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.45 ACP double-stack pistol

Photo by Ichiro Nagata

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12 TIME 5.09
FIRST SHOT 1.06 DELAY SPLIT .18

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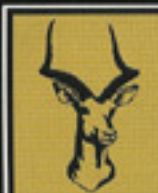
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Rethinking S&W

Your article about Smith & Wesson caused me to pause and rethink my views about them. Selfishly, I love my Kimbers, and they depend on S&W. But, as your article demonstrates, it goes much further than that. The last thing we need is for S&W to go under. That would be a victory for the anti-American liberals.

I hope we can mend the fence with one of the finest handgun makers of all time, rather than burning the bridge.

Bob Nelson
Jacksonville, Fla.

Hypocritical Criticism

It is with great amusement that I read some of the letters criticizing Smith & Wesson for signing the legal agreement. I wonder how many of these critics own a pistol made by the company. These offended gun owners are quick to challenge S&W, yet it is doubtful that any of them were supporting the company in its earlier legal battles.

Most gun owners have lost sight of the fact that Smith & Wesson has done more to help America's law enforcement than any other gun manufacturer. Yet so many are quick to say that the company sold out their country and its rights.

These same gun owners are quick to purchase guns made in foreign countries, yet blame S&W for being owned by a British entity. And lastly, the boisterous gun owners who claim that S&W bowed down to the authorities are the same disgruntled souls who would snivel and kiss up to a police officer to get out of a traffic ticket.

People who live from one paycheck to the next could not possibly fathom the cost of defending a case in state or federal court. Instead of the NRA, my money and support is going right to Springfield, Mass.

Ken Hiltz
Powell, Ohio

The Clinton Stench

Twenty-nine simultaneous lawsuits against one manufacturer? Doesn't that smell a little like an extortion scheme

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92FS Compact Inox

92FS

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Every Beretta 92/96 Series pistol is manufactured with careful attention to detail and focus on performance. Three of the basic models of 92/96 Series pistols - the Full-Size, the Compact and the Brigadier - are available in 9mm and 40 S&W calibers, while the Compact Type M is available in 9mm. All four models are available with either black Brunton or Inox stainless steel finishes.



22LR Practice kit

Serious shooters spend a great deal of time keeping their skills in top form. This can be an expensive undertaking, so Beretta created a more economical route: the Beretta 22LR Practice Kit. This 8 piece kit quickly and easily converts your Beretta 92/96 Series pistol from 9mm or 40 S&W to 22LR, allowing you to practice with the less expensive ammunition. The low recoil of the 22LR caliber is ideal for training inexperienced shooters that need to master sight-picture and trigger-control fundamentals before tackling the recoil associated with larger caliber pistols. The slide features a fully adjustable rear sight, and a 10-round magazine is included. See it at your Beretta dealer today.

The Compact features a 10-round double stack magazine, while the Type M's single stack 8-round magazine allows a slimmer, flatter profile for those with smaller hands. The Brigadier incorporates all the high performance characteristics of the traditional 92 Series pistols, plus a heavier, recontoured slide to reduce felt recoil and a removable front sight.

Regardless of size caliber, every Beretta 92/96 Series pistol is manufactured with painstaking attention to detail and focus on performance. That's why military personnel, law enforcement officials, and civilians alike have come to know that there is no alternative to a Beretta.



92FS Brigadier Inox



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SPEAKOUT

bearing the stench emanating from the Clinton White House? All those freedom-loving liberals who are attacking the victim, S&W, should join me in my boycott of Sturm, Ruger & Co.

S&W did not "volunteer" to sign this agreement, but a few of us old tuskers have never forgiven William Batterman Ruger Sr. for voluntarily sending a letter to the U.S. Congress, begging them to impose a 10-round magazine capacity limit, long before HCI or Chuckie Schumer took up the cause.

Richard A. Brass
Elko, Nev.

Ruger's 1989 letter was prompted by an imminent ban on semiautomatic "assault rifles," and the idea was to offer the anti-gunners an alternative to banning guns. We weren't too enamored by the letter either, but we remind ourselves that Ruger's purpose was to stop the media-fed hysteria over "assault rifles." Editor

Share The Blame

In all fairness, don't we gun owners have to share some of the blame for S&W's cave-in? There are an estimated 80 million gun owners in this country, yet only 4 million of us belong to the NRA, which, despite its faults, is still the most effective pro-gun organization on the national scene.

In addition, many of the 80 million are too apathetic to even vote. If all 80 million gun owners voted as a bloc for pro-gun candidates and issues, people like Clinton, Gore, Schumer and Brady wouldn't even be running our government, much less daring to blackmail gun manufacturers.

I hope the boycotters will rethink their position in this matter. Every day for over 29 years, I bet my life on an S&W revolver or pistol, and I never felt disadvantaged. S&W is a fine firm that is constantly experimenting to make a great gun better. It would be a shame for them to close down over events that they couldn't control.

Stephen Thomas
Tyler, Texas

Bash Clinton, Not S&W

I want to say that you've done a good job on S&W. They were blackmailed, and instead of bashing them, we should be bashing the Clintons and their lawyers and those behind them.

It's the old adage of know thy enemy. The anti-gunners are the enemy and have been for years.

Richard Roll
New York, N.Y.

The Drill On Drills

Would you please define the various shooting drills such as "Bill Drill" and "El Presidente"? I thoroughly enjoy your magazine, but as a novice civilian shooter, I am unfamiliar with these terms. If they are valuable shooting drills, I would like

