



**RIGHTS WATCH:
STAND YOUR GROUND!**

GUNS
MAGAZINE

GUNS

®
\$4.95
OUTSIDE U.S.
\$7.95
AUGUST
2012



**SLIM 9
BERETTA NANO**

**PUCKET
9x19mm**



**AFFORDABLE
DEFENSE**

- FMK 91C GEN 2 9MM
- SAIGA-12 AK-STYLE 12-GAUGE SHOTGUN

**NEW COLUMN!
SHOOTER'S EDGE**

**HANDLOADS:
9MM LUGER**

**WEATHERBY VANGUARD
SERIES 2 .240 WBY MAG**

LONG-RANGE SHOOTING

- SHOOTER'S BASH TACTICAL MATCH
- WWII SNIPER RIFLES AXIS & ALLIES



H O R N E T

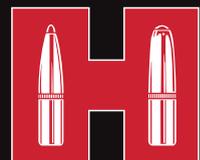
STING 'EM WITH THE NEW 17 HORNET

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.®

Item #	Description	Velocity (ft/sec) / Trajectory (inches)				
		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

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



RASCAL
SAVAGEARMS.COM

GUNS

MAGAZINE

AUGUST 2012

Vol. 58, Number 8, 679th Issue

GUN GIVEAWAY PACKAGE!



84 YOU CAN WIN THIS GLOCK 34 GEN 4 AND MORE!



74 THE .223 MAY BE THE RIFLEMAN'S MOST VALUABLE TOOL.



32
FMK 91C GEN 2



26
GENERAL KALASHNIKOV'S SHOTGUN

COLUMNS

6 CROSSFIRE
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

8 OPTICS
JACOB GOTTFREDSON

14 MONTANA MUSINGS
MIKE "DUKE" VENTURINO

16 HANDLOADING
JOHN BARSNESS

20 HANDGUNS
MASSAD AYOUB

22 GUNSMITHING
HAMILTON S. BOWEN

26 SHOTGUNNER
HOLT BODINSON

30 RIFLEMAN
DAVE ANDERSON

64 KNIVES
PAT COVERT

66 VIEWS, NEWS & REVIEWS
RIGHTS WATCH: DAVID CODREA

74 SHOOTER'S EDGE **NEW**
DAVE ANDERSON

SPONSORED BY
BROWNELLS
SELECTION. SERVICE. SATISFACTION.™

86 ODD ANGRY SHOT
JOHN CONNOR

90 CAMPFIRE TALES
JOHN TAFFIN

DEPARTMENTS

32 OUT OF THE BOX™
FMK 91C GEN 2
MIKE CUMPSTON

36 SURPLUS LOCKER™
THE FIRST SURPLUS
AMERICAN ARM?
HOLT BODINSON

41 QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
JEFF JOHN

69 WEBSITE SHOWCASE

76 QUARTERMASTER
Featuring GUNS All-stars!
THIS MONTH:
JOHN CONNOR

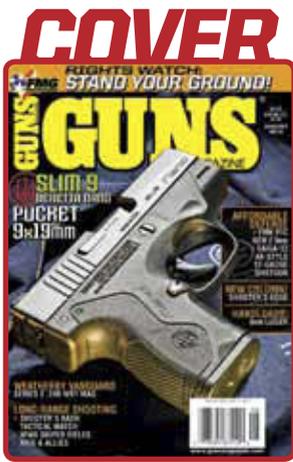
80 NEW PRODUCTS

82 GUNS CLASSIFIEDS

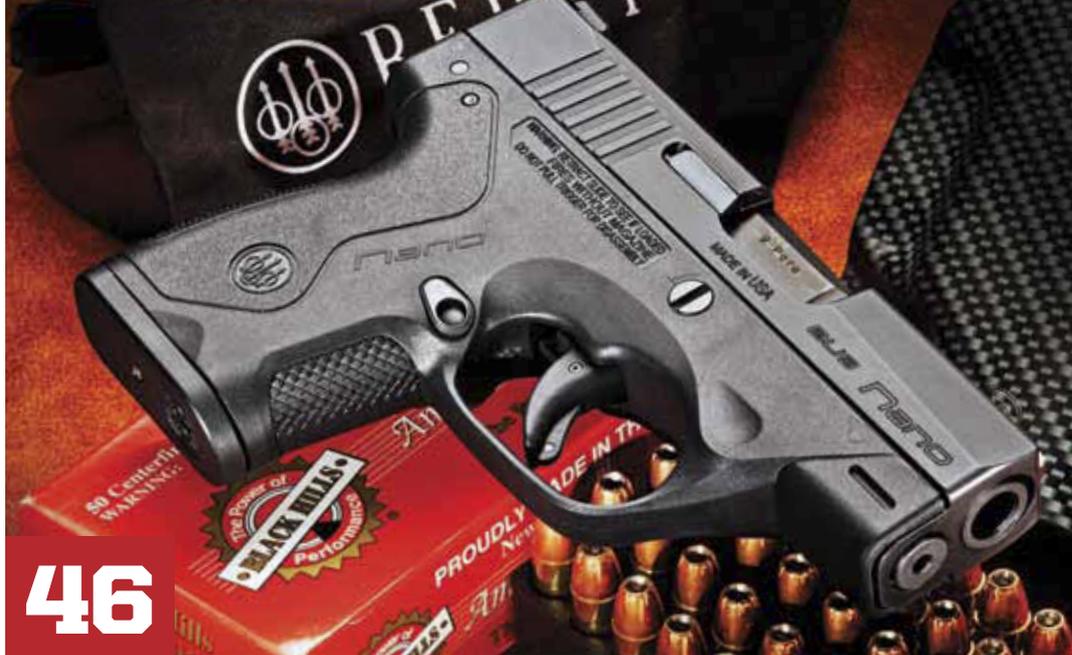
82 CUSTOM CORNER

84 GUN OF THE MONTH

88 ADVERTISER INDEX



THE "SLIM 9"
NANO 9MM



46

FEATURES

42 PRONGHORN RIFLES
Don't be fooled by the many enduring myths.
JOHN BARSNESS

46 THE "SLIM 9" NANO
The latest 9mm pocket pistol from Beretta has some unique features.
MASSAD AYOOB

54 SHOOTER'S BASH 2011
A tactical match at Rifles Only.
JACOB GOTTFREDSON

60 SNIPER RIFLE MANIA
The collection tops 14, and counting.
MIKE "DUKE" VENTURINO



42

PRONGHORN RIFLES

NEW ONLINE EXTRAS!
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM

Online Feature!
SIG TACOPS
EVOLUTION OF THE SIG SAUER P226
TODD BURGREN

EXCLUSIVE ONLINE MANUFACTURERS PRODUCT INDEX:

www.gunsmagazine.com/product-index



54

SHOOTER'S BASH 2011

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® 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

Madsen Rifle

About 1967, I was a fairly new member of the NRA, and my deer rifle of choice was an Enfield .303 jungle carbine. If my memory serves me correctly, gun companies were advertising firearms for sale in the back of the *American Rifleman*. One such company, Hunters Lodge, was advertising what they called a Danish Paratrooper Carbine, (Madsen Model 47). It was chambered in .30-06 and cost \$54, and for a few dollars more, it came with a bayonet.

Being a teenager still in school with a part-time job, I didn't have the needed funds for another rifle, so the decision was made to sell my Enfield and send a money order for this new rifle. Background checks and 10-day waiting periods were unheard of in the "good ol' days"! Having no regrets about buying the Madsen but still feeling bad about selling my jungle carbine and missing the look and feel of the only gun I ever sold, I bought another years later.

My deer hunting days are over, and I still have all my deer tags to prove it. But it's always great fun to have family and friends over to target shoot the Madsen 47, as well as my other guns collected over the years.

*Douglas Steven
El Dorado, Calif.*

Breath Control

In Massad Ayoob's article about breath control in the April issue, he discussed the most common method of breath control when shooting: take a deep breath and let about half out and hold it, then make your shot.

Years ago, in my first attempt at competitive shooting, my team captain suggested a way that proved to be better for me: take a full breath and exhale until just before starting to inhale again. Then hold and make your shot.

Try this: sit in a chair with your back upright, but not touching the chair. While focusing on your torso, take a full breath, let part of it out and then hold your breath for a second or two,

then continue exhaling to where you would be able to inhale and hold. You should feel your bones taking more of your torso's weight at the end of the full (but not forced) exhale. That means less muscle tension.

For plinking it doesn't make much difference how you breathe, but when you are trying to hit the "X" every shot, the full exhale and hold might give you a better chance of doing so.

Mr. Ayoob also mentioned that some people recommend shooting between heartbeats. Olympic biathletes learn to slow their heart rate while shooting. Long ago, I read a book about them and learned to slow my heart rate 10 to 12 beats per minute from my usual rate—that made it a lot easier to shoot between heartbeats.

*Scott
Yuma, Ariz.*

About-Face

Regarding my letter in the April issue, I've made an about-face, and thank you very much. Your June issue just arrived and is chock full of wood. Couldn't even find one article on ARs, MTVs or XK-whatever you want to call them machinist-on-meth aluminum/polymer/steel bamboozles some call rifles.

Of particular interest was the article on Model 12 shotguns. However, I didn't see any reference to the fact that next to Roosevelt's favorite Winchester Model 1895, was his Model 12. He even carried it to Africa on his safaris. I have two of them I'll keep forever.

Salute on the June issue of *GUNS*. Keep the wood in there and I'll stay there too.

*Bill Gilmore
Three Lakes, Wis.*

Faux Free

Please tell Duke I enjoy his work a lot, but not all of us who read his articles are yuppies. The use of the word "faux" over and over again gave me a migraine.

*Steve Burch
Eloy, Ariz.*

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

Photography Assistant Jade Moldé

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



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



Special Editions

fmgpublications.com



Editor: Sammy Reese

Advertising: Scott McGregor, 800.553.7780

email: scott@gunsmagazine.com

ONLINE ADVERTISING MANAGER: Tracy Moore,

TEL: 888.651.7566, FAX 858.605.0205

tracy@fmgpublications.com

NATIONAL ADVERTISING: 12345 World Trade Dr.,

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

anita@shootingindustry.com

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING: Lori Robbins,

TEL: 800.633.8001, FAX 858.605.0247,

classads@fmgpublications.com

FMG EAST COAST SALES: Sig Buchmayr, Buchmayr &

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

TEL: 203.662.9740, sigbuch@optonline.net

CUSTOMER SERVICE

www.gunsmagazine.com

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES 858.605.0252

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

EDITORIAL 858.605.0243

Email: ed@gunsmagazine.com

PRODUCTION 858.605.0216

Email: production@gunsmagazine.com

BOOKS/MERCHANDISE 888.732.2299

Email: lori@fmgpublications.com

General Counsel/Legal Affairs: Steele N. Gillaspay

Email: sng@g-glaw.com



PRODUCED IN THE U.S.A.

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!

EMP™

ENHANCED MICRO PISTOL



**COMFORT CAN BE POWERFUL
AVAILABLE IN 9MM & .40CAL.**

WWW.SPRINGFIELDARMORY.COM

800.680.6866

OPTICS

STORY: Jacob Gottfredson

ELITE TACTICAL RIFLESCOPE

Bushnell's new DMR 3.5-21x50mm.

Bushnell has entered the tactical market, and the result is surprisingly good. From the massive bubble-wrapped genre to the rigors of an upscale tactical rifle scope, is this a leap of faith or a change in the manufacturer's direction?

I reported some months ago on Bushnell's new Legend Ultra HD binocular. It is a fine piece of glass and goes well with my favorite carry laser rangefinder, which Bushnell also calls the Legend.

They then proceeded to blow the lid off that combo by offering the Bushnell Fusion 1600 ARC! No more having to carry two instruments. And I found the Fusion to work exceedingly well, in many cases to a mile. The bino also tells the rifleman his comeups to the target. I used it during a recent hunt in the Rocky Mountains and was not disappointed.

Now they have entered the tactical market as well. The last few tactical

matches over the past year and a half have seen more and more of their new glass atop expensive, competitive tactical rifles.

Having seen them at matches, I was excited to get one in my hands to do a test and review. However, the exercise, over a period of year, was unsuccessful in getting exactly what I wanted. To wit: they have several innovative reticles for holdover as well as wind and moving target holds. What I finally received was a Mil-Dot scope of the Army variety, i.e., big round balls in the front focal plane.

I am a rear focal plane guy, which is strictly a personal preference. There are advantages and disadvantages to each.

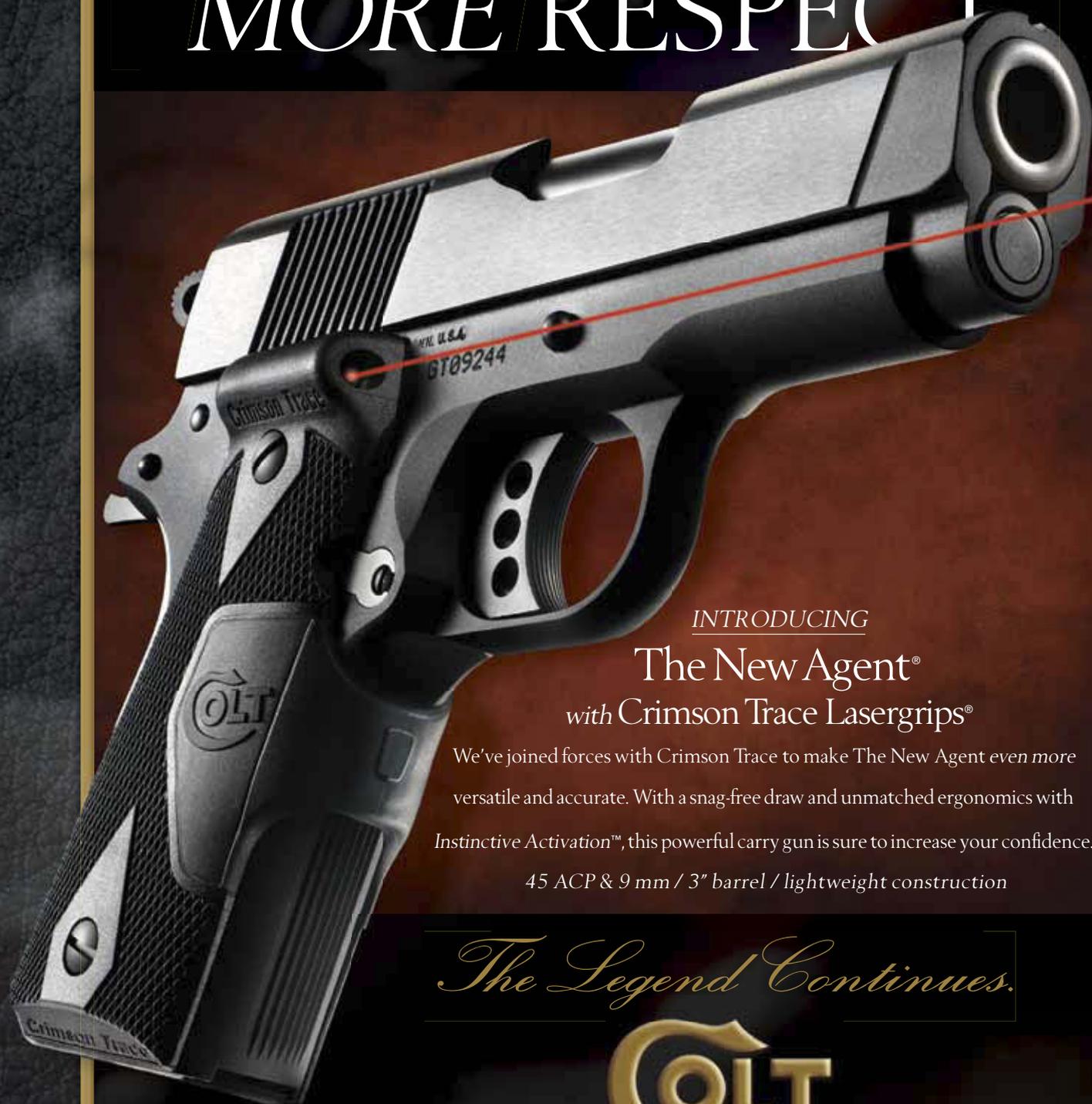
In a front focal plane, the reticle has little chance of changing point of impact through power changes, and you can still range and use the hashmarks at any power. But the reticle becomes very small at low powers and sometimes too big at high powers. The rear focal plane reticle does not have the latter problem, but you can become confused and miss a target because the hashmarks change with different power settings.

I remember a befuddling range session with a 7mm Remington Magnum. I would pick a hashmark and miss a shot at a known distance. The rifle had always performed perfectly. I finally decided something was wrong with the scope and started driving home, trying to sort out in my mind what could have gone wrong. Suddenly it dawned on me. I stopped and looked at the power setting. Just as I thought, the power setting was not on max. I returned to the range, put the power on max, and all was once again well. That would not happen with a front focal plane reticle. Still, I can vary the hashmark subtension by simply changing the power on a rear focal plane reticle. If the standard is 2 MOA per hashmark on max power, it is 4 MOA at half power, which presents great flexibility.



The new Bushnell Elite 3.5-21x50mm Tactical scopes set up on LaRue rifles for field trials.

PROVEN RELIABILITY.
QUICKER REACTION TIME.
MORE RESPECT



INTRODUCING

The New Agent®
with Crimson Trace Lasergrips®

We've joined forces with Crimson Trace to make The New Agent even *more* versatile and accurate. With a snag-free draw and unmatched ergonomics with *Instinctive Activation™*, this powerful carry gun is sure to increase your confidence.

45 ACP & 9 mm / 3" barrel / lightweight construction

The Legend Continues.



OUTLAW BIDDER.COM



**READY.
AIM.
BID.**

**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 Magazine2**

www.OutlawBidder.com



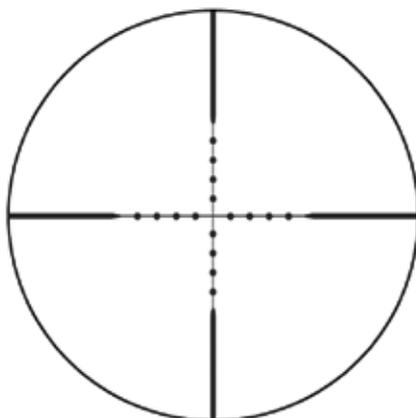
Shorter than most tactical offerings, the scope is a bit on the heavy side. Called the Elite DMR 3.5-21x50mm, it can be ordered in either a front or rear focal plane model and in either 1/4 MOA or .1 mil adjustments on the windage and elevation dials. To

set the zero, the top is removed and repositioned to zero. Shown in the handbook is a hex screw used to do that, but the model sent to me uses a coin or flat-head screwdriver.

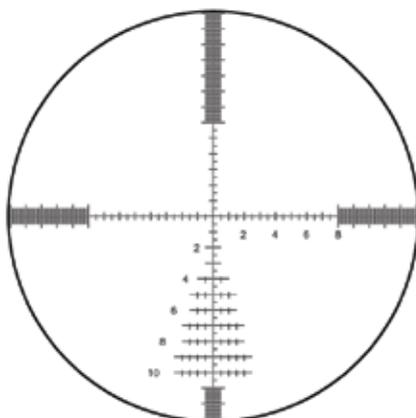
Unusual is the act of making click adjustments. Before any clicks can be made, the top of the turret must be lifted. This failsafe feature allows the shooter to ensure a range setting is not inadvertently changed. I often carry a tactical rifle with the rifle across my chest, held to my body with a sling. I have had a couple of instances where the turrets, not protected by a cap, have rotated without my knowledge until a miss on an easy target resulted. Some manufacturers avert this problem with the use of caps. The problem there is the time it takes to remove them to make an elevation or windage change, something done constantly with a tactical scope. The second problem with such caps is I tend to lose them. Others do not provide caps and leave the turrets exposed. The Bushnell overcomes these problems with their turret design.

One thing I disagreed with in the small pamphlet is that with the rear focal plane reticle, ranging is only accurate at the power stated for the subtension given at 100 yards or meters. One of the important things about a rear focal plane is you can change the ranging amount by varying power. Once learned, that gives you great flexibility. They did allude to that, but left the reader wondering what they might be talking about.

The Bushnell tactical models come as well with illumination if so desired and is set rearward of the power ring, rotated 45 degrees counter clockwise. Likewise, several other reticles are available. The one I like is the DMR 3.5-21x50mm – G2DMR, which breaks the Mil-Dots into hashmarks in a Christmas tree



The Scope Jacob reviewed has a normal Mil-Dot reticle (above). Three other reticle models are available, including this somewhat more complicated one (below). The tick marks on the horizontal hash marks indicate approximately 5 mph wind increments. Using ballistic software, the marks will work for any bullet at any velocity.



MTM SPECIAL OPS

BUILT FOR ACTION

GI JOE
RETRALIATION
IN THEATRES JUNE 29



MODEL | MTM BLACK COBRA | NEOPRENE STRAP

WWW.SPECIALOPSWATCH.COM



THE MTM SPECIAL OPS LINE OF TACTICAL TIME PIECES IS EXCLUSIVELY AVAILABLE THROUGH MTM. TOLL FREE AT 1 800 284 9487 OUTSIDE OF USA 1 213 741 0808 1225 SOUTH GRAND AVE. LOS ANGELES, CA. 90015

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

arrangement. They have two other reticle configurations with this same sort of functionality.

The Bushnell Elite 3.5-21x50mm Tactical scope proved to be an excellent example of good optical design. Curvature of field was very minimal. I could detect no barrel or pincushion distortion, or any rolling distortion at any power from 3.5-21X, which by the way is a 6X factor range. Only a few years ago, a 4X factor range was about all the manufacturers could coax out a design. Now we are seeing power ranges of 10.

Resolution and contrast were excellent. The scope was clear with no color fringing. There was no detectable astigmatism at any power.

In a short length, large objective, "fast" optical system, high index glasses are utilized to minimize the radius requirements that assist in controlling optical aberration. High index glasses tend to separate the wavelengths more than low index glasses do, making correction of this separation more challenging. Because of this, these glass types and radii, especially in the objective lenses, combine to generate a residual secondary spectrum.

This is often prevalent with large objective, "fast" optical systems. Secondary spectrum is often dominant near the edge of the exit pupil. However, it should also be viewable while looking at a high contrast "white and black" target when moving your head away from and toward the exit pupil along the axis of the scope. In this case the center of the field of view will tint towards the yellows on the inboard side and towards blue on the outboard side of the exit pupil. Movement side to side in the exit pupil behaves similarly for viewing secondary spectrum. With head motion to the left, typically the edges of a high contrast target tints towards the blue near the center of the field of view and yellow away from the center of the field of view.

The Bushnell scope displayed this phenomenon. However, it is a problem with almost any scope in this class. I had another very expensive tactical



The scope is returned to zero after sighting in by removing the top of the turret (above). A coin or screwdriver is used to remove it. To change range settings on the scope, one has to lift the turret and turn. Once the setting is changed, push back down to lock it. Here you can also note the position of the Trijicon red dot on the GDI mount. Shown is the underside of the GDI mount and the locking handles (below). It indexes in the Picatinny rail via the small raised area in the middle of the mount's bottom. Closing the handles secures the mount to the rail.



scope with me during the tests, and it displayed the same tinting when moving the head from side to side and up and down. However, when the head is in the proper position, no such tinting can be seen.

Besides the new DMR 3.5-21x50 and the CQB 1-6x24mm, Bushnell offers a 2.5-16x42mm, a 3-12x44mm, a 5-15x40mm, a 6-24x50mm, and a 4.5-30x50mm, each with different reticle configurations. If you can't find what you want from that lineup, I would be very surprised. **GUNS**

DMR 3.5-21X50MM - MIL-DOT

MAKER: BUSHNELL
9200 CODY

OVERLAND PARK, KS 66214
(800) 423-3537

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/BUSHNELL

MAGNIFICATION: 3.5X - 21X, OBJECTIVE DIAMETER:
50mm, TUBE DIAMETER: 34mm, CLICK VALUE: .1 mil
(tested), 1/4 MOA, OVERALL LENGTH: 13.2", RETICLE:
Mil-Dot, PRICE: \$1,499.99

LARUE TACTICAL
850 COUNTY RD. 177
LEANDER, TX 78641
(512) 259-1585

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/LARUE-TACTICAL

GLOBAL DEFENSE INITIATIVES, INC.
33175 TEMECULA PKWY., STE. A-637
TEMECULA, CA 92592
FAX: (951) 303-0985

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/GLOBAL-DEFENSE

FLEX

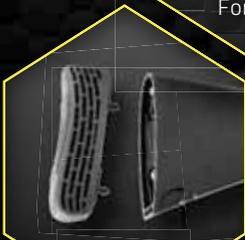
YOUR MOSSBERG



Stocks and
Pistol Grips



Forends



Recoil Pads

TLS™
TOOL-LESS
CONVERSION
IN SECONDS

INTRODUCING MOSSBERG FLEX SYSTEM THE ULTIMATE ADAPTIVE SHOTGUN PLATFORM

Unparalleled shotgun modularity with an innovative new Tool-less Locking System (TLS) of quick-change stocks, forends and recoil pads. Combined with the expansive selection of Mossberg interchangeable barrels, the Flex System is extremely versatile, allowing virtually endless configurations for any style, fit or application. Go ahead... **Flex Your Mossberg.**

MOSSBERG
FLEX
SYSTEM



Made in the USA

ALWAYS USE THE PROPER
AMMUNITION FOR YOUR FIREARM



www.FlexYourMossberg.com

MONTANA MUSINGS

STORY: Mike "Duke" Venturino
PHOTOS: Yvonne Venturino

HOLSTERS Of leather.

I've had a lifelong love affair with leather. There are cartridge belts and pouches, saddlebags, rifle slings and scabbards and much more around the place here. I've even still got my custom ordered, handmade saddle first sat upon in 1971. It's been kept even though I've not been on a horse for over 20 years.

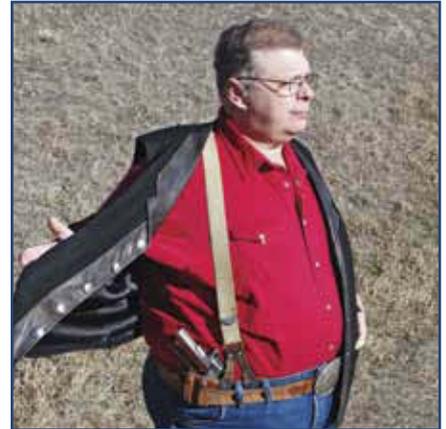
My all-time favorite leather gear has been holsters. I've owned more than I can remember, each and every one crafted of leather. The majority of holsters on my racks are Western types for single-action revolvers. There are double rigs, single rigs, crossdraw, reverse draw, Mexican loop types, California Slim Jim types and full-flap cavalry holsters. They are made for barrel lengths as short as 3" and as long as 8". I even had one for a 12"-barreled Colt Buntline .45 but it went with that awkward sixgun when it was sold.

Holsters for double-action revolvers are at a minimum for me now. In fact I can only find a few in the closet. One for 6-1/2"-barreled Smith & Wesson N-frame revolvers is still here. I had it made in 1973 by the famous but now long gone S.D. Myres Saddle Company of El Paso. It was the first

one on which I had my "MLV" initials carved but far from the last.

In the years since I've been building a collection of World War II firearms, numerous holsters for semi-auto pistols have migrated into my gun vault. Original military holsters for the US Model 1911 are still fairly common, hence priced fairly reasonable. Not so with military holsters for German or Japanese military handguns. Just yesterday while browsing a firearms auction site I spied an original pouch-type holster for a Japanese Type 14 "Nambu" pistol. It was priced higher than what I paid for my "Nambu" 8mm pistol just a couple years ago.

Luckily, however, reproduction holsters for most WWII handguns are being made. I've bought ones for my Type 14, a German Luger, a P38, and even a duplicate of what the



For concealed carry Duke has found nothing more comfortable than a Milt Sparks "Summer Special" inside-the-pants holster.

Germans had made for the Belgian FN Hi-Power P35s. I even found a new made military-type holster fitting both Smith & Wesson and Colt Model 1917 revolvers.

I consider myself as having a good eye for quality leather and leather craftsmanship. These replica military holsters have no maker's names on them: I've just bought them off of Internet firearms auction sites. Still they are beautifully made and cut from fine leather. I have not the slightest need to actually carry one of my WWII handguns but the holsters still make fine photo props.

Working Leather

What I do want to pack occasionally are a Colt 1911 .22 LR, a Kimber Pro-Compact 1911 .40 S&W or a Les Baer Thunder Ranch Special .45 ACP. In my old age I've become a bit more ostentatious, so when at SHOT Show 2011 I spied a full floral-carved holster for 1911s I just had to have it. It is made by the El Paso Saddlery Company.

Another trait I've had lifelong is trying to keep my jeans hitched up properly. Therefore, when putting a 2-pound-plus handgun in a belt holster for extended periods, I've had a continual battle with gravity. Then I discovered one of Milt Sparks "Summer Special" holsters; the inside the pants type. Sparks' holster buckles onto the belt but being inside it, the holster is bound to the body instead of pulling down on the belt. It is extremely



Duke has found 7X Leather's chest-type holster is very comfortable for non-concealed carry. (Collie's name is Brady.)



At SHOT Show 2011 Duke saw this floral carved 1911 holster from El Paso Saddlery and just had to have it for his Colt 1911-22LR.

comfortable, even for extended periods of time. Mine fits both the Kimber and Les Baer pistols.

For medical reasons I couldn't wear a belt at all for a while. During that time a young leather worker/saddlery maker from here in Montana approached me at a gun show. He wanted to show me his design for what I call "a shoulder holster but it's not." His name is Les Daems of 7X Leather and his creation is adjustable to the point that a handgun can be worn low like a crossdraw, high like a shoulder holster or to the front of the chest.

Chest-type holsters were worn by American troops in armored vehicles. For them crawling in and out of tank hatches a belt holster was begging to hang up. Replicas of those US military holsters are available but the one I bought was of poor quality so I ordered one of Daem's holsters for a 1911. It is the most comfortable rig I've ever put on. At a shooting competition of military-type firearms last year I put Daem's rig on at noon and wore it for hours. It was hardly noticeable.

I see the holster gear being used by our military today made of synthetics and I understand its need and practicality. But, I've lived so much of my life looking backward, that I see no reason to change now. I like leather.

GUNS

EL PASO SADDLERY
2025 E. YANDELL, EL PASO, TX 79903
(915) 544-2233
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/
EL-PASO-SADDLERY

MILT SPARKS
115 E. 44TH ST., BOISE, ID 83714
(208) 377-5577
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/
MILTSPARKSHOLSTERS

7X LEATHER
P.O. BOX 812, ENNIS, MT 59729
(406) 682-3620
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/
7X-LEATHER

A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN.

LAR-47 CAR A4 / AK1263
WITH 6-POSITION TACTICAL CAR STOCK

LAR-47

7.62X39MM
ACCEPTS STANDARD
AK-47 MAGAZINES

NEW for 2012

SPECS

7.62X39MM / 16 INCH, CHROME-LINED HBAR, 1:10 RH TWIST BARREL / PROPRIETARY FORGED A4 UPPER RECEIVER / PROPRIETARY FORGED LAR-47 LOWER RECEIVER / CHROMED 7.62X39MM BOLT CARRIER GROUP / A2 FLASH SUPPRESSOR / RRA TWO-STAGE TRIGGER GROUP / RRA LAR-47 WINTER TRIGGER GUARD / AMBIDEXTROUS MAGAZINE RELEASE / STANDARD SAFETY SELECTOR / RRA 6-POSITION TACTICAL CAR STOCK / A2 PISTOL GRIP / CAR HANDGUARD / APPROXIMATELY 7.1 POUNDS/36 INCHES / INCLUDES AK-47 MAGAZINE, CASE, MANUAL AND RRA LIMITED LIFETIME WARRANTY

MSRP: \$1200

DELTA CARBINE MODEL (AK1291) WITH QUAD RAIL FOREND ALSO AVAILABLE

ROCK RIVER ARMS®

FIND OUT MORE AT WWW.ROCKRIVERARMS.COM

Pre-production model pictured. All specifications and pricing subject to change without notice.

