

GUNS
MAGAZINE

GUNS

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

Ambush
FIREARMS

HARD-HITTING

**6.8MM
SPC
HUNTER**



HIDEOUT GUNS

- BOND ARMS
.45/.410 DERRINGER
- CHARTER ARMS PITBULL
.40 S&W REVOLVER

CHIAPPA M-1.22

M-1 CARBINE .22 LR Pg. 28

**UNIQUELY
AMERICAN**

THE LEVER ACTION

CLASSIC SIXGUN!
S&W 586 .357 MAGNUM

SURPLUS SPECIAL
• M1A OR AR-10A2?
• CIA C93 5.56MM

THE BLACK RIFLE THAT'S NOT JUST ANOTHER BLACK RIFLE

HANDGUARD

- >> Free-floating Quad Rail
(Varies depending on model)
- >> 6061-T6 Aluminum
- >> Mil-Spec Picatinny Rail Slots
- >> DD low profile Rail Ladders
- >> Daniel Defense Vertical Grip

>> Daniel Defense improved Flash Hider

BOLT CARRIER GROUP

- >> Carpenter 158 Steel
- >> Mil-Spec Magnetic Particle Inspected (MPI)
- >> High Pressure Tested (HPT)
- >> Properly Staked Gas Key
- >> Chrome-lined Carrier & Gas Key

BARREL

- >> 1:7" twist
- >> Chrome-Lined
- >> Cold Hammer Forged (CHF)
- >> 4150 Chrome Moly Vanadium Steel
- >> MP tested
- >> Mil-Spec Heavy Phosphate Coated
- >> Optimized erosion-dampening gas port
- >> Chamber: 5.56 NATO

Pictured:
DDM4V1

THERE'S MORE TO A DDM4

LOWER RECEIVER

- >> 7075 Aluminum Mil-Spec
- >> Mil-Spec Hard Anodized
- >> Beveled and Flared Magazine Well
- >> Magpul MOE® Trigger Guard
- >> Daniel Defense rear receiver QD Ambi Swivel Attachment Point

Whether on the battlefield, at the range, in the back of a police cruiser, or protecting your family in the middle of the night- details matter and the DDM4 is ready for duty.

Each DDM4 model marks the culmination of over a decade of dedication by Daniel Defense to make the best rifles in the world. We offer the highest-quality AR-15 style rifles in the configurations you want most, and back them all with lifetime warranties and responsive customer service.

- >> Magpul MOE® Butt-stock
- >> Mil-Spec H-Buffer
- >> Mil-Spec Buffer Spring
- >> Mil-Spec Receiver Extension



>> Just how much stronger is the DDM4?
Visit <https://danieldefense.com/TortureTest> to see!

>> To see our full range of rifles, parts, and accessories, check out our website at:

DANIEL DEFENSE®

.COM

ALWAYS MADE
IN THE USA

© Daniel Defense Inc. All Rights Reserved.

BLACK CREEK, GA, USA | 866.554.GUNS (4867) | FIND US ON   

SIMPLY PERFECT

M4 TACTICAL



DEFENDING
HOMELAND

SECURITY

IS MORE CRITICAL THAN EVER
NO MATTER HOW YOU DEFINE
THE WORD HOME
IRAQ. AFGHANISTAN. YOUR LIVING ROOM.

POWERED BY THE PISTON DRIVEN **argo*** SYSTEM
CHOSEN BY THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS



ONE BRAND
ONE MAN

Benelli
USA

* THE ULTRA-RELIABLE PISTON DRIVEN **argo** SYSTEM - CARRIED AND PROVEN IN BATTLE BY THE U.S.M.C.
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ARGO TECHNOLOGY GO TO BENELLIUSA.COM

FOR A FREE DVD ALL THINGS BENELLI
BENELLIUSA.COM

GUNS

MAGAZINE

JULY 2012

Vol. 58, Number 7, 678th Issue



84

GUNS
MAGAZINE

GUN GIVEAWAY PACKAGE
CABOT GUNS
RANGEMASTER 1911
WORTH \$5,299!



34



86



8

COLUMNS

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

DEPARTMENTS

- 32** OUT OF THE BOX™
CHARTER ARMS .40 S&W PITBULL
J.B. WOOD
- 34** BOND ARMS MINI DERRINGER
MASSAD AYOOB
- 36** SURPLUS LOCKER™
CIA'S C93
HOLT BODINSON
- 39** QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
JEFF JOHN
- 74** QUARTERMASTER
Featuring GUNS All-stars!
THIS MONTH:
JOHN CONNOR
- 80** GUNS CLASSIFIEDS
- 82** NEW PRODUCTS
- 84** GUN OF THE MONTH
- 88** ADVERTISER INDEX



**AMBUSH ARMS
CARBINE**



44

FEATURES

40 M1A OR AR-10A2?

The former was steeped in the past and the latter was a step into the future and both see wide-spread use to this day.

MIKE "DUKE" VENTURINO

44 21ST CENTURY HUNTING RIFLE

The Ambush 6.8 SPC redefines the "Modern Sporting Rifle" concept.

MIKE CUMPSTON

52 CONTROLLED OR PUSH FEED?

Both have positive attributes.

JOHN BARSNESS

58 RETURN OF A CLASSIC

Recognizing some prefer blue steel and walnut, S&W brings back the L-frame 586 .357.

MASSAD AYOOB



52

NEW ONLINE EXTRAS!
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM

Online Feature!
RUGER'S GUNSITE SCOUT
THE "DO ALL" CARBINE
ED HEAD

EXCLUSIVE ONLINE MANUFACTURERS PRODUCT INDEX:
www.gunsmagazine.com/product-index



40

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

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

CROSSFIRE

LETTERS TO GUNS

GUNS

MAGAZINE
THE FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD SINCE 1955

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

PUBLISHER Roy Huntington

Editor Jeff John

Managing Editorial Assistant Stephanie Jarrell

Art Director/Staff Photographer

Joseph R. Novelozo

Art Assistant Jennifer Lewis

Advertising Sales Director Anita Carson

Advertising Sales Assistant Dana Hatfield

Production Manager Linda Peterson

Website Manager Lorinda Massey

Promotions Coordinator Elizabeth O'Neill

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

John Taffin, Holt Bodinson, Dave Anderson,

Clint Smith, Massad Ayoob,

Mike "Duke" Venturino

FIELD EDITORS

Sam Fadala, David Codrea, John Morrison,

Glen Zediker, John Sheehan, Jacob

Gottfredson, Mike Cumpston, John Barsness,

Dave Douglas, J.B. Wood

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

Retail Price

I just got my April issue and turned to the article on the new Colt .380 Mustang Pocket Lite. I enjoyed the article very much, but I am betting the price Mike Cumpston paid for his gun should have read 50 percent over suggested retail, rather than 50¢. If he did get one for only 50¢ over suggested retail, he really found a bargain. I just recently bought one on Gunbroker.com for \$699, and was extremely happy with that price.

I probably need to try different ammo in mine, as I did not get quite the results Mike showed. All in all, the gun is a keeper!

Thanks for putting out a magazine that is informative and very enjoyable to read. I look forward to it getting here each month.

*Raymond Roy
Amarillo, Texas*

The retail price for the Colt Mustang is \$599—if you can find one. Some dealers take advantage of the scarcity of popular models by asking a price over list. The little Colt is proving a hot seller, so having one may be worth the extra tariff. In fact, Colt told us test pistols would be 60 to 90 days out. Mike buying his garnered him the story assignment.—Editor

What's In A Name?

Being a graybeard and interested in guns for self-defense and "plinking" I have often wondered about the price. For example take a 9mm or .45 ACP. The prices range from "affordable" \$300 price to the "extremely ridiculous" \$2,000-plus range. Now, all I want is a well made, good looking pistol backed by a superior warrantee. I bought a Taurus 9mm and .38 Special, had no trouble with either, plus find them to be very ergonomic, accurate and dependable with the highest price being \$356.

I can buy a lot of ammo and have a heck of a good time with the grandkids shooting at targets and teaching them not only how to load, aim and fire but most importantly firearm safety. I'm a strong believer in gun safety as my son-in-law was killed when the "safed" gun of his partner went off striking him in the back of the head. Senseless!

So why is everybody bent on owning a "Named" firearm and why are the "Named" firearms so expensive? They're all made out of the same material and for the most part have all the same working parts, don't they?

I enjoy your magazine and those of others in the industry, so please stay in business and keep the reviews coming.

*Robert Bleck
Forks, Wash.*

Photos Please!

Please convey to John Taffin that we expect photos of his Lipsey's/Keith No. 5 (March Campfire Tales) when he gets it back from Turnbull's! Great article on a truly classic firearm!

*Joel Adamson
via e-mail*

Retro Issues

Imagine my surprise when I opened this months GUNS online and found the issues of from the '50s. I thoroughly enjoyed them (and still am), and learned a lot about attitudes and accepted "facts" of the day. It was almost worth it on its' own, just to read the ads.

Anyone who considers himself a gun-person should check these out.

*William "Pete" Peterson
Mesquite, Nev.*

We post one new past issue a month at www.gunsmagazine.com/classic-guns-magazine-editions/ as a free download.

GUNS

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



FMG PUBLICATIONS

SHOOTING INDUSTRY

shootingindustry.com



Publisher & Editor: Russ Thurman

Advertising: Delano Amaguin, 888.732.6461

email: delano@shootingindustry.com



americancopmagazine.com

Editor: Suzi Huntington

Advertising: Phil Mendelson, 800.426.4470

email: phil@americancopmagazine.com

HANDGUNNER

americanhandgunner.com

Publisher & Editor: Roy Huntington

Advertising: Steve Evatt, 800.533.7988

email: steve@americanhandgunner.com



GUNS

gunsmagazine.com

Editor: Jeff John

Advertising: Jason Moreau, 866.903.1199

email: Jason@gunsmagazine.com



fmgpublications.com



Editor: Sammy Reese

Advertising: Scott McGregor, 800.553.7780

email: scott@gunsmagazine.com

ONLINE ADVERTISING MANAGER: Tracy Moore,

TEL: 888.651.7566, FAX 858.605.0205

tracy@fmgpublications.com

NATIONAL ADVERTISING: 12345 World Trade Dr.,

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

anita@shootingindustry.com

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING: Lori Robbins,

TEL: 800.633.8001, FAX 858.605.0247,

classads@fmgpublications.com

FMG EAST COAST SALES: Sig Buchmayr, Buchmayr &

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

TEL: 203.662.9740, sigbuch@optonline.net

CUSTOMER SERVICE

www.gunsmagazine.com

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES 858.605.0252

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

EDITORIAL 858.605.0243

Email: ed@gunsmagazine.com

PRODUCTION 858.605.0216

Email: production@gunsmagazine.com

BOOKS/MERCHANDISE 888.732.2299

Email: lori@fmgpublications.com

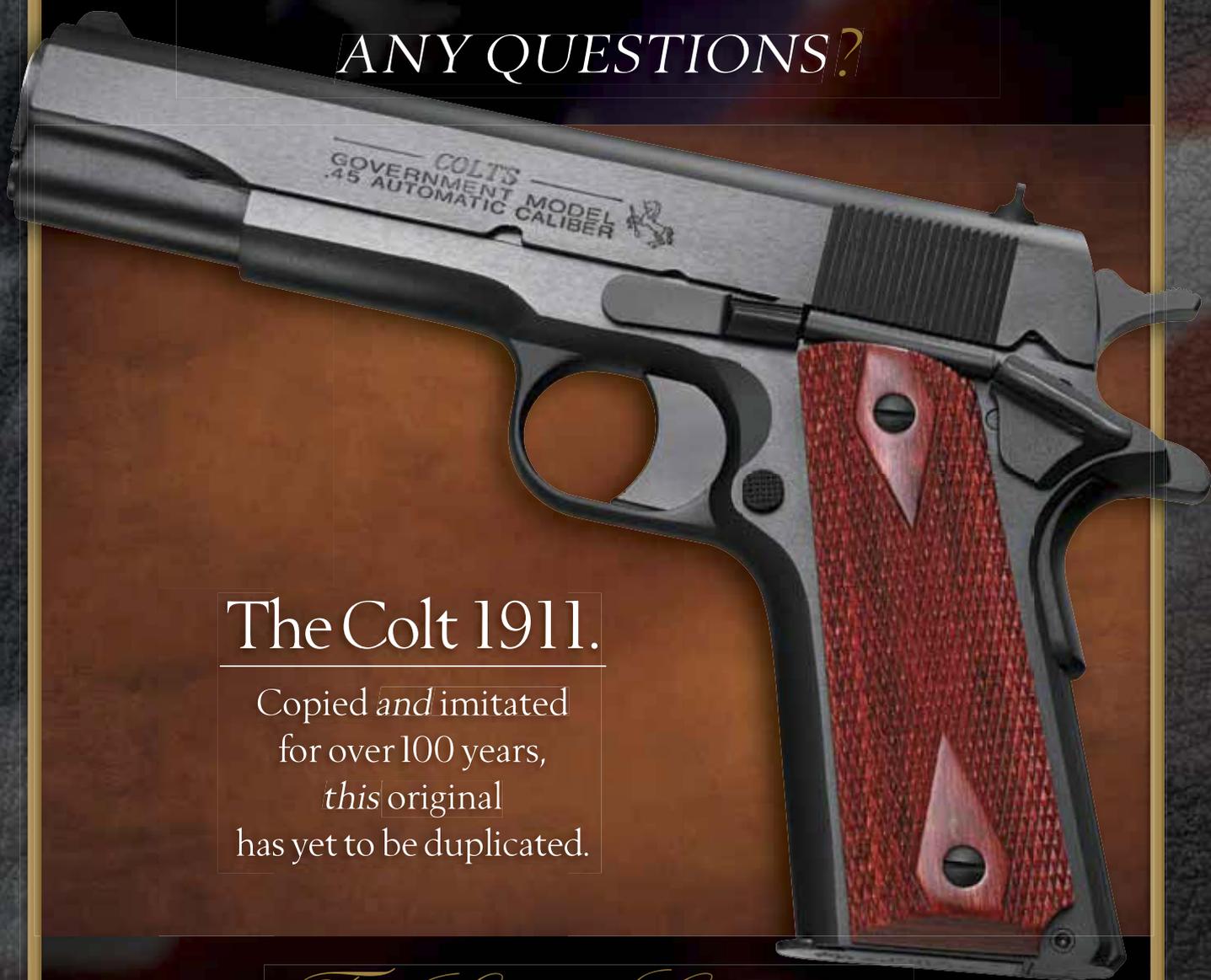
General Counsel/Legal Affairs: Steele N. Gillaspay

Email: sng@g-jlaw.com



PRODUCED IN THE U.S.A.

THE GENUINE ARTICLE.
THE STANDARD ISSUE.
THE REAL DEAL.
ANY QUESTIONS?



The Colt 1911.

Copied *and* imitated
for over 100 years,
this original
has yet to be duplicated.

The Legend Continues.

COLT

HANDGUNS

STORY: Massad Ayoob

THE THUMB

Where does it go?

Back to basics part IV.

Proper placement moves your thumb from “hindrance” to “help” in handgun shooting. The opposable thumb, anthropologists say, was a biological reason for the rise of *Homo sapiens* to the status of dominant species. In handgun shooting, however, one of the most common questions instructors get from students is, “Where do I put my thumbs?”

The answer is, sadly: “It depends.” Let’s look at some of the common grasps, and analyze their good points and their possible contraindications.

Primary Hand Grasp

Let’s start with straight thumb. For 1-handed shooting, your bull’s-eye shooter will generally point the thumb straight toward the target. In most folks’ hands, this seems to allow the most-straight-back press of the trigger. However, because the hand’s digits move reciprocally, you’ll often see the thumb moving reflexively along with the trigger finger in rapid fire. The other fingers may be doing the same, and together this creates “milking,” in which the sympathetic extra squeeze of the other fingers with the one on the trigger pulls the gun a bit off target.

High-thumb grasp can be necessary on a pistol like the Beretta M9 with slide-mounted safety that flips upward to fire. Running the thumb 45 degrees upward very reliably pops the safety “off” and into the firing position, and verifies that it’s off if the gun is carried lever up. On the 1911 and others with downward-releasing, frame-mounted safeties, the theory is keeping the thumb on the safety lever prevents it going on-safe by itself. Personally, I think if your gun is putting itself on-safe, it needs either a gunsmith or an exorcist—but that’s just me. The high thumb also pulls the web of the hand away from a grip safety, and can cause failures to fire.

Finally, there’s low thumb, in which the thumb is curled down, bent at the median joint and perhaps even touching the middle finger.

This takes the most advantage of that whole “opposable thumbs” thing, and significantly tightens one’s grasp. Try this exercise: hold your thumb up, squeeze your fingers tight, and mentally measure your hand strength. Still squeezing and measuring, slowly close your thumb down... and feel how much that strength has increased.

The low-thumb hold is particularly useful in stabilizing a gun against a heavy trigger pull. I use it all the time with revolvers, and most of the time with Glocks. It also gives you a much stronger hold if someone tries to twist the gun out of your hand in a fight. For that reason, it’s my primary default in defensive handgun training. Our winningest world champion practical shooter,



Curled down thumbs work for revolver champion John Strayer (above), here practicing with S&W 625 at height of .45 ACP recoil. Straight thumbs is choice of practical pistol champs. Here Todd Louis Green (below) wins Polite Society Match 2010, with HK45 and 230-grain hardball.



Rob Leatham, helped popularize the straight-thumbs hold for 2-handed shooting; but emphatically suggests a curled-down thumb for very fast 1-handed firing.

Support Hand

For the support hand, the old crossed-over thumb is generally a bad idea. It puts the support hand's thumb directly behind an auto pistol's slide, where it can jam the gun after the first shot (and won't do the thumb any good, either.) With a double-action revolver, the thumb can block the hammer spur if the hold is sloppily taken, and prevent the gun from firing. Still, the crossover thumb has its uses. Great revolver champion Jerry Miculek recommends it for the little J-frames, in part because it keeps the support thumb out of the way of the trigger finger. With a revolver that has real jackhammer recoil, the crossed-over thumb can also reduce hand separation in a 2-hand hold.

In practical shooting competition, both thumbs straight is the technique of the winners, proven in the 1980s by Leatham and his partner Brian Enos and legions more. With an auto, it puts the "drumstick" of the support thumb against the weak-hand side of



In 1-hand grasp, we can choose high thumb (top), straight thumb (center), or low thumb (bottom), all demonstrated with Springfield Armory XD's.

the pistol frame, giving comforting and comfortable 360-degree encirclement of the gun. Then again, with a very small pistol, this can place the thumbs out past the muzzle, and with an under-barrel Rhino revolver, next to the barrel cylinder gap—in either case, a ticket to your local hand surgeon.

Both thumbs curled down is extremely popular among revolver shooters and those using relatively heavy-trigger autos, because it maximizes hand strength to stabilize the gun on target. It keeps the thumbs from overriding and deactivating the slide-lock lever, a common problem with the straight-thumbs hold. On a gun with short-trigger reach, the extra thumb may block the trigger finger. If so, move it up from "thumbprint over thumbnail" placement, and put the support thumb on the median joint of the firing hand thumb: a "thumb-lock" position, if you will, that also helps prevent hand separation during hard recoil.

There is no one perfect technique for every shooter with every gun. Size and shape of both hand and gun will be part of what determines the best technique for your hand(s) and the given gun, in the given circumstance... and habituation will be part of it, too.

GUNS

MTM **CASE-GARD™** QUALITY SHOOTING SPORTS ACCESSORIES

Purpose Built for Shooters & Reloaders

Limited Edition **ZOMBIE** Ammo Can **ARE YOU READY?**

GunCleaning Patch Catcher *GCPC

Ammo Can Organizer *ACO

Cast Bullet Boxes *CAST1

Made In USA

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

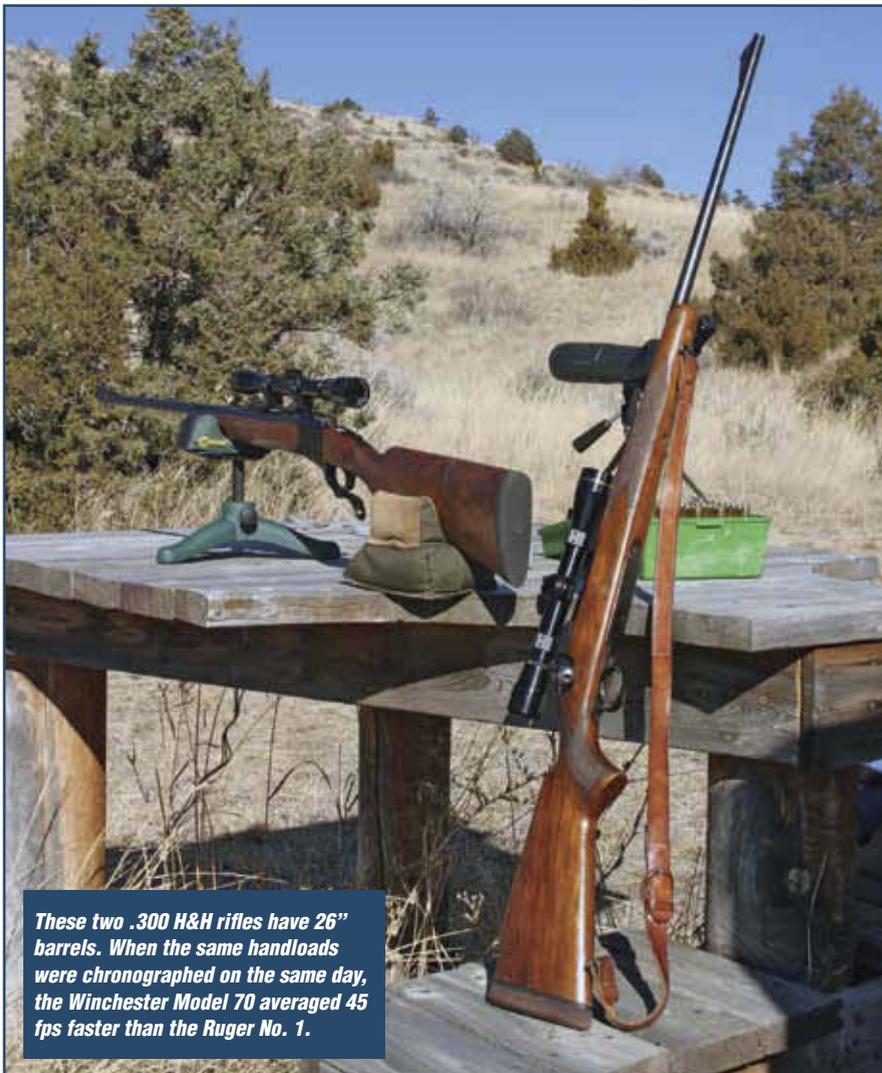
HANDLOADING

STORY: John Barsness

NO REAL LOSS

The relationship between barrel length, velocity and accuracy.

Apparently, many shooters are very concerned with velocity loss in shorter-barreled rifles. How many times have you heard or read that a .300 Magnum with a 22" barrel is only a .30-06, or that a .257 Weatherby Magnum has to have a 26" barrel to perform to its potential? There's also the oft-quoted guess that velocity loss with any modern rifle round will be 25 to 30 feet per second per inch of barrel, and the common belief that faster-burning powders lose less velocity in shorter barrels.



These two .300 H&H rifles have 26" barrels. When the same handloads were chronographed on the same day, the Winchester Model 70 averaged 45 fps faster than the Ruger No. 1.

Even with the widespread use of personal chronographs, a lot of such stuff gets tossed around these days, perhaps because few handloaders own a 22"-barreled .300 Magnum or are willing to take a hacksaw to their favorite deer rifle. Some people, however, perform actual experiments with different barrels lengths. As usual, reality is less predictable and more interesting.

My first experiment took place over 20 years ago, with a pre-threaded Shilen 7x57 barrel on a VZ-24 Mauser action. I asked the gunsmith to leave the barrel at its original 24" length, and then fitted the barreled action into an aftermarket synthetic stock. After trying a few handloads, I hacksawed 3" off the barrel and re-crowned the muzzle with a Brownells hand tool, then retested the same loads over the same chronograph.

The loads with the widest spread in velocity loss were the 140-grain Nosler Solid Base with 51 grains of IMR4350, and the 160-grain Nosler Partition with 50 grains of H4831. The difference in amount per inch was considerable: 15 fps for the 140 grain versus 41 fps for the 160, neither very close to the oft-quoted 25 to 30 fps, though the average velocity loss for the two loads was 28 fps.

A third load, using the 130-grain Speer Hot-Cor and IMR4064, lost 29 fps per inch, right where it theoretically should be—except for the fact that 4064 was by far the fastest powder. There's an excellent reason it lost just as much velocity, on average, as the other two loads: Almost all the smokeless powder in modern rifle cartridges burns in the first few inches of the barrel. (This may startle some people—but that's another subject, perhaps deserving another essay all by itself.)

The next experiment occurred when a well-known firearms company sent a .300 Winchester Magnum for testing. The name of the company won't be revealed, since management has changed in the years since. The 24" proved to have some rifling totally missing close behind the muzzle, which made it shoot more like a smoothbore slug gun than a rifle.

I contacted the company's public relations guy and asked permission to perform an experiment, and he pretty much shrugged. The barrel was cut to 22" and re-crowned, to see if the loss of 2" of barrel does turn a .300 Magnum into a .30-06. Velocity loss per inch varied between 51 and 79 fps with various loads, but even those lower muzzle velocities exceeded any 22" barreled .30-06 I've ever chronographed, and there have a been a bunch.

The results of both experiments appear in the accompanying chart. Cautious readers will notice the powder charges are somewhat higher than those listed in today's data. There are two reasons: Most loading data was a little higher back then—and I was younger and dumber, occasionally even trying to turn a .30-06 into a .300 Magnum.

Since then, similar experiments have been performed with several barrels, but none have proved significantly different than those first two trials. Velocity often varies more than 25 to 30 fps per inch of barrel, and there isn't any real pattern to which cartridges lose more velocity—though "magnum" rounds will lose a little more, on average.

Out Of The Ordinary

One interesting experiment performed by famed experimenter Phil Sharpe featured the typical hacksaw and re-chronograph technique. Sharpe reported an occasional increase in velocity after sawing off an inch of barrel. This might be dismissed as a chronograph glitch, except he used state-of-the-art equipment and shot 10-round strings. The answer was probably that some sections of the US military barrels used were slightly loose in the bore, or the rifling twist wasn't consistent throughout. Either can be true of some of today's cheaper commercial barrels, as anybody who's slugged many bores discovers. I once owned a 7x57 from a well-known American company with at least four to five definite loose areas—and the "tight" spots measured .287".

Even small-bore variations will result in different velocities from barrels of the same length. One day I chronographed a bunch of the same handloads in two .300 H&H Magnums with 26" barrels, one a pre-'64 Model 70 Winchester made in 1954, the other a Ruger No. 1 purchased new in 2009. As nearly as could be measured, the throats of both chambers were the same length, and the chronographing was done with an Oehler Model 35, shooting the rifles alternately. All the brass was from the

A MODERN TWIST ON A TIMELESS DESIGN.

1911 POLY

NEW for 2012

SPECS

5 INCH BARREL / POLYMER FRAME BODY WITH OPTIONAL INTERCHANGEABLE COLORS / POLYMER MAIN SPRING HOUSING WITH OPTIONAL INTERCHANGEABLE COLORS / 4140 STEEL BILLET FRAME INSERT / 4140 STEEL BILLET SLIDE / RUBBER OVERMOLDED PISTOL GRIPS / COMMANDER HAMMER / 4.5 LB TRIGGER PULL / ALUMINUM SPEED TRIGGER / PARKERIZED FINISH / INCLUDES ONE 7-ROUND MAGAZINE / WEIGHT: 2.04 LBS

AVAILABLE IN A VARIETY OF COLOR COMBINATIONS

ROCK RIVER ARMS®

Pre-production models shown. Specifications subject to change without notice.

FIND OUT MORE AT WWW.ROCKRIVERARMS.COM

NEW LADIES STYLES AVAILABLE!

HOT CALIBER.COM
 FLATTENED BULLET JEWELRY
 SHOT BY HAND - MADE IN USA
 FOR HIM & HER

1MIL FPS VIDEO

"STAG" AND "MARKSMAN" CUFF LINKS PICTURED

USA
PROUD

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

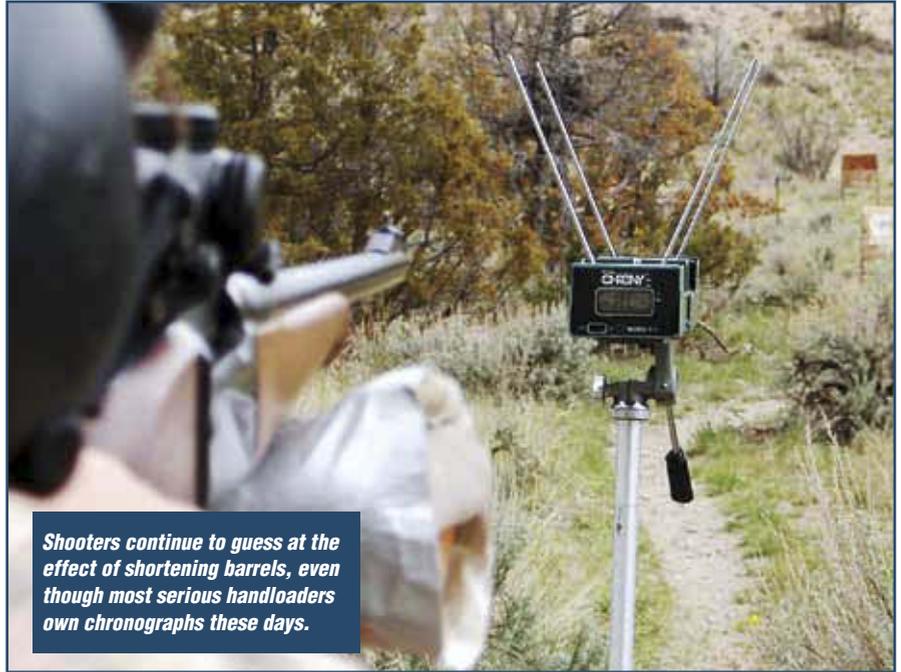


810 CONTEGO™

BENCHMADE

STING LIKE A BUTTERFLY

AXIS® LOCK | G10 HANDLE
CPM-M4 STEEL BLADE
CARBIDE TIP GLASS BREAKER



Shooters continue to guess at the effect of shortening barrels, even though most serious handloaders own chronographs these days.

| BULLET (BRAND, WEIGHT, TYPE) | POWDER (BRAND) | CHARGE (GRAINS WEIGHT) | VELOCITY (FPS, BARREL LENGTH) | LOSS PER INCH (FPS) |
|--|-------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| VZ-24 7X57 MAUSER: | | | | |
| SPEER 130 HOT-COR | IMR4064 | 47.0 | 2,979 (24") | 2,892 (21") 29 |
| NOSLER 140 SOLID BASE | IMR4350 | 51.0 | 2,907 (24") | 2,861 (21") 15 |
| NOSLER 160 PARTITION | H4831 | 50.0 | 2,754 (24") | 2,632 (21") 41 |
| "MYSTERY" .300 WINCHESTER MAGNUM: | | | | |
| HORNADY 165 SP | IMR4350 | 73.0 | 3,115 (24") | 3,013 (22") 51 |
| SPEER 180 GRAND SLAM | H4831 | 76.0 | 3,131 (24") | 2,973 (22") 79 |
| NOSLER 200 PARTITION | H4831 | 73.0 | 2,886 (24") | 2,755 (22") 65.5 |

same batch of Nosler Custom, and the primers were all Federal 215Ms from the same 1,000-primer carton. The bullets ranged from 150 to 220 grains, and the powders included IMR4350, Hodgdon H4350, Alliant Reloder 17, Hodgdon H4831SC and Accurate 3100.

Despite the Model 70 being 55 years older, every load clocked faster in its well-used barrel, the difference varying from 37 to 53 fps in individual loads, and averaging 45 fps. According to the 25 to 30 fps "rule" 45 fps is the difference of about 2" of barrel length.