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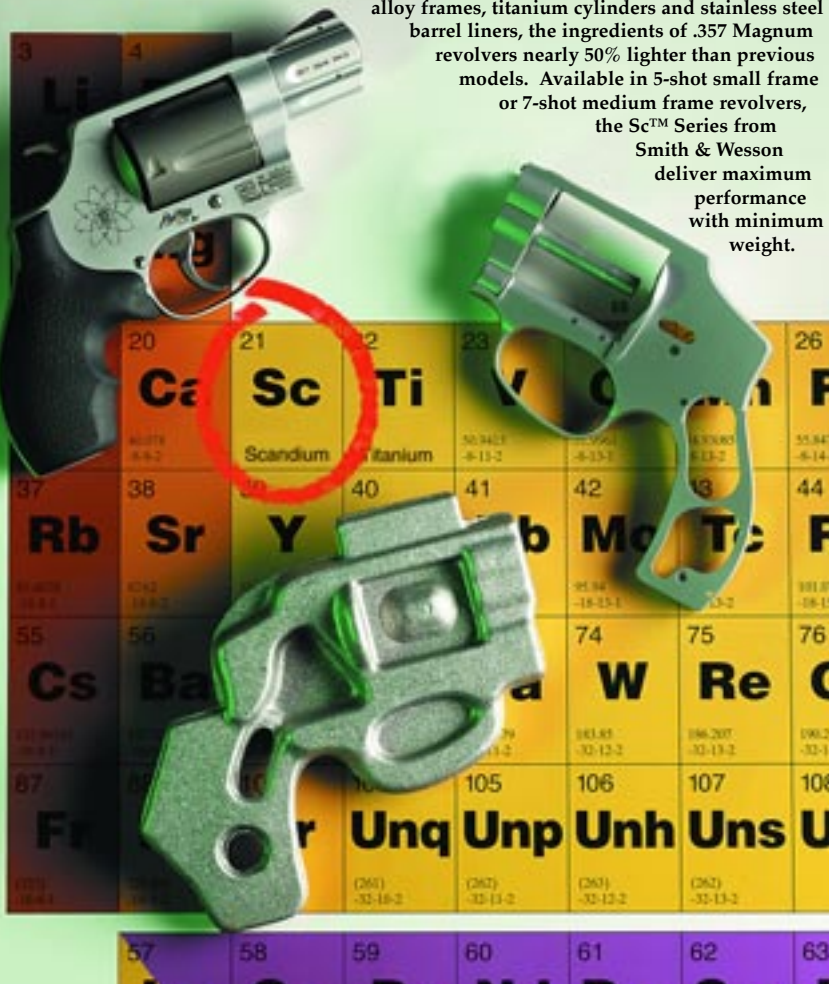
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SPEAKOUT

to include them in my training, as I am certain others also would.

Dr. Travis Stanford
Siren, Wis.

Sounds like a good item for our website (hint to the webmaster). The Bill Drill is a training exercise named for its originator, Bill Wilson. The drill is very simple: Start from 7 yards, facing one IPSC target. Draw and fire six As in two seconds. It's harder than it sounds.

The El Presidente is a classic IPSC stage that has become the recognized litmus test for a handgunner's shooting skill. Start at 10 yards with your back to three IPSC targets spaced 1 meter apart, edge to edge. Turn, draw and fire two shots to each target, reload and fire two more to each target. The drill is scored with the Comstock Method of score divided by time. Maximum score is 12 A-hits, or 60 points. A Master class shooter can rip a sub-4-second El Prez. A good shooter ought to be able to run it in the 6 second range with all As. Anything much over 6 seconds, and you need to do some more Bill Drills. Editor

A Burning Issue

I don't always agree with everything published, but I have always believed *American Handgunner* to be a scrupulously edited publication from which I could glean information about my passion.

I am writing to take issue with a Pistolsmith Profile on Dane Burns (March/April '01) to set straight the facts. The article alludes to a professional working relationship between Morris Custom Pistols and Dane Burns that does not exist.

The facts are these: I built two customs pistols for Dane Burns, a CZ-75 and a 1911. That is the sum total of our customer-pistolsmith relationship.

The article stated, "Burns handed off much of his customer base to Mark Morris." This is false. I was neither handed nor received any so-called customer base. There was not, is not and never will be a shared customer base between Burns and myself.

The article also noted that "Burns has picked up many of Morris Custom's backlogged customers." Not true. My backlog is not shared with anyone. I have never, nor will I ever, send one of my customer's pistols to Dane Burns.

Mark Morris
Morris Custom Pistols
Spokane, Wash.

More Knife Controversy

Regarding "Informational Ethics" (Jan/Feb 2001), I enjoyed the photos and articles on tactical knife use. A typical remark is: "How could you give such instruction/information to lowlives or hoplophobic legislators?" You would think that showing knife tactics was the moral equivalent of designing an A-bomb,

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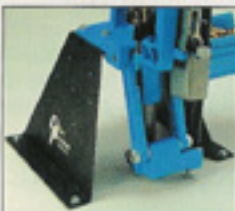
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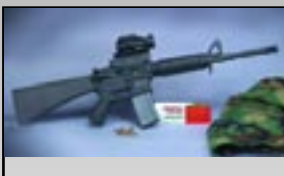
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SPEAKOUT

then giving the plans to the Soviets.

I know how this works. My 1975 book, *Secrets of Modern Knife Fighting*, was banned in Canada and South Africa. Though I have had dozens of blade articles published, others have been rejected by martial arts, knife and gun magazines precisely because of editorial fears of advertiser or reader fallout.

Interestingly, when I demonstrate my pistol expertise, I experience no animosity and sometimes even admiration. However, when I've demonstrated some knife techniques, the reaction is often intimidation. There is no American context for this kind of skill. It is obvious to observers that it requires natural talent and years of study, but the emotional impact is threatening. I can see why the old masters kept their knife skills secret.

David E. Steele
Los Angeles, Calif.

A Marine's Opinion

Ken Kanowsky's letter on the knife controversy (March/April 2001) seems to have been written without all the facts. It was stated in the original article that the men behind Strider Knives are former Marines making a product for people who may use them in Special Operations.

Kanowsky states that what he found most disturbing was the "attack from the rear" sequence carried out against a "civilian in suburban America" by an "operative dressed in the latest Reno/Freeh fashions." That was a Nomex flight suit. These suits are protecting thousands of American pilots, military police, Special Operations warriors and tracked vehicle crewmen from being burned.

I understood what the pictures conveyed, as did most of the readers, I hope. I appreciated the article and accompanying photographs, and I am planning on buying a Strider knife. I can use one, as I am a U. S. Marine, on active duty.

The original rebuttal in the Insider column on "Informational Ethics" (Jan/Feb 2001) was right on. I have taught and been taught many things in my career as a Marine that many might find offensive. But I have never used these things against U. S. citizens on U. S. soil. Kanowsky's opinions and arguments are colored by his perceptions, which, I am sorry to say, are wrong.

