is the Terzuola model, replete with carbon-fiber scales and leather lanyard. The slick Kiwi model available in stag or stainless handles, is a slip-joint conversion of its former self (the knife originally appeared in their line as a lock-back). At the bottom end is a group of highly affordable priced "Bug" models. Other manufacturers are testing the waters. CRKT (Columbia River Knife & Tool) has released their own slip-joint conversion which is thoroughly modern, highly successful Ed Halligan KISS model dubbed the Anthracite. Expect to see more from several leading knife manufacturers as this market heats up.

Traditional Reprise

Traditional slip-joint folding knives, often simply referred to as "pocketknives," took a beating at the behest of the tactical folder. But not only have they survived, they're coming back strong. Companies like W.R. Case & Sons, Queen Cutlery Co., Schatt & Morgan, Buck Knives and Boker of Germany continued manufacturing the old patterns through the lean years. Newer manufacturers like A.G. Russell, Canal Street Cutlery and Great Eastern Cutlery have jumped into the market, while older brands like KA-BAR (and the original Union Cutlery label), Remington and Utica Cutlery (Kutmaster) have been rejuvenated. Once defunct companies, such as Kissing Crane, Schrade and Camillus have had their names relicensed and are being manufactured affordably offshore. In addition, Columbia River Knife & Tool just added a line of traditional pocketknives to their burgeoning line of modern designs.

One major advantage of traditional pocketknives is they offer multiple blade options not seen on modern folders. When folding knives were being developed to a high standard in the mid-1850s to the early 1900s, manufacturers started gearing pocketknives to particular professions. There were knives specifically for electricians, doctors, ranchers and all manner of other trades. There were even folding utensil sets for hobos! These had blade options tailored to the user — something you rarely see

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Sportsmen will be pleased to know they still make big Folding Hunters. Up top is the KA-BAR "Dog's Head" swing guard in Roofline Licorice Bone handles, at bottom a 2-blade Boker version in stag.

in modern knives.

Currently you can find just about any knife pattern you wish from the good ol' days. Three of the most common traditional styles, Trappers, Stockmans and Whittlers, are widely available as well as Peanuts, Barlows, Folding Hunters, Scout Knives and Sowbellies. Surprisingly, one of the most collectible and sought after patterns in today's market is the portly Sunfish, which was used extensively by both sailors and carpenters alike.

Upscale Customs

Slip joints never left the custom knife market thanks to a respectable group of makers keeping the genre alive. Here the traditional patterns are held in reverence and upscale handle materials like Mother of Pearl, abalone, stag, fine hand-tooled jiggled bone and highly figured woods are quite common, as well as high-grade steels for blades. Tim Britton is one of those custom knifemakers who carries the torch for the fine traditional folders, offering multi-blade patterns like the Serpentine Jack, Swayback Jack, Double-End Jack and Trapper. If you like the pioneer look, knifemaker Billy Helton does his slip joints up in his own hand-forged Damascus steel and natural handle materials like stag, jiggled bone and rarely seen armadillo hide.

Custom maker Bob Dozier, known for his heavy-duty hunting and tactical knives, has just released a loaded-for-bear slip-joint version of his Utility Hunter. This knife features a large frame with Titanium liners, a D2 steel drop-point blade and canvas Micarta handles with upscale materials like stag, bone and exotic woods also available. Those wanting a budget version of this

knife will delight in knowing KA-BAR, who has collaborated extensively with Dozier in the past, has a production version of this knife in the works.

The best place to find custom slip joints is by attending knife shows and surfing the Internet. These are much harder to dig out than manufacturer's knives, but a little diligence will pay big dividends.

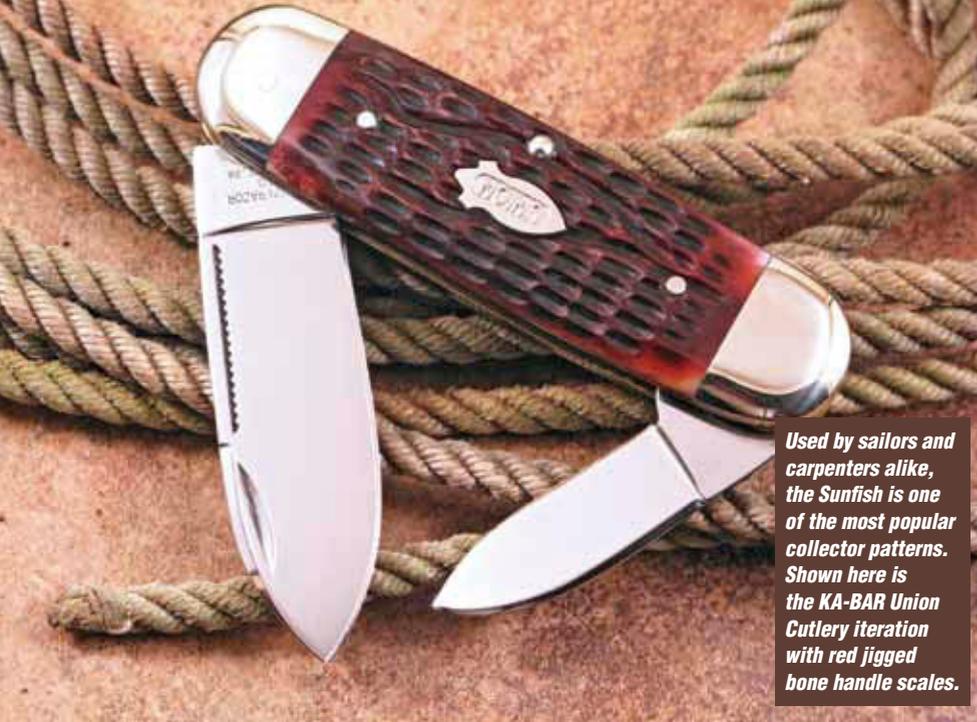
Slip joints make sense in a lot of ways. First off, if you live or travel in a restricted state or country it



If you like the pioneer look, custom knifemaker Billy Helton has you covered. Shown here is a Trapper model with hand-forged Damascus blade and jiggled bone handles.



Traditional slip-joint patterns abound! From CRKT (top to bottom) comes the Trapper in stag bone, a Kissing Crane Whittler in corncob bone, a Buck Knives "Chuck Buck" Signature Stockman in redwood and A.G. Russell Peanut in Chinese Quince wood.



Used by sailors and carpenters alike, the Sunfish is one of the most popular collector patterns. Shown here is the KA-BAR Union Cutlery iteration with red jigsaw bone handle scales.

may be the only way to legally carry a folding knife. Secondly, if you just need a knife for daily use, a no-hassle slip joint will work just fine. Think about it, didn't knife users get along perfectly well before the blade-lock craze came calling? Third, if you like the versatility of a multi-blade knife a slip joint is just about your only option, short on toting a multi-tool around with your regular carry.

The best news? If you're interested in purchasing a slip joint you'll be in hog heaven, regardless of your budget. Low-priced, traditional patterns can be

had for as low as \$30 in stag handles, while high-end limited editions run in the \$90 to \$125 range in stag trappings. Bone and synthetic-handled folders are even less expensive. On the modern side, Spyderco offers their affordable Grasshopper model at just \$14.95, the Kiwi in stag at \$49.95, the UK Penknife starts at \$59.95 and their upscale Terzuola model at \$159.95. Typically, custom slip joints can be had for as little as \$250 and prices go up from there. For more information on the manufacturers pictured herein please consult the source box below. **GUNS**

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John Taffin

Photos: Joseph R. Novelozo

If the truth be told, I would not be afraid to bet there are more .44 Magnums sold than all the rest of the more powerful sixguns combined. The .44 Magnum has been used to cleanly take all big game including Alaskan brown bear, polar bear, African elephant, Cape buffalo and African lion. And since we are being truthful I would also be willing to bet the .44 Magnum is the most powerful sixgun the vast majority of shooters can actually handle. It may not be regarded as awesome as it was in 1956; however, it is just as powerful now as it was then, actually more so with all the different ammunition choices now available. More than once I have called the .44 Magnum the King of Sixguns; I see no reason to change that in the twilight years of my life.

I have to admit I have not been enamored with all the creations emanating from the Performance Center, but the current model is not only one of the best looking Smith & Wesson big-bore sixguns I've ever seen, it also has a function matched up perfectly with its form. It handles the .44 Magnum with ease while visiting a minimum of felt recoil upon the

S&W PE



MAGNUM GUNS

trigger are both of the target style and are plated carbon steel.

The rear sight is the standard Smith & Wesson adjustable, matched up with a red ramp front sight in a dovetail. As supplied by the Performance Center, the .44 Magnum Hunter comes with a Leapers red-or-green-dot 1X scope mounted on the barrel. This is an entry-level scope, which provides out-of-the-box performance for the hunter while at the same time not adding much to the cost. With the Leapers there are five choices of red-dot intensity and five also of green. The reasoning for this low-priced scope is many will opt to provide their own choice of optics, whether red dot or traditional pistol scope. My choice for anything, other than up close hunting in deep cover, would be a traditional 2X or 4X LER scope. The head of the Performance Center, Tony Miele, was thinking boar hunting and this red/green-dot scope appears to be a perfect choice for such applications.

When compared to all the double-action .44 Magnum revolvers that have come after the original Smith & Wesson .44 Magnum, the latter is quite a bit lighter resulting in heavier felt recoil. To combat this Smith & Wesson has done two things with the Magnum Hunter. First we have a muzzlebrake added to the end of the barrel, it appears not to be removable, and is drilled with holes

shooter without being overly heavy and cumbersome. They did it right!

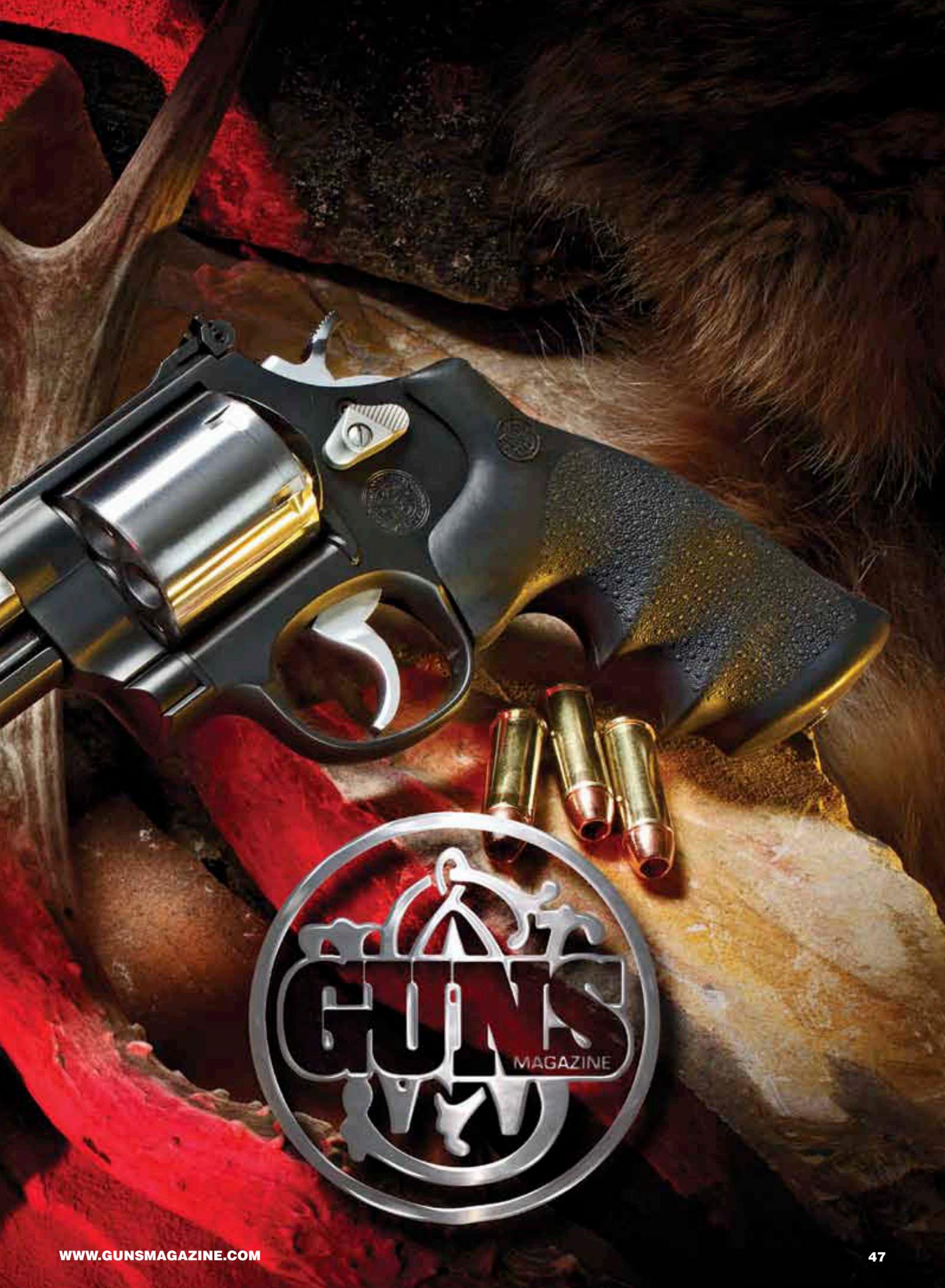
The basic platform for the .44 Magnum Hunter is the Model 629, stainless steel version. Actually, it does not look like a normal stainless steel sixgun as the frame is matte black, as is the barrel. The 2-tone effect comes from the polished stainless steel cylinder, and the flats on both sides of

the barrel. The 7-1/2" barrel itself is not of the heavy underlugged variety, but closer to the original configuration of 1955. The flat on the left side is polished and inscribed, "PERFORMANCE CENTER" while the right side says, ".44 MAGNUM HUNTER" with quite bold and exceptionally attractive lettering. It appears to have been cut with a laser. The hammer and

PERFORMANCE CENTER'S .44 MAGNUM HUNTER

THE KING OF SINGLEGUNS







The M629 Hunter comes with traditional fully adjustable iron rear sights in addition to the Leaper's red/green-dot sight.