On another occasion two .257 Weatherbys with 24" barrels were shot on the same day with the same loads, one a factory Weatherby Vanguard and one a New Ultra Light Arms Model 28. Another common theory is that custom barrels tend to be faster than factory barrels, due to tighter tolerances, but in this instance the Vanguard's barrel was slightly faster than the Douglas barrel on the NULA, anywhere from 21 to 40 fps, depending on the load. Oh, and both barrels chronographed right around 3600 fps with one 100-grain load using a powder charge from a current manual—as fast the

listed muzzle velocity of any 100-grain Weatherby factory load. So no, a 24" barrel doesn't totally emasculate the super-zappers.

Such exceptions to The Velocity Rules turn up every time we chronograph different loads in different length barrels, or different barrels of the same length. One load I've used for decades in various .30-06s is 58.0 grains of IMR4350 or H4350 and a 165-grain bullet. It's been a dependably accurate load in a wide variety of .30-06 rifles, and muzzle velocities are almost always very close to 2,900 fps in 24" barrels. Once in a while, however, something weird happens. One well-maintained 1903 Springfield .30-06 only chronographed around 2,750 fps with this load, despite having a still very shiny barrel the standard 23.6" long.

The truth is that we don't know exactly what the velocity of our handloads will be unless we chronograph them in our rifles. This might seem obvious but apparently isn't, even when most serious handloaders own a chronograph, or at least can borrow one from a buddy. Instead, for some reason we just keep guessing.

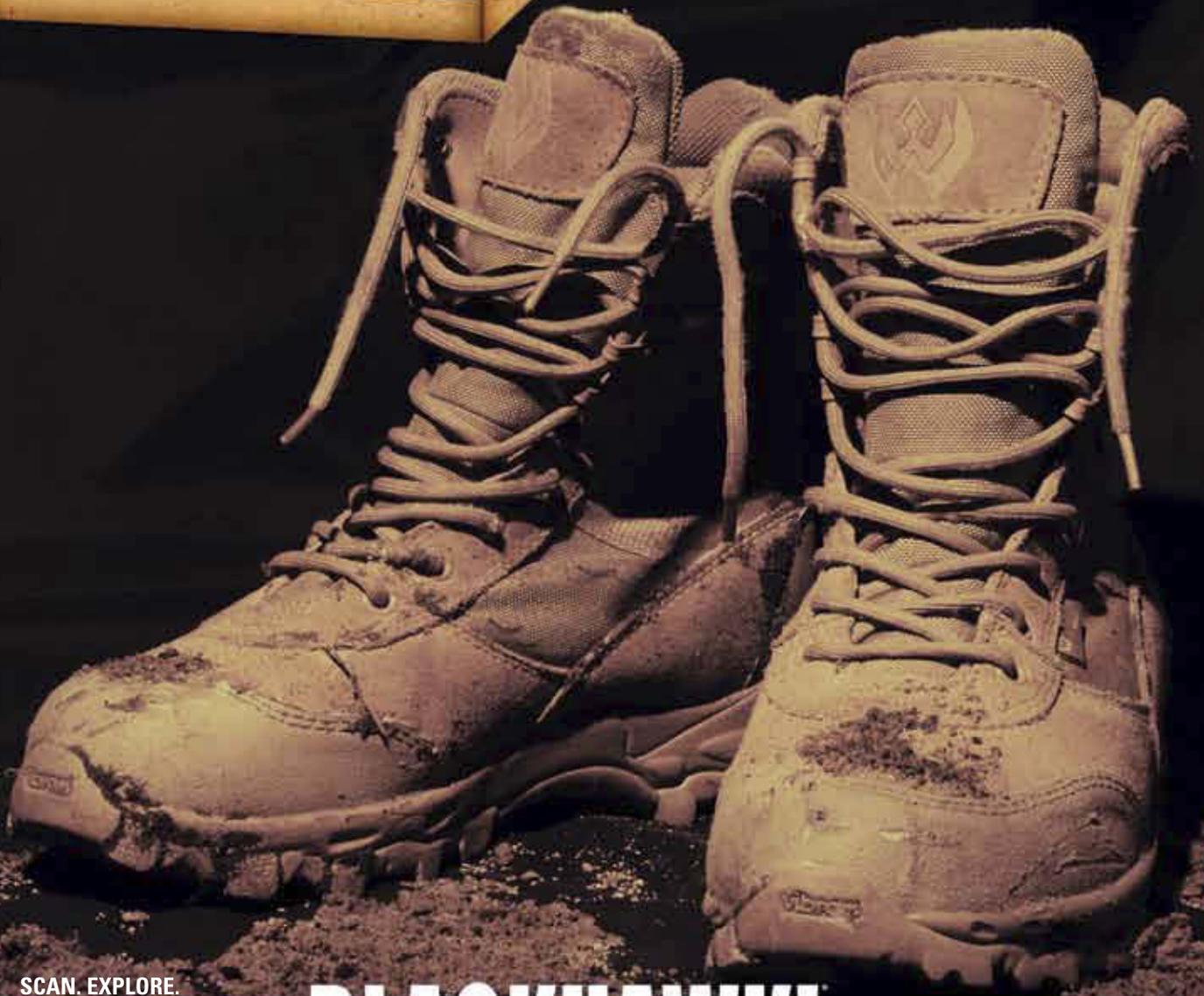
GUNS

WE DO MORE THAN JUST TEST OUR PRODUCTS.
WE PROVE THEM IN COMBAT.

DESERT OPS™ BOOTS

LOCATION: Kandahar Province, Afghanistan

COMPLETED MISSION: Carried U.S. Air Force
reservist for thousands of miles through harsh
conditions and various types of terrain. Boots
continue to perform and protect.



WWW.BLACKHAWK.COM

SCAN. EXPLORE.



BLACKHAWK!

HONOR. AS A WAY OF LIFE.



UPON ARS

STORY: Glen Zediker

BUFFER STUFF

Keep the AR cycling happily.

I know the way I write must sound like I think the AR-15 gas system is just corrupt engineering... I've spent quite a few words here and elsewhere going on about taming it down so the rifle behaves better.

Overview: An "impulse" gas system is regulated only by tube and hole dimensions. More or less, port pressure (never to be confused with chamber pressure) is the amount of gas pressure at the gas port during firing. Port pressure mostly determines the "timing" of system operation. If too much pressure gets in too soon, the system has no choice but to function. Port hole size and

port location down the barrel has much to do with this timing.

Carbine-length systems, in particular, can produce problems. Essentially, if too much gets in too soon, the bolt will unlock too soon as the system begins moving the bolt carrier to the rear. Then, the cartridge case gets yanked while it's still expanded inside the chamber. This creates the "extraction" problems common to carbines (16" or shorter barrel). It's not an extraction problem, really, but a timing issue.

Additionally, an overdose of gas creates overly high-bolt carrier velocity going back against the buffer. It can get so high, and again this is most symptomatic in carbines, that the carrier will "bounce" off its rearward stopping point and rebound overly quickly, going back ahead. Sometimes this appears like a "short stroke" or weak function but its cause is actually just the opposite. Overrides (failure to pick up a round from the magazine) and failures to lock back against the bolt catch or stop can result. The real issue is the carrier is outrunning the other part systems, the magazine specifically.

We are in milliseconds with respect to "fast" and "slow." Virtually all the influential firearms functions, including breaking a shot, are measured in milliseconds.

So, there is help for all this; altered port locations and sizes (only done on custom re-barreling projects) or regulated gas blocks—or both—make big differences. So, too, do heavier-weight carriers. Those resist initial movement for a speck longer, giving internal pressures longer to subside. The easier means are related to the "back part" of the system, which, let's say, is the buffering apparatus. It can be altered



From left: Superior Shooting Systems Inc. CWS with inserts; ITT Enidine AR-restor; DPMS heavyweight carbine buffer; up front is a chrome silicon buffer spring.

to influence bolt carrier movement, in both directions. The direction that matters most is going back after firing.

Tools Of The Trade

The buffer itself has a few options on the market. One of the foibles of carbine architecture is the shorter buffer, that's also a lighter buffer. Increasing buffer weight is effective. Doing this softens carrier movement rearward. The more weight, the harder to push.

Effectively increasing buffer weight, which is a pretty much accurate way to say it, can be done with a different buffer spring. I've decided for myself there's really no such thing as a "standard" spring for rifles or carbines. There are differences in how different examples compress and rebound, and if you measure enough of them you'll record different lengths. More checks will show, though, that most have the same number of coils. Any more I just trim rifle-length buffer springs to make them work.

David Tubb, umpteen-time NRA High Power Rifle and Long Range Rifle champion, markets a "flat-wire" buffer spring that works very well. It's made from Chrome Silicon Alloy, a radically better material than music wire. Since the coils are flat, the compressed length or "solid height" of the spring is much shorter than a round-wire spring can attain. That means, if needed, an effectively stronger spring can fit into a carbine buffer tube without hitting solid height and impeding function.

The longer flat-wire spring adds a little extra pressure to aid in



David Tubb's CS Flatwire Buffer Spring. This spring will last the life of your AR-15, and your next AR-15....



If you're going to tune a spring by cutting coils, count them. Don't measure the spring. Rifle "standard" is usually 43, and it's 37 for carbines. So, if you want a carbine spring from a rifle spring, count down six coils and zip it right there. I use a Dremel cutting wheel, and safety glasses! The side of the wheel can smooth the ends afterward. Never be afraid to cut coils to get function. Sometimes a lot of mods to carrier function can require it, but that's a good thing. Just make sure the spring is the problem, meaning the cure.



With any buffer change, make sure there is enough overrun (gap) between bolt and bolt stop to ensure bolt stop function. A nickle's width is the minimum. By the way, a trick that can help bolt stop breakage problems in big-chassis rifles is intentionally reducing this gap. Easiest done with the little stick-on buffer pads from Brownells. Only for competition use though! Don't cut it closer than suggested, but stock guns usually have an excessive gap.

keeping the carrier still a tick longer, even though I don't really see it as an "extra-power" spring. One will increase "in-battery load" about 25 percent. That's significant.

Another very good product is from ITT (Enidine), The "AR-restor" incorporates a hydraulic component into its buffer. Works like a shock absorber. Works like a charm. Once again, it just slows things down. I've been running these in my competition guns for a few years now. It just replaces the standard carbine or rifle buffer (ITT also offers one for "big chassis" rifles like SR-25 or AR-10). Running a rifle with one of these installed is a noticeable difference in feel as well as function.

The only thing I've encountered (but only a couple of times) with replacement buffers is making sure there is enough "room" for the bolt stop to function when it all bottoms out. If not, the fix is removing a little material from the back end of the buffer (after determining that it's not spring length creating the problem), which is easily done since it's polyurethane.

Any and all of these changes have to be qualified as appropriate for use under one set of conditions. Not all perform the same on different rifles with different ammunition. Make double sure any change in ammunition, especially, is thoroughly tested for function with

your setup. Very (seemingly) small changes in pressures, for instance, have big effects, or can. **GUNS**

BROWNELLS
200 S. FRONT ST.
MONTEZUMA, IA 50171
(800) 741-0015

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/BROWNELLS
(VIRTUALLY ALL PARTS MENTIONED ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS OUTLET.)

SUPERIOR SHOOTING SYSTEMS INC.
800 N. 2ND ST.
CANADIAN, TX 79014
(806) 323-9488
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/
SUPERIOR-SHOOTING-SYSTEMS-INC

ITT ENIDINE INC.
7 CENTRE DR.
ORCHARD PARK
NY 14127
(716) 662-1900
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/ITT

SHAMELESS SELF PROMOTION

Information in this article was adapted from The Competitive AR15: the ultimate technical guide, published by Zediker Publishing, check www.zediker.com or call (662) 473-6107.



SR5000 Modular Gun Vise

MSRP \$63.95

Accepts EVERY Kind of Long Gun

Rubber Inserts on both Front & Rear Supports to Protect the Stock & the Barrel

Rear Supports' Clamps Bi-Directionally Adjustable

Excellent Stability on the Bench thanks to 10 Rubber Feet on the Base

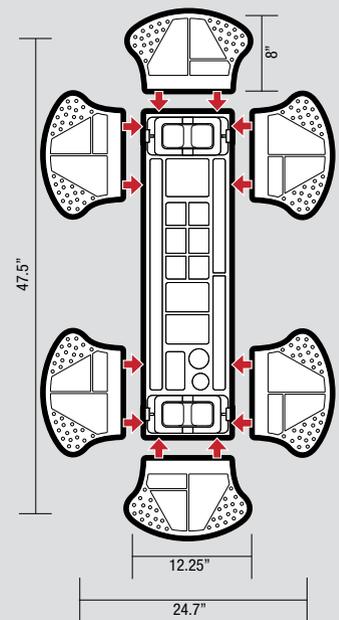
Multi-Purpose Accessories & Can's bins on the SR5000's body

Comes with 2 M.E. (Modular Ends) which can be adjusted on 6 different positions around the SR5000's body

No tools needed for assembling

Every part is made of hard and durable polymer resistant to chemicals and solvents

More Modular Ends can be bought separately



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

SmartReloader-USA.com
Contact Us
Learn Where to Buy
Request a Free Catalogue

Buy online at Store.SmartReloader-USA.com

or find all of our Dealers at
Smartreloader-USA.com

SmartReloader
Reloading & Shooting Products

RANGING SHOTS

STORY: Clint Smith PHOTOS: Heidi Smith

ZERO SENSE

Where do you want your bullets to strike?

Editor Jeff John gets consistent requests for information about how to, or where to, “zero” firearms for both hunting and defensive applications. He asked me to address this issue so I thought I’d give you information on “how to” zero your firearms, specifically considering defensive applications. These are my opinions after fussing with the defensive use of firearms for a few decades.

As in all the firearms systems, you—yes, you—need to decide what you think is a baseline of where—as in how far in distance to the target—at which you’ll need to zero your handgun. A degree of silly comes up

here because if we knew where we were going to be in a fight and at how far distance-wise, we could simply not “show” up that day.

Marksmanship and/or the application of firearms to a fight is—



Remember the offset on the AR rifle, no matter what range you have the rifle zeroed for.

or should be—precision shooting, i.e. being to hit successfully and repeatedly the likes of the center of mass and the pelvis, for example. Shooting is then precision shooting, except an occasion may call for a surgical application, namely a head or partial head exposure shot, which is often not difficult, but the projectile placement requires attention.

This all seems pretty commonsense today, but then again, you get lots of variables when it comes to opinions. Historically, even some types of competition used bizarre hold offs like in PPC-stylized shooting. Many shooters opted for a neck hold because the tapered neck gave a more precise aiming point at extended ranges—so much so sights were even mechanically built with numbered hold offs for this extended 50-yard B27 target-type shooting. Silhouette shooting, such as steel chickens and pigs, was another example of big hold offs being required and often achieved by the use of rail-type sights and big clicky thing adjustments on both the front and rear of the sight.

Bluntly, if you are shooting a 9mm, .40 or .45 bullet for defense, the actual deviation in the curve/trajectory of the bullet is so minimal from 15 to 25 yards, most people can’t hold the difference. That said, I think a defensive handgun should hit where you aim at. Where “at” is, is someplace you decide on between zero and 25 yards. In my experience, more people will “lean” on the pistol to take the projectile impact off course than any



The shotgun downrange at a nominal distance of 30', with both birdshot and buckshot results.

BOOM

MAGPUL NOW DOES SHOTGUNS



MAGPUL
MAGPUL.COM/SHOTGUN





“bullet drop” will ever make. So sights are adjusted on point-of-aim, point-of-impact and good ammunition with the pistol manipulated correctly. I set mine for 20 yards so the projectile then strikes at the top of the properly aligned sights at that distance. It makes me happy.

In a fighting handgun, where you aim is where you should hit, all other things considered. You just need to consider what all the other things to consider are.

The Rifle AR

Hands down, the single biggest flaw with the AR/M4 platform under duress is to remember the mechanical offset of the sight in relationship to the strike of the projectile: Where you aim is not where you hit. No matter what your zero, point-of-aim, point-of-impact at 25, 50, 75 or 100 yards or feet, the offset will override the zero at 25 yards and closer. This is not truly a big deal on the battlefield; the problem is many true battlefields today are urbanized environments or inside buildings or structures, so the range-deck zeroing information and skill gathered in normal training deteriorates in the 18' hallway. This lack of understanding and application of the rifle's mechanical offset introduces the rifle shooter to the art of hole making. This art form opens a hole in the bystander/hostage's head big enough to drive a canoe through. It has been done, many times, and it will continue to happen.

The rifle is even more user specific than a handgun to zeroing, due to where you live, where you might apply the rifle and for what use. If you live in Montana in bear country,



One of Clint's Jason Burton-built 1911s, this daily carry pistol's sights are set to impact point-of-aim/point-of-impact at 20 yards.

both the type of rifle and the zero might be wisely selected. If you live in a Phoenix residential area, zeroing might be different, as will the type of threats.

I zero my AR platform so that it hits point-of-aim, point-of-aim at 100 yards. For where I live and what I can see (vision wise) and/or what I am willing to shoot, the selection has worked well.

The Shotgun

As always, the shotgun is a solid defense tool, as inside short ranges it really packs a big hit. Along with the big hit at short range, the shotgun is a rifle per se inside the distances that most people would shoot the gun inside their house, as the shot patterns often haven't opened up a great deal. So for zero to 10 yards, it is a rifle, sort of.

Shotguns at 10 to 30 yards provide about as optimum range as you're gonna get, as the pattern has opened and is reasonably consistent, though much of this is based on ammunition and choking selection.

From 30 to 50 yards, buckshot patterns are often inconsistent. Again, choking can cure even this inconsistency, or the shooter can go to a slug if they think they have enough backstop to suck up one of the big lead balls.

Since all this is weird and based on different ammunition and stuff, I zero the shotgun with rifled slugs at 25 yards, and then shoot my selection of buckshot loads until I find the type of load that shoots/impacts best to the point-of-aim for the slug. This is probably not the perfect way to do this, but it works pretty well for me for defense uses.

So all and all, the zero deal is pretty simple: Some is mechanical, and some of it is flat-out shooting the system and knowing what your firearms will do with the ammunition you have selected. It's up to you to shoot what you have, get the zeros you want and then practice, practice, practice. **GUNS**



Why a shotgun is good: it makes holes!



THE KIMBER CDP. CARRY WITHOUT COMPROMISE.

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



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



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



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

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



©2011 Kimber Mfg., Inc. All rights reserved. Kimber names, logos and other trademarks may not be used without permission. Names of other companies, products and services may be the property of their respective owners. Kimber firearms are shipped with an instruction manual and California-approved cable lock. Copy of instruction manual available by request.

Kimber, One Lawton Street, Yonkers, NY 10705 (800) 880-2418

THE CHOICE OF AMERICA'S BEST
kimberamerica.com

MONTANA MUSINGS

STORY: Mike "Duke" Venturino

PHOTOS: Yvonne Venturino



Before Paul Mauser hit upon a staggered arrangement for cartridges in an internal box magazine, he made rifles with cartridges in a single stack, which necessitated the magazine under the rifle.

MAUSER MILITARY BOLT ACTIONS

Another fascinating group of arms to study.

I've had a revelation: I have become a great fan of Mauser military bolt-action rifles. At a recent gun show, I had a few spare bucks in my pocket upon spotting a Brazilian Model 1908 7x57mm. That is a Mauser Model 1898 made by DWM in Berlin sometime between 1908 and 1914. Bore was nigh on perfect, despite some small blemishes on exterior metal with about a zillion small handling dents in the walnut stock. Importantly, it had not been "messed with." That is to say it was the same as issued to some soldier nearly 100 years ago.

Its price was a measly \$300 and I couldn't resist it. Therefore, it became the ninth Mauser military bolt action in my vault. Along with it are three German K98ks, one each Czech VZ24 and G33/40, Swedish Models 1896 and

41b (sniper version) and a Yugoslavian-made Model 48. All are 8x57mm, except the two Swedish 6.5mm rifles and now the Brazilian 7mm.

Besides modest prices, why have I become enamored of these old

rifles? One reason is because of their fantastic manufacturing quality, especially those made in Germany, Belgium, Sweden, Argentina and (then-named) Czechoslovakia. When made in peacetime, military Mausers have fit and finish better than factory-made sporting rifles today—in my opinion. Their barrels, even if a bit dark in the grooves, can still deliver bullets with fine precision.

And get this: They are one of the most historically significant rifles (and carbines) of the period of 1890 to 1950. It was the performance of the Mauser 7mm in the Spanish-American War of 1898 that caused the US Army to develop its Model 1903 "Springfield," which was simply a knockoff of Paul Mauser's Model 1898. So much a knockoff, in fact, the US Government had to pay Mr. Mauser a sum for infringing on his patents. And it was primarily with a wide variety of military Mauser bolt actions scrounged from around the world that the Israelis in 1948 fought off several Arab nations to secure their independence. Exact figures don't exist, but in the book *Military Mausers of the World Third Edition*, author Robert W.D. Bell estimates that about 102 million were made worldwide.

For some years, virtually every country south of the Rio Grande River armed their armies with one or another version of Mauser military bolt-action rifles. Most were chambered either for 7x57mm or 7.65x53mm. In the many South American wars of the early 20th century, it sometimes occurred that both sides were fighting with identical rifles. Towards the end of their reign,

Instead of just a ratty old military rifle, Duke sees Mausers, such as this Brazilian Model 1908, as examples of fine craftsmanship.



before autoloading rifles ascended, some South American military Mausers were even made as .30-06s.

The earliest Mauser military rifle I have owned was a Model 71/84 11mm. Paul Mauser started out with a bolt-action, single-shot Model 71, but by 1884 converted the design to have a tubular magazine running beneath the barrel. Anyone familiar with Winchester lever guns can understand how that worked.

The 11mm Mauser was a black-powder cartridge, but by the late 1880s smokeless powder rounds were well developed. Therefore, military Mauser bolt actions began having 5-round box magazines extending beneath the action, with a prime example being the Argentine Model 1891 7.65x53mm. (I use that example because I owned one and still have photos of it.) By 1893 Mauser developed the internal 5-round box magazine for his rifles. They loaded by means of stripper clips from the top, and with the cartridges being staggered, there was no need for the magazine to extend under the stock. The many Mausers developed in the 1890s with names such as Models 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896 all used this system.

All those rifles were excellent military bolt actions and proved



This photo shows three related rifles. Front is a Mauser Model 1898 (actually German K98k). Borrowing ideas from the '98 Mauser, the US Army developed the US Model 1903 Springfield (center). Then, borrowing ideas from both, Winchester Repeating Arms came up with their Model 70 (rear).

themselves in combat worldwide. A notable example would be how the Boers of South Africa for three years shot the British Army to flinders with their (mostly) Model 1895 7mm Mausers before finally being overwhelmed by sheer strength.

However, the design wasn't perfect and Paul Mauser recognized that. The problem actually was with brass metallurgy. Cartridge case failures happened relatively commonly with the brass of that era and the escaping gas often shattered rifle actions.

Accuracy Matters™.

Think about ITT.

ITT Enidine Inc. is a market leader in hydraulic energy absorbers for the defense and aerospace markets. Our products are currently employed by US and NATO special forces. ITT Enidine Inc. recoil buffers offer benefits including improved accuracy and target acquisition, recoil reduction, and lower firing rates. Our product line is offered for .308 caliber, M4/M16/AR15 style rifles and Remington and Mossberg tactical shotguns.

.308 Caliber "Johnny" Buffer

M15 Composite Black Buffer

M17's Head Shock Buffer

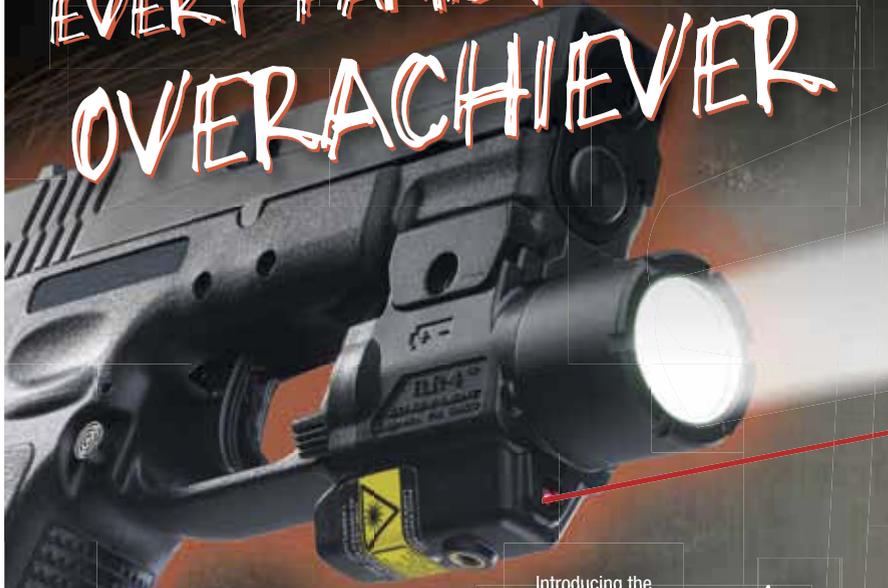
Shot Shock™ 12 Gauge Shotgun Buffer

Find out more at: www.enidine-recoil.com

ITT

ENGINEERED FOR LIFE

EVERY FAMILY HAS AN
OVERACHIEVER



- TLR-4™**
- 110 Lumens
 - 5,000 Candela
 - Integrated Laser Sight



Introducing the
TLR-4™
with **INTEGRATED LASER**

With each new light in our TLR family comes even more reasons why heroes trust Streamlight. The TLR-4™ offers you the same great features as our TLR-3® but with the added benefit of an integrated laser sight for accurate and precise aiming. It fits more subcompact, compact and full size handguns than any other light on the market today. It's the light that gives you a wide variety of compatibility and convenience and an unbelievable value.



STREAMLIGHT®
Heroes Trust Streamlight®

©2012 Streamlight, Inc.

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



During the last few years, Duke has spent more time firing military Mauser rifles of all sorts than any other type of rifle.

Therefore, Mauser developed his Model 1898, as a stronger action due to a third locking lug, plus it was engineered to deflect escaping gases away from the shooter. (Source: *The Mauser Bolt Actions: M91 Through M98: A Shop Manual* by Jerry Kuhnhausen.)

That the new design was exemplary is an understatement. Virtually every bolt-action, box-magazine sporting rifle since has been based on the Mauser Model 1898 to one degree or the other. As Kuhnhausen points out on the last page of his book, changes to the basic Mauser Model 1898 design have been made to make manufacturing cheaper and faster, not to improve on it.

Of the 100-million-plus Mauser military bolt actions made, roughly 10 percent were Germany's K98k 8mm. And it's probably a safe bet to say 8x57mm was the predominant chambering of all, with 7x57mm and 7.65x53mm in second and third places. Most other calibers of Mauser rifles were oddballs specific to some nation, such as 8x52mmR Siamese (now Thailand).

My sole complaint about the Mauser military bolt actions I've gathered is their issue iron sights. They're hard for my aging eyes to see, which is why my scoped Mausers are shot much more often than open-sighted ones. I cannot help but think that Paul Mauser or the countries that either bought or were licensed to make military Mausers should have adopted peep sights.

There's another nearby gun show next month so if a good military Mauser pops up, I'll be ready.

P.S.: Just as I was about to send in this manuscript, another fine military Mauser rifle came my way. I'll tell about it in a future column.



Recoil Can Get Nasty!

Reduce Recoil, Reduce Muzzle Jump. For accuracy, dependability, and quality.



Mag-na-port®
International, Inc.

41302 Executive Drive
Harrison Twp., MI 48045-1306

Phone: 586-469-6727

Fax: 586-469-0425

www.magnaport.com

email@magnaport.com



XD^M - 3.8 COMPACT .45ACP



AVAILABLE NOW!

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

1.800.680.6866 | WWW.THE-M-FACTOR.COM

RIFLEMAN

STORY: Dave Anderson

THE LEVER ACTION

A truly American design.

The lever action is American. Other nations do bolt actions well with their Mausers and Mannlichers. But other nations just don't get the lever action—I suppose because other nations didn't have Oliver Winchester, John Browning, Arthur Savage and John Marlin.

From the beginning of the self-contained cartridge era and for a century, the lever action dominated America's hunting fields. Following the WWI, bolt-action rifles slowly began making inroads.

Millions of soldiers had been trained in their use. Inexpensive military surplus rifles and ammunition became available. There was increased interest in more powerful, flat-shooting cartridges such as the .30-06.

Nonetheless an American hunter was still far more likely to carry a lever rifle than any bolt action. I was a boy in the 1950s, growing up in a rural environment where just about every household had a .22, a shotgun and a deer rifle.

Almost always the deer rifle was a lever action. There were Winchester 92s and 94s, Marlin 36s and 336s, and Savage 99s. One fellow had a .303 Savage 99 on which he had somehow attached a 3/4"-diameter scope, the first I'd ever seen.

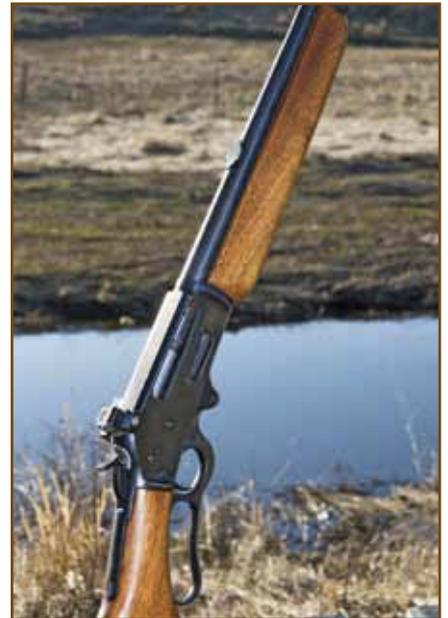
The real enthusiasts had 99s in .250

and .300 Savage. A few, much admired and envied, had the new Winchester 88. One friend of Dad's had two 88s, in .243 and .308. A modest man, he carried his fame lightly.

In the early 1960s, dreaming of the day I'd order my own deer rifle, studying catalogs on cold winter evenings as the snow swirled around the isolated farmhouse, the only decision was whether it would be an 88 or a 99.

We didn't know it at the time, but the lever-action era was coming to an end. Several factors came together. Millions of military surplus bolt actions were available at low cost. The Winchester 88 I wanted cost \$140, and might as well have been a million. With hard work and thrift I was able to afford \$17.88 for a Lee Enfield .303.

Interest in magnum cartridges had been growing since the end of WWII. Such cartridges weren't compatible with the lever actions of the era. Another factor was the tremendous



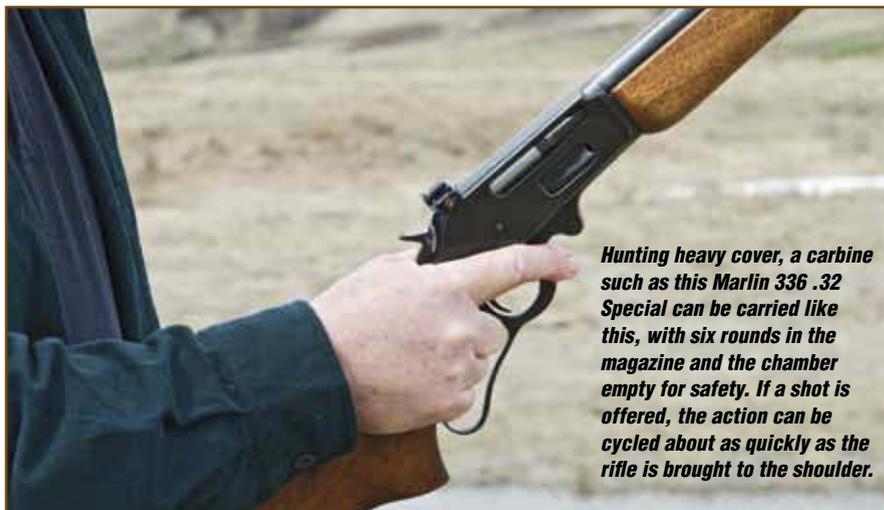
Dave's 1948-vintage Marlin 336 is in .32 Special. Even today you can find old-timers ready to argue Marlin vs. Winchester, .30-30 vs. .32 Special. I think that is how they kept warm in those drafty old hunting shacks in the north woods.

growth in handloading. Cartridges can be reloaded for any type of action, but bolt actions provide great power for cartridge seating and extraction, helping compensate for the inevitable learning curve of novice reloaders.

Still, another factor was the increasing interest in accuracy and a rapidly growing knowledge base of accuracy factors, largely driven by benchrest competition and varmint shooters. Shooters became more trigger conscious. Lever actions generally can't match the quality trigger pull of a good bolt action.