T. A. Price
Oceanside, Calif.

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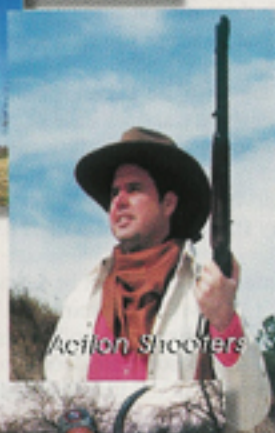
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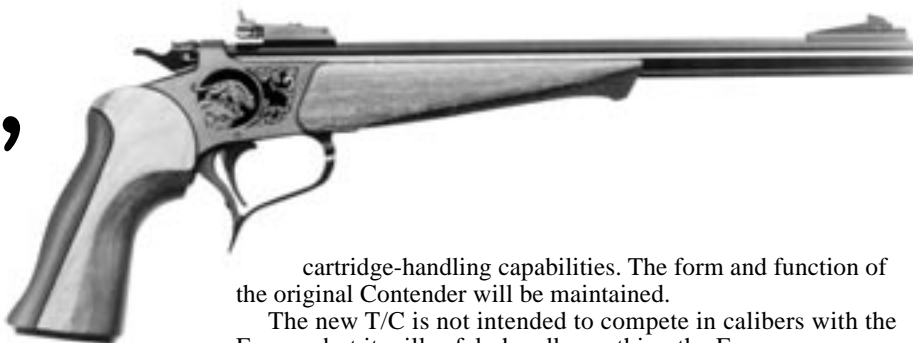
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Good News, Bad News

The bad news is the Thompson/Center Contender has been discontinued. The good news is the Contender will be replaced with a new model Contender displaying the same great handling characteristics as the original. Currently manufactured Contender barrels will fit the new gun.

Look for an Encore-type action in the new gun. The new T/C is intended to be a basic lightweight handgun in size and



cartridge-handling capabilities. The form and function of the original Contender will be maintained.

The new T/C is not intended to compete in calibers with the Encore, but it will safely handle anything the Encore can digest. Don't hold your breath waiting for it. An inside source at T/C says he intends to have the gun in dealers hands "before the end of 2001."

There are quite a few of the existing Contenders in the pipeline, and if you want one of them with the "set trigger," I would advise not waiting.

WHITHER THE NICHE

With Ruger's ballistics matched— and easily exceeded— by a 320 gr. JDJ-design hardcast bullet in .44 Magnum in the same gun, and far exceeded by the ballistics of the .454 Casull in a Ruger SRH, what is the niche for the .480 Ruger? That's a good question.

My guess is that last year NICS requests and gun sales reflected by it were down about 900,000 sales. Ruger wants to sell more guns.

Second, Ruger didn't have anything to punch .475 diameter holes.

Third, the .454 chambering in the SRH put an inexpensive, lightweight, powerful, hard-recoiling handgun in the hands of relatively inexperienced shooters. A lot of them didn't like the experience. Most of them weren't savvy enough to find a set of grips that fit them. It is said that the .480 kicks slightly more than a .44 and much less than a .454. That should make it attractive to a lot of big bore fans.

The differences in trajectory between them— including the .475 Linebaugh— are negligible. There is no magic in revolver calibers. With good hits, all of these will perform well on deer and pigs— and poorly with poor hits. All do their best with reliably expanding jacketed bullets on medium-sized game, and are at their worst with non-expanding hard cast bullets.

A Recoil-Sensitive .475

You have probably heard of the .480 Ruger by now. Call it a .44 Magnum-length cartridge on steroids, fattening it up to .475 caliber. Ballistics will be very similar to those achieved by the .44 Magnum, but with heavier bullets. We're talking a factory load of a 325 gr. Hornady XTP at 1,350 fps. It will be chambered in Super Redhawks (SRH) only, at least at this time. Smart move by Ruger.

Some individuals— and I'm one of them— find the SRH with suitable grips to be far superior to the single-actions in handling recoil. That in particular applies to the Bisley. The standard SBH fits my hand considerably more comfortably and works much better for me than the Bisley grip.

Hornady will be the first to have factory ammo, and by the time you read this, I will have experimented with it in an Encore and Contender.

The .475 JDJ was the first .475 caliber handgun cartridge. It's a .45-70 blown out straight and works admirably in the Contender. The .480 Ruger is essentially that cartridge, shortened considerably. I can get 1,600+ fps with a 400 gr. XTP from the .475 JDJ.

If the new 325 gr. XTP is soft enough to expand on lightly built animals at short range, it will find favor with woods hunters.



Note the mismatched nomenclature on the frame and cylinder.

The Knife At Work

Quick, one-handed access is what made the tactical folder popular among cops. The pocket clip pioneered by Spyderco is a big part of the “accessability” formula. When I started on the job, cops carried a Buck 110 or the equivalent in a belt pouch, or wore it inserted between the belt and the cartridge carrier. As the equipment load on the belt increased, being able to clip the knife into the trouser pocket became a much-appreciated convenience.

In many states, private citizens are forbidden to carry “switchblades,” but police are exempt from that. These knives are known as “automatics” amongst serious users today, and they certainly are quicker to deploy.

My department has issued the Tempest automatic folder designed by famed knife expert Michael Janich for the Masters of Defense project. The officers like and appreciate this tool. It’s not a flashy Rambo thing; it’s a “speed and practicality of deployment” thing.

THE POLICE KNIFE

When private citizens hear cops talk about carrying knives, they usually flash back to Clint Eastwood in his first Dirty Harry movie 30 years ago, taping a switchblade to his calf as a backup weapon. It’s a rare cop who carries a knife and hasn’t thought about its potential as a last-ditch fighting tool, but that’s not the reason most officers carry them.

An NYPD veteran who retired as a lieutenant after 29 years on the job recalls an incident where a police knife came in handy for something else. He responded to an incident of a man with a .38 revolver terrorizing his neighbors.

“I got out of the police car, drew my weapon and ordered him to drop the gun. Instead, he put the gun in his jacket pocket and froze. He just stared at me. I got closer and closer and then tackled him. We went rolling around on the sidewalk, I reaching for his gun pocket and he holding on.

“Cops were coming from everywhere because citizens had called in that a man was shooting at cops. It was a wild scene. The man wouldn’t let go of his gun, and another cop came running up, pulled a knife, cut the pocket, and pried the gun loose. Well, he cut the guy’s hand in doing so, though not seriously.”

The disarmed suspect later made a complaint against the narrator for excessive force!