Like all modern S&W revolvers, the firing pin is now mounted in the frame. The top of the hammer is wide and sharply checkered for easy cocking for single-action shooting.



The barrel (above) is fitted with a muzzlebrake and, combined with the revolver's 57-1/2 ounce weight makes for a pleasant shooting .44 Magnum. A backup iron front sight is dovetailed into the barrel. The swing-out cylinder (below) is unfluted and left unblacked in contrast with the frame and barrel.



Fine Pedigree

The .44 Magnum in its original form from Smith & Wesson is one of the finest, perhaps *the* finest sixgun to ever come from the Springfield factory. Starting with the 1950 Target .44 Special as the basic platform, the cylinder was lengthened to fill out the frame window, the barrel was changed to a bull-barrel configuration as found on the 1955 Target .45 introduced earlier in the year, special heat treating was applied, a target trigger and hammer along with target stocks were utilized, and the sights consisted of a white-outlined, rear-adjustable sight matched up with a red ramp front sight. All in all, it was a most magnificent sixgun!

I have recounted in the past my first experience with the S&W .44 Magnum. The local gun range rented a 4" version with six rounds of ammunition to anyone brave enough to try. My teenage friends and I tried, almost cried, and then we lied and said it wasn't bad. It would take several years before I could even come close to handling the .44 Magnum. In the ensuing years I did a lot of growing up.

The .44 Magnum cartridge in its original form used a 240-grain bullet, at the same muzzle velocity as the 158-grain .357 Magnum from 20 years earlier. Elmer Keith said the recoil would not bother a "seasoned sixgun man" and was actually less than a .38 Special J-Frame. He also called it the greatest revolver and ammunition development in his lifetime. Major Hatcher of the NRA said shooting the new Smith & Wesson was like getting hit in the hand with a baseball bat. Colonel Askins, always one to try to stir up controversy, said he thought the good Major probably had lace on his panties. A few years later Askins would say the .44 Magnum should have been stillborn.

With the introduction of the .44 Magnum and the tremendous power it gave to sixgun hunters, there were still detractors who said: "Yes, but it's not a

.45!" It is simply impossible to please some people. Since the introduction of the .44 Magnum there has been a long list of more powerful cartridges chambered in factory sixguns. In fact, while Smith & Wesson was developing the .44 Magnum, Dick Casull was working on what would become the .454 Casull. Just over 25 years after the introduction of the .44 Magnum, Freedom Arms started manufacturing the .454 which allows the use of a 300-grain bullet 200 fps faster than the original .44 Magnum. Over the past 1/4 century the .44 Magnum has also been overshadowed, at least in some minds, by the .445 SuperMag, .475 and .500 Linebaughs, .480 Ruger, .500 Wyoming Express and even two more S&W Magnums, the .500 and .460.

Smith & Wesson's original .44 Magnum was available in blue and nickel finishes with barrel lengths of 4", 6-1/2" and 8-3/8" cataloged along with a special run of 500 5" sixguns in 1958. All were magnificent sixguns. *But* since we are being truthful I will admit today's sixguns are better built with tighter tolerances, better steel and they mostly shoot better. They just aren't "classic." I think that is an attitude that comes with being a "seasoned citizen."

During the heyday of long-range silhouetting in the 1980s, there was also a 10-1/2" model with special sights. The original .44 became known as the Model 29 in 1957 and then was joined by a stainless steel version, the Model 629 in 1979. Although we learned to handle the recoil of the S&W .44 Magnum that had so intimidated us in the early days, the reality of heavy recoil did change. In the early 1990s, Smith & Wesson addressed this by the introduction of the Endurance Package, which lessened the stress of interior parts against each other and added weight with the heavy underlugged barrel. In the beginning decade of this still relatively new century, the Smith & Wesson Performance Center began offering special editions of their revolvers. The latest is the Model 629 .44 Magnum Hunter. **GUNS**

for the full 360 degrees. At the other end we have recoil-reducing rubber fingergrooved grips. Rubber grips are never attractive but their lack of form is highly overshadowed by the great function they perform. Add in the weight of the red/green-dot scope and we have a .44 Magnum that is quite comfortable to use.

Ten factory loads weighing from 180 to 300 grains were fired in the Performance Center .44 Magnum Hunter. It performed well with all loads and when sighted in with 240-grain bullets, as expected, shot

slightly high with the 300-grain bullets, and slightly low with the 180-grain loads. Of the 10 loads tried, nine were jacketed while one was a gas-checked hollowpoint cast bullet, "The Deer Magnum" from Buffalo Bore. The Magnum Hunter shot the latter just as well as it shot jacketed bullets. The average group size for five shots at 25 yards using the red-dot scope was less than 1-1/8". Looking at both ends of the spectrum, Hornady's 180-grain XTP-JHP grouped into 5/8" for five shots while the 300-grain version did 7/8". That is excellent performance for

The Model 629 Hunter comes with a Leapers dot sight selectable for a red or green dot depending on hunting conditions—a perfect set up for wild boar in cover. The knife is a Grayman Knives Suenami (www.gunsmagazine.com/grayman-knives).

MODEL 629 HUNTER

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Action Type:

Double action

Caliber:

.44 Magnum

Capacity:

6

Barrel Length:

7-1/2"

Overall Length:

14"

Weight:

57-1/2 ounces

Finish:

2-tone stainless steel

Sights:

Adjustable iron sights, dot sight

Grips:

Rubber fingergroove

Price:

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Tube Diameter:

38mm

Objective Diameter:

30mm

Field of View:

16.5' at 100 yards

Eye Relief:

Flexible

Exit Pupil:

25mm

Click Value:

1/2" elevation & windage at 100 yards

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Batteries:

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Forever Changed

Sixgunning was forever changed with the introduction of the Smith & Wesson .357 Magnum in 1935. Up to this point the most powerful factory loaded cartridge available was the black powder, (yes, black powder) .45 Colt. The .357 Magnum used a 158-grain bullet at over 1,500 fps from an 8-3/4" barreled sixgun; this was unheard of power in a revolver.

However there were those who looked at the .357 Magnum and said, "Yes, but it's not a .44 Special." Those devotees of the .44 Special had already been loading heavy .44 Specials for nearly 10 years and, led by such experimenters as Elmer Keith, John LaChuk and members of the .44 Associates, they continued to push for a factory loaded heavy .44 Special. They finally got even more than they asked for and the result in the waning days of 1955 was Smith & Wesson's .44 Magnum with ammunition developed by Remington. **GUNS**

.44 MAGNUM FACTORY AMMO PERFORMANCE

LOAD (BRAND, BULLET WEIGHT, TYPE)	VELOCITY (FPS)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)
American Eagle 240 JHP	1,395	1
Black Hills 240 JHP	1,276	1-1/2
Buffalo Bore 240 Cast-HP Deer Magnum	1,586	1-1/4
CorBon 225 DPX	1,391	1
Federal 225 Barnes HP	1,398	1-3/8
Hornady 180 XTP-JHP	1,704	5/8
Hornady 200 XTP-JHP	1,312	7/8
Hornady 240 XTP-JHP	1,437	1-1/8
Hornady 300 XTP-JHP	1,126	7/8
Winchester 250 Platinum Tip HP	1,385	1-1/4

Notes: Groups the product of best 5 of 6 shots at 25 yards.

Chronograph screens set at 10' from muzzle.

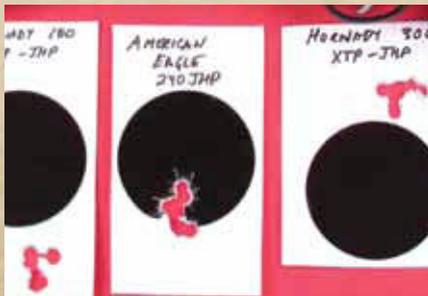
Temperature: 35 degrees F.

the ammunition, sixgun and this very well seasoned shooter.

Over the past year, I've written up several Performance Center Smith & Wessons for both this magazine and our sister publication *American Handgunner*. For the latter it was the .500 S&W Bone Collector, and for *GUNS* it was my pleasure to do both



John found the Smith & Wesson Performance Center Model 629 .44 Magnum Hunter (above) a pleasant shooting and pleasantly accurate sixgun. These targets (below) were shot with 180-, 240- and 300-grain bullets. Notice the different points of impact.



a Packin' Pistol .44 and a Hunter Model .44. The latest version is my favorite of the four. I also think it's the most attractive of the four big bores. In talking with Tony Miele of the Smith & Wesson Performance Center, I found the idea behind this latest creation was his concept of the perfect sixgun for hunting wild boars. Of course, it is not confined to that as it also will work just fine for any other hunting application a .44 Magnum might be called upon to perform. Set up as it came from the Performance Center, it is just about perfect for deep woods use.

I have been a fan of Smith & Wesson sixguns seemingly forever. My first in 1957 was a WWI Model 1917 in .45 ACP. Virtually every one of us teenagers had such a Smith & Wesson, as well as a surplus 1911 and a Springfield 1903-A3. They were the cheapest guns available. In 1958, I purchased my first new Smith & Wesson, a 4" Highway Patrolman, and then for our first Christmas together in 1959, Diamond Dot gave me a 1950 Target .44 Special. My first .44 Magnum from Smith & Wesson was purchased in 1963. Over the following years there have been many Smith & Wessons in all the various chamberings, including a dozen or more .44 Magnums. The N-Frame Smith & Wessons are simply my favorite double-action revolvers. **GUNS**



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



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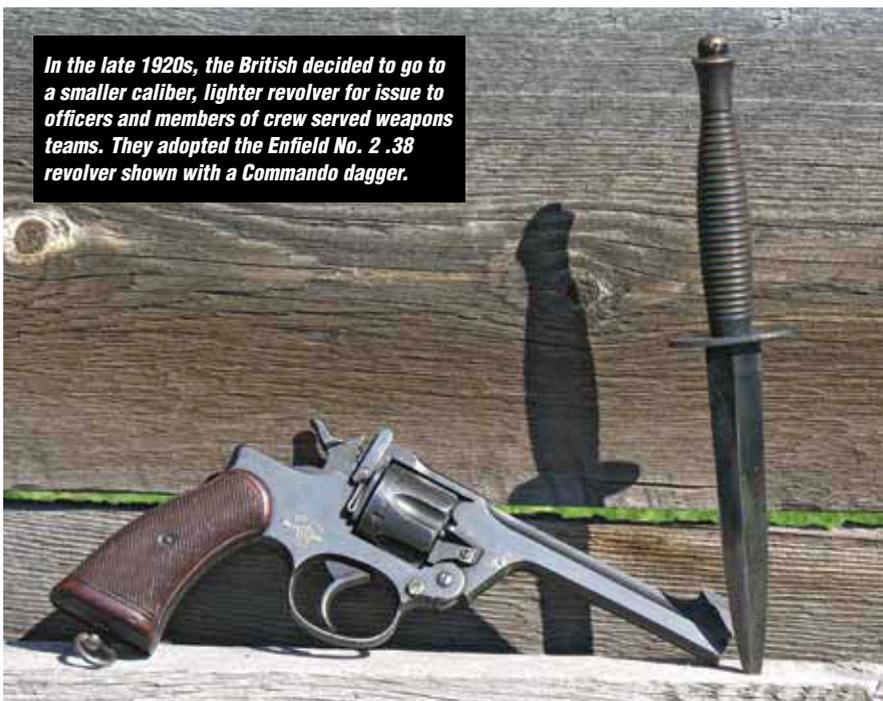


Great Britain's primary light machine gun in World War II was the Bren gun in their .303 caliber. Note the curved magazine on top and the offset sights to the left.

TOMMY'S FIGHTING ARSENAL

GREAT BRITAIN ENTERED WWII WITH MANY OBSOLETE AND SOME CUTTING EDGE FIREARMS.

In the late 1920s, the British decided to go to a smaller caliber, lighter revolver for issue to officers and members of crew served weapons teams. They adopted the Enfield No. 2 .38 revolver shown with a Commando dagger.



Mike "Duke" Venturino
Photos:

Yvonne Venturino

Recently a reader pointed out I had detailed America's and Germany's World War II small arms in these pages, but have ignored Great Britain's and their Commonwealth allies. Because I have so many of those guns on hand, I'll remedy that.

First off, there are two facts that should not be ignored when detailing Great Britain's WWII small arms. One is that the Brits have never had a problem being different. The other is their politicians see no problem in declaring war on someone with no regard to how many firearms are in their arsenals. In both World Wars they turned to America's arms



The British Mk II STEN submachine gun, along with two Inglis (Canadian) Browning Hi-Power, were all chambered for the far more useful 9x19mm cartridge. Note the wooden shoulder stock, which was mostly ordered by the Chinese Nationalists Army.

manufacturers to make their own designs, not to mention that in WWII entire convoys of US-designed and manufactured small arms were sent to them via the Lend Lease Act.

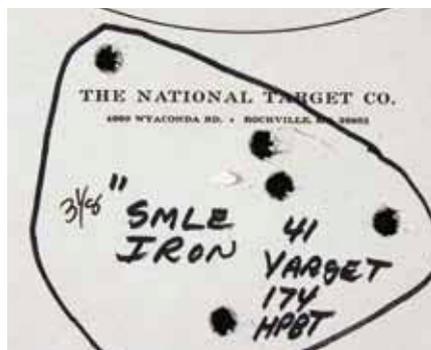
Revolvers

Some evidence of the first fact is Great Britain stuck with revolvers for their official handguns for decades after other nations' had accepted autoloading pistols. When Great Britain declared war on Germany on Sept. 3, 1939, their official military handgun was the Enfield No. 2 .38 revolver. These are nifty little double-action handguns with a short, smooth double-action trigger pull albeit chambered for a puny cartridge.

The Enfield No. 2, in most essential terms, is the Webley MK VI



Although by WWII the British had adopted a .38 revolver as standard issue, they still had plenty of .455 Webley revolvers on hand. Shown are a Smith & Wesson 2nd Model Hand Ejector and (right) a Webley Mark VI.



Duke feels the common British WWII rifle gave accuracy at 100 yards about like this.