The switch from iron to optical sights played a part. Top-ejecting lever rifles such as the Winchester 71 and 94 didn't adapt well to scope use. Others that did (the Savage 99, for example) weren't well stocked for scope use.

Hunting styles changed. A Winchester 94 or Marlin 336 with receiver sight is ideal for still-hunting deer. It is easy to carry with a hand wrapped around the receiver, easy to maneuver through heavy cover, fast into action, adequately powerful. But in an era of tree stands and food plots, not many know how to still-hunt, or



Hunting heavy cover, a carbine such as this Marlin 336 .32 Special can be carried like this, with six rounds in the magazine and the chamber empty for safety. If a shot is offered, the action can be cycled about as quickly as the rifle is brought to the shoulder.

NEW!



**ONE SHOT
ONE THRILL!**



Safer, More Accurate, And Easier To Use
MANUAL SAFETY • UNLOAD WITHOUT PULLING TRIGGER • ADJUSTABLE PEEP
SIGHTS • ADJUSTABLE ACCUTRIGGER • FEED RAMP • COCKS BY LIFTING BOLT

 **Savage Arms**
The Definition of Accuracy

RASCAL
SAVAGEARMS.COM

even what the term means.

Like a candle that burns brightest just before it goes out, the lever action made a last stand. For a brief moment there were several "modern" lever actions: Browning BLR, Sako Finnwolf, Savage 99 and Winchester 88. At least they were cataloged, though not necessarily seen in every gunshop.

They were chambered for relatively powerful cartridges such as .243, .308 and .358; could be safely used with spitzer bullets; and could be readily fitted with scopes.

The BLR was announced in the late 1960s, but I never saw one in use until around 1973, about the time the Winchester 88 was discontinued. I only ever knew one hunter who used the Finnwolf, and he had two in .243 and .308.

Of these only the BLR survives. Nonetheless there is still interest in lever actions, though I'm not sure how much is due to younger shooters. Maybe it is just us old guys. Much of the demand is surely nostalgia, for originals and clones of classics such as the Winchesters 86, 92, 94, 95.

What about practical advantages? One often listed is faster reloading. By dint of long practice, I'm pretty quick at reloading a bolt action so this one



Some of Dave's lever actions, all with receiver sights include (left to right) a Savage 99 .300 Savage, Winchester 88 .284 Win, Marlin 336 .32 Special, Winchester 94 .30-30, Browning BLR .358 Win.

doesn't carry much weight for me.

Lever actions are ambidextrous, an advantage for lefties, and useful should a rightie need to shoot from the left side. The flat profile and absence of projections makes lever guns ideal for carry in a scabbard.

Realistically a lever-action revival is unlikely, but I know I'm not the only one who likes them. Something is behind the demand driving up prices of used 88s and 99s. Surely not all of them are being stashed away unused by collectors.

GUNS

LMT LM8MRP®

- 19.25" MIL STD 1913 STANAG 4694 COMPLIANT RAIL SPACE
- STRAIGHT GAS TUBE RESISTS BENDING AND RETAINS BETTER ALIGNMENT WITH THE GAS KEY
- ROCK SOLID ALUMINUM FORGING
- FIRED CARTRIDGE CASE DEFLECTOR
- REDUCED TEMPERATURE TO RAIL, OPTICS AND BARREL
- FREE-FLOATING BARREL
- NO LOSS OF ZERO FROM ROUGH HANDLING
- VERSATILITY OF DIFFERENT SIZED RAIL SEGMENTS ALLOWS YOU TO ATTACH THE ACCESSORIES YOU NEED FOR THE MISSION AT HAND
- TOP RAIL POSITION MATCHES M4 AND E3-TYPE WEAPONS
- LM8 PLATFORM DESIGN MAKES FOR A SMALLER, SLIMMER, LIGHTER AND MORE MANEUVERABLE WEAPON

SIZE MATTERS

AND SOMETIMES ITS SMALLER
It's short. It's thin. It doesn't weigh much. It's perfect.

Already an industry leader in monolithic rail development, Lewis Machine & Tool is once again improving the way weapons are manufactured.

The newly designed LM8 (slick octagonal rail) platform redefines what a rail should be by giving you a rail that is smaller, slimmer, lighter and more maneuverable. In short, we've reduced the amount of gun that you have to carry, without sacrificing the reliability that you want and the knockdown power that you need.

8 Sides, Hundreds of configuration possibilities, 1 kick-a88 gun.

BECAUSE FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION

Phone: 309-732-9527
sales@lmtdefense.com
www.lmtdefense.com

1 TAKE A 10/22[®],



2 TAKE IT APART,



3 TAKE IT TO GO!



**RUGER 10/22
TAKE DOWN™**

The Ruger 10/22 Takedown™

combines all the features and functionality of the 10/22[®] rifle

with the ability to easily separate the barrel/forend and action/buttstock for convenient storage and transportation. The simple reassembly of the barrel and action yields a rock-solid return to zero for consistent, reliable performance. Packed in a rugged, ballistic nylon case (included), the Ruger 10/22 Takedown™ makes it easy to keep America's favorite rimfire rifle by your side.

WWW.RUGER.COM/1022TAKEDOWN



©2012 Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc. 032912



RUGER[®]

RIMFIRES

STORY: Holt Bodinson

MINI FUN GUN Chiappa's sensational .22 LR M1 Carbine.

The M1 carbine holds the record for being produced in greater number than any other military firearm in the history of the United States with over 6,200,000 made between 1941 and 1945. Despite being “boy-sized” and firing what some would decry as a “pint-sized” cartridge, it proved to be a remarkably practical and reliable combat arm from WWII to Korea to Vietnam and beyond. Having had some experience with the M1 and M2 carbines, I was frankly blown away by the quality, proportions, features and accuracy of Chiappa's new rimfire rendition of this classic arm. Distributed by Legacy Sports International as the Model “Citadel M-1.22,” the carbine is simply sensational.

What made the M1 carbine so popular with the troops? Two gun-savvy veterans writing after WWII pretty well sum it up.

Lt. Col. John George served with Merrill's Marauders and wrote his memoirs in a book entitled, *Shots Fired in Anger*. George observed, “The carbine turned out to be the ace weapon of this war... It was light and handy, powerful, and reasonably accurate. The cartridge was powerful enough to penetrate several thicknesses of helmet and to perforate the plates of Japanese bulletproof vests... It was flat shooting enough to have practical accuracy at more than 200 yards... The greatest advantage of the carbine was its light weight,

which is the greatest advantage any infantry weapon can have.”

The second observer was Tucson gunsmith, Roy Dunlap, whose book *Ordnance Went Up Front*, was published in 1948. Dunlap wrote, “Everyone who had to carry a rifle longed for the 6-pound, boy-sized semi-automatic, and combat soldiers came to prefer them in many cases because they and their ammunition were easy to carry.

A WWII Favorite

In the Pacific, the carbines were more reliable and gave less trouble than the M1s. The troops often complained that it took all 15 shots to down a Jap, but I suspect this was



The bayonet lugged front band is polymer and copies the original late model style.



The receiver rear sight reflects the late model design of the wartime carbine.



The late style safety and magazine release are perfectly detailed on the Citadel.

because they always shot them 15 times anyway, whether he went down on the first or the last round.”

And have you seen the prices milsurp M1 carbines demand today? In spite of 6 million having been



The Citadel is a close rimfire clone of Holt's post-war original M1 Carbine.

produced and considering that surviving examples have been rebuilt at least once, it's not unusual to see them sitting on gun show tables with tags reading \$700, \$800 or more. That's one big reason I am intrigued by Chiappa's rimfire clone which has a suggested retail price of \$301-\$383, depending upon the material of the stock.

Looking at the Citadel M-1.22 in detail, it has the features of a late war Model M1 carbine. These include a fully adjustable receiver sight that replaced the earlier 150- and 300-yard, flip-leaf rear sight; a beefed up magazine release properly marked "M" which replaced the round button-style release in 1945 concurrently with the introduction of the heavier 30-round magazine; a rotary-style safety that replaced the earlier sliding button safety troops often confused with the similar feeling round button magazine release; an easier-to-machine, round bolt that replaced the earlier flat bolt in 1944; a bayonet lugged front band that replaced the plain front band in 1945; a plain, oiler cut out in the buttstock replacing the earlier "I" profile mortise, and the elimination of a crack prone, strip of wood covering the operating rod.

The difference between the features



of a late centerfire model and the Citadel is items like the front and rear sights, bayonet lugged front band, trigger housing and magazines are polymer rather than metal. Yet, polymer has its advantages. Chiappa is able to duplicate the detailed features of a real carbine parts while keeping the cost reasonable.

In overall length, weight and proportions, the Citadel is an M1 clone. It feels like a real M1. It looks like a real M1. It handles and

functions like a real M1. It's a rimfire marvel, and most M1 accessories are compatible with it.

One distinct difference in the receiver of the Citadel compared to that of an M1 is it incorporates integral scope mounting bases for rimfire clamp-style mounts, which is a real plus for the rimfire hunter.

Two polymer, 10-round magazines come with the Citadel. They match the size of a real M1 15-round magazine. They are easy to load and durable.

SHOOTER READY

CONFIDENCE TO LIVE YOUR LIFE

GLOCK
CONFIDENCE.GLOCK.COM

PERFECTION

To learn more about GLOCK events and our sport shooting foundation, visit CONFIDENCE.GLOCK.COM

©2012 GLOCK, Inc.

Testing the semi-automatic gun with high-speed and target velocity ammunition, I experienced not one jam or malfunction, which speaks highly for Chiappa's engineering design and overall quality control.

The magazine holds the bolt open when the last shot is fired. Retracting the operating handle slightly at that point and locking it open with the hold open button, allows you to readily remove the magazine from the receiver.

Since I like 4", square targets sitting on square posts, I zeroed the Citadel 3" high at 25 yards to keep both high speed and target velocity rounds somewhere within the box. The 3"

CITADEL M-1.22

CHIAPPA OF ITALY
DISTRIBUTOR: LEGACY SPORTS
INTERNATIONAL, LLC
4750 LONGLEY LN., #209
RENO, NV 89502
(775) 828-0555
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/
LEGACY-SPORTS-INT

ACTION TYPE: Semi-automatic, blowback, **CALIBER:** .22 Long Rifle, **CAPACITY:** 10, **BARREL LENGTH:** 18", **OVERALL LENGTH:** 35", **WEIGHT:** 4.8 pounds, **FINISH:** Matte blue, **SIGHTS:** Rear: adjustable receiver, front: fixed post, **STOCK:** Wood or polymer, **PRICE:** \$383 wood stocked, \$301 Polymer stocked



high zero corresponded exactly with the number "3" position on the rear sight. I also found with this zero and high-speed ammunition, I could make things pretty miserable for clods of earth out there on the 100-yard berm.

Like all rimfires, the Citadel had its distinct favorites when it came to ammunition. The 5-shot-group winners were Winchester's bulk packed "555" brand (1/2") and PMC's "Sidewinder" (7/8"). CCI's excellent Mini-Mag at 1" wasn't far behind in

the lead pack. In short, the Citadel is a very accurate carbine and worthy of a scope sight for hunting purposes. As a plinker, it's perfect as is.

Chiappa got it right. The Citadel is a terrific fun gun and a real head-turner at the range.

It's the perfect understudy for the real GI carbine, and it's a lot less expensive to own and a lot less expensive to shoot. Legacy Sports International is going to sell a ton of them.

GUNS

K2, PISTOLS... SERIOUS ARMS

K2 takes many of the modern designs and puts them in one pistol. Built by Sarsilmaz for the Turkish Military, the K2 is truly an amazing gun to shoot. Features: cocked and locked carry system, ergonomically designed grip, steel frame and slide, adjustable rear sight, integral rail, extended beaver serrated trigger guard and frame serrations, removable dove tailed front sight, upper and lower barrel lock up, and auto firing pin block. Now that's a K2!

SAR K2 Pistol
BBL-4.5", OAL-8.25"
Wt-40 oz
.45 ACP
14+1 Capacity
\$595 MSRP

See It All

EAA CORP

www.eaacorp.com

If your dealer cannot get you a K2, have them call us at 321-639-4832, P.O. Box 560746, Rockledge, FL 32956

Castigo Cay

A new novel by Matt Bracken, author of the "Enemies" trilogy.

Former Marine sniper Dan Kilmer lives outside a corrupt, third-world America, until a short-fuse rescue mission forces him to return to Florida under the official radar.

Available at Amazon and on Kindle.

To read 100 pages of *Castigo Cay* or to order signed copies, go to:

www.EnemiesForeignAndDomestic.com

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

MAXPEDITION



- VERSATILE
- ERGONOMIC
- DURABLE



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

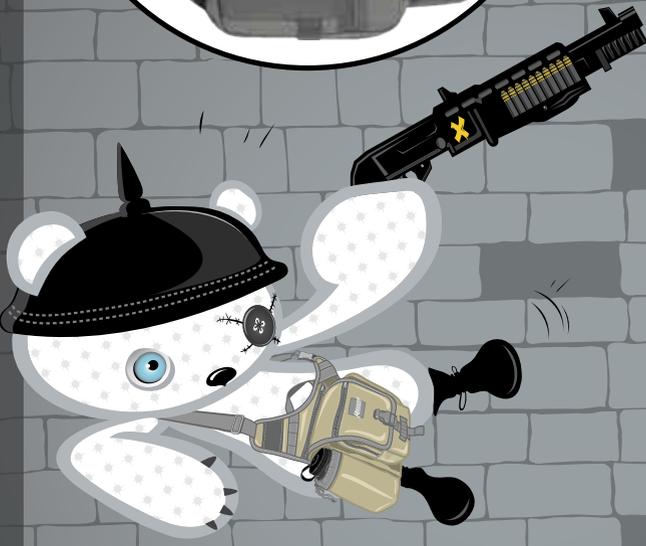


**#0431 SITKA™
GEARSLINGER®**

- SINGLE STRAP BACKPACK DESIGNED TO ROTATE TO THE FRONT OF YOUR BODY TO MAXIMIZE UTILITY
- HYDRATION & MAIN COMPARTMENT CAN ACCEPT CCW ACCESSORIES

#9846 JUMBO™ L.E.O.

- SPECIAL JUMBO™ EDITION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS
- EXCELLENT FOR ACTIVE SHOOTER SCENARIOS
- DIVIDED ELASTIC WEBBING IN FRONT FOR 4 HANDGUN MAGS
- REAR CCW POUCH WITH LOOP FIELD
- MULTIPLE PALS ATTACHMENT POINTS



**#9846
JUMBO™ L.E.O.**
PRICE: **\$86.99**
COLORS:
B, G, K



**#TSALOC
TACTICAL
LUGGAGE LOCK**
PRICE: **\$12.99**
COLORS: B, K, F



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



**#RL1
RETRACTOR
LARGE-SNAP RING**
PRICE: **\$22.99**
COLORS: B, G



**#RM2
RETRACTOR
MEDIUM-STRAP**
PRICE: **\$19.99**
COLORS: B, G



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



UTX-Duraflex
Brand Hardware



GSA Trade Compliant
Country of Origin



Genuine YKK Zippers



Triple Polyurethane Coated
Fabric for Water Resistance



DuPont Teflon
Fabric Protector

WWW.MAXPEDITION.COM



OUTTM of the BOX

J.B. WOOD

THE CHARTER .40 S&W PITBULL

A breakthrough in revolver design.

J. B. Wood

As most gun people will know, the problem with using auto-pistol cartridges in a revolver is that the cases have no rims. Way back in 1917, when more handguns were needed during World War I, using the “half-moon” clip solved this. Many years later in 1989, Smith & Wesson used a “full-moon” or “star” clip in their 10mm Model 610.

The same system was used by S&W in 2003 for their Model 646, in .40 S&W. Back in 1980, they made the 9mm Model 547, and tried a “spring-ring” in the ejector. Sometimes though, the strike of the firing pin flexed the spring, the cartridge moved and there was a misfire. So, they added a fixed stud inside the top of the frame to bear on the cartridge rim. Finally, they discontinued this model. Collectors note: There were only around 10,270 of these made.

Now, the solution of the problem by Nick Ecker, Terry Rush and the design team at Charter Arms: They put five small spring-powered pieces

of solid steel in the ejector, each of them making full contact with the rims of the cartridges in the cylinder. A beautiful and efficient system and, at the time this is written, a patent is pending.

In matte stainless steel with a 2-1/4" barrel, my .40 S&W Pitbull is a handsome little beast. The rubber grip fully encloses the grip frame, and at the front are recesses for all three fingers of the average hand. As you would expect on a defensive revolver, the sights are non-adjustable. The front is nicely sloped, and the rear is an ample square notch.

The ejector rod is fully recessed in



Target with the CorBon load: 5 yards, double action and 2”!

a steel shroud beneath the barrel and its travel is sufficient for good ejection of the fired cases. The double-action trigger pull is smooth and easy, and the single-action pull is a crisp (and consistent!) 2 pounds, 10 ounces on my Lyman Electronic Scale. The face of well-shaped trigger is smooth, with no annoying vertical ridges.

All Charter revolvers have a transfer-bar firing system. Thus, if the hammer is down and someone is clumsy enough to drop it, it can't go off. A lot of manufacturers use this system now, but Charter gets the credit for being the first modern maker to bring back Andrew Fyrberg's design of 1890. When they did this in 1964, they wisely separated the functions of the transfer bar and the double-action lever.

In case you have always wondered, a transfer-bar system has a hammer with a recessed face that cannot touch the firing pin. When the trigger is all the way to the rear, a part is raised to fill the recess. The hammer hits that part and it hits the firing pin. Hence, the term “transfer bar.” Another mechanical



The Carter Arms Pitbull functioned flawlessly with rimless .40 S&W ammo without clips due to its well-designed extractor.



Target with the Hornady load: 7 yards, single action, 2.5".



The first target, with the CorBon load and a 6 o'clock hold, 3".

Charter advantage is that they are still making the firing pin out of beryllium copper. They never break.

Test Fire

I tried the .40 S&W Pitbull with two loads: the 140-grain CorBon DPX, and the Critical Defense load from Hornady 165-grain with the patented FTX bullet. The velocity at the muzzle is nearly the same, 1,200 fps for the CorBon, 1,175 for the Hornady load. According to all reports, both of these loads deliver good penetration and outstanding expansion. My test firing was all done standing with a 2-hand hold.

As regular readers will know, I use the VisiColor 100-yard Sight-In targets from Champion. Their 8" black bull corresponds to the center-of-mass area on a combat target. In



With the ejector partially depressed (above), you can see inside the curve, the rim-contact lug. Note that the cartridges (below) are fully recessed in the rear face of the cylinder.



PITBULL

CHARTER ARMS, INC.
281 CANAL ST., SHELTON, CT 06484
(203) 922-1652
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/CHARTER-ARMS

CAPACITY: 5, **WEIGHT:** 20.4 ounces, **LENGTH:** 7",
HEIGHT: 5", **WIDTH:** 1.3", **BARREL:** 2.25", **SIGHT**
RADIUS: 4", **PRICE:** \$465

single-action firing at 7 yards, both loads did well with groups dead center, measuring 2.5" to 3". Double-action firing at 5 yards produced one amazing little 2" group, with three of the five shots in the center ring! More than adequate for serious social purposes.

Expecting substantial felt-recoil, I put on a P.A.S.T. shooting glove, but the rubber grip of the Pitbull tamed it nicely. I would compare it to the effect of a +P .38 Special in a revolver of similar weight. According to the folks at Charter, there will soon be a version in one of my favorite cartridges, the 9x19mm. And finally, you will be surprised the moderate suggested retail price of the Pitbull is \$465. For this excellent revolver what a bargain.

GUNS

CORBON AMMUNITION
1311 INDUSTRY RD.
STURGIS, SD 57785
(800) 626-7266
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/COR-BON

HORNADY
P.O. BOX 1848, GRAND ISLAND, NE 68803
(800) 338-3220
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/HORNADY

CHAMPION TRAPS & TARGETS
N5549 COUNTY TRUNK Z
ONALASKA, WI 54650
(800) 635-7656
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/
CHAMPION-TRAPS-TARGETS

OUTLAW BIDDER.COM



LIGHTNING FAST BIDS. LEGENDARY DEALS.

- **AR-15s, P90, Glock, S&W, H&K, EO Tech, more!**
- Visit the Original **FFL** Penny Auction Site!
- Up to 95% Off Retail
- New in Box
- For 5 Free Bids, Use Coupon Code: *Guns Magazine*

www.OutlawBidder.com

OUTTM of the BOX

MASSAD AYOOB

THE TIMELESS STACKBARREL

Hideout guns from Bond Derringers.

Derringers; they were the short tanto to the long katana of the Colt Peacemaker in the eyes of my generation, which grew up on 1950s TV Westerns. Paladin carried one for backup, it was Yancy Derringer's namesake, and, in a Western movie, Robert Mitchum played an outlaw preacher who packed a Derringer in a hollowed-out Bible.



The pink-grip Bond Girl model in .38/.357.



These young ladies had fun shooting the Bond Derringer with .38 wadcutters. Back row: Lauren Lee (left), Courtney Acosta (right); front row: Caitlyn Acosta (left), Lindsay Lee (right).



Five rounds from top barrel of dedicated .45 Colt caliber Derringer from 4 yards, using Remington's normally very accurate LRN .45 Colt load.

The double-barrel, single-action Remington Derringer endures, and may reach its zenith in the Bond Arms series. Many have called Bond the Cadillac of Derringers. Updated with a cross-bolt safety and a rebounding hammer to cure the ancient original's notorious tendency to go off when dropped, and the Bond guns even offer models with triggerguards—a feature that cures yet another Derringer safety concern.

We recently tested three. The occasion was the introduction of their pink-gripped Bond Girl variation of their Mini in .38 Special/.357 Magnum, but affable CEO Gordon Bond also sent along a Mini in .45 Colt and a USA Defender that would chamber either .410 shotshells or .45 Colt in both barrels. Only the latter had the desirable (in this writer's view) but non-traditional triggerguard.

I made the mistake of trying to assign the pink gun to IDPA state and regional shooting champ Gail Pepin, who considers the whole "pink gun stuff for women" thing to be condescending, and prefers her hardware in basic black. Some friends were hosting a shooting day for a group of teens, so the Bond Girl gun went there. "Aww, that's cute," they said, as if it was a kitten. (Hey, if somebody didn't like pink gun stuff, the industry wouldn't be selling so much of it.) The girls thought the Derringer was fun to shoot, with .38 Special wadcutters. They then returned to their regular schedule of 9mm polymer pistols.

Trigger pulls had a very smooth roll, but for some reason felt heavier than they actually weighed out. The .38/.357 averaged 6 pounds, 4.3 ounces, the dedicated .45 caliber went 1/10-ounce under 6 pounds, and the .45/.410 averaged 6 pounds, 1.5 ounces—all on a Lyman digital scale. These are solid, good-sized Derringers, and virtually all of the several shooters of both genders

BOND MINI

MAKER: BOND ARMS
P.O. BOX 1296, GRANBURY, TEXAS 76048
(817) 573-4445
WWW.BONDARMS.COM

ACTION TYPE: O/U Derringer, **CALIBER:** .38/.357, .45/.410 (tested), many others, **CAPACITY:** 2, **BARREL LENGTH:** 2.5", 3" (.45/.410), **WEIGHT:** 18-19 ounces, **FINISH:** Satin stainless, **SIGHTS:** Fixed, **GRIPS:** Rosewood or pink, **PRICE:** TBA

remarked how well the curve of the backstrap mated with the hollow of the hand. Low-bore axis—particularly in the lower barrel, of course—limited any muzzle rise. Petite Terri Strayer enjoyed shooting the Bond Girl model with 110-grain Winchester .357 Magnum.

We have to bear in mind that historically these are “belly guns,” designed for somewhere between muzzle contact and the width of a poker table. Note that Bond Arms’ own advertising depicts very short ranges. There simply isn’t much room for rifling in barrels this short. We tried 25-yard bench rest shooting, and gave up after three state champion shooters, firing 10 shots between them, were only able to hit a Bianchi Cup target (roughly 2.5' high by 1.5' wide) anywhere with five of the 10 shots—from a bench rest, yet.

Shortening the distance to four paces, the dedicated .45 kept both shots (barely) in the 4"-diameter 10 ring, the one from the lower barrel beginning to keyhole slightly, with Remington’s usually very accurate 250-grain lead bullet. With all three Derringers, the top barrel tended to shoot high, and the bottom barrel low. The .410, with an ordinary Federal 2.5" shell, spewed its tiny No. 7-1/2 pellets across the entire target, and some may have missed entirely... from 4 yards. Only two tiny pinprick holes were found in the 4" diameter center X-ring where the shot was centered. A Federal “.410 Handgun” shell sprayed No. 4 birdshot in a 14.9" in diameter, with eight of the tiny pellets in the 4" X-ring; none quite



From 4 yards, Federal .410 Handgun No. 4 birdshot load. Note that from 4 paces, relatively few No. 4 birdshot pellets are in the X-ring, none exactly center.



A pink tiger-stripe pocket holster seems an appropriate accessory for the Bond Girl gun.



Bond offers an assortment of “designer holsters” for their pistols.



One optional holster from Bond for the Mini .45. Barrels/calibers are interchangeable.

exactly at point-of-aim. Against a large, poisonous snake, I would have felt more comfortable with another Federal load, specifically their specialty 000-buckshot shell for .410 handguns. At the same 4 yards, it delivered its four .36-caliber balls into a 1.65" group. Much more promising close-range snake medicine.

I can’t in good conscience recommend a thumb-cocking “two-shooter” for self-defense, even if its original 1866 design has been made vastly safer and more powerful by Bond Arms. What I can recommend it for is fun, and I’ll tell you why.

From teenage girls to grizzled geezers, each and every person who shot the Bond Derringers had a smile on their face when they set one down! The recoil wasn’t nearly as bad as expected, none of the Derringers ever misfired, and across the generations, the most common remark after shooting it was, “That was cool!” And to this reviewer, that’s reason enough to own one. **GUNS**

SEE WHAT MATTERS™



TK21
468 LUMENS

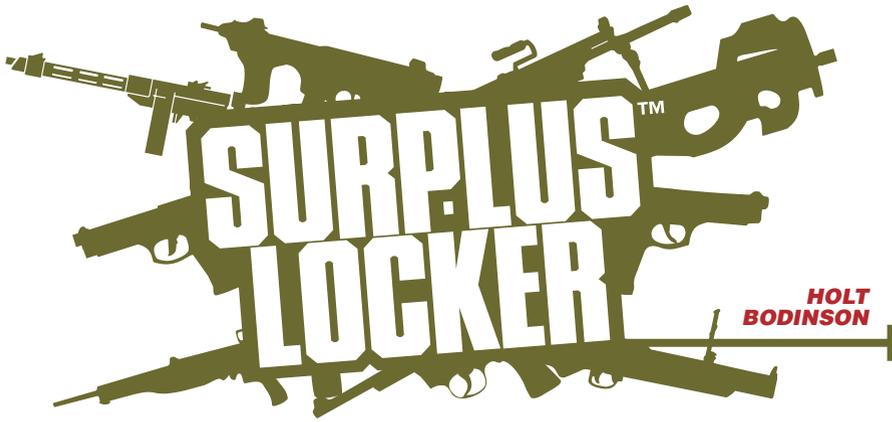
CONFIDENT ANYWHERE LIGHT

- ★ Max 468 lumen output from 2 CR123A batteries or a single 18650 li-ion battery
- ★ Side mode switch button means instant control
- ★ Hard anodized finish with removable grip ring for cigar-hold technique

FENIX

www.fenixlight.com

© Copyright Fenix. All specifications subject to change without notice.



SURPLUS LOCKER CIA's C93.

What are the most widely distributed, automatic, small arms operating systems in use today? By the sheer number of arms produced and fielded, the winner would have to be the gas driven piston-bolt carrier-rotating bolt system seen most commonly in the AK-47 and its derivatives and in the M16/AR-15 family. Coming in a strong second would be the retarded, blowback, roller-locked system, refined by engineers working at Mauser during WWII, and incorporated in such well known designs as the CETME, G3, MP5, HK91, HK93 and others.

Century International Arms originally brought us a semi-automatic CETME in 7.62 NATO. CIA has now downsized the design in the more popular 5.56 NATO caliber and designated it the Model, C93. Heckler and Koch did something similar when they downsized the G3 to 5.56mm caliber dimensions and imported it into the United States as the semi-automatic Model HK93.

Between 1974 and 1989, approximately 18,000 HK93s were imported into the US. The retail price of an HK93A2 (fixed stock) in 1985 was \$599. If you can find one today, expect to pay \$2,000 to 3,000 for the privilege of ownership. A matching bayonet will fetch up to \$150. Or

you can buy a Century International Arms C93 with an original G3/HK91 bayonet for approximately \$550 at your dealer or on Internet auction sites like Gun Broker. The C93 sports a new receiver and barrel, but most of the other parts are derived from original HK33 parts kits. The C93 is simply a terrific bargain as well as a neat handling and accurate milsurp era 5.56mm firearm.

The history of the roller-lock, retarded, blowback operating system is fascinating. The system design was perfected by Mauser engineers and incorporated in part as the locking system for the German MG42 machine gun and a prototype assault rifle, the StG-45. Being a recoil



The C93 comes with a genuine HK bayonet, adding value to the whole package.

operated system, rather than gas operated, the system is simplicity itself and reliable. Yes, it's simple but deceptively complex from an engineering perspective.

The roller-locking bolt of the C93 is composed of two interlocking assemblies—a hollow front unit that incorporates the bolt face, extractor and two rollers—and a heavier rear unit that holds a spring loaded firing pin retained by a rectangular piece that carries two sloping cams. The rear assembly slips into the hollow housing of the front bolt head, and the bolt head is rotated to lock both assemblies together.

As the front section of the bolt picks up a cartridge and chambers it, the heavier rear assembly is slammed into battery by the mainspring. The



The C93 is a tough, robust battle rifle and an exceptional milsurp value.



The CIA C93 replicates the roller-locked HK 91 5.56mm.

tapered cams on the firing pin retainer engage the rollers, forcing them into their respective locking recesses in the walls of the receiver trunnion.

At the instant of firing, the rollers are firmly locked into battery. At a millisecond point in the pressure time curve following ignition, the pressure has dropped and the case, floating on a film of gas in the fluted chamber, pushes sufficiently back against the head of the bolt to force the front bolt head assembly backward. This moves the rear section of the bolt, held in place only by the pressure of the mainspring, rearward, thereby camming the rollers out of their respective locking recesses.

The extraction cycle is fast, abrupt and since the fired case is not rotated

or eased back slowly during the initial extraction phase, the engineers had to come up with a solution so that case heads were not ripped off. The solution was to flute the chamber so that the case was loosened from the walls of the chamber by a film of gas. The system works, although the cases come out striped with carbon deposits. C93 fired cases can be full length resized and reloaded, but only after carefully inspecting the area of the case head and web to insure there are no signs of an incipient head separation.

The keys to maintaining the reliability of a roller-lock system are to keep that fluted chamber clean and to keep the bolt assemblies well lubricated. Another consideration

is that the C93 doesn't have a gas regulator so some cartridge brands, bullet weights and powders will do better than others in terms of cycling the system and delivering superior accuracy. In that regard, I consider the design a bit more finicky about ammunition than the average gas-driven system. You just have to experiment. Finally, when you pull that operating handle back and compress the mainspring, let the handle fly forward to charge the rifle. If you ride it down, the roller-locks will not seat in their recesses and all you'll hear when you squeeze the trigger is a dreadful "click."

Test-Firing Time

The C93 has a 1:9" twist barrel. I thought loads in the 52- to 55-grain range would be ideal; however, the sweet spot for the C93 I tested was the 69-grain match bullet, specifically DoubleTap's 69-grain HP Boat tail Match load that is rated at 3,015 fps from a 22" barrel. Using the diopter sight of the C93 at 50 yards, my 5-shot groups averaged 1-1/2" with DoubleTap's 69-grain match load, and the rifle cycled perfectly.

The sights of the C93 consist of a front, fixed, hooded post and a HK-type rotating diopter rear sight. The

L5AWM TRANSLUCENT MAGAZINE

L15 RECEIVER

WE'RE MORE THAN JUST MAGAZINES

MADE IN U.S.A.

LIGHTWEIGHT CARBON-FIBER HANDGUARD

LANCER

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



The Flash II Tanto has got to be one of the coolest knives we've ever seen. Forget its wicked-quick blade access, that it handles like a racecar on rails, or that it locks up like Alcatraz. It just looks and feels extraordinary. The Flash knives feature SOG Assisted Technology™ (S.A.T.), which employs a powerful piston lock that is easily released with a sliding button.