Photo By Roy Huntington

HANGING AROUND

A friend of mine in Corrections still has nightmares about a “lost patient.” The troubled inmate hadn’t sent up enough flags to be put on suicide watch, and it was only by luck that in the course of his rounds my friend found him hanging by a makeshift noose.

He yelled for help, but the noose was wedged tight in the swelling flesh, and neither he nor anyone else on shift had a knife. By the time someone got there with something to cut the noose free, it was too late. Brain damage was so profound that the victim was in a permanent vegetative state. His family ordered life support removed the next day.

There is a lesson here. Countless potential suicide victims have been given a second chance when the blade of a timely patrolman, deputy or corrections officer has severed the noose.

To The Rescue

Historically, the folding knife’s most important function in police work has been rescue. If you ask why so many officers prefer serrated blades, half or more will answer, “For cutting seat belts.”

One of our readers, an emergency medicine professional, wrote in to complain about this theory, stating that he’d never seen a case where a crash victim’s seat belt buckle had jammed. Neither have I, but he missed the point. The problem is, the car door is often buckled and wedged shut by the crash. When we must reach in through broken windows, we need to cut the belt for the simple reason that we can’t reach the buckle.

I remember one victim with a severely broken leg. Other EMT-trained officers and I were there well ahead of the ambulance. The serrated edge of my Spyderco Police Model opened his denim trouser leg like a zipper, allowing us to get at the limb and stabilize the fracture until the professionals could arrive.



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Ernest R. Emerson, President - Emerson Knives, Inc.



A Good, Cheap Handgun For Self-Defense

Once your friends or associates discover that you are into guns, one of the first questions you hear is, "Where can I get a good, cheap handgun for self-protection?" Just the other day, this request was directed my way.

I have always wondered if the person asking the same question about other lifesaving tools would put it the same way: "Where can I get a good, cheap fire extinguisher?"

However, sometimes budget restraints prevent buying a custom Wilson .45, so for decades, I have recommended a used S&W Model 10 Military & Police revolver in .38 Special.

For decades, the used gun market was full of police trade-ins like the S&W M&P. Most gunshops had at least one or two in the used handgun counter. Prices for a typical 4", blued M&P ran in the \$100 to \$150 range.

Unfortunately, the availability of such fine, used handguns has dropped off dramatically. Nearly all the police trade-ins from the massive law enforcement conversion to autoloading pistols has been depleted. Used police service revolvers are getting much more scarce, and pricey. The day of \$150 used Model 10s has gone the way of 75-cent gallons of gasoline.

OF MAKAROV'S AND MEN

East German Makarovs are by far the best quality PMs ever made. Those made in Bulgaria are okay, and they sell for less money than the East German versions. Either will do. I have shot both and find the East German pistols to have slightly better triggers.

The Makarov pistol is a double-action auto that's easy to load, fire and make safe. The accuracy of these pistols is outstanding, and for anyone with limited shooting experience, the recoil is easy to master.

My only complaint about the Makarov are the small-profile sights. Faster-to-pick-up sights would be nice to have. If I had a choice, I would install better sights.

I have seen a number of Makarov pistols with Novak sights installed, and the result is superb. Last year, a student in one of my shooting programs had a Makarov on which he had had his gunsmith install a set of Ashley express sights. The result was outstanding. Inside of 10 yards, this little Makarov was a joy to shoot, with speed and accuracy better than I could have hoped for.

While custom sights would be nice, their cost quickly increases the price of the pistol to beyond the "good, cheap" limit. As issued, the basic PM will do just fine.

Phobus offers a holster for about \$20, and this will make for a great concealment rig in the "good, cheap" arena. You can buy a case of 9x18 ammo for about \$100. Ads in both *Gun List* or *Shotgun News* will show you the source. This means a box of 50 rounds will cost about \$6 to \$7 with shipping.

Don't worry about the power of the 9x18 rounds. Place the bullets where they belong, and things will be okay. One thing that both the good and bad guys share is a reluctance to leak vital fluids. Two or three 9x18 slugs in the upper chest will convince even the most hardened bad guy to exit the kill-zone as fast as possible. Remember, it's not the gun that wins the fight, it's the user.



Top Marks

Given that good, used Model 10s are no longer widely available at reasonable prices, what would I recommend for a "good, cheap" handgun for self-defense? Let's define both "good" and "cheap." Good means it will work when you pull the trigger, be easy to use under stress, provide acceptable accuracy, and fire a cartridge that provides rapid incapacitation.

Cheap? Well, when I ask the person making the request what he considers cheap, the reply most often heard is, "Oh, about \$150." Well, as most readers of *Handgunner* know, \$150 doesn't buy much of a handgun these days.


A decent, used S&W police trade-in revolver will now run over \$200 and most likely, over \$250. A used Glock, Beretta, SIG, CZ or Ruger will be over \$300, and will most likely be close to \$400. A good, used 1911 will be \$450 to \$500. Any M1911 pistol for less isn't likely to be the kind you want to stake your life on.

There is one hell of a good choice available, however. I really like the Pistolet Makarov (PM) 9x18. These fine service pistols of the former Warsaw Pact countries are now available at great prices.

Now, someone is sure to scream, "But its only a puny 9x18, a .380 ACP on steroids."

Yes, that's right as can be, but it will do. For "good and cheap," a 9x18 will have to do. Most ammo makers now offer a jacketed hollowpoint round for the 9x18. Currently, East German and Bulgarian surplus models are offered for sale. Importers and military arms dealers have them available. Just look through current issues of *Shotgun News* or *Gun List* and you can find many firms selling Makarovs for prices from \$99 to \$160.



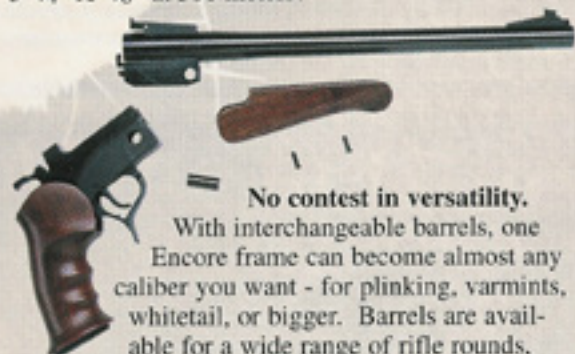


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THE REVOLVING DOOR

Revolver shooters appear to be in the minority these days. I can't recall the last time I saw a revolver in a police holster. Private citizens seem to prefer autopistols for home defense and CCW purposes. Most of the action shooting sports are likewise dominated by self-loaders. Is the faithful old wheelgun really on the verge of obsolescence?