Perfection

Al Mar Knives

Our **Sere 2000** knives are handmade to exacting tactical standards, assuring the highest tactical knives in existence.

SERE

learn more @ www.almarknives.com

HANDLOADING

STORY: John Barsness

THE 9MM PARABELLUM

Still growing in popularity after more than a 100 years.

It's probably safe to say the 9mm Parabellum, aka the 9x19 and 9mm Luger, is the most popular centerfire handgun cartridge in the world. This isn't all that apparent in America due to our love affair with the .45 ACP, but the vast majority of the world's military forces use the 9mm, including the United States. According to one source over 60 percent of the police departments in the United States now carry 9mm semi-autos. Before the 1980s .38 Special revolvers were the primary police handgun, but cops had to change because criminals did: "Nines" are also a very popular choice among gangbangers.

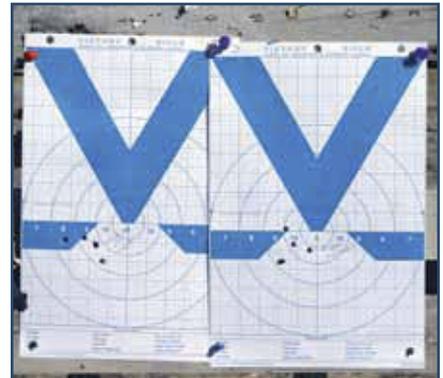
The 9mm was designed by Georg Luger in 1901, by necking up and slightly shortening the case of the 7.65mm Parabellum, itself designed by Luger and Hugo Borchardt for the German firm Deutsche Waffen-und Munitionsfabriken. ("Parabellum" comes from DWM's Latin motto, Si vis pacem, para bellum: "If you want peace, prepare for war.") The 9mm was first adopted by the German navy in 1904 and their army in 1906, and quickly became so popular American manufacturers started producing ammunition by 1910.

Since then 9mm ammunition has been produced in dozens of countries all over the world, enough to keep avid cartridge collectors searching for new headstamps and a bewildering

variety of specialized rounds. Aside from standard military and police ammo, there have been tracer, blank, armor-piercing, flare, smoke-signal and paintball rounds. There's even a Japanese rock band named 9mm Parabellum Bullet.

Does It "Work"?

Some controversy has always swirled around the 9mm's man-stopping potential, particularly in the US with military hardball. (The American adoration of the .45 ACP may be partly due to it being our own cartridge, but the .45 does use a heavier, wider bullet, which counts for something.) Modern expanding bullets that hold together for deeper penetration have greatly increased



Every bullet tested delivered 25-yard groups in the 2" range or better with at least one powder.

the effectiveness of the 9mm for police and self-defense use, and major powder improvements have also occurred since 1902.

Aside from the greater magazine when compared to a .45 ACP or .40 S&W, the lighter recoil and smaller size of the 9mm allow chambering in semi-autos weighing as little as 1 pound. The increase in women who carry defensive handguns also accounts for some of its American sales. My wife Eileen has used and carried handguns since shortly after we were married 30 years ago, but (like many American police departments) decided to upgrade from revolvers a few years ago, so went handgun shopping.

Like her husband she tends to buy more firearms than she really needs, so ended up with several semi-autos, ranging from a Ruger Mark III .22 to both compact and full-sized models of the HK USP .40 S&W. Unlike her



The test gun was a Beretta M9, similar to the one the US Military issues.



THE KIMBER SUPER CARRY. WELL-ROUNDED PERFORMANCE.

The new Super Carry Ultra+™ (left) and Super Carry Custom HD™ establish a new standard of personal defense. Seven Super Carry models are offered, all chambered in .45 ACP.



Super Carry pistols have specialized features like night sights with cocking shoulder, round heel frame and unidirectional serrations.



The Super Carry Pro™ .45 ACP is one of four models with a light weight aluminum frame for easy carry.



The Super Carry Pro HD™ .45 ACP is one of three new models with a stainless steel frame for hard use.

Super Carry .45 ACP pistols raise the bar for 1911 features and performance. Made in the Kimber® Custom Shop™ they have a round heel frame for unequalled concealability and comfortable carry, plus unidirectional serrations for fast and positive operation. A Carry Melt™ treatment rounds and blends edges. An ambidextrous thumb safety and match grade barrel are standard. A Kimber first, the new Super Carry Ultra+™ combines a 3-inch barrel with a full-length grip. Super Carry pistols deliver performance to the extreme.



©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

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.

9MM HANDLOADED AMMO PERFORMANCE, BERETTA M9, 4.9" BARREL

BULLET (BRAND, BULLET WEIGHT, TYPE)	POWDER (BRAND)	CHARGE (GRAINS WEIGHT)	VELOCITY (FPS)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)
REMINGTON 115 FMJ	Blue Dot	8.5	1,256	3.19
REMINGTON 115 FMJ	HS-6	7.0	1,269	2.23
SAECO CAST 118	Longshot	5.0	1,109	2.75
HORNADY 124 XTP	Blue Dot	7.8	1,141	1.52
HORNADY 124 XTP	AA No. 9	10.2	1,205	3.77
HORNADY 124 XTP	Longshot	5.7	1,147	2.19
SPEER 147 GOLD DOT	Power Pistol	5.0	1,018	1.77
SPEER 147 GOLD DOT	Longshot	4.5	932	1.70

Notes: All loads were fired in Federal brass with CCI 500 primers.

husband, however, she rarely sells any of her firearms, so kept all but one her acquisitions—the full-size HK, which didn't go far, ending up in my modest collection. Out of all Eileen's semi-autos, however, her favorite is probably a Beretta M9, essentially the same handgun adopted by the US military.

It was interesting to accompany her during the semi-auto shopping trips. Several of my local friends in the retail gun biz tell me women tend to shop differently than men do and, since we live in Montana (one of those states where citizens tend to cling to their firearms), they see a large sampling of women gun shoppers.

Buying Parameters

Women, they say, usually come into the store with fewer preconceptions about what rifle, shotgun or handgun they might buy. The first item on the list is how any firearm feels in their hands, including how the grip fits, the overall weight, and whether they can aim quickly without any major adjustment. Next they work the action to see if there's any major problem, partly because women don't usually have as much upper body and hand strength as men. After all that they often ask if it kicks a lot. (In contrast, men usually come in with some specific firearm in mind, often one they read about in a magazine or heard about on the Internet. Or they browse until they find something interesting, because of the model or chambering. They often buy firearms that kick too much for them, not a bad deal for the store, since the firearm often returns in a trade, and the store gets it back for a reduced price.)

Eileen didn't ask about kick, since she'd already shot a wide variety of handguns up to the .44 Magnum. Her first test was grip fit and balance; if the gun felt right then she'd try all the mechanical stuff, including clicking the trigger a few times, since she's really trigger-picky. The Beretta fit her hand really well, she could pull back

the slide quite easily, and the trigger felt pretty good, even double action.

I don't own a 9mm Parabellum, having never found one that really appeals to me, but Eileen graciously loaned me the M9 for the tests. I'd already worked up a cast bullet practice load for it a couple of years before, but trying various jacketed bullets provided a reminder of why the 9mm is so popular the world over. Most of my handgun shooting involves either .22 rimfires or centerfires that often kick quite a bit. The 9mm doesn't!

GUNS

WESTERN POWDERS, INC.
(RAMSHOT & ACCURATE POWDERS)
P.O. BOX 158
MILES CITY, MT 59301
(406) 234-0422
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/
WESTERN-POWDERS-INC

.....
ALLIANT POWDER
P.O. BOX 6, RADFORD, VA 24143
(800) 276-9337
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/ALLIANT-POWDER

.....
BERETTA USA
17601 BERETTA DR., ACCOKEEK, MD 20607
(800) 237-3882
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/BERETTA

.....
HODGDON POWDER CO.
6231 ROBINSON, SHAWNEE MISSION, KS 66202
(913) 362-9455
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/HODGDON

.....
HORNADY
3625 W. OLD POTASH HWY.
GRAND ISLAND, NE 68802
(800) 338-3220
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/HORNADY

.....
REMINGTON ARMS
P.O. BOX 700, MADISON, NC 27025
(800) 243-9700
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/REMINGTON-ARMS

.....
SPEER AMMO
2299 SNAKE RIVER AVE., LEWISTON, ID 83501
(800) 627-3640
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/SPEER-AMMO

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

MAXPEDITON



VERSATILE ERGONOMIC



DURABLE

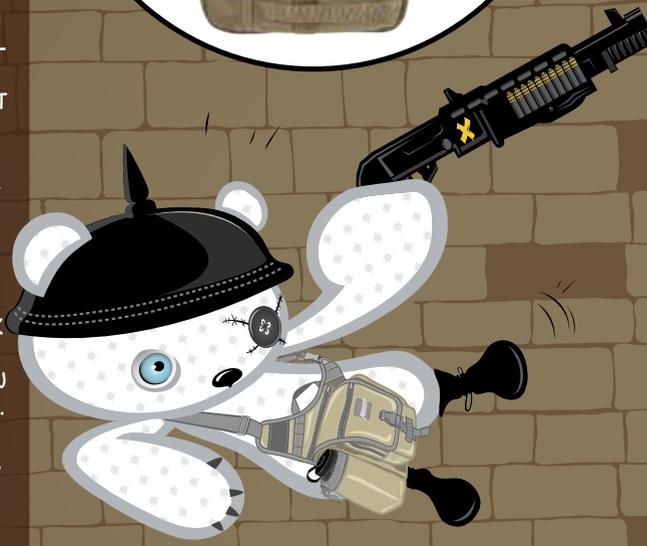


#0468
 KODIAK S-TYPE™
 GEARSLINGER®
 PRICE: \$163.99
 COLORS:
 B, G, K, F, KF



#0468 KODIAK S-TYPE™
 GEARSLINGER®
 SINGLE-STRAP, LEFT-SIDE CARRY BACKPACK BUILT FOR EASE OF ACCESS TO SUPPLIES VIA CONVENIENT BACK-TO-FRONT ROTATION. HIDDEN COMPARTMENT CAN ACCOMMODATE HYDRATION BLADDER, OR CCW ACCESSORIES.

#0403 FATBOY™
 VERSIPACK®
 RIGHT-SIDE CARRY, SHOULDER-SLING PACK DESIGNED FOR EASY COMPARTMENTALIZATION OF AN ARRAY OF GEAR. ACCOMMODATES MODULAR EXPANSION, AS WELL AS CCW ACCESSORIES FOR FIREARM OWNERS.



#0403
 FATBOY™
 VERSIPACK®
 PRICE: \$86.99
 COLORS:
 B, G, K, F & OTHERS



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



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



#1309
 8" x 12" PISTOL
 CASE/ GUN RUG
 PRICE: \$37.99
 COLORS: B, G, K



#1308
 8" x 10" PISTOL
 CASE/ GUN RUG
 PRICE: \$35.99
 COLORS: B, G, K



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



HANDGUNS

STORY: Massad Ayoob

TRIGGER CONTROL

Part V: The Back to Basics Series

Trigger control is a non-negotiable key to accurate shots, and there are different ways to accomplish it, at different speeds. The first World Champion of Combat Pistol Shooting, Ray Chapman, was one of my mentors. He famously said, "Pistol shooting is simple... it just isn't easy." In all the years since I was privileged to work with him, I've never seen anything to credibly contradict his statement.

If you ever saw my video *StressFire, Part I, Handgun*, you heard me say trigger control was "the heart of the beast" in terms of getting good hits under pressure with a pistol or revolver. I haven't seen anything lately to contradict that, either.

Once the firearm is aligned with the target, we need to bring the trigger straight back without exerting pressure in any direction that will deviate the muzzle from point-of-aim, until the shot "breaks." Over the years, lots of folks have experimented with "staging" the trigger, a 2-step event in which the finger first takes up most of the trigger's movement, and then performs a second, separate press to break the shot. It sounded great in theory, but doesn't have a great history in practice. We in the gun world all seem to agree that once the decision to fire the shot has been made, the exact instant of the shot should come as a surprise, so we don't subconsciously say to ourselves, "Now!" and convulsively jerk the trigger, pulling the muzzle—and the shot—away from where we intended it to hit.

In earlier segments of this "back to basics" series, we've talked about grasp, trigger finger placement, etc. At the moment, we're talking about that simple-but-not-easy rearward press of the trigger that allows the shot to fire while the gun is aligned with what we want to hit.

Three Approaches

Bearing in mind that under stress we experience vasoconstriction, a redirection of blood flow away from

the extremities and into the major muscle groups and internal organs, it has long been understood fine motor coordination will go down the toilet, but physical strength will increase to levels we just can't duplicate in training. We have to keep this in mind when we consider how we'll fire a handgun at the range, or at a match, versus in defense of human life including our own under predictably high stress. Let's look at three ways to "pull a trigger."

Trigger slap is generally considered the mark of the rank amateur. The shot is fired... you can almost hear the psychic scream of "Eek! It went bang!" ... and the finger flies forward away from the trigger, occasionally bouncing off the front of the triggerguard. Now, for the next shot, it comes back with impact, and jerks the muzzle violently off target, causing a bad hit at best and a miss at worst.

However, there is such a thing as a "controlled trigger slap." You can see Bill Wilson doing it, back when he was a kick-butt pistol champion before he devoted himself to gunmaking, in ESPN videotapes of Bianchi Cup from the 1980s. World champion Rob Leatham pioneered the controlled trigger slap on close, fast targets in matches where hundredths of a second distinguished the winner. However, Rob is also famous for using a 1-pound trigger pull 1911 in competition, a trigger pull he himself has publicly admitted one would have to be nuts to have on a self-defense pistol.

"Riding the link," also known as "riding the sear," is at the opposite end of the trigger pull bell curve.



When "riding the link," (above) the finger comes just far enough forward from the last shot to feel the trigger "reset." Daylight between finger and trigger show "slap" (below) about to take place. Useful very close and fast, but the technique is hard to learn to do with control.



Developed for match shooting, this is a technique in which we allow the auto pistol's trigger to come just far enough forward to reset the sear. In theory—and in calm coolness—it's a great idea. Unfortunately, it's incompatible with that whole "fight or flight response" thing and the vasoconstriction: stress-numbed fingers will no longer have the fine motor coordination to bring the trigger exactly so far forward, and no farther. I've seen world champions try to do this and blow it—the trigger not coming far enough forward to reset—and futilely pull on something that wasn't ready to be pulled yet. They lost their matches. On the street, they might have lost their lives.

Trigger weld is the third option, which at least from the defensive side of things seems to make the most sense. Allow the trigger to return all the way forward—which is "do-



On this double-action S&W .357 revolver, the trigger must come all the way forward for next shot. Finger “welded” to trigger all the way through prevents “slap.”



On auto (Glock 17 RTF2 here) trigger weld allows trigger to come all the way forward from last shot, guaranteeing reset, but still preventing “slap.” This is a solid “middle of the road” approach to trigger management.

able” under fight or flight response. It guarantees the trigger has returned far enough forward to fire the next, potentially life-saving shot, but the finger doesn’t come off the trigger and create aim-disturbing trigger slap.

Techniques, like tools, must be tailored to both the task and the user. It’s true of trigger technique, as with anything else.

This will be the fifth and last of the “back to basics” series in this column. Midway through the series, I learned my friend and brother contributor Dave Anderson will be doing a column on fundamentals of shooting. I’ll do a tag-team hand-slap and turn this topic over to him; he has spent much of a distinguished career picking the brains of the best shooting instructors and champions, and my advice would be to save his columns to share with those to whom you teach shooting in the future.

GUNS

STRESSFIRE, PART I, HANDGUN
LETHAL FORCE INSTITUTE
P.O. BOX 122
CONCORD, NH 03302
(800) 624-9049
WWW.AYOOB.COM

HOGUE

Handgun Grips, Rifle and Shotgun Stocks, AR and AK Accessories, Knives, Holsters, Recoil Pads, Slings, Swivels, Extreme Screws and Many Other Fine Accessories.

WWW.GETGRIP.COM

EXTREME KNIVES
Designed by Allen Elishewitz

G10/G-MASCUS GRIPS
IN A VARIETY OF COLORS & TEXTURES

POWER SPEED™
Auto-Retention & Competition Holsters

AR GRIPS & FORENDS
Rubber, Aluminum & G10

CARGO MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
for Hogue AK-47 and AR-15 Grips

OVERMOLDED STOCKS IN A VARIETY OF COLORS & CAMOS

Call for the location of your nearest dealer and free catalog

HOGUE INC • 1-800-GET-GRIP (438-4747)

P.O. BOX 1138 • PASO ROBLES, CA 93447

THE “PHRIKE”

WWW.SPARTANBLADESUSA.COM
910-757-0035

GUNSMITHING

STORY: Hamilton S. Bowen

MEASURING TOOLS

They're needed for many shooting endeavors.

Believe it or not, human beings do not think about sex every waking moment. The other 10 percent of our contemplative time is given over to pondering topics like money, margaritas, why we are here or, in some rare cases, the physical characteristics of our world. For gun junkies, that world encompasses a lot of speculation on height, width, diameter, distance, various spatial relationships, etc. We'll contemplate here a few of the necessary tools useful in the satisfaction of our curiosity.

You do not have to be a practicing gunsmith to need measuring tools. Shooters are always measuring group sizes, hole spaces for scope mounts of peep sights, length of pull and so on. If you are a reloader, then you are constantly measuring case lengths, bullet diameters, head diameters, case wall thickness and the like. How sophisticated your tools are depends on the job to hand. Measuring cartridge case length with a plastic caliper is fine. Measuring case head expansion for pressure signs requires a high-quality blade micrometer graduated in .0001" increments.

Micrometers are the most accurate hand measuring tools we

mortals can buy. The better ones will measure precisely, repeatably in .0001" increments. Since more precise measurements are an indicator of importance, this is one place *not* to scrimp on quality. You get exactly what you pay for so expect to pay \$100 to \$200 for a good one. If you procure only one, the standard 0-1" with flat anvil and spindle faces is the most important. While digital tools are now all the vogue, there is something inelegant about them that leaves me cold and uninspired. I like pretty stuff, including tools.

Alas, not everything can be measured between a couple of flats so micrometers come in a variety



This pair of micrometers—tubing and blade types—are used as often at the reloading bench as the workbench.

of styles. The most important other micrometer for use around a gun shop or the reloading bench is the tubing micrometer which has ball anvil and a flat spindle for measuring tube wall thickness or hole distances from edges. Their obvious lower limit on measurements is governed by ball diameter. I use mine regularly to measure cartridge case wall thickness. Another helpful specialty micrometer is the blade type for measuring into narrow spaces like grooves or slots. Mine has been used more for measuring cartridge case web expansion at the head in search of pressure-related changes. Depth micrometers are critical for measuring and setting headspace when re-barreling a rifle.

Tricky Stuff

Measuring inside diameters is trickier. Often, the simplest way to measure hole diameters is with pin gauges. Precise internal measurements that would otherwise require some exceedingly costly inside micrometers can be determined to within a few ten thousandths with simple pin gauges available in .0005" size increments. There are several tolerance types. The handiest for most of us is the -.0002" meaning that the pin is actually .0002" smaller than indicated. If a .4530" pin will pass through a hole but a .4535" pin will not, you can be pretty sure the hole is somewhere between .4530" and .4535" since there must be a few tenths of clearance for even a tight slip fit. Not many things measured in a gun shop need to be determined that closely.

Can't have too many measuring tools around.



COMMAND THE RANGE



CARBON 15

Light, Versatile and Ready for Anything.

Carbon Composite Construction.

Picatinny Rail for Optics.

40% Lighter.

Tough as Nails.

JUSTICE FOR ALL™
BUSHMASTER.COM

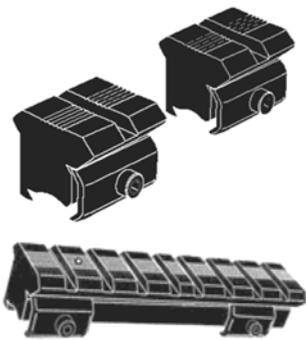
**MADE
* IN THE *
USA**

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 best and other way of measuring throat
diameters in a revolver cylinder involves check
pins. Notice the difference in readings.**



**Cutting a chamber in a rifle barrel requires more
precision than a caliper can give so the depth
mic gets the nod on this job.**



**Feeler gauges are the perfect tool to check
barrel gaps and headspace in revolvers with
open-back cylinders. For recessed head parts,
you will also need a depth mic or at least a good
caliper.**

This stuff isn't going to the moon.

Other simple measuring tools in
daily use in shops are feeler gauges,
thread gauges and scales. Sheet-
stock feeler gauges will serve to
check barrel gaps and headspace in
most revolvers. Thread gauges are
important to determine thread pitch
or tpi (the number of threads per inch)
of everything from scope base screws
to barrel shanks. I use a 6" scale
all the time to position marking stencils
for lettering. A simple adjustable steel
protractor comes in handy every now
and again.

If you can have but one good
measuring tool in your arsenal, let it
be a 6" dial caliper. It is the jack-of-
all-trades and the ultimate time saver
since it gives adequate measurements
very quickly. Mine is almost always
lying handy on the bench, never put
away in its case. It will substitute for six
expensive micrometers, not including
a depth micrometer and provide
internal and external diameters,
lengths and depths. With the exception

of internal diameters, a good caliper
with be accurate to within +/- .001"
or .002". Beware the trap of internal
measurements. Caliper ID nibs are not
knife-edged but rather have small flats
on them. These flats will not bottom
at the true opposite edges of a hole.
Instead, they will bridge a bit of the
circle's arc and render a somewhat
undersize measurement. The smaller
the hole, the greater the relative error
for a given caliper.

I realize what I am about to say
here may mark me as tool slob when
I should be masquerading as a tool
snob to inspire confidence in clients
but it must be said nevertheless. I view
most of my measuring tools with awe
and expect to be buried with them, all
of us stashed in our respective fitted
cases. My caliper is an exception and
it is abused unmercifully with one "off-
book" use. I am constantly needing to
scribe a line parallel to an edge on a
piece of steel. There is no quicker way
to do that than to lock your caliper
jaws at the needed distance, hook one
over the edge and drag the other over
the steel to make a visible scratch.

This is a routine procedure for me in
trimming front sights to pre-calculated
heights when regulating revolver sights.
It really isn't any good for the caliper
though I am careful and do this is the
least stressful way possible. In the eyes
of real tool junkies, it is the moral
equivalent of using your micrometers
as C-clamps. Still, this technique saves
me countless hours of fussing with
square and scribe every year. It took 30
years of abuse to completely wreck the
first high quality, high-cost carbide-
tipped Mitutoyo caliper I owned. A
tiny price since it saved me thousands
of dollars of invaluable time.

There are countless other measuring
tools often found around gun shops—
height gauges, surface plates, optical
comparators, thread micrometers to
name but a few—but, for most of
us, the few tools mentioned here will
handle 99.9 percent of the work ever
done in a gun shop, private or for hire.
I couldn't see keeping house without
them.

GUNS

BROWNELLS

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

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/BROWNELLS

ENCO

400 NEVADA PACIFIC HWY., FERNLEY, NV 89408
(800) 873-3626

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/ENCO

MSC INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY

75 MAXNESS RD., MELVILLE, NY 11747
(800) 645-7270

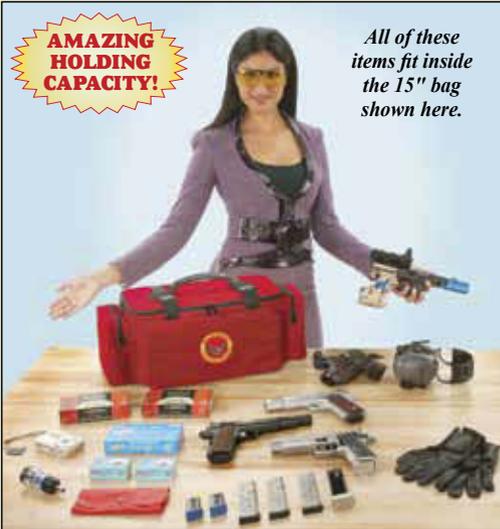
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/MSC



BALD EAGLE™

SHOOTING PRODUCTS

RANGE BAGS



All of these items fit inside the 15" bag shown here.

Made of top grade ballistic nylon, these bags are designed to safely organize and transport your shooting gear to and from the range. Each bag features a divided top loading main compartment, two side compartments, a roomy front compartment and a zippered back pocket.



- Padded protection throughout
- Durable double stitching
- YKK zippers
- Reinforced top handles
- Adjustable shoulder strap
- Reinforced bottom will not sag

New!

COLOR & SIZE CHOICES



(20" Bag not available in Pink or Blue.)

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

54" LONG RIFLE CASES



Shown above is a Championship 1000 yard scoped, F-class rifle being safely stowed.

Designed for match rifles 50" - 53" long and featuring barrels 29" - 32" long. Heavy-duty padding all around and high quality zippers ensure years of protection for your valuable match rifle. Large, zippered pockets on sides allows storage for small towels, chamber flags, etc. Will hold both scoped and iron sight rifles. Case measures 55" long, 13" tall on back end and 6" tall on front end. Shoulder strap is also included.

BE1020 Red Case (shown) BE1021 Black Case



MINI ARBOR PRESS

This precision press was designed specifically for reloaders and match shooters who use Wilson type dies to seat bullets. Large hand knob locks head in place firmly, yet makes it easy to adjust head up and down.

- Rack & pinion gear mechanism with spring return
- Adjustable height capacity: 0-6"
- Stroke: 2" • Throat: 1½" • Handle length: 5"
- ¾" stainless steel column
- Precision ground stainless base measures: 4" x 5⅜"
- Overall height: 10¾"
- Ideal for precision seating

New!



BE1001



RELOADING BENCH



BE1003

Reloading accessories are not included.

This reloading bench was designed with the handloader in mind. Its compact & practical size allows it to fit areas where room is limited.

The construction is sturdy enough for heavier use of reloading presses. The shelf underneath is extremely handy for storage.

Dimensions:
21" D x 54" W x 36" H

Available from dealers nationwide. Bald Eagle™ is a trademark of Woodstock International, Inc.

WOODSTOCK INTERNATIONAL, INC.

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

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

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

13840

INDEPENDENT RETAILERS ARE OUR SPECIALTY!



SHOTGUNNER

STORY: Holt Bodinson

GENERAL KALASHNIKOV'S SHOTGUN

This AK-style 12 gauge is gaining a following among 3-gun shooters and predator hunters.

Morphing rifles into shotguns is a curious business. The classic example was the German conversion of the Mauser 98 into Geka-branded, 16-gauge sporters between-the-wars. The end result was a pretty nice looking bolt-action shotgun if a bolt-action shotgun appealed to you. The action, more than any other element of these designs, make rifle-to-shotgun transformations so intriguing.

Recently, there have been two, rather interesting, contemporary adaptations. The Russian arms factory of Izhmash has developed .410, 20- and 12-gauge models based on the AK-47 action, which go by the name of "Saiga" while Eksen Arms in Istanbul, Turkey, has fielded the AR-15-looking Akdal MKA 1919 in 12 gauge. Both brands speak well for

their genealogy with the Saiga being a faithful adaptation of the AK-47 mechanism while the MKA 1919 resembles an AR in cosmetics only.

I've not had an opportunity to work with the new MKA 1919, but the Saiga has been around for a few years, and I've had some experience with it.

The Russian maker, Izhmash, the Izhevsk Machine Engineering



Two shots of Federal's heavyweight 3" BB Coyote load at 40 yards illustrates how effective the Saiga is for predator calling.

Plant, was established in 1807 by the decree of Tsar Alexander I. Izhevsk is located approximately 683 miles east of Moscow. Because it has been the small arms manufacturing center for Russia, the city of Izhevsk was a "closed city" until 1992, when, with the break-up of the USSR, travel restrictions were lifted and Izhmash was transformed into a diversified "Open Joint Stock Company" that also manufactures under the brand name "Baikal." The Izhmash plant still produces 85 percent of Russia's small arms, but the "Open Joint Stock Company" is also now producing automobiles, motorcycles, machinery and variety of consumer products.

In an effort to diversify its small arms business and to appeal to the civilian market, Izhmash developed their AK-47 based "Saiga" line of sporting rifles and shotguns. Naming their new line after the odd-looking, Roman-nosed, endangered antelope of the Russian steppes has always puzzled me, but then again, we tack the names of birds and mammals on American made firearms willy-nilly as well.

The most popular of the Saiga shotguns is the 12-gauge, which handles 2-3/4" and 3" shells. It has seen a dramatic rise in popularity with the advent of 3-gun matches and a growing public awareness for self-defense preparedness. It is not only popular because of its AK-47 reputation of rugged reliability, but being fed with box magazines, it's



Though it might not be the ultimate waterfowl gun, the Saiga 12-gauge AK shotgun will prove perfect for called in predators.

quick to reload as well as having a fast cycling rate. Moreover, it's an affordable semi-automatic, priced today below \$600.

On the sporting side of the ledger, the Saiga is a fun gun for informal clay pigeon shoots. While not exactly designed as a handy upland game gun, it does just fine for static types of hunts, such as predator calling and the pursuit of doves, waterfowl, and turkeys, or as a slug gun when hunting from a stand.

The Saiga pictured here is a 12-gauge with a 19" barrel, a 41" overall length and, with an empty 5-shot magazine, weighs exactly 7-1/2 pounds on my Sunbeam scale. This popular version is being marketed by Century International Arms.

Gas Operated

Examining it more closely, the action is truly that of an AK/AKM-47 with minor modifications to ensure proper functioning with rimmed, 12-gauge shells. It operates and disassembles like an AK for the most part. One of the interesting modifications seen in the Saiga action is a sliding dust cover that seals off the rear of the enlarged ejection port from the elements. Another is an adjustable gas valve at the end of the gas cylinder, enabling the shooter to adjust the operation of the action for standard or magnum shells. Set at numeral "1", the gas system is adjusted for 2-3/4" to 3" magnum shells and at "2" for all others. Economically priced 4-position and automatically adjusting gas valves are available as aftermarket replacements.

On the left-hand side of the action is the standard, Soviet, sight mount rail which accepts a wide range of optics. While there are no Picatinny rails on the synthetic, wraparound forearm, designed to protect your hands from a hot gas cylinder, there are all sorts of Picatinny rails and even tri-rail forearms readily available for the Saiga as aftermarket accessories so you can add on lasers, flashlights and other optics easily.

The heavy-walled 19" barrel is externally threaded at the muzzle. The Saiga comes fitted with a nut that covers and protects the threads as well as a wrench to tighten or remove the nut. The bore measures .720", which is about .009" tighter than an American made 12 gauge, but it's still a cylinder bore. While no choke tubes are supplied with the gun, choke tubes, Poly-chokes, muzzlebrakes, even door breaching brakes are available as aftermarket items.

For corrosion resistance and ease of cleaning, the inside of the bore,



A) Rifle-to-shotgun conversions are among the most interesting of firearms. The Saiga and the AK share the same size receiver. **B)** "12/76" indicates the 12-gauge chamber is 76mm or 3". The "18, 3" gauges the bore diameter as .720" **C)** Sporting a conventional AK system, the Saiga is fitted with a more conventional polymer stock with a checkered grip. The awkward AK safety still graces the Saiga model. **D)** The supplied, 5-round polymer magazine is easy to load and totally reliable.



Not only made in Russia but made by one of the largest arms makers in the world, Izhmash. The arrow in a triangle (above) is Izhmash's mark. The "P in a "C" indicates the arm conforms to national manufacturing codes and certifications while the arrow in the oval is the official stamp of the Izhevsk proof station. A sliding dust cover (below) was added to protect the large ejection port of the 12-gauge conversion.



the gas piston and the gas cylinder are chrome plated. The exterior metal is finished in a matt black.