SOG
Specialty Knives & Tools

www.sogknives.com

888-SOG-BEST



Remove one pushpin, and the C93 can be disassembled in seconds.

diopter sight is adjustable for windage and elevation. Check eBay for an "HK drum sight adjustment tool" to set the elevation. Rotated, the diopter drum offers four sight options—an open "V" for very close engagements and three different sized apertures. It's a functional sight system, and those apertures are a blessing given the short 16-1/4" barrel and the 19" sight radius of the C93.

The receiver will accept an HK-type clamp on scope mount that you can find on the Internet, but scoping this handy, little rifle that already weighs 8.2 pounds unloaded is questionable at best.

The integral carrying handle of the C93 is a neat and useful part of the design as is the one pin takedown of the C93. Push out that pin located at the juncture of the butt and the



The integral carrying handle (above) of the C93 is a neat design and very handy. The safety of the C93 (below) is right where it should be to be quickly thumbled on-or-off.



CENTURY INTERNATIONAL ARMS MODEL C93

MAKER: CENTURY INTERNATIONAL ARMS
430 S. CONGRESS AVE., STE. 1
DELRAY BEACH, FL 33445
(800) 527-1252
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/
CENTURY-INTERNATIONAL-ARMS

ACTION TYPE: Roller-lock, retarded, blowback, semi-automatic, **CALIBER:** 5.56 NATO, **CAPACITY:** 40, **BARREL LENGTH:** 16-1/4", **OVERALL LENGTH:** 36-1/2", **WEIGHT:** 8.2 pounds, **FINISH:** Parkerized, **SIGHTS:** Rotary diopter rear; fixed front post, **STOCK:** Polymer, **PRICE:** \$525

receiver, and the C93 just falls apart in your hands

The C93 comes with two 40-round alloy magazines. If you need more, Century International Arms has an armful of original HKs at \$19.87 each. They're a snug fit in the receiver well and need to be rocked into place.

The fire control system consists of a polymer shell with metal parts inside. The trigger pull on my test C93 averaged 9 pounds, 5 ounces on a Lyman electronic scale. It's a bit creepy, but fully manageable.

I like the CETMEs and the HK variants. They are tough, robust battle rifles that can be disassembled in seconds to keep them clean and operating. Century International Arms C93 upholds that tradition, and it's as close as most of us will ever come to owning an HK93.

GUNS

DOUBLETAP AMMUNITION
646 S. MAIN ST., #333
CEDAR CITY, UT 84720
(866) 357-1066

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/DOUBLETAP
FURTHER READING

"THE WORLD'S ASSAULT RIFLES" BY GARY PAUL JOHNSTON AND THOMAS B. NELSON. HARDCOVER, 1216 PAGES @2010, \$74.95 FROM: A&J ARMS BOOK SELLERS, 2449 N. ORCHARD AVE., TUCSON, AZ 85712. (520) 512-1065
WWW.AJARMSBOOKSELLERS.COM

Q&A

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Open Bolts

Q: Mike Venturino, while writing about the Browning BAR said, "As with most full-auto military weapons of that time, BAR's fired from an open bolt."

I have owned firearms for over 40 years, have a big collection of guns (though only one military rifle, the M1 Garand) and did not know military guns fired from an open bolt, or what that even means. Perhaps you could expand on this point.

*Jerry Ciccone
Taylor, Mich.*

A: On almost all full-auto firearms of the era, including submachine guns, when the trigger is depressed, the bolt is released to fly forward, strip a round from the magazine and fire. The bolt stays in the open position when the trigger is released. They are designed this way because the heat in the chamber generated by sustained automatic firing is so high, a round chambered with bolt closed behind it can "cook off" and fire—even a minute or so after firing has ceased. An added benefit to an open bolt is air can circulate through the barrel and cool it faster. Few civilian arms fire from an open bolt. The BATFE has determined most such firearms are far too easy to convert to full-auto fire, thus won't certify most open-bolt designs for civilian sales.

Pre-War Mauser

Q: I have a beautiful pre-WWII custom Mauser sporting rifle with double-set triggers in 8x57J (.318"-diameter bullet). It's one of

several firearms my father was able to send home after acquiring them during his 94th Cavalry combat role in France and Germany.

The rifle is equipped with claw-style scope bases permanently attached to the rifle. The forward base accepts the double-hooked claw directly when angled into place while the taller rear base has a sliding, spring-loaded retainer which accepts the rear double claw straight into the slots and then locks the claws down.

Short of a custom machine shop or gunmaker is there anyone you know of who sells a modern-style set of detachable scope rings with a claw-style mounting base? I realize the rifle's original scope attachments were hand fitted and permanently attached to the one matching scope, but I do believe if I had a set of claw bases that made for a level base, then I could adapt the rest.

*Alan West
Cairo, Neb.*

A: It's going to be expensive, however you look at it. If you decide to take the plunge, it would likely add to the value of the gun if you could secure a period scope. Second best would be to use a modern German or Austrian scope for it in new claw rings.

The claw rings and mounts are still made and imported by New England Custom Gun Service. You'll need to have them fitted by a good gunsmith or send the gun to NEGC for fitting. The firm can give you a quote on the cost and can fit EAW Claw Mounts to most modern guns, too.

In case you were wondering, the J-bore .318" bullets are available from Huntington Die Specialties. **GUNS**

NEW ENGLAND CUSTOM GUN SERVICE
741 MAIN ST.
CLAREMONT, NH 03743
(603) 287-4836
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/
NEW-ENGLAND-CUSTOM-GUNS

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

Got a burning question to ask the editor?

*Contact him at: E-mail: ed@gunsmagazine.com or postal at:
GUNS Q&A, 12345 World Trade Dr., San Diego, CA 92128.*

*Due to the volume of mail received,
GUNS cannot offer a personal reply.*

CLASS 1

EYE-SAFE INFRARED LASERS

250 YARD RANGE
MILITARY GRADE
AFFORDABLE
LEGAL TO PURCHASE



LASER DEVICES

Inc.
MAKING WARRIORS MORE EFFECTIVE

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



M1A OR AR-10A 2?

THE FORMER WAS STEEPED IN THE PAST AND THE LATTER WAS A STEP INTO THE FUTURE AND BOTH SEE WIDE-SPREAD USE TO THIS DAY.

Mike “Duke” Venturino

Photos: Yvonne Venturino

Reading about American military rifle development in the 1950s is fascinating. One cannot help but feel that the US Army’s ordnance officers were stuck in time. As so often happened with military thinkers, Americans were planning for the wars just fought—World War II and the Korean War.

Over a decade previously the Germans had pioneered select-fire infantry rifles with their famous “Sturmgewehr” (aka MP43, MP44 and Stg44). Realizing infantry combat mostly occurred at ranges less than 400 meters; German ordnance officers decided a full-size cartridge like their 7.92x57mm was a waste of strategic materials. So they came up with the 7.92x33mm. Instead of a 198-grain bullet traveling in excess of 2,500 fps, they settled on a 125-grain one at about 2,300 fps.

The Soviet Union’s ordnance officers quickly saw the benefits of Germany’s enlightenment and followed suit with the AK-47 and its 7.62x39mm, which is perhaps today’s most used military rifle and cartridge worldwide.

But in the 1950s, American ordnance officers were still focused on full-power cartridges. In the early years of that decade, they had developed what became known as the 7.62mm NATO round. What they had actually done was compact the famed .30-06’s ballistics into a smaller package, made possible by advances in propellants. Winchester introduced its .308 Winchester in 1952 as a civilian version.

After controversial testing against Belgium’s Fabrique Nationale’s (FN) FAL, the government-owned Springfield Armory M14 was picked



Duke considers the fully adjustable rear peep sight (above) of the M1A (and M1 Garand) as excellent. The rear peep sight of the AR-10A2 (below) is also fully adjustable and also has two sizes of peep aperture.



to replace the M1 Garand as the new American infantry rifle. In truth, the M14 was only a remodeling of the Garand by giving it a 20-round detachable box magazine, flash suppressor, and manufacturing its frame so that all could be given select-fire capability. In the book *The Gun*, author C.J. Chivers wrote that it seemed as if 1950s American ordnance officers were more concerned with developing a better rifle for target competition than for combat infantrymen.

Deliveries of M14s to US Army bases didn’t begin until about 1958, and by that time some private companies had begun to think outside the military’s box. We all know the story of how ArmaLite’s developed into the M16 and began replacing the M14 by about 1965.

However, I personally didn’t know that ArmaLite’s first efforts at military rifle making centered on the 7.62mm NATO round in a model named AR-10. *GUNS Magazine* even reported on the company’s efforts as early as the March 1957 issue. Editor Jeff John e-mailed me an article titled “Is This The New GI Rifle?” by Eugene Jaderquist. Reading it was humorous and revealing. Humorous in that George Sullivan, boss at ArmaLite, envisioned American soldiers running into combat spraying bullets from AR-10s, belt fed from dual 250-round packs carried on their backs. Actually, in the just-ended Korean Conflict Chi-Com, soldiers did just that with their PPsh41 submachine guns, but they were carrying a supply of tiny



It's easy to see where the basic design of the M14 (and M1A) came from when viewed next to an M1 Garand.



Duke says the AR-10A2 looks like an AR-15 that got its full growth. Bottom is AR-10A2. Top is Colt CAR-15 5.56mm/.223 Remington.



7.62x25mm pistol cartridges and were feeding them from 71-round drum magazines.

Author Jaderquist also wrote that because of the AR-10's straight stock design it could be fired full-auto accurately despite its 6-3/4-pound weight. That's silly. I have an original German MP44. It weighs 11 pounds, fires a much milder cartridge than 7.62mm NATO and is still very difficult to shoot with precision in full-auto mode.

Editor Jeff John also e-mailed me a copy of another early *GUNS Magazine* article by Herbert J. Erfruth, titled "Shooting The New Army Rifle." It was undated but had to be from the late '50s. Much of its theme was the benefit of the M14 being capable of full-auto fire. Again, I think that's silly, having personally fired a full-auto M14 and seeing its bullets climb mightily after the first shot.

Anyway, all of this was preparation for the purposes of this article. That was to shoot two 7.62mm NATO/.308 Winchester semi-auto rifles side by side. I was already very familiar with one:

Springfield Armory's M1A, having owned a couple and done extensive shooting with several more. The other one JJ asked me to give a try was new to me—I didn't even know it existed. That was the AR-10 as made by the ArmaLite Company of Geneseo, Ill., incidentally the same town where Springfield Armory is based. (Specific version was AR-10A2.)

Bells & Whistles

Springfield's M1A is a close duplicate of the M14, meaning the same size and weight. Its stock is walnut with a synthetic handguard. Its hinged buttplate is steel and, as with all other metal work, was given a Parkerized finish. Barrel length is 22" with a flash suppressor attached, and weight is 9.3 pounds. Overall length is 44.33". Its rear sight is a fine peep-type, also found on M1 Garands. It is click adjustable for both windage and elevation. Front sight is a post protected on each side by curved wings. Also identical to Garands is the safety in the front of triggerguard; pushed into the triggerguard and it's

on safe, pushed out and the rifle is ready to fire. That also has to be one of the best safeties ever put on a combat rifle. The primary difference between this M1A and the US M14 is the new rifle's receiver has no machining for full-auto conversion. That's why we civilians can buy M1As while M14s can only be owned with proper ATF registration.

Conversely, this AR-10 is not the same as the one written up over 50 years ago—although both are admittedly the brainchildren of Eugene Stoner. That one had its charging lever on top, inside of the carrying handle. It also used an aluminum shroud over its barrel, with the barrel itself being a steel liner. This newer AR-10A2, in my opinion, is one that grew to maturity. Where the original weighed 6-3/4 pounds, this one hits 9.8 pounds. Its barrel is 20" long, with the flash suppressor giving an overall length of 41". If it differs at all from standard ARs in regards to mode of function, I can't tell. Like all ARs, it uses synthetic materials for stock and forearm, and aluminum in

the receiver. However, the barrel is all steel as are all internal parts subjected to stress.

Its charging handle is at the rear of the receiver where the shooter's firing hand's first two fingers can grasp it. Pulling it back with a magazine inserted cocks the hammer and releasing it lets the bolt fly home, chambering a round. That's opposed to the M1A's manner of function, wherein after a loaded magazine is inserted, pulling the oprod handle retracts the bolt and releasing it allows it to strip off a cartridge into the chamber. Also, as with other semi-auto ARs, the AR-10A2's safety is a 2-position lever on the left side of the receiver, above the triggerguard. Pointed up, the rifle is ready to fire; pointed forward, it's on safe.

In his 1957 article, Eugene Jaderquist points out by having such a straight-stock design, the AR-10 had to have its sights positioned high above the bore-line. This newer AR-10A2 does too, and those sights are similarly the same on ARs that come with carrying handles. (That's as opposed to those with rails.) Rear sight adjusts for windage and elevation, but the front sight is additionally adjustable for elevation. The idea is to get the rifle dead-on at

SPECIFICATIONS BOX SPRINGFIELD ARMOY M1A (STANDARD MODEL)

MANUFACTURER: SPRINGFIELD ARMOY
420 WEST MAIN
GENESEO, IL 61254
(800) 680-6866
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/SPRINGFIELD-ARMOY

TYPE: Semi-auto, BARREL LENGTH: 22", RIFLING
TWIST RATE: 1:11", WEIGHT: 9.3 pounds, CALIBER:
7.62mm NATO/.308 Winchester, OVERALL LENGTH:
44.33", STOCK: Walnut/synthetic handguard,
MAGAZINE CAPACITY: 10- or 20-round detachable
magazines, PRICE: \$1,739

SPECIFICATIONS BOX ARMALITE AR-10A2

MANUFACTURER: ARMALITE, INC.
P.O. BOX 299
GENESEO, IL 61254
(800) 336-0184
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/ARMALITE

TYPE: Semi-auto, BARREL LENGTH: 20",
RIFLING TWIST RATE: 1:11.25", WEIGHT: 9.8 pounds,
OVERALL LENGTH: 41", STOCK: synthetic, MAGAZINE
CAPACITY: 5- to 25-round detachable magazines,
PRICE: \$1,561

a predetermined distance by raising or lowering the front post. Then, in use at extended range when elevation correction is needed, the rear sight can

be used to compensate.

Before shooting either rifle, their trigger pulls were checked. Both were right in the 5-pound range—give a pound or 2—and both were also 2-stage, military-type triggers. When shooting started, I was embarrassed to find most of my stash of 7.62mm NATO/.308 Winchester factory loads had been shot up on previous projects. All I had in stock were Winchester Ammunition's 147-grain FMJ and Black Hills Ammunition's match load with 155-grain Hornady A-Max bullets.

"Never fear," thought I, "I'll take up the slack with handloads." That plan didn't work out quite precisely as I assumed. I do own and shoot several semi-auto and full-auto military weapons of full-rifle caliber. All have generous military-size chambers, so no small-base resizing dies have been necessary for handloading. Evidently, these two military-looking albeit civilian-market intended semi-autos have tighter chambers. That means functioning with my .308 Winchester handloads was spotty.

With the AR-10A2, if I could get the first handload chambered properly, the rest of the magazine would function normally. I assume that was because the bolt was slamming

HIGH STANDARD

800-272-7816
www.highstandard.com



"THE LEGACY CONTINUES"

Made in the USA



ENFORCER

First Choice In Small Arms



Short Barrel and Full Auto weapons available



HOUSTON, TX
facebook.com/highstandardarms



IVER JOHNSON
ARMS, INC.



MSRP: \$567 - \$675

Guns available through
Zanders, Big Rock Sports,
or dealer direct.

Now in 9mm!!!
1911A1, Hawk, & Eagle

- Eagle 5" 9mm (pictured above). Same great 1911 feel with less kick than the 45acp Eagle comes with:
- Fully adjustable Millett, white outline rear sight and dovetail front sight
- Lowered & flared ejection port
- Finger relief cut near trigger
- Front and rear angled serrations
- 3 hole trigger & skeleton hammer
- Extended slide stop and thumb safety
- Beavertail grip safety with memory
- Walnut, double diamond wood grips

Officer models also available in 9mm.
Visit our website for other models & shotguns.

www.iverjohnsonarms.com

321-636-3377

them in harder than I could when just releasing the bolt manually. The M1A often would not fully chamber a handloaded round when the bolt was released by hand or when it shut in normal firing. Neither of these rifles are fun ones from which to get a stuck case out of the chamber! I had to take them out of my shooting house, rest the rifles' butts on the ground, point the muzzle in some direction besides my head, and then tap the op-rod/charging handle with a piece of wood to free the cases.

I'm not relating this as an indictment of either rifle, but to point out to potential buyers who might want to handload for them that consideration should be given to a small-base sizing die as well.

Now, with that said, hear this. Both of the above mentioned factory loads functioned perfectly—every last shot, for about 100 rounds in each rifle. Their sights adjusted perfectly, so I was able to zero each one. The best groups ran around 3" at 100 yards, and the Black Hills match load a bit bigger on the average with the Winchester FMJ load. Both loads gave about 2,750 to 2,780 fps from the M1A, and about 25 fps less (again on the average) with the AR-10.

My only complaint about either



Stamping on the tang of an M1A (above) differs from the government's M14. Stamping of the AR-10A2 (below).



rifle is they couldn't be easily scoped. My eyes are begging for retirement, so shooting would likely have been more precise with scopes. As it was after paper target shooting, I then moved over to my steel PT-Torso plates and had no trouble hitting them out to 300 yards. Still, if I were to buy one of these rifles, it would be one ready to accept a scope right out of the box.

Here's the bottom line—*my* bottom line, that is. If you prefer wood and steel then the M1A is great. However, I have to say dismounting it for cleaning is a chore. It seems as though someone fond of jigsaw puzzles designed it. If black rifles don't bother you then the AR-10A2 is great. It is a joy in respect to cleaning; simply tap out the pin and the rifle is hinged so that bolt comes right out—no big deal.

Consider this: I'm just a gun'rter. I shoot rifles for a while, have fun with them and then most often send them back to their manufacturers. However, while working with these two rifles, a young friend, whom I've known since his birth, stopped by. He served as a sniper for the US Marine Corps in the 2003 invasion of Iraq, and then returned twice working for private contractors. In other words, this is one seriously rifle-experienced fellow. His comment was, "I'd like to buy both." **GUNS**

ENGAGE ANY THREAT & HAMR™ IT

Leupold's HAMR (High Accuracy, Multi Range) tactical optic allows you to quickly switch between the mid-range 4x telescopic sight with an illuminated CM-R² reticle and the close-range, room clearing DeltaPoint™ red dot sight.

The HAMR and DeltaPoint combination is a game changer on a wide range of weapons systems. Allowing you to react to fast paced, low light, high-threat engagements instinctively and decisively. Put your attention where it belongs—on target—and HAMR it with confidence.

ILLUMINATED CM-R²
BALLISTIC RETICLE

LEUPOLD
TACTICAL OPTICS

WWW.LEUPOLD.COM 1800-LEUPOLD (Option 4)

21ST CENTURY HUNTING RIFLE



Mike Cumpston

Photos: Robbie Barrkman

By now, it is abundantly clear AR-based rifles in milspec Carbine trim or tricked out as varmint rifles or, chambered for up-powered civilian cartridges, are outstanding field rifles both for general utility and as primary hunting tools. By and large, regardless of intended use, the cosmetics of these rifles strongly reflect their military origins. The Ambush Arms Carbine, introduced in 2011, establishes a paradigm shift in esthetics much like the earlier service rifles that morphed into the 19th and 20th century hunting/sporting standbys.

Ambush Arms is the civilian/sporting branch of the very tactical Daniel Defense, a well-established supplier of military-pattern small arms, parts and accessories. The parent company is strongly identified with military-type arms and caters to a weapons-oriented demographic. Ambush Arms resides at the same physical address and shares the manufacturing facilities however it maintains a separate website and channels of contact. The desire to maintain a separate identity geared toward the hunter and outdoorsman is evident in key features of the Ambush product and in the promotional material.

The 6.8 Ambush Carbine is presented as a lightweight dedicated hunting arm in an effective caliber, modular in construction to allow you to adjust it to your preferences. These features include an adjustable Magpul stock

No forward assist is present on the Ambush, leaving the receiver clean and lean (below). A dust cover is provided and the charging handle remains the same as a conventional AR.





The Ambush comes with a Magpul adjustable stock to quickly and easily adjust the rifle to layered clothing or the stature of the shooter. The Leupold 1.25-4X Hog-Plex scope is in Leupold Mk 2 30mm mount. There are enough Picatinny rail surfaces for any hunting-type accessory and the handguard is comfortable in the hand. There are enough rail surfaces to satisfy any home-defense application and the Ambush accepts 30-round magazines, too.

THE AMBUSH 6.8 SPC REDEFINES THE “MODERN SPORTING RIFLE” CONCEPT.

different from the milspec in that the release lever is totally enclosed. This prevents inadvertent release of the stock in contact with a bench or field-expedient rest. It also allows the shooter to adjust the stock for ideal fit in keeping with personal measurements and regardless of the clothing



worn at the time. The distinctive shotgun-pattern fore grip is also moveable to suit the individual user.

Finish options include basic black as well as Real Tree, Mossy Oak, Break Up or Infinity. The lower unit is basic AR but fitted with the highly respected Geissele 2-stage trigger, which is non adjustable but ideal at a 2-1/2 pounds with 2-1/2 pounds of take-up and release. Unlike the Daniel Defense tactical arms, the Ambush has no forward assist.

The barrel is in-house cold hammer forged with 1:10" twist. It tapers under the 12", free-floated handguard from .980" down to just below .750" then flares back up to .750" for the gas block to interface with the barrel. Ambush Arms settled on an 18" barrel for the production carbines but our test sample is a prototype at 16.5". The ballistic significance of this should be miniscule but tilted in favor of the production rifle. The barrel and chamber are not chrome lined. Instead, it is treated inside and out by the salt bath nitride process. This treatment is highly resistant to corrosion, adds lubricity to the bore and significantly extends barrel life due to surface hardening of the metal.

With the sample rifle came the expectation I would not just be shooting targets and, with this in mind, I applied to Hornady for their newest loading of the 6.8 SPC (Special Purpose Cartridge). This round came about



GUNS

MAGAZINE

21ST CENTURY

HUNTING RIFLE





The Hornady SST 120-grain load delivered this 5-shot (inset), 100-yard group. Point-of-aim was the bottom of the triangle resulting in a point-of-impact at 200 yards about 1.5" low. The whitetail dropped to the shot at 78 long steps and did not move. Damage to the heart was emphatic and the wound channel reflected positive bullet expansion by the Hornady 120-grain SST bullet.



6.8MM SPC BALLISTIC INFORMATION HORNADY AMMUNITION, 120-GRAIN SST BULLET

| RANGE (YARDS) | BULLET IMPACT (HEIGHT, INCHES) | VELOCITY (FPS) | ENERGY (FT-LBS) | FLIGHT TIME (SECONDS) | 10 MPH WIND DEFLECTION (INCHES) |
|---------------|--------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 0 | -2.5 | 2,506 | 1,673 | 0 | 0 |
| 100 | 1.81 | 2,302 | 1,412 | .125 | .9 |
| 200 | 0 | 2,107 | 1,183 | .262 | 3.89 |
| 250 | -3.7 | 2,013 | 1,080 | .334 | 6.10 |



Daniel Defense 6.8 Carbine at the bench. The visual impact of this Carbine made a favorable impression on several local hunters. One landowner, who gave us a nighttime hog hunt, immediately ordered one of these for himself. The Leupold 1.25-4x20 Hog scope is in Leupold's Mk 2 30mm mount.

in the early 2000s as a joint project between Remington and the 5th Special Forces Group of the United State Army to develop an AR-compatible round that would provide significantly more lethality than the basic 5.56 round.

Hornady had been loading sporting ammunition since 2004 and came out with the 120-grain SST variation in early 2011. The bullet is heavily constructed with interlock jacket and polymer tip/hollowpoint for rapid expansion, full weight retention and maximum penetration. It is designed for game shooting while the standard, lighter weight bullets are considered more suitable as varmint loads. The Hornady load clocked an average of 2,506 fps from the carbine barrel and does produce 40-plus percent more downrange energy than typical .223/5.56 rounds. Trajectory is pretty much the same with my typical 55-grain, 3,000 fps load having minutely flatter trajectory. The .277" 120-grain bullet has a Ballistic Coefficient of .4 having an equally miniscule advantage in a crosswind.

I became satisfied with the sight setting when the bullets were hitting center and about 1" high at 100 yards and observed that my point-of-impact was about 1.5" low at 200. This should make the combination adequate for game shooting out to about 250 yards without requiring the shooter to demonstrate any virtuosity in downrange ballistics (other than due consideration of prevailing winds). My first and worst 5-round, 100-yard bench group went 2.2". Subsequent groups were all well under the 2" mark with my best effort measuring 1.55". As always, my benchrest shooting understates the absolute accuracy of the combination.

In The Field

Prevailing wisdom has the State of Texas and much of the rest of the country overrun with marauding droves of feral pigs. There is some basis for this as the swine leave visible paths of destruction in their wake and they seem to be expanding their range and numbers in spite of relentless hunting. YouTube videos to the contrary notwithstanding, it takes preparation and considerable field time to put one in the crosshairs and a combination of good bullet placement and luck to actually lay one by the heels.

Like deer, pigs tend to feed and move about at night when the moon is bright. Dark of the Moon provides the best opportunity for a daylight encounter. Hunting in Texas, is



The Ambush 6.8 SPC was fitted with a Leupold Hog 1.25-4X scope in Leupold Mk 2 30mm mounts.

largely an agri-business venture and I canvassed a few of the Central Texas hog hunting “operations.” Several of these commercial setups offer elaborate controlled hunts in high-fence pastures. They can be quite expensive and some hew to the Elmer Fudd ambience and do not allow “Assault Weapons.” One Pukka Sahib could not exactly define an assault rifle but knew them by sight, didn’t

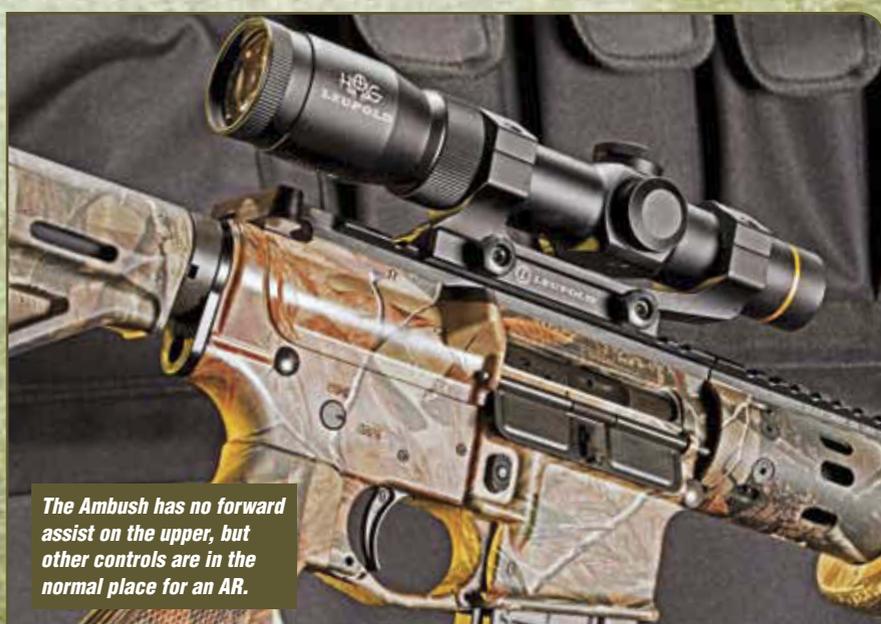
like them and deplored the general deportment of the people who use them—though it is unlikely that he ever met any of them in real life.

I spent an evening hunting with Central Texas Guided Hunts headquartered at Navarro Mills Lake near Hubbard, Texas. The owner, Allen Morehouse leases a number of wild and woolly properties in Hill, Limestone and Navarro Counties,

hosts hunters from as far away as Australia and has good success putting hunters on the abundant supply of free-ranging feral pigs. Unprejudiced and open to new-tech hunting modalities, he maintains an AR-10 with thermal night vision for his client’s use.

My eventual feral hog encounter took place in a friend’s pasture not far from the site of the well-known events that put Waco on the map. We placed a deer feeder and pop-up blind in an isolated part of the property and spent several evenings on the lookout for pig activity. This paid off when a 120-pound sow emerged from the woods in that busy power walk you see in all the pig videos. Without fanfare, I laid the Pig Plex on the frontal portion of the beast’s chest and dropped her in a heap. She fell away from the bullet strike, dead-right—there and inert save for some feeble, post-mortem clonic kicking—ready for the quick trip to the meet processor.

A week later, I was in a friend’s deer stand when a buck appeared at the same 78-yard distance as the pig. The SST took the deer through both shoulders, removing the forward portion of the heart and producing a respectable exit channel through the offside shoulder. The buck dropped straight down and never moved.



The Ambush has no forward assist on the upper, but other controls are in the normal place for an AR.

**DeSANTIS DIDN'T INVENT CONCEALMENT,
WE JUST PERFECTED IT!**



MSRP
\$79.99

Style 112

Mad Max®

- Constructed of premium saddle leather for ultimate comfort
- Reinforced top for easy holstering
- J-Clips included for total tuckable concealment/adjusts for height & cant



800-GUNHIDE
631-841-6300
Dept #GM72
www.desantisholster.com
431 Bayview Avenue,
Amityville, NY 11701

AMBUSH ARMS CARBINE

MAKER: AMBUSH ARMS
101 WARFIGHTER WAY
ELLABELL, GA 31308
(855) 262-8742

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/AMBUSH-FIREARMS

CALIBER: 6.8mm SPC, **BARREL:** 18" (16.5" tested),
TRIGGER: Geissele 2-stage, **OVERALL LENGTH:**
31.25" (collapsed), 34.8" (extended), **WEIGHT:** 6.0
pounds, **SIGHTS:** None, Picatinny rail provided,
FINISH: Mossy Oak, Real Tree or black, **CAPACITY:**
5 (30-round Barrett available), **PRICE:** \$1,599

VXR 1.25-4X20MM HOG

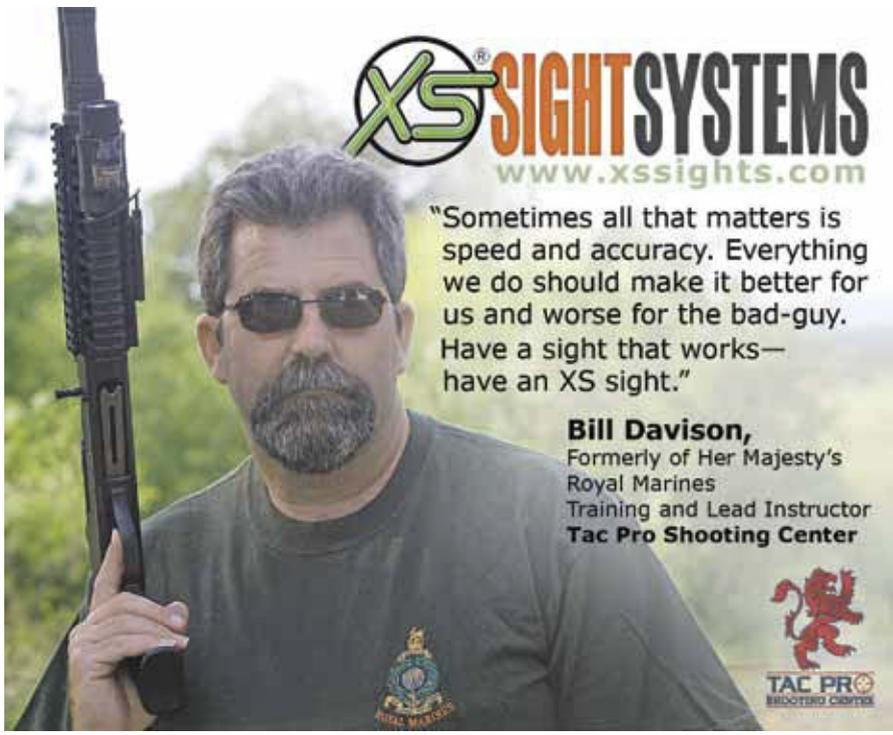
MAKER: LEUPOLD
1440 N.W. GREENBRIAR PKWY.
BEAVERTON, OR 97006
(503) 646-9171

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/LEUPOLD-STEVENS

MAGNIFICATION: 1.5X-4X (actual), **OBJECTIVE**
DIAMETER: 20mm, **EYE RELIEF:** 4.1" (1.25X), 3.7"
(4X), **INTERNAL ADJ. RANGE:** 90-MOA elevation and
windage at 100 yards, **CLICK VALUE:** 1/4 MOA, **TUBE**
DIAMETER: 30mm, **WEIGHT:** 11.5 ounces, **OVERALL**
LENGTH: 9.5", **RETICLES:** Fire-Dot Pig Plex,
PRICE: \$599.99, **IMS MK 2 MOUNT PRICE:** \$99.99

The Leupold Hog Scope with MK2 IMS 30mm Tactical Scope mount is ideal for the Ambush, providing instant target acquisition and precise shooting in less than ideal lighting conditions. The busy array of reticle elements proved no distraction in practical application allowing me to quickly pick my shots and place the bullets within a hands-breadth of the desired point-of-impact. The smart technology 1-minute electronic fire dot extended viable shooting time by a few minutes and proved useful for shooting groups in full daylight.