Not likely. In fact, it could be said that revolver enthusiasts have never had it so good. The firearms themselves are better than ever and relatively less costly. They come with more available options.

Expanded divisions in action-shooting competition level the playing field. Revolvers can now compete against other revolvers instead of against high-cap, optically sighted autos.

The term "sixshooter" is outdated. Today we have seven-, eight-, and nine-shot revolvers. Revolvers once considered passé are back, with reproductions of many classic revolvers from the past 150 years. The reintroduction of the S&W Schofield is a good example. In terms of materials, shooters can choose from carbon steel, stainless, aluminum, titanium and now scandium.

A quality double-action revolver is a finely fitted mechanism. Once, that meant costly handwork. Modern computer-controlled machining means parts can be made to far more precise tolerances. Current revolvers truly are the best ever.

High-quality revolvers and autopistols are equally reliable. However, I am convinced that you get more reliability, accuracy and overall quality per dollar spent with a revolver.

The switch by police forces from revolvers to autos is virtually complete. Many of the police revolver trade-ins have been marketed, but thousands still show up in gun shops and gun shows at moderate prices. Many of these Colt, Ruger and S&W trade-ins are of outstanding quality and, except for normal holster wear, are as good as new.



*Jerry Miculek, aka,
The Revolver God.*

Photo By Nyle Leatham

The Competitive Scene

Cowboy action shooting is the domain of sixguns, but there's a place for revolvers in other shooting sports, as well. When I started competing in practical shooting competition more than 20 years ago, there were no separate handgun categories; it was a principle that all action types competed equally. Autopistols, which held more rounds and were faster to reload, totally dominated. Today, the United States Practical Shooting Association (USPSA) recognizes revolvers as a separate category. So does the International Defensive Shooting Association (IDPA).

Major matches, such as the Steel Challenge and *American Handgunner* World Shootoff, have categories for both double- and single-action revolvers. There's even an association just for revolvers. The International Confederation of Revolver Enthusiasts (ICORE) sponsors and sanctions matches just for wheelgunners.

Revolver-Friendly Shooting Organizations

Cowboy shooting is a three-gun affair, but one of them is the sixgun.

- Who:** USPSA, P.O. Box 811, Sedro Woolley, WA 98284; phone: (360) 855-2245; fax: (360) 855-0380; website: www.uspsa.com.
- How Much:** Annual: \$30; three years: \$75; five years: \$120; life: \$500.
- Rules:** Standard factory-production guns (no prototypes); minimum caliber 9mm/.357; permitted modifications include replacement sights (conventional only), grips, cylinder release latch, action jobs. Maximum weight no more than 2 ozs. above factory standard.
- Who:** IDPA, 2232 CR 719, Berryville, AR 72616; phone: (870) 545-3886; fax: (870) 545-3894; website: www.idpa.com.
- How Much:** Annual: \$30; three years: \$75; life: \$500.
- Rules:** Standard factory-production models only; minimum caliber 9mm/.357; maximum barrel length 5"; permitted modifications include replacement sights (conventional only), grips (no weighted grips), action jobs. Revolvers with cylinders holding more than six rounds are permitted, but only six rounds may be loaded in competition.
- Who:** ICORE, P.O. Box 20664, Mesa, AZ 85277-0664; website: www.icore.org.
- How Much:** Annual: \$25; renewal: \$20; life: \$175.
- Rules:** ICORE recognizes two revolver divisions, stock and open. Stock-division revolvers must use factory barrels only, no barrel vents, compensators or optics, and cannot weigh more than 4 ozs. above factory weight. Minimum caliber in both is .32 Magnum.



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For over 10 years, Sturm, Ruger has shipped lockable boxes and padlocks with its pistols and revolvers and, more recently, cable locks with its shotguns and rifles, to help our customers responsibly store their firearms and provide additional security against inadvertent access. Sturm, Ruger has recently learned, however, that certain of these devices can be opened in unintended ways:

- Some keys other than those supplied can open our earliest lock box padlocks. These padlocks were provided with lock boxes which accompanied certain of our pistols and revolvers from 1987 until approximately 1995.
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To Be Replaced



To Be Replaced

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and we will send you free by return shipment one of our latest keyed cable locks (yellow colored) and instructions for its use on your Ruger firearm. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of this free offer. Please also adhere to the following important safety warnings, regardless of the type of storage system or locking device you use:

Important Safety Warnings

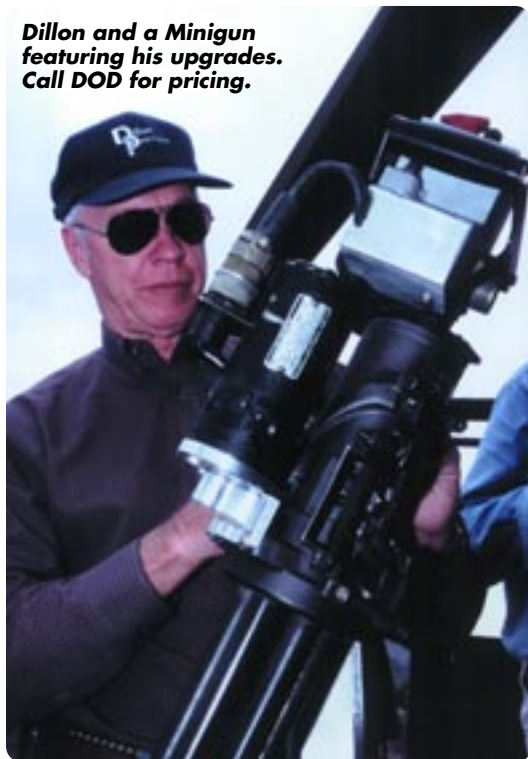
Please remember that firearms should always be stored **unloaded** and separate from ammunition when not in use. This simple common-sense safety precaution can prevent the vast majority of gun accidents. Remember also that while gun locks provide increased security, any locking device can be intentionally defeated by a determined individual, given sufficient time, determination, keys, or tools; and that no mechanical device or lock can absolutely prevent careless, thoughtless, or deliberate misuse of a loaded firearm. It is your responsibility to own, store, and use firearms safely. There is no such thing as a foolproof gun, and a loaded gun should never be considered "childproof," regardless of internal or external safety devices.