Loading

The Saiga comes with one 5-round, synthetic, detachable magazine. It accepts and functions perfectly with both 2-3/4" and 3" shells, and, it's easy to load. Before inserting it into the magazine well, you must pull back the operating handle and engage the bolt hold-open device which is activated by a tab at the front of the triggerguard. Pulling back again on the operating handle disengages the device and the bolt slams home, loading the round. Again, as aftermarket accessories, 2-, 8-, 10- and 12-round stick magazines are available as well as 20-round drum magazines. The 2-shot stick magazine makes the Saiga legal for waterfowling. The 20-round drum magazine, tuned for 2-3/4" shells, turns the Saiga into a formidable lead slinger.

The only essential thing missing on the Saiga is a rubber recoil pad. It needs one if you're going to shoot magnum shells, slugs or buckshot, and pads are readily available in the aftermarket trade.

The non-adjustable sights on my

SAIGA-12

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

ACTION TYPE: Semi-automatic, **CALIBER:** 12-gauge 2-3/4", 3", **CAPACITY:** 2-20, **BARREL LENGTH:** 19", **CHOKE:** Cylinder, choke tubes available, **OVERALL LENGTH:** 41", **WEIGHT:** 7-1/2 pounds, **FINISH:** Matte black, **SIGHTS:** Fixed or adjustable, **STOCKS:** Black polymer, checkered, **PRICE:** \$579.87

Saiga are functional with buckshot but can't be zeroed, and are hopeless if shooting slugs. If I were going to use the Saiga as a slug gun, I would order the model with adjustable sights, possibly add a Picatinny rib or simply install an optical sight on the integral side rail.

I enjoy my Saiga. It's an outrageous shotgun. As is, it's a neat collectible as a unique AK variant. It's fun to shoot. It's practical as a self-defense and hunting arm. Given the grocery cart list of aftermarket accessories available for it, it's one of the most modular shotguns ever put in the field. There's just nothing quite like the Saiga.

GUNS



THE EASIEST WAY TO ACCURIZE YOUR AR

THE MARK AR™ SERIES FROM LEUPOLD.

Available in a variety of models from 1.25-4x20mm to 6-18x40mmAO, models with multiple reticle options, available laser-engraved 55-grain .223 BDC dials, and starting at just \$279 MSRP. Other BDC dials available through the Leupold Custom Shop.



LEUPOLD
 TACTICAL OPTICS

1-800-LEUPOLD • LEUPOLD.COM

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**

Blocks

5" x 1 1/2" x 1 1/8"
EW270 High Contrast.....**21.00**
EW271 Dark.....**35.00**
EW272 Exhibition.....**40.00**
EW273 Presentation.....**45.00**

SPACER MATERIAL

Fiber material used between tang & handle. Each piece is 5" x 10".



MI931 Royal Blue .039" thick.....**1.29**
MI932 Canary Yellow .039" thick.....**1.29**
MI933 Cherry Red .039" thick.....**1.29**
MI934 Kelly Green .039" thick.....**1.29**
MI901 Black .030" thick.....**1.19**
MI908 Bright Red .030" thick.....**1.19**
MI903 White .030" thick.....**1.19**

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**

1/8" MOSAIC PINS



1/8" diameter x 12" length
MP840 **MP835** **MP850**
\$14.95 **\$18.50** **\$14.95**

KNIFEMAKER'S CENTERING SCRIBE

Use this handy tool to scribe the center lines as a guide for grinding knife blades. Designed for accuracy.



JS305 Knife Scribe.....**39.95**

HARDENED FILE GUIDE

For fitting guards. Place in a vise to file slot for guard, or use to do fancy "file work" on tang or edge of knife.



FG100 File Guide.....**49.95**

LOCKING LINER KITS

605 Original

8A stainless sub zero quenched. Overall length opened 7 7/8", 4 1/2" closed, the cutting edge 3 1/4", .114" thick.

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**

KEEN EDGE BLADES

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

Chef's Blade



12-1/2" overall, 8-3/4" blade, .078 thickness

SS107 Chef's Blade.....**16.95**

Cook's Blade



10-1/2" overall, 6" blade, .078 thickness

SS106 Cook's Blade.....**14.95**

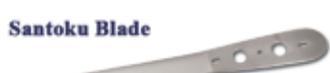
Steak Blade



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**

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**

TEXTURED, CONTOURED & SHAPED HANDLES

Contoured & Textured Handles for Pattern 21, 22 and Pattern 23 blades. The Dymondwood handles are smooth with no texture, and the G10 handles are available in Basket Weave & Honeycomb textures. Handles for all #25-#40 patterns are available.

For Pattern 21-22-23



Dymondwood	CAT#	COLOR	TEXTURE	PRICE
	D2128	Rosewood	None	16.95
	D2149	B/Ink Cocobolo	None	16.95
	G10			

CAT#	COLOR	TEXTURE	PRICE
G2111	Black	Basket Weave	16.95
G2131	Orange	Basket Weave	16.95
G2151	Olive/Db	Basket Weave	16.95
G2123	Red	Honeycomb	16.95
G2133	Orange	Honeycomb	16.95
G2143	Blue	Honeycomb	16.95

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 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 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 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**

BLADE STEEL

Call for other steels and sizes available.

440C Flat Stock
CF518 1/8 x 1 1/2 x 18" 440C.....**19.25**
CF618 5/32 x 1 1/2 x 18" 440C.....**22.75**
CF718 3/16 x 1 1/2 x 18" 440C.....**26.75**
CF958 1/4 x 2 x 18" 440C.....**44.50**

154 CM
AF218 1/8 x 1 1/2 x 18" 154 CM.....**26.75**
AF318 5/32 x 1 1/2 x 18" 154 CM.....**28.95**
AF418 3/16 x 1 1/2 x 18" 154 CM.....**35.25**

CPMS 30V
LF218 1/8 x 1 1/2 x 18" CPMS 30V.....**32.95**
LF318 5/32 x 1 1/2 x 18" CPMS 30V.....**40.95**
LF418 3/16 x 1 1/2 x 18" CPMS 30V.....**51.95**

CPMS 35VN
HF218 1/8 x 1 1/2 x 18" CPMS 35VN.....**33.95**
HF318 5/32 x 1 1/2 x 18" CPMS 35VN.....**43.95**
HF518 3/16 x 2 x 18" CPMS 35VN.....**69.95**

CPM 154
PF218 1/8 x 1 1/2 x 18" CPM 154.....**30.95**
PF318 5/32" x 1 1/2" x 18" CPM 154.....**39.95**
PF418 3/16" x 1 1/2" x 18" CPM 154.....**46.95**

1095 Hi Carbon
XH0815 1/8 x 1 1/2 x 18" 1095 Steel.....**6.95**
XH1020 5/32 x 2 x 18" 1095 Steel.....**9.95**
XH1215 3/16 x 1 1/2 x 18" 1095 Steel.....**8.95**

15N20 Forging Steel
XN152 .049 x 1 1/2 x 12" 15N20 Steel.....**2.95**
XN252 .049 x 2 x 12" 15N20 Steel.....**3.95**

knifemaking.com

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

JC48 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

RIFLEMAN

STORY: Dave Anderson

WEATHERBY SERIES 2 VANGUARD

A new affordale and
accurate bolt action.

The Weatherby Vanguard has been an outstanding bargain for many years—not just a “best buy,” but also one of the best hunting rifles available. The new Series 2 Vanguards are even better.

A criticism often heard of the original Vanguards was the trigger pull. The trigger design was sound, and trigger components well made and fitted. But pull as set at the factory was generally quite heavy.

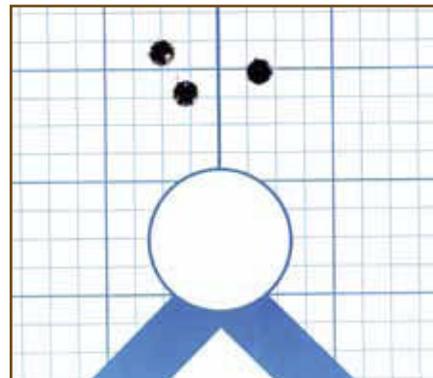
In recent years triggers were tuned more carefully at the factory. Those I tried were in the 4- to 4-1/2-pound range, still heavier than I like, though with a reasonably crisp break.

The S2 Vanguards have a 2-stage pull. On the test rifle there's a short, smooth takeup followed by a beautifully crisp, clean break. Weight is adjustable down to 2.5 pounds. The test Vanguard proved very consistent; when I pressed the “Avg” button on the Lyman gauge after 20 trials it read exactly 3 pounds.

Just what I want on a big-game rifle, and with superb pull quality.

The S2 safety is different as well. As before, pulled to the rear the safety locks the bolt and trigger, fully forward is the fire position. Now there's an intermediate position which unlocks the bolt. The rifle can be loaded or unloaded with the trigger still locked. Each safety position has a detent and the safety clicks positively and crisply to each position.

The S2 has a newly designed stock with the distinctive Weatherby Monte Carlo. Other features include a soft recoil pad, a modest palm swell (right side only), and soft rubber inserts on grip and forearm. They call it the “Griptonite” stock, a term which got



This is the first group fired at 100 yards with Series 2 Vanguard in .240 Weatherby using factory loads with 100-grain Nosler Partition bullet, in gusty wind conditions. Subsequent groups in calmer conditions were even better.

me thinking dark thoughts about the future of the language and civilization while brooding in my Fortress of Solitude.

For some years Weatherby has offered a “Sub MOA” Vanguard, with the barreled action pillar bedded in an upgraded synthetic stock. Some shooters got the impression regular Vanguards were “seconds” incapable of MOA accuracy. In fact virtually every Vanguard will shoot sub-MOA.

With the S2 series Weatherby guarantees it. Every single rifle in every Vanguard variation is guaranteed capable of firing a 3-shot sub-MOA group using quality ammunition. Shooters wanting the upgraded stock can now order the RC (Range Certified) model which includes a test target and data, signed by Ed Weatherby.

Accurate

Currently offered for 16 popular cartridges, the test rifle came in .240 Weatherby. It's the third Weatherby cartridge in the Vanguard, following the .257 and .300. The ammunition I had on hand was loaded with the 100-grain Nosler Partition bullet. After bore sighting and one shot at 25 yards to make sure I was on paper, the very first 3-shot group at 100 yards measured .8".

There was a strong, gusty wind causing horizontal dispersion. Vertically the group measured just 3/8". Subsequent shooting in



The Vanguard Series 2 synthetic has blue steel barrel and receiver in a synthetic stock with soft rubber inserts at grip and forearm. Mechanical changes from the original Vanguard include a 3-position safety and 2-stage trigger. Scope is Leupold 4.5-14x40 in Burris rings.

VANGUARD SERIES 2

HOWA MACHINERY, LTD.
1900-1 SUKAGUCHI, KIYOSU, AICHI,
452-8601 JAPAN
WWW.HOWA.CO.JP

WEATHERBY, INC.
1605 COMMERCE WAY
PASO ROBLES, CA 93446
(805) 227-2600
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/WEATHERBY

TYPE: Bolt action, **CALIBER:** .240 Weatherby (tested), 15 others, **CAPACITY:** 5, **BARREL:** 24", **OVERALL LENGTH:** 44-1/2", **WEIGHT:** 7-1/2 pounds, **LENGTH-OF-PULL:** 13-5/8", **PRICE:** \$599

better conditions produced 3-shot groups closer to 1/2 MOA than the guaranteed 1 MOA.

There's really no magic to the Vanguard's accuracy, just proven technology combined with excellent workmanship. The receiver is strong and rigid with a large, flat bedding surface and massive integral recoil lug. The 1-piece bolt has two large locking lugs, recessed bolt face, and a big, reliable hook-type extractor.

Howa of Japan has been making this same basic action and barrel for a long time. They really know how to maintain high quality. I don't know of a rifle maker who has done better in maintaining high standards over a long time period. Even so my impression was the test rifle is exceptionally well fitted and finished. Bolt operation is very smooth with outstanding cartridge feeding, locking, extraction and ejection.

With all the steel in the receiver the Vanguard isn't a light rifle, though the detachable magazine available for some calibers saves a few ounces, and there are some lighter versions with 20" barrels.

I really don't know of a rifle providing more performance and quality for the money than the original Vanguard, and the sweet trigger on the Series 2 is the icing on the cake. I feel guilty asking for more, but a Vanguard in .223 with a faster twist would be a joy. Longer .224" bullets with higher ballistic coefficient provide better performance at extended ranges but require a faster twist than the current 1:12".

Imagine a Vanguard .223 with 1:8" twist, throated so bullets can be seated to reach the lands while still allowing cartridges to feed from the magazine. The Vanguard's inherent accuracy and now its superb trigger would make it a great rifle for the challenge of shooting at 500 or 600 yards and even further. And because the rifle is such an incredible bargain there's money left over for a quality scope.

GUNS

WILL YOU BE READY?

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

Why not try a
CrossBreed TODAY!

*"ABSOLUTELY the
most comfortable holster
I have ever worn."* *Semper Fi*

Lifetime Warranty!
Try-It-FREE Guarantee!

CrossBreed Holsters LLC.

www.crossbreedholsters.com • 888.732.5011

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

OUTTM of the BOX

MIKE CUMPSTON

FMK 91C GEN 2 The "Bill of Rights Pistol."

In mid-June of 2011, FMK Firearms of Placentia, California, saw its 2nd Generation Pistol placed on the roster of handguns approved for sale and manufacture within the State. Like the first generation arm which it replaces, both California and Massachusetts now approve it for sale and FMK has the distinction of being the only handgun manufacturer currently operating in California.

James Pontillo saw the Left Coast communitarian social and legal milieu as a suitably challenging backdrop for validation of American

Exceptionalism and individual initiative and an aggressive repudiation of the herd mentality that threatens the American Dream.



A popular practice drill calls for five rounds in 5 seconds in a 5" group at 7 yards. This cluster arrived on target in 4.45 seconds.

The American Bill of Rights is the defining anthem of Western Culture and the most enduring monument to its achievement. It is the framework of limited government recognizing the Free Individual and not collectives or governments as the common denominator of the social contract. It fires the imagination of freedom-loving people rallying them to defend the principles therein enumerated. Pontillo chose to engrave it in paraphrase on the slide of the pistol.

The 91C/G2 is a striker-fired, double-action pistol with double-strike capability. The slide travels and abuts against steel structures in the polymer grip frame. Overall size is comparable to the currently popular subcompact personal-defense arms. It is marginally shorter overall than most of the 3"-barreled, 1911-based subs though it has a 4" barrel.

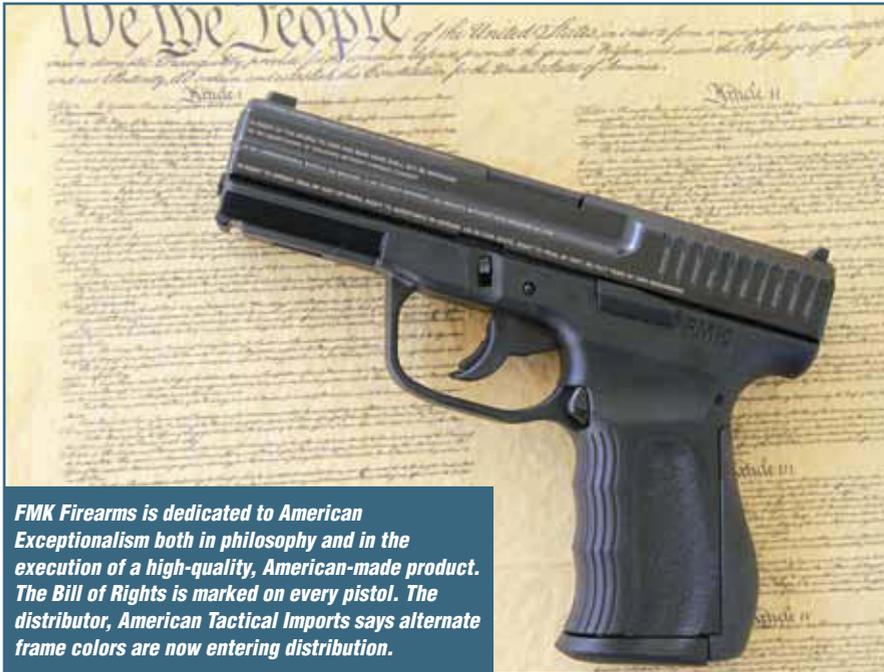
The Pistol

The 91C comes with two steel magazines of 10-round capacity for restrictive jurisdictions or two 14-round magazines for everywhere else. Also included in the hard case, is a thorough owner's manual, Red State literature, and alpha-numerically marked, user interchangeable, front and rear sights with markings indicating the approximate change in point of impact at 50'. The Patridge-profile, white-dot sights are highly visible.

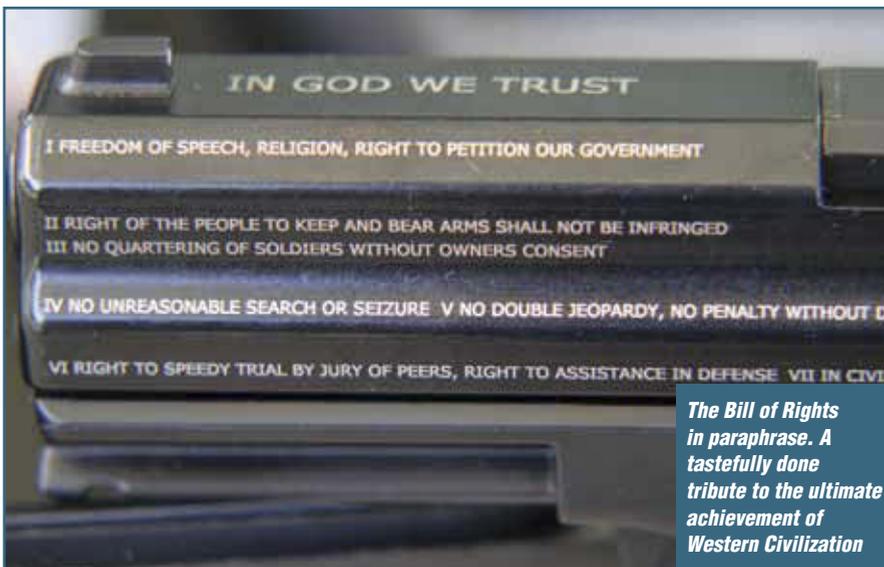
It has a rocker safety in the center of the trigger, a trigger actuated internal passive firing pin/striker block and its magazine disconnect safety system keeps the trigger bar out of sync with the sear mechanism unless the magazine is in place. The trigger pull on the sample pistol is 2 ounces under 11 pounds with the major weight of pull occurring in the last 1/8" of travel. The weight of the trigger pull is a further hedge against inadvertent discharge. The chamber is fully supported and a disconnect



Fellow gun reviewers Todd Parsons watches as Shelby Morgan shoots. Shelby found the trigger reach and weight to be a bit much but did center punch the X ring at 3 yards. Recoil from the 23.5-ounce pistol is negligible.



FMK Firearms is dedicated to American Exceptionalism both in philosophy and in the execution of a high-quality, American-made product. The Bill of Rights is marked on every pistol. The distributor, American Tactical Imports says alternate frame colors are now entering distribution.



The Bill of Rights in paraphrase. A tastefully done tribute to the ultimate achievement of Western Civilization

9MM FACTORY AMMO PERFORMANCE

LOAD (MAKER)	BULLET (WEIGHT, TYPE)	VELOCITY (FPS)
BUFFALO BORE	115 +P	1,243
BUFFALO BORE	124 +P	1,206
BLACK HILLS	115 +P	1,063
HORNADY	115 XTP	1,076
GOLDEN SABER	124 JHP	1,205
INDEPENDENCE	115 FMJ	1,089

Notes: Velocities recorded over ProTac Chronograph at 15'. Elevation 400', temperature 105 degrees F.

Groups fired at 25 yards. All groups were in the 4" to 5" range reflecting trigger pull-induced shooter limitations rather than relative accuracy of the gun and loads.

positively precludes firing unless the barrel is fully locked into the frame. Rounding out the safety features is the loaded chamber indicator on the back of the slide. It is visible in daylight and tactilely readable in the dark.

First impressions reveal the 91 C Gen 2 as quite an attractive package.

Photographs can't quite capture the overall symmetry. The gloss black finish—apparently a coating, harmonizes with the black polymer lower unit. Most observers find the white-highlighted engraving to be tastefully done and pleasing to the eye.

People handling the pistol in the

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

gun shop and on the range were very impressed with configuration of the grip and the overall balance and pointability of the arm. The heavy trigger pull draws negative comments. Some would prefer the magazine drop free when the release is pressed, the but its interaction with the magazine disconnect make it necessary to pull the magazine out of the well. It also eliminates the possibility the magazine will detach during routine handling or under stress.

The trigger responds best to a straight back, continuous pull through. Attempts to stage the trigger for greater precision actually proved counterproductive. My 25-yard rested groups ranged from 4" to 5" and were not indicative of the accuracy potential of the gun or the various ammunition types. The bulk of my shooting was done with an eye toward practical application. After a few rounds to confirm the factory sight setup was exactly right for me, I performed a popular practice drill calling for five rounds from concealment at 7 yards. The performance standard is placement of all rounds in a 5" circle in 5 seconds. My fifth shot was away in 4.45 seconds and my overall spread was 1/2" to the good.



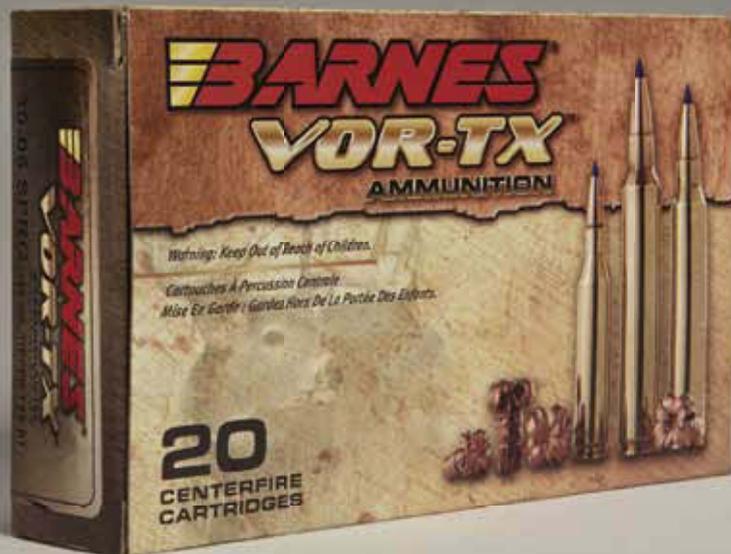
The Texas Concealed Handgun 50-round demo with a wrinkle. The course was fired under par time from strong side, concealed draw instead of the prescribed low-point ready stance.

I then fired five shots from 15 yards and timed five more from 25 yards in 5-1/2 seconds from concealment. Four of those rounds were within the 9-ring of the B27 target but severe operator error landed one tragically in the gonadic portion of the target.

By and large, I was able to maintain headshot accuracy at 15 yards and keep all but a few hits on the head at 20. My consistency deteriorated markedly at 25 yards and beyond.

The Texas Concealed Handgun Proficiency Demonstration calls for

**NO TIME TO HANDLOAD?
NO PROBLEM.**



— **HANDLOADED PRECISION IN A FACTORY LOADED ROUND.**

— **ACCU-GROOVE™ BULLET TECHNOLOGY: REDUCED FOULING AND PINPOINT ACCURACY.**

— **DEVASTATING TERMINAL PERFORMANCE ON WHITETAIL, MULE DEER AND ELK FROM 50 TO 500 YARDS.**

BARNES®

OPTIMIZED FOR YOUR TARGET.™

BARNESBULLETS.COM | 800.574.9200



THE BULLET HAS THE FINAL SAY™

91C GEN 2

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

DISTRIBUTOR: AMERICAN
TACTICAL IMPORTS
100 AIRPARK DR.
ROCHESTER, NY 14624
(800) 290-0065
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/
AMERICAN-TACTICAL-IMPORTS

ACTION: Locked breech DAO, **CALIBER:** 9x19mm,
OVERALL LENGTH: 6.85", **BARREL LENGTH:** 4",
WEIGHT: 23.45 ounces, **CAPACITY:** 10 or 14 (tested),
SIGHTS: Adjustable by interchange, **PRICE:** \$399

50 rounds of timed fire from 3, 7 and 15 yards starting from a low-point ready isosceles stance. I modified this by firing all the drills within the specified time frames from a concealed strong-side belt slide holster. Scoring 100 percent was no problem. My impression is that any adult with ordinary reflexes, and a bit of practice should be able to duplicate and likely exceed my range results.

The Gen 2 is rated for SAAMI standard pressure 9x19 ammunition. FMK does not warrant the pistol for +P rounds at present. Since FMK gave me carte blanche with the sample pistol, I did fire a considerable amount of premium +P with no functional issues or visible damage to the pistol. Results may vary and prudence dictates the use of standard SAAMI designated ammunition.

The Gen 2 functioned reliably with the available array of SAAMI standard ball and JHP loads and premium +P loads from Black Hills and Buffalo Bore. There was one unexplained trapped case failure to eject with the S&B ball load but all others cycled without incident. The slide lock consistently locked the slide back on empty and there were no incidents of premature activation.

Three hundred rounds produced no discernable wear to any contact points except for minor finish rubs on the underside of the slide and a thin line on the finish at the front of the chamber lug where it enters the slide. The Gen 2 pistol is competitive in terms of utility and quality with the current crop of subcompact personal-defense handguns.

American Tactical Imports is the primary distributor and source of customer support. This is good news for FMK Firearms and the consumer as ATI has earned a solid reputation for responsible business practices.





**WHERE "DEAD-ON"
BECOMES
DEAD-ON-THE-GROUND.**

LEUPOLD® CDS®

Customize your riflescope to your exact caliber/load and environmental conditions with our exclusive Custom Dial System®. CDS® eliminates the guesswork of bullet drop and holdover points so you can hold "dead-on" at any practical range...giving you an extra dose of confidence at the trigger. One free customized CDS dial comes with all VX®-6, and select VX-2, VX-R™, VX-3 and VX-3L™ riflescopes. You can also purchase other variations for all your different loads. For more information, see your Leupold dealer or visit leupold.com.

 U.S.A.
DESIGNED
MACHINED
ASSEMBLED

AMERICA'S OPTICS AUTHORITY®

1-800-LEUPOLD
www.leupold.com
©2012 Leupold & Stevens Inc.

 Find us on
Facebook

GUNS

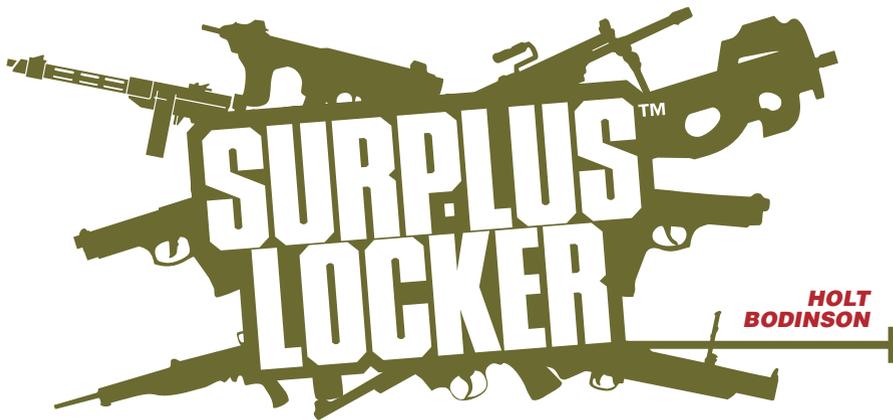
MAGAZINE

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

facebook.com/gunsmagazine





THE FIRST SURPLUS AMERICAN ARM? The National Guard's first firearm was a matchlock.

Stepping just inside the permanent exhibit on American Military History in the National Museum of American History, you will immediately come face-to-face with a maple-stocked matchlock musket. Standing a bit over 5' tall and sporting a .75-caliber bore, it's an imposing firearm. What catches your eye though is the name "Newtowne" burned three times into the stock. The "Newtowne" branding establishes both the origin of this matchlock as coming from an early fortified outpost of Boston, established in 1631, and tasked with maintaining and issuing muskets as well as the matchlock's ownership, to the local militia circa 1636.



The Enlisted Association of the National Guard is selling a stunning, limited edition reproduction of the Newtowne militia matchlock as a fundraiser for their "National Guard Soldier and Airmen Emergency Relief Fund." The fund, part of the We Care For America Foundation, was established to provide emergency grants to National Guard members who have experienced catastrophic financial hardship or personal property losses, ranging from sudden and long-term mobilizations to house fires.

Al Garver, Executive Director of the Enlisted Association and the person responsible for creating the Newtowne program, said only 375 Newtowne matchlocks would be produced, celebrating the 375th anniversary of the National Guard. Each gun will be numbered.

We've all seen hundreds of variations of fund-raising appeals, but in my experience, nothing comes close to the imaginative and the artistic quality of the Newtowne matchlock appeal.

Exacting Reproduction

Built by The Rifle Shoppe of Jones, Oklahoma, the world's unparalleled source of classic and historic reproduction parts for building muzzleloading arms of all national patterns, the Newtowne matchlocks they've crafted are historically correct and beautifully executed. The reproduction is so exact you could swap out their Newtowne for the original Newtowne in the National Museum, and no one would know the better.

Actually, The Rifle Shoppe catalog begins with parts for assembling hand "gonnes," matchlocks and wheellocks, covers extensively the 250-year reign of the flintlock and ends with the 40-year pop of the percussion lock. If you're interested at all in historic arms and/or the parts to make them, The Rifle Shoppe's catalog is a must have reference. Nice folks, too.

In use from the late 1400s to the early 1700s (except in Japan, where its employment continued into the 1800s), the matchlock was the primary weapon of the early American settlers. One step up from the hand cannon, it is a simple gun, but it could be quite elegant. Like the .75-caliber Newtowne, the colonial matchlock was typically a

The Matchlock really has no trigger in the conventional sense, but has a lever that pivots the "serpentine" holding the match down into a pan of powder.



The Rifle Shoppe's reproduction of the 1636 Newtowne matchlock is an exact replica of the original on display in the National Museum of American History.

smoothbore, giving the owner an option of firing ball or shot.

The barrel with its touchhole and the stock of the matchlock are self-explanatory. The lock of the Newtowne period consists of a curved arm, called the serpentine, which holds a saltpeter-impregnated rope (match). The serpentine is activated and lowers the match down to a powder filled priming pan by a sear attached to a lever (trigger) that looks exactly like the triggers found on period crossbows. Then, hopefully, there's a loud report and a projectile is launched to its target.

How-To

The manual-of-arms for the management of a matchlock is complicated and laborious. I can't imagine being in combat and having to reload a matchlock while being on the receiving end of a volley of well-aimed arrows. Two references from Harold Peterson's remarkable book, *Arms and Armor in Colonial America*

1526-1783, drive home this point.

"After having fired his musket, the first task of the soldier was to remove his match (which according to regulations was lighted at both ends) so that he would not accidentally ignite any of his powder. To do this, he loosened the thumbscrew which clamped the match in the fork of the serpentine and grasped the cord with his left hand, holding one of the lighted ends between his second and third fingers and the other end between his third and fourth fingers. Then, seizing the barrel of the gun with the thumb and forefinger of the same hand, he would hold it while he loaded.

"Having thus prepared the piece to receive the charge, he would use his right hand to open one of the wooden cylinders on his bandolier, each of which contained a single charge of powder, and pour the contents down the barrel. Next came a ball from its pouch or from his mouth if it was during an action, and, finally a wad

of tow or paper rammed down. Then he would prime the piece by filling the flash pan with fine-grained powder... close the pan cover and carefully blow away any loose powder.