.455 made small. It retains the top-break mechanism, which does have one advantage over the side swing cylinders of Smith & Wesson and Colt double actions; that is, all empty cases are automatically ejected when the revolver is broken open. Barrel length is 5" and weight is less than 1-3/4 pounds. Sights are a notch rear integral with the barrel latch and a post-front pinned to a rib machined as part of the barrel. There is no provision for windage adjustment. Replacing the front sight with a higher or lower one as needed can change elevation.

Here's another facet of the British willingness to be different. Their .38 cartridge was based on the .38

S&W case dating from the mid-1870s. It is a mere .76" long. At first the Brits stuck a 200-grain soft-lead bullet in it, moving at about 600 fps. Then someone reminded them that soft-lead bullets were banned for "civilized" warfare. Next they went to a 178-grain FMJ bullet at about 620 fps. According to *Military Small Arms Of The 20th Century* by Ian V. Hogg and John S. Weeks, these two .38s were termed .380 Revolver Mk I and .380 Revolver Mk II.

The Webley

Prior to adopting the .38, the standard British military handgun had been the huge Webley Mk VI,



Duke's friend Patrick Ryan fires Duke's WWII vintage STEN 9mm submachine gun.

with its .455 cartridge dating back to the 1880s. These handguns were still commonly issued in WWII, with a load consisting of a 265-grain FMJ bullet at about 620 fps. Case length is a stubby .75". The Mk VI's barrel length was 6" with a weight of about 2-1/2 pounds.

Now here's some evidence of that second fact mentioned above. In both World Wars the Brits had nowhere near enough handguns. In World War I, they prevailed on Smith & Wesson to make their big N-Frame revolvers for .455 Webley. That was a huge handgun weighing about 3 pounds with a 6-1/2" barrel. Many still saw service in World War II. Also, in the early 1940s Great Britain bought several thousand Smith & Wesson K-Frame .38 revolvers. Producing those was a no-brainer for the S&W firm because they had been chambering their Military & Police model (later named Model 10) for .38 S&W since its inception in 1899.

By 1944, the British decided to "go modern" with handguns, at least for some of their special ops units and paratroopers. And so adopted the John Inglis Company's (Canadian) copy of the FN/Browning P35 (Hi Power) 9mm Parabellum autoloader. This 2-1/2 pound, 4-3/4"-barreled pistol with a 13-shot magazine capacity must have been a real eye opener for British army officers. The Inglis P35s were manufactured in two basic versions: one set up to take a detachable wooden shoulder stock/holster and fitted with a tangent sight graduated to 500 meters and the other lacking the shoulder stock cuts in the grip backstrap and having only a fixed-blade rear sight.

The second version was meant for British forces and the first version was made ostensibly for the Chinese Government. Still one has to wonder if any of the shoulder stocked ones made it into British hands. Perhaps some did so in the CBI (China,

Burma, India Theater of Operations).

Great Britain began WWII with their No. 1 Mk III as standard infantry rifle. It was the last of their line of rifles designated SMLE (Short Magazine Lee Enfield) and dated from about 1916. In regards to appearances the old "Smellys" are ugly rifles, but as far as battle rifles go they are darn good ones. The Australian army fighting in the Southwest Pacific Theater of operations stuck with the SMLE throughout WWII, leaning heavily on Mk IIIs made at their Lithgow facility.

The basic SMLE form was remodeled to the No. 4 Mk I that began to see issuance in 1942. Both versions have 25" barrels with a detachable magazine holding 10 rounds. Despite being detachable, they were designed for loading from above with 5-round stripper clips. A very important difference between the two rifles is that the No. 4 version has a peep sight, whereas the earlier model has barrel-mounted open sights. The British loved to give sub-designations, so those rifles made in North America during WWII in both Canada and by Savage in New York were called No. 4 Mk I*.

One other British infantry rifle served also. During WWI the Brits had the American companies of Winchester, Remington and a subsidiary of Remington named Eddystone manufacture their Pattern 1914 rifles to the tune of about 1,200,000. These were an adaptation of the basic Mauser '98 action with 5-round internal magazine capacity, 26" barrel and rear peep sight. What remained of these rifles after that war were stored and then refurbished and used again in WWII. Some were even



A crew-served weapon, the Vickers heavy machine gun chambered in .303 was Great Britain's standard from 1915 to 1967.



Although British army officers early on denigrated submachine guns as “gangster guns,” when the Nazis were only 20 miles from their shores they gladly bought all the Thompson submachine guns they could get, including the M1 version (top) and earlier Model 1928A1.

turned into sniper rifles.

Speaking of sniper rifles, the No. 4 Mk I was altered to such. Hands picked for their accuracy potential, No. 4 Mk I rifles were fitted with several versions of scope with the No. 32 of 3.5X power being most common. The mount used for these scopes was massive, screwing to the side of the receiver with two large thumbscrews. To raise the shooter’s eye high enough to match the scope a wooden cheekpiece was screwed to the stock. Turning a No.4 Mk I into a sniper rifle, increased its weight to over 12 pounds making it the heaviest of all WWII sniper rifles.

Great Britain fielded only one carbine in WWII. It was the No. 5, commonly called the Jungle Carbine, because it was primarily meant for issue in Southeast Asia. It was nothing more than the basic No. 4 given an 18-1/2" barrel, half-stock, conical-shaped flash hider on the muzzle and lightening cuts throughout the action. It was not issued until September 1944.

The British entered WWII without a submachine gun. Some haughty British army officers even said that they neither needed nor wanted “gangster guns.” After the debacle of Dunkirk (it was certainly not a “miracle” as portrayed in British newspapers at the time), the same army officers were openly happy to receive hundreds of thousands of American-made Thompson submachine guns via the Lend Lease Act.

Even more so they began making their own, first with a model called the Lanchester Mark I that went



The extra sturdy scope mount arrangement of the No. 4 Mk I(T) sniper rifle would also hold its zero if the scope were removed and returned to the rifle.

only to the Royal Navy. Then they began turning out a version whose design borrowed heavily on the internals of the German’s MP38/MP40. The Brits named theirs the STEN. Those initials are combined from designers Shepherd and Turpin with the first two letters of Enfield. The basic STEN progressed from Mk I through Mk V, although about 1/2 of the 4 million made were Mk IIs. Along with borrowing from German designs, they also rather intelligently borrowed the German caliber—9mm Parabellum.

Many commentators have made rude comments about the Brits’ STEN guns, saying things like it was cheaply made junk, and even a

plumber’s nightmare. Actually for the purpose it was intended, it was a fine weapon. One source says they were being produced at the rate of about 20,000 a week in 1944 and cost only about \$10.99 each. Compared to other WWII submachine guns they were extremely light. Their 6-pound weight was about 1/2 of an American Thompson and about 3/4 of a German MP40. STENs could be broken down into three compact pieces for shipment. Many thousands were parachuted into Europe to help arm resistance forces fighting their German occupiers. STEN gun magazine capacity was 32 rounds with a rate of fire of about 550 rpm. They were also capable of semi-auto



The three British rifles (above) used in World War II include (top) No. 4 Mk I, Pattern 1914 (middle) and (bottom) the No. 4 Mk I(T), which is merely the top rifle, converted for scope use.



Great Britain started WWII with the WWI-era No. 1 Mk III SMLE .303 (above), but lost many early on, replacing them with the No. 4 Mk I. The Australian Army soldiered on with the SMLE through the Korean War. Late in WWII, The No. 5 "Jungle Carbine" would see issue primarily in Southeast Asia. It was a lightened version of its parent, the No. 4 Mk I.

fire with a push of a button but their completely non-adjustable, very crude sights certainly did not allow precise shooting.

In the late 1930s, the British adopted a Czech-designed light machine gun designated BREN. It fired their .303 cartridge from a 30-round magazine fed from atop. Cyclic rate was 500 rpm. The sights are oddly situated to the left side because of the magazine. At 22 pounds with bipod it was comparable to the American Model 1918A2 BAR. Tripods were also made for it. In one form or another, the Brits held on to their BREN guns until the early 1970s.

The Vickers

The heavy hitter of all British WWII infantry firearms was the Vickers water-cooled machine gun. It was a crew served weapon, the gun itself weighing about 40 pounds

with tripod at least doubling that. It was fed .303 cartridges by means of 250-round cloth belts with a rate of 450 rpm. Vickers machine guns were adopted by the British in 1912 and served in various upgrades for over 50 years.

Now speaking personally, I've fired all of the guns mentioned here except the Vickers water-cooled machine gun and own a sample of everything except that and the BREN gun. Here's my take on them. For a man not expected to actually fight with a handgun, the Enfield No. 2 is a fine little gun but its .38 caliber is silly. The British Army was smart when it transitioned to the Browning Hi Power 9mm.

Their three types of infantry rifle: Pattern 1914, SMLE No. 1 Mk III and No. 4 Mk I are all good shooters. My 65 to almost 100-year-old samples of each shoot 3- to 4-MOA groups at 100 yards. I do see the benefit of the

10-round magazine and it was smart of them to also go to peep sights after the SMLE Mk III. The No. 4 Mk I(T) sniper rifle is a good shooter and the No. 32 scope on my sample has better adjustments than any other WWII sniper scope, except for the Soviet's PU model.

As said before, the STEN submachine gun was an excellent answer to British needs in WWII, while certainly not impressing anyone with its manufacturing craftsmanship. My Mk II sample is reliable and accurate. I've only gotten to shoot a BREN gun once so I'm no expert, but since it lasted so long in service evidently it was good. Maybe someday I'll get to sit down behind a Vickers.

Great Britain's military wasn't very smart about keeping their weapons storage facilities fully stocked; but shocked into action, they developed many that fit their needs.

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THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING VARMINT CARTRIDGE

Continuing improvements lead to less recoil, longer shots and greater barrel life.

John Barsness

The word “varmint” is an American version of “vermin,” meaning the wild creatures that eat the crops and animals people raise for food. In the 21st century most North Americans tend to think of varmints as smaller animals, but among my friends are a Montana ranching couple who recently had a 600-pound grizzly bear start killing their sheep, something the bear had previously done on nearby ranches. A state game warden ended up shooting the bear with a .300 Weatherby, not usually considered a varmint round.

Smaller varmints used to be taken care of primarily by the sons of farmers and ranchers. Their fathers were usually too tired after a long working day to hunt varmints, so gave their kids (who’d just spent the day sitting in school) a cheap .22 rimfire

and told them to go shoot crows, prairie dogs and foxes.

There was a time when this seemed the natural order of country life, but eventually industrial America and college educations pulled many kids away from farms. World War I

accelerated this change, because many of the soldiers who’d seen Europe refused to settle down again to grow corn or cows—though some kept coming back home to shoot varmints.

Naturally the more avid shooters started developing their own cartridges, and naturally the big factories took notice. The first genuine varmint wildcat to be legitimized was the .22 Hornet, among the few cartridges ever mass-manufactured before a factory rifle appeared. Winchester started making ammunition in 1930, but didn’t start chambering their Model 54 rifle for the Hornet until 1932.

The .22 Hornet was developed, at least partially, at Springfield Armory, where a gun-writing soldier named Townsend Whelen was part of the team. The Army thought there might be some use for the tiny round, and it turned out there was. Eventually the military built “survival rifles” in .22 Hornet for pilots who flew in remote regions.

The .22 Hornet was an instant success, even in the beginning of the Great Depression. Most avid varmint shooters handloaded, and the little cartridge was very economical to reload, using a small charge of Hercules 2400, a powder developed specifically for the Hornet case and named for the muzzle velocity produced.

The 40 years after the introduction



One advantage of smaller varmint rounds is they don't recoil as much, allowing the shooter to observe where bullets hit through the scope. The .204 Ruger also works great in an AR-15.



All-day shooting of prairie dogs is more effectively done with a small round—and is also more economical, both in ammo and rifle barrels.

of the .22 Hornet saw the commercialization of several other varmint-inspired wildcats, including the .219 Zipper (a necked-down .25-35) and the .22-250 Remington. The factories themselves, including the .222 Remington and .220 Swift, developed other varmint rounds. The .222 eventually led to the .223 Remington, the civilian version of the 5.56mm NATO. The .220 Swift was the fastest commercial cartridge for the entire 20th century, and hasn't been beaten by much even today.

Please note that all of these cartridges were .22 caliber. Twenty-two centerfires were always considered the most practical varmint rounds; despite efforts by major companies to sell 6mm and 25-caliber rounds as "combination" cartridges, useful both for varmints and deer-sized game. Most shooters eventually learned that while the .243 Winchester and .257 Roberts were very useful for the occasional shots at larger varmints such as woodchucks and coyotes, they kicked too much for comfortable all-day shooting.

To a certain extent this was also true of the .220 Swift. The .222 Remington appeared in 1950 and immediately cut into the popularity of the Swift, both because it didn't kick as hard or burn out barrels as quickly. The .222 also almost killed the .22 Hornet, since it shot much flatter and more accurately.

By the 1970s, the .222 had mostly been replaced by the .223 and the Swift by the .22-250, but the same "division of labor" still applied: The .223 was good out to around 250 yards, while the .22-250 was the round for longer

ranges and larger varmints.

In the 1980s, Nosler upset this equilibrium with the introduction of their new Ballistic Tip bullet. Before then varmint bullets had been hollowpoints or softpoints. Hollowpoints were usually more accurate, especially match-grade bullets designed for benchrest shooting, but they didn't expand as reliably as softpoints unless the "hollow" was so big it drastically reduced ballistic coefficient. This was why the .222 and .223 were only considered 250-yard varmint cartridges. Their bullets slowed down so fast that at 300+ yards, the bigger .22-250 and .220 Swift rounds were far more effective.

The Ballistic Tip changed all that. Essentially it was a big-cavity hollowpoint, with the hole filled by a super-pointy plastic tip. The tip not only increased ballistic coefficient considerably, but enhanced expansion.