The lightweight, ideal balance and fine trigger of the Ambush 6.8 make it a joy to carry and use in the field. Responding to the obvious quality and the unique visual impact of the carbine, one local landowner who provided a nocturnal hog hunt immediately ordered one of these for himself. A couple of dedicated hog and deer hunters, fell in love with it at first sight and tried to buy it from me. Ambush arms is acquiring 30-round magazines from the Barrett Company. So equipped the 6.8 retains all of the attributes that make AR rifles and carbines desirable defensive arms and is uniquely positioned to take its place in the mainstream of 21st century general purpose long arms. **GUNS**



XS SIGHT SYSTEMS
www.xssights.com

"Sometimes all that matters is speed and accuracy. Everything we do should make it better for us and worse for the bad-guy. Have a sight that works—have an XS sight."

Bill Davison,
Formerly of Her Majesty's
Royal Marines
Training and Lead Instructor
Tac Pro Shooting Center

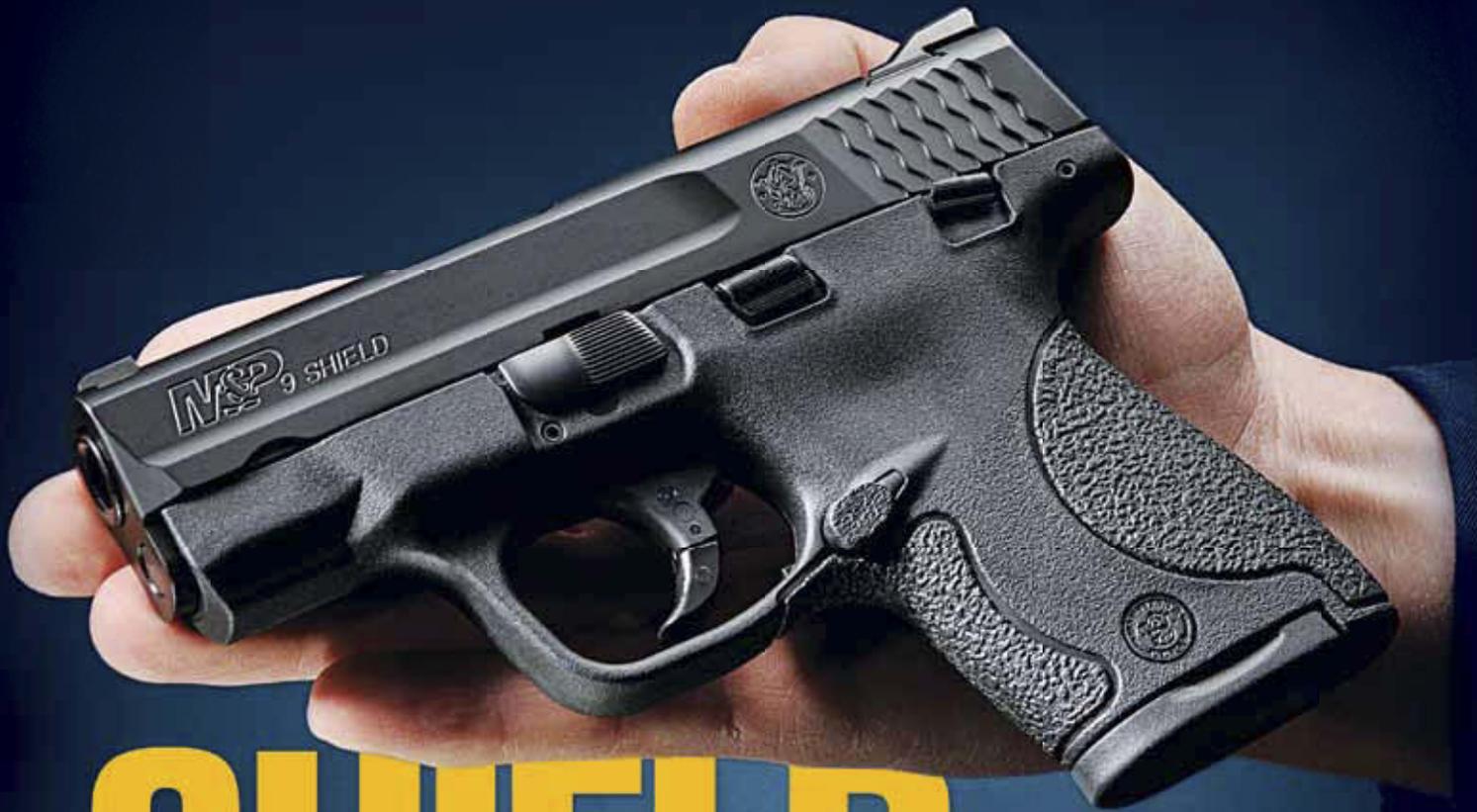


GUNS ONLINE!
MAGAZINE
www.gunsmagazine.com

TEXAS THERMAL HOG HUNTS
ALLEN MOREHOUSE
20444 N. FM 709
HUBBARD, TX 76648
(254) 717-2946

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/TEXAS-THERMAL

THE NEW **M&P** SHIELD™



SHIELD YOURSELF

SLIM, CONCEALABLE POWER IN 9MM & .40 S&W



less than 1"

Everything superior about M&P™ now comes in a lightweight carry size. Choose 9mm or .40 S&W for protection slim enough to conceal yet big enough to shoot comfortably. End to end, the striker-fired M&P SHIELD™ features true M&P advantages from ergonomic design to simple operation, durability and a lifetime service policy. Anywhere, anytime – M&P SHIELD keeps you ready.

SMITH-WESSON.COM/MPSHIELD

Reliable. Durable. Accurate.

Smith & Wesson®

NASDAQ: SWHC



MADE IN THE USA

CONTROLLED OR PUSH FEED?

John Barsness

Over the centuries, rifle shooters have developed many arguments to keep them fired up: matchlock versus wheel-lock, .45-70 versus .30-30, O'Connor versus Keith, walnut versus synthetic, and on and on and on. These days, many hunters like to argue over whether a bolt-action hunting rifle should be controlled round feed (CRF) or push feed (PF). From the fierce arguments flying around campfires, barstools and cyberspace, you'd think the CRF/PF debate is as old as the bolt action, but really it began in 1990.

Bolt actions rose to dominance in the first half of the 20th century, and until after World War II they were almost all CRF, including just about every military action, along with the Model 54 and 70 Winchesters and Model 30 Remington. Push feed actions didn't become common until

after the war, beginning with the Remington Model 721/722 in 1950.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, PFs continued to proliferate. Winchester "redesigned" the Model 70 in 1964, though the only functional change was the switch from CRF to PF. Weatherby started with 98 Mauser-

actioned rifles made in Europe, but in the late 1950s switched to the PF Mark V. Sako started making PF actions in Finland, and Fabrique Nationale, the maker of perhaps the best-known commercial 98 Mauser action, introduced a PF version called the FN Supreme in the 1960s. In the late 1960s, Ruger introduced their PF Model 77 in the late 1960s, to compete with the dressed-up version of the Remington 721/722 called the 700.

New Generation Of Shooters

While a few old-timers grumbled about all this, a list of other whines about aluminum floorplates, impressed checkering and, eventually, synthetic stocks diverted attention from the basic functions of bolt actions themselves. Essentially, we went directly from the CRF era to the PF era, as a generation of new shooters grew up with Remington 700s, Saksos, Weatherby Mark Vs and post-'64 Winchester Model 70s.

I was part of that generation, buying a pair of Remington 700s in 1973, a .243 Winchester BDL and a .270 Winchester ADL. I never once noticed anything wrong with the way they worked, just like thousands of other hunters who bought post-war PF rifles.

Then in 1990, the United States Repeating Arms Company brought back the CRF Model 70 Winchester, when modern manufacturing methods made producing a new version of the old action economically possible. At first the USRAC marketers believed this new/old Model 70 would be a minor part of their lineup, a deluxe rifle for the few true CRF addicts, while most hunters would remain happy with the PF model.

Wrong. As soon as the CRF Model 70 reappeared, every gun writer in the known universe had to explain the difference between CRF and PF. In fact, right now we'll explain the difference yet again, so the 1.37 percent of hunters who haven't been bombarded by the arguments can understand what the big deal is.



The Ruger 77 was converted to CRF in the 1990s. John Nosler used one in .458 Lott to take this Tanzanian buffalo.



BOTH HAVE POSITIVE ATTRIBUTES

In a classic CRF action such as the Winchester Model 70 or 98 Mauser, the head of the cartridge slides upward across the bolt face as the round is pushed forward out of the magazine. In the process, the case's rim slides behind the claw of the extractor. By the time the case breaks free of the magazine, it's held firmly by the extractor—so firmly the bolt should hold a loaded case even when removed from the action. After firing, the extractor continues to hold the empty case as the bolt moves backward, until the case is literally pushed from the bolt face by an ejector blade attached to the rear of the receiver.

This system supposedly has two great virtues. First, the cartridge can't flop free of the action while traveling from the magazine to the chamber. Second, another cartridge can't rise from the magazine until the empty case from the previous round gets ejected, preventing "double-loading," the jamming that can occur when an excited shooter doesn't bring the bolt

These days a lot of deer hunters believe they absolutely need a CRF action, but Aaron Smith (above) successfully used a PF Weatherby to take this Wyoming mule deer. Traditional cartridges like the .257 Roberts and .25-06 (below, left to right) feed much more easily than modern, short-fat rounds like the .25 WSSM between them.



far enough back to eject a fired case, then pushes the bolt forward on both the empty and the next loaded round.

In a PF action, the cartridge pops loose from the magazine as the bolt moves forward, and the extractor doesn't slide over the case rim until the round's already chambered. The ejector is inside the bolt face, a spring-loaded plunger opposite the extractor. The ejector pushes against the case head, flipping the empty case free of the action as soon as it clears the receiver ring.

Theoretically, the CRF system results in far more reliable function, the reason most military bolt actions were CRF, and so many hunters of dangerous game preferred rifles made on 98 Mauser and pre-'64 Model 70 actions. They wanted their rifles to chamber and extract cartridge cases absolutely reliably. Why, a CRF action would even cycle when held upside-down!

This argument appeared so many times in print during the early 1990s that eventually many deer hunters



Veteran African professional hunter Kevin Thomas has relied quite happily on his Mauser-acted Musgrave .375 H&H for decades.

became convinced they risked losing the buck of a lifetime if their 7mm-08 didn't have a CRF action. The demand for CRF rose, and Winchester quit making PF Model 70s, Ruger converted its Model 77 bolt rifle to CRF, and Kimber started making a miniature CRF action, perfectly suited to keeping charging whitetails from impaling hunters with their trophy antlers.

The modern desire for super-accuracy brought one little dose of reality to the pro-CRF argument. When the .300 Winchester Short Magnum and other supposedly super-accurate short, beltless magnums appeared in the early 2000s, they often didn't feed very well from CRF actions, and for an excellent reason: The original smokeless rounds designed for CRF actions such as the 8x57 Mauser and .30-06 Springfield were designed along with their actions. Both rounds are comparatively long for their diameter, with noticeable body taper. It's no big deal for either to tilt slightly upward to enter the chamber, even with the rim of the case held firmly by the extractor. The same is true of the two most popular bolt-action British sporting cartridges of the pre-war era, the .300 and .375 H&H.



A CRF action's claw extractor should hold cartridges firmly against the bolt face, even heavy rounds such as this .375 Ruger.

The .300 WSM and other short, beltless magnums were not only fatter, but had almost parallel bodies and sharper shoulders, and fit into shorter actions specifically designed to accommodate these more efficient and accurate cartridges. As a result, the cartridges now had to tilt upward at a much steeper angle to enter the chamber—while the claw extractor firmly held the case head against the bolt face. Consequently, many of the early WSM Model 70s didn't feed too well.

Eventually, the problems were worked out, but no CRF action will ever feed .300 WSM cartridges as smoothly and easily as a 98 Mauser feeds 8x57s, a 1903 Springfield feeds .30-06s, or a pre-'64 Winchester Model 70 feeds .375s. An entire generation of custom gunsmiths, in fact, had to learn an awful lot about "tuning" CRF actions when their customers started bringing in 98 Mausers and pre-'64 Model 70s to be turned into super-accurate .300 WSMs.

A PF action is much more forgiving, because the cartridge isn't held so rigidly. A few years ago, a friend named Rick Dredge—a rifle loony from Boise—decided to test the flexibility of an unaltered Remington 700 action. Rick stuffed the magazine of a 700 .30-06 with several other

rounds, and they all fed easily from the magazine to the chamber. Rick told me about his experiment and of course I had to try it myself, also with a 700 in .30-06, filling the magazine with a .300 Remington Ultra Magnum, a .300 WSM and a .30-40 Krag. They all slid slickly from the magazine. This adaptability is why Remington never experienced any problems way back in the 1960s with their original short-fat belted magnums (the 6.5 and .350), and also didn't have any problems with their Short Action Ultra Magnums. (Another thing Rick and I discovered along the way is that PF actions will feed nicely even when upside-down.)

The truth is that many CRF actions don't feed that well when re-barreled to any cartridge differing even slightly from their original round. When the .308 Winchester and its companion rounds, the .243 and .358, appeared in the 1950s there were a bunch of cheap mil-surp 98 Mauser actions on the market, and a lot of gunsmiths re-barreled old 98s to Winchester's new rounds. Even the so-called "short" 98 actions for the 7x57 didn't work very well without some work, because the .308's shoulder is slightly fatter and further back than the 7x57's—the reason most commercial Mausers chambered for .308-based cartridges featured a block at the rear of the magazine. Even then the feed rails had to be modified for .308s to work really slickly.

Modifications

This brings up another major difference between CRF and PF actions. When modifying a CRF action for a cartridge it really wasn't designed for, most of the work has to be done by filing the feed rails of the action itself. In a typical PF action, there's rarely any feeding problem in the first place, but if so, it can usually be fixed by slightly bending the edges of the sheet-metal magazine box. I know this from working on a bunch of both actions, though most have been CRFs since they're usually the problem children.

This doesn't always involve "classic" CRF actions. Over the years I've owned two .350 Remington Magnums, one a Remington 700 Classic and one a Ruger 77 Mark II. The 700 fed as slickly as snail-slime as it came out of the box. The 77 would only feed about half of its cartridges correctly. The reason, once again, was the extractor holding the short-fat cases so firmly they had to tilt upward severely during their trip from magazine to chamber. It took half a day of working on the feed rails and ramp before the 77 fed .350s reliably,



Most of the bolt actions developed in the quarter-century after World War II were PF, such as the Weatherby Mark V.



From top are the bolts from a 98 Mauser, a 1903 Springfield Sporter and a pre-64 Model 70 Winchester. These days even lightweight deer rifles like this Kimber Model 84 (below) sometimes have CRF actions, just in case a buck charges.





The Only Gun Care Chemical Company that is approved by the U.S. Army!

U.S. ARMY APPROVED
MIL-PRF 63460E
& NATO S-758

G96'S Synthetic CLP Gun Oil
has been approved for use by the U.S. Army for 21st Century **CLEANING, LUBRICATING, and PRESERVATION** of both small and large caliber weapons and weapons systems.



85-5th Ave., Bldg. #6 • Paterson, NJ 07524
Tel.: 973-684-4050
TOLL FREE: 1-877-332-0035
Fax: 973-684-3848
www.g96.com

KIRKPATRICK
LEATHER COMPANY

Model TSS

Features:

- 100% Leather
- Made in the USA
- Reinforced for re-holstering
- Narrow profile
- Rides close to the body
- Sight channel



Only
\$78.00
Plus S&H

Proudly made in TEXAS since 1950

www.kirkpatrickleather.com

(956) 723-6893

1910 San Bernardo Laredo, TX 78041

GUNS
MAGAZINE
ONLINE!
www.gunsmagazine.com



Mike Venturino used a CRF 1903-A3 Springfield on this Montana ground squirrel hunt, just in case a gopher charged.

and even then they never fed near as slickly as in the 700.

Sometimes modifying the rails and ramp of CRF actions isn't enough. Often magazine springs and followers often have to be changed out, and tiny angles or rough spots in the action must be smoothed.

Once a CRF action is really tuned, however, it's a joy to use, especially with traditional cartridges such as the .30-06 and .375 H&H. (If you want to attempt some of this yourself, invest in a copy of Jerry Kuhnhausen's fine book, *The Mauser Bolt Actions, a Shop Manual*. It may cure you of the idea, and may even cure you of the Mauser addiction (something I've never been able to shake) but I haven't found a better reference, anywhere.

When I invented my own lone wildcat cartridge, the 9.3 Barsness-Sisk, the decision was to have Charlie Sisk build it on a Remington 700 action originally designed for the SAUM rounds, to prevent any feeding problems. The 9.3 B-S (as it's usually called) is the .350 Remington Magnum necked up .006", reproducing the ballistics of the 9.3x62 in a short action. Despite this utter redundancy, it turned out to be pretty practical, since cases can be necked up simply by seating boat-tailed bullets.

The rifle feeds so slickly and reliably that I felt utterly confident in taking it on an Alaskan grizzly hunt a few years ago. When, after almost two weeks of hunting, my guide Bryce Johnson and I ended up less than 75 yards from a good boar, there was

no problem in putting three rounds through the rifle in a very few seconds. The first bullet hit exactly where aimed, in the crease behind the bear's shoulder as it angled slightly away. At the shot the bear whirled and started running, passing right in front of me at even closer range. The second shot missed, because the bear turned to bite at its shoulder just at the shot, but the third went behind the right shoulder, whereupon the bear sagged into the long grass, where we found it, absolutely still, a minute or so later.

According to CRF addicts, I risked my life by going after dangerous game with a PF, but the rifle has never bobbled in several years of use—and still hasn't. In reality there was probably less risk in using my PF rifle than in flying around wild Alaska for thousands of miles in small planes, something I've been doing far longer.

With that said, if I made my living hunting dangerous game the rifle would probably have a controlled round feed action, probably a commercial Mauser, just because. But there really isn't any reason to worry about hunting whitetails with a push feed action, even during the dangerous days of the rut, even if you have to work the action upside-down.

GUNS

THE MAUSER BOLT ACTIONS,
A SHOP MANUAL
HERITAGE GUN BOOKS
P.O. DRAWER #887
MCCALL, ID 83638
(208) 634-4105
WWW.GUNBOOKS.COM

JUST ANOTHER DAY AT THE OFFICE.



THE COLT LE6920MPOD-B.

Colt has teamed up with industry leader Magpul® to outfit our LE6920, giving you a savings of over \$100. Now, that's a powerful combination. For more information, visit our Web site at www.colt.com or call 800-962-COLT. Also, be sure to ask about our California compliant bullet button rifles.



QUALITY MAKES IT A COLT™



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



SCAN TO SEE THE
COLT LEGACY VIDEO.



Mas found the 6" S&W 586 very controllable in rapid fire.

RETURN OF A CLASSIC

RECOGNIZING SOME PREFER BLUE STEEL AND WALNUT, S&W BRINGS BACK THE L-FRAME 586 .357.

Massad Ayoob

Thirty-some years ago, stung by complaints from law enforcement that their K-frame service revolvers weren't holding up to steady training diets of the ferocious 125-grain .357 Magnum load rated for 1,450 fps muzzle velocity, Smith & Wesson introduced their L-frame revolvers. The K-series had basically been "38-frame" guns, and the big N-size models, "44-45 frame." The L models were in essence "41-frame" guns, and their resemblance to the Colt Python was inescapably stark: all they failed to copy was the ventilation cuts in the barrel rib. No matter: the L-frame was an instant hit.

The Model 686 in stainless came first, in 1980, augmented the following year by the Model 586, made of carbon steel and offered with traditional blue or nickel finish. Stainless was still "The New Thing," and a very practical thing at that, and from the beginning the 686 far outstripped the 586 in sales. Both revolvers came with S&W's Micro adjustable rear sight, and except for special order, a ramp front with a colored insert. Catching some demand for a fixed sight variant, they introduced the stainless 681 and the chrome-moly 581, but the 686 remained the clear-cut star of the L-frame show.

Within a few years, double-action autoloaders including S&W's own would swamp the revolver in police sales (followed by a tsunami of polymer-frame pistols, but that's a tale for another day). The fixed sight L-frames faded first. The 681, except for special orders from distributors and some Performance Center variations, was discontinued in 1992. The 581 lasted but 7 years, from '81 to '88. The handsome, sweet-shooting target/service grade 586, introduced in 1981, was discontinued in 1999.

The 686 lived on, remaining one of the most popular revolvers in the S&W line. Outdoorsmen, like cops, appreciated its rust-resistant stainless construction. The introduction of a 7-shot variation helped it greatly. A short run of 2,000 blued 586s were produced on special order for the Dick's Sporting Goods chain midway through the first decade of the 21st century, and were quickly snapped up. These, to my knowledge, were the only 586s produced with 7-shot cylinders.

Meanwhile, gun collectors and



Speedloads went smoothly into the 586 (the stocks are cut to allow loaders). This is Herman Gunter about to run an IDPA stage with the 4" 586.

S&W lovers pined wistfully for the lost 586. It had all the excellent shooting characteristics of the 686, but it also had... that look. Those of us who frequented the firing lines couldn't help but notice that the 686s we saw were generally wearing one or another flavor of neoprene grips... but the 586s we ran across, more often than not, wore wooden stocks. There's just something about blue steel and walnut...

Smith & Wesson tries to keep a close touch on the pulse of the shooting public. They picked up on that vibe. They'd had successful sales of their Classic lines, the "guns of our youth" from the Smith & Wesson catalog, resurrected in modern dress.

For 2012, at the SHOT Show in Las Vegas, S&W unveiled their latest in the Classic series: the Model 586 in all its blue steel and walnut glory.

S&W's Tony Miele shipped me a pair of the new-iteration 586s, one with 4" barrel and one with 6". When I opened the boxes, the first thing that hit me was—you guessed it—blue steel and walnut.

I was very pleased with the blue, and the polish beneath it that makes



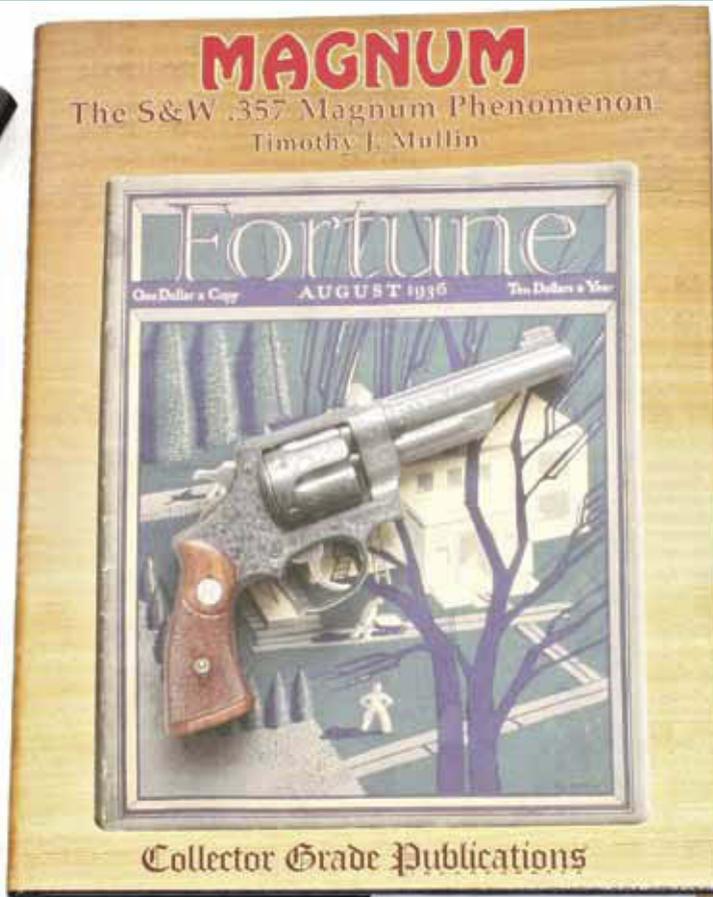
Using the 4" S&W 586 test gun, Herman Gunter won the Stock Revolver division at an IDPA match in Jacksonville, Fla.

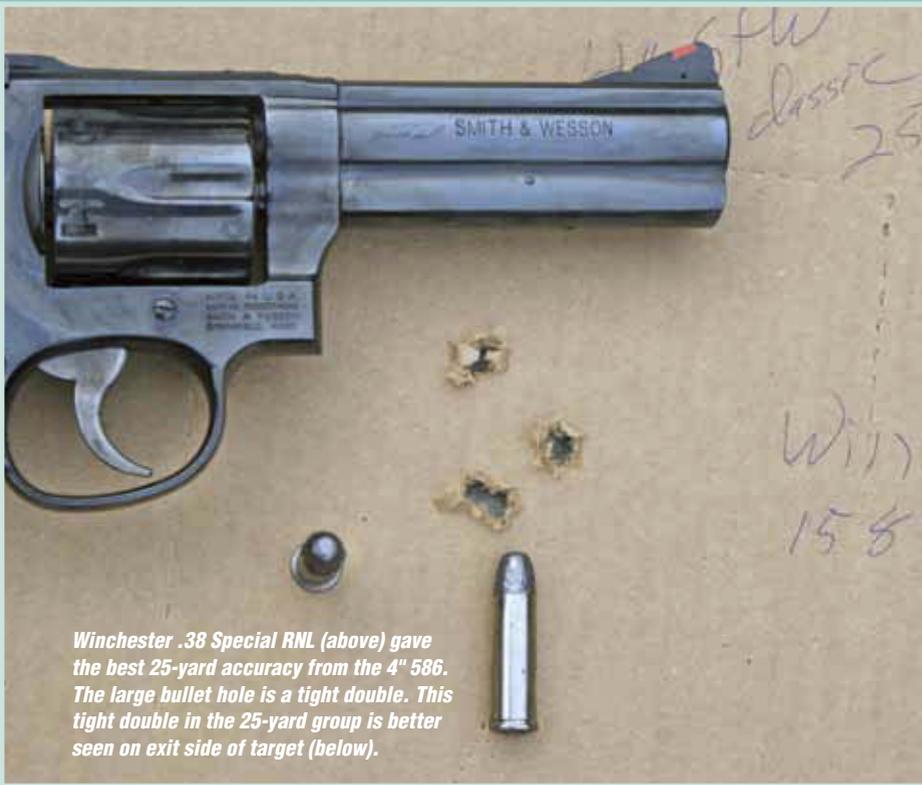
it "happen." Holding it to the light on an angle, there was none of the ripple effect we saw in the sad early '80s days of S&W workmanship. Just good polish, and that sweet, dark blue we Ancient Ones associate with the S&W logo. The kind of blue Clint Smith has likened to looking into a pool of oil, that John Taffin so eloquently said you can see your ancestors in.

The stocks are cut in the new style: not the S&W Target stocks of The Old Days, but nice in their own

right. These two guns had wood with pleasing grain, left panels well matched to right, with acceptable fit to the gun. Fit to the hand wasn't bad, either: they're slim amidships, and let you get a good hold on the revolver. Still, if the purpose is a Classic line, I wish they'd do something else. They could go into that cool little museum they have right there at 2100 Roosevelt Avenue in Springfield, Mass., and pull a pair of "Cokes" off of, say, an old 1955 .45 Target revolver. Nicknamed

The S&W Classic 586s came out at the same time as Tim Mullin's excellent new book, Magnum: The S&W .357 Magnum Phenomenon.





Winchester .38 Special RNL (above) gave the best 25-yard accuracy from the 4" 586. The large bullet hole is a tight double. This tight double in the 25-yard group is better seen on exit side of target (below).



Remington's economy 125-grain Magnum hollowpoint grouped well from the 4" 586 at 25 yards.

that by S&W aficionados because there's a very slight palm swell that reminds shooters of the distinctive old Coca-Cola bottle, true duplicates of these would gladden the hearts and hands of countless thousands of S&W revolver buffs, and put the "classic" back in their Classic line.

Trigger pulls were tested on a Lyman digital gauge procured through Brownells. On the 4" gun, double-action weight averaged 10 pounds, .6 ounces, and single action averaged 4 pounds, 9.22 ounces. On the longer barrel test sample, pull weight averaged 10 pounds, 2.5 ounces in DA and 4 pounds, 3.4 ounces in SA mode. On the 4" gun, the trigger rolled in one sweet, smooth stroke from first touch to break of shot, no matter what the speed of pull.

The action of the 6" 586 was very subtly different. Run at any sort of speed, it felt like the shorter gun, but if you did a slow-roll of the trigger, it was easier for a new shooter to "stage" or "trigger-cock," and then apply the last bit of pressure to drop the hammer. Both guns "pre-timed," a desirable thing. That is, the cylinder locked in place well before the hammer had completed its rearward arc prior to its fall. It's just that this was a little more palpable through the trigger on the longer-barreled 586.

For decades, S&W's "service/target grade" revolvers came with an integral trigger stop built into the gun. It turned out that a clumsy amateur could adjust it so poorly that it could keep the gun from firing. Back "In The Day," S&W developed the policy of leaving that feature out of such guns sold to police departments. It is absent entirely from the Classic 586, and frankly, this writer thinks it's just as well.

On The Range

With a Caldwell Matrix rest on a concrete bench at 25 yards, I selected three different loads suitable for different applications of a 4" revolver chambered for .38 Special/.357 Magnum in this day and age. There's plinking, there are certain specific sporting disciplines, and of course, self-defense.

PMC Bronze 132-grain full metal jacket is a good exemplar of "plinking"—informal target practice—ammo in .38 Special. The 130-grain FMJ is what a plinker is likely to find in Wal-Mart, and the regular gun dealers I prefer to do business with tell me the soft 130-grain FMJs are their best selling .38 Special practice load. It also meets the power factor for Stock Service Revolver competition

in the International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA) matches, since that was lowered as of January 2011. It can also serve in a pinch for protection: last summer, I spoke for a woman who was charged with manslaughter after killing a man who violently attacked her as she was leaving an informal range from a plinking session. The death wound was caused by a single, perfectly placed 132-grain PMC Bronze FMJ .38 Special bullet. She was totally acquitted at trial.

From the 4" 586, firing single action, this load finished with a 5-shot group measuring 3.45". However, the best three of those were under an inch, in a group that went .85" center to center. That "best three" measurement, I discovered long ago, takes enough unnoticed human error out of the picture to give a very good prediction of what the same gun and ammo would have done with all five shots from a machine rest.

Accurate

The next load was Winchester's "standard line" gray box 158-grain roundnose lead .38 Special. This sort of round is the load of choice for NRA PPC Service Revolver matches, and was from a lot that had won the last such match I shot with it out of an early '80s S&W 686 tuned by Bob Lloyd. The Winchester took the accuracy honors for the day with the short 586. The group consisted of two "doubles," one so tight it looked like a single .40-caliber bullet hole, and a single hole a bit above the others. All five shots gave a 1.25" measurement, and the best three were within 8/10". Given that the 10- and X-ring on an NR B-27 Police target is an oval that's about 3" high by just over 2" wide, it's obvious to me Winchester 158-grain RN .38 Special in that 4" S&W 586 Classic would be a winning combination in an NRA Police Service Revolver match.