"The piece was then loaded but... the match had to be returned to the serpentine and adjusted. The coal on its end had to be blown into activity. If the gunner was forced to wait any length of time before firing, he had to change the adjustment of the match continually to insure it would strike the pan and also to prevent it from burning down to the serpentine and going out. If it did go out, he relighted it from the coal at the other end of the match, which was kept burning for that purpose."

More succinctly, in 1611, Virginia prescribed the duties of a sentinel as "he shall shoulder his piece, both ends of his match being alight, and his piece charged and primed, and bullets in his mouth, there to stand with a careful and waking eye, until such time as his Corporal shall relieve him."

Imagine being a "sentinel" at night with essentially two, glowing cigarette butts dangling from your gun! I have a hunch there were a few scalped, matchlock-toting sentinels lost along the trail.

Putting down roots along the Atlantic coast in the 1500s and 1600s was a desperate task. Not only were the early settlers fighting the wilderness but also a violent series of Indian wars, conflicts with colonies of other nationalities and disputes among themselves while having to fulfill the daily need for food and fiber. Dependable weapons were essential for survival, and the matchlock was the primary sporting and assault weapon of the day.

Service in the colonial militia was mandatory for men aged 18 and older. A later Bay Colony law even required children aged 10 to 16 to be instructed in the use of all arms. Each adult militia member was required to be armed and to participate in training musters after church and at public assemblies. In 1636, the date



Holt's first three shots cut a well centered, 4" group at 25 yards.



Matchlock muskets such as these were issued with a hooked stick to steady the arm during firing. The Newtowne stock (inset) is branded with the town name in three places just as the originals were. Note the unique “club butt” stock of fancy maple. It is not uncomfortable to shoot.

also of the Newtowne matchlock, the Massachusetts Bay Colony had a militia force of 1,500 men organized into 10 militia companies—a formidable, well armed, matchlock force—our original National Guard.

What’s it like to shoot the Newtowne? While the Newtownes being offered to the public do not have their touch holes drilled and are considered to be non-firing replicas, our test musket from The Rifle Shoppe was considered a “ballistics research instrument” with a drilled touch hole and was ready to bellow with ball or shot.

Jess Melot, owner of The Rifle Shoppe, observes that when he disassembled and examined the original Newtowne for reproduction purposes, he concluded from its very American, curly maple stock, its hammer forged, rough finished serpentine and internal lock parts, the appearance of the pins and pin holes holding the barrel and stock together and the “lumpy” exterior of the barrel that the Newtowne matchlock was indeed, American, not European, made. It’s a significant opinion, making the Newtowne one of the first firearms made in the New World.

Being a .75 caliber, a very universal musket caliber for the next 150 years, the Newtowne can be loaded with standard 12-gauge wads, shot, or a .735" patched or unpatched lead ball. A typical charge would be 70 to 80 grains of FFG black powder or Alliant’s flintlock-friendly, Black



The lock of the matchlock (above) is “the earliest mechanical form of firing” a gun. Note the manual pan cover (below) to protect the powder in the flash pan from the continuously smoldering match.



MZ. Since its recent introduction, I favor Black MZ in smoothbores. Load-for-load, it doesn’t equal the higher velocities of black powder, but it is consistently accurate. It leaves so little firing residue, you don’t have to wipe between shots plus it’s virtually corrosion free. On the other hand, I did chronograph Swiss 1-1/2 Fg

black powder in the Newtowne to see what the performance difference was between it and Black MZ.

My roundball load consisted of 70 grains of Black MZ, followed by a 12-gauge overshot wad, a 12-gauge Ox-Yoke Wonder Wad and a .735" ball from the Vance Bullet Co. patched in .011" linen and greased with Track of the Wolf’s Mink Oil grease. A dash of FFFFg in the pan to be ignited by a 3/8" nitrated, sisal cord from The Rifle Shoppe, and I was good to go.

Mash The Serpentine

Melot told me to be aggressive with the matchlock trigger. In other words, don’t gently squeeze the trigger but snap that glowing matchcord down into the pan for the fastest ignition. I did as told.

Blowing on the tip of the matchcord to get a good hot ember glowing, I snapped the trigger and the Newtowne reported immediately. There is something mildly disconcerting about the idea of a fire-carrying serpentine arcing toward your face, rather than away from your face, as is the case with Japanese matchlocks, but the system works, and I didn’t walk away from the shooting session with either singed eyebrows or a smoke smudged brow.

Shooting from a rest at 25 yards, I (and fellow onlookers) were amazed as a well centered 4", 3-shot group developed on target. These Newtownes do shoot, even if there’s no rear sight to center that front bead in!

1636 NEWTOWNE MATCHLOCK MUSKET

SPONSOR: ENLISTED ASSOCIATION OF THE
NATIONAL GUARD
3133 MT. VERNON AVE.
ALEXANDER, VA 22305
(800) 234-3264X25
WWW.NEWTOWNEMUSKET.COM
MAKER: THE RIFLE SHOPPE
18420 E. HEFNER RD.
JONES, OK 73049
(405) 396-2583
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/THE-RIFLE-SHOPPE

ACTION TYPE: Matchlock, **CALIBER:** .75, **BARREL
LENGTH:** 47-1/2", **OVERALL LENGTH:** 63-1/4", **WEIGHT:**
8 pounds, **FINISH:** Armory bright, **SIGHTS:** Front
bead, **STOCK:** Curly maple, **PRICE:** \$2,995

At 50 yards, my next group was off to the right side of the target and entirely in the black target backer; however, those three shots went into a vertical group measuring only 6". Yes, these matchlocks do shoot.

Yee fine Editor urged me to try my matchlock hand at flying clays so I loaded the Newtowne with 1-5/8 ounce of No. 9 shot and let fly. It was a humiliating experience, not to be repeated. On the other hand, in spite of being 5' long, the 8-pound Newtowne balanced and handled well offhand, and while its club butt appears awkward, it's very comfortable and functional.

The only challenge I found in managing the matchlock was to keep that matchcord glowing and to adjust its length and orientation in the serpentine so it came down centered in the pan. Having to remove the matchcord from the lock as you load the piece and then having to reinsert it in the serpentine before firing is a slow, slow process. I can't imagine having to do it under combat conditions.

Retiring to the PACT Professional chronograph, I compared 70 grains of Black MZ to 70 grains of Swiss 1-1/2 Fg. Alliant's Black MZ averaged 595 fps while Swiss 1-1/2 Fg hit 973 fps. A 580-grain roundball clocking along at 973 fps would have been a major power factor in Anno Domini 1636.

All things considered, I think our early 17th century National Guard was very well armed.

VANCE BULLET CO.
(ALL SIZES OF ROUND BALLS
AND CONICALS)
P.O. BOX 327
RUSHSVLVANIA, OH 43347
(877) 674-4947

ARMS AND ARMOR IN COLONIAL
AMERICA—1526-1783, HAROLD L. PETERSON,
HARDCOVER, 350 PAGES, ©1956, OP. TRY
WWW.ABEBOOKS.COM.

DeSANTIS

DIDN'T INVENT CONCEALMENT, WE JUST PERFECTED IT!



**Appendix
Carry**

MSRP
\$59⁹⁹
Style 113

Flex-Tuk™

- Totally Tuckable
- Accommodates S&W J Frame 2"
- Rotates 360°
- Adjusts for height
- Additional J-Clip included



**Cross
Draw
Carry**



800-GUNHIDE
631-841-6300
Dept #GM82
www.desantisholster.com
431 Bayview Avenue, Amityville, NY 11701



GUNS ONLINE!

MAGAZINE

www.gunsmagazine.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
TEKANS!**

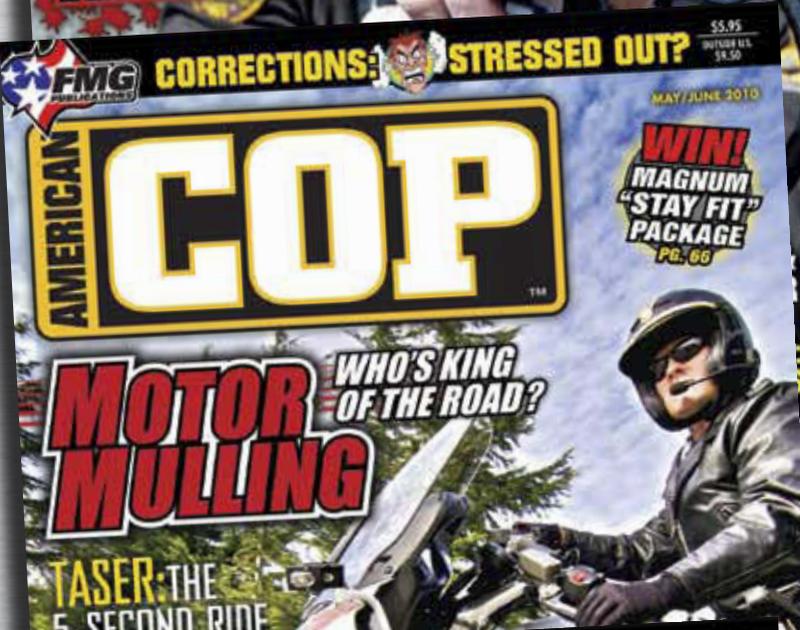
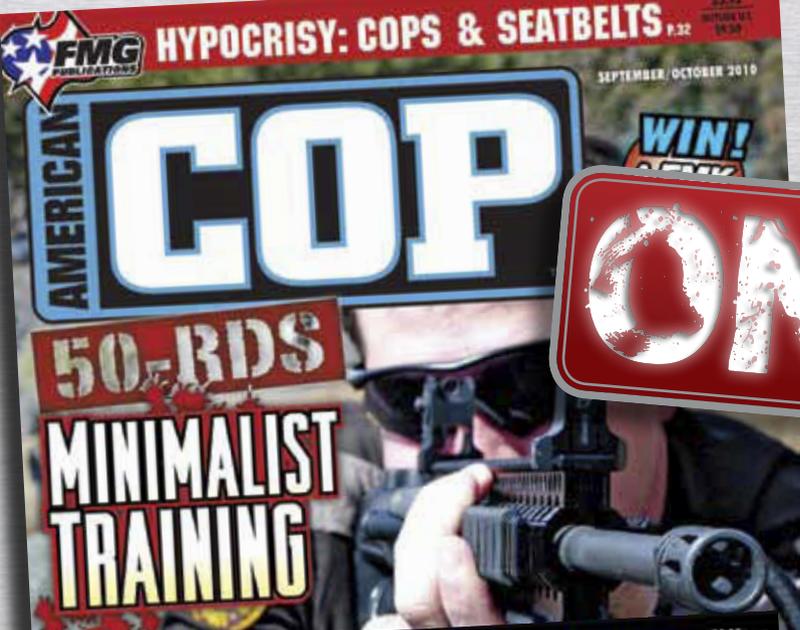
**CALL FOR
FREE BROCHURE!**

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**





ALWAYS

ON DUTY

ONE TOOL You Can Rely On

Whether you're a 20-year veteran or new recruit, American COP has something for you.

Inside each issue is the best mix of new gear, humor and in-your-face features available – by cops, for cops.

Street smart

Officer survival tips and weapon options give you the edge when you're nose to nose with trouble.

Detailed reviews of the latest guns and gear help you choose the best tools to get the job done.

Just what you need

A lighthearted look at the job, life and events only a cop can understand – inside when you need it most.

American COP
Always on duty for YOU

SPECIAL OFFER

Two Year Subscription
Only \$19.95
Plus **FREE** Tactical Knife!*

(Regular Price \$39.95) Includes 12 bi-monthly issues
Outside U.S. \$64.95 for two full years

Order Online!

www.americancopmagazine.com

Call toll-free (888) 732-2299

*With your paid subscription



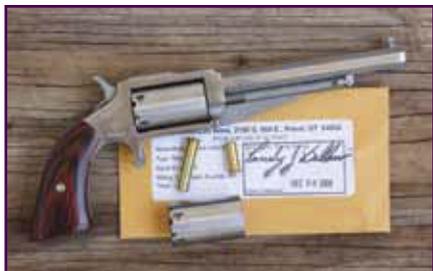
Q&A

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.

Never Fired

Q: Just got done reading Duke's "Guns & Money" column in the May issue. He said guns that have never been fired don't have added value. All the handguns I have bought new have been fired once and the spent case was placed in a small envelope and shipped with the handgun. When did the gun manufacturers start using this type of quality control? Will there ever be a time when we can say, "This gun has never been fired?"

Victor "Shorty" Yglesias
Angleton, Texas



Jeff's North American Arms 1860 Earl was shipped with a Maryland and New York compliant sealed pouch containing the spent shell casings for both .22 LR and .22 WMR even though it went west. It is unusual for modern guns to be shipped without first being test fired at the factory. Photo: Jeff John

A: Only the states of Maryland and New York require a spent shell casing be sent in to create a "ballistic fingerprint" for every new gun sale. Maryland first started it in 2000, and then New York followed. Many companies routinely comply with some state laws more easily by shipping all guns that way—even to the free world like Texas.

To my knowledge every manufacturer test-fires guns before they ship, with an exception of commemorative guns and a few other types. It is one of the reasons why you can't positively say a gun has never been fired.

GUNS

U.S. GOV'T GOLD AT-COST

TODAY - The U.S. Money Reserve has scheduled the final release of U.S. Gov't Issued \$5 Gold Coins previously held at the U.S. Mint at West Point. These Gov't Issued Gold Coins are being released on a first-come, first-served basis for the incredible mark-up free price of only \$183.25 per coin. Please be advised: our at-cost U.S. Gov't Gold inventory will be available at this special price while supplies last or for up to 30 days. Do not delay. Call a Sr. Gold Specialist today.

OWN GOV'T - ISSUED GOLD COINS

DUE TO STRICT LIMITED AVAILABILITY, TELEPHONE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS ACCORDING TO THE TIME AND DATE OF THE ORDER.

PURE COST - NO DEALER MARKUP!

\$183.25
EACH

PRICES MAY BE MORE OR LESS BASED ON CURRENT MARKET CONDITIONS. CALL NOW.



If you've been waiting to move your hard-earned money into precious metals, the time is now to consider transferring your U.S. dollars into United States Government Gold. The Gold market is on the move, up nearly 450% over the past 10 years - outpacing the DOW, NASDAQ and S&P 500. Call immediately to order your United States Gold Coins direct from our Main Vault Facility, "at-cost", for the amazing price of only \$183.25 per coin. Special arrangements can be made for Gold purchases over \$50,000. Order your Gold today!

- 1 - Gov't Issued Gold Coin \$ 183.25
(PLUS INSURANCE, SHIPPING & HANDLING \$31.00)
- 5 - Gov't Issued Gold Coins \$ 916.25
(PLUS INSURANCE, SHIPPING & HANDLING \$31.00)
- 10 - Gov't Issued Gold Coins \$ 1,832.50
(PLUS INSURANCE, SHIPPING & HANDLING \$36.00)

THE MARKETS FOR COINS ARE UNREGULATED. PRICES CAN RISE OR FALL AND CARRY SOME RISKS. THE COMPANY IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THE U.S. MINT. PAST PERFORMANCE OF THE COIN OR THE MARKET CANNOT PREDICT FUTURE PERFORMANCE. SPECIAL AT-COST OFFER IS STRICTLY LIMITED TO ONLY ONE LIFETIME PURCHASE OF 10 AT-COST COINS (REGARDLESS OF PRICE PAID) PER HOUSEHOLD, PLUS SHIPPING AND INSURANCE.

CALL TOLL FREE (7 Days A Week)

1-855-272-1317

MASTERCARD • VISA • AMEX • DISCOVER • CHECK

U.S. MONEY
RESERVE
Vault No. GU3-18325

Coins enlarged to show detail.

© 2012 U.S. Money Reserve

Find us on Facebook

AMERICAN HANDGUNNER

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



facebook.com/americanhandgunner

PRONGHORN RIFLES

Don't be fooled by
the many enduring myths.

John Barsness

One of the interesting things about growing up in Montana has been encountering many hunters from other parts of North America who finally make their big trip Out West. This first hunt often involves pronghorn and mule deer, but for some reason the boys really obsess over exactly the right pronghorn rifle, perhaps because mule deer are, well, deer.

One persistent myth is pronghorns have 8X eyesight. They do have very good eyesight, but a human with an 8X binocular can see better.



In almost 40 years of pronghorn hunting, John has only shot at two bucks more than 400 yards away, and both were dropped with one shot. One was taken at 401 laser yards with a .257 Weatherby Magnum (above), the other at 430 long paces with a .257 Roberts (below).



Unlike deer, pronghorns live out in the open where we can see them. Consequently hunters tend to take longer shots at pronghorns than any other North American big game animal, even though it really isn't necessary.

These days most whitetail hunting means sitting in some sort of stand, waiting for deer to wander out of the woods, so many visiting hunters have little idea of how to stalk a big game animal. Neither do many hunters who grew up on the high plains of the West, due to growing up stalking from a pickup truck. As a result, both types of hunters often start shooting at pronghorns as soon as they spot one, partly because most antelope are already onto them. The boys figure they have to shoot now!

Here it should be mentioned that while "pronghorn" is supposedly the "correct" common name for our quarry, something often pointed out by pedantics, the scientific name is *Antilocapra americana*. This Latin literally translates into American antelope-goat, so yeah, it's perfectly OK to call pronghorns antelope—or even goats, one of their common Western names. In fact we often call them speed-goats or stink-goats, depending on how close we get.

The reason so many pronghorn hunters emphasize high-magnification scopes and high-velocity cartridges is they're not very good at stalking unalarmed antelope. Pronghorn

hunting actually starts with binoculars, so we can see pronghorns before they see us.

You've probably heard the myth that antelope have "8X binocular eyes." This arose from something written by Jack O'Connor, who mentioned glassing with an 8X binocular and finding a buck looking right back at him. He concluded antelope have vision at least that good—and the myth entered American hunting lore.

Antelope do have very good eyesight, but it doesn't magnify anything. Like most prey animals, they see movement really well, especially movement on a high-plains horizon. If you really believe in the mythical 8X story, go ahead and bring a good 10X binocular, but a good 8X or even 7X binocular also works well, if you don't hunt by hiking ridgelines or driving ranch roads until some speed-goats spot you.

The trick is to glass constantly, long before you see any antelope with your naked eyes, peeking from behind rocks or sage, to break up the outline of your head and shoulders. Often they'll appear as distant white dots, but on cloudy days even their tan-and-white coloration tends to merge with sagebrush, requiring very careful glassing.

Once a buck's located, the next step is to get close enough for a shot, and in some country this can occur as soon as you've spotted them. Back in the mid-1980s, before every particle of Montana's public pronghorn country

had been overrun by all-terrain vehicles, my wife Eileen and I used to hunt a big chunk of badlands. We'd hike in there with pack-frames on our backs, then poke our heads over and around the jumbled landscape. Sometimes we'd find antelope a coulee or two over and have to make a long stalk, but quite often they'd be right there in front of us. Over several years of hunting that country our average shot was about 130 yards, not much more than the average whitetail shot.

Terrain Following

Even the most wide-open pronghorn country contains little draws and washouts. These often snake back and forth a lot, so aren't the most direct route, but patience combined with some bending over and, occasionally, crawling will eventually get a hunter inside 500 yards, and usually much closer.

Since my teens I've kept notes on all my big game animals, which includes a pile of pronghorns, not just mine but those of friends and people I've guided. These notes reveal some interesting statistics. One is that I've only seen one pronghorn killed beyond 500 yards. This was many years ago, on a ranch in central Montana where I guided for a few years in the late 1980s. One year a client showed up who claimed to be a long-range expert, and he spent several days and lots of ammo proving it. Eventually he killed a buck at just about 700 yards, though it turned out to be the "wrong" antelope. He'd started shooting at the biggest buck in a herd, but after missing ended up plunking a smaller one. This can happen even when using a really powerful riflescope, especially during midday when heat waves start rising from the prairie.

Other than that, the longest shot attempted on an unwounded pronghorn was around 450 yards, a 1-shot kill by my wife Eileen. We'd been hunting for a couple of days in "our" badlands, but the great ATV invasion had started, and the antelope left their usual rough-country hide-outs for more open areas where they could see 4-wheelers coming.

One little herd ended up on a wide-open creek bottom over a 1/2-mile wide. We eventually crawled up behind a lone juniper tree on a low bluff overlooking the bottom. This was several years before the advent of laser rangefinders, but I'd been using the reticle in my riflescope as a rangefinder for a decade or more. This works pretty accurately on pronghorns, because a typical mature buck measures about 15" from the hair on top of his shoulder to the bottom



With the help of a laser rangefinder, it doesn't take extremely high velocity to reach out across the plains. This average-size Colorado buck was taken at just under 400 yards with a 6.5x55 and a 120-grain handload at about 2,900 fps, thanks to the ballistic reticle in the Pentax scope.



John's hunting notes list a lot of antelope taken with the .257 Roberts, partly because a lot of hunters visiting the West are rifle enthusiasts with a fondness for classic cartridges. John took this good Wyoming buck with a semi-custom Ruger No. 1 with one 115-grain Nosler Partition at 275 yards.



The .257 Weatherby Magnum is a superb pronghorn round. Eileen Clarke used John's Weatherby Vanguard Sporter to take this Wyoming buck at 280 yards after the scope on her own rifle went bad.

of his brisket. In this instance the 3-9X on my .257 Roberts indicated the buck was a little over 400 yards away.

Long Range

Eileen's .270 Winchester was sighted-in 3" high at 100 yards with a 130-grain boattail started at about 3,050 fps. I told her to hold the crosshairs just above the buck's back, just enough to see a little space between the reticle and the antelope. When she shot the buck stood up on his hind legs and twirled a couple times like a ballet dancer before falling due to a bullet through the top of the heart. When stretched a little my paces end up just about a yard long, and I counted 452 from the bluff to where the buck fell.

Despite the preconceptions of many visiting hunters, 400-yard shots aren't all that usual in pronghorn hunting, at least not successful ones. Over four decades my companions and I have hunted antelope in Colorado, Montana, New Mexico and Wyoming. Less than 5 percent of the successful shots have been at more than 400 yards, and the average of all shots has been 226 yards. This really isn't very far for a good shooter with a scoped rifle, especially from prone over a daypack or bipod, the way most antelope are shot, but I've still seen quite a few missed at 200 to 250 yards.

Before laser rangefinders the misses almost always went high, because so many visiting hunters over-estimated the range, even when their guide (who'd used his scope reticle to roughly measure the distance) told them exactly where to hold. They'd look at the little animal standing way out there in the sagebrush, and decide they needed to "help" the bullet by holding a little over the buck's back. And that's exactly where the bullet went.

Since the laser rangefinder appeared most misses have been under. Oh, the boys do believe digital read-outs, but a pronghorn across a sagebrush flat is one of the toughest targets for a laser beam. Often the laser picks up something closer instead, usually a sagebrush. My notes do indicate, however, that the average range of successful shots did increase somewhat with laser rangefinders to 278 yards.

The cartridges used by various hunters have ranged from the .220 Swift to the .300 Winchester Short Magnum. The most popular turned out to be the .270 Winchester, used for 29 percent of the antelope taken—not surprising, since the .270 has been a top choice for Western big game hunting for a long time, and with good reason.

The second most popular round turned out to be the .257 Roberts. This might seem odd, since the .257



The trick in pronghorn hunting is to see them first, then use the landscape to stalk closer.

isn't nearly as popular as the .243 Winchester, by far the most common chambering in smaller-bore big game rifles. The number was skewed partly by me and Eileen (she's used the .257 on 40 percent of her pronghorns, including her first, taken 27 years ago), but also turned up in the hands of some clients I've guided, who might be termed rifle loonies.

After the .257 the list is dominated by common rounds such as the .243 Winchester, 7mm Remington Magnum, .308 Winchester and .30-06, but a few hunters used really uncommon rounds, including the .240 Weatherby, .250 Savage, 6.5 Creedmoor, 6.5/284, 6.5-06 and .280 Ackley Improved. They all worked about the same, as long as the hunter could shoot.

The .220 Swift worked perfectly on several antelope. It isn't legal in some states, including Wyoming, but is in Montana. I used to bring one along when guiding, partly for coyotes but partly because some clients turned out to be over-gunned. One young man just out of high school brought his only rifle, a .338 Winchester Magnum, purchased because of his dream of being an Alaskan guide.

Scott couldn't hit squat with his .338, due to severe flinching, so I introduced him to the Swift, a well-used tang-safety Ruger 77. It shot 60-grain Nosler Solid base bullets quite accurately at 3,650 fps, and after a few test shots to cure Scott's flinch, we went hunting, stalking within 150 yards of a very good buck. At the shot the buck trotted in a tiny circle, then fell over dead due to a hole through both sides of his ribcage, just as if he'd been shot with a .243, .270 or 7mm Magnum.

The only reason the .300 WSM appeared on the list was my using

it on a couple of hunts hosted by firearms manufacturers—which brings up another interesting point. A lot of hunters choose lighter, more frangible bullets for hunting pronghorns, both for a flatter trajectory and to insure bullet expansion at long range on relatively light animals. Over the decades, however, Eileen and I have almost entirely switched to harder bullets, and sometimes to heavier, slower bullets. Why? Because they don't shoot up as much meat.

Truly Tasty

Pronghorns taste really good—though some hunters don't believe this, either because of the way they smell on the outside (the reason for "stink-goat") or because the hunters don't know how to take care of the meat. Pronghorn meat is easily ruined by any little screw-up in the field, from gut-shooting to not cooling the meat down quickly. Since hunting seasons often take place in late summer and early fall the weather's often warm, so removing the hide quickly really helps.

Pronghorn hair is hollow, like that of deer, but each hair is even thicker, the reason 100-pound pronghorns can easily withstand the below-zero temperatures typical of winter on the high plains. The fragile hair also has a distinct goaty aroma that doesn't help the flavor of pronghorn meat, and the dried blood also turns bitter. The meat should be rinsed immediately after skinning, one reason so many truly experienced pronghorn hunters carry plenty of water.

When properly cared for pronghorn is among the finest of game, mild-flavored and very tender, but even mature bucks rarely yield much more than 40 pounds of boned meat.

Ruining 5 or 10 pounds with an explosive bullet makes a big difference. Over the past few years Eileen has used Barnes Triple-Shock and Nosler E-Tip bullets in her rifles. I've used both as well, but another good example might be the two bucks taken with the .300 WSM.

The first was on a hunt where every writer was issued ammo loaded with 150-grain Nosler Ballistic Tips. Now, Ballistic Tips are fine bullets, but they do tend to chew up meat, especially when started from a .300 Magnum, and I lost at least 6 to 8 pounds off my buck, despite putting the bullet through the ribs behind the shoulder. On my next invitation to hunt pronghorns with the .300 WSM I used ammo loaded with 180-grain Nosler AccuBonds, punching a nice hole through the ribs and leaving the shoulder meat intact.

Yeah, we can obsess over every detail of our pronghorn rifle, but thanks to laser rangefinders, ballistic reticles and reliable elevation turrets, a super-flat trajectory isn't nearly as helpful for pronghorn hunting as it used to be. Shots at 400 yards or more can easily be made even with pedestrian rounds like the .308 Winchester. But if using the "perfect" pronghorn rifle makes you happy, by all means go ahead. One of my recent bucks fell to a custom 6.5-06 with a 10X Leupold Mark 4 scope, all dialed-in out to 700 yards, shooting a 140-grain Berger VLD at 2,950 fps. It worked just fine—at 163 yards.

In reality just about any deer rifle, shooting spitzer bullets at 2,700+ fps will also do the trick, as long as our laser accurately measures the range—and we find our pronghorn before it finds us, then use the Western landscape to stalk within sure range.

GUNS

Russian Mosin: the Most Successful Sniper Rifle in WWII

Soviet Sniper

Original & Complete with all its accessories **Originally Manufactured to be a Sniper Rifle**, maintained combat ready by the Soviets. Mitchell found them in a Soviet warehouse, tested with barrel gauges and selected only the tightest bores.

Marvelous Condition, with **Original WWII Scope!**



WWII Mosin Sniper Rifle, Collector, Only \$799
Special Select Grades also available

Last Authentic Original Rifles

The last of these historical rifles in Europe are **Being Destroyed Right Now** under pressure from the UN, instead going to collectors.

Get Yours Now, Before Prices Go Up!

This is a **Classic Collector's Rifle**: *Preserve It, Display it, Shoot it and Enjoy it.*

FREE Original Accessories, the Video "*Enemy at the Gates*", and a Rifle Display Stand.



Each rifle has its own original military accessories.

You get all of this for only \$799.

Once Gone, There Are No More!

800-274-4124

Your Satisfaction is Guaranteed

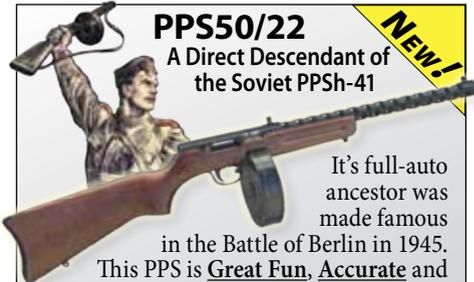
Mitchell's Mausers

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

PPS50/22

A Direct Descendant of the Soviet PPS-41

NEW!



It's full-auto ancestor was made famous in the Battle of Berlin in 1945.

This PPS is **Great Fun, Accurate** and **Inexpensive to Shoot** too. (If it's legal where you live, you can also buy its 50-rd drum)

New PPS50/22 .22LR semi-auto rifle \$495.

Roza Shanina, already an accomplished sniper in 1944 at the age of 20, commanded a squad of female snipers, who proved to be the scourge of the German army. These courageous young women used a rifle that was state-of-the-art at the time, the Mosin 91/30 PU.

These rifles performed admirably on the Eastern front, notably at Stalingrad, as you will see in "*Enemy at the Gate*", which comes free with your Mosin 91/30 PU Sniper rifle.

"Clintism" No. 3:

"The gun that's with you is better than the one that's home in the safe."

You've decided to carry a concealed handgun. **Now what?**

Clint Smith of Thunder Ranch can help you adjust to this change in your lifestyle through the Concealed Carry Options two-disc DVD set.

Clint will help you choose which gun to carry, how to carry it, what to look for in clothing and how to draw the gun correctly.

He also discusses the assets and liabilities of a concealed handgun and how they affect you.

The Thunder Ranch Concealed Carry Options DVD set will help you discover logical solutions that fit your lifestyle. Order your copy today!



CONCEALED CARRY OPTIONS



Logical Solutions for Concealed Carry

From Firearms Training Expert **Clint Smith**

DVD Two-Disk Set Includes:
• Mental Preparation Lecture
• Gun Choice
• Carry and Clothing
• Drawing Technique



TRAINING SERIES



Two-disc set only \$49.95

Includes over two hours of video!
(800) 628-9818 (M-F 8am-3pm PST)

www.americanhandgunner.com/TRvidst

Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery

THE "SLIM" NANO

THE LATEST
9MM POCKET PISTOL
FROM BERETTA HAS SOME
UNIQUE FEATURES.

Massad Ayoob

Photos: Robbie Barrkman

What I've come to call "slim-9s," subcompact 9mm Parabellum auto pistols of pocket-size dimensions, are the new rage for concealed carry. Beretta has joined the market with their fascinating Nano, a striker-fired, double-action-only design built around a "sub-chassis" that lifts easily out of its polymer frame and makes disassembly and cleaning a breeze. No manual safety, no need for a decocking mechanism, good sights, a sleek profile, and a slide with more 4140 ordnance steel than some of the competition, to help control recoil and enhance "shootability."