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Yes, But Does He Have A 50,000 Sq. Ft. Computerized House?

Mike Dillon is the Bill Gates of progressive reloaders. Among shooters that use progressive tools, Dillon's are as ubiquitous as Windows 98. His market share is huge.

He began his career with modifications to the wonderful old Star reloader—his was the Super Star in .223— and then some early tools of his own design. These were made in his garage in his free time. His *real* job was flying airplanes for TWA.

It all started when he inherited a nice Thompson and a Star reloading tool. Next came an M16 and the need for even more ammo, but he was also astute enough to realize that IPSC shooting, then in its infancy, was going to consume ammunition at unprecedented rates.

Dillon's rise to prominence is inextricably linked to the rise of practical shooting. In fact, it is probable that IPSC shooting could not have grown as rapidly without Dillon's gear.

He first sold a few Super Stars to friends, and soon there was a business. It grew and grew to the point where it demanded more time than he had available. Dillon Precision Products became a full-time job. The first press was the RL 300 which evolved into today's RL 550B.

The Selling Of Sizzle

Many years ago, I was talking with Mike Dillon and asked him about his marketing strategies. I fully expected to hear all about focus groups, consumer surveys and the like. Instead he replied, "I won't sell anything that I would not use myself." That is probably the bottom-line secret to his success.

Dillon has no committees, no six-layer management groups, nothing to impede the progress of a good idea. Dillon has a fine staff, and if they present an idea to him, he has the ability to make a decision quickly.

Each month, a little booklet comes in the mail. It is *The Blue Press* and is the complete catalog of their offerings. In addition to his tools and accessories— which pretty well cover everything you need for reloading— there are also products of many other companies that run the gamut of a shooter's needs, from books to bullets. There are also short articles on a variety of subjects.

The covers of *The Blue Press* feature a picture of an attractive woman with a loading tool or gun. The magazine has always been a bit irreverent, and some people took offense to the cover photos, which some thought were leaning toward cheesecake. These generated more than a few irate letters to the editor about "unsuitable content."

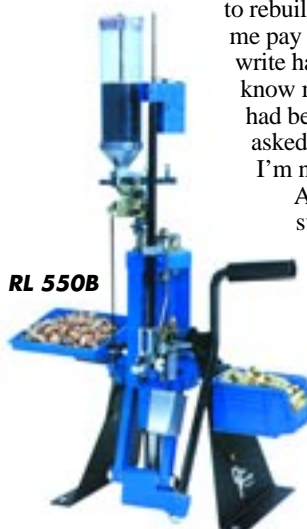
The response was pure Dillon and reminded me of George Bush and broccoli. Some of the complainers wanted to cancel their subscription, but since *The Blue Press* is free, that didn't work. If you ask Dillon a question, he will tell you precisely what he thinks. His response wasn't received too well by the complainers. The covers continue to this day.

THE NO-BS POLICY

The backbone of Dillon's product line is the RL 550B progressive loader; it can load 120 calibers. When there's a need for a quantity of one load, it's no trouble to turn out hundreds in a short time. The RL 550B will meet the needs of all but the highest-volume shooters. For them, Dillon offers the XL 650, or the speed demon RL 1050, which is also used by commercial reloaders.

And another thing. Customer and warranty service is impeccable. Many Dillon products have a "Lifetime 'No-BS' Warranty." Really. Even though my RL-550B is *very* old and has lots of miles on it, when the handle began to bind, it took a lot of parts to rebuild the pivot points. They wouldn't let me pay for any of it. And that's not because I write handloading columns. They didn't know me from Adam's house cat, as my call had been completely anonymous until they asked for my shipping information— and I'm not sure that rang any bells even then.

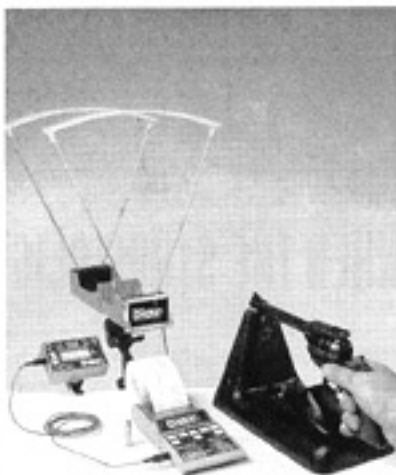
Another great thing is their "don't suffer in silence" invitation found in instructions. If you're having a problem, just call. The guys on the phone really *know* the products and will gladly talk someone through a problem-solving procedure.



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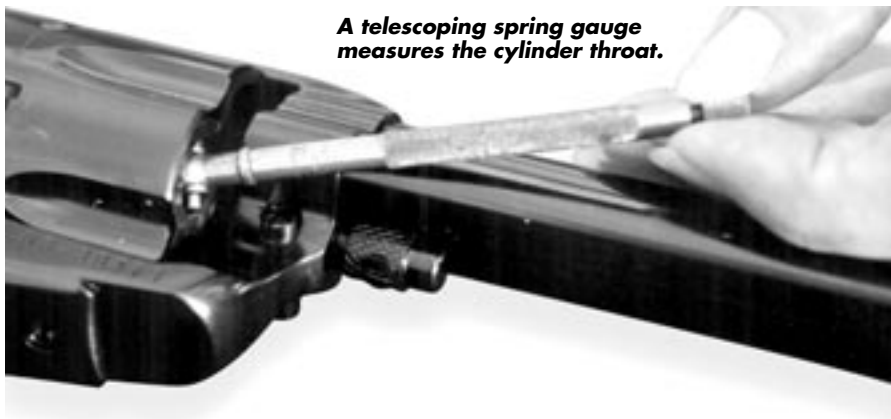
How Deep Are Your Throats?

Getting your Ruger Blackhawk, Vaquero or Smith & Wesson revolver to shoot straight, into little tight groups, is a function of the relationship of the cylinder throats, the forcing cone, and the diameter of the rifling grooves coupled with that of the bullets you are shooting. Most everything that happens in a revolver to affect accuracy occurs in two places: between the cylinder throat and the forcing cone, and between the forcing cone and the rifling.

If you handload, there are a few things you can do to help the accuracy of your revolver. First, measure the diameter of the throats of the cylinder in thousandths of an inch. The preferred way to measure is to use an inside diameter measuring instrument like a telescoping spring gauge, which is inserted into the throat mouth with the springs fully compressed and then opened up, locked and twisted out. You can then measure the distance between the expanded tips with a micrometer and that will be the diameter of the chamber throat mouth.