You can't test an L-frame .357 without running the load it was built around: the 125-grain, 1,400 to 1,450 fps Magnum round that beat K-frames so savagely it forced the L-frame's creation. The final test cartridge was Remington-UMC 125-grain .357 Magnum, its hollowpoint bullet semi-jacketed with copper in the scalloped configuration Remington made famous. This is the loading one researcher called "the king of the street" back in the day.

On police departments like Indianapolis PD and the surrounding Marion County Sheriff's agency, and state patrols from Kentucky to Indiana to Texas, the 125-grain SJHP Magnum earned an awesome



The 4" Model 586 was tested with these three loads for 25-yard accuracy.



Oddly, the 6" sample was not as accurate with the test .38 RNL load as the 4" at 25 yards.



Mas got best 25-yard accuracy from the 6" with Buffalo Bore Heavy topped with a Barnes bullet in .357 Magnum.

reputation for rapidly stopping violent encounters. Within a law enforcement agencies, the details of each shooting would spread, and create either confidence or insecurity. In this case, it was confidence. More than one Kentucky trooper called that round a "magic bullet" in my presence, and more than one member of the Texas Department of Public Safety was

known to speak of the "lightning bolt effect" when the 125-grain .357 Magnum hollowpoint hit a man who was trying to kill a trooper.

Five scallop-jacket bullets produced a 1.90" group, with the best three in 1.40", measured center to center. Bearing in mind that this green-and-white box UMC ammo is Remington's economy line, positioned under their

...BE PREPARED: NOW
...CAUSE THERE AIN'T
NO TOMORROW...



**TOPS
KNIVES**

**B.O.B.
KNIFE**
Brothers of Bushcraft

One
Life...
One
Knife

...For Guys That
Walk On The
"WILD SIDE"

SOLUTIONS FOR X-TREME FIELD CONDITIONS ... IN ACTION NOW

WHEN ITS TIME TO SEPARATE THE TALKERS... FROM THE DOERS!



CALL
TODAY
FOR
A FREE
COLOR
BROCHURE



TOPS ...THE OPERATOR'S EDGE
...PERSONAL CARRY CHOICE...

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



"standard grade" Express ammo in the green-and-yellow box, this means that we still had a less than X-ring size group at 25 yards with relatively low-priced ammunition. I for one thought this spoke very well for both the Remington-UMC ammo, and the Classic 586 Smith & Wesson revolver with the "service-size" 4" barrel.

Different Results

With the 6" version, I went more toward field Magnum loads on the theory this configuration appeals more to the outdoorsman. However, it's also the barrel length of choice for PPC Distinguished Revolver, and the relatively new bull's-eye revolver games at the National Championships at Camp Perry (their version of Distinguished Revolver, and the Harry Reeves Match). The standard pressure 158-grain .38 Special is the load of choice in all three of those games, so I tried the Winchester roundnose lead again. The most accurate in the 4" 586, it proved the least so in the 6". The five shots went into a 3.00" group, stringing vertically. Four were in 2.80", though the best three measured 1" on the nose, all measurements being taken to the nearest .05". Go figure.

Accurate & Powerful

An outdoorsman looking for .357 Magnum field loads at the Monster Mart will probably end up with one or another flavor of 158-grain semi-jacketed generic softpoint. I chose Federal's low priced Champion round. This delivered a 5-shot group measuring a much more pleasing 1.60", and the best three were under 1" by 15/100". Much better accuracy that I've seen with, for instance, Federal Champion 9mm practice ammo.

In a hollowpoint for hunting, you want something heavier than the 125-grain anti-personnel load, for more penetration. I selected what Buffalo Bore lists as their Heavy 140-grain load, using the all-copper Barnes XPD hollowpoint bullet. Buffalo Bore's headman, Tim Sundles, lists this load at 1,550 fps nominal velocity, and 747 foot-pounds of



The S&W Classic 586 has the current-style cylinder latch, internal lock, and generous speedloader cutout in the stock.



energy at the muzzle. Distinctly louder than the 158-grain .357 Magnum we had just fired, and snappier, these high-tech bullets punched five holes in a 1.45" group, with four of them under an inch at .90" center to center, and the best three in .65". The Buffalo Bore was far and away the most accurate load in the 6" 586 Classic.

There's no better (or safer!) way to test a "combat revolver" than in a "combat shooting match." My plan was to take the 4" 586 Classic to an IDPA event, but a 10-day bout with a bum ankle kept me out of running-and-gunning during the test period. So, I tag-teamed my shooting buddy Herman Gunter, III, who sighted in with just a few gun-loads of Speer Lawman 158-grain +P FMJ ammo, and took it to a 103-shooter match at the First Coast IDPA Club in Jacksonville, Fla.

A regular winner in the revolver divisions there, he captured First Place overall in Stock Service Revolver with the test 586 Classic, drawn from a Galco Yaqui Slide holster and refilled via Safariland Comp III speedloaders, which slid easily and smoothly past the generous cutout that's carved out of the Classic's left stock panel for just that reason.

Herman found the gun smooth and sweet, so much so that Monday morning after the Saturday match, he picked up the telephone and ordered a 586 Classic 4" for himself.

After that, what more can I say? Only this: thanks, Smith & Wesson, for bringing this cool symphony of blue steel and walnut back, to sing its song again for us many fans of traditional double action revolvers.

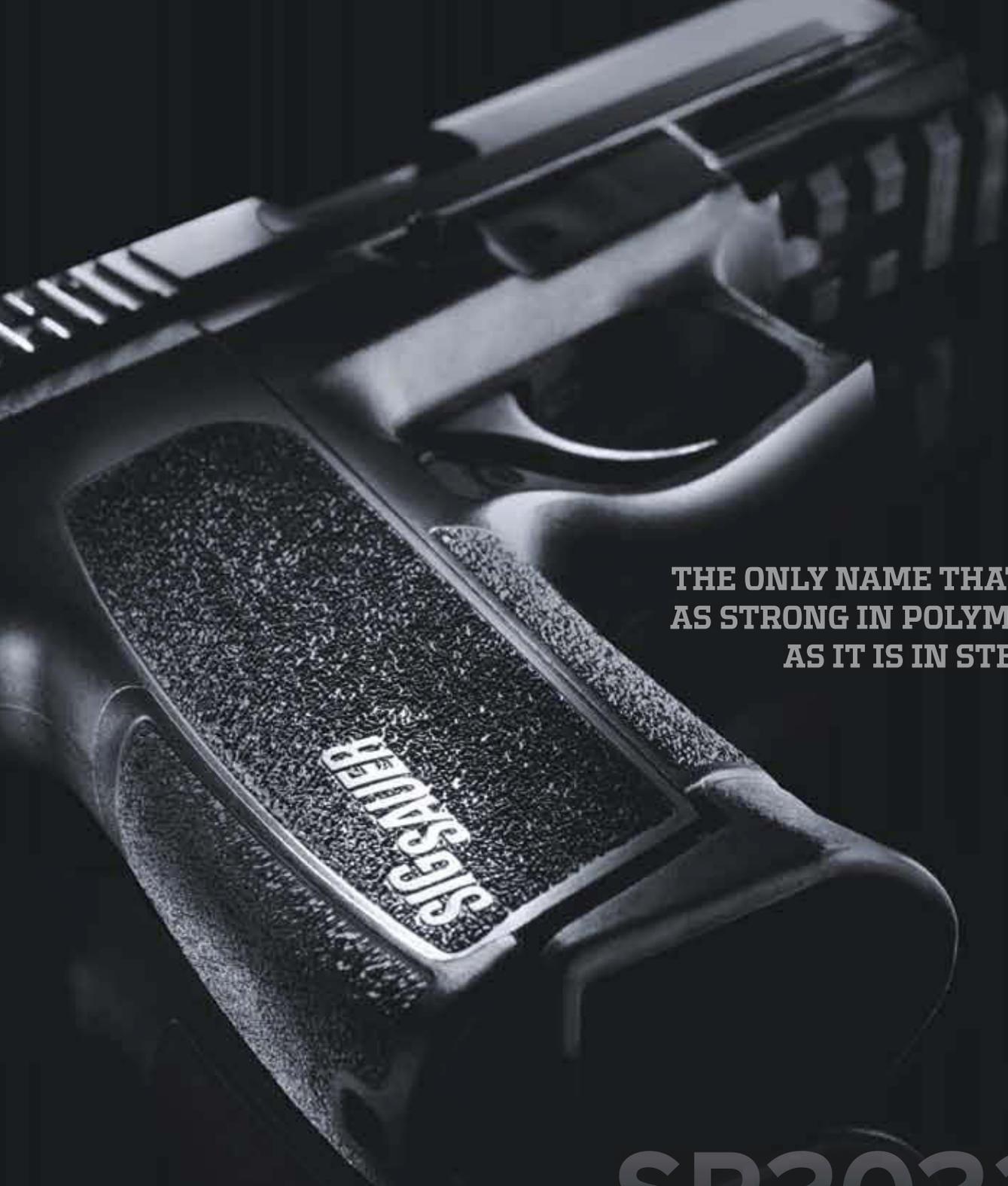


MODEL 586

MAKER: SMITH & WESSON
2100 ROOSEVELT AVENUE
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01104
(800) 331-0852

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/SMITH-WESSON

ACTION TYPE: Double-action, **CALIBER:** .357 Magnum, **CAPACITY:** 6, **BARREL LENGTH:** 4", 6", **OVERALL LENGTH:** 9-1/4" (4"), 11-1/4" (6"), **WEIGHT:** 40.9 ounces (4"), 46.3 ounces (6"), **FINISH:** Blue **SIGHTS:** Adjustable white outline rear, red ramp front, **GRIPS:** Checkered walnut, **PRICE:** \$809



THE ONLY NAME THAT'S
AS STRONG IN POLYMER
AS IT IS IN STEEL

SP2022



THE STRENGTH OF SIG IN A DURABLE, LIGHTWEIGHT FRAME.

The SP2022® delivers all the performance and reliability you expect from SIG in a hard-use polymer package. Classic hammerfire design, 4-point safety system, and MIL-STD-1913 Picatinny rail for accessory attachment. Comes with two grip shells for a custom fit. Available in 9mm, .357SIG, and .40 caliber. No wonder it's becoming the standard choice among elite military and LE forces worldwide.

Find out more at sigsauger.com/SP2022.

SIG SAUER[®]
when it counts™

KWIK-SITE  **co.**



**TOMORROW
IS HERE NOW!**

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

Made from aircraft
aluminum, solid
& strong!

Good looks at a
fantastic price!

See it at
your favorite
dealer.

**NOW ON
SALE!**

Retail
Price
\$17.94
or less.

Available
in Matte,
Brite or
Stainless.



**SUPER
LONG
BASE**

KWIK-SITE  **co.**

Leading U.S. Manufacturer
of Scope Mounts

5555 Treadwell
Wayne, MI 48184

Phone: (734) 326-1500

Fax: (734) 326-4120

E-mail: kwiksiteco@aol.com

www.kwiksitecorp.com

KNIVES

STORY: Pat Covert

PRACTICAL & TACTICAL! Knifemaker Paul LeBatard's Practical Tactical covers all the bases.

The term "crossover cutter" is a relatively recent one in cutlery terminology, meant to describe a knife that can serve equally well in both tactical and sporting roles. Paul LeBatard's PTK-4 Practical Tactical not only fills the bill in spades, it does it with class. At 8.75" overall and weighing it at 7.5 ounces, the PTK-4 is just right for a mid-sized fixed blade that won't drag you down. The 5" ATS-34 clip-point blade (4.5" edge) sports a deep hollow grind for excellent slice, and features a swedge grind on the backside for enhanced penetration. The gentle slope of the blade's hind side also makes it perfect for skinning.

The PTK-4 handle is unique from the majority of fixed blades you'll find because it utilizes hidden-tang construction, which allows the Micarta handle to be fully sculpted all the way around—making for a superb grip. The tang itself is 3/8" wide, stouter than most knives of this type and size, and is epoxied and pinned firmly in place. The aircraft aluminum double-guard is very nicely contoured, and blends into the handle seamlessly.

Paul offers the PTK-4 in various grades, from a basic model with

PTK-4 PRACTICAL TACTICAL

PAUL LEBATARD KNIVES
14700 OLD RIVER RD.
VANCELEAVE, MS 39565
(228) 826-4137

LEBATARDKNIVES@AOL.COM

BLADE STEEL: ATS-34 stainless,
BLADE LENGTH: 5", **OVERALL LENGTH:** 8.75",
WEIGHT: 7.5 ounces, **HANDLE:** Micarta, **GUARD:**
7075 P-6 aluminum alloy, **CARRY:** Leather sheath,
PRICE: \$275 bead-blasted, \$300 polished



LeBatard's PTK-4 Practical Tactical (shown here in two grades) is a versatile knife that is just as comfortable on the hunt as it is in combat.

bead-blasted finish, to a more upscale version with polish on the metal and Micarta from stem to stern. You can go even more high-end by adding a handle of stag or exotic wood and upgrading to more expensive steel, although ATA-34 is pretty darn awesome in its own right. LeBatard's leather sheaths are top flight, and hand-stitched with a full welt all the way around for an easy draw and longer life. And with this versatile handmade knife comes an affordable price: \$275 for the base model and \$300 polished. For a custom fixed blade of such quality, that's downright practical!

GUNS



H O R N E T

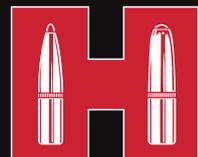
STING 'EM WITH THE NEW 17 HORNET

A **BRAND NEW** centerfire cartridge based on the 22 Hornet case, the **17 Hornet** propels the 20 gr. V-MAX™ at a blistering 3,650 fps. Fueled with Superformance® propellant, the 17 Hornet Superformance® Varmint is economically priced, and delivers the trajectory of a traditional 55 gr 223 load, but is a pleasure to shoot with the felt recoil of a 22 WMR. The 17 Hornet – an economical, fun .17 caliber centerfire cartridge that puts the STING on varmints out to 300 yards!

- **3,650 fps muzzle velocity with a 20 gr. V-MAX™ bullet**
- **Trajectory comparable to a traditional 55 gr. 223 Rem but the felt recoil of a 22 WMR**
- **Same C.O.L. as the 22 Hornet – uses the existing action**
- **Less fouling, barrel wear, powder and pressure compared to the 17 Rem**
- **Lower cost and comparable quality to the 17 Fireball and 223 Rem**



To learn more, go to hornady.com or scan the QR code. Search your phone's app store for a QR reader.



Hornady
Accurate. Deadly. Dependable.®

Velocity (ft/sec) / Trajectory (inches)

| Item # | Description | Muzzle | 100 yds | 200 yds | 300 yds | 400 yds |
|--------|-------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|------------|
| 83005 | 17 Hornet 20 gr. V-MAX™ | 3650/-1.5 | 3077/1.1 | 2572/0.0 | 2120/-6.4 | 1717/-20.7 |

For hard-hitting fun, sting'em with the NEW 17 Hornet from Hornady!

800.338.3220 | HORNADY.COM

REST ASSURED

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| Guns | Coin |
| Heirlooms | Card |
| Cameras | Collections |
| Photos | Sentimentals |
| Inventory | Investments |
| Legal Paper | Safe from |
| Records | Fire and |
| Jewelry | Theft |



Call Us Today For Your Free Brochure
1-800-821-5216

993 North Industrial Park Road
Orem, Utah 84057

FORT KNOX
SECURITY PRODUCTS
"THE MOST TRUSTED NAME IN SECURITY"

www.FtKnox.com

BURGER KNIVES
distinguished craftsmanship
Est. 1987



Renowned world wide for our quality range of sword canes, custom canes and knives.

Email: INFO@SWORDCANE.COM

www.swordcane.com

GUNS VNR

IEWS • NEWS • REVIEWS
RIGHTS WATCH
DAVID CODREA

Is "Cowering... Only Recourse" To School Shooting?

Another school shooting has happened, this time in the cafeteria of Chardon High School in Ohio, just up the road a piece from where I live. A 17 year old has been charged with murder and attempted murder in the deaths of three students and the wounding of two others.

At this writing, authorities are still trying to piece together why he did it and how he got the .22-caliber pistol he used to fire 10 shots into his human targets (conflicting stories say he stole it from his uncle or his grandfather).

The local news stations understandably ran with the story full time for the first few days, and their coverage was sadly predictable. The "experts" they presented all focused on topics like bullying (current reports say the attacker may or may not have been the subject of abuse, and may or may not have targeted his victims for revenge), lockdowns (revealingly, those holed up in the teachers' lounge had to push a piano against the door because it had no lock), and grief counseling. Yet, praise for the school administration and police was universal.

And naturally, there was not one word in the reports I watched about the deterrence factor peaceable armed adults could have on those who rely on "gun-free" zones to succeed in their murderous plans. Instead, the newspapers were quick to demand more "common sense gun laws" on their editorial pages, disregarding a shooter not old enough to legally possess a handgun, who

stole the one he had, who carried it into a mandated "no guns" environment....

Media personalities like Bill Maher were quick to take the offensive, telling CNN host Piers Morgan "Guns are a religion. They're next to godliness for a lot of people. And you wonder what they're doing with them. I know they love to blow the brains out of innocent animals for fun, I guess that's one thing. But they also have this fantasy in their head, if you talk to a lot of right-wingers, that somehow they read the Second Amendment as necessary because we might have a tyranny in this country."

Alex Wagner of MSNBC, already on record urging "Get rid of the Second Amendment" after the Gabrielle Giffords shooting, offered no answers other than claiming "Standing up to the vocal, but certainly not all-powerful gun lobby, would be a very good place to start."

Revealing of the mindset that fuels this line of non-reasoning is a popular Chicago feminist blogger who created a firestorm among online activists with her post "Time to ban handguns, guys." Responding to a critic's argument that defenseless people are powerless to do anything but await their execution, she unintentionally did us a service, telling us everything we need to know about the citizen disarmament "solution."

"Cowering under a desk," she replied, "is indeed the only recourse for people facing life threatening situations in a school. Unless you are suggesting we pack every lunch box with a handgun."

I've never seen the ultimate stupid argument of the gun-grabbers more eloquently put. **GUNS**

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

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



1-800-351-8900

JANTZ SUPPLY

DESERT IRONWOOD

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



Scale Sets

5" x 1 1/2" x 3/8"

- EW170 High Contrast.....16.00
- EW171 Dark.....30.00
- EW172 Exhibition.....35.00
- EW173 Presentation.....40.00

MINI CORBY RIVETS

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



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

PRE-SOLDERED GUARD KIT

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

Bearcat

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

Nevada Drop Point

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

WEEKEND PROJECTS

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

Renaissance Dagger

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

Cobra

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

Sportsman

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

Ringtail

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

LOCKING LINER KITS

The 605 Kits

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

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

Hi Tech Folder

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

Fallow Kit

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

JEWELLED OPENERS

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

- 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12
- Choose appropriate color code and add it to the end of the part number below.
- TB81— Style 825 Opener.....19.95

VG10 Folder Kits

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

Pre-Shaped Handle for VG10

- Stabilized exhibition quality preshaped handle for the VG10 folder kits above.
- VG519 Stbl California Buckeye.....11.95
- VG570 Stbl Desert Ironwood.....11.95
- VG10 LITTLE BIGHORN
- VG-10 33 layer Damascus, super sharp high colbalt steel blade. Length 5 1/8", 3" closed, cutting edge is 2".
- SS723 VG10 Little Bighorn.....59.95

JANTZ USA BLADES

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

Pattern 21

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

Pattern 22

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

Pattern 23

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

Pattern 25

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

Pattern 31

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

Pattern 36 (SS573 Silver Moose)

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

Pattern 37 (SS473 Silver Fox)

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

Pattern 38

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

Pattern 39

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

Pattern 40

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

LETTER OPENER

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

The Frisco

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

The Burlington

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

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

The Pacific

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

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

KEEN EDGE BLADES

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

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

Cook's Blade

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

Steak Blade

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

Santoku Blade

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

knifemaking.com

Download our on-line catalog free.

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

JC47 Catalog \$5.00
Free with any order.

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

ADD \$9.95 FOR SHIPPING



PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Operation Highland Thunder

A large plot of austere terrain in the southern portion of Khan-Neshin district in Helmand province, Afghanistan, is home to local farmers who make a living growing crops far from the more developed districts of southern Helmand province.

The villages of Sre Kala and Paygel can be found here, along with evidence of an insurgency whose members have moved from northern districts to escape the growing reach of Afghan National Security Forces.

Until recently, the hundreds of kilometers of desert and marshland terrain in this area of Helmand's southernmost district were previously untouched by Afghan or coalition forces. Marines and sailors of 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion and India Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, swept through 324 square kilometers of southern Khan-Neshin during Operation Highland Thunder last Feb. 15-22.

The clear, part of the ongoing RCT 5 winter offensive, Operation



US Marine Lance Cpl. Marcos Castelan, a light armored vehicle crewman with Alpha Company, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion and 19-year-old native of Alvin, Texas, helps Sgt. Mario Mendoza, a team leader with Alpha Co., 1st LAR, and 25-year-old native of Seguin, Texas, out of a canal during a patrol last Feb. 16 while clearing and disrupting operations in and around the villages of Sre Kala and Paygel during Operation Highland Thunder. Photo: Cpl. Alfred V. Lopez

Tageer Shamal (Shifting Winds), was conducted to prepare the area for follow on counterinsurgency operations by Afghan forces.

The Helmand Afghan Border

Police will soon join their Marine counterparts to begin partnered operations around Sre Kala and Paygel, further extending the southern reach of Afghan and coalition forces. The

VERSACARRY™

patent pending

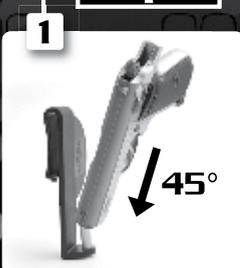
Made in Texas, USA

FREE*
SHIPPING

The newest,
most innovative
concealment
device on
the market!



1 **Clip.**



2 **Click.**



3 **Conceal.**



979.820.3267
www.versacarry.com

Visit your local gun store today
or for online orders, enter
promo code: FMGVERSA20, for
FREE shipping.* Limited time offer.

XDM^M-5.25

COMPETITION SERIES

ONCE AGAIN, RAISING YOUR EXPECTATIONS OF WHAT A POLYMER PISTOL CAN BE.

AVAILABLE NOW

Level The Playing Field



9MM • 40CAL • 45ACP

1.800.680.6866 | WWW.THE-M-FACTOR.COM

HI VIZ
SHOOTING SYSTEMS
"More Power"

www.HIVIZSIGHTS.com

800-589-4315

1941 Heath Parkway, Suite 1, Fort Collins, CO 80524

See What You've Been Missing!

We've got your back!

HiViz tactical sights have proven to be reliable and long-lasting in the field or at the shooting range. Our sights incorporate state of the art LitePipe technology that superbly gathers whatever light is available for creating a brighter sight picture. Sights with interchangeable LitePipes allow you to quickly change to a color that best fits your need or lighting condition. We also offer many overmolded sights which are equally durable and holster-friendly. Housed in a high quality steel base, the durable, chemical-resistant material used in our LitePipes makes them unaffected by common cleaning products. Nothing to stand in the way of you hitting the target!

All sights provide the bright sight picture you've come to expect from HiViz and will last for years and years. And naturally they're 100% guaranteed.



Scan this QR code to check out our new web site!

...or go to www.HiVizSights.com



BUILT TO LAST USING ONLY THE HIGHEST QUALITY MATERIALS

addition of the ABP will aid coalition efforts to curb insurgent drug and weapons trafficking activity in the area.

"This area is pretty large," said Sgt. Jared Carlson, a squad leader with Alpha Co., 1st LAR and 26-year-old native of Kaneohe, Hawaii. "There's a lot of enemy activity... You can tell by the atmosphere [in the villages]."

Due to logistical constraints, Afghan forces regard this segment of the Helmand River, which extends to Dishu Ferry, as their southernmost area of influence in the province. The establishment of two new patrol bases in Sre Kala and Paygel will further strengthen their ability to operate in this area of Khan-Neshin.

After establishing Patrol Bases Sre Kala and Paygel, Marines with



US Marine Lance Cpl. Marcos Castelan (above), a 19-year-old native of Alvin, Texas, wades through a canal during a patrol. Marines with 1st LAR led the operation on foot, sweeping for enemy weapons and drug caches through 324 square kilometers of rough, previously unoccupied desert and marshland terrain. Mobile units with 1st LAR set up blocking positions and vehicle check points while India Co., 3/3 conducted helicopter inserts to disrupt insurgent freedom of movement. Photo: Cpl. Alfred V. Lopez. US Marine Lance Cpl. Brandon Mann (below), a dog handler with Alpha Company, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, and native of Arlington, Texas, sights in with his infantry automatic rifle while providing security with Ty, an improvised explosive device detection dog, during a patrol. Photo: Cpl. Alfred V. Lopez




SPARTAN BLADES

THE SPARTAN-HARSEY MODEL II

WWW.SPARTANBLADESUSA.COM

910-757-0035



GET YOUR GUNS MAGAZINE CAP



\$18.50 each
(\$24.00 Outside U.S.)

GUNS Magazine Baseball-Style Cap

You'll be shooting with the best when you wear this custom designed cap from *GUNS Magazine*. This comfortable flex-fit cotton/polyester blend cap is available in two sizes.

Small/Medium (6 3/4 to 7 1/4)
Large/Extra Large (7 1/2 to 7 5/8)
Cap in black only.

ORDER TODAY!

Call Toll-Free 800-628-9818

www.gunsmagazine.com

12345 World Trade Drive • San Diego, CA 92128

"Best Mauser Value Available Anywhere!" - Don Mitchell

Manufactured in Serbia before WWII, and Military-New!

Dollar for Dollar, the best Mauser you can find today!

Bright bores, superb accuracy, strong stocks, great condition - *Military-New* - and a pedigree from Mauser with FN technology in 8mm Mauser. Just call us and we'll help you get one of the best for Only \$299.



Military-New Mauser M2447 for Only \$299

FREE!

Original Accessories worth over \$100 with every Rifle. Each rifle has its own set of military accessories. You get them FREE with your order. (After this there are No More!)

Original German K98k Mausers



Collector Grade K98k \$499
 Souvenir Grade ~~All Gone~~ \$399
 ZF41 K98 Sniper Rifle with Original Integral Mount \$999
 (Not a Copy!)

Ammo NOT included.

Plus, we've sorted out the Last* Special German Mausers, some of which are shown here.



Mauser BANNER.

Commercial quality Mauser hunting rifle. Production was seized by the Gestapo and made into Military K98's. Marked with the famous Mauser "Banner" emblem, plus the military acceptance stamps. This is a craftsman's quality military rifle, an

original made by Mauser's best gunsmiths before WWII. Collector Grade is Only \$1,099

Mitchell's Mausers

Rare 'bnz' K98k. Made for the SS by Gestapo prisoners, who survived as talented craftsman and made quality guns - Never Again!

Collector grade prices are:

bnz (No Rune) 1940-44 \$599

~~bnz, with Rune, All Gone~~ \$699

SS-marked K98's - Last Ones
 Death's Head K98k \$1,699

Some special SSZZA4-marked K98's are available for now.
 bnz, with Rune and SSZZA4 \$1,599

Mitchell Manufacturing, P.O. Box 9295, Fountain Valley, CA 92728
 714.596.1013 fax 714.848.7208 www.Mauser.net



P08 Lugers

These are the Last beautiful Originals from WW2 and even some from WW1.

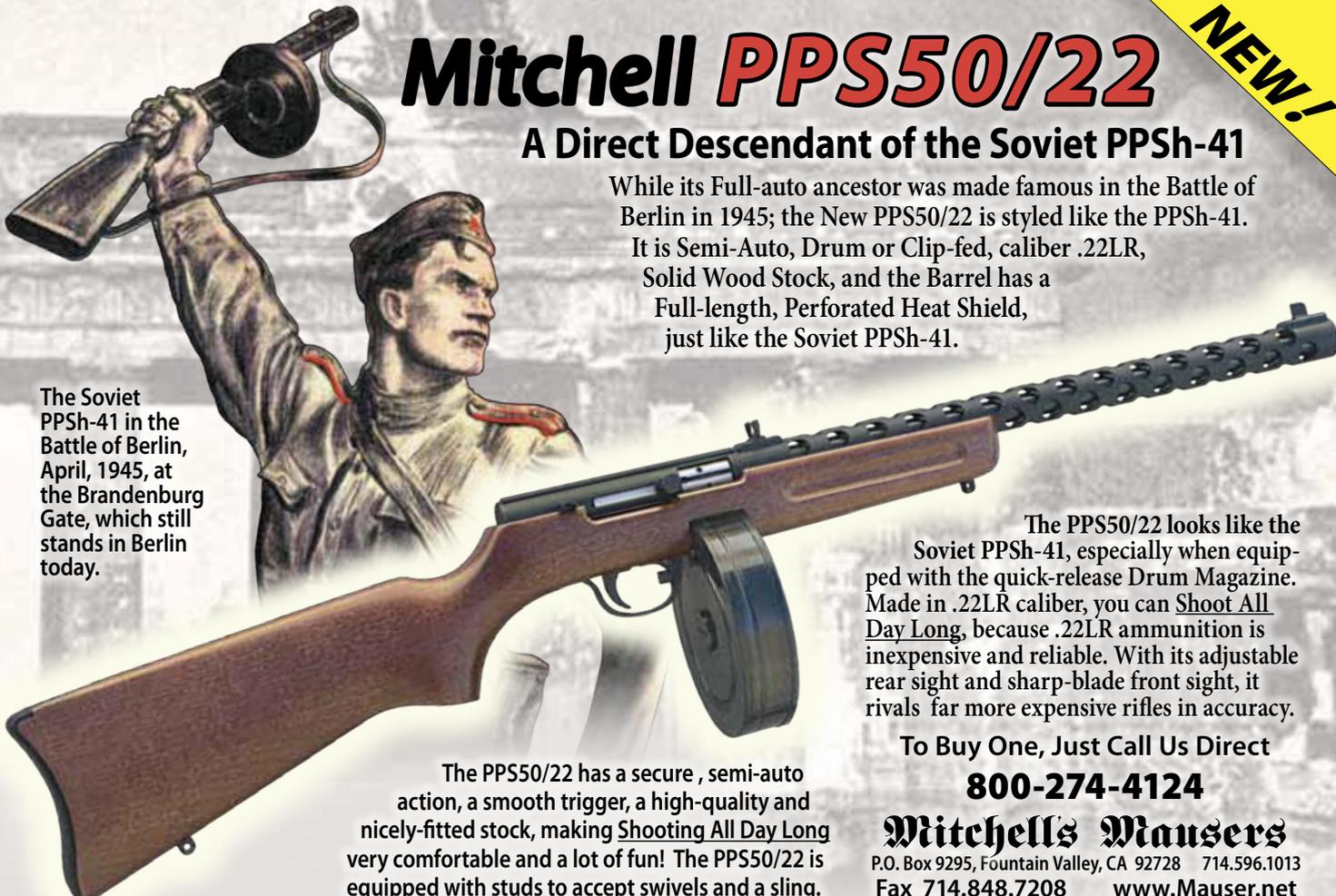
P08 Standard Luger \$1,795
 Presentation Grade in case \$4,499

*For two years now, No More Original German Mausers or Lugers have been found.

These are the Last. **Call Us ASAP!**

800-274-4124

Your Satisfaction is Guaranteed



Mitchell PPS50/22

NEW!

A Direct Descendant of the Soviet PPSH-41

While its Full-auto ancestor was made famous in the Battle of Berlin in 1945; the New PPS50/22 is styled like the PPSH-41.

It is Semi-Auto, Drum or Clip-fed, caliber .22LR, Solid Wood Stock, and the Barrel has a Full-length, Perforated Heat Shield, just like the Soviet PPSH-41.

The Soviet PPSH-41 in the Battle of Berlin, April, 1945, at the Brandenburg Gate, which still stands in Berlin today.

The PPS50/22 looks like the Soviet PPSH-41, especially when equipped with the quick-release Drum Magazine. Made in .22LR caliber, you can Shoot All Day Long, because .22LR ammunition is inexpensive and reliable. With its adjustable rear sight and sharp-blade front sight, it rivals far more expensive rifles in accuracy.

To Buy One, Just Call Us Direct

800-274-4124

Mitchell's Mausers

P.O. Box 9295, Fountain Valley, CA 92728 714.596.1013
 Fax 714.848.7208 www.Mauser.net

The PPS50/22 has a secure, semi-auto action, a smooth trigger, a high-quality and nicely-fitted stock, making Shooting All Day Long very comfortable and a lot of fun! The PPS50/22 is equipped with studs to accept swivels and a sling.