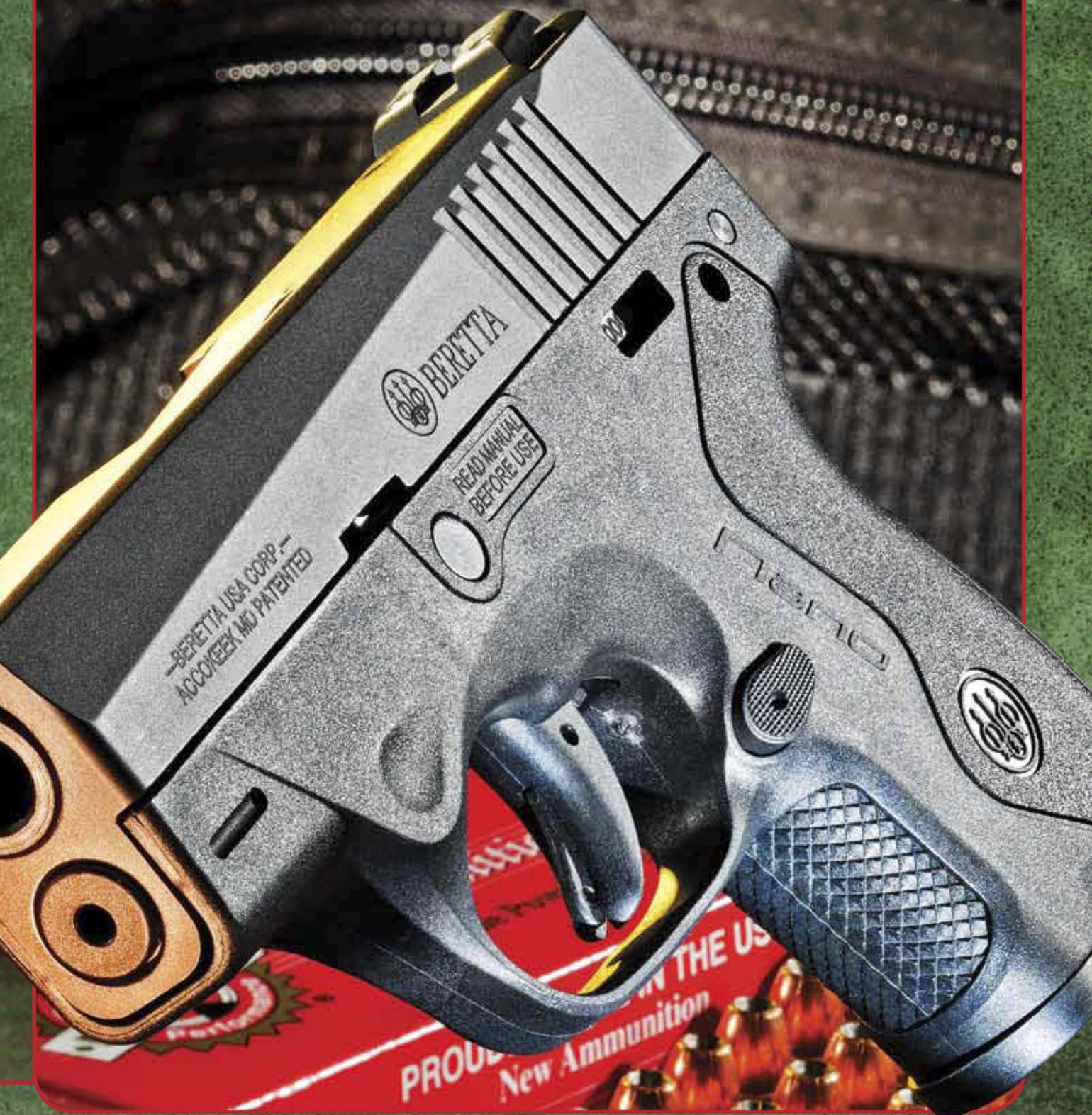
It's become customary in some gun magazines to test these "pocket pistols" at 7 yards or so, instead of the traditional 25 paces. The theory is they won't be used farther than that. Strangely, none of those guns owner's manuals explain the force field that will keep anyone farther than seven steps distance from shooting at you and requiring return fire. So, I test them at 25 yards like anything else. They'll surprise you. This one did.

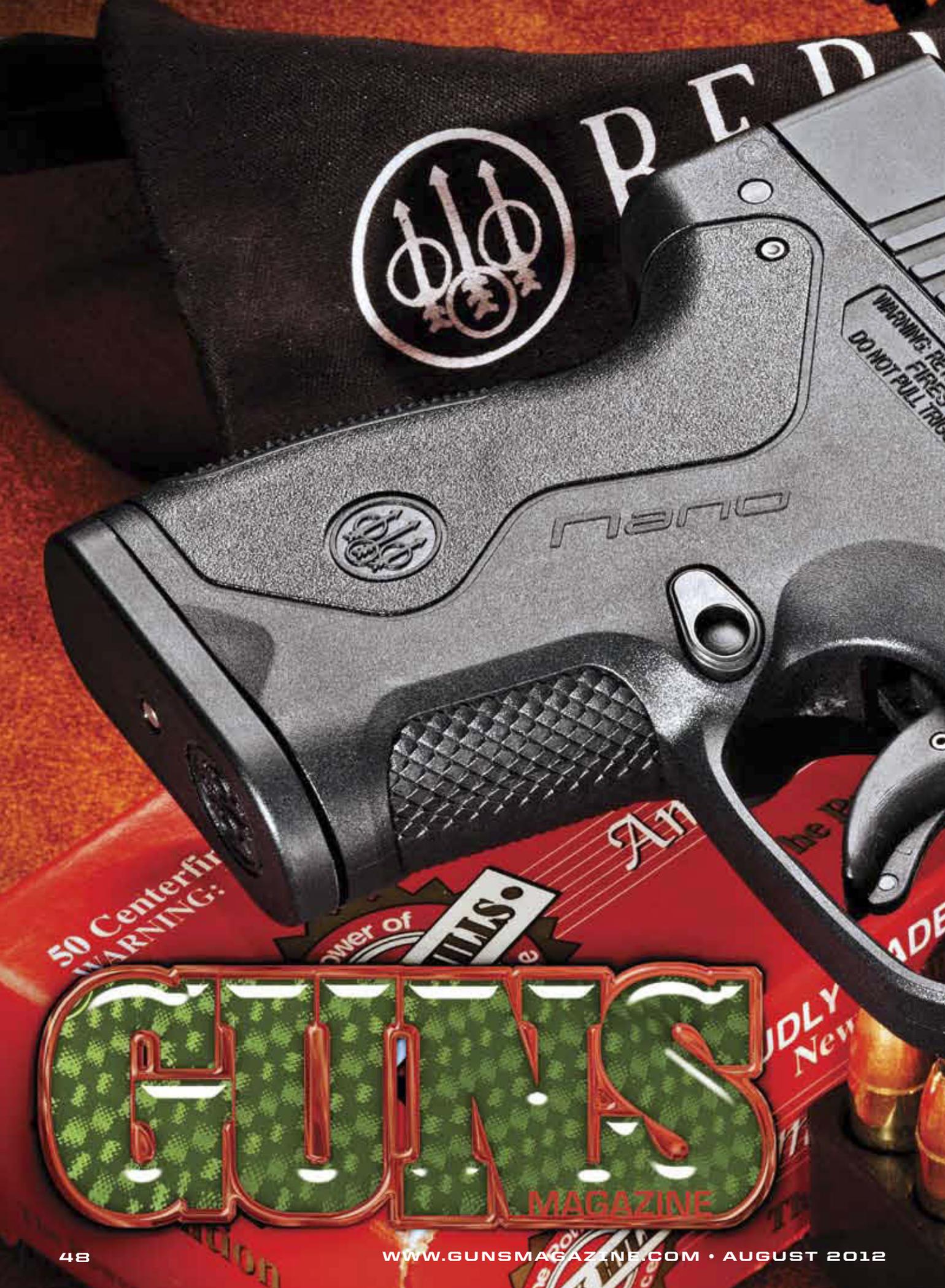
With a 9mm, I try to test with the three most popular bullet weights:



Firearms instructor Herman Gunter, III fires the Nano. Notice upward cocked wrist, middle knuckle of firing hand in line with radius bone of his forearm. Photo: Massad Ayoob.

IM 9"





NANO

WARNING: RELOADS FIRES DO NOT PULL TRIGGER

50 Centerfire
WARNING:

Power of
SIG Sauer

AT

the P

MADE

UDLY
New

GUNS

MAGAZINE

THE "SLIM 9" NANO

THE LATEST 9MM
POCKET PISTOL
FROM BERETTA

TRACT SLIDE TO SEE IF LOADED
WITHOUT MAGAZINE
FOR DISASSEMBLY

9 Para
MADE IN USA

SLIM
NANO

POTENTIALLY LIFE-SAVING DESIGN

A big tactical advantage is found in the fact the Beretta Nano, unlike most semiautomatic pistols, has “stand-off capability.” Its recoil spring guide is rigid enough that if the muzzle is pushed straight in against a resisting surface, the parts will remain in battery and the gun will fire. This works if the muzzle is perpendicular to the target, and it works if the muzzle is being pushed upward into the target, with the lower front part of the slide making the initial contact with the “target surface.” If the muzzle is pressed downward, however, pressure is exerted rearward on the front of the slide and can force it out of battery, preventing firing, as with most other autoloaders.

This is an important, potentially life-saving feature. If you are the intended rape-murder victim of the next Ted Bundy, pinned to the floor or ground by his weight on top of you, or if a 300-pound attacker is trying to break your spine with a bear hug, the press contact shot may be your only chance to survive. I tested the Nano live fire against a Chicago telephone book, and yes, if you're pushing straight forward or upward, it will fire.

The muzzle contact blast into flesh can create “blowback,” chunks of fat and other tissue blasting rearward into the muzzle and bushing area of the pistol as it cycles, and I've seen this jam guns. With the Nano, the phone book was covered with a plastic bag, partly to simulate clothing and partly to keep from having to clean confetti off my range. Even so, some paper got in between the barrel and slide of the Nano from a contact shot. No problem: the tolerances were generous enough to allow the pistol to still work for follow-up shots.



The Nano's stand-off effect in action. Mas presses the muzzle of the Nano hard against a Chicago phone book in a move that takes some semi-autos out of battery. (Note: this test is under known, controlled conditions. Do not attempt to replicate.) Photo: Massad Ayoob



Mas pulls the trigger. Blast effect is seen at the muzzle with the flying casing circled. Photo: Massad Ayoob



The muzzleblast effect of contact shot is seen graphically here, and if you look at the muzzle in the next picture... Photo: Massad Ayoob



... You'll see debris is caught between barrel and slide, but the Nano is still in battery and ready to fire again. Photo: Massad Ayoob

115, 124 and 147 grains. Since the Nano is a defense gun, the 115 I chose was Buffalo Bore's super hot +P+, rated by its manufacturer for a sizzling 1,400 fps out of a full-size 9mm service pistol, and presumably capable of 1,300 fps or more out of the shorter Nano tube. It put five Gold Dot jacketed hollowpoint projectiles into 4.75" center to center. Four of the JHPs were in 3.35", and the “best three”—a good predictor of what all five might have done out of a machine rest instead of hand-held on a Matrix rest—measured 2.35".

For a 124-grain load, I chose Black Hills' famously accurate standard-pressure JHP. It hit 4" on the nose for five shots, making the often quoted standard of “acceptable service pistol accuracy” even though it's a stubby pocket gun. It should be noted, however, that four of those shots were in 2.35", and the best three, in 1.55".

We hit the sweet spot for Nano accuracy when my friend and colleague Steve Denney, ex-SWAT cop and award-winning shooter, benched the baby Beretta with Remington-UMC 147-grain full metal jacket subsonic. The 147-grain FMJ bullet rated for upper-middle 900 fps velocity range has been famously accurate in 9mm pistols since it was conceived by Winchester in the 1980s. I've seen this economy-priced Rem-UMC win a lot of IDPA matches, and in this case it exceeded expectations. Steve squeezed five shots into 2.25" at 25 yards, but the real potential is found in the fact that four of those bullets were in a 1.05" group, and the best three in a mere .65". Clearly, the Nano has accuracy potential!

That said, though, the gun exhibited “4+1 syndrome.” That is, the widest shot in the group was always the first, hand-chambered round. The theory is this happens because the parts are in a very subtly different alignment with one another, or “battery,” when the automatic cycling mechanism slams the next cartridge into the chamber after the last shot, than when the first cartridge is chambered manually.

In shooting, I think “the trigger is the heart of the beast,” and this one took some getting used to. It has a Glock-ish pivoting safety lever on its face, but unlike the Glock, requires a virtually full-forward reset for the next shot. In other words, the trigger looks like a Glock's, but feels a bit more like that of a Kahr or a double-action-only revolver. Out of the box it felt gritty. That smoothed up some after a good bit of dry-fire and live-fire shooting.

There's a very short, light take-up as you start the pull, quickly meeting a



The Nano fieldstrips into its major components by the use of a ballpoint pen or similar tool. The subchassis containing the trigger group is also easily removed.

firm resistance. From there, it's a fairly consistent pull, which on my Lyman digital gauge from Brownells averaged 7 pounds, 3.1 ounces. The faster you run the trigger, the smoother it seems.

This pistol has a high bore axis, and that gives it more muzzle flip than some others in its category. That always slows, to some degree, the shooter's ability to return to target for the next accurate shot. The other element of recoil, rearward "kick," was a pleasant surprise with the Nano. Even with the screaming +P+ Buffalo Bore, and the narrow grip-frame, it simply didn't hurt to shoot this little 9mm.

Pointing qualities are not this pistol's strong suit. When most of us point our arm, the middle knuckle is in line with the center of the forearm, and the knuckle of the trigger finger is aligned with the radius, or upper forearm bone. The grip to barrel angle of the Nano forced every shooter on our test team to cock their wrist upward, putting the middle knuckle in line with the radius. Not an easy thing to remember if there isn't time to aim. When held naturally, the Nano "pointed low" for most. Not for all, though. Veteran IDPA shooter Todd Bush found it gave him a "natural aim."

IDPA match director Dan Fox, a shooter for 45 years, spoke for all when he said he appreciated the Nano's accuracy and was pleasantly surprised by its light recoil. Award



The safety on the trigger is the only external safety besides the one between your ears. The magazine button is reversible for left-hand use.

winning shooter Anthony Wojtyla said the gun's simple manual of arms sold him on the Nano. Anthony, Dan, and Todd all said that after shooting the Nano, they'd consider buying one.

One beef I personally had with the Nano was the absence of a slide lock/slide release lever. When the pistol locks open on the empty magazine, you reload by simply swapping magazines and tugging back on the slide, to let it fly forward and chamber a round. This is popular combat pistol doctrine today, but there are two problems with it. One is you need an empty magazine to lock the gun open, which is required at shooting classes and some combat pistol matches, and in some jurisdictions, CCW permit

qualification. Another is in the event of a "double-feed" malfunction; the shooter can't lock the slide back to relieve pressure for a fast clearance of the "jam."

This is a concealed carry gun. Slim and flat, only 9/10" thick, it seems made to carry in a pocket. And it is; it just isn't *shaped* to come out of the pocket very fast. This is not a "problem with the Beretta Nano thing," it is a "problem with pocket-size 9mm autos in general thing." The square-ish upper rear edge of the slide tends to catch the edge of a slash-cut trouser pocket, palpably slowing the draw as compared to, say, a "hammerless" J-frame revolver. (Of course, a J-frame does not give you seven rounds of full-up 9mm Parabellum, either.)

I wore the Nano as a backup in a Remora size 4 holster in the left-side pocket of a pair of cargo pants. The sticky "rubber" of the well-named Remora clung to the pocket lining and yielded the gun from the holster every time. The pistol absolutely disappeared.

The spare 6-round magazine rode in my right side cargo pocket, and was comfortable enough there to go unnoticed. I don't think it would be so discreet or so comfortable in a spare magazine pouch. The floorplate is much larger than the body of the magazine, both side-to-side and front to back. I'd like to see Beretta come out with a longer, higher capacity magazine to carry as a spare with

the Nano, with a floorplate more in keeping with the dimensions of the rest of the mag.

I was aware of this gun's weight in the pocket. Factory spec for unloaded weight of the Nano is 17-2/3 ounces; on my scale, fully loaded with 124-grain JHP, it goes 22.5 ounces. For comparison, my S&W 340 M&P J-frame revolver weighs 16 ounces with five 135-grain +P .38 Specials on board.

Since I've been explicit above about what I didn't care for in the Nano, it's only fair to point out the things I did like. One is a trigger-finger niche molded into the frame above the front edge of the triggerguard on either side. This is definitely "a good thing." Any firearms instructor or IDPA or USPSA range officer can tell you the single most common error is to have the finger on the trigger when it shouldn't be. In the field, that practice has led to altogether too many tragic accidents. The finger niche feature helps prevent that potentially fatal error. It helps the shooter remember where that finger belongs.

A defensive firearm is life-saving emergency rescue equipment. Reliability is a non-negotiable baseline. At this magazine, the policy has long been that we test production guns like our readers can buy, not early prototypes so we can claim "first look at the latest and greatest." By the time I got my test Nano (serial number N0007873; photographer Robbie Barrkman got a different but identical specimen for pictures, due to deadline considerations), there were some reports on the Internet of folks having ejection problems with early Nano pistols.

I backtracked this on a couple of different angles. One, of course, was to Beretta. Matteo Reconatini of Beretta USA has never BS-ed me in the several years I've known him. He told me, "Beretta has taken the early reports of FTEs very seriously, and we actually assembled a sort of 'task force' in Engineering to review all reports. We found out that the majority of the problems (not many, as you'll read below) was caused by

either use of low-pressure, low-quality ammunition (you'll see that the problems reported on the Internet are usually with WWB,) which showed inconsistency in the pressure from round to round, or by other factors, like limp-wristing. We underlined this by confirming through testing that the inconsistency of ammo loads caused FTEs in all major competitor CCW guns as well."

Matteo continued, "Beretta has not redesigned the extractor. Our gunsmiths replaced the extractor of some of the guns returned to us for warranty repairs with an extractor that had been manually checked to ensure it is within the tolerance limits set by manufacturing and engineering, but this is the extent of the work done on returned firearms.

"All in all, we only received 37 Nanos back for warranty work out of the over 6,000 we've sold so far, and this includes all types of malfunctions (one had sighting issues, for example) and pistols where we could not replicate the failure."





To put the Nano's size in perspective (center), it is shown here flanked by the SIG P290 (left) and a Kahr CM9 (right), all 9mm. Photo: Massad Ayoob

Said Matteo, "We take these things very seriously, as we care about the quality cachet the brand enjoys, but the reality is that a marginal percent of guns experienced this problem. CCW guns (as you know) are more susceptible than their full-size counterparts to failures for a series of reasons, but we wanted to make sure that any Nano owner is happy with their purchase. I think we managed to do that and that our customers are standing firmly behind this product, as confirmed by the fact we're sold out of the little gun for the next several months, and we've had to almost quadruple our production efforts to keep up with demand (we're now manufacturing Nanos around the clock in all shifts, at our Accokeek facility.)"

He concluded, "What I know off the top of my head is we fired 1,000 rounds with no lube as part of a marketing program, without a single failure (I was personally present for that) and I know engineering has fired an impressive number of rounds through it."

Mr. Reconatini was also able to get hold of an engineer's report and pass it on to me, which stated "We have shot several NANO (sic), with a variety of ammunition over 2,000, 3,000 and even 5,000 rounds each without malfunctions."

The other source I backtracked to was the Internet itself. On one of the Beretta-focused forums, a member complained about ejection failures, but then recanted. It seems he realized on his own that he was limp-wristing the gun, and once he started holding it solidly, his reliability problems disappeared.

NANO

MAKER: BERETTA USA
17601 BERETTA DR.
ACCOKEEK, MD 20607
(800) 929-2901

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/BERETTA

Action type: Locked breech semi-auto

Caliber: 9mm

Capacity: 6+1

Barrel length: 3.07"

Overall length: 5.63"

Weight: 17.67 ounces

Finish: Pronox steel slide

Sights: 3-dot low profile

Grips: Integral fiberglass reinforced technopolymer

Price: \$475

REMORA CONCEALMENT & SECURITY

P.O. BOX 990340
NAPLES, FL 34116
(239) 434-7200

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/REMORA-HOLSTERS

Another interesting study on this is found at <http://sigforum.com/eve/forums/a/tpc/f/430601935/m/7100002072/p/21>. The thread was started by Mike Packwood, a/k/a "Parabellum," the owner of SIGForum and former owner of Smith-Wessonforum.com. No punches are pulled on SIGForum, a place that is not for the faint-hearted. Packwood himself loved the gun. A review of the Nano thread shows at least one complainer said he had sent the gun back to Beretta, but did so without tracking (!?) and when Beretta's Reconatini responded the gun didn't get to Beretta, remained conspicuously silent. One needs

to take large grains of salt when reading Internet postings about guns from anonymous sources....

All I can tell you from this end is, we put our test Beretta Nano into lots of hands: big hands and small, left hands and right, male and female. We shot it deliberately limp-wristed and from waist-level without arms locked or weight behind it. We shot it with +P+ and mild Winchester "white box" (WWB), and even with handloads that barely made the IDPA power factor for 9mm.

We experienced *no* mechanical malfunctions in the course of those several hundred mixed rounds in the hands of mixed shooters. The single hiccup was a shooter induced error; he accidentally hit the magazine release button and dropped the mag. "My bad," he said, as he executed a tap-rack and resumed shooting.

The 37 returns of Nanos to the factory at this writing included things like the sights being off for the shooter (they're easy to adjust and even replace), and is still less than .6 percent of output. Our mechanical malfunction rate was absolute zero. I for one am not worried about the Nano's reliability.

Bottom Line

The Beretta Nano joins a growing number of "slim-9s" designed for concealed carry. It has the very useful feature of stand-off capability, good sights, a trigger you can live with, and some other cool stuff. There's stuff this reviewer doesn't like, but your needs and parameters may be different. If you are in the market for a pistol of this genre, the Beretta Nano is definitely worth a look. **GUNS**

SHOOTER'S BASH 2011

A Tactical Match at Rifles Only

Jacob Gottfredson

Caught between cold fronts and rain, the 2-day match at Rifles Only dawned a bit chilly but presented the shooters with beautiful skies and relatively mild winds as many of the world's premier shooters fought it out in fast-paced rifle and pistol events.

Over the many years Rifles Only has held these matches, they have continued to become more difficult. I remember years ago, when any score hovering around 50 percent made it into the top 10. Now one better be well above 60 percent to be in the money. Sounds like it has become easier? Not so. The shooters and their equipment have become much better!

Well over \$70,000 in manufacturer's donated prizes lay on the table at the end of the match. Expensive rifles, scopes, ammo, and myriad other goodies were handed out to every competitor on the line. More than 60 donors contributed.

MOST POPULAR PARTS ON CUSTOM RIFLES

ACTIONS: Surgeon, Stiller, Accuracy International, Remington **BARRELS:** Broughton, Krieger, Shilen, Hart, Walther **STOCKS:** Accuracy International, McMillan, Manners **TRIGGERS:** Remington, Jewell **SCOPES:** Leupold, Nightforce, Schmidt & Bender, Unertl, Premier, Horus Vision **CARTRIDGES:** .260 Remington, .308 Winchester, .243 Winchester, David Tubb's 6XC, 6.5 and 6mm Creedmoor, .300 Winchester Magnum



For competitors to finish one of the many running gun events, they had to run about 600 yards total. They had to run over a berm, grab one round, return and shoot at a 3/4" dot at 100 yards. Easy, except they had to do it 25 times under a time limit. Photo: Sean Hardy

Shooters from all over the country, and sometimes from other countries, including some of the best in the business come to test their skills. This year seven active-duty Rangers competed. Many others were vets from various military organizations, police officers, and civilians. And the gear most of them brought would buy a good car.

The ground after each event was littered with cases of several sizes from .300 Winchester Magnum to 6mm Creedmoor and smaller. Top quality tactical scopes of



Doc Sean Hardy shoots the 400-yard kneeling position using a conventional technique. Of 72 shooters, Sean was eighth overall in the 25 events.

every brand on the market lay atop expensive custom rifles. Dope was displayed on the inside of Butler Creek lens covers, on the side of stocks, in handheld computers of various makes, and on little pieces of paper. Shooters constantly monitored the wind with Kestrels and carried their squeeze bags around like Linus' blanket.

Young Man's Game

The Shooter's Bash is certainly a young man's game, but a handful of the shooters were older than 45, some of them much older. Dedication reigns supreme with many of these riflemen, as several of them were due at another match early the next morning some 6 hours north.

At Rifles Only, owned and operated by Jacob Bynum and his wife Lisa, the watchword is safety, and it is preached to the shooters ad infinitum. One or more doctors (shooters as well) follow the field with medical gear ready. Not one incident occurred.

I don't know how many staff worked the match, but I counted nine at one event while others were inside scoring, preparing targets, and cleaning. It is a premier event.

The match started at 8 a.m. and finished around 9 p.m. the evening of the first day. Shooters were called to "Bring It In!" again at 8:30 a.m. the second day. Shooting was at an end about 4 p.m. the afternoon of the second day, after which awards were handed out to the top finishers, and then the shooters hit the awards table. Brisket, sausage, beans, et al finished the day.

The Match

I watched with amazement as these riflemen and pistoleros performed. Crawling from level one to level three of the mousetrap not only takes conforming to strange body contortions but also tests the shooter's skills on both the strong and weak sides and the ability to hit small targets standing.

From the tower they laid their pistols and rifles on the deck with magazines out. Given the command to begin, they



The shooters fire at the 400-yard line at a small target. This sort of stuff goes on for 25 events over two days and one night.

EQUIPMENT TO COMPETE

Rifle, caliber .338 or less
Rifle ammo, 150 rounds
Rifle bipod
Scope allowing comeups to 1,000 yards.
Defense-type pistol and retaining holster (no speed guns)
Pistol ammo, 70 rounds
Rangefinder
Backpack, vest or butt pack
Ear protection (muffs or plugs)
Eye protection
Water bottle

OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT

Wind, barometric pressure, and temperature instrument
Ballistic software or ballistic card
Anti-cant devise
Insect repellent
Sunscreen
Knee and elbow pads

had to drop to their rifle in the prone position, load a magazine, and engage 5 steel disks at 600 yards. They then had to drop the magazine from the rifle, load the pistol magazine and shoot at a 3" dot at the bottom of the tower. Then remove the mag from the pistol, reload the magazine in the rifle and shoot at 1" dots at the bottom of the tower. That's straight down some 30'. Of course the shooters had to reduce power on their scopes and dial for such a short distance. All this in 60 seconds.

Another event had the shooters on the 100-yard line. They were told to lay their ammo on the other side of a berm. When the commence fire was given, the shooter had to make his way over the berm, pick up one round of ammo, return to his rifle, assume the prone position and fire at a 3/4" dot. There were 25 such dots, and some competitors moved over the hill to retrieve a round and then back to their rifle fast enough to fire all 25 times. Over the hill and back, over the hill and back, ad nauseam. Firing all 25 rounds in the time allotted, meant running about 600 yards total. The Rangers made this event seem like child's play.



Stan Owens uses a rather unconventional approach to accomplish the 400-yard kneeling event. The barrel is so close to the 4x4, the can left a burn mark. Both competitors did very well on this event. Stan was seventh overall in the 25 events.



A

A) Six of the Army Rangers stand before some of the donated prizes, of which there were many! These guys are tough as nails. What Jacob found difficult to do, these guys can do all day, all week. Ya gotta love 'em. B) One of the Army Rangers vaults over an obstacle on his way to "The Mouse Trap." Photo: Sean Hardy. C) One of the night events was shot from a helicopter. Tracer rounds were used. Reminded Jacob of another time and another place long ago. The target is moving. D) These three winners shot all or parts of Surgeon rifles. Wade Stuteville (middle) took top honors. Terry Cross (right) was second, and John Sommers (left) was third. These guys are world-class shooters and could compete successfully in any type of rifle competition. Jacob would also hate to be any animal they decided to hunt. You could not find a situation or position they could not hit from. They are counted among America's best riflemen. Wade took home the new prize rifle he is holding as a result of his efforts.



B



C



D



After the vault, the same Ranger (shown in picture "B" on page 56) next makes his way through the culvert carrying his Army-issued .300 Win Mag on the way to the "Mouse Trap." Each competitor must carry his pistol as well throughout the competition. The weapons the shooter starts with must be used throughout the competition. If a firearm fails, he is out.

They could probably do that all week.

These events have never been fired at a Rifles Only match. Nor were many of the other 23 events over two days. That is the point. Keep the shooters thinking, stressing, and wondering how best to approach each event. The kneeling position was fired at 400 yards. The 800-, 900-, and 1,000-yard targets were shot in the prone position

from the tower, five shots each. I watched as Bryan Yeung and one of the Rangers, both to his left, hit those targets on every shot in the wind and mirage.

Movers at 500 yards took many by surprise. Normally, the mover has been a 12" steel disk or silhouette. That has to be shot one competitor at a time. To speed up the match with

72 shooters, the staff pasted three 5" shoot-n-see paper targets on an upper body paper silhouette. That allowed three shooters to fire at a time. With steel, the shooter can see a hit and try to emulate that lead every time. With paper targets, the shooter cannot see hits and has no idea if his lead is correct or not. While my scores began to tumble, others were on the rise, and

TOP 10 RIFLE EQUIPMENT

SHOOTER	ACTION	BARREL	SCOPE	CALIBER	TWIST (INCHES)	BULLET	POWDER	CHARGE (GRAINS WEIGHT)	STOCK	GUNSMITH	SCORE
WADE STUTEVILLE	Surgeon	Krieger 26"	S6B 5-25X	.243 Win	1:8	105 Berger	H4350	43	McMillan A5	Surgeon	1,664
TERRY CROSS	Surgeon	Krieger 26"	Nightforce 5.5-22X	.260 Rem	1:8.5	139 Scenar	H4350	43	McMillan byKMW	KMW	1,421
JOHN SOMMERS	Surgeon	Krieger 26"	S6B 5-25X	.260 Rem	1:8	139 Scenar	H4831sc	unk	McMillan A5 Edge	Surgeon	1,409
TIM LONG	Surgeon	Krieger 26"	S6B 5-25X	.260 Rem	1:8	139 Scenar	H4831sc	47	McMillan by KMW	Surgeon	1,382
FRANCIS KUEHL	Surgeon	Bartlein 26"	Vortex R 5-20X	.260 Rem	1:8.5	139 Scenar	H4350	43.5	McMillan A5	Self	1,293
BRYAN YEUNG	Surgeon	Bartlein	Premier 5-25X	6mm Creedmoor	1:7	Hornady 105 HPBT	H4350	41	XLR Industries	GA Precision	1,264
STAN OWENS	AI	Krieger	S6B 5-25X	.300 WM	1:11.75	210 Berger	R22	71	AI	AI	1,260
SEAN HARDY	Surgeon	Bartlien 27"	Vortex	7mm WSM	unk	180 Berger	CorBon	Factory Ammo	AICS 2	GA Precision	1,233
MIKE ROGAN	GAP Templar	Bartlein	S6B 5-25X	.243 Win	1:7.7	115 DTAC	H4350	42	Manners T4A	GA Precision	1,225
DUSTIN MORRIS	BAT LH	Krieger 26"	S6B 5-25X	.243 Win	1:7.5	105 Berger	H4350	42.5	McMillan A5	Surgeon	1,213

Notes: AI = Accuracy International; KMW = KMW Long Range Solutions (Terry Cross); LH = Left hand action; unk = unknown

SOME COMMENTS FROM TOP SHOOTERS

DUSTIN MORRIS "AS SOON AS SURGEON OFFERS A LEFT HAND 591 ACTION, I'M GETTING ONE."

"GOOD QUALITY PRACTICE WILL TRUMP HIGH DOLLAR GEAR! I HAVE OVER 10,000 ROUNDS THROUGH MY STOCK GLOCK WITHOUT A MALFUNCTION." **TIM LONG**

SEAN HARDY "FACTORY AMMO, STOCK GLOCK, BORROWED GUN—WHAT WAS I THINKING?"