I first started shooting .224 Ballistic Tips in the late 1980s when Nosler sent me a batch, just before they invited me and a number of gun writers on a prairie dog shoot in eastern Montana. At the time my varmint rifles followed the then-conventional thinking: a Remington 700 BDL in .223 for shorter ranges, and a Ruger 77 in .220 Swift for longer-range shooting. It soon became apparent, however, that the Ballistic Tip had added at least 150 yards to the effective range of the .223. Not only did the new bullet shoot noticeably flatter, but it also expanded explosively to 400 yards or more. My Swift didn't leave its case after the first day.

This knowledge spread fairly rapidly among varmint shooters, and



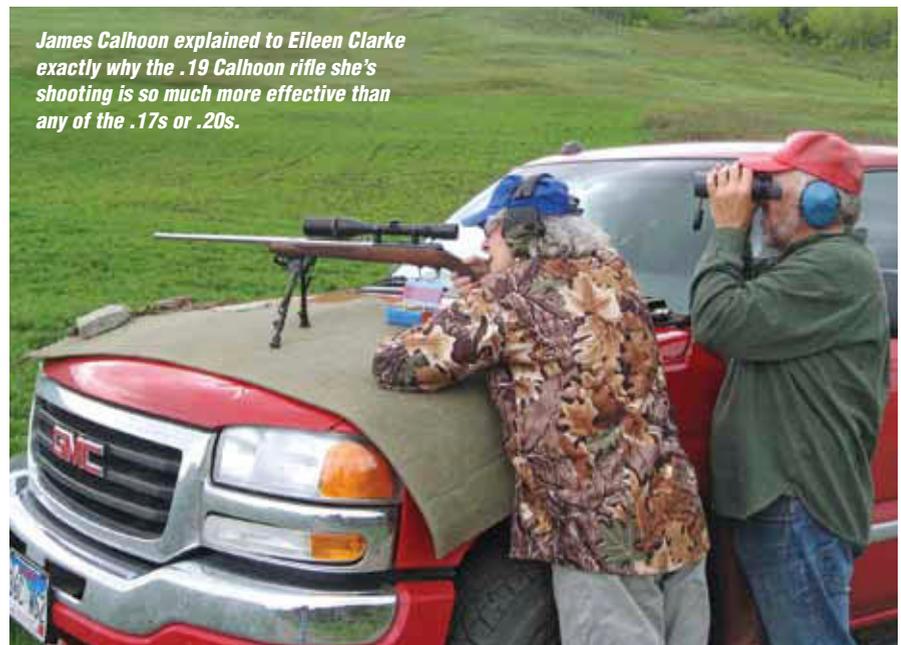
Varmint cartridges keep shrinking including (from left) .220 Swift, .204 Ruger, .17 Fireball, .19 Calhoun, .17 HMR and .17 Mach 2.

throughout the 1990s, fewer and fewer .22-250's were seen around prairie dog towns. With a heavy-barreled .223 we could actually see the results of our shots, even through a high-magnification scope. With a .22-250 we couldn't. If the .223 now worked at longer ranges, why put up with the recoil and barrel burning of a larger round?

But the shrinking of varmint cartridges didn't stop there. Of course, the entire history of self-contained rifle cartridges has been toward smaller and, to a certain extent, faster rounds, but commercial varmint cartridges were the first to shrink below the traditional .22-caliber bottom-line.

Sub-.22s

Remington was the first company to introduce sub-.22s, though both were before their time. The 5mm Remington Magnum appeared in 1970, and was essentially a .22 Winchester Magnum Rimfire case necked down to take a 38-grain .204" diameter bullet, at an advertised 2,100 fps. The 5mm's big problem was that this barely beat the



James Calhoun explained to Eileen Clarke exactly why the .19 Calhoun rifle she's shooting is so much more effective than any of the .17s or .20s.



The .17 Fireball in the Remington 700 has proven to be a very effective medium-range varmint round, extremely flat shooting and accurate, but with only about as much recoil as a .22 Hornet.



CZ rimfires have an enviable reputation for accuracy, but their .17 HMRs (top) will even outshoot their .22 Long Rifles (bottom).



It didn't take any barrel "break-in" for this CZ .17 HMR to start shooting tiny groups. The targets were shot at 100 yards, not the 50 yards usually shot with .22 rimfires.

then standard .22 Magnum load of a 40-grain bullet at 2,000 fps. Sales were so miserable that by 1982 Remington quit making ammo. (In recent years Aguila Ammunition of Mexico started making 5mm ammo again, with a more sensible 30-grain bullet at 2,300 fps, but it's doubtful the 5mm will ever be popular.)

A year later Remington introduced the first commercial sub-.22 centerfire, the .17 Remington. This was the second cartridge to break 4,000 fps, with a 25-grain .172" hollowpoint at 4,020 fps. The .17 sold better than the 5mm, but not by much, partly because existing cleaning solvents weren't up to truly eliminating copper fouling from the tiny bore. Many .17 Remington owners probably didn't clean their rifles at all, since .17-caliber cleaning rods were very scarce. Additionally, a .17 hollowpoint has a very tiny opening, and sometimes the bullets didn't expand.

It wasn't until the 21st century that any other new sub-.22 commercial cartridges appeared. The first was the .17 Hornady Magnum Rimfire, in 2002. Like the 5mm Remington, the .17 HMR (or "Hummer") is based on a necked-down .22 WMR case, but the bullet is lighter and faster, made possible by Hodgdon's Li'l Gun powder. The initial loading was 17 grains at an advertised 2,550 fps, though on warm days I've chronographed this load at 2,700 fps. Unlike the 5mm Remington, the .17 HMR was an instant success, partly because of superb accuracy and partly because the bullet was Hornady's version of a plastic-tip, the V-Max, ensuring rapid, violent expansion.

I waited until a year after .17 HMR's obvious success before buying a CZ rifle, and was soon sorry I waited.

The first 3-shot group from the rifle at 100 yards measured just under 1/4", and 5-shots groups averaged 1/2" to 3/4". On relatively calm days, it's a very reliable ground squirrel round out to 200 yards, and sometimes even further. My friend Bradd Cobb made the longest shot I've witnessed—303 yards on a prairie dog—and the dog flopped right over. There are now three loads, with bullets from 15.5 to 20 grains.

Hornady tried to follow up this success in 2004 with the .17 Mach 2, the .22 Long Rifle case necked down to shoot the same 17-grain bullet at 2,100 fps. The Mach 2's ballistics are about 75 yards behind the HMR's, making it a reliable 125-yard ground squirrel cartridge that shoots a lot flatter than any .22 Long Rifle round, and accuracy is often slightly better than the HMR's.

The .17 Mach 2 has never sold as well as the .17 HMR, though if it had been introduced first it might have. It also might start to sell better in the near future, because ammunition only costs about 60 percent as much as HMR ammo. Hummer ammo, like all factory ammunition, has jumped considerably in price over the past year or two.



The .204 Ruger works very well on larger varmints, such as woodchucks (above) and coyotes (below).



On a nice day in May, this custom CZ in .19 Calhoon accounted for dozens of alfalfa-eating ground squirrels out to 200+ yards.

Unlike other rimfires, both Hornady .17s require more than occasional bore cleaning. I've found that my two rifles, the CZ and a Thompson/Center Carbine in .17 Mach 2, need to be scrubbed every 100 or 150 rounds to maintain their fine accuracy. It's also possible to shoot out a .17 HMR barrel. My CZ is only one of several varmint rifles that are rotated frequently on any small-varmint hunt, so it still shoots fine. But some Western shooters put thousands of rounds through their Hummers each year, so they burn out a barrel after a season or two.

Remington tried again with a centerfire .17 in 2007, necking down their .221 Fireball, a shortened .222 originally introduced in their bolt-action XP-100 handgun. The .17 Fireball reaches 4,000 fps, just like the original .17 Remington, but with a 20-grain plastic-tipped bullet Remington calls the Accu-Tip, the Hornady V-Max with a green point.

I've been shooting a .17 Fireball for three years now. When sighted-in 1-1/2" high at 100 yards, you can basically hold right in the middle of a prairie dog out to 300 yards and hit the dog. Beyond that the little bullet loses much of its ambition, but it's hard to hit prairie dogs consistently much beyond 300 yards with any cartridge.

My rifle is the cheapest synthetic-stocked Remington 700, but its first 5-shot group with factory ammo measured .6" at 100 yards, with no modifications to the rifle other than adjusting the trigger down to 2 pounds. A charge of 19.5 grains of Ramshot TAC and the red-tipped, 20-grain V-Max matched the factory ammo's accuracy and velocity, and so far this rifle has shown almost no tendency to copper foul. This

is no doubt partly due to TAC, a very clean-burning ball powder that contains a de-coppering agent. TAC is also a fine-grained ball powder, so flows easily into the tiny neck. (The only .17 Remington factory load now produced, by the way, now uses this same 20-grain bullet at 4,250 fps.)

My only reservation is that .17 Fireball cases stretch more than most other small varmint centerfires — even when only neck-sized — and it's a pain to trim hundreds of .17-caliber necks. Maybe this rifle needs to be transformed to a .17 Fireball Ackley Improved to stop this stretching!

The .204 Ruger

The other sub-.22 varmint round of the past decade is the .204 Ruger, another major success story. If I had to limit myself to only one varmint rifle, it would be a .204, since it does the same basic things as the .220 Swift but with less recoil.

The two commonly used loads are a 32-grain bullet at over 4,000 fps and a 40-grain bullet at 3,700 fps. The 32s shoot noticeably flatter and produce more "lift" on small varmints, while the 40's drift significantly less in the wind and work better on coyotes. Luckily, one other virtue of the .204 is that most rifles shoot both 32- and 40-grain bullets to the same point of impact, so the loads can be used interchangeably. At least that's been the case with the three .204s I've owned, as well as several other rifles shot on industry prairie dog hunts. And thanks to the .204's 30-degree shoulder, cases don't stretch much.

You'd think with all these new rounds there wouldn't be any room for wildcats, but you'd be wrong. James Calhoon offers a line-up of three 19-caliber rounds, based on the .22 Hornet, .30 Carbine and .223

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Remington cases, all with 30-degree shoulders. He also, naturally, makes several .192" diameter bullets from 32 to 44 grains, and rifles based on CZ 527 and Ruger 77 Hornet actions.

The most popular of the three is the .30 Carbine model, called the .19 Calhoun. My wife Eileen and I spent a couple of days last year with Jim, field-testing the .19 Calhoun on alfalfa-eating ground squirrels, and it works great as far as anybody can hit 1/2-pound rodents. Jim can even explain, very rationally, why the .19 is superior to the .17 and .20, partly because of tests done by the US military. Hmm... maybe I need another miniature varmint rifle. **GUNS**

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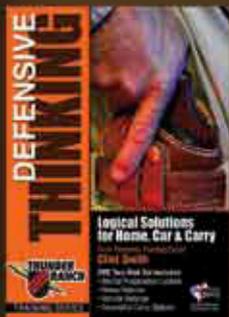
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The Umnumzaan, the Zulu word for “Boss” and referred to as “Zaan” for short, is a frame-lock folder. This design, popularized by Reeve, is a take-off of the popular Michael Walker-style liner lock. However it is widely considered to be stronger because the thick metal of the frame also serves as the locking leaf, as opposed to a thinner strip of metal inside the frame. The frame rails of the Zaan are 1/8" thick and made of top-shelf Titanium that not only offers strength, but weight savings. With a handle length of 4.77" the Zaan is Reeve's largest folder to date, and when engaged the 3.675" blade stretches the overall length to a smidgeon under 8.5".



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BLADE MATERIAL:

S30V stainless steel

BLADE LENGTH:

3.675"

OVERALL LENGTH:

8.445"

WEIGHT:

5 ounces

HANDLE/FRAME:

Titanium

PRICE:

\$400

The S30V premium stainless steel blade sports a stonewashed double-clip design, deeply hollowground for added slice. Rather than a stop pin to serve as a blade stop, Reeve has ingeniously used ambidextrous thumb studs to do the job, and these have rubber O-rings to serve as “shock absorbers” when the blade snicks into the open position. Another improvement is the addition of a stronger pivot with oversized pins to keep the blade secure and inline during harsh use.

What words and pictures can't describe is the extreme precision Reeve builds into his knives. Only by handling and cutting with one will you appreciate the tight construction, smooth action and vault-like lockup that has become his trademark over the years. The price for the Umnumzaan is \$400; less than many custom knives that can't hold a candle to Chris Reeve's incredibly high standards.

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- PC120 Neon Pink.....9.95**
- PC126 Woodland.....9.95**
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SS874K Bearcat Kit.....25.95

Nevada Drop Point

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

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6 1/4" overall, blade 3 3/4", 1/8" thick.
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SS167K Renaissance Kit.....14.95

Cobra

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

Sportsman

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

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Has “Project Gunrunner” Become “Project Gunwalker”?

“**[F]**ederal law enforcement sources have confirmed that two guns, part of a series of purchases that were being monitored by authorities, were found at the scene of the firefight that killed a US Border Patrol agent in southern Arizona,” a story from *The Los Angeles Times* began.

“The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms—the agency tasked with keeping US guns from being smuggled to Mexico—has come under fire for allegedly allowing firearms to cross the border into Mexico,” echoed *Fox News*.

“ATF gunrunning probe strategy scrutinized after death of Border Patrol agent,” *The Washington Post* reported. Similar headlines were offered by the Associated Press and *USA Today*.

I’m pleased to report I had a hand in making this happen, along with Mike Vanderboegh at his *Sipsey Street Irregulars* blog.

We’d both been monitoring CleanUpATF.org for some time, a website run by “members of the ATF community to promote restoration of integrity, accountability and responsibility to ATF’s leadership and regain the trust of the American taxpayer.” And we’d seen some pretty astounding charges there, including: ATF management allowed potentially hundreds of semi-automatic firearms to be “walked” across the Mexican border in order to pad statistics used to further budget and power objectives. (I dubbed this “Project Gunwalker,” an ironic reference to ATF’s “Project Gunrunner” program designed to stop arms from going across

the border.) Mexican authorities were kept in the dark, and protests that they should be informed were overridden, ultimately by higher-ups in Washington, DC; guns used in this operation were involved in a December 2010 incident in which a Border Patrol agent was killed.