WILL YOU BE READY?

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

Why not try a
CrossBreed TODAY!



“ABSOLUTELY the
most comfortable holster
I have ever worn.”

Semper Par

Lifetime Warranty!
Try-It-FREE Guarantee!

CrossBreed Holsters LLC.

www.crossbreedholsters.com • 888.732.5011

AGES
4-21

JUNIOR SHOOTERS

MAKING A MARK

WWW.JUNIORSHOOTERS.NET

JUNIOR SHOOTERS FOCUSES ON THE FUTURE OF THE
SECOND AMENDMENT, THE KIDS!

FEATURING BOTH A PRINT
MAGAZINE AND TONS OF
INTERACTIVE WEB CONTENT!
CHECK IT OUT TODAY!



(208) 629-8967

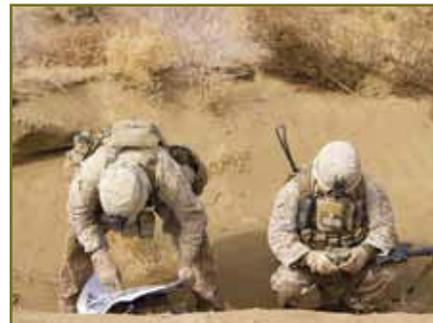
1st LAR led the operation on foot, using dismounted patrols to sweep for insurgent activity, weapons and drug caches.

Mobile units of the battalion setup blocking positions and vehicle check points to catch insurgents attempting to flee the area, while India Co., 3/3 conducted helicopter inserts to disrupt insurgent freedom of movement.

“We want to get [the ABP] established here, so they have the ability to be able to push west,” said Capt. Sean Williams, the Alpha Co. commander, 1st LAR and 30-year-old native of Aurora, Colo. “Going into the villages, collecting biometrics data, getting to know the elders, getting to know the lay of the land is going to help set them up for success. It’s always easier when there’s a base-line already established.”



US Marine Lance Cpl. Brandon Mann, (above) a dog handler with Alpha Company, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, and native of Arlington, Texas, helps Sgt. Guillermo Floresmartines, an assistant squad leader with Alpha Co., 1st LAR, and 25-year-old native of Menifee, Calif., out of a canal during a patrol. Marines had to tread through waist-deep canals (below) and march through knee-high patches of mud on a daily basis. US Marine Sgt. Jared Carlson (below, left), a squad leader with Alpha Company, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion and 26-year-old native of Kaneohe, Hawaii, and Sgt. Mario Mendoza, a team leader with Alpha Company, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, and 25-year-old native of Seguin, Texas, plot the location of a compound on a map during a patrol. Mobile units with 1st LAR setup blocking positions and vehicle checkpoints while India Company, 3/3 conducted helicopter inserts to disrupt insurgent freedom of movement.



The terrain presented uncomfortable obstacles during numerous daylong patrols. Marines treaded through waist-deep canals, and marched through knee-high patches of mud, averaging 10 kilometer treks on a daily basis.

“The terrain in our previous area of operations was a lot more forgiving,” said 1st Lt. Gil Barndollar, a platoon commander with Alpha Co., 1st LAR and 30-year-old native of Portsmouth, N.H. “Here, the biggest challenge is the canals... They’re a lot deeper and wider, we have very little choice but to cross them.”

In order to avoid enemy ambushes and improvised explosive device attacks, Marines avoided crossing the makeshift bridges built by locals and other well-traveled routes.

“During an overnight outpost, one of our Marines was carrying his [overnight] pack along with an electronic countermeasure device while crossing a canal,” recalled Barndollar. “He got off-balanced and fell back into the water... everything in his pack got wet. As soon as we got to our OP, we had to dry all his things and keep him warm to avoid hypothermia.”

Regardless of the inherent difficulties presented by the terrain, Alpha Co. Marines found multiple caches



US Marine Lance Cpl. Matthew Bayles, a point man with Alpha Company, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, and native of Plainfield, Ill., sweeps for weapons and drug caches during a patrol.

during their foot patrols through the muddy marshland and seemingly endless desert.

These caches contained several AK-47s and RPK medium machine guns recently used against coalition forces, over 3,000 7.62mm rounds, drugs and IED components.

Marines with 1st LAR will continue to strengthen their positions at Sre

Kala and Paygel in anticipation of follow on operations with the Helmand ABP. The partnered forces look to mirror the steady progress made by their counterparts in northern districts, as Marine forces gradually shift into an advisory role and the ABP take the lead in counterinsurgency operations.—
Cpl. Alfred V. Lopez, Regimental Combat Team 5

GUNS

GUN CARE
ALL IN ONE STEP
If you're not using Prolix® you're working too hard!

Dry Lube Technology

Prolix®
LUBRICANT
TOTAL GUN CARE PRODUCT
BIO-TECH

EARTH FRIENDLY

DISCOVER ITS MANY USES

Prolix® has been used by millions over 30 years and in the field where it counts! Longer lasting for better service and protection! Keeps working without freezing due to its superior technology and quality.

ProChemCo LLC
PO Box 1466
West Jordan UT 84084-8466

801-569-2763
1-800-248-LUBE (5823)
Fax: 801-569-8225

Check us out @
www.prolixlubricant.com
prolix@prolixlubricant.com

THE SMALLEST, MOST POWERFUL PERSONAL PROTECTION YOU CAN CARRY!

2.5 inch 3 inch 3.5 inch 4.25 inch

MADE IN TEXAS BY TEXANS!

CALL FOR FREE BROCHURE!

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

Not available in California or Massachusetts. www.BONDARMS.com • 817-573-4445

BOND ARMS!

GUNS ONLINE!
MAGAZINE
www.gunsmagazine.com

QUARTERMASTER

FEATURING: JOHN CONNOR

TACTICAL GUNS & GEAR

Skimming the “Combat Cream.”

We culled out the products whose only apparent claim to the title “tactical” comes from either getting a fresh camo paint job, being photographed on a bed of mud-spattered leaves, or frame-stamped with a tiny ninja figure—things otherwise about as “tactical” as Timmy’s tricycle. Even at that, there are tons of new truly tactical arms and accessories, and all we can do here is skim the cream off the top, so let’s get started!

Adcor Defense is new to small arms, but they’ve been a big national defense systems contractor for over 20 years. Adcor’s *B.E.A.R.* (Brown Enhanced Automatic Rifle) *Elite* 5.56mm carbine was designed by executive VP Michael Brown, and although dimensions and controls are consistent with the mil-spec AR platform, it incorporates some unique operational features.

A new-patented gas piston system is mounted to the top half of a removable 2-piece, quad-railed fore-end, allowing a free-floated barrel. Slotted neatly in the quad rail is a non-reciprocating charging handle used to charge, clear the chamber, or execute a forward-assist while keeping your eyes on target and retaining master hand weapon control. A standard charging handle is also present, but now redundant. The

handle folds back into place when released, and mounts on either left or right side without a special tool.

Next, a polymer “dust wiper” system attached to the bolt carrier seals the ejection port from intrusion by sand and debris even when the conventional dust cover is open. The *BEAR* functions with or without it, and it is removable and replaceable.

In a 6,000-round test by H.P. White Laboratory, including sand and water immersion, there were zero malfunctions and the *BEAR* shot .88" at 100 yards with match ammo. Tough and accurate, it’s well worth your attention.

The wait has been frustrating, but kudos to SIG SAUER for working out initial bugs on the 7.62x51mm *SIG716* before launching full production. Like its little brother, the 5.56mm *SIG516*,



Leupold’s superb HAMR and CQBSS scopes are in hot demand.



it is an AR-consistent platform offering SIG precision and several upgrades to Stoner’s original design, like an improved barrel-to-receiver lockup with enhanced heat-sink properties, a true short-stroke gas pushrod system and a four-position gas valve assuring smooth operation under harsh conditions, plus use of a suppressor. Finally, in a move that pleased many users including me, SIG changed the 716 to feed with MagPul’s excellent 20-round PMAG magazines.

We’ll be receiving a *SIG716* for testing soon, so watch for a full review in a future issue. If it shoots as sweet as the *SIG516*, it’s gonna be a winner!

Tough Glass & Bright Lights

Meprolight’s battle-tested *Mepro 21* day/night reflex sight has been the issue CQB optic of the Israeli Defense Forces for more than a decade, featuring a big bright 30mm lens and both tritium and fiber-optic illumination. Now the *Mepro MOR* offers both passive and active illumination and two aligned targeting lasers, one infrared for use with night vision gear and one visible. The IDF counts on ’em, and so can you.

Leupold has two tough new tactical tubes getting rave reviews from military torture-testers. The *Mark 4 4x24mm HAMR* is a compact illuminated scope made for any AR-15 variant. The etched CM-R2 reticle is highly visible even without illumination turned on, and the Xtended Twilight Lens system



The battle-tested Meprolight MOR combines a reflex sight with IR and visible lasers.

Smith & Wesson® M&P™

FINE TUNED MACHINES™



When it comes to lightweight strength, ambidextrous features and overall ergonomics, no other pistol comes close to the superbly crafted design of the M&P. From stainless steel parts to customizable fit, every advantage is built in.



M&P Patented Palmwell Grips

- Interchangeable Small, Medium & Large
- Firm Grip Precision Plus Less Felt Recoil

U.S. Patent 7,528,482

M&P Stainless Steel Guide Rod



- Consistent Reliability, Durability
- Increased Life Span, Less Felt Recoil

M&P Stainless Steel Chassis



- Stainless Steel Rigid Chassis in Lightweight Zytel™ Polymer Frame
- Steel-to-Steel Connected System
- Reduces Flex & Torque During Firing

M&P Ambidextrous Slide Stop



- Flat Profile Release

Smith & Wesson
M&P
MILITARY & POLICE

RELIABLE. DURABLE. ACCURATE.

M&P MULTIPLE CALIBERS



LIFETIME SERVICE POLICY

NASDAQ: SWHC
smith-wesson.com

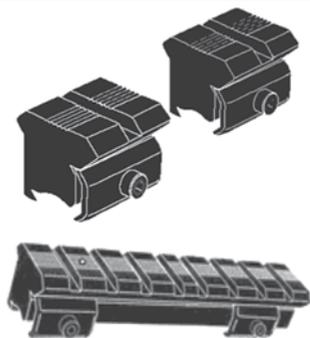


KWIK-SITE CO.

DOES IT AGAIN!

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

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



**New Long Adapter Works
For Air Rifles**

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

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

Sets the standard for looks in the industry.

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

KWIK-SITE CO.

Leading U.S. Manufacturer
of Scope Mounts Since 1967

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



The Adcor Defense BEAR Elite carbine offers unique features.



The SIG716 delivers 7.62mm power in an improved AR platform.

optimizes transmission of low-light wavelengths. For CQB work, the top is made to mount an optional 3.5 MOA or 7.5 MOA DeltaPoint red-dot sight, requiring minimal head movement to rapidly engage close-in targets.

In even greater demand is the *Mark 8 CQBSS* – Close Quarters Battle Sniper Scope. It's amazingly versatile 1.1-8X magnification is just one of its many features. A tank-tough 35mm tube protects an Index Matched Lens System with incredible sharpness, brightness and contrast even in very low light. Exclusive “pinch and turn” windage and elevation controls prevent accidental changes. Two models are offered, one with a BDC reticle optimized for 5.56mm and the other with a BDC set for 7.62x51mm. Both are front focal plane so you get accurate subtensions at all magnifications. Good luck finding one!

SureFire's latest handheld 2-lithium cell tactical flashlight, the *Fury*, is a great combination of a power-saving 15-lumen “nav light” and a blinding



SureFire's Fury handheld light (above) and Streamlight's weapon-mounted TLR-1 HP—two powerful winners!



500-lumen blaster, both quickly and easily engaged in momentary or constant-on modes with a single or double tap of the tailcap switch. Quality of construction and durability is typically superior SureFire. You'll have to try the *Fury* to appreciate the power in this 5" package!

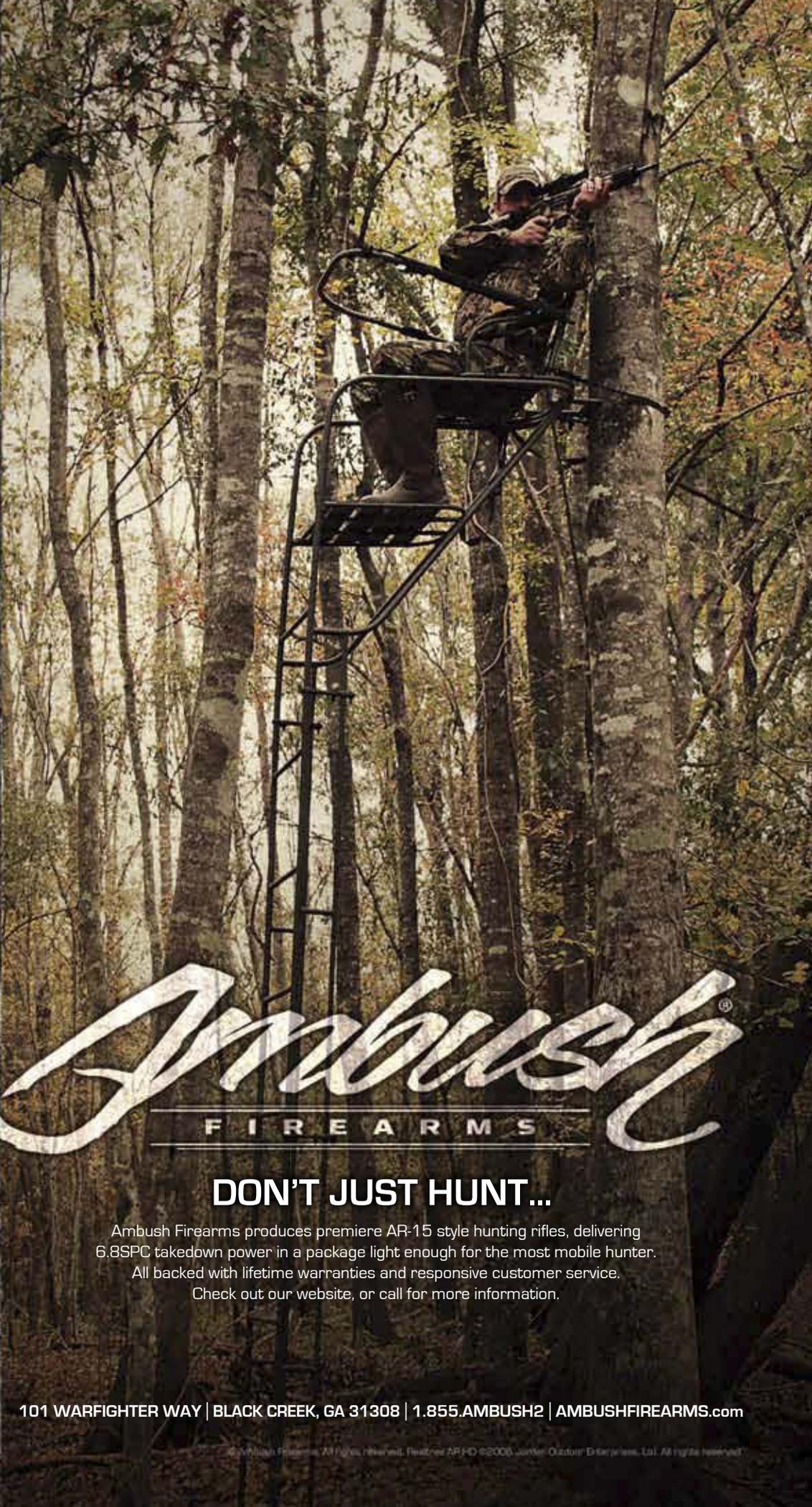
First, Streamlight developed C4 LED technology, multiplying brightness. Then they worked to fine-tune deep-dish parabolic reflectors. Now both come together in two new weapon-mount lights, the *TLR-1 HP* and *TLR-1s HP*, the latter's “s” designating on-demand strobe function. The “HP” stands for high power, and they've got it, with 200 lumens. The parabolic reflector throws a concentrated spot beam out to 400 yards, but still provides smooth peripheral illumination. Multiple mounting keys fit almost any rail system, and remote switches are optional.

Armor & Accessories

From PROTECH Tactical, the *FAV MKII Enhanced QR Tactical Vest* is superior in coverage, comfort and 360-degree changeable modularity. It goes from a slick, simple armor and magazine carrier to a multi-mission system with add-on collar, throat, side chest, and upper arm and groin protection panels. A single-pull QR—quick release—feature instantly separates the front and back panels for emergency ditching or critical trauma care, but they're easily reattached. *Spacer Mesh* padding provides airflow and cushioning, and reduces load-carrying fatigue.

PROTECH's *IMPAC Special Threat Plates* use compressed unidirectional polyethylene, fiberglass composites and hybrid steel materials to produce some of the finest ballistic protection panels available.

If you're looking for tactical gloves,



Ambush[®]

F I R E A R M S

DON'T JUST HUNT...

Ambush Firearms produces premiere AR-15 style hunting rifles, delivering 6.8SPC takedown power in a package light enough for the most mobile hunter. All backed with lifetime warranties and responsive customer service. Check out our website, or call for more information.

AMBUSH 6.8

 MADE IN THE USA

101 WARFIGHTER WAY | BLACK CREEK, GA 31308 | 1.855.AMBUSH2 | AMBUSHFIREARMS.com

© Ambush Firearms. All rights reserved. Patent AP#0 ©2008 Jordan Outdoor Enterprises, Ltd. All rights reserved.

KWIK-SITE

has taken Weaver® style rings to new heights and new lengths

Our Caps Will NOT Scratch Your Scope Or Rust

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

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

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

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



Up to 64 mm objective lens
KS-305

4 HOLE CAP



Up to 52 mm objective lens
KS-304

AIRCRAFT ALLOY



Up to 44 mm objective lens
KS-303

GREAT PACKAGING



Up to 32 mm objective lens
KS-302

AND THE BEST PRICE!



Up to 64 mm objective lens
Extended offset base



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

Patent Pending

KWIK-SITE CO.

Leading U.S. Manufacturer of Scope Mounts Since 1967

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

Weaver® is a trademark of the ATK Co.



The CQB Tool by Spartan Blades USA: the ultimate "Get Offa Me!" knife.

why not let the Marine Corps do your beta testing for you? After feeding a field of competitors through the green machine's grunt-grinder, they recently awarded Wiley-X a contract for 90,000 pairs of *Raptor Combat Gloves*. Ergonomically shaped goatskin leather sections and Nomex provide abrasion resistance and thermal protection, and they're cut for optimum weapons handling. I'd call that a serious recommendation.

And finally, the only knife I know of specifically designed for use in "breaking contact" by heavily-armed and gear-laden operators locked in mortal combat so close that neither combatant can get a muzzle between them: the *CQB Tool* by Spartan Blades USA.

Developed at the request of US-

SOCOM, this highly ergonomic, thin but strong 7" knife of 154CM steel is a superb "Get Offa Me!" tool—and if it works in an alley in Kandahar, it might work at an ATM in Kansas City too, ya think? Connor OUT.

GUNS

ADCOR DEFENSE, INC.
P.O. BOX 12309, BALTIMORE, MD 21281
(888) 612-3267
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/ADCOR

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

MAKO GROUP
(FOR MEPROLIGHT USA)
1 LENOX AVE., FARMINGDALE, NY 11735
(631) 880-3396
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/MAKO

LEUPOLD
14400 N.W. GREENBRIER PKWY.
BEAVERTON, OR 97006
(800) 538-7653
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/LEUPOLD-STEVENS

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

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

PROTECH INDUSTRIES
3120 E. MISSION BLVD., ONTARIO, CA 91761
(800) 347-1200
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/PROTECH

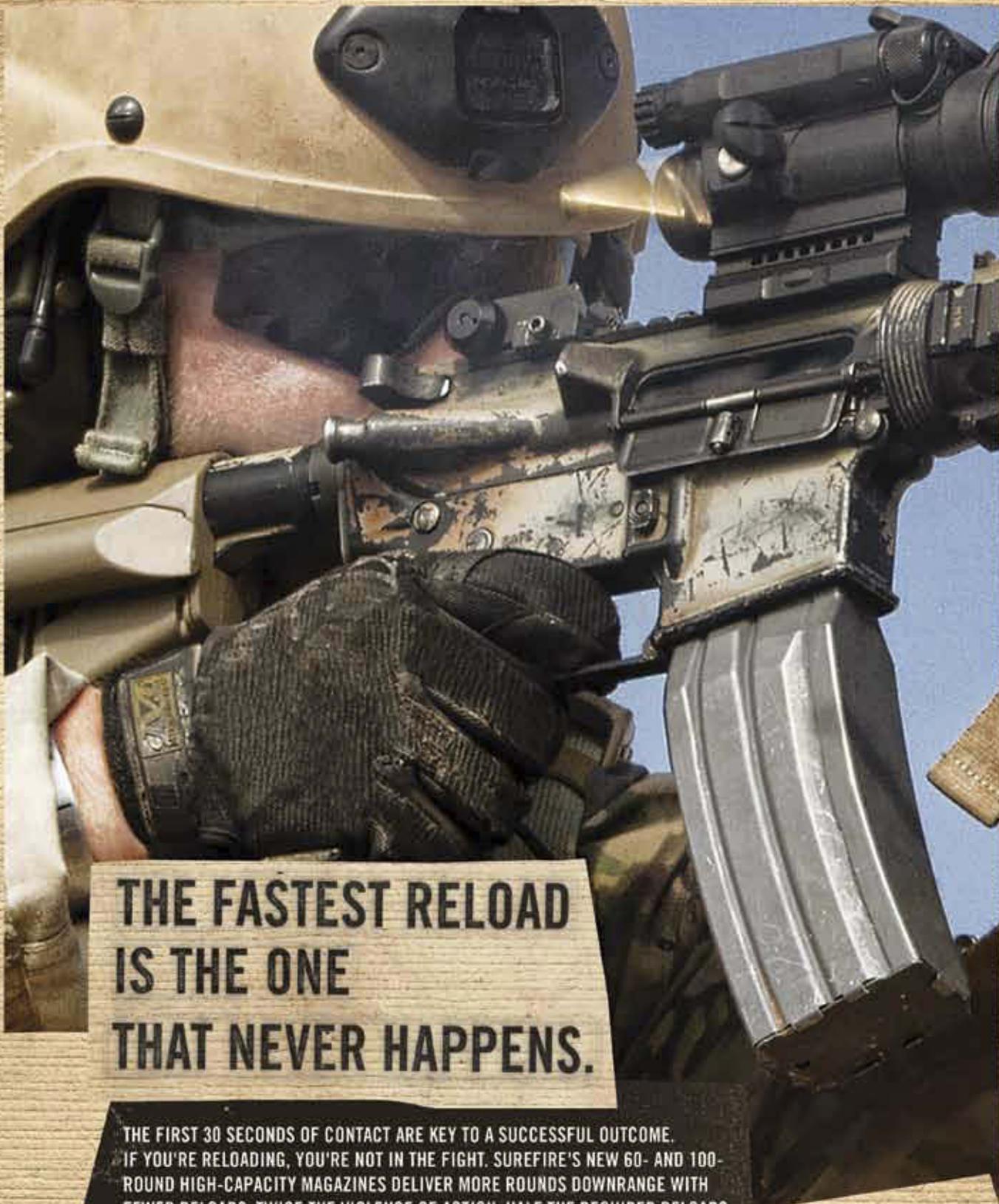
WILEY X
3120 E. MISSION BLVD., ONTARIO, CA 91761
(800) 347-1200
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/WILEY-X

SPARTAN BLADES
P.O. BOX 620, ABERDEEN, NC 28315
(910) 757-0035
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/SPARTAN-BLADES



FAV MKII vest by PROTECH and Wiley X's Raptor Combat Gloves offer comfort and durability.





**THE FASTEST RELOAD
IS THE ONE
THAT NEVER HAPPENS.**

THE FIRST 30 SECONDS OF CONTACT ARE KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME. IF YOU'RE RELOADING, YOU'RE NOT IN THE FIGHT. SUREFIRE'S NEW 60- AND 100-ROUND HIGH-CAPACITY MAGAZINES DELIVER MORE ROUNDS DOWNRANGE WITH FEWER RELOADS. TWICE THE VIOLENCE OF ACTION. HALF THE REQUIRED RELOADS.

WWW.SUREFIRE.COM/MAGAZINES

SUREFIRE

GUNS CLASSIFIED

Classified ads \$2.00 per-word insertion. (\$1.50 per-word insertion for 3 or more) including name, address and phone number (20 word minimum). Minimum charge \$40.00. **BOLD WORDS add \$1.00 per word.** Copy and rerun orders must be accompanied by **PAYMENT IN ADVANCE. NO AGENCY OR CASH DISCOUNTS ON LISTING OR DISPLAY CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING.** All ads must be received with advance payment BY NO LATER THAN THE 1st OF each month. **EXAMPLE:** Closing for DEC. 2008 issue (on sale NOV. 5th) is SEPT 1st, 2008. Ads received after closing will appear in the following issue. Please type or print clearly. **NO PROOFS WILL BE FURNISHED.** Include name, address, post office, city, state and zip code as counted words. Abbreviations count as one word each. Mail to GUNS MAGAZINE CLASSIFIEDS, 12345 World Trade Drive, San Diego, California 92128. **NOTE: WE NOW HAVE DISPLAY CLASSIFIEDS IN BOTH GUNS MAGAZINE AND AMERICAN HANDGUNNER. ASK FOR OUR NEW RATE CARD. (858) 605-0235.**

ACCESSORIES

When conceal matters!

PS30
6 round
belt slide

PS31
Speed Loader

PSS Series
Systems
Include...
Belt,
Mag Pouch,
Holster

PSSA
Holster

PSSDA
Holster

PS6 System 1

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

S&K SCOUT-MOUNT

No Drilling or Tapping!

The absolute best scope mount made for the Argentine 1891. Easy installation without modifications to your gun. Machined from solid bar stock & made in the USA. See

www.scopemounts.com

for a list of our other mounts & scopes.

Argentine 1891 Scope Mount

S&K

Scope Mounts

70 Swede Hollow Rd
Sugar Grove, PA 16350

800-578-9862

www.scopemounts.com



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

AMMUNITION

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

APPAREL

www.ABETTERBELTUSA.com
Top Quality ~ Better Prices
Dress Belts, Casual Belts
Concealed Carry, Competition
Handcrafted in Texas
281-703-7533 / 281-414-1110

AUCTIONS/SHOWS

BOOKS

New Book-The Reality of Armed Self-Defense (Surviving The Attack And The Aftermath) Easy reading, 115 pages, \$20 Postpaid
www.bobirwinbooks.com

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

COLLECTORS

EMBLEMS & INSIGNIA

FIREWORKS

FOR SALE

Maxarmory.com movie revolvers, autos, machine guns, stunguns, blank ammo, ID's, bodyarmor, CWP badges, spy cameras. Catalog \$3 PO 970057 Coconut Creek, FL 33097 1-877-332-2343

GUN PARTS

GUNS FOR SALE

GUNSMITHING

GUNSMITHING AT PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE. Two-year, hands-

on program; financial aid available; approved for GI Bill benefits; P.O. Box 1197, Roxboro, NC 27573; (336)599-1181; www.piedmontcc.edu

INSTRUCTION

KNIVES & SWORDS

FREE POCKET KNIVES. Collectibles, Bowies, Swords, Tacticals, And Much More. For More Information Visit Our Web Site And Click On The Featured Product For The Week.
www.dovadistributors.com

LEATHERCRAFT

MILITARIA

MILITARY SURPLUS

MISCELLANEOUS

OPTICS

POLICE EQUIPMENT

REAL ESTATE

SURVIVAL

VIDEOS

Find us on Facebook

GUNS MAGAZINE

facebook.com/gunsmagazine

THE OFFICIAL GUNS MAGAZINE FACEBOOK PAGE

- ISSUE PREVIEWS
- LATEST NEWS IN FIREARMS
- ONLINE EXCLUSIVES
- SPECIAL OFFERS
- NEW PRODUCTS AND MORE!

FMG PUBLICATIONS

facebook.com/gunsmagazine

LYING WOUNDED BEHIND COVER,

STRONG HAND INJURED AND USELESS.

A DOUBLE-FEED PISTOL MALFUNCTION

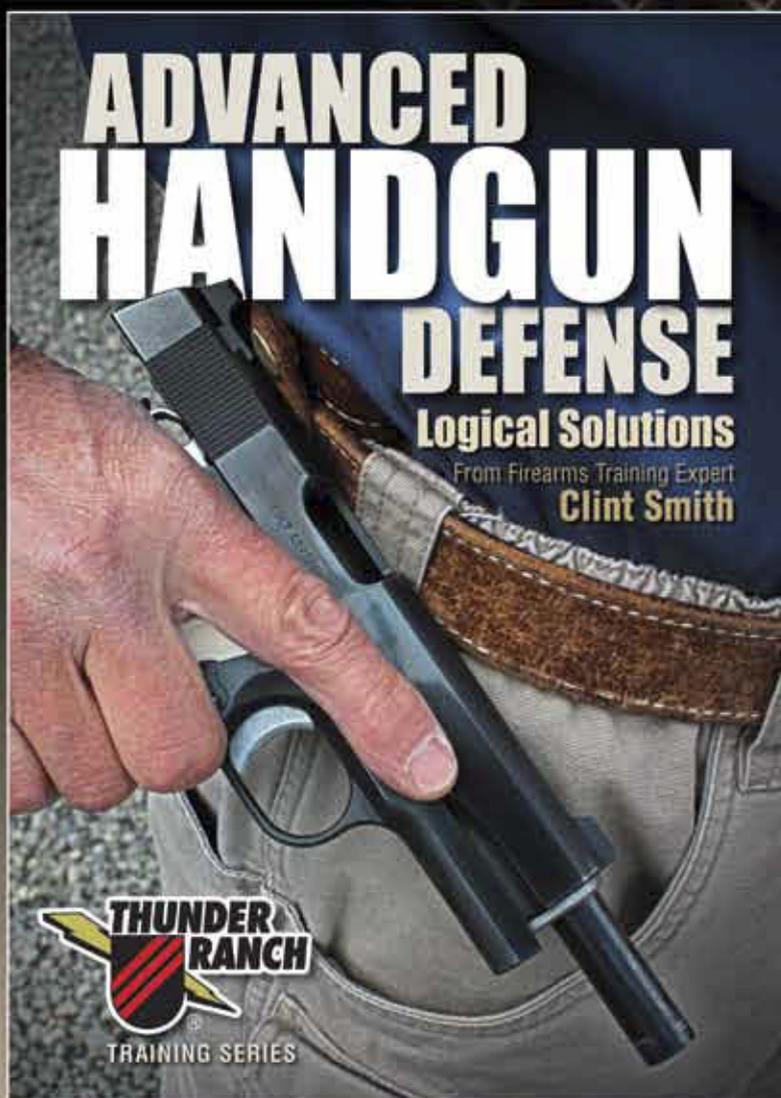
KEEPS YOU FROM FIGHTING BACK ...

ADVANCED HANDGUN DEFENSE

Logical Solutions

From Firearms Training Expert

Clint Smith



47 Video Chapters Include:

- Dealing With Multiple Threats
- Lateral Movement & Pivots
- Handgun Retention
- One-Handed Operation
- Pistol Malfunction Cures
- Effective Use Of Structures
- Fighting From The Ground
- And MUCH, MUCH More!



NOW WHAT?

“It’s hard to learn new skills in the middle of a gun fight.”

~Clint Smith

Clint Smith’s new Advanced Handgun Defense training DVD offers reliable solutions for when you’ll need them most.

This full-length video, filmed on location at Thunder Ranch in Oregon, includes one hour and 16 minutes of range demonstration and training methods.

Are you prepared to logically defend yourself with a handgun?

Order today and learn new skills — before you need them.

SALE PRICE:

SPECIAL
OFFER!
Save
\$14.95

\$35

Regular Price \$49.95

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

www.americanhandgunner.com/TRvids

Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery



Thunder Ranch Training Series videos are produced exclusively by FMG Publications.