"THE .300 WM TAKES ME OFF TARGET SO MY GUN FOR 2012 IS AN ACCURACY INTERNATIONAL IN .260 REMINGTON." **STAN OWENS**

JOHN SOMMERS "ACTION – SURGEON... IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE?"

the winners were beginning to separate themselves from the crowd, fighting hard to maintain a high percentage hit range over 25 events.

Do You Want To Compete?

Jacob Bynum and his staff managed to come up with several new shooting events for each match. Getting used to the events is not possible in many cases. However, a train-up is offered for three days prior to the match. It is extremely helpful according to those who attend. It gives those who have never shot the match the layout of the range and commands from the range officers. It also gives them a chance to

zero their rifles at many different distances in the conditions most likely to be encountered. Barometric pressure is relatively constant there, and temperature extremes are not likely. During this match, the mornings were chilly, but it warmed up relatively quickly. Elevation is constant of course. Density/altitude changes little.

The bottom line remains constant. That is, productive hits under stress, on demand, and under all the variations that Rifles Only can come up with. Those who do not shoot well under such circumstances finish poorly. Just because you and your rifle can punch tiny groups at 100 yards, shoot a static High Power match, or hit F-Class targets at 600 yards have little meaning at these matches. There are some dot drills from the prone

position, and some shooters may do well at them. But the other 24 events may leave them in the dust. The spring 3-day match has well over 30 events.

The shooter must learn to make productive decisions quickly, thus the requirement for concentration and a clear head. The range officers make demands with strict time limits that you have not heard before, thus the stress. Often the shooters are held

with his rifle lying on its side, or from a hide he can barely see over, or through a window, or from a helicopter, or under a barricade, or... For a civilian shooter, no other course on earth would make him a better hunter or competitor.

Not only must his rifle be consistently capable of less than a minute of angle, he must be able to handle a pistol with controlled competence.

Shooting the rifle well from the weak side and from the kneeling, setting, and standing positions must be mastered. Correct moving leads are essential as is moving through several running gun events quickly and effectively.

The owners, staff, and competitors

stood in awe and appreciation of the graciousness and willingness of manufacturers to support the match with gifts. Every shooter got something and often more than just one. The staff works long, hard hours to provide an efficiently run, safe, and lasting experience. They give of their time and their talent without complaint. They cover many miles running alongside each competitor, ensuring they understand the course of fire as well as making sure there are no safety issues. Keep your eyes tuned to the Rifles Only website for training schedules and upcoming matches.

GUNS

TOP 10 PISTOL EQUIPMENT

SHOOTER	PISTOL	CALIBER	AMMO	HOLSTER	NIGHT SIGHTS	LASER	LIGHT
WADE STUTEVILLE	STI T 5.0	9mm	124 Raug	Safariland ALS	None	None	SureFire X300
TERRY CROSS	Glock 34	9mm	Win 147	Safariland 6005	Trijicon	None	None
JOHN SOMMERS	Glock 34	9mm	Federal	Safariland ALS	None	None	None
TIM LONG	Glock 24	9mm	Federal	Safariland	None	None	None
FRANCIS KUEHL	STI 2011	.40	HL 180	Blade-Tech	Fiber Optic	None	None
BRYAN YEUNG	Glock 17	9mm	NL	BLACKHAWK! Serpa	Fiber Optic	None	None
STAN OWENS	SIG P226	9mm	CorBon	Safariland	Factory	SureFire	SureFire
SEAN HARDY	Glock 17	9mm	UMC	Safariland 6004	Trijicon	None	NL
MIKE ROGAN	FNP	.45	Winchester	FN	FN Fiber Optic	None	None
DUSTIN MORRIS	FG 2011	NL	HL 124	Blade-Tech	None	None	None

Notes: HL = Handload; FG = Freedom Gunworks; NL = Not Listed

in a position where they can't see what is going on. When called, they have no idea what the shot(s) will be or the requirement until the range officers give them brief and succinct instructions.

The shooter must learn to make shots rapidly in a rich field of fire at different distances that often involve a mover as well as shots from 200 to 1,000 yards, sometimes five shots taken in 20 seconds to 10 taken in 40 seconds or less. Impossible?

Skilled shooters often clean these events in much less time. Some dial each shot. Some use hash marks or Mil-Dots for hold over.

No, this is not a static, high-power course where the targets are always the same and at the same distances. The sniper is often called on to shoot

RIFLES ONLY
188 SOUTH F.M. 772, KINGSVILLE, TX 78363
(361) 522-4165
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/RIFLES-ONLY

XD **SUB-COMPACT** **CONCEALED CARRY**



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



800.680.6866

XD - POINT & SHOOT ERGONOMICS™

SPRINGFIELDARMORY.COM

SNIPER RIFLE MANIA

Mike "Duke" Venturino

Photos: Yvonne Venturino

Somehow or another during the decade-long process of assembling my World War II firearms collection numbering about four score and 10 at this writing, I've become severely infected with sniper rifle mania. Some of these scoped sniper rifles are originals I bought. Others are reproductions I had built. One is a replica sold complete with scope which can be purchased right off the shelf. All are shooters.

My mania has even caused me to buy a couple of post-WWII sniper rifles simply because of their accuracy reputations. One is a 1950s vintage Swedish Mauser Model 41b 6.5x55mm mounted with 4X Ajax scope. Model 41bs are merely Mauser Model 1896s fitted with optical sights and so mine is dated 1919 on the front receiver ring.

It is more accurate than the average 21st century sporting rifle. The second is a reproduction of the 1960s US Marine Corps' 7.62mm NATO Model 40. As were the USMC originals it's a Remington Model 700 with varmint-weight barrel, Parkerized metal finish and oiled stock. Caliber is .308 Winchester, the civilian alter ego of the

THE COLLECTION TOPS 14, AND COUNTING.

The US Model 1903A4 was the US Army's only official sniper rifle in World War II.



NATO round. USMC Model 40s were issued with Redfield 3-9X rangefinder scopes. Because my repro Model 40 easily groups minute of angle (MOA) I've fitted it with a new Weaver 3-15X tactical scope with precise 1/8-MOA click adjustments.

My least valued sniper rifle is the Japanese Type 97 6.5x50mm. Why is it so disrespected? Type 97s are rare collectors' items but I value mine less because in my opinion the Japanese had little idea of what a good rifle should be. That fact is not surprising because as a nation Japan has much more a tradition of sharp objects instead of firearms. The Japanese mounted 2.5X scopes on the left side of Type 97 receivers in quick detachable mounts.

The scopes themselves have no provision for adjustments. Rifle-scope zeroing was done at arsenals by tweaking the mounts. Soldiers were not supposed to mess with them thereafter. Instead the scope has a complex reticle with various elevation and windage hash marks. Snipers were expected to memorize where their rifles hit at different ranges and in different conditions with the various marks. It took an extreme amount of patience, coupled with a plentitude of ammunition and a friend's extra set of hands and IQ to finally get mine sighted in adequately.

A sniper rifle I don't disrespect but am not overly enamored with is my British one. It is the No. 4 Mk I(T) wearing the No. 32 3.5X scope. Of course caliber is .303 British. The heavy scope mount bolts to the left side of the receiver with two large thumb screws. This makes rifle weight a full 12 pounds. Its scope must be removed before the bolt can be taken out in order to clean the rifle from the breach.

Also this rifle's bolt locks at the rear which is an unkindness to handloaders, a thought its designers never had in their heads. Therefore its cases tend to separate after just a couple loadings. (I know the problem can be helped by neck sizing but since I own six .303-chambered firearms including a machine gun, keeping brass sorted for each is unrealistic.) Also my British sniper rifle isn't especially accurate, being a plus/minus 2-MOA shooter even with my best handloads.

On the other end of my favorite spectrum are German, American, and surprisingly—Finnish sniper rifles. If there was ever a "nation of riflemen" it was Finland. Their story is too long to get into here so we'll limit this to one of their sniper rifles. It is the Model 1939 7.62x54mmR. During WWII they fitted up a few hundred with captured Russian 4X PE scopes and mounts (Source: *Rifles Of The White Death* by



Three of Duke's German sniper rifles include a K98k with ZF41 scope (top), a K98k with Zeiss ZF39 scope (middle) and a K43 with ZF4 scope (bottom). All are 8mm Mauser caliber.

Doug Browser.)

When Finland gained their independence from Russia late in 1917 they took possession literally of thousands of Mosin-Nagant Model 91 rifles. They stripped them down to basic receivers, then restocked and rebarreled them to suit their own tastes. The last of these remodel jobs were Model 1939s, which carry barrels made by firms that we know today as SAKO, Tikka, and Valmet. I bought one as a simple infantry rifle wearing a Tikka barrel and quickly discovered that it was capable of superlative precision.

At an Internet website I found a company not only reproducing the complex mounting system used by the Finns but also selling new copies of Soviet PE 4X scopes, with a lifetime guarantee no less. Rocky's Gunworks did the necessary drilling and tapping to mount the scope and got it perfect. My Model 39/PE 4X 7.62x54mmR is an amazingly effective combination. The PE scope can be set for zero at a chosen range, elevated for distance as needed and when returned to zero it's right on. With my handloads this rifle

often clusters 5 rounds under 1 MOA.

My first WWII sniper rifle was a Soviet Mosin-Nagant Model 91/30 wearing a 3.5X PU scope. Of course it is also 7.62x54mmR. Between 1939 and 1945, the Soviets built and issued more sniper rifles than any other combatant nation. Mine appears to have seen plenty of action. Its stock is scuffed and scraped and its worn rifling indicates it was fired plenty. The first time I tried its trigger pull I thought it was broken because it traveled rearward about 3/4" before finally releasing. Experience has shown me that many Soviet rifles have such triggers. Regardless, once I mastered the trigger that old rifle shoots fine. I won't say it's a minute of angle shooter but it's usually a sub-2-MOA one. As with their earlier PE scope the Soviets built the PU scope with windage and elevation adjustments.

German Snipers

It is doubtful if any country in the history of warfare fielded as many different sniper rifles as Germany did in WWII. Most were based on the K98k 8mm Mauser rifle but they carried

mounting systems called high turret, low turret, short side rail, long side rail, single claw, double claw, and swept back. Into those mounts went scopes named ZF39, which was a collective name for many brands of commercial 4X scopes. Later their military developed their own optical sights named ZF41 and ZF4. The latter one was a knock-off of the Soviet's PU scope except it was 4X.

The K98k with ZF41 scope was not actually meant as a sniper rifle by the German Heer (army). They were supposed to be a "marksman's rifle" whose tiny 1.5X scope would give more precision when firing at pillbox apertures or tank view slits. Still they were pressed into sniper service and were such a poor excuse there that at least one expert on German military weapons labeled them a technological "catastrophe." (Source: *Guns Of The Third Reich* by John Walter.)

The original ZF41 scope on my K98k 8mm Mauser was a minor catastrophe of another type. It was too cloudy to see through. Numrich Arms sells reproduction ZF41 scopes and I acquired one, substituted on my K98k and the lengthy sighting in process undertaken. Numrich also sells a translation of Germany's instruction pamphlet, and tools for adjusting ZF41 scopes. My advice is to buy them too, and then set aside an entire afternoon with lots of ammo to get one properly zeroed. When done, my K98k/ZF41 is a 1-MOA-plus shooter out to 100 yards or so but the scope just isn't powerful enough for long range shooting.

Neither is my German K43 semi-auto with its ZF4 scope a long-range shooter. All K43s (first labeled G43) had a rail machined integral to the receiver. These rails accepted quick detachable mounts carrying ZF4 scopes so all G/



Duke's friend, Rich Morris, shoots Duke's latest sniper rifle—an original German K98k 8mm Mauser with Kahles ZF39 scope in short side rail mount. That it shoots well is evident in Rich's expression.



The only two of Duke's 14 sniper rifles not of WWII vintage or reproductions of such are a Remington Model 700 .308 with 3-15X Weaver scope (top), meant to replicate the USMC's Vietnam-era M40 and (bottom) a Swedish Model 41b 6.5x55mm as remodeled by that nation's military in the 1950s.

K43s could be used as sniper rifles. This was another one of those failed German ideas because military semi-autos back then on the average didn't deliver an acceptable level of precision for sniping. My K43/ZF4's maximum practical range is about 300 yards. In terms of MOA it's about a plus/minus 3-MOA rifle.
 However, I have two German sniper

rifles in my collection capable of an effective range far in excess of 300 yards. In the February 2012 issue I wrote how I put a German low-turret mount K98k sniper rifle back into action by luckily finding a Zeiss ZF39 scope in proper rings for it. Now I have acquired another K98k with the short-side rail mounting system wearing a Kahles brand ZF39 4X scope. Both are

2 MOA or better shooters.
 At the same time the German ZF39 scopes are both excellent and deficient. They're excellent because they are bullet drop compensator types in regards to elevation. When zeroed for 100 meters their incrementally marked elevation knobs adjust for bullet drop at longer distances. They are deficient in regards to windage adjustments because they have none. Windage change is done by moving the rear mount, which requires tools and time. Consider this: when firing in a crosswind the shooters with ZF39 scopes have to use "Kentucky windage." That is guessing how much to hold off.



This is Duke's Czech-made VZ24 sniper rifle with scope of unknown origin (above). To replicate a Finnish sniper rifle of World War II, Duke bought an Accumount replica PE 4X scope and mounts (below) and had it affixed to an original Finnish Model 39 7.62x54mmR rifle.



Not much more can be said about my Czech VZ24 8mm Mauser sniper rifle. The Czech VZ24 is a Mauser Model 98 only differing in details from German K98k. Mine wears a scope exactly the same in function as the German ZF39 mentioned above but it has no markings on it. The rifle has seen heavy use even to the point that its rifling grooves are dark. Dark grooves are an indication of tiny pits in them. Something unique about this rifle is it refuses to group boattail bullets at all but shoots flatbase ones into 2 MOA or less fairly regularly.

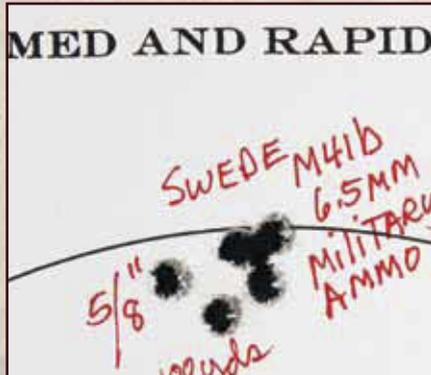
Being a red-blooded American I've saved US sniper rifles for last. I have one original and two reproductions. The original is a Model 1903A4 .30-06 with a Weaver 330C 2.5X scope. Many authorities dismiss the '03A4s as a stop-gap measure. It indeed was. Still they are a very historical American rifle, which is one reason the Gibbs Rifle Company has seen fit to reproduce them. They have bought up rather plentiful Model 1903A3 actions and fitted them with new stocks, barrels, and scopes. The Hi-Lux Optics Company has aided by making reproductions of those old

Weaver scopes. These are the sniper rifles I mentioned earlier which can be purchased ready to go right over the counter. My Gibbs '03A4 replica is easily a 1-1/2-MOA rifle—about 50 percent better than my original '03A4.

My other reproduction American sniper rifle is a sort of odd-ball. In 1941 with the United States ready to join WWII, the US Marine Corps decided it needed some sniper rifles. Therefore, they fitted up about 40 Model 1903s with Lyman 5A scopes. (Formerly Winchester A5 scopes) These were issued 20 each to the USMC 1st and 2nd Divisions and saw combat in the Solomon Islands in 1942.

Providence put in my hands exactly the '03 Springfield I needed to reproduce those USMC rifles. It was a "parts" rifle a fellow had started assembling but needed to sell before finishing. It had a new barrel and stock, but being "unoriginal" it was perfect for drilling and tapping for scope mounting. (Work also done by Rocky's Gunworks.) What topped off the affair was Montana Vintage Arms' fine quality reproduction of Winchester A5/Lyman 5A scopes. Being a fan of the '03 anyway, this rifle quickly became a favorite, especially since it's about a 1-1/2-MOA shooter.

On many weekends this winter



Duke's Swedish Model 41b 6.5x55mm sniper rifle shot this group at 100 yards with surplus Swedish military ammunition dated 1976.



Duke's collection of sniper rifles are chambered for these seven military cartridges (from left) 6.5x50mm Japanese, 6.5x55mm Swedish, 7.62x54mmR, .303 British, 7.62mm NATO/.308 Winchester, .30-06 and 8x57mm Mauser.

several friends have been coming to my shooting house to fire one sort or another of vintage sniper rifle. Why? We intend to compete with them during the warm months. Details can be found on my website www.mlventerprises.com. I'm not the only one suffering from sniper rifle mania.

GUNS

ACCUMOUNTS

P.O. BOX 1802, TROY, MI 48099

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/ACCUMOUNTS

GIBBS RIFLE COMPANY, INC.

219 LAWN ST., MARTINSBURG, WV 25405

(304) 262-1651

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/GIBBS-RIFLE-COMPANY

MONTANA VINTAGE ARMS

61 ANDREA DR., BELGRADE, MT 59714

(406) 388-4027

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/MONTANA-VINTAGE

NUMRICH GUN PARTS CORP.

226 WILLIAMS LN., WEST HURLEY, NY 12491

(845) 679-4867

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/NUMRICH

ROCKY'S GUNWORKS

21 FORKHORN TRAIL, BOZEMAN, MT

(406) 586-2076

MTM CASE-GARD™ Purpose Built for Shooters & Reloaders

QUALITY SHOOTING SPORTS ACCESSORIES

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

NEW GunCleaning Patch Catcher *GPC

NEW Ammo Can Organizer *ACO

NEW Cast Bullet Boxes *CAST1

Made In USA

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

“Gun Fit”



**If it fits,
she has a
better chance
for more hits.**

More hits = More fun. Choosing the right gun and making sure it fits a lady is important.

Shari can help.

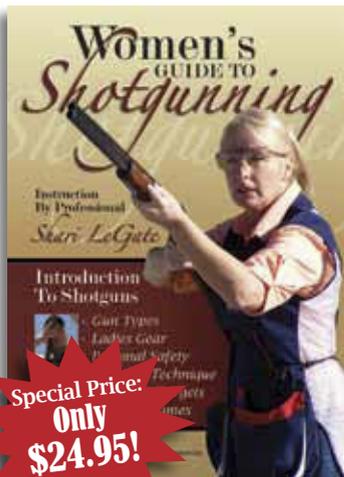
Shooting champion Shari LeGate provides all the information needed for any lady to get started in shotgun sports through her DVD, *Women's Guide To Shotgunning*.

Order Today!

(800) 628-9818

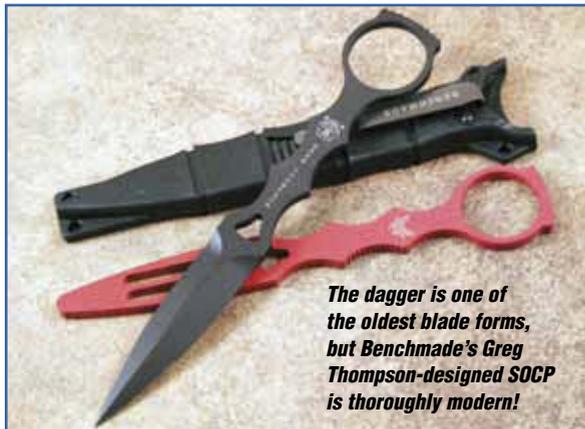
(M-F 8am-3pm PST)

www.gunsmagazine.com/fmgvideo



KNIVES

STORY: Pat Covert



The dagger is one of the oldest blade forms, but Benchmade's Greg Thompson-designed SOCP is thoroughly modern!

EVIL FINGER

Benchmade's SOCP is an ancient design with a modern twist.

The dagger is one of the oldest knife forms in the history of the world, dating back to knapped flint versions before edged metal tools ever graced the planet. The Romans and Celts refined the genre and it retained its popularity right through WWII with the legendary Fairbairn Sykes dagger. It remains a popular choice for a combat blade today.

Benchmade's version of the age-old knife style, the SOCP Dagger, is as modern and innovative as it gets. The knife was designed by Greg Thompson, founder of the US Army's Special Operations Combative Program (SOCP), a special operations program that focuses on advanced close quarters combat techniques. That ring at the top of the knife allows it to be used in a variety of grips and also helps to retain the knife during combat.

At only 7.25" the SOCP Dagger is small, but in close quarters combat that's all you need and, in fact, many modern combat trainers believe anything over 3.5" can be a hindrance. Knurled areas at the top of the ring and below the blade enhance the purchase of the knife. The 3.22" blade is partially ground 1.25" on both sides to keep the edge from cutting into the palm when using an overhand grip.

GREG THOMPSON SOCP

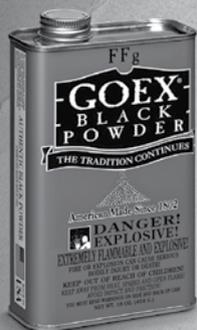
MAKER: BENCHMADE
300 BEAVERCREEK RD.
OREGON CITY, OR 97045
(800) 800-7427

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/BENCHMADE

BLADE STEEL: 440C stainless, **BLADE LENGTH:** 3.22", **OVERALL LENGTH:** 7.25", **WEIGHT:** 2.20 ounces, **HANDLE:** Skeletonized, **CARRY:** Injection-molded synthetic sheath, **PRICE:** \$90 (standard), \$130 (with trainer)

The knife's versatile injection-molded sheath (complete with pocket clip and available in black or desert tan) can be worn around the neck, on the waistband or belt, and in the pocket or boot. In addition, a red trainer model is available for safe use during the educational process. The price is right. The knife and sheath go for \$90 and you get the trainer included for \$130, a small price to pay for this evil finger!

GUNS



Our Product Testing Grounds.

The authentic black powder that helped build a nation.

Made in the U.S.A. for more than 200 years. GOEX. The tradition continues.



Phone 913-362-9455

www.goexpowder.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



www.FtKnox.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 VNR

VIEWS • NEWS • REVIEWS

RIGHTS WATCH

DAVID CODREA

Stand Your Ground

*Well, I know what's right, I got just one life... But I'll stand my ground, and I won't back down—
Tom Petty, Jeff Lynne*

Agenda-driven opportunists are in frenzied blood-dance mode following the shooting death of a Florida teenager. Due to the different races of the shooter, George Zimmerman, referred to by *The New York Times* as a “white Hispanic,” and the slain African-American youth, Trayvon Martin, the ugly element of racism has been injected into the debate and exploited to frightening proportions.

National “leaders” like Jesse Jackson have repeated the “No justice, no peace” mantra associated a generation earlier with the Los Angeles riots. Al Sharpton has escalated calls for “civil disobedience.” And the New Black Panther Party has put out a \$10,000 bounty for the capture of Zimmerman—who, at this writing has been charged with no crime, making that kidnapping and the offer actionable under “Conspiracy against Rights” statutes—not that Eric Holder’s Justice Department has shown inclination to investigate anyone but the man claiming self-defense.

Irrelevant “celebrities” have also done their part to gin up mob frenzy. Director Spike Lee, of “Shoot [Charlton Heston] with a .44 Bulldog” notoriety, sent what he thought was Zimmerman’s home address to his 250,000 followers on the Twitter social media website, only to find out he had the wrong address and had terrorized an elderly couple out of their home. Not to be outdone, “comedian” Roseanne Barr (endorsed by the Green Party Black Caucus for President) “tweeted” the address of Zimmerman’s parents.

Some “representatives” were

quick to note a political gold mine. Sen. Chuck Schumer sent a letter to the Justice Department asking them to investigate “Stand Your Ground” laws. Former Black Panther and current Rep. Bobby Rush violated House rules by speaking to the chamber wearing a “hoodie” jacket—ironically, the headline “Hoodie-Wearing Gunmen Kill 1, Wound 5 in Bobby Rush’s Chicago District” appeared shortly thereafter. And H.RES.612 has been introduced “... urging the State of Florida and others to repeal the Stand Your Ground law...”

The Brady Campaign and their lesser clones also sensed a windfall, claiming “Weak gun laws killed Trayvon Martin.” A sympathetic media has been more than happy to do its talking point-parroting part, with all kinds of headlines blaming “Stand Your Ground,” even while it’s unclear at this writing if Florida’s law played any part in what has so far been regarded by authorities as self-defense. And while some maintain “justifiable homicides” have increased since the law was passed, they neglect to mention that there’s no real measurement to determine if the statute was invoked—and also fail to acknowledge that killings by police have also risen dramatically, and account for the majority of incidents.

What we’re seeing in terms of strategy on the part of doctrinaire anti-gunners is nothing new. They’ve always exploited anecdotal tragedies to whip up emotions, and then used that to go after our rights. The important thing here is not to be drawn into the racist hysteria, and to keep informed, engaged and on guard.

The important thing here is to stand your ground. And don’t back down.

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

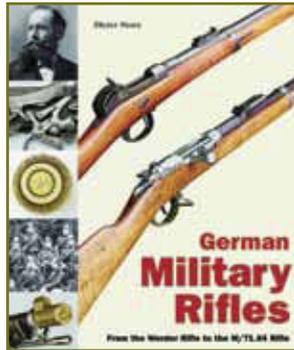
Reviews

New Book Chronicles Early German Cartridge Rifles

JOHN SHEEHAN

Dr. Dieter Storz's great work, *The M98 Rifle and Carbine 1898 - 1918* covering the development and use of the M98 Mauser in the service of the Imperial German Army has become the benchmark against which all other books on historical firearms are judged. A "prequel" to this excellent book is now available.

The second of what will eventually be a 3-volume set, *German Military Rifles - From the Werder Rifle to the M171.84 Rifle* is now available in English. The development, manufacturing, political infighting, trials, the rise of the Mauser Brothers as the preeminent firearms designers of their era, and much more is detailed in each subsequent section of this book as it chronicles the evolution of all of the black-powder cartridge rifles officially adopted and issued by the Imperial



The new book by Dr. Dieter Storz covers the earliest of German cartridge rifles.

German Army.

Dr. Storz is the Curator of Small Arms at the Bayerisches Armeemuseum in Ingolstadt, Germany. His amazing new work covers the development, trials and adoption of the Bavarian Werder, the Gew 71 in all of its configurations, the Kar 71, the conversions and adaptations of the French Chassepot needle-rifles captured from France during the Franco-

Prussian War and culminates with the Gew 71/84, the last black-powder cartridge rifle officially adopted by Imperial Germany. Each model is covered in great detail. Included are sections on patents, cleaning, ballistics, tactics, colonial issue, naval issue, gendarmerie issue, accessories, bayonets, slings, cartridge



Even very rare early arms like the predecessor to the Model 71 are shown in detail.

types ranging from live ammunition to blanks to training cartridges, bullets, primers, cartridge cases, later service with the reserves during WWI, etc., all in amazing detail!

Volume 3 will cover the successful development of small-caliber, high-velocity, smokeless powder cartridge firearm in German service, the first of which was the Gew 88 "Commission" rifle. Published in Europe by Verlag Militaria, Dr. Storz work is available in the United States for \$120 from Mowbray Publishing.

GUNS

MOWBRAY PUBLISHING
54 E. SCHOOL ST., WOONSOCKET, RI 02895
(800) 999-4697
WWW.GUNANDWORDCOLLECTOR.COM

Accuracy Matters™. Think about ITT.

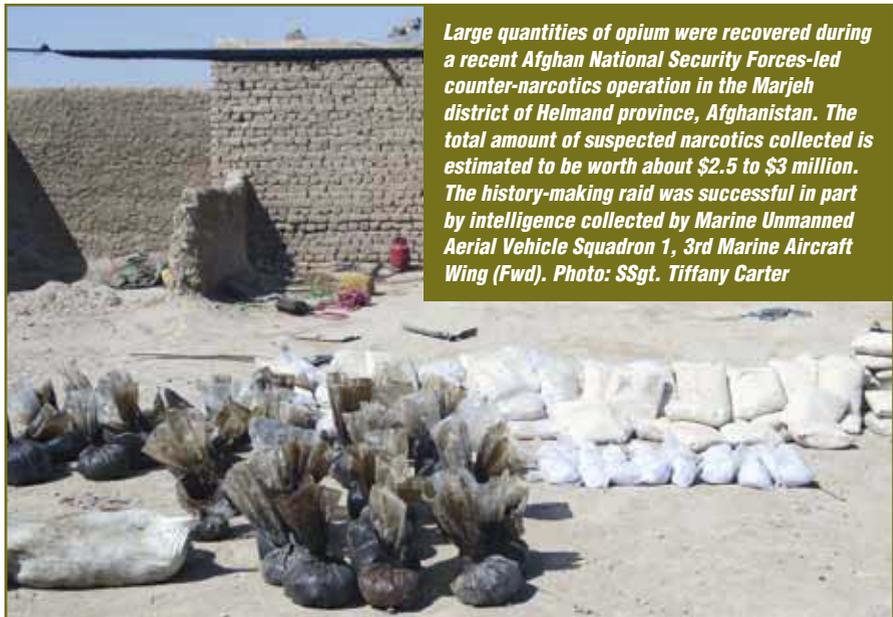
ITT Enidine Inc. is a market leader in hydraulic energy absorbers for the defense and aerospace markets. Our products are currently employed by US and NATO special forces. ITT Enidine Inc. recoil buffers offer benefits including improved accuracy and target acquisition, recoil reduction, and lower firing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

.308 Caliber "Shooby" Buffer
 M115 Collapsible Shock Buffer
 M115 Fixed Shock Buffer
 Shot Shock™ 12 Gauge Shotgun Buffer

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

ITT
ENGINEERED FOR LIFE

BURGER KNIVES
distinguished craftsmanship
Est. 1987



Large quantities of opium were recovered during a recent Afghan National Security Forces-led counter-narcotics operation in the Marjeh district of Helmand province, Afghanistan. The total amount of suspected narcotics collected is estimated to be worth about \$2.5 to \$3 million. The history-making raid was successful in part by intelligence collected by Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 1, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Fwd). Photo: SSgt. Tiffany Carter

NEWS

Drugs Seized

Opium poppy grows abundant in the fields of Afghanistan and the harvesting of this plant in the spring helps fund terrorist organizations all year. However, this year, with the help of “eyes in the sky,” US troops on the ground along with their Afghan counterparts were able to put a hole in the insurgents’ pockets.

Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron-1, based out of Twenty-nine Palms, Calif., provided Afghan National Security Forces with intelligence collected by UAVs. A recent counter-narcotics operation in the Marjeh district of Helmand province, Afghanistan turned out to be the “golden egg” ground forces had predicted.

Earlier this month, the ANSF’s Narcotics Interdiction Unit (equivalent to the US Drug Enforcement Agency), in conjunction with 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment deployed from Camp Lejeune, N.C., conducted a raid in Marjeh. The team recovered three AK-47s with magazines, a 9mm pistol with magazines, and signs of potential improvised explosive device-making materials. But the most important stash was buried deep underground.

“The raid resulted in approximately 4,000 pounds of suspected narcotics (the equivalent of \$2.5 to \$3 million) being removed from the battlefield,” said 2/9’s air officer, Capt. Joseph Quirk, a Cooper City, Fla. native. “This was the biggest drug bust in ANSF National Interdiction Unit history.”

Capt. Quirk said the success of the raid will have a powerful impact. “The amount of money lost by the insurgency will significantly affect the insurgents’ capabilities and resources for the spring offensive saving ANSF and International Security Assistance Force lives.”

This raid would not have been as successful had it not been for the support and teamwork provided by the unmanned aerial vehicles belonging to VMU-1, deployed to Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan.

“What’s especially fulfilling for us is we have been supporting [the ANSF NIU’s] operations for months and that information helped shape the operation beforehand,” said Lt. Col. John Barranco, VMU-1’s Commanding Officer, and Boston, Mass. native. “This operation not only demonstrated our ability to work as a Marine Air Ground Task Force and with coalition partners, but was also another step forward for manned and unmanned aviation integration within the Air Combat Element.”