Because of our public advocacy for oversight hearings into prior allegations, Vanderboegh and I were contacted by whistleblowing insiders wanting to attract Congressional and media attention but fearful of management reprisals. Thus began a labor of daily activity that included developing contacts, consulting with trusted advisors, communicating with our sources, trying to interest reporters and pans on our websites to attract attention and pressure Senate staffers into arranging protection while they assessed the documentation our sources claimed would prove their allegations.

It paid off, resulting in a letter from Sen. Charles Grassley, the ranking Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, to Kenneth Melson, Acting Director of ATF, expressing “serious concerns” about Project Gunrunner, and noting allegations about the slaying of the Border Patrol Agent “were accompanied by detailed documentation which appears to lend credibility to the claims...”

A follow-up letter copied Attorney General Eric Holder, and cautioned that ATF management must respect whistleblower protections, and that “obstructing a Congressional investigation is a crime.”

That broke the dam. Suddenly reporters who were holding us at arm’s length were claiming the story as their own, which was needed to keep it from being buried and ignored.

Where things go from here will depend on what is learned under oath, and we’re pushing for that to happen. To quote Churchill, “Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.”

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

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

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NEWS

3Q Excise Tax Figures

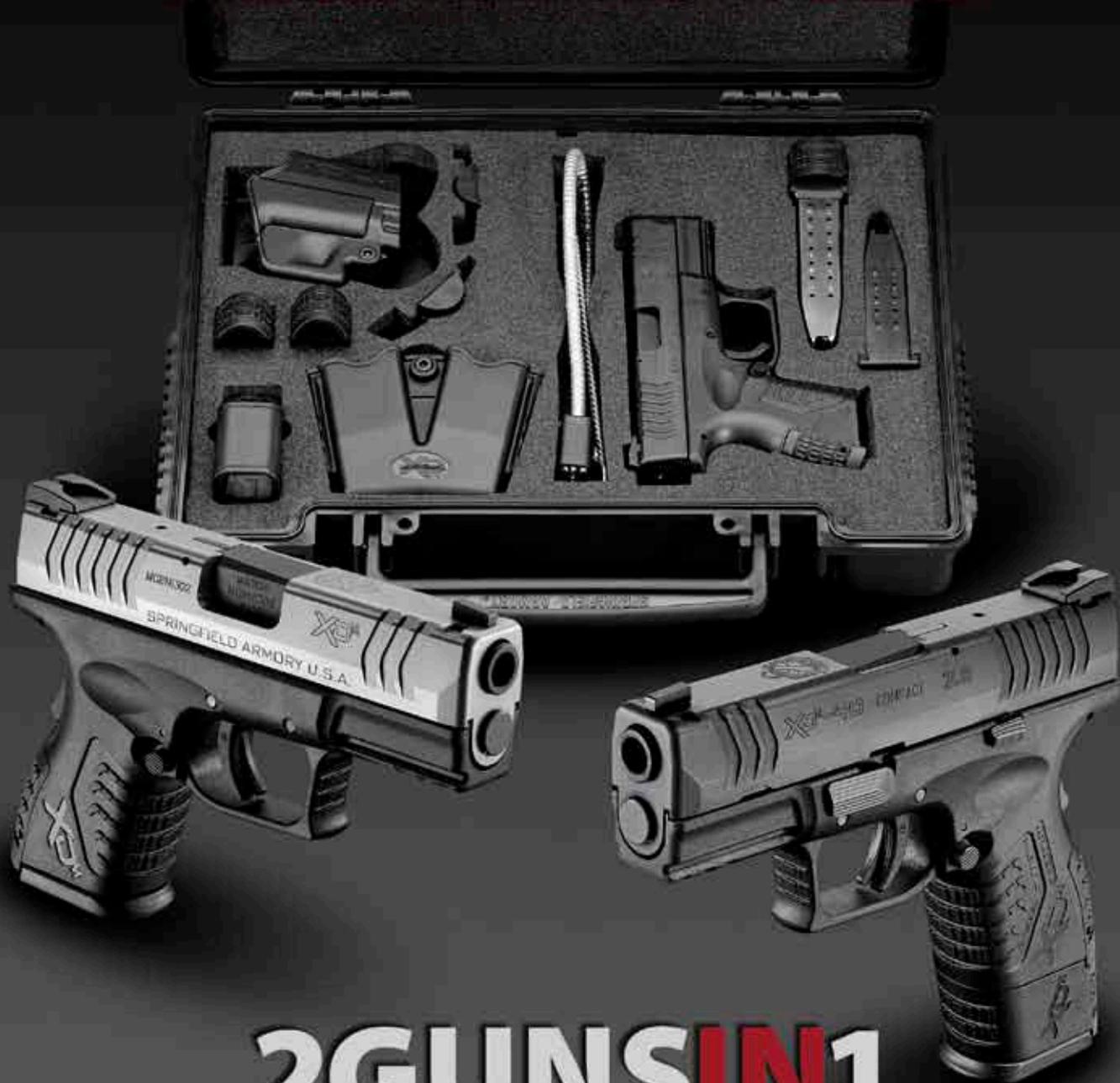
The latest firearms and ammunition excise tax collection report released by the Department of the Treasury indicates firearm and ammunition manufacturers reported tax liabilities of \$104.3 million in the 3rd calendar quarter of 2010, down 9.93 percent over the same period in 2009. The report, which covers the time period of July 1 through September 30 shows \$25.7 million was due in taxes for pistols and revolvers, \$33.94 million for firearms (other)/long guns and \$44.68 million for ammunition (shells and cartridges). Compared to the same period in 2009, tax obligations were down 13.91 percent for pistols and revolvers, down 8.48 percent for firearms (other)/long guns and down 8.61 percent for ammunition (shells and cartridges).—*Courtesy NSSF*

Repealing Reporting Requirement

In his State of the Union address, President Obama signaled he would support a repeal of the 1099 reporting requirement. “If you have ideas about how to improve this law by making care better or more affordable, I am eager to work with you. We can start right now by correcting a flaw

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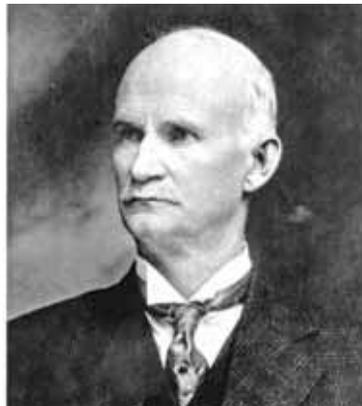
in the legislation that has placed an unnecessary bookkeeping burden on small businesses." Scheduled to take effect in 2012, the new IRS reporting requirement would force businesses to provide a 1099 to vendors from whom they buy goods totaling \$600 or more annually. Small businesses will need to issue hundreds or even thousands of forms each year, track cumulative payments to vendors and obtain tax identification information from each vendor. And the "vendor" could be a gun owner who sells used firearms to a retailer. —*Courtesy NSSF*

Conservationist Of The Year

Joe Hamilton, founder of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), has been named Budweiser Conservationist of the Year (<http://www.qdma.com/programs/conservationist/>). The award includes a \$50,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, which Hamilton has chosen to give to the organization he founded in 1988—QDMA—to ensure the future of white-tailed deer, wildlife habitat and America's hunting heritage. —*Courtesy NSSF*

Utah State Legislature Salutes John M. Browning

Utah celebrated Jan. 24, 2011 as John M. Browning Day at the Utah State Capitol. A native of Ogden, Utah, Browning is widely considered the world's greatest firearms designer, and many of his gun designs remain popular around the globe to this day.



The State of Utah has designated January 24, 2011 as John M. Browning day in recognition of his many firearm designs and especially in the 100th year of the 1911. Photo courtesy: Browning



Utah Governor Gary Herbert (left) presented the official state resolution to Christopher Browning, the great grandson of John M. Browning. Photo courtesy: Browning

Hundreds of firearms enthusiasts and history buffs turned out to view scores of rare, historic and unique Browning firearms displayed in the State Capitol rotunda. Groups participating in the firearm exhibit included the John M. Browning Firearms Museum, Fort Douglas Military Museum and the Utah Gun Collectors Association. The Utah National Guard even brought in an AH-64 Apache Longbow helicopter for a landing on the south lawn of the State Capitol.

Utah Governor Gary Herbert made a formal presentation of the official state resolution to Christopher Browning, the great grandson of John



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50 Rounds
AMM-4700 ... \$8.29



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



Remington .223
FMJ, 55 Grain,
20 Rounds
AMM-206 ... \$8.19



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



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



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



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



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



Federal 5.56x45
FMJBT, 55 Grain,
20 Rounds
AMM-207 ... \$6.79



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



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



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MAG-416 ... \$8.97

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MAG-303 ... \$1.97

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MAG-523 ... \$21.97

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Blued Steel
MAG-390 ... \$34.97

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

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

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

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

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



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M. Browning, at a noon ceremony on the capitol steps. In turn, Christopher Browning presented the Governor with a new Browning 1911-.22 rimfire pistol as a gift from the Browning Arms Company to the people of Utah. Also speaking at the noon ceremony were Rep. Curt Oda (R-Clearfield), Sen. Mark Madsen (R-Lehi), MG Brian Tarbet of the Utah National Guard and Col. Scott Zobrist of the USAF's 388th Fighter Wing at Hill AFB in Ogden.



Ephriam Dickson, Curator of the Fort Douglas Museum, is excited about displaying a 1919 Browning water-cooled machine gun. Photo courtesy: Browning

A bill by Rep. Carl Wimmer (R-Herriman) designating the John M. Browning-designed 1911 pistol as the Official Utah State Firearm has

passed the full House and now goes to the Senate.

The year 2011 represents the 100th anniversary of the adoption of Browning's 1911 .45-caliber automatic pistol by the US Army. After a full century of service this pistol design remains in active military use with US Special Operations forces and is more popular than ever among civilians, gun collectors, competitive shooters and law enforcement officers. The John M. Browning-designed 1911 pistol was adopted by the US Army March 29, 1911.—*Courtesy Howard Communications*

Hard Work In Southern Afghanistan

During separate clearing operations in Helmand province, insurgents engaged three International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) patrols with small-arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades in the province's Sangin and Kajaki districts. Coalition forces returned fire and called for air support. The air weapons team supporting ground forces engaged the enemy positions, killing the insurgents.

Afghan and ISAF forces also discovered several caches in southern

and eastern Afghanistan. In Helmand, Uruzgan, Kandahar, Paktika and Zabul provinces, Afghan forces and ISAF patrols found three assault rifles, 20 full assault-rifle magazines, 3,000 small-arms rounds, two machine guns, 22 mortar rounds, three artillery rounds, 34 rocket-propelled grenades, a rocket, 17 RPG boosters, five rocket-propelled grenade warheads, two anti-personnel mines and loose ammunition.



Spc. Michael Scarsbrook, an infantryman with Company C, 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry Regiment, Task Force Ironman, looks down on a spot in Tupa, Afghanistan, last Jan. 21, where his unit had been attacked by an Improvised Explosive Device two days earlier. TF Ironman is a part of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, Task Force Red Bulls. Photo: Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Matson, Task Force Red Bulls Public Affairs

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"Clintism" No. 3:

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In addition, forces found 10 bomb detonators, homemade explosives, 100 pounds of the banned ammonium nitrate fertilizer often used in making explosives, 10 jugs of shrapnel and ball bearings, several electronic components, multiple pressure plates and three chest racks.

In Takhar province's Khwajah Ghar district, Afghan and coalition forces detained two suspected insurgents and killed several armed combatants while searching for a high-ranking senior leader of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, a terrorist organization specializing in bombing attacks against Afghan government officials.

Multiple intelligence sources led the security force to a building where armed combatants engaged them with small-arms fire. The security force returned fire, killing several armed combatants. The building caught fire and was rocked by multiple explosions. Villagers told the security force the Taliban forcibly took over the building's guesthouse.

ISAF troops also killed numerous insurgents after receiving small-arms fire during a dismounted patrol in Helmand province's Marja district. ISAF forces returned fire and called in close air support to suppress the

insurgent fire. An insurgent wounded in the engagement was taken to a medical facility and detained.

In other news, Afghan forces and US Navy SEALs conducted routine patrols in Zabul province Jan. 23, resulting in numerous insurgents killed, several others detained and the destruction of numerous homemade bombs. The insurgents were killed and detained when Afghan soldiers advised by SEALs were involved in an engagement with insurgents in the province's Khak-e Afghan district.—*ISAF Joint Command*

Corporal Benjamin Roberts-Smith, VC, MG Awarded the Victoria Cross for Australia

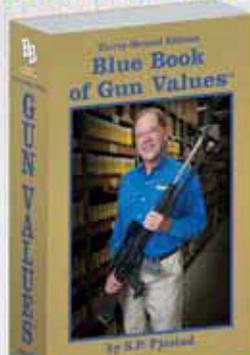
Corporal Benjamin Roberts-Smith was previously awarded the Medal for Gallantry for his actions in Afghanistan in 2006. Then, on June 11th, 2010, a troop of the Special Operations Task Group conducted a helicopter assault into Tizak, Kandahar Province, in order to capture or kill a senior Taliban commander.