MULTI-PLATFORM ATTACK RACK

US PALM

The Multi-Platform Attack Rack can accommodate up to five 30-round M4 magazines, five 20-round .308 magazines or any other combination of magazines and accessories you may need with a 2x14" MOLLE attachment spanning the exterior. There are two adjustable flap pouches as well. The large, zippered main pouch can accommodate extra magazines or other larger pieces of gear. Side-top seams split for a holster, radio pouch or knife carry. The bottom of the carrier allows access to the custom level IIIA soft armor panel, which is available for separate purchase. MOLLE attachments for a groin protector or dump pouch are located on the rear of carrier. Available in black, multicam, olive drab, ranger green, khaki and coyote. US Palm, (480) 398-3401, www.gunsmagazine.com/uspalm



OWB MAG CARRIERS

CROSSBREED HOLSTERS

CrossBreed's OWB Mag Carrier has been completely redesigned for better concealment and, most importantly, easier access to spare mags. With a cut-down backer, forward rake and more exposed magazine to grasp, reloads are swift and sure. Great retention ensures your mags stay put, and a high ride keeps them concealed under a light cover garment. The OWB Mag Carrier is available for carry of one or two spare mags, for all popular firearms. CrossBreed Holsters, (888) 732-5011, www.gunsmagazine.com/crossbreed-holsters



REAPER

SWENSON KNIVES

The Reaper is 15.25" OAL, with a 9.5" blade of cpm 3V steel. It is flat ground, with carbon fiber handle scales and stainless steel fittings, with a bead blast finish. The black, 8-ounce leather coffin-style sheath has various gear attachment points as well as a leg tie down tab. The eyelets allow for a shock cord to make the retention sheath even more secure. Swenson Knives, (210) 722-3227, www.gunsmagazine.com/swenson

P-22 RIFLESCOPES

NIKON

Nikon's new P-22 riflescopes are the rimfire-optimized variant of Nikon's growing line of precision optics for AR rifles. Designed for extreme sighting speed and superior accuracy from rimfire AR-platform rifles and .22 long rifle cartridges, the P-22 is offered in 2-7x32 with BDC 150 reticle or 2-7x32 with Nikoplex reticle and Nikon's Rapid Action Turret system. Positive, 1/4" MOA at 50 yards and tactical hand-turn reticle adjustments provide positive click feedback to get shooters on target with speed and confidence. Featuring fully multicoated optics for extreme brightness, the P-22 provides incredibly high light transmission for most light conditions. Nikon, (631) 547-4200, www.gunsmagazine.com/nikon



MICRO T-1 AND H-1 SIGHTS

AIMPOINT

Both the Micro T-1 and Micro H-1 sights are experiencing high demand from end-users, who understand the performance benefits a high-quality, compact, red-dot sight offers, as well as the fact these sights feature a dependable design that will not be affected by weather or severe environmental conditions. The sealed design of the Aimpoint Micro sight ensures no matter what the conditions, no foreign matter will ever come between the emitter and the lens, and this also makes the product absolutely waterproof to 25 meters. The Micro family of sights can be mounted on nearly any individual weapon platform, including pistols, carbines, personal-defense weapons and submachine guns, and the Micro T-1 is compatible with all generations of night vision devices. Aimpoint, (877) 246-7646, www.gunsmagazine.com/aimpoint



COMPACT LASER AND FLASHLIGHT COMBO

LEAPERS

Get the best of both worlds, by pinpointing your target with either a laser, a light or both to enhance your shooting accuracy. Robust and lightweight, this combo is only 1.58x1.96x3.58" in size, and is built to last with aircraft aluminum throughout. This laser and light combo is precision machined in one piece for maximum strength, and its hard anodized finish guarantees tough wear resistance. It is easy to operate with a 3-stage functional switch for different laser or light settings. The flashlight gives clear object identification, with its instant spot focus. Use the tactical laser sight to aim and instantly lock on targets. Combat rated quality for shock and water resistance. Leapers, (734) 542-1500, www.gunsmagazine.com/leapersinc



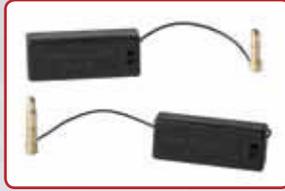
If you would like your product featured in GUNS Magazine's New Products, Contact: Jason Moreau (866) 903-1199.

For more New Products visit us online at www.gunsmagazine.com

.22 LR AND .17 HMR LASER BORESIGHT

SIGHTMARK

Sightmark is introducing its new .17 HMR and .22 LR laser boresights. Made for two popular rifle models, these boresights will help shooters have more enjoyment while shooting. Whether a hunter is changing out multiple scopes or a new shooter is learning at the range, the Sightmark .17 HMR and .22 LR boresights save frustration, and most importantly ammo. The Sightmark .22 LR and .17 HMR Laser Boresight provides the most convenient and accurate method for sighting in rifles. The Sightmark .17 HMR and .22 LR boresights are chambered like a regular bullet, so the laser dot will show exactly where the rifle is aiming, making it easy to sight in any scope without firing a single shot. Sightmark, (817) 225-0310, www.gunsmagazine.com/sightmark



KWICK CASE TRIMMER

POSSUM HOLLOW PRODUCTS

While this compact product allows case trimming to be done by hand, if you have a large number of cases to be trimmed Possum Hollow Products recommends coupling the Kwick Case Trimmer with their Power Adapter. The power adapter will allow the user to chuck the Kwick Case Trimmer into an electric drill, and speed up the trimming process. The Kwick Case Trimmer differs from other trimmers in that it indexes from the datum of the cartridge case shoulder in the same manner as a headspace gauge. This eliminates the need for both shellholders, pilots and it speeds up the process. Possum Hollow Products, (260) 782-0735, www.gunsmagazine.com/possum-hollow



SPECIAL PURPOSE INFRARED LED ILLUMINATOR

LASER DEVICES

The Special Purpose Infrared LED Illuminator, or SPIR, is equipped with an eye-safe, class-1 infrared LED illuminator. Designed for use with night vision devices, the SPIR can be handheld, or mounted to any MIL-STD-1913 rail using the self-adjusting, quick release HT mount. The SPIR is housed in a rugged, snap-release end cap for quick and easy battery changes. Variable beam adjustment from 2 to 30 degrees provides an eye-safe means of illuminating distances up to 800 meters. Superior beam quality significantly enhances night vision performance with no wash out. Laser Devices, (800) 235-2162, www.gunsmagazine.com/laser-devices



FRED EICHLER SERIES PREDATOR .223 RIFLE

ROCK RIVER ARMS, INC.

Rock River Arms, Inc. introduces the Fred Eichler Series Predator .223 Rifle, representing further growth in RRA's expanding line of high-performance hunting firearms. The Fred Eichler Series Rifle was strategically designed to be lightweight for running and gunning. The 16" mid-length, stainless steel barrel has been cryogenically treated to increase the shooter's accuracy, and aids in cleaning the firearm. The RRA free-float handguard has a full-length Picatinny top rail and 2.5" rails at 3, 6 and 9 o'clock for lights, lasers and bi-pods.



The unique CNC coyote-track design adds functionality and flare as it helps dissipate heat. The forged A4 upper flattop allows attachments for scopes, night vision and red-dot sights. The rifle is equipped with a chromed RRA National Match 2-stage trigger, with a Parkerized non-reflective surface on the trigger shoe. Rock River Arms, Inc., (866) 980-7625, www.gunsmagazine.com/rock-river-arms

JP SILENT CAPTURED SPRING

JP ENTERPRISES

The JP Silent Captured Spring is a refined, drop-in replacement for standard buffers and springs, which eliminates the harsh rasping sound typical of ARs while cycling. The JPSCS also dramatically reduces operating system friction, making the rifle much smoother and more efficient during live fire. Available for both large-frame and small-frame rifles with either full-length or carbine stocks. JP Enterprises, (651) 426-9196, www.gunsmagazine.com/jp-enterprises-inc



JUGGERMOUNT

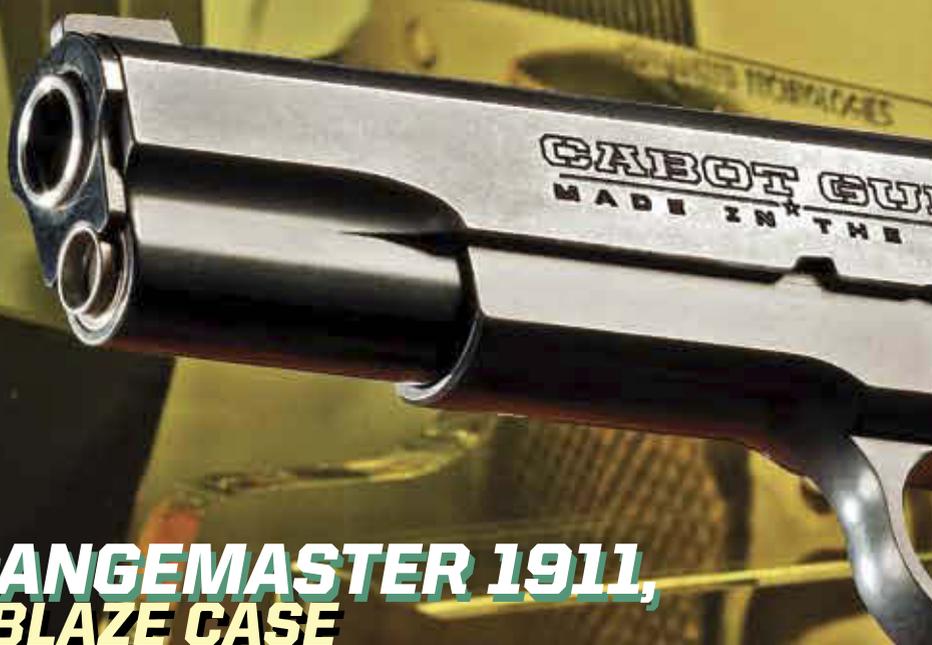
JUGGERNAUT TACTICAL

The Juggernaut allows the shooter to mount almost any of the major mini-red dot systems (MRDS) straight to your scope tube on any 30mm, 34mm and 1" scopes. The Juggernaut can be mounted in more than a dozen different configurations, making it the most versatile MRDS mount on the market. Juggernaut Tactical, (909) 684-5822, www.gunsmagazine.com/juggernaut-tactical



ENTER TO WIN!

GUNS MAGAZINE'S GUN OF THE MONTH GIVEAWAY



CABOT GUNS RANGEMASTER 1911, TECHNOFRAMES BLAZE CASE AND SILENT SOLDIER SSV2 KNIFE!

Cabot Guns represent an innovative class of 1911 construction; they are made by Penn United Technologies, perhaps the world's most sophisticated precision metal component maker. The Rangemaster is a National Match-grade pistol designed to deliver straight-up performance with minimal embellishment. A variety of grips are offered with this model and it is 100-percent American made.

To carry your 1911, use this standard issue BLAZE Case by Technoframes. It features a custom acrylic cutout, tailor made to fit a standard-size 1911. A second cutout in the interior acrylic layer is designed to securely store the magazine, which must be removed from the handgun in order to utilize the dummy-mag insertion system.

This prize package also contains the new Silent Soldier model called The SSV2. Changes include a clip-point cutting edge, bigger finger holes and a 2-tone beadblast/satin finish. It's a multi-purpose, high quality, portable knife that can be carried in a variety of ways. The design allows for the knife to serve as a self-defense weapon in which you hold the knife as you would a brass knuckle with the blade sticking forward or another option out in a reverse grip. Still made from 1/4"-thick D2 tool steel, it comes with a Kydex sheath and with 2-1/2' of 1/8" ball chain and a latch.

All this can be yours for free. You have to enter to win, so send in those postcards or enter online at www.gunsmagazine.com/giveaway.

TOTAL VALUE: \$5,299!

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

PHOTO: ROBBIE BARRKMAN

BLAZE CASE

MAKER: TECHNOFRAMES
P.O. BOX 1067, MANCHESTER, NH 03101
(866) 246-1095
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/TECHNOFRAMES

WIGHT: 6.8 pounds, SIZE: 13.2" H x 11" L x 2.95" D, PRICE: \$250



SSV2

BROUS BLADES
JASON BROUS
5940 MATTHEWS ST.
GOLETA, CA 93117
(805) 717-7192
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/BROUS-BLADES

BLADE MATERIAL: D2 tool steel,
BLADE LENGTH: 2", OVERALL
LENGTH: 4.3", SHEATH: Kydex,
PRICE: \$99



RANGEMASTER 1911

MAKER: CABOT GUNS
799 N. PIKE RD., CABOT, PA 16023
(855) 243-1911
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/CABOT-GUNS

ACTION TYPE: Semi-auto, CALIBER: .45
ACP, BARREL LENGTH: 5", WEIGHT: 40
ounces w/ empty mag, FINISH: Semi-
polished bright blueing, SIGHTS: 3 dot,
GRIPS: Pachmayr American Legend,
PRICE: \$4,950

This contest is open to individuals who are residents of the United States and its territories only. Agents and employees of Publishers Development Corporation and their families are excluded from entering. Contest void where prohibited or restricted by law. Winners must meet all local laws and regulations. Taxes and compliance with firearms regulations will be the responsibility of the winners. Winners will be notified by CERTIFIED MAIL on official letterhead. ATTENTION DEPLOYED MILITARY: USE STATESIDE ADDRESS! No purchase necessary to enter. Firearms may have been used in a gun test. All firearms have full factory warranties.

TO ENTER CONTEST

TO ENTER CONTEST: PLEASE USE YOUR OWN POSTCARD (NO ENVELOPES, PLEASE)

Follow sample card below. Mail postcard to:
GUNS Magazine, GOM JULY
P.O. BOX 502795, San Diego, CA 92150-2795.
Entries must be received before **AUGUST 1, 2012**.
Limit one entry per household.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH: Do you plan on obtaining a Concealed Carry Permit (CCW)?

- (A) I already obtained a CCW.
- (B) My State makes it too challenging to obtain one.
- (C) I am currently in the process of getting a CCW.
- (D) I have no interest in obtaining a CCW.

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

CIRCLE ANSWER(S) TO QUESTION OF THE MONTH JULY 2012:
 (A) (B) (C) (D)

IF I WIN, SHIP MY PRIZE THROUGH:
 FFL Dealer _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone # (____) _____
 Store Hours: _____ a.m. thru _____ p.m.
Attention Deployed Military: USE STATESIDE ADDRESS!

SAMPLE ONLY

INSTANT ACCESS!

SCAN OUR QUICK RESPONSE CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE.



ODD ANGRY SHOT

STORY: John Connor

“ONE MAN WITH COURAGE IS A MAJORITY”

The story of Jonathan Davis.

December 19, 1854 was a cold day in California’s Sierra Nevada Mountains. Three prospectors carefully traversed a rough trail in aptly named Rocky Canyon in El Dorado County, near the North Fork of the American River. Unknown to them, 14 heavily armed bandits lay in ambush ahead. Unknown to both parties, three miners watched from a nearby hilltop. They were about to become witnesses to what historian John Boessenecker calls, “The single most extraordinary feat of self-defense by an American civilian in the annals of frontier history.”

Jonathan R. Davis was born in Monticello, S.C. in 1816. Following his education at the University of South Carolina, he enlisted in the Palmetto Regiment of Volunteers and was quickly promoted to lieutenant. Davis fought with distinction in several battles in the Mexican War. He was wounded at Churubusco in 1847, along with over 1,100 other American casualties. In those days, simply surviving one’s wounds and the inevitable infections was too much for all but the toughest of men. Jonathan Davis proved to be made of boot leather and barbed wire—a tough man indeed.

Davis mustered out of the Army in 1848 with the honorary rank of captain, and, along with hundreds of other veterans, cast adrift after the war; he later headed for the gold fields of California. There, his soldierly demeanor, skills with arms and unblemished character earned the respect of his fellow prospectors. He was known as a superior marksman, and described by a friend as “second to none in the state as a fencer.” He was never seen without his two Colts and a big Bowie knife.

The Gold Rush drew dreamers, dilettantes and desperadoes from all nations, either to seek their fortunes in the streambeds and hills, or to prey upon those who did. Since most

honest prospectors were armed and determined, the predators frequently formed murderous gangs and operated by raid and ambush. One such



Bronze of Jonathan Davis, by Michael Trcic

gang was made up of two Americans, five Australians, two Britons, four Mexicans, and a Frenchman. In just the two days previous to December 19, they had robbed and murdered six Chinese and four Americans. Ambushing three men in a lonely canyon must have seemed like plucking flowers. But one of those men had never been anybody’s daisy.

Ambushing The Wrong Party

As Davis, his good friend Doctor Bolivar Sparks, and James McDonald picked their way along the trail, all 14 bandits leaped from cover and opened fire. McDonald was killed instantly, dropped before he could even pull his revolver. Dr. Sparks got off two shots as he fell, his fire apparently going wild.

Jonathan Davis drew his Colts and commenced firing until they ran dry. It is unknown if any of his slugs missed, but when the firestorm ended, seven of his attackers lay dead or dying, and the rest had also run out of ammo.

The fight wasn’t over. Four of the bandits charged, one with a short sword, the other three with knives. Davis drew his Bowie and engaged. In seconds, he had killed three and grievously injured the gang’s leader, among other wounds, cutting off his nose and a finger. The three surviving bandits ran for their lives. And those three miners on the hilltop saw it all.

Davis had suffered two flesh wounds, but he immediately began tearing strips from his shirt and bandaging not only his good friend Dr. Sparks, but also three mortally wounded but still breathing bandits, trying to save their lives as well. He won, they had lost, and as the victor, mercy was his duty to give.

When the witnesses came running up the trail, Davis leaped to McDonald’s body, grabbed his loaded revolver and shouted “Halt!” John Webster, Isaac Hart and P.S. Robertson identified themselves and explained they had been out hunting game and had seen the entire fight. They assisted Davis in tending the wounded, then returned to their camp, bringing back

EO Tech
Holo-Graphic Weapon Sights

Complete
tactical offering
at grafs.com

Holographic Sights

XPS3-0
EOXPS30
\$569.99



OVER 20,000 PRODUCTS
to meet your shooting needs!

- reloading tools & components •
- ammo • optics & more •

One flat fee of \$7.95 (\$5.95 online)
gets the order to your door!



**Graf &
Sons,
Inc.**

800-531-2666
www.grafs.com

GET YOUR GUNS GEAR!



Team GUNS Collector Pin

It's colorful, it looks expensive, but any cheapskate can afford it and someday it might be worth what you paid for it.

(Actual size: 3/4" x 5/8")

\$3.50 each

(Price includes shipping)

ORDER TODAY!
Call Toll-Free
800-628-9818
Order at
www.gunsmagazine.com

15 others to witness the bloody scene and help dig graves.

As the sun went down, three wounded bandits died. The noseless leader confessed to his gang's 10 murders on the 17th and 18th. He died the following day. One of the miners counted six bullet holes in Jonathan Davis's hat and 11 more through his shirt and coat. The bandits' bodies yielded \$491 in gold and silver coins, nine watches (two silver and seven gold), and 4 ounces of gold dust. Davis informed the group that Dr. Sparks, who was still clinging to life, had a home and family in Coloma; he urged that all the ill-gotten plunder should go to Dr. Sparks'. They agreed.

The Aftermath

The next day, all the dead were buried. Being law-abiding men, the group formed a coroner's jury, wrote out a report of the incident, citing all evidence and witnesses statements, and concluded Davis's party acted in self-defense. Seventeen of them signed it and it was sent to Placerville, the county seat. Davis carried his friend Bolivar Sparks to his home in Coloma, where the doctor passed away on December 26th.

In the months following, many people expressed doubt about Davis's deed, and city folk proclaimed it wild exaggeration. Davis sought neither publicity nor notoriety, but was stung by the challenges to his honor, and felt it was disrespectful to his dead friends. Finally, Davis and the witnesses appeared before Judge R.M. Anderson and a court of inquiry, where detailed depositions and comparisons of statements set the matter to rest.

Jonathan Davis said, "I did only what hundreds of others might have done under similar circumstances, and attach no particular credit to myself for it." Indeed, hundreds of others might have—but would they have done it so well?

Special Thanks To:

Michael Tric, gifted sculptor and longtime GUNS reader: Mike's prodigious talents can be seen at Tric Studio in Sedona, Ariz., and at www.tricstudio.com. His striking bronze of Jonathan Davis bears the quote by Thomas Jefferson: "One Man with Courage is a Majority"—a perfect choice.

John Boessenecker, noted frontier historian and prolific author: Without his probing, scholarly research the Jonathan Davis story and many others might never have been brought back to light.

GUNS



NO.1 SOURCE

**No-Gunsmithing Scope Mounts,
Optics, and Shooting Accessories**

NO-GUNSMITHING SCOPE MOUNTS



- AK-47
- Benelli
- Browning
- Colt
- FN-FAL
- H&K
- IZH
- Marlin
- Mauser
- Remington
- Rossi
- Ruger
- Savage Arms
- SKS
- Smith & Wesson
- Springfield
- Winchester

OPTICS



- Prismatic Sights
- Rifle Scopes
- Pistol Scopes
- Tactical Optics
- Airgun Scopes
- Electronic Dot Sights
- Illuminator/Laser
- Tri-Rail Scopes
- Reflex Sights
- Magnifiers
- Binoculars
- Spotting Scopes

SHOOTING ACCESSORIES



- Bipods
- Sling Swivels
- Adapters
- Gunsmith Tools
- Airgun Rings
- .22 Rings
- Adjustable Rings
- Fore End Grips
- Tactical Flashlights
- Standard Dovetail Rings

*All Sun Optics USA products carry our
Limited Lifetime Replacement Warranty*



817-783-6001/6433
info@sunopticsusa.com
www.sunopticsusa.com

GUNS

MAGAZINE

JULY 2012

ADVERTISER'S INDEX

The companies listed have featured advertisements in this issue. Look to them first when you are ready to make a purchase.

| ADVERTISER | PAGE |
|--------------------------|------|
| Ambush Firearms | 77 |
| Benchmade Knife Company | 12 |
| Benelli USA | 3 |
| BLACKHAWK! | 13 |
| Bond Arms | 73 |
| Burger Knives | 66 |
| Colt Defense | 57 |
| Colt's Manufacturing | 7 |
| CrossBreed Holster LLC | 72 |
| Daniel Defense | C2 |
| DeSantis Holster | 50 |
| Elite Sports Express | 88 |
| European American Armory | 30 |
| FenixLight Limited | 35 |

| ADVERTISER | PAGE |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Fiocchi Ammunition | C3 |
| Fort Knox Security | 66 |
| G-96 Products | 56 |
| Glock | 29 |
| Graf & Sons | 87 |
| Helvetica Trading USA LLC | 15 |
| High Standard | 42 |
| HiViz Shooting Systems | 70 |
| Hornady Manufacturing Inc. | 65 |
| Hot Caliber | 11 |
| Howard Leight by Honeywell | C4 |
| ITT Corp. | 21 |
| Iver Johnson | 42 |
| Jantz Supply | 67 |
| Junior Shooters | 72 |
| Kahr Arms | 18 |
| Kimber Manufacturing Inc. | 19 |
| Kirkpatrick Leather Company | 56 |
| Kwik-Site Co. | 64, 76, 78 |
| Lancer Systems | 37 |
| Laser Devices Inc. | 39 |
| Leupold Tactical Optics | 43 |
| Lewis Machine & Tool | 26 |
| Mag-na-port International Inc. | 22 |

| ADVERTISER | PAGE |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Magpul Industries Corp. | 17 |
| Maxpedition Hard-Use Gear | 31 |
| Mitchell's Mausers | 71 |
| MTM Case-Gard | 9 |
| Outlawbidder.com | 33 |
| PrOlix | 73 |
| Rock River Arms | 11 |
| Savage Arms | 25 |
| SIG SAUER | 63 |
| Smith & Wesson | 51, 75 |
| SOG Specialty Knives | 38 |
| Spartan Blades | 70 |
| Springfield Inc. | 23, 69 |
| Steelcutter Publishing | 30 |
| Streamlight Inc. | 22 |
| Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc. | 27 |
| Sun Optics USA | 87 |
| SureFire | 79 |
| Thunder Ranch Training DVDs | 81 |
| TOPS KNIVES | 62 |
| Versacarry | 68 |
| XS Sight Systems | 50 |

ELITE SPORTS EXPRESS

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

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

Find us on Facebook

AMERICAN HANDGUNNER

facebook

- ISSUE PREVIEWS
- LATEST NEWS IN FIREARMS
- ONLINE EXCLUSIVES
- SPECIAL OFFERS
- NEW PRODUCTS AND MORE!

FMG PUBLICATIONS

facebook.com/americanhandgunner

to get the hammer; in fact, I did talk to the guys about the significance of that hammer. I go into Buckhorn several times a week; every time I did, I always looked at it, but never succumbed to temptation to buy it. I finally decided to take the plunge, went back to the shop, looked in the case, and it was gone!

However, then something happened which proves once again it pays to live right, or at least try to do so. I stood there stunned as I was presented with the King hammer. The fellow who purchased the .38 Special Colt did not like the "funny looking" hammer, so Matt replaced it with a period-correct hammer and told the boys to give the King hammer to me. I immediately put Diamond Dot to work making some extra cookies for them! One of my most cherished Colts is an early 2nd Generation .44 Special with faded case colors, bluing worn on the ejector rod housing, barrel cut to 4-3/4", and 1-piece Pau Ferro stocks which my friend Tony crafted more than 40 years ago. The King hammer dropped in perfectly, and the action functioned flawlessly.

I am not a child of the Great Depression, though my parents were and I did learn to save things. One never knows when a part will be needed. I can't remember when I first encountered the phrase Parts Box but I am sure it was in the early writings of Skeeter Skelton. Skeeter often wrote of building custom Colt Single Actions using parts he had on hand, and his fictional character Dobe Grant had a huge supply of brand new Colt parts including every conceivable barrel and the cylinder. I paid attention and started assembling my own Parts Box. Gun Shows are more than shows for guns; parts are normally abundant and it is not too difficult to find something at a reasonable price, which can be squirreled away to be used by someone someday. I've never owned a Smith & Wesson pre-War Registered .357 Magnum and, at today's prices, I probably never will. Nevertheless, at the last gun show I attended, what should I find but an original 8-3/4" Registered Magnum barrel. It is now in my Barrel & Cylinder Parts Box waiting on the right time to build a custom Smith & Wesson.

Plenty Of Parts

More than 40 years ago, I picked up a 7-1/2" Great Western .45 Colt barrel at a gun show for \$5. I had no idea what I would ever use it for, then



King, or at least King-style, hammers on 2nd Generation Colt .44 Specials.

a few years ago I also bought a shot-out Great Western, which had been used as a movie gun; it was rebuilt using that barrel. Over the years, I've tried to accumulate all kinds of parts for single actions and I actually have several "Parts Boxes." One has nothing but single-action parts while another has screws and sights. An antique library file card box (which Diamond Dot found in Montana and had one of her truck driver clients deliver to us) takes up a large space in our living room and contains dozens of drawers, each filled with grips/stocks of all kinds I accumulated for over a half century. It is a rare sixgun I cannot find a pair of replacement grips for, and I have been able to rescue several friends who needed hard to find grips.

Over the past several decades, I try to pick up Colt Single Action barrels and cylinders whenever I can find them at a bargain price. I swapped some books to my friend gunsmith Jim Martin for three Colt barrels. One, a 12" Buntline, now resides on a Great Western .44 Special. When our oldest local gun store, Shapel's, went out of business after the death of both the father and the son, I purchased several Colt cylinders as well as all of their 3rd Generation New Frontier barrels. Now what in the world is one going to do with a good supply of New Frontier barrels? It just so happens the 3rd Generation New Frontier barrels have the same thread pattern as the frames on Ruger Blackhawks. Are you with me? Using those barrels, I had Old Model .357 Blackhawks turned into a 7-1/2" .45 Colt, a 7-1/2".44-40, a 5-1/2" .44 Special, and a 4-3/4" .44-40/.44 Special. Those barrels mate up perfectly with Three-Screw Ruger frames. Two different fellows sent me

older Ruger .44 Magnum barrels from the original .44 Magnum Flat-Top of the 1950s. One was cut to 5-1/2" and went on a Three-Screw .357 Blackhawk turned into a .44 Special; the other, cut to 4-5/8", turned a 50th anniversary Ruger .44 Magnum Blackhawk into a Perfect Packin' Pistol.

Bargain Shopper!

Sometimes parts are purchased simply for the reason they are bargains, even though it's impossible to see any use for them at the time. One such purchase was a 4" Smith & Wesson Model 629 .44 Magnum barrel. But what to ever use it for? Well, it just so happened a good friend of mine who is LEO in South Texas needed one for a special project, so I was able to give it to him. A few weeks ago, Tory at Buckhorn found and gave me a 7-1/2" .357 Atomic Great Western barrel. Now there aren't many .357 Atomics around, but guess what? I have a 5-1/2" version, which craves that longer barrel. I'm not much of a gunsmith but several friends have come to me with replica single actions that would not work; I was able to reach into my Parts Box and find the spring they needed to put their sixguns back in action. Brownells carries a full line of parts and I try to keep springs for both Colt Single Actions and Smith & Wesson double actions on hand.

The coveted King hammer was not my first, as several years ago a gunsmith in the Midwest sent me one; it also dropped perfectly into a 2nd Generation Colt .44 Special. There is a gun show this weekend; I wonder what parts I can find. I'm still searching for a 3rd Generation Colt New Frontier .357 Magnum barrel. Maybe, just maybe....

GUNS

CAMPFIRE TALES

BY JOHN TAFFIN

PARTS IS PARTS

Gun writers have to follow the same rules as everyone else, which means either have an FFL or know someone with who'll our test guns. For me, that someone is Buckhorn Gun & Pawn. There is a wonderful crew at Buckhorn, and we have all become good friends over the past 5 years or so. I've talked in the past about the gunsmiths and the excellent work they do. I usually have at least one or two guns being worked on there and I never take advantage of them by trying to get things done in a hurry, yet I know if I need something right away they will do everything they can to help out. The owner of Buckhorn, Matt—actually co-owner, as I think his beautiful wife who was just elected to the State Legislature is the real power—is a fellow I trust completely and always recommend when folks are looking to sell guns or even find out what they are worth. My wife helps out and keeps all the Buckhorn guys in baked goods.



Colt barrels from the Parts Box are now found on a 12" Buntline Special Great Western .44 (top) and Ruger .44-40 (bottom); middle sixgun is restored Great Western with a \$5 gun show barrel.

One of the neatest things about Buckhorn is the fact Matt really appreciates old Colt Single Actions; he often buys and sells them on the Internet, and there are always several to be found in one of the store's display cases. About 3 weeks ago, my eyes were immediately drawn to an old 7-1/2" Single Action Army on display. It was a 1st Generation, which had been fitted with a 2nd Generation .38 Special cylinder and barrel; it also had very attractive stag stocks. However, what really caught my eye was the hammer. So, what could be special about a Colt Single Action Army hammer? This one was not the traditional upswept hammer found on thousands of Single Actions, but rather was of the low-wide Target-style.

From the time after World War I until the early 1950s, King Gun Works was the premier supplier of custom parts for handguns. King accomplished all kinds of wonderful transformations, especially on Colt and Smith & Wesson revolvers including custom sights, ribbed barrels, short actions and special hammers. Much of what they did was eventually incorporated into Colt and Smith & Wesson factory models. One of Elmer Keith's .44 Special sixguns (on display in the Elmer Keith Museum) is a custom King job, complete with short action, barrel band front sight, adjustable rear sight and low-wide hammer. I dreamed and internally drooled over pictures of that gun for over 35 years, until I was actually able to handle it and then place it in the museum just where I wanted it to be.

King Hammer

Now, the sixgun before me at Buckhorn had what appeared to be a King hammer. While I wasn't in the market for a .38 Special Single Action, I was sorely tempted to buy that sixgun just

continued on page 89

COWBOY UP!

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



Cowboy Loads

SINCE 1876



FIOCCHI
A M M U N I T I O N

For the Fiocchi dealer near you, CALL 417.449.1043 / visit www.fiocchiusa.com



From the makers of Impact[®] Sport
IMPACT[®] PRO

- Amplifies communication on range
- Noise Reduction Rating 30
- New electronic earmuff



NRR 30

Protect More

Hearing loss can occur with exposure over 90 dB

How loud is your favorite handgun?

- .22 Magnum – peak noise level 157 dB
- .38 Revolver – peak noise level 161 dB
- .38 Pistol – peak noise level 163 dB
- .357 Revolver – peak noise level 161 dB

HOWARD
LEIGHT 

For more information call 866.786.2353

© 2012 Honeywell International Inc.

by Honeywell