A set of four gauges is inexpensive, about \$20, and available from any machinist's supply business. These gauges can be very helpful if you are attempting to determine the correct diameter of bullet you should use in your revolver.

A plug gauge is too expensive for casual use and will not be discussed here. Most gunsmiths have a set of ball gauges and telescoping gauges and, for a fee, will be glad to help you take measurements.



A telescoping spring gauge measures the cylinder throat.

The Emperor's New Groove

You can measure the diameter of the grooves of your revolver's barrel by hammering a lead slug through it with a wood dowel. For best accuracy, your bore grooves should have the same diameter as your bullet or .001" under bullet diameter. In other words, if your cylinder throat is .451", your bullet is .450", and your barrel groove diameter is .448" or .449", your accuracy potential should be excellent.

We use the word "potential" because there are other factors involved, such as quality of ammunition. Bullet quality is vital. If you are really serious, you should weigh your bullets and they shouldn't vary by more than plus-minus 0.1 grs.

FORCING THE CONEHEADS

Let's say you have a Ruger Vaquero in .45 Colt and you want to be sure you're shooting a bullet that gives optimum accuracy. After measuring all the cylinder throats, you find each one is exactly .451" in diameter. You are very lucky— all your throats are the same— and your revolver has the potential to be a real shooter.

If you were to find one chamber that measures .452", mark it, and that chamber could become your hammer-down safety chamber.

Make a note to yourself that Uberti revolvers are all over the board, sometimes differing as much as .005" between throats.

The cylinder throat dictates the diameter of the bullet you should use to achieve good accuracy. If the cylinder throat in your revolver is .451" in diameter, you will want to use a bullet that is .450", or .001" *under* the diameter of the throat. This will assure that the bullet has little room to tip when it is still in the throat.

As the bullet leaves the throat, it slides into the forcing cone, which should ideally be cut at 11° and square to the bore so the bullet has an easy entrance into the rifling instead of a sharp 90° edge. Another benefit of the 11° forcing cone is to help the bullet enter the rifling a little easier if your cylinder is not perfectly lined up with the bore. Some Rugers come with a 5° forcing cone and that is even better.



WHEN THE STARS ALIGN

There is another factor with which to be concerned— cylinder alignment.

Cylinder alignment is checked by running a special tool called a range rod through the bore and into the cylinder throat. A range rod is a precisely turned steel rod that is the diameter of the lands. It should slip easily down the barrel. If you feel the edge of the rod catch on the edge of the cylinder throat, the cylinder is not perfectly aligned with the bore.

A 5° or 11° forcing cone helps this misalignment a little, but not completely. Misalignment can cause leading, spitting, bullet distortion and poor accuracy. Cylinder misalignment can be corrected by installing an oversize cylinder stop and cutting the cylinder notch oversize so the cylinder will line up. However, this is an "iffy" fix and will not correct vertical misalignment.

If your cylinder is misaligned vertically, the base pin hole is not lined up from front to rear and you are out of luck for a simple fix.

If you have a revolver that just will not shoot no matter what you do, yet everything seems to be within specifications, you can call Jim Stroh in Comer, Ga., at (706) 783-2131 and he can ream (free-bore) your forcing cone to the diameter of your grooves or .001" over factory groove diameter. This is called "Taylor throating" and has produced excellent accuracy in most of the revolvers Jim has done.



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When it comes to loading handgun cartridges for specific performance objectives, IMR provides more flexibility than any other powder maker. Those objectives can include economy, low recoil and pressures, top velocity and superior accuracy. IMR offers a selection of six powders that permit highly specific tailoring of loads to such individual reloading goals. Within their range of relative quickness, grain shape and density, one of these IMR powders is often perfectly matched to the performance you want for a given caliber and bullet weight.

A quick review of the IMR "Handloader's Guide" may be all you need to find the ideal selection of a powder and reloading recipe that is exactly tailored to your needs.

"Hi-Skor" 700-X is the fastest burning of IMR powders for handgun loads. An exceptionally clean burning, double-base powder, it combines highly economical efficiency with adaptability to virtually all handgun cartridges. It is one of the most cost-efficient powders available for high-frequency reloading of cartridges such as the .38 Special, 9mm Luger and .45 ACP.

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SR 7625 is an ideal target load powder. Its easy-flowing, small grain size produces the repeat-charge uniformity that leads to very consistent velocities and excellent accuracy.

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The Believe-It-Or-Not Holster

Uncle Mike's just raised the bar up and over the heads of everyone else. Their introduction of an electronic holster at the recent International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) convention in San Diego, caused quite a stir. I spent time with Tom Marx, the marketing director of Michaels of Oregon and the driving force behind the holster. Called the Pro-4 ID Holster, the new rig bears a vague resemblance to their Pro-3 design, but with some important differences.

The Pro-4 ID is a security holster that has invented its own "levels" of security. Effectively rewriting Safariland's "levels of retention" marketing program, Mike's has made a holster that will not unlock until it recognizes the user's fingerprint! As Ripley said, "Believe it or not."

A sealed window is enclosed in a protected portion of the holster in a position that places a sensor pad under the officer's finger during a normal drawing stroke. Once you're recognized, the holster unlocks, allowing a "normal" draw. The conventional thumb break is almost a moot point and might only be installed for tradition's sake.

The electronics are sealed, essentially waterproof and highly shock-resistant. The battery power is supplied by a series of AAA batteries in a pack, replaceable with a rechargeable one, with a back-up power supply of small "disc" batteries. The

power is good for about 400 draws. The back-up supply provides the ability to accomplish a "few more" if the primary fails in an emergency situation. Which brings us to an obvious question: Is there a default mode if all power is lost?

"Yes," said Marx. "At this time, the default mode is 'locked' but the gun can still be accessed mechanically." I'm not going to say exactly how this is done, but suffice it to say that no miscreant can do it and it cannot be undone without due purpose.

I pondered the idea of the default mode being one in which the gun remains "locked," but, after due thought, realized that if something bad were to happen—the officer knocked unconscious, for instance—I would rather the gun be locked inside than simply open to the next hand on it. Should the officer regain consciousness, he could still access the gun mechanically with the secret method.