Capt. Quirk confirmed that to date, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing’s support of this operation has currently led to approximately 5,000 pounds of suspected narcotics being removed from the battlefield. “3rd MAW (Fwd) has shown great support with intelligence surveillance reconnaissance from VMU-1, assault support from HMH-363, escort support from HMLA-369, and close air support from several Marine squadrons.” — SSgt. Tiffany Carter, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (FWD) Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan



Alloy Steel Targets Built to Last
Police, Military, IPSC, Cowboy
For Shapes & Prices See:
www.ArntzenTargets.com
800-821-3475

GUNS MAGAZINE ONLINE!
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM

GUNS 2012 Website Showcase

American Handgunner



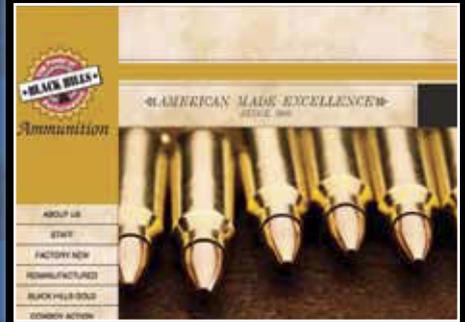
www.americanhandgunner.com

The Beltman



www.thebeltman.net

Black Hills Ammunition Inc.



www.black-hills.com

CrossBreed Holsters LLC



www.crossbreedholsters.com

DeSantis Holster



www.desantisholster.com

Dixie Gun Works



www.dixiegunworks.com

Gallery of Guns



www.galleryofguns.com

GUNS Magazine



www.gunsmagazine.com

Hogue Inc.



www.getgrip.com

Maxpedition Hard-Use Gear



www.maxpedition.com

Pearce Grip



www.pearcegrip.com

W. Square Enterprises



www.loadammo.com

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

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

Make sure she can protect herself

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

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

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

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

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

**BONUS
Special
Offer!**

Two-disc set only
\$29.95

Includes nearly two hours of video!



CONCEALED CARRY
For Ladies

THUNDER RANCH
TRAINING SERIES

**Ladies Basic Guide
To Concealed Carry**

From Firearms Training Experts
Clint & Heidi Smith

DVD Two-Disk Set Includes:

- Mental Preparation Lecture
- Gun Choices
- Carry Options
- Drawing Technique

FMG
© 2009 Publishers' Development Corp.



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

- Heidi Smith

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

NEWS

Insurgent Stronghold Cleared

Nearly 1,000 British soldiers joined a major operation planned and led by Afghan security forces to clear insurgents from a Taliban heartland.

The British troops joined forces with 1,000 warriors from the Afghan National Army (ANA) and patrolmen from the Afghan Uniform Police (AUP) and the elite Afghan National Civil Order Police to clear insurgents from the area around Yakchal.



British and Afghan forces (above) take a break during Operation NOW ROZ in Nahr-e Saraj district, Helmand province, southern Afghanistan. Photo: Crown Copyright/MOD 2012. A British soldier (below) negotiates an irrigation ditch during Operation NOW ROZ last March. Photo: Crown Copyright/MOD 2012



The area, known as an insurgent heartland, lies to the east of Helmand province between Lashkar Gah Durai and the bustling town of Gereshk in the Nahr-e Saraj district. Gereshk is a security priority for Afghan forces in the coming year and Yakchal is close to both Highway One and Route 601—putting insurgents in an ideal position to attack Afghan and ISAF forces using the routes.

Operation NOW ROZ, or New Year, came just before Afghan new year celebrations last March. The operation was planned by Afghan National Army staff and was led by Brigadier General Sherin Shah, Commander of the 3rd Brigade of 215 Corps. It is the fourth major

ALWAYS UP FOR A GOOD TIME.

See it in action!



IMPACT STEEL TARGETS

Throw it, shoot it, abuse it... **IMPACT Steel Targets** roll to a shootable position every time you score a hit. No walking back and forth to set it up... **IMPACT Steel Targets** are ALWAYS UP for a good time! .22 and .45 models for every shooter to get rolling!

Rests, Bags & Tables by

Bench Master

benchmasterusa.com

800-891-3660

an Altus Brands, LLC company

EL PASO SADDLERY CO.

Since 1889
Finest Quality Holsters and Belts

1930

"Austin"

- forward cant standard
 - suede lined
- Available for Single Actions, Double Actions, and Semi-Automatics

\$115

Shown in Basketweave Stamping



1920

"Tom Threepersons"

- lining standard
 - forward cant standard
- Available for most Single Actions, Double Actions and Semi-Automatics.

\$78

Shown with Floral Carving



www.epsaddlery.com

2025 E. Yandell, El Paso, Texas, 79903
Ph. (915) 544-2233, Fax (915) 544-2535



Find us on Facebook



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



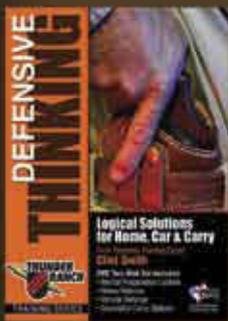
facebook.com/americanCOPmagazine

Clint on Vehicle Defense:



“Either Drive
Or Draw
... not BOTH!”

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



Three Course

BONUS

Includes:

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

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

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

www.americanhandgunner.com/TRvids



Some of the 1,000 Afghan soldiers prepare to deploy on Operation NOW ROZ (above) to clear Taliban from Southern Afghanistan.

Photo: Crown Copyright/MOD 2012. Afghan soldiers (below) deploy on Operation NOW ROZ in an operation involving 1,000 ANA troops and 1,000 British soldiers. Photo: Crown Copyright/MOD 2012

ANA operation in 4 months, with British troops deploying in support as part of the International Security Assistance Force.

The 3-day operation saw Afghan National Army troops clear south through the Yakchal area over several days, with the police following behind to search and clear more than 200 compounds.

The Afghan troops detained two key improvised explosive device (IED) facilitators and made safe 44 IEDs. They also found seven bomb-making factories, and discovered over 145 kilograms of homemade explosives, 18 manufactured mines, 18 pressure-plate switches and 12 directional fragmentation charges.

The Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) also found another five weapon caches with mortar barrels and ammunition, five rocket-propelled grenades, long-barreled weapons and grenades. The most exceptional discovery was a Taliban command compound, seeded with deadly IEDs rigged to detonate the building and contents if the compound was raided.

British troops from across Task Force Helmand contributed to the operation, but large-scale involvement came from the Queen's Royal Hussars, 1st Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (1 YORKS), and 2nd Battalion The Rifles (2 RIFLES), who form the Brigade Advisory Group and are permanently attached to the local ANA brigade, as well as armoured infantry troops from 3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (3 YORKS) in Warrior armoured vehicles.

Soldiers from 1st Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (1 PWRR) deployed in their role as advisors to the Afghan police involved in the operation, while the ANA Reconnaissance Tolay (Company) and the Brigade Reconnaissance Force, manned by soldiers from the Queen's Dragoon Guards and 1 YORKS, struck at insurgent targets to the south of the area of operations, supported by the Warthog armoured vehicle group.

Counter-improvised explosive device specialists assisted their Afghan



counterparts while engineers from 35 Engineer Regiment mentored Afghan engineers building a new checkpoint to maintain security in the area. The soldiers on the ground were also boosted by search dogs and intelligence and surveillance capabilities, with support from Warrior armoured vehicles.

Lieutenant Colonel Bill Wright, the Commanding Officer of 2 RIFLES, said, “This operation is the latest in a series of brigade-level operations planned and led by the ANA. During this winter they have conducted a brigade-level operation every 3 weeks—a quite staggering pace. They have kept us busy just trying to keep up with them.

“This operation involved over 800 ANA and 200 AUP and is the most complex, largest and most dangerous that we have done by a huge margin.

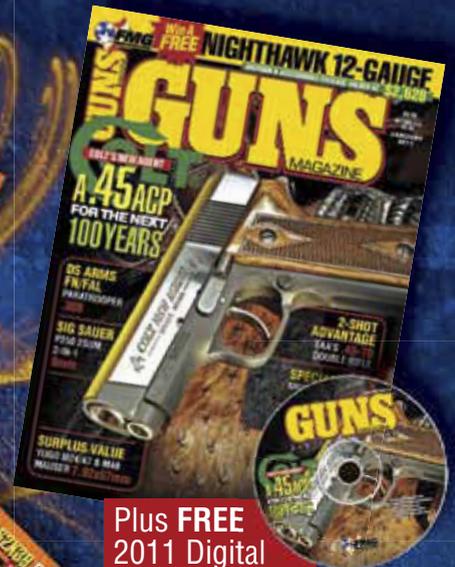
“That they have the confidence to conceive, plan and lead such a large-scale operation into an area the insurgents perceived as their safe haven and had heavily defended is clear proof of their increasing confidence and capability. They have been hugely impressive.”

Brigadier General Shah said, “The ANSF is ready to provide security for the Afghan people. Those who are fighting against our government need to come and join the peace process, as this can be the only solution.”—*Courtesy MoD*

GUNS

GUNS MAGAZINE

ONE YEAR SUBSCRIPTION ONLY \$24.95!



Plus **FREE**
2011 Digital
Edition CD with
your paid order

Call (888) 732-2299

www.gunsmagazine.com

M-F 8am-3pm PST (\$59.95 outside U.S.)
P.O. Box 509094. San Diego, CA 92150

If you've experienced the "cool" factor of *GUNS Magazine* and want to see what you missed last year, you're in luck.

Get all twelve 2011 issues in digital format on one easy-to-use CD-ROM when you subscribe to *GUNS Magazine* through this offer.

Catch up on a year's worth of Clint Smith, John Connor, Massad Ayoob, John Taffin, Dave Anderson, "Duke" Venturino and others. And with a subscription you can count on even more in the months ahead.

Subscribe Now to enjoy last year's fun and this year's "WOW!"

SHOOTER'S EDGE

STORY: DAVE ANDERSON

SPONSORED BY **BROWNELLS**
SELECTION. SERVICE. SATISFACTION.
WWW.BROWNELLS.COM

THE .223 MAY BE THE RIFLEMAN'S MOST VALUABLE TOOL.

A while ago, I wrote an article on basic rifles for the aspiring rifleman: (1) An air rifle or a .22 LR rifle. (2) A big-game rifle, not to actually shoot much, but for the lessons it teaches.

Because they are quiet, pleasant and cheap to shoot, the air rifle and .22 are ideal for learning the basics. The big-game rifle teaches (1) Centerfire ammunition is expensive. (2) Recoil and muzzle blast aren't as much fun as we initially thought. (3) Hitting little targets way out there is fun and challenging.

Now we want to learn to use the capabilities of a centerfire rifle. It's time for a centerfire we'll actually shoot. For learning purposes nothing beats a .223. The .223 shoots far, fast, and flat. It will teach valuable lessons about ballistic coefficients, bullet drop, wind drift, accurate rifles, accurate ammunition and handloads, marksmanship skills. It will do so with minimal recoil, mild report, and (relatively) moderate cost.

True, ammunition costs have increased whether we're talking

factory loads or handloads. But .223 is still a bargain compared to bigger centerfire cartridges. Quality brass is plentiful, powder charges moderate, and outstanding bullets are available.

Learn By Doing

Some think I make too much of cost, muzzle blast, and recoil. Here's something many don't want to hear. If you want to be a good shot, you're going to have to shoot. I sometimes get the impression people will buy anything or try any shortcut if they can only avoid actually getting out there and shooting.

Mention long-range shooting and immediately talk starts of .30 Magnums and .338 Lapuas. But rifle/scope combinations costing \$5 or \$6 grand, shooting ammunition costing \$6 per shot, tend to discourage newcomers.



Dave's newest .223 is this Ruger 77 Hawkeye. Ruger calls it their All Weather model, with stainless steel barrel and action, and synthetic stock. Ruger uses a 1:9" twist in .223, and the rifle gave outstanding accuracy with heavier bullets like the Hornady 75-grain BTHP and Black Hills ammo topped with Sierra 77-grain MatchKings.

Better to think first in terms of mid-range, in the 400- to 600-yard ranges. For this type of shooting the .223 is ideal. In fact, there are shooters doing outstanding work at 1,000 yards with the .223 cartridge. But this is post-graduate stuff. For now let's stay in the medium ranges.

Medium-Range Rifle

Long ago the industry settled on a 1:12" twist for the .223. For varmint shooting I like light, fast bullets in .223. They are plenty adequate for typical varmint-shooting distances, and with their high velocity provide good "hang time" when they hit. For such bullets the 1:12" twist works fine.

For longer ranges we want longer, more ballistically efficient bullets, which need a faster twist. I tried some 69-grain Sierra MatchKings in my Remington 700 with 1:12" twist. At 100 yards the first shot not only was 2' off point of aim, the whirling bullet neatly broke one side of my portable target stand.

The move to faster-twist barrels has been glacially slow. I suppose from the maker's viewpoint most shooters buy a .223 for varmint shooting, so there's no need to invest in retooling for something only a few buyers want.

Well, there may be more than a few. Currently several factory rifles are offered with 1:9" twists. The 1:9" has kind of a compromise feel to it, and as with most compromises doesn't get anyone excited. In my rifles 1:9" stabilizes such excellent bullets as the



This is probably the finest .308 Win. setup for long-range shooting Dave ever shot, or likely ever will shoot. It's a Steyr SSG-08 rifle with a 5-15X Trijicon TARS scope. Its only downsides are the weight, so it's not very portable for all-around use, and uh, the retail value of the combination is around \$10,000 (yikes!).



When Dave says you should own a .223 to learn the capabilities of a centerfire cartridge, it doesn't have to be a bolt action. AR-style rifles have some advantages. Generally they come with faster twist barrels (this Armalite M-15 has a 1:7" twist). With free-floated barrels they are often very accurate. On the downside it's usually more expensive to get a quality trigger pull.

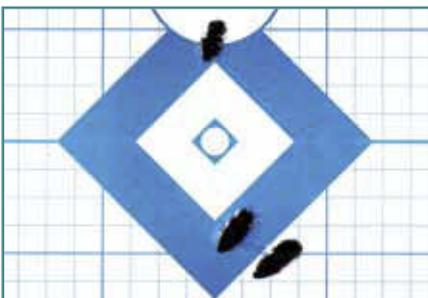
Hornady 75-grain BTHP and Sierra 77-grain MatchKing. I can live with 1:9" though I wouldn't mind the little extra margin provided by a 1:8" twist.

Do The Twist

Among popular .223 commercial bolt-actions the Tikka T3 is available in either 1:12" or 1:8". Savage rifles, notable for offering outstanding accuracy at reasonable cost, use a 1:9" twist on most models, with 1:7" offered in some specialty models. Remington 700s are mostly 1:12" but some models (look for the word "tactical") have a 1:9" twist. All current Rugers have the 1:9" twist, as do Kimbers in .223.



The Ruger 77 Hawkeye .223 with Black Hills "Blue Box" 77-grain Sierra MatchKing bullets delivered this 100-yard group (above). This is what happens when you try to shoot heavier bullets (below, in this case 69-grain Sierras) through a .223 with 1:12" twist barrel. Three shots and all went through the paper sideways. This was at 25 yards, because at 100 yards, bullets were missing the target by 2'.



HAWKEYE ALL-WEATHER .223

MAKER: STURM, RUGER & CO., INC.
411 SUNAPEE ST.
NEWPORT, NH 03773
(603) 865-2442
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/RUGER

TYPE: Bolt-action, **MATERIALS:** Stainless steel barrel/action, synthetic stock. **CAPACITY:** 5, **LENGTH-OF-PULL:** 13-1/2", **BARREL:** 22", 1:9" twist, **OVERALL LENGTH:** 42", **WEIGHT:** 7-1/4 pounds, **PRICE:** \$859

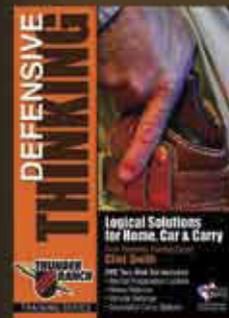
The .223 doesn't have to be a bolt action. AR-style rifles have a couple of advantages. Generally they come with faster-twist barrels, from 1:7" to 1:9". Many have free-floated barrels and flattop receivers with rails for mounting optics and, in terms of accuracy, can outshoot all but the best bolt guns.

On the negative side it is generally harder (or at least more expensive) to get a really good trigger pull on an AR. The rifles themselves tend to be more costly, though certainly not always. But a lot of fine ARs have been sold in recent years, and are capable of a lot more than just firing 30 shots in 30 seconds at 25 yards.

My current favorite "teaching" .223 is a Ruger Hawkeye All-Weather model. With one minor change (a Wolff sear/trigger return spring) it has a very good trigger pull, crisp at 2 pounds, 14 ounces. The Ruger rings let me easily switch between bulky target/varmint scopes and more compact hunting-style scopes. With its medium weight (7-1/4 pounds, rifle only) it is easy to hold steadily while still reasonably portable. Groups as small as 3/8" at 100 yards aren't hard to make. **GUNS**

"It's a BIG gun when I put it on and it's a BIG gun when I pull it out."

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



Three Course **BONUS**

Includes:

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

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

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

www.americanhandgunner.com/TRvids

QUARTERMASTER

FEATURING: JOHN CONNOR

RELOADING GEAR & GOODIES

Shoot 'em, reload 'em and shoot 'em again!

Having lost most of my reloading gear to fire and the rest to flood a few years later, I've spent the last decade-plus in a Rip Van Reloader state of "handloading coma." When I finally awoke, I found first, thankfully, reloading is kinda like riding a bike; once you get aboard and pedaling, the basics all come back to you—though it's like going from a single-speed Schwinn cruiser to a 24-speed mountain bike. And second, adjusted for inflation, you can get into reloading better, faster and safer now for about the same start-up bucks as 15 years ago!

While I was dozing, the good got better and the best got fantastic! Whether you're a first-time hand-loader, a Rip Van Reloader like me or an established hull-stuffer looking for upgrades, you'll find something tempting here. (And also in this issue, see my "Odd Angry Shot" column for more handloading tips and tools.)

Unless you're loading small numbers of a single-caliber cartridge, a single-stage reloading press will quickly leave you longing for more speed and flexibility. So, why not start

out with a setup that will bang out 250 rounds per hour? The recently-expanded Classic Turret Press Kit by Lee Precision has all the hardware you need except a set of dies, and it's all top-quality gear at a bargain price. You even get Richard Lee's second edition of *Modern Reloading*, which has everything but crock-pot recipes! If you're short on space, check out Lee's compact, 3-legged Reloading Stand too.

When you're ready to step up to a progressive reloading press capable of



Hornady's Lock-N-Load AP (above) is a very efficient high volume press. The iSD Powder Dispenser and Scale by SmartReloader USA (below) has a digital memory and much more.



producing 500 professional-quality rounds per hour, the Hornady Lock-N-Load AP is just the ticket; an auto-indexing 5-station ammo factory. One of its best features—among many—is the Universal Case Retainer Spring, which allows you to handily remove and reinsert cases of any size at any point in the process. Too, the powder dispenser has an "idiot-proof" feature which stops it from dumping gunpowder if you forgot to insert an empty cartridge! Yeah, I admit it; I like that—and need it.

Here's another winner that will quickly pay for itself in time saved: The digital iSD Powder Scale and Dispenser from SmartReloader USA. It is accurate to .1 grain with all standard smokeless powders, with a 1,500-grain-scale capacity and 1-pound-plus hopper capacity. You can create and store up to 50 custom loads for instant recall, and you can name and number them yourself. It



Lee Precision's Classic Turret Press Kit is a "best buy" for beginning reloaders.



Berry's 400 Tumbler gets high marks for quiet running and ruggedness.



Lee Precision's Ergo Prime takes hand priming to a new level.



The Giraud Power Case Trimmer: Precise, efficient and fast!

measures in grains, grams, carats and ounces, and runs off 110V or 220V. You can even electronically adjust the trickle rate.

The big, clear display is nice, and the iSD is fantastic for working up "ladder loads" by small fractions at a time. I don't think this was even dreamed of when I fell asleep! Shop around, because I found the iSD for \$120 under the retail of \$349.95 at "Cheaper Than Dirt" online. SmartReloader offers lots of well-designed reloading gear including an excellent tumbling media separator, so check 'em out thoroughly.

Cleaning brass in my old rotary tumbler was slow, noisy and messy. There are many good vibrating tumblers available now, and Berry's 400 is one of the best. It's quiet, rugged and reliable, with a big 4-quart bowl and a smooth-running efficient motor. Using crushed walnut hulls or ground corncob media, the grungiest brass comes out slick and spanky-clean. Capacity is 1,000 9mm or 600 .45 ACP hulls, just for example. Many reloaders rate Berry's 400 higher than far more expensive tumblers; good to know, right?

The performance of the Giraud Power Case Trimmer just stunned me. If you shoot and reload lots of bottle-

neck rifle cartridges, you know case trimming, chamfering and deburring is the most laborious, time-consuming, curse-worthy chore in the whole process. I used to do all that by hand, and it was a real pain. With the Giraud unit, you just push the case in for a second or two and you're done! The finished case is precision-trimmed, chamfered, deburred and smoothed in an instant! The brass shavings are even trapped in a clear lexan cylinder. Changing calibers only requires changing cutter heads and case holders, and setups are available in 68 calibers, from .17 K-Hornet through .243 Ackley Improved to .50 BMG!

All good reloading press setups include a primer seating function, but I've always preferred priming my cases by hand, so I have a sure tactile feel for seating them properly without crushing them. This is especially true if you work with military brass which had crimped primer pockets. And, a good hand primer makes the process faster than working on a press. Lee Precision's new ErgoPrime gives you the speed, sure feel and consistency you need with an easy-on-the-hand ergonomically contoured grip. If you're changing calibers or primer sizes, it's a snap; just swap shell holders and visible primer trays, a quick, no-tools-required operation. So yes, Darryl, you can watch TV in the living room while priming cases and you won't even disturb the Missus!*

You just loaded a hundred rounds with the right amount of the wrong powder? Or the wrong amount of the right "ka-blooley dust"? No problem!



The Magnum Inertia Bullet Puller is just one of Lyman's great reloading products.

Clint on Home Defense:

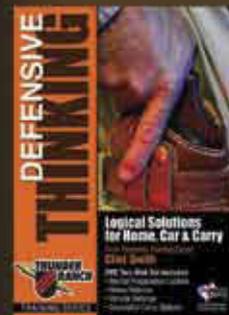


"Squirt 'em with the white foam."



"Then hit 'em with the red can."

Home defense tools come in many forms. Learn to be prepared for fire or home invasion with help from Clint Smith's Thunder Ranch DVD training course.



Three Course BONUS

Includes:

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

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

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

www.americanhandgunner.com/TRvids

AMERICAN HANDGUNNER

ONE YEAR SUBSCRIPTION ONLY \$19.75!

Includes a FREE
Digital Edition CD



Subscribe Now to enjoy last
year's fun and this year's "WOW!"

If you've experienced the "cool" factor of American Handgunner and want to see what you missed last year, you're in luck.

Get all six 2011 issues in digital format on one easy-to-use CD-ROM when you subscribe to American Handgunner through this offer.

Catch up on a year's worth of Clint Smith, John Connor, Massad Ayoob, Dave Anderson, "Duke" Venturino and others. And with a subscription you can count on even more in the months ahead.

Fun Rewind!
FREE 2011
Digital Edition
CD when you
subscribe.



One Year ONLY \$19.75

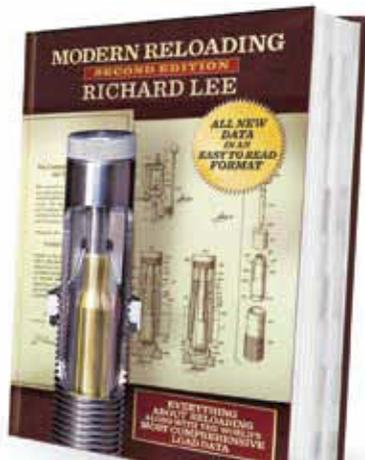
Call (888) 732-2299

www.americanhandgunner.com

M-F 8am-3pm PST (\$54.75 outside U.S.)
P.O. Box 509093, San Diego, CA 92150

A few taps on the bench with this tool will safely separate and trap the components. Featuring a newly engineered head design which fits calibers from the teensy 5.7x28 FN to the big magnums, this full-size “whoops” solver has a comfy handle with a soft rubber insert for a sure grip. And don't worry; it can't talk, so it won't rat you out to your shooting buddies!

We haven't even covered reloading dies, powders and several other



Thinking about reloading? First read Lee's *Modern Reloading* to get all the basics.

categories of goodies, and if you're just thinking about getting into reloading, you might feel a little overwhelmed already. Don't be; it's really not that bewildering. First, just get a good manual; not one that only lists loads, but one that explains the whole process. Two good choices are *The ABC's of Reloading* by Rodney James, and the 2nd edition of *Modern Reloading* by Richard Lee. You might even find 'em in your local library, if the PC Police haven't found and burned them. Then take a deep breath, pick up your chin and whisper, “OK, bucko, let's make some munitions! Good luck! Connor OUT

My buddy Darryl wanted to sit on his sofa and enjoy a little TV with his Missus—and also get some case priming done. He brought his 30-pound reloading press in from the garage and C-clamped it to the coffee table. To Mrs. R's credit, she didn't say a word—though she may have been in shock—until he gave the lever a mighty pull. The mechanical Clank-CLANK! was bad enough, but it was followed by the crash! as the coffee table, a vase of flowers and assorted porcelain tchotchkes overturned onto the deck... then she spoke. A couple of years later, he bought a quiet little Lee hand primer. The lesson: Don't do a Darryl.* **GUNS

BERRY'S MFG, INC.
401 N. 3050 EAST, ST. GEORGE, UT 84790
(800) 269-7373
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/BERRYS-MFG

GIRAUD TOOL COMPANY
3803 DAWN LN., RICHMOND, TX 77406
(281) 238-0844
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/GIRAUD

HORNADY
3625 W. OLD POTASH HWY.
GRAND ISLAND, NE 68803
(800) 338-3220
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/HORNADY

SMARTRELOADER MFG.
701 LAWTON RD., CHARLOTTE, NC 28216
(800) 954-2689
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/
SMART-RELOADER-USA

LEE PRECISION
4275 COUNTY RD. U, HARTFORD, WI 53027
(262) 673-3075
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/LEE-PRECISION

LYMAN
475 SMITH ST., MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457
(800) 225-9626
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/LYMAN-PRODUCTS

Reloading Supplies
from popular mfg:

RCBS Lyman

Dillon Precision Products, Inc. Hornady

LEE LEE PRECISION, INC. FORSTER Precision Products

REDDING Precision Products

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
THE RELOADING AUTHORITY

Graf & Sons, Inc.

800-531-2666
www.grafs.com

MEC-GAR®
World's Finest Magazines

“OPTIMUM”... THE WORLD'S BEST MAGAZINES

MEC-GAR is proud to offer “Optimum” - our new and unique series of high capacity flush-fit pistol magazines.

The new design of the magazine housing and interlinked magazine components, together with a special Anti-Friction Coating offer far superior performance even in difficult operational environments.

The increased firepower of **MEC-GAR** “Optimum” magazines can be further raised by an optional “Plus Two” adapter. “Plus Two” is a new set of hollow butt-plate and inner base to raise the capacity of the **MEC-GAR** “Optimum” magazine by 2-rounds and stick out only 5/8” from the butt of the pistol!

Available For:

- Beretta 92FS 9mm 18rd / 20rd
- Beretta 96FS .40S&W 13rd / 15rd
- Para-Ordance P14 .45ACP 14rd
- SIG P226 9mm 18rd / 20rd
- SIG P226 .40S&W 13rd / 15rd
- Springfield XD 9mm 18rd
- Springfield XD .40S&W 13rd
- Taurus PT92 9mm 18rd / 20rd
- Taurus PT100 .40S&W 13rd / 15rd



Mec-Gar USA, Inc., 905 Middle Street, Middletown, CT 06457
Tel: (800) 632-4271 Fax: (860) 635-1712 www.mec-gar.com

SAIGA STRIKEFORCE ELITE PACKAGE

AMERICAN TACTICAL IMPORTS

The Saiga Strikeforce Elite is a 6-position collapsible stock with Scorpion Recoil system that offers an aluminum buffer tube and adjustable cheekrest. The Saiga Strikeforce Elite offers a redesigned slim-line rear aluminum receiver mount. With a Scorpion Recoil system, users will be able to absorb recoil energy. The recoil impact is absorbed when shooting anything from a 3" magnum turkey load to a door-breaching load, with no pain being



transferred to the shooter! The Scorpion Razorback Buttpad gives the user a non-slip, removable buttpad. Other unique features of the Scorpion Recoil system include not being affected by chemicals, remains flexible in extreme temperatures and removes limitations from spring- and piston-type recoil suppression systems. American Tactical Imports, (800) 290-0065, www.gunsmagazine.com/american-tactical-imports

EXOTIC SKINS HOLSTER

ANDREWS CUSTOM LEATHER

Sam Andrews has been designing and making custom, handmade holsters and accessories for over 35 years. He's hailed by his customers as one of the top exotic

skins holsters makers of concealed carry and sport rigs. The rigs are available in a number of exotic skins, such as Cape Buffalo—this attractive hide is very tough and is available in several different colors. Holster options range from paddle, solo shoulder rig, crossdraw, scabbard style, belts, slings, mag pouches or any custom styles you desire. Andrews Custom Leather, (386) 462-0576, www.gunsmagazine.com/andrews



MINI TAC NECK KNIVES SERIES

COLD STEEL

Cold Steel's new generation of Mini Tac Neck Knives are astonishingly light at 3 ounces each. Because they're so lightweight, they can be comfortably worn practically 24 hours a day. With their sturdy bead chain lanyards and their rugged Secure Ex sheaths (specially designed to snugly retain the knife, while allowing a speedy draw stroke), they can be worn outside clothing, discreetly under a shirt or blouse, and can even be used for camping or hiking. Fashioned from AUS 8A stainless steel and reflecting state-of-the-art heat treatment, they are honed to a razor edge and exhibit incredible toughness for such a small knife, due in part to their full-tang construction. Tough, rough and ready for anything, they come equipped with thin, high quality black faux G10 handle scales. Cold Steel, (800) 255-4716, www.gunsmagazine.com/cold-steel



GEN4 MODELS

GLOCK

New to the Gen4 family, Glock introduces the G21 (.45 Auto), G32 (.357) and G34 (9x19) Gen4 models. Gen4 models feature a smaller-size basic grip, and offer a multiple backstrap system that allows the user to change the circumference of the grip to fit their individual hand size. The grip has a rough textured frame surface designed to enhance grip traction, and come in short-, medium- or large-frame versions that are easily changed and secured with a single pin. Glock, (770) 432-1202, www.gunsmagazine.com/glock



COLORBURST WATCH SERIES

ARMOURLITE

The ArmourLite ColorBurst Series of watches feature a crystal that is shatterproof and scratch resistant, made from 5mm thick high-impact glass. The analog display features illuminated hour and minute hands with a red second hand. The movement is a Swiss Quartz Ronda 715Li. The crown protector with a screw-down crown maintains a watertight seal down to 330'. The case material is corrosion-resistant, blackened stainless steel 14mm thick. The watch needs no power source for illumination, and the bright Tritium H3 lighted tubes stay bright continuously. The ColorBurst series are available with orange, blue, green, yellow or white Tritium color and luminescent numbers. A variety of watchbands are also available including black stainless steel, black leather and black rubber tread. ArmourLite, customerservice@armourlite.com, www.gunsmagazine.com/armourlite



AMMO BOXES

SMARTRELOADER

SmartReloader's Ammo Boxes are made from high-quality plastic to make sure your ammo is stored properly. Their Ammo Boxes work great at the range too, and stay open with durable hinges. Each box is made from two separate molds. They are guaranteed for 10 million openings.