Corporal Benjamin Roberts-Smith VC, MG with his wife Emma Roberts-Smith and their 5-month-old twins, Eve (red) and Elizabeth (blue) Roberts-Smith. Photo: Lauren Black

Immediately upon the helicopter insertion, the troop was engaged by machine gun and rocket-propelled grenade fire from multiple, dominating positions. Two soldiers were wounded in action and the troop was pinned down by fire from three machine guns in an elevated fortified position to the south of the village. Under the cover of close air support, suppressive small arms and machine gun fire, Corporal Roberts-Smith and his patrol manoeuvred to within 70 metres of the enemy position in order to neutralise the enemy machine gun

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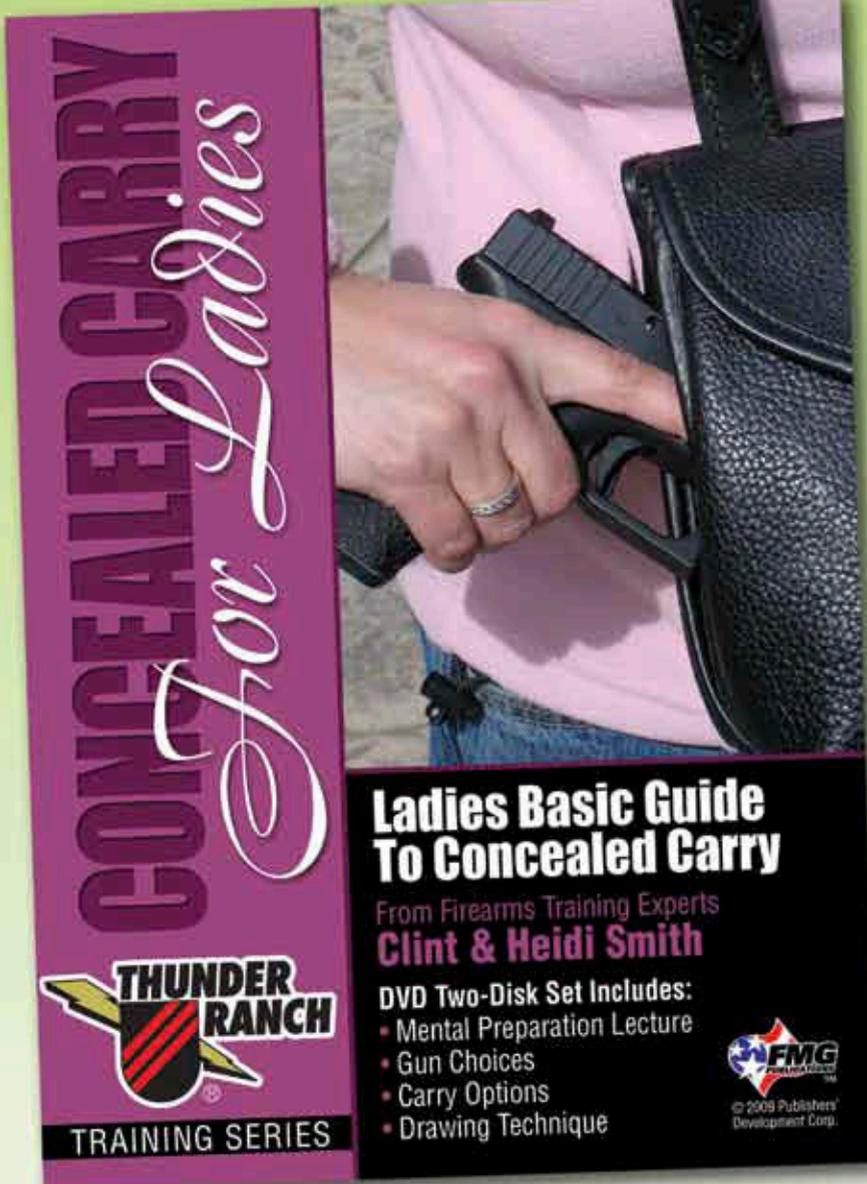
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positions and regain the initiative.

Upon commencement of the assault, the patrol drew very heavy, intense, effective and sustained fire from the enemy position. Corporal Roberts-Smith and his patrol members fought towards the enemy position until, at a range of 40 meters, the weight of fire prevented further movement forward. At this point, he identified the opportunity to exploit some cover provided by a small structure.

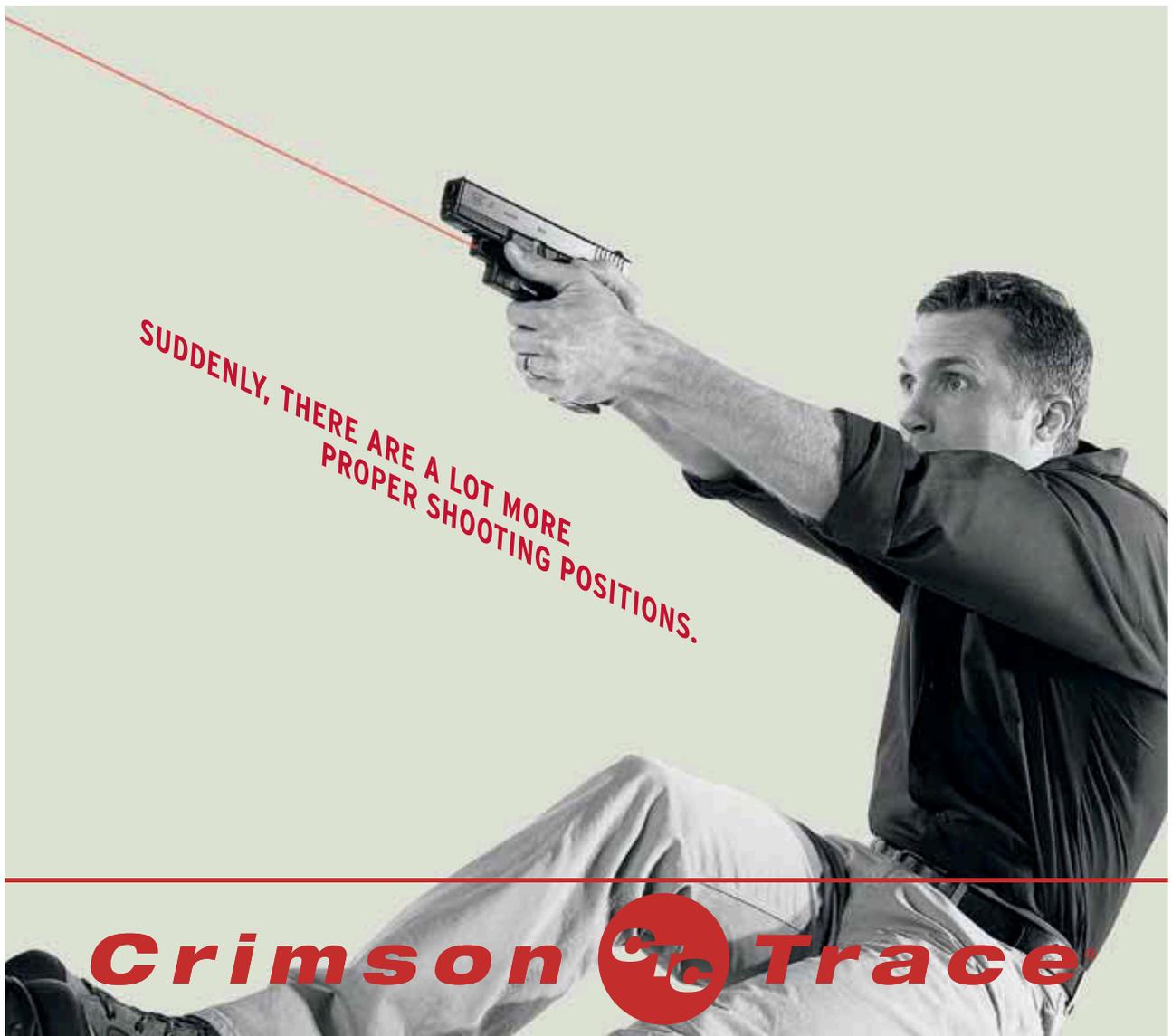
As he approached the structure, Corporal Roberts-Smith identified an insurgent grenadier in the throes of engaging his patrol. Corporal Roberts-Smith instinctively engaged the insurgent at point-blank range resulting in the death of the insurgent.

With the members of his patrol still pinned down by the three enemy machine-gun positions, he exposed his own position in order to draw fire away from his patrol, which enabled them to bring fire to bear against the enemy. His actions enabled his Patrol Commander to throw a grenade and silence one of the machine guns. Seizing the advantage, and demonstrating extreme devotion to duty and the most conspicuous gallantry, Corporal Roberts-Smith, with a total disregard for his own safety, stormed the enemy position killing the two remaining machine gunners.

His act of valour enabled his patrol to break-in to the enemy position and to lift the weight of fire from

the remainder of the troop who had been pinned down by the machine gun fire. On seizing the fortified gun position, Corporal Roberts-Smith then took the initiative again and continued to assault enemy positions in depth during which he and another patrol member engaged and killed further enemy. His acts of selfless valour directly enabled his troop to go on and clear the village of Tizak of Taliban. This decisive engagement subsequently caused the remainder of the Taliban in Shah Wali Kot District to retreat from the area.

Corporal Roberts-Smith's most conspicuous gallantry in a circumstance of extreme peril was instrumental to the seizure of the



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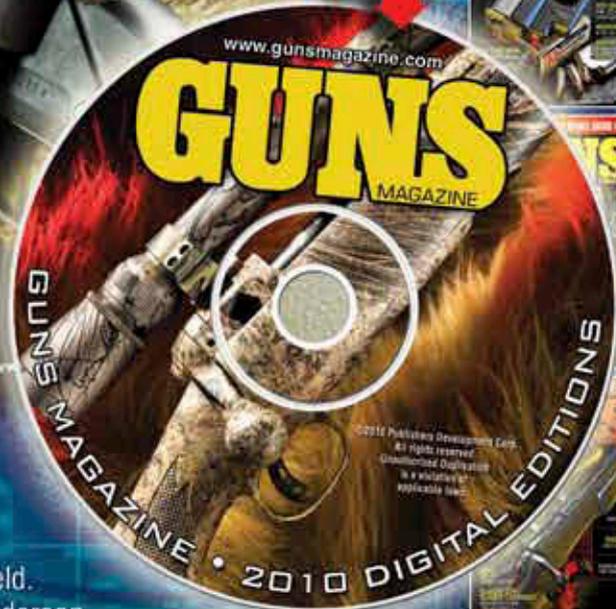
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Clint on Home Defense:

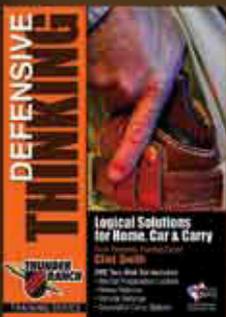


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initiative and the success of the troop against a numerically superior enemy force. His valour was an inspiration to the soldiers with whom he fought alongside and is in keeping with the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.



Chief of the Defence Force, (left) Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, stands with Corporal Mark Donaldson VC (see June 2010 issue), Corporal Benjamin Roberts-Smith VC, MG, Minister for Defence Stephen Smith and Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Ken Gillespie after the Victoria Cross Investiture. An Investiture Ceremony was held at Campbell Barracks, Swanbourne, Australia, to award a Victoria Cross for Australia to Corporal Benjamin Roberts-Smith VC, MG on the Jan. 23, 2011. Photo by: Cpl. Chris Moore

The Victoria Cross is Australia’s highest military honour. It is only awarded to those who display the most conspicuous gallantry and daring in the face of the enemy. Corporal Benjamin Roberts-Smith VC, MG becomes the 98th Australian recipient of the award and the second recipient of the Victoria Cross for Australia since it was instituted in 1991. — *Courtesy ADoD*

Jump In Hunting License Sales

The number of paid hunting license holders in the United States jumped 3.6 percent in 2009, one of the most encouraging signs for hunting in recent years. The US Fish and Wildlife Service last week reported a total of 14,974,534 paid license holders for 2009, the largest figure since 2002 and an increase of 526,494 over 2008. The 3.6 percent rise in paid license holders represents the largest year-over-year increase since 1974. (A “paid license holder” is one individual regardless of the number of licenses purchased.)

“This is great news for our industry and everyone associated with hunting,” said Steve Sanetti, president and CEO of the National Shooting Sports Foundation. “Many efforts are

at work to build hunting participation, and they are paying off. More people are enjoying the outdoors and sharing the tradition of hunting with family and friends. Also, more hunting license sales translate into more funds for wildlife conservation.” — *Courtesy NSSF*

5.4 Million Firearms

According to data released in late January in ATF’s Annual Firearm Manufacturing and Export Report, US firearm manufacturers produced more than 5.4 million firearms in 2009. — *Courtesy NSSF*

CWD In Wild Deer

Two states, Maryland and Minnesota, have received confirmation of a hunter-harvested white-tailed deer being infected with Chronic Wasting Disease, a first in their wild herds. In Maryland, it was the first documented case of the disease in the state. In Minnesota, where the state has been managing for CWD in its captive deer and elk facility since 2002, this newest case marks the first time the disease has been found in Minnesota outside the fence. — *Courtesy NSSF*

Best For Woodcock Habitat

By developing and restoring woodcock-friendly young forest, landowners can significantly help reverse the timberdoodle’s decades-long population decline in the Northeast, reports the Wildlife Management Institute. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service recently released “American Woodcock: Habitat Best Management Practices for the Northeast,” which explains how managers, foresters and landowners can create the kinds of habitat that woodcock need. See www.timberdoodle.org for more information. — *Courtesy NSSF*

Picatinny Designs Cobalt Alloy Machine Gun Barrel

During a firefight, the last thing a machine gunner wants to do is stop fighting to change barrels, but that’s how it has always been done with standard, single-steel-barreled machine guns.

The reason for the barrel change is that at high temperatures barrels lose “strength properties,” according



Engineer Vinny Leto (right) holds one of the various cobalt alloy barrels produced using the flow forming technique. The shortest barrel was the first produced, followed by full-length barrels without rifling and later a prototype with rifling like the one tested. Other team members include Michael Hespos (left) and Keith Koehler. Photo: Jesse Glass

to engineers working on a promising alternative.

One of the engineers is Vinny Leto, systems project engineer, of the Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center, or ARDEC, Weapons System Technology Directorate. During a test firing of a proof-of-concept barrel in December, Leto witnessed a measure of success with the High Performance Alloys for Weapons Applications Project.

During testing, the first rifled, cobalt-alloy machine gun barrel ever produced using the "flow forming" process consistently reached high temperatures without degraded performance.

This barrel was made of an alloy containing more than 50 percent of the metal cobalt. Cobalt alloys are erosion- and corrosion-resistant metals designed to retain high strength during long-term exposure to high temperatures.

Cobalt alloys are frequently used in the aerospace industry, such as the hot-gas section of turbine engines, explained Leto. Cobalt alloys are also used as short liners for machine gun barrels.

"If you look at steel in a machine gun environment, it gets very hot at a high rate of fire," said Leto. "The benefit of the cobalt alloy is that it is designed to operate in high-temperature, high-stress environments. It has the added benefits of corrosion and erosion resistance."

While cobalt alloy barrel liners have been produced for years, it is very difficult with existing machining techniques to impart rifling. "The material, for all of its phenomenal properties, is very difficult to manufacture and machine," said Leto.

Different from machining, flow-

forming is an advanced process used to manufacture precise cylindrical components. The process consists of high-pressure rollers exerting pressure on the exterior of a cylinder, pressing material against a rod—called a mandrel—on the interior of the cylinder. For this project, the flow-forming process was modified to produce the rifling in the barrel bore.

More testing and data gathering will be required before engineers know if flow forming manufacturing can be achieved with the alloy.

Success, however, would provide warfighters with three potential benefits: lightening their load, increasing barrel service life and giving them a barrel that could operate at higher temperatures compared to a steel barrel, Leto said.

Soldiers and Marines typically carry spare barrels into battle so they have a cool barrel to exchange if they engage the enemy in a firefight, explained Leto. Having that strength at higher temperatures means that barrels may not need to be changed during a firefight, eliminating the need for the extra barrel and maintaining a steady stream of firepower.

Engineering team members met all of their proof-of-concept test objectives when they fired more than 24,000 rounds and achieved an 1,100 degrees barrel temperature. Leto said the alloy barrel was fired from the ARDEC-designed Advanced Remote/Robotic Armament System.

Steel begins to lose strength at approximately 1,000 degrees, Leto noted, and the test yielded data needed to assess and design the next round of improvements. The team is planning to produce another prototype that will be fired from a fielded infantry weapon later this year. — *Timothy Rider, Picatinny Public Affairs* **GUNS**

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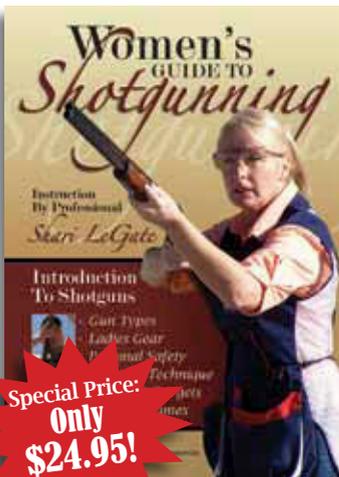
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QUARTER MASTER

UNCLE MIKE'S TRUNK ORGANIZER

Jeff John

I've always kept a change of comfortable clothes, extra socks, a first aid kit and other gear including a folding chair in the back of my 4Runner. Even in a bag, it was always a little bit of a mess. Now with the Uncle Mike's Trunk Organizer, I can keep the stuff in a case conveniently fitted between the wheel wells, having dimensions of 12"(h)x22"(d)x41"(w)" and a weight of 20 pounds. Four D-rings allow me to tie it to the floor



The Uncle Mike's Trunk Organizer (above) fits conveniently between the wheel wells of most SUVs and cars with larger trunks. There is still plenty of storage in front of the organizer for shooting boxes and other range gear. Jeff keeps his stocked with a little freeze-dried food, water and spare clothes along with a pack (below), should a little walking become necessary.



for off-road use. I haven't tied it down for in-city use and it seems to stay put, and my bungee cords are in the kit.

One of the nicest side products of the installation is it allows me to lay guns across the wheel wells now with some support underneath. All my other range gear still easily fits in front of the organizer.

The lid is removable and can be opened partway. Four dividers keep loose items separated. Two large front pockets provide quick access to frequently used items. Two carry handles let you pull out the organizer easily if you need to. The sides are supported by removable hard backers and the interior compartments can be folded down as well.

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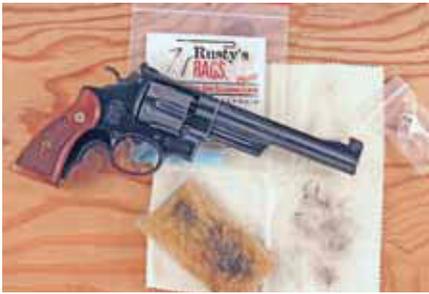
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RUSTY'S RAGS

John Taffin

When it comes to firearms I prefer to shoot them, study them, research them, photograph them and write about them. I do not like cleaning them. I'm fortunate to live in a climate that doesn't naturally attack steel, so I can get away with rarely ever actually cleaning a gun.

What I do is wipe everything down after shooting and usually before taking pictures. What makes this so much easier and handier is Rusty's Rags. There are all kinds of cleaning supplies on the market, however, this is different than anything I have seen before, and is so easy to use. Kits are



This nearly 60-year-old Smith & Wesson 1950 Target looks as good as new after being treated by Rusty's Rags.

made in various sizes for pistols, rifles, shotguns and, of course, my main interest, handguns. Rusty's excellent idea consists of a 2.5"x4.5" silicone impregnated piece of sheepskin wool packed in a plastic bag to maintain its moisture, a folded flannel cloth and a small bottle of silicone rejuvenator.

After shooting I just wipe the gun down with the silicone rag, wipe off the excess oil with the flannel cloth which also serves to polish it, and the result is a sixgun not only ready for taking photos, it also looks much better than it did before I started shooting. I keep everything in a Ziploc bag which has become as necessary a part of my shooting equipment as the guns, ammunition, pistol rest and chronograph. Rusty has taken an excellent idea and made it extremely practical. He calls it the best gun cleaning cloth on the market; I can't argue with him.

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ADVANCED GUN WORKS

Clint Smith

With the upcoming birthday of the 1911 lots of people will be looking at all the available models by the best made, best marketed or long standing leaders in the building of this iconic pistol. That said there are still lower profile people making stout and outstanding 1911 pistols at reasonable prices.

One of these sources is Dave Gregor of Advanced Gun Works, Dave is a friend and yet one with the personal credentials to back up his skill and product regardless of who he "knows." The AGW pistol is entirely US made. All parts are machined and hand fit.

The pistol is offered as an Officer's Model, a Commander, Lightweight Commander and the rock solid and always-correct-size 5" pistol. Typically

AGW 1911's have a machined-in tactical mag well with optional styles or the basic no-flare mag well. The AGW pistols can be built either in stainless and or carbon steel. Carbon steel pistols are first Parkerized, sprayed and baked with a Teflon finish with several color patterns like satin black, flat black, OD green, desert tan and brushed stainless available.



Clint always prefers full-size 1911s and this one by AGW has everything he desires in a well-made custom pistol.

All the pistols have Novak rear-sight cuts with a front dovetail slot allowing a variety of sight configurations with my test model bearing a black rear and a very functional raised white-dot front sight. Since it is vogue now the pistols can be had with Tritium, fiber optic, or any other custom sight option. Ambisafeties, extended safeties or standard safeties are offered, as well as standard recoil spring/plug or full-length recoil guide rod systems. Available trick-out options like front serrations, top serrations, custom serial numbers, various checkering/stippling options, as well as caliber choices make the Advanced Gun Works a true custom 1911 to consider.

Retail price ranges from \$1,950 to \$2,500 based on options.

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SUREFIRE'S SONIC DEFENDER EARPLUGS

Jacob Gottfredson

I can't tolerate earplugs especially the kind you roll in your fingers. They're too slow, hurt my ears and head, and I have difficulty hearing people talk. The formed ones are too cumbersome, and none seem to allow me to hear what I want and not hear what I don't. Then along came SureFire.

At a recent sniper match I noticed several competitors wearing an earplug

I had not seen before and was not familiar with. I asked what they were, and they told me they were from SureFire. OK, where have I been?

Returning home, I asked SureFire to send me a pair of EP3s to evaluate. The advertising stated: 16dB noise reduction rating (NRR) (with stoppers inserted); lowers potentially dangerous noise levels above 85dB; allows you to hear safe sound levels (with stoppers out) as if you weren't wearing ear plugs; an ergonomic design and double-flange stem design conforms to your ear shape for comfort and secure retention; made from hypoallergenic, medical-grade polymer that's soft, durable and long-lasting. Low-profile design allows you to keep them in place while wearing a mask, helmet, hat, or while using phone, headphones or supplemental hearing muffs.

A friend accompanied me to the range to help evaluate a scoped sniper rifle equipped with a muzzlebrake. After inserting the EP3s, I could hear our conversation well. While shooting, I noticed they didn't seem to muffle the sound as well as my electronic muffs, but they muffled the sound adequately.



The SureFire Earpro EP3 Sonic Defender earplugs are comfortable to wear, normal conversation is heard, but gunfire is muted to safe levels.

I can't tolerate normal earplugs for long, but after about 2 hours shooting the sniper rifle and an AR, I was still not having difficulty wearing them.

How do they work? "A proprietary design that incorporates the patented 'Hocks Noise Braker' filter. EP3s include attached stopper plugs, which can be inserted to block out lower-level noise like that heard on a plane, or in situations where hearing ambient sounds or conversations isn't critical, such as when trying to sleep. The right/left color-coded Sonic Defenders have an adjustable-stem design, providing a secure fit, all-day comfort and extended product life (three to six or more months, depending on usage and care)." For the price of only \$13.95, I suggest giving them a try. **GUNS**

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The new X7 The Gray Rifle from Next Generation Arms is a mid-length, lightweight, ergonomic rifle. Designed for precision, this rifle is fast-shooting and features improved reliability. It also features a ceramic-coated finish inside and out, matte gray chassis and black equipment; this easy-care AR-15 is as good looking as it is tough. Next Generation Arms, (208) 714-4220, www.gunsmagazine.com/next-generation



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KAHR ARMS

The CM9093, chambered in 9x19mm caliber, has a 3" barrel, overall length of 5.3" and a height of 4". It weighs 14 ounces plus 1.9 ounces for the 6-round stainless steel magazine. The slide-stop lever is metal-injection molded and the slide has fewer machining operations and uses simple engraved markings. The

polymer frame features 4140 steel inserts molded into the frame in the front and back for added rigidity and strength. The CM9093 does not have a magazine disconnect, nor does it have double-strike capability. It has a drift adjustable rear sight and pinned-in polymer front sight. Kahr Arms, (508) 795-3919, www.gunsmagazine.com/kahr-arms



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**PADDLE LITE HOLSTER
GALCO GUNLEATHER**

The Paddle Lite holster for the GLOCK gives the gun carrier the ability to quickly remove and replace the gun/holster combination. The Paddle Lite's premium center cut steerhide construction makes it very affordable. Galco also offers the Stinger belt holster, the Summer Comfort IWB, the Tuck-N-Go and the Pocket Protector holsters for the Kimber Solo. Galco Gunleather, (800) 874-2526, www.gunsmagazine.com/galco



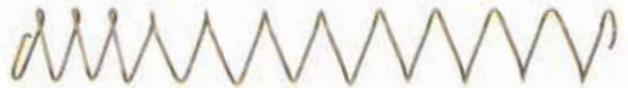
**VIDEO CAMERA
REPLAY XD**

The weather resistant RePlay XD video camera weighs under an ounce. Simple to use with only two buttons, it captures up to 120 minutes of video on a 4GB card and has a battery life of 120 minutes. Four gun mounts will be offered including Picatinny rail style mount, shotgun barrel mount, rifle barrel mount and dual-laser site/camera mount. RePlay XD, (805) 480-9800, www.gunsmagazine.com/replay-xd



**MAGAZINE SPRINGS
WHITE SOUND DEFENSE**

White Sound Defense corrosion-resistant, stainless steel magazine springs for full-size Glock pistols are designed to withstand extended field use and provide about 10 percent higher average pressure than standard springs. Featuring longer springs to better maintain tension when using magazine extensions. The coils are offset in order to ease seating during tactical reloads. White Sound Defense, (717) 993-3839, www.gunsmagazine.com/white-sound-defense



**LED TWIN-TASK
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The LED Twin-Task flashlights feature a center C4 LED with a textured reflector to provide an even beam along with a piercing hotspot for distance use. They also feature up to two additional settings, powered by either three or six ultra-bright white LEDs, designed for area lighting use and extended run time. A push-button head switch toggles between light options on all models. Corrosion and water resistant, O-ring sealed and impact resistance tested to one meter. Streamlight, (800) 523-7488, www.gunsmagazine.com/streamlight



**GUN GRIPS
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Wicked Grips is now offering gun grip designs at a cool yet affordable price. Featuring art and design work that is type II anodized (pixodized) on them. In this way shooters can have Wicked Grips style and graphic work, in quality panel alumagrips, for less than the custom work. They are now available for the 1911, with more gun models to come. Each art design is a limited edition. Wicked Grips, www.gunsmagazine.com/wicked-grips



**.22 CONVERSION UNIT
NIGHTHAWK CUSTOM**

The .22 Conversion Unit was designed for Nighthawk custom by pistolsmith Bob Marvel. The .22 Conversion locks back after the last round is fired and fits standard 1911 holster. Featuring recessed fully-adjustable sights with a rounded blade to prevent snagging. The same unit will fit a Government or Commander model and has match-grade accuracy. Other unit options include a rail for mounting optics, threaded barrels for suppressors and additional magazines will be available. Nighthawk Custom, (877) 268-4867, www.gunsmagazine.com/nighthawk-custom



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FMK 9C1B

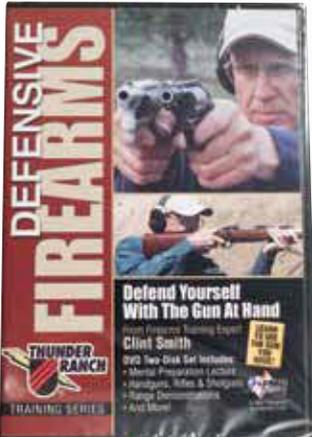
MAKER: FMK FIREARMS, INC., P.O. BOX 1358, PLACENTIA, CA 92871, (714) 630-0658, WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/FMK-FIREARMS

Action type: Double action, semi-auto, Caliber: 9x19mm, Capacity: 14+1, Barrel length: 4", Overall length: 6.85", Weight: 23.45 ounces, Finish: Matte blue, Sights: Fixed 3-dot, Grips: Integral polymer, Value: \$399, Value of Package: \$707.99

UNI-MAX MICRO

MAKER: LASERMAX, 3495 WINTON PLACE, BUILDING B, ROCHESTER, NY 14623, (800) 527-3703, WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/LASERMAX

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• JOHN CONNOR •

ANOTHER JUNE, ANOTHER TIME And an invitation....