SmartReloader, (800) 954-2689, www.gunsmagazine.com/smart-reloader-mfg



DEFENDEAR DIGITAL

WESTONE LABORATORIES, INC.

DefendEar Digital utilizes a modular earpiece design, combining a removable digital module into a specialized custom silicone earpiece. The DefendEar Digital products include the Digital 1, Digital 2 and Hunter models. All models feature CENS digital technology, developed from the ground up by shooting and hunting enthusiasts for superior noise attenuation and situational awareness. The Digital 1 is perfect for the all-around shooting enthusiast. Digital 2 offers the flexibility of two programs designed for a shooter who enjoys both target and field. The DefendEar Hunter model gives the hunter the option of reduced wind noise at the push of a button. All of the digital modules are interchangeable with the custom-made silicone earpieces making cleaning, servicing and upgrading a simple process. WestTone Laboratories, Inc., (719) 540-9333, www.gunsmagazine.com/westone



LOCK-N-LOAD QUICK TRICKLE

HORNADY

For handloaders who want "hands-on" accurate control of their powder charges, the Lock-N-Load Quick Trickle provides an excellent way to deliver an initial large-volume powder charge, with the ability to finish with small, precision metering for perfection. This versatile powder trickler features hand-operated high and low speeds, with up to a 3-to-1 gear ratio. Combined with double-sided, sealed ball bearings that prevent stray powder from impeding operation, the Quick Trickle is the smoothest operating powder dispensing tool for your reloading bench. Hornady, (800) 338-3220, www.gunsmagazine.com/hornady



FNH USA SIGHTS

HIVIZ Shooting Systems

HiViz Shooting Systems has added FNH USA to their already comprehensive list of handgun sights. The new sights will fit the FNS, FNX-9, FNX-40 and FN-45. The FX-9, FX-40 and FX-45 replace the existing dovetail front sight and maintain the factory sight height, so they remain compatible with the rear sight. These new sights are built to last, using the highest quality materials. The steel base houses the chemical-resistant LitePipes, which are interchangeable and come in green, red and orange. The six included LitePipes can be easily changed with the included key, allowing you to choose the color that best fits your needs. They combine fast target acquisition with remarkable brightness, providing clear visibility in early morning or late evening hunting situations. HiViz Shooting Systems, (800) 589-4315, www.gunsmagazine.com/hiviz



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

REVOLVER BLAST

MIL-COMM PRODUCTS

Mil-Comm Products Company introduces Revolver Blast, a 3-in-1 aerosol spray cleaner, lubricant and protectant, as part of its NRA-licensed gun care products. Revolver Blast provides spray-blast cleaning, flushing and lubrication to the tightly fitted parts of revolver assemblies or semi-auto magazines as an interim maintenance treatment that does not require disassembly of a revolver. Mil-Comm Products, (800) 743-4518, www.gunsmagazine.com/mil-comm



BROTHERHOOD TREE STANDS

AMERISTEP

AmeriStep has extended its innovative design and manufacturing excellence to the new Signature Series Collection of Brotherhood Tree Stands with Michael Waddell. The Brotherhood Tree Stands feature larger flip-up Durasling seats, allowing for full platform use and close access to the tree. Experience all-day comfort sitting in the Durasling Seat, made of extremely weatherproof and wear-resistant material. The quiet non-stretch material won't absorb water, and resists fading, mildew and rot. The black Durasling seats are available with green accent stitching, featuring an embroidered Brotherhood logo on the seat. Sit in quiet comfort while you are waiting for that perfect shot. AmeriStep, (810) 686-4035, www.gunsmagazine.com/ameristep



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

S&K SCOUT-MOUNT

No Drilling or Tapping!

The absolute best scope mount made for the Styer M95 with the longer ladder rear sight. 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.

Styer M95 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

LOAD FROM A DISK - The software program that has been solving ballistic problems for shooters, reloaders and hunters for over two decades. Free Demo. www.loadammo.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

BOOKS

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Gun Depot - The only gun store in the city of Miami Beach, FL. Established 1976. 230,000+ Inventory. Gundepot@bellsouth.net
305-538-2188

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

1867 DANISH REMINGTON ROLLING-BLOCK RIFLE 11.75 MM WITH

COPPEL-COPENHAGEN BAYONET.
NRA XLNT \$1250.00, WRITE P.O. BOX
260411, ENCINO, CA 91426

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

FREE Holster Making Videos!

Learn the secrets that the holster companies don't want you to know. An expert holster maker will teach you the modern techniques used by today's biggest companies. You'll learn how to build a better holster for a fraction of the cost.

HolsterVideos.com • 479-226-3082



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

GUNS CUSTOM CORNER

Rio Grande ^{Custom Grips}



NEW! NOW YOU CAN ADD
PIZZAZZ TO YOUR RUGER
BLACKHAWK, SUPER BLACK
HAWK, OLD VAQUERO and

SINGLE SIX REVOLVERS!

NEW IMAGES FOR YOUR 1911 AND TAURUS.



QUALITY MADE IN THE U.S.A.

www.riograndecustomgrips.com

303-330-2812

When conceal matters!

PS30
6 round
belt slide

PS31
Speed Loader

PS6 Series
Systems
Include
Belt,
Mag Pouch,
Holster

PS6SA
Holster

PS6DA
Holster

PS6 System 1

Merrickle Custom Holsters
1876 View Court, Fernley, Nevada USA 89409 Phone: 775-579-3166
Fax: 775-575-3188 Email: sales@merrickleholsters.com
Internet: www.merrickleholsters.com Phone: 1800-497-3166

ANNEAL-RITE

CARTRIDGE BRASS ANNEALER
Perfect Annealed Case Necks

.40 S&W to .50 BMG

From \$91.95 - Money Back Guarantee

Enterprise Services, LLC

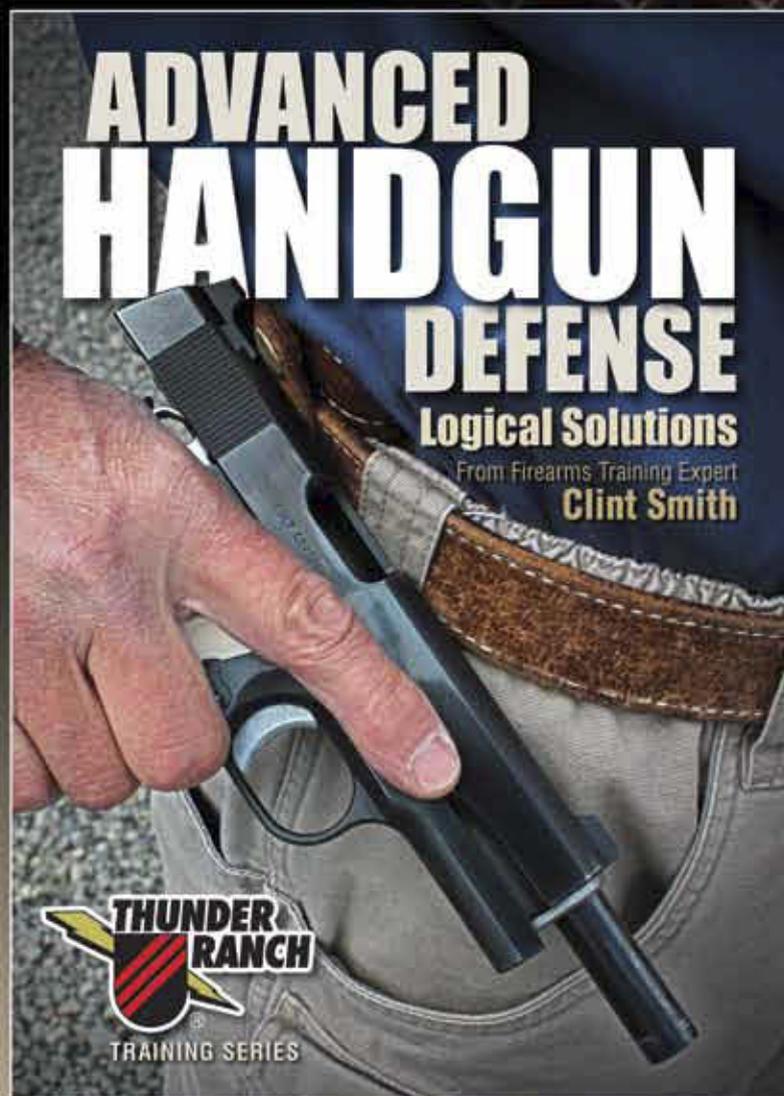
Tel: 479-629-5566 - See 8 min. video at
www.cartridgeanneal.com

LYING WOUNDED BEHIND COVER,

STRONG HAND INJURED AND USELESS.

A DOUBLE-FEED PISTOL MALFUNCTION

KEEPS YOU FROM FIGHTING BACK ...



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.

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!



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.



ENTER TO WIN!

GUNS MAGAZINE'S GUN OF THE MONTH GIVEAWAY

Glock 34 Gen 4

Win this month's all-things-Glock prize package! The highly accurate Glock 34 Gen 4 brings revolutionary design changes to the world's most popular pistol, centered on ergonomics and the recoil spring assembly. Obtaining the greatest accuracy for target shooting was the main reason for the development of the Glock 34, which has an extended barrel, greater slide dimensions and unmatched reliability.

The no-nonsense Glock Field Knife features a tough 6.5" carbon steel clip-point blade and molded polymer hilt, tough enough to break windows or cut through the toughest tree limb, yet perfectly balanced for appropriate conditions. This black backfield knife is a perfect addition to any tool kit, field pack or belt.

A must have for any outdoor enthusiast; the Glock E-Tool (shovel) is an innovative entrenching tool with a surface-treated blade, which can be locked in three positions for multiple uses. The hardened saw located inside the handle can be quickly mounted if required. Folded up, the Glock E-Tool can be easily stored in any backpack or vehicle. Comes supplied with a durable nylon pouch that can be simply attached to a belt or backpack.

Carry your prizes in this heavy-duty Glock Range Bag that has room for four Glocks! Inside and outside storage pockets assure you are able to store plenty of ammunition and accessories, and still have room for safety equipment on board. It has oversized zipper loops for lock placement. No need to carry several small bags; this one will take care of everything! 



GLOCK RANGE BAG

SIZE: Large (10" W x 11" H x 16" L),
PRICE: \$50



GLOCK RANGE KIT

EARMUFF NOISE REDUCTION RATING: 31
decibels, GLASSES LENSES: Polycarbonate

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

PHOTOS: JOSEPH R. NOVELOZO

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.

G34 GEN 4

MAKER: GLOCK
 6000 HIGHLANDS PKWY., SMYRNA, GA 30082
 (770) 432-1202
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/GLOCK

ACTION TYPE: Safe action semi-auto, **CALIBER:** 9x19mm,
CAPACITY: 17, **BARREL LENGTH:** 5.31", **OVERALL LENGTH:** 8.82",
WEIGHT: 32.80 ounces (loaded), **FINISH:** Tenifer,
GRIP: Integral polymer, **RETAIL:** \$648, night sights extra

**INSTANT
 ACCESS!**

SCAN OUR
 QUICK
 RESPONSE CODE
 WITH YOUR
 SMARTPHONE.



GLOCK FIELD KNIFE

BLADE MATERIAL: Spring steel
 HRC 55, phosphate-treated, **BLADE
 LENGTH:** 6.5", **OVERALL LENGTH:** 11.4",
WEIGHT: 7.13 ounces, **GRIP:** Polymer,
COLOR: Black, **PRICE:** \$30

**GLOCK E-TOOL
 (SHOVEL): \$50**



TO ENTER CONTEST

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

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

QUESTION OF THE MONTH: If you had the opportunity
 to purchase a custom pistol, how much would you be
 willing to spend?

- (A) \$1,000-\$1,500
- (B) \$1,501-\$2,000
- (C) \$2,001-\$2,500
- (D) More than \$2,500

**GLOCK PERFORM
 WRAP SCHEMATIC
 TEE & KHAKI
 DISTRESSED HAT
 \$20/EA.**



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

CIRCLE ANSWER(S) TO QUESTION OF THE MONTH AUGUST 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

ODD ANGRY SHOT

STORY: John Connor

MORE HOT AIR ON HANDLOADING Just call me “Rip Van Reloader.”

Check out “Quartermaster” in this issue, OK? It’s about reloading, and I’m the guilty party/hack writer. Of course, I could only stuff about 2.5 pounds of handloading hoo-rah into that 1-pound bag, and had 3 pounds of reloading rubble left over. And here, I just happen to have an empty 3-pound bag! So if you will, go read those scribbles, ogle the photos, and return here for the ragged remainder....

Few people today even think of reloading as a patriotic act, and that’s a pity, because it certainly is. You’ve often read our nation’s founders highly prized “skill at arms” and felt it was not only a right but an obligation of free men—and women too. But to them, *skill at arms* included a sound working knowledge of a broad spectrum of related skills, including what you might call “management of munitions.”

Just think about the weapons and ammo of the day; flintlock muzzleloaders, and what was involved in their care, loading and the manual of arms. A

skilled operator might fire three rounds per minute, executing several distinct physical actions in loading each shot—while under fire!—a far cry from today’s ease and efficiency.

Virtually every gun owner had their own ball molds and most had a lead pot and dipper for casting. Many even knew how to make gunpowder from the raw ingredients, and shooters cut their own patches. Casting slugs and shot was often an activity for extended families or communities, an important social and civic function. Thrift, industriousness and preparedness to meet danger



Ain’t they pretty? Bright tumbled brass in a SmartReloader Media Separator.

bred comradeship and consensus. Of those who signed the Declaration of Independence, how many had cast and trimmed their own slugs, cut their own patches, “managed their munitions”? I would bet on 100 percent, even among the rich, the pacifists and the Quakers of that group, and even those who didn’t do it regularly made it their business to know the process thoroughly. It was a hallmark of liberty then—and should be now.

Handloading is both an archaic and a modern skill, and with ammo prices climbing ever higher, a great money saver as well. Loading your own ammo ranks right up there in self-satisfaction with dressing, cooking and eating your own game, and you won’t even have to deal with a gut-pile! Interested? C’mon; George Washington would be proud of you.

I wouldn’t give you a low-ball figure just to make reloading more attractive to you. But even with a brand new quality startup outfit like Lee’s Classic Turret Press Kit, a set of reloading dies, primers and powder, you can be loading 200 rounds of factory ammo an hour for well under \$500. Used components are rarely “worn out” because they’re so inherently strong and durable. Typically, they’re sold because the owner has upgraded from a single-stage press to a turret or a turret press to a progressive setup.

One of the best places to look for good used gear is the same place you’ll find hordes of helpful, experienced friends: the Internet. Google search “reloading forum” and you’ll get 600,000-plus hits, including sites like reloadingmadeeasy.com, where you’ll find a section called “Beginner’s Forum: Have questions about getting



Lizard-litter, car polish and dryer sheets—essentials of reloading?

"Best Mauser Value Available Anywhere!" - Don Mitchell

Manufactured in Serbia before WWII, and Still 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!)

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

Rare 'bnz' K98k. Made for the SS by Gestapo prisoners, who survived as talented craftsmen 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



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

Mitchells Mausers

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

into reloading? Ask them here and we'll do our best to help!" That site also has three forum sections devoted to selling and trading reloading gear, components and supplies. I don't know of another activity with a comparable number of people enthusiastic about helping newcomers.

Sure, the Internet is loaded with tons of misinformation—some of it potentially dangerous—but as most reloaders will tell you, "Trust, but verify," and always check recommended loads against one or more reloading manuals. And, I'll add, "Never take loading tips from a guy who's blind in one eye, is short three fingers, and says *I like my loads kinda hot.*"

Read a good manual like *Modern Reloading* or *The ABC's of Reloading*, fill a notebook with questions, log onto a forum and make some friends! No promises, but you'll often find reloaders so anxious to help a novice they'll offer you supplies for pennies on the dollar—or even free.

I recommend you start with a plain, straight-wall cartridge like .38 Special for sheer lack of complexity and low cost. If you're a shotgunner, you can get into shotshell reloading even cheaper and easier than reloading metallic cartridges. A complete Lee "Load-All II" set up in 12-, 16- or 20-gauge



Once white, these used dryer softener sheet strips suck up walnut dust and help polish your brass cases.

lists for just \$71.98! I started with .38 Special and 12 gauge, and they're a great avenue to more complex loads.

Munitions Minutiae

While I was snoozing, my cousin MacKenzie went from being an avid reloader to becoming a "home ordnance factory," and he now averages loading over 1,000 rounds per week. I got a lot of good tips from him as I eased back into the craft. For one, copper-plated slugs, like Berry's, have become far more numerous and available, and if you haven't tried 'em, they're great. Generally priced between jacketed and lead slugs, they eliminate leading in your bore, and they don't pose the toxicity problems of

handling—and indoor-range firing—of lead slugs. If you do load lead, I highly recommend *Lyman's 4th Edition Cast Bullet Handbook*, written by our own Mike Venturino. It's the top info source in its field.

Want to put more shine on your tumbled brass? Drizzle a capful of Nu-Finish Car Polish—not the wax—on each new load of crushed walnut hulls, and a half-cap after each long tumbling session. It really slicks 'em up, with no downside.

I've spent hours picking stuck walnut bits out of primer pockets, but no more. MacKenzie turned me on to "lizard litter": crushed walnut hulls sold at pet supply stores as kitty litter for reptiles. It's much cheaper than walnut hulls sold for brass tumbling, and ground a bit finer so it won't stick in those pockets. How 'bout controlling the walnut dust in your tumbler? Another trick from Mac: save the used softener sheets from your clothes dryer, cut them in 1" strips and toss 'em in! You'll be amazed how well they work.

And primers? Well, uhh... sorry. Seems like I actually had 6 pounds of reloading-rubble for this 3-pound bag.

So, good luck to you reloading rookies and Rip Van Reloaders, and you old hands at handloading, give 'em your support! Connor *OUT*

GUNS

GUNS

MAGAZINE

AUGUST 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
Al Mar Knives	15
American COP	
Subscription	40
American Handgunner	
Subscription	78
American Handgunner	
T-Shirts	88
American Watch Company	11
Arntzen Corporation	68
Barnes Bullets Inc.	34
Bond Arms	39
Bullet Proof Samples LLC	C4

ADVERTISER	PAGE	ADVERTISER	PAGE
Burger Knives	68	Kwik-Site	
Bushmaster		Corporation	18, 24, 33
Firearms International	23	Laser Devices Inc.	12
Colt's Manufacturing	9	Leupold & Stevens	35
CrossBreed Holsters LLC	31	Leupold Tactical Optics	28
Daniel Defense	C3	Maxpedition	
DeSantis Holster	39	Hard-Use Gear	19
El Paso Saddlery Company	71	Mec-Gar USA Inc.	79
Elite Sports Express	31	Mitchell's Mausers	45, 87
Fort Knox Security	66	Mossberg O.F. & Sons	13
Graf & Sons	79	MTM Case-Gard	63
Guns Magazine		Outlaw Bidder	10
Subscription	73	Rio Grande Custom Grips	82
Hodgdon/Goex		Rock River Arms	15
Black Powder	65	Savage Arms	3
Hogue Inc.	21	Spartan Blades	21
Hornady		Springfield Inc.	7, 59
Manufacturing Inc.	C2	Thunder Ranch	
Impact Steel Targets	71	Training DVDs	70, 83
ITT Corporation	67	United States Rare Coin	41
Jantz Supply	29	Woodstock International	25
Kimber Manufacturing Inc.	17		
Kirkpatrick			
Leather Company	66		

New HANDGUNNER Gear!

GET SOME!

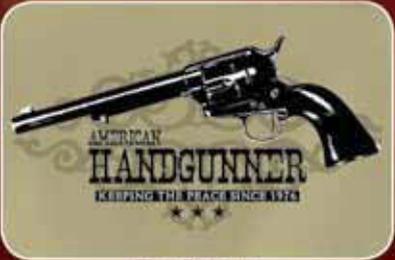
Only \$21.99 each!
with Free shipping
(within the continental U.S.)



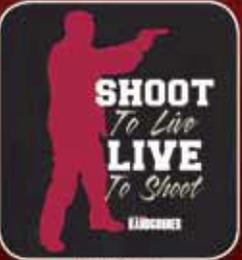
American Handgunner USA
Style #HGUS



Tactical Division
Style #HGTD



Keeping The Peace
Style #HGPC



Shoot To Live
Style #HGSH

New American Handgunner T-shirts. Only \$21.99 with FREE shipping.
www.AMERICANHANDGUNNER.com or call (800) 628-9818

I traded Chubby Hueske, the custom knife maker of Bellaire, Texas, some of the horn material for his work and skill in flattening and rough-shaping a pair of single-action grip blanks from it. I've been saving them for the right gun for 15 years.

"This is the right gun. Baer fitted and shaped the grips to my order, leaving the aluminum XR3-RED grip frame bright-polished—which was the way Skeeter liked them. That sheep horn is spectacular, a beautiful, creamy, smoky gray with subtle striping. Bob says it's harder than ivory! Now the gun went back to Grover for marking and polishing. The only markings are '44 SPECIAL' on top of the barrel, 'T.L.A., INC. RICHMOND TEXAS' in two lines on the topstrap, a tiny, stylized longhorn-steer head on the right side of the frame (Grover's logo), and the serial number 'S.S. 1' (for Skeeter Skelton), on the underside of the frame. Finally, Grover's man, Lee, did an inspired job of polishing and bluing.

"The little .44 is a sweetheart, quiet and pleasant to shoot, accurate (naturally, in that chambering), light as a feather, and pretty as a yellow cactus Blossom. It leaps to the hand of its own will, and seeks a target with the eagerness of a pointer pup. I will cherish it 'til the day I die, and I may even have it buried with me!

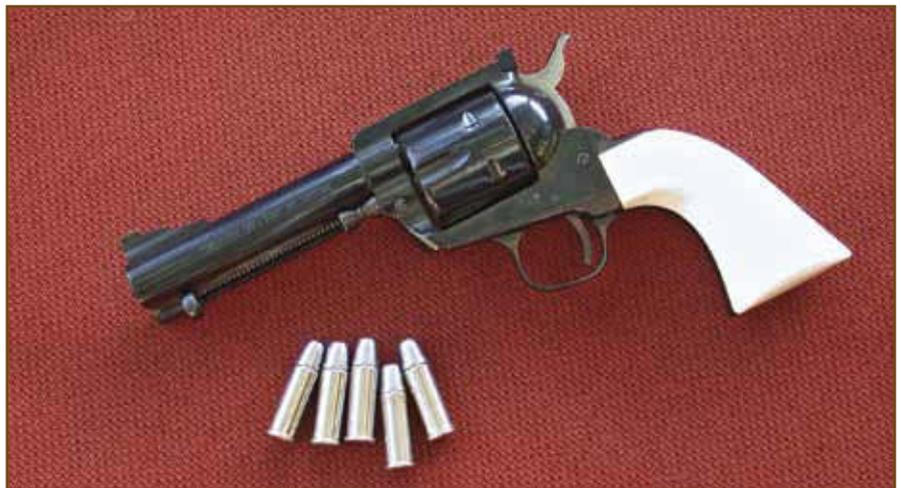
"I think you'd like what I've come to call 'Skeeter's Gun'. I know Skeeter would have loved it... it's his kind of sixgun... and mine. It's also a sort of tribute to an old and dear friend. He comes to mind every time I buckle it on, which is daily when I'm at my ranch on the border. He'd have liked this memorial better than any other kind, I expect. Baer told Sally and young Bart about it, and they agree; they're touched."

This could have been the end of the story, however Bill Grover, who is now also gone home, had a great idea. This was the first Skeeter Skelton Sixgun and since Bill was a manufacturer he could change the serial number to S.S.1. He contacted several of us and the end result was a few more, six in all, Skeeter Skelton Sixguns. They went to Bill Grover himself and Bob Baer, Terry Murbach, Bart Skelton, Jim Wilson and myself. Mine is numbered S.S. 4. Only the theme of a Skeeter Skelton Sixgun and the S.S. serial numbers are of the same style and sequence as these sixguns are not identical as each man incorporated their own ideas into what they wanted their Skeeter Gun to be like.

All seven of the Skeeter Skelton Sixguns came together in 1992 as we all gathered, including John



Gathering to remember Skeeter and shoot their Skeeter Skelton Sixguns was (above, from left) Bob Baer, John Taffin, John Wootters, Bart Skelton, Jim Wilson and Terry Murbach. Serial number S.S. 4 (of 7) became John Taffin's Skeeter Skelton Sixgun (below).



Wootters, and held a memorial service for Skeeter in the mountains of Colorado each of us firing off a .44 Special salute to our friend. As I said, although all seven of us have SS Sixguns they are all quite different, revealing the individual taste of the owners. My particular S.S. 4 started life as a .357 Magnum Ruger Flat-Top Blackhawk from the 1950s. Grover and I worked out this project together. The cylinder was re-chambered to .44 Special tightly to allow the use of .429" diameter bullets but to minimum dimensions for long case life. The barrel/cylinder gap was set at .0025", and the Ruger XR3 grip frame and steel ejector housing were not discarded but put back for use on another .44 Special Grover was building for me. In their place Grover fitted steel Colt parts, a Colt backstrap and triggerguard and a Colt ejector rod housing along with a Bullseye ejector rod head.

With the installation of the Colt backstrap and triggerguard, it was necessary to machine a special hanger to accept the Ruger mainspring and strut. Grover also replaced the trigger return spring with a new coil spring. The stocks were walnut but are now heart-stopping, creamy 1-piece ivories

by Tedd Adamovich of BluMagnum. The front sight is a TLA Number Five front sight, bold, flat, and black and a Number Five basepin with a large easy to grasp head was also installed. The finish is high-polish blue and the gun is marked "SKEETER SKELTON .44 SPECIAL" on the left side of the barrel and "TEXAS LONGHORN ARMS INC., RICHMOND TEXAS" on the topstrap. The serial number, S.S. 4 is marked in the same three places as original Colt Single Actions. I think of Bill and Skeeter every time I shoot it.

S.S.1 was the last sixgun Skeeter saw and handled, at least in the beginning stage as the three good friends planned it out. However, unbeknownst to him Ruger was also working on a special Skeeter Skelton Sixgun while he was in the hospital for the last time. In 2006 Ruger celebrated the 50th anniversary of the original Flat-Top .44 Magnum Blackhawk with the issuance of a 6-1/2" New Model Flat-Top. Nearly 20 years before Ruger had built the first 6-1/2" New Model Flat-Top .44 Magnum especially embellished and to be presented to Skeeter. He passed before it was finished and this sixgun was then presented to Skeeter's wife Sally and his son Bart.

GUNS

CAMPFIRE TALES

BY JOHN TAFFIN

A VERY SPECIAL REVOLVER

Skeeter Skelton's last sixgun.

It was Elmer Keith who lit the sixgunning fire in my heart, however it was Skeeter Skelton who continually fanned the flames. Keith did the majority of his work and writing about sixguns before I ever purchased my first revolver, however I kind of feel like I grew up with Skeeter, who was 11 years old when I was born, and whose first articles appeared in these pages in the late 1950s. Skeeter became Handgun Editor of another magazine in the mid-1960s and I followed everything he wrote for the next two decades. Skeeter not only did feature articles he also had a monthly "Hipshots" column and sometimes a question-and-answer section; above all he had the rare ability to grab sixgunners by the heart, soul and spirit, and pull them right into the article.

Skeeter was single-handedly responsible for the resurrection of the .44 Special going all the way back to 1972 when he did an article on converting Ruger Old Model .357 Blackhawks and Smith & Wesson Highway Patrolman .357 Magnums to .44 Special. He also lobbied both Colt and Smith & Wesson to begin producing a .44 Special once again and the result was the Single Action and New Frontier from Colt and S&W's

Models 24 and 624 in the early 1980s. It is altogether fitting and proper his last sixgun would be a .44 Special.

Skeeter passed from us in 1988. Shortly thereafter in 1989, I did an article on Ruger conversions for our sister publication, *American Handgunner*, and soon after that I received a letter from our mutual friend John Wooters and he related the tale of Skeeter's last sixgun. I'll let him tell the story: "Your recent Sixgunner piece about the

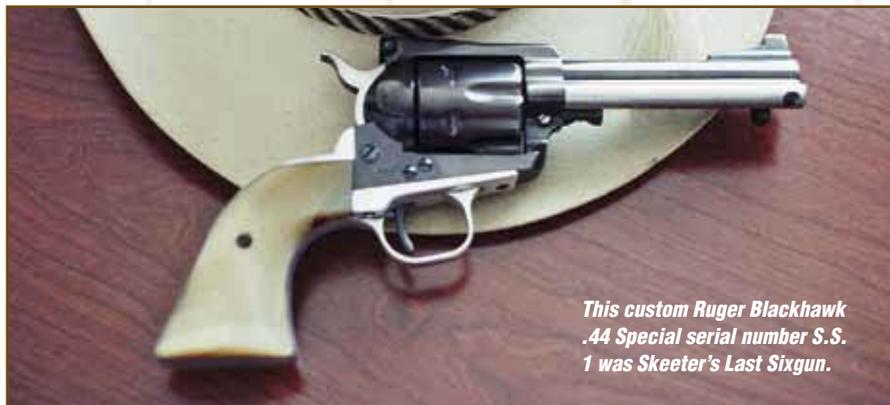
"little Rugers" inspires me to tell you a tale. The so-called "little Ruger" in .44 Special was the favorite type of sporting pistol cartridge of my late buddy, Skeeter Skelton, who spent much of his terminal illness in a hospital here in Houston. Together with another friend and single-action expert, Bob Baer, we passed a lot of time plotting the creation of just such a pistol, of which he'd done several only to sell or trade them all away. We even acquired the 3-screw, .357 Mag Blackhawk for raw material. Sadly, Skeeter had to fold his hand before the last race, and the project never went further, until recently.

"The gun was re-chambered and re-barreled (4-5/8", from a slow-twist, proven-accurate .44 Douglas premium blank) by Houston pistolsmith Earl Long. Bill Grover (Texas Longhorn Arms) then took over. He recut the forcing cone to suit himself, put a Colt-style crown on the muzzle, and installed one of the front sights he makes for his Grover's Improved No. 5 Keith gun. He also re-chambered the cylinder and adjusted the cylinder gap to less than .002" (which makes it the tightest Ruger, even customized, I've ever seen!), and then hand-fit one of his No. 5 basepins. Finally, he broke the leading edge of the cylinder all around to make it easy on holsters.

"Bob Baer took over from there. He installed a bolt-block and hand-tuned the action... and he is as good at that as any living man. He also performed his trigger magic, producing an absolutely exquisite 2-pound letoff. Then he flat-filed the frame, removing all markings, and rounded off the square corners of the topstrap, sort of ala Colt SAA.

"Many years ago, Skeeter and I shared a hunting trip in northern British Columbia, during which we jointly discovered the skeleton of a mature Stone ram, probably killed in an avalanche. We slipped the horns, and Skeeter took one and I the other. Later,

continued on page 89



This custom Ruger Blackhawk .44 Special serial number S.S. 1 was Skeeter's Last Sixgun.

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!

>> SEE THE WORLD'S BEST RIFLES, PARTS, AND ACCESSORIES ONLINE AT:

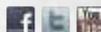
DANIEL DEFENSE®

.COM

ALWAYS MADE
IN THE USA

© Daniel Defense Inc. All Rights Reserved.

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



IF YOU BUY BULLETS YOU SHOULD BUY



SAMPLES

The perfect way to work up loads for a new rifle, or to experiment with different bullets. Save money and find out what works!

12 bullets per pack – perfect for 4x3 shot groups.

The Bullet Proof range covers multiple weights and styles from .224 to .338 with regular new releases.

Test the Best from Barnes, Berger and Nosler.

Does your local dealer stock Bullet Proof Samples yet?

VISIT WWW.BULLETPROOFSAMPLES.COM