For many military historians, mentioning “June” instantly brings to mind Hattin, Waterloo, Bunker Hill and Operation Overlord, Normandy, 1944; battles which fundamentally altered history. But there was another battle in another June which also profoundly changed the world—and redefined America’s place in it.

By the time America entered World War I in April 1917, the British Imperial and French armies had been all but bled dry, having lost 2 million killed in action and over 6 million wounded. While Germany and its allies had also suffered horrendous casualties, they knew the American army was pitifully small, ill-equipped, inexperienced and an ocean away from intervention.

They were right. The process of conscripting and outfitting 2.8 million men and transporting them to France meant there was virtually no American presence on the battlefield until the spring of 1918, and even then, the Yanks initially deployed in relatively small numbers. In the meantime, Germany’s fortunes had changed dramatically. The Russian armistice on the Eastern Front freed up 50 divisions of battle-hardened troops to be thrown against the shaky and shell-shocked trenchlines of France.

The Kaiser’s staff reckoned that a breakthrough of the exhausted French and British lines and a few

swift, decisive defeats inflicted on the Americans before the bulk of the expeditionary forces arrived could effectively neutralize them—and win the war. Almost lost to history is consideration of how close that effort came to success.

A massive German offensive destroyed the British 5th Army, swept the French forces aside and pushed to less than 40 miles from Paris. The capitol itself was battered with 183 shells fired by monstrous Krupp railway guns. Kaiser Wilhelm II was so pleased that he declared a national holiday. That celebration proved to be premature.

Four Australian divisions rushed into the breach and stalled the offensive, just as the overextended German supply lines were failing. The Germans reeled away from the surprisingly aggressive Aussies and drove into what they saw as easier avenues around Chateau Thierry and Belleau Wood. They had more surprises in store: the Americans they had dismissed as “amateurs, who will not fight.”

“Lafayette, we are here!”

As the first units of Yanks arrived, retreating French troops urged them to fall back before the *Boche* onslaught. The Marine Brigade was ordered to “hold where they stand.” Lacking shovels, they dug shallow fighting positions with their bayonets at the edge of broad wheat fields. When the Germans advanced *en masse*, they were rudely introduced to the Springfield ’03 and American marksmanship.

This drove the Germans back into the Belleau Wood, but left them with excellent defensive positions, a



Which state has the best claim to the Colt Peacemaker? Photo: John Taffin.

prime marshaling area for hordes of reinforcements and an ideal launching point to continue their offensive. Interlocking fields of machine gun and artillery fire were established, and the Germans were masters of that art. But the woods had to be taken—and those deadly wheat fields crossed.

Again, the Yanks were repeatedly urged to retreat, fall back and dig in. Marine Captain Lloyd Williams’ famed reply, “Retreat? Hell, we just got here!” made its way through the ranks, putting steel in the Yanks’ spines.

The assault on Belleau Wood is the stuff of legends, but true ones; not myths. Casualties were the worst in the Corps’ history, but the Yanks could not be stopped.

It was there, under murderous fire, that Marine First Sergeant Dan Daly leaped up with pistol in hand and yelled to his men, “Come on, you sons of bitches! Do you want to live forever?”—then led them through the carnage of the wheat fields and into the woods. He was nominated for a Medal of Honor, but Congress denied it because he already had two, for extraordinary heroism during the Boxer Rebellion in China, and in Nicaragua in 1915. It was there, for their sheer ferocity in hand-to-hand combat, that the Germans gave the Marines their “Devil Dogs” nickname, fleeing survivors describing them as *teufel hunden*—“hounds from hell.”

When the great German offensive was over, they had lost 270,000 men, all the gains they had made and the ability to press another assault for the rest of the war. Americans began flowing into Europe at the rate of 10,000 men per day. Germany’s fate was sealed.



The Yanks of the American Expeditionary Force immortalized in bronze—“the amateurs who would not fight.”

Had Paris been taken; had the French ports fallen; had the Americans failed, as so many expected them to do, then... *what?*

One Down, 49 To Go!

As I write, in Utah, a piece of legislation called HB219 has passed the house and state senate and is now on Governor Gary Herbert's desk to be signed into law. All indications are he will do just that, designating the M1911 .45 ACP pistol, designed by native son John Moses Browning, as Utah's official state firearm. It also makes Utah the *only* state with an official firearm. Bravo for the elected state representatives of Utah! To me, this constitutes "a good start."

Some stout-hearted legislators in other states quietly watched HB219, and have been encouraged by the relative ease with which the bill wriggled through the process. There was a bit of *de rigueur* sniveling, but no shrieking about Wild West shootouts or "rivers of blood in the streets!" True, not every state has so broad a firearm-friendly voter base as Utah, but many, I think, only need awakening to the idea.

Years ago in Pennsylvania there was a campaign to designate the flintlock Pennsylvania long rifle as that state's official firearm. That effort, I'm told, was blown out of the water by entrenched political powers in Philadelphia. Other attempts in a handful of states have fallen to the forces of political correctness. Perhaps the time just wasn't right? Let's make it right—and right now.

In my "Guncrank" column in the upcoming July/Aug issue of *American Handgunner*, I ask readers to help by nominating an official state gun—handgun or long gun—for their home state, and in 50 words or less, make their case for why that firearm is an appropriate "fit" for that state. Now you're invited too, of course. When I've gathered a bushel or two, I'll get them to receptive legislators.

Here's your chance to help now. Go to www.americanhandgunner.com and click on the link on the home page saying "Vote for your state gun!". It'll link to my Guncrank column. There, you can leave a comment. Keep it to 50 words or less, but tell us your state, which gun you vote for and why it fits your state. We'll keep a running tally so you'll be able to see the results. When we have a couple bushels of 'em, we'll get them to the right "State" people. Sorry, but we don't have staff to receive snail-mail, faxes, smoke signals, semaphore or heliograph. Now let's get rollin'! Connor *OUT*.



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The #101 Bachman Slide for the 1911, shown with the MP 213 single magazine pouch. Both pieces are illustrated with border tooling.

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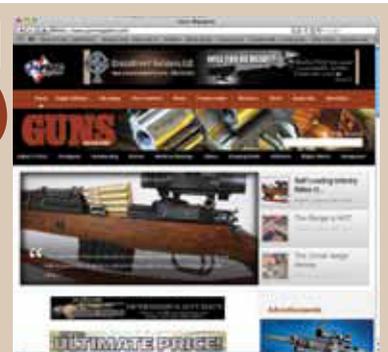
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JUNE 2011

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or watch TV, but I do need them to read. Recently the sights have started to fuzz up a little bit, so it was back to the eye doctor for a pair of shooting glasses to sharpen the sights and with a bifocal lens so I can read to take notes and also make sure the right cartridge gets in the right gun. I also have the lenses tinted yellow as this helps to sharpen the image.

Go Ahead, Give Up

Shortly after I got my first pair of shooting glasses way back when, I was talking to a fellow at the public range who told me he had to quit shooting as he could no longer see the sights well enough. I explained to him the solution of getting shooting glasses just as I had done. His response was I can't afford another pair of glasses. He was willing to quit shooting for the cost of a pair of glasses! I almost felt sorry for him, until he drove off in a brand-new 4x4 pickup, which had been parked next to my 10-year-old vehicle. He had made his choice and I had made mine.

The "purists" can squeal all they want to about scopes not belonging on a sixgun, however, if it gets to the point where even shooting glasses won't help, optics can be a Godsend. We have so many excellent long eye-relief scopes, red dot sights, even lasers, it makes no sense for someone to stop shooting if they can still hold the gun up. Optics are especially desirable on a hunting handgun as they allow precise placement of shots. Even if I can see the sights near perfectly, I still prefer to keep hunting shots with iron sights under 50 yards. With a scope on a very accurate sixgun, I can double that range, maybe a few yards more. Put that same scope on a superbly accurate single-shot pistol with a good solid rest and the range can be extended to 200 or 250 yards (for me).

The eyes are not the only problem as we grow older; bodies simply deteriorate or grow tender. That is why we rarely see ball players past the age of 40. About 15 years ago I started noticing my hands falling into the tender trap. At first I wore a batter's glove for heavy recoiling revolvers and now I wear it for everything from .357 Magnum up. Sometimes I have to go a little further and tape the knuckle of the middle finger on my shooting hand, as the back of the triggerguard wreaks havoc in a long string of loads, even a .44 Special with 250-grain cast at 950 fps.

As the recoil goes up, I switch to dedicated shooting gloves which have a pad in the palm, as well as pads on

the back of the fingers. I do not like to wear these padded gloves, as they just don't feel right; however, if the alternative is not shooting I'll gladly wear them. Caution here: if the gun is sighted-in wearing padded shooting gloves, it may shoot to a different point of impact without them. In addition to a glove, I long ago added wristbands to aid my cartilage-free ravaged wrists.

What about rifles? Most of you know of the surgery I recently went through and right now I don't know if I'll ever be shooting rifles again with much recoil. Only time will tell. Long before this happened I started adding muzzlebrakes to really heavy recoiling rifles. Yes, I know there are those that complain about brakes almost as much as those whining about optics on handguns. Let 'em whine! If a brake keeps us shooting, it's worthwhile. Of course a little etiquette is required and we don't shoot muzzlebraked rifles with someone standing nearby.

There are also many excellent recoil pads which can be retrofitted to rifles, large recoil pads we can wear and even rests are available which virtually remove all recoil. No, it is not the same as shooting a rifle off the shoulder, but if it keeps us shooting it is a welcome device.

Reload For Comfort

The reloader has a tremendous advantage when it comes to recoil sensitivity. Nothing says all cartridges have to be loaded to full capacity. Almost all reloading manuals now feature reduced loads for rifles and handguns, and even lightweight bullets for sixguns. If this is what it takes to keep shooting, there is no reason not to do it. A 260-grain cast bullet at 1,400 fps from a .44 Magnum is an awesome load; a 200-grain bullet at 800 fps from the same sixgun is exceptionally user-friendly. No one should be compelled or feel they are compelled to shoot a load that is terribly uncomfortable. Above all else, shooting should still be fun.

OK, you've reduced loads, you've tried gloves, you've tried brakes, you've tried virtually everything but the recoil is still more than the body wants to accept. If that's the case it's time to go back to basics. And basics are spelled ".22"! If we can't handle anything else, anyone can shoot a .22. Most of us started our shooting life with a .22 and there is no shame in going full circle and coming right back to the beginning. The first sixgun I ever purchased was a Ruger Single-Six .22 in 1956. My latest acquisition is, would you believe, another Ruger Single-Six, this time a 1959 .22 WMR. I don't feel I have regressed in the slightest. **GUNS**

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CAMPFIRE TALES

BY JOHN TAFFIN

KEEP SHOOTIN' Whatever it takes.

The Old Man had been shooting bull's-eye every Tuesday night for as long as he could remember. Actually longer than that, as before the arrival of Dandy Don, Howard and Frank on Monday Night Football they had been shooting every Monday evening for several years. Time had passed all too quickly; Howard was long gone and Dandy Don had just passed. Time had taken its toll on the Old Man and he now found it difficult, if not impossible, to see the iron sights in the relatively dim lighting of the indoor range. He still came out every Tuesday night just to be with the guys and even brought along his pistol box for old times sake.

Every Tuesday night the same ritual occurred; the other fellows asked the Old Man to come on and shoot and his refrain was always the same, "I can't see the sights!" This went on every Tuesday night for at least six months and they finally either wore the Old Man down or caught him in a weak moment, or both. He grabbed his pistol box and walked into the range. His box was opened, his pistol laid on the ledge, a target attached and run down to the 25-yard line. Ten rounds were loaded in the High Standard magazine and inserted into his Supermatic Trophy. He assumed the proper stance, at least what was his proper stance, and proceeded to fire 10 rounds rapid fire. He pushed the button to retrieve his target and everyone was astounded to see all 10 rounds in the 10-ring with six X's. "How did you do that?"

"You said you could no longer see the sights?" "How could you possibly shoot a perfect score?" The old Man never hesitated and said: "Memory boys; memory."

Everyone who shoots or does anything physical eventually faces

deterioration and often in several forms; it is a fact of life. Fortunately we do not have to depend upon memory to keep shootin'. More than 25 years ago, I was deeply involved in



Whatever it takes!

long-range silhouetting. I was never a top shooter, probably for several reasons, not the least of which was the fact I normally had a new test gun to use every match. I believe I tried every Dan Wesson, Smith & Wesson and Ruger sixgun apropos to silhouetting.

One month we had an abbreviated 20-round match due to the fact that many of our shooters had gone to the Internationals. I shot a perfect 20x20 Revolver. The next month at the regular match using my Ruger .357 Maximum I shot a 38x40 Revolver, which was the highest score ever recorded for a sixgun on our range and it stands forever, as silhouetting died as far as our local club in the early 1990s.

Dandy Shootin'

I felt really good about that 38x40 and just knew I was going to make up for that one turkey and one ram at the next match and shoot a perfect 40. "The best laid plans of mice and men..." kicked in big-time and I had to really work to come up with a 26. My eyes had changed and the sights had become somewhat blurry. At the time, neither optical sights nor red dots were allowed, so I called my eye doctor and discussed the problem with him. He told me to bring my guns into the office and he would try to come up with a lens that was the best compromise for seeing both the sights and the target. It worked and over the ensuing years I probably have had at least six different pairs of shooting glasses made. Three years ago my doctor said I had cataracts, which had advanced to the point of needing to be taken care of. To me that meant zapped with a laser but, no, the answer was total lens implants.

I have always been nearsighted and this was noticed by my 9th grade teacher to the point of telling me to go see an eye doctor. That was 1952 and I had been wearing glasses ever since; the lens implants changed all that. In fact, now everything is reversed. I do not need glasses to shoot, drive

continued on page 89



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