I agree with Uncle Mike's decision on this one, especially being privy to the method of unlocking should the need arise.



Tom Marx, right, and Roy schmooze at the IACP show.

Press This, Pull That, Squeeze Here... Then Draw

Learned actions to adapt to the peculiar drawing motions of many of today's security holsters are rife with problems. A change of holsters means thousands of practice draws to reprogram muscle memory. Of course, anything that relies on a series of movements and mechanisms to retain the gun can ultimately be overcome by either a learned adversary or simple blind luck during the tugging and twisting of a gun-grab situation.

The Pro-4 ID, unlike other holsters, learns from the user, not the other way around. Once the primary user is introduced to the holster, only that officer can access the gun, period. Until others are "introduced" to the holster, they simply cannot get the gun out. Any possibility of access is one of complex mathematical probabilities rather than accidents of physical movements.



While I will be the first to hazard it, this first version might be imperfect in its present form. Marx said draw time was "less than a second," and a second is a long time in a gun fight.

The idea is exciting and has been dancing in my own bony head for years. I had no idea anyone was this far along. Michael's has made a mighty leap in combining the operation of a holster with the operation of a human being. Not since John Bianchi perfected the classic thumb-break duty holster has there been this big of a leap in technology... and faith.

SEVEN YEARS IN THE DREAMING

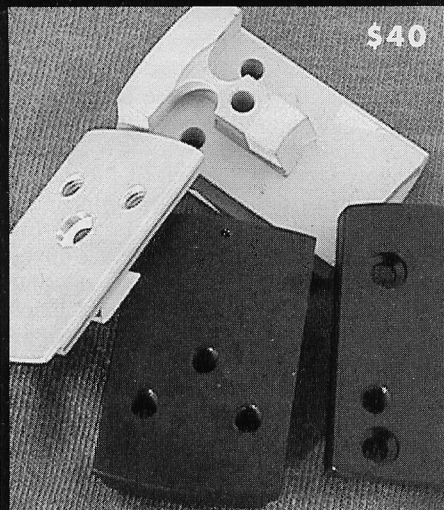
After first broaching the topic of a fingerprint-holster in 1993, Tom Marx kept bringing it to the table. About two years ago, technology finally caught up to the idea and the serious R&D began. John French, a senior engineer at Michaels, built the prototypes and the one seen at the show was a pre-production model. Final versions will be introduced into the marketplace in the late spring or summer.

First versions will be for the Glock 17, followed by models for Beretta, SIG and Smith & Wesson, as well as other Glocks.

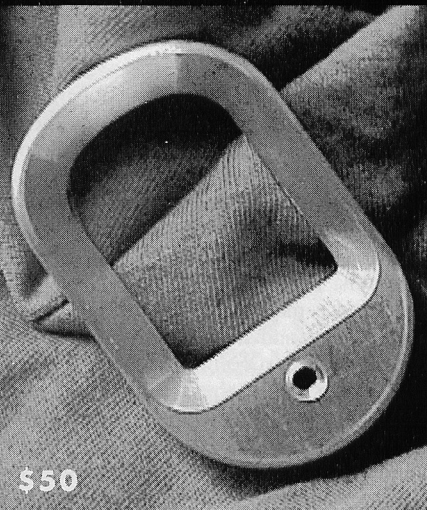


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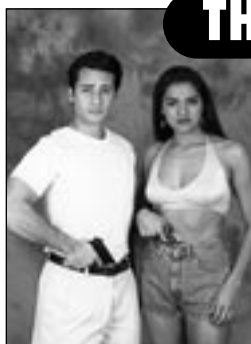
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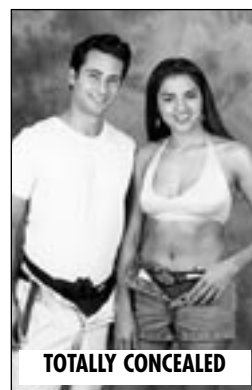


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YES, THERE ARE EXCEPTIONS TO A BASIC RIGHT

Recently, I wrote two columns about the question of whether felons, after their full release back into society, could be denied the right to keep and bear arms and whether the right to keep and bear arms was "absolute" or was subject to exceptions. I received a large number of letters and e-mails questioning some of my arguments and statements.

By far the most common criticism was that I couldn't mean that that there are *no* exceptions to a right. For example, you cannot shout "Fire!" in a crowded theater when there is no fire. Thus, some readers thought that when I claimed that our rights were "absolute," I meant that we were entitled to complete freedom from all consequences of exercising those rights. Since this is manifestly not true, my claim of the "absolute" nature of rights seemed obviously wrong.

This was not what I meant by asserting that a right is "absolute," but the mistake is clearly mine for using a loaded word. I had endeavored to make clear that by "absolute," I meant "subject to no exceptions and respected for its own sake"—not as a means to some other end.

In what follows, I distinguish between *exceptions* to a right—by which I mean instances in which the right is declared to be not available, even though it appears to otherwise completely fall within the ambit of the meaning of the right, such as denying a right to bear arms in national

parks—and the *limits* of a right, by which I mean both the limits of the *meaning* of the right, such as whether the right to keep arms includes nuclear bombs, and how far the right extends.

Against The Gov't

The rights in the Bill of Rights are "as against the government"; they are *not* rights "as against other private individuals." They proclaim the government may not exercise power over certain activities. They do *not* limit the activities or rights of anyone other than the government. As between private persons, the limits of a right are always contingent on their infringing on the rights of others.

The right of free speech described in the First Amendment indicates that Congress cannot impose a prior legal restraint on speech, i.e. cannot censor you or prevent you from speaking, and may not punish you for criticizing or speaking against the government or its policies. In other words, as between you and the government, the government has no rights relating to your speech; it is not a party-in-interest.

The government is rendered powerless to impose a prior restraint on your speech or to criminalize your speech in so far as your speech is directed against it. That's it.

The right is not a grant of freedom from the consequences of speaking when your speech harms another private person.

A right is not a license to violate the rights of others. If you defame or libel

someone, if you use false advertising to lure someone into buying your product, if you shout "Fire!" in order to cause havoc, you are, in each of these cases, assaulting or otherwise violating the rights of other individuals. The First Amendment does *not* prevent the government from defining these acts as crimes, from punishing you for these violations, or from depriving you of your liberty through due process of law.

The Gun Right

The Second Amendment denies the power to the federal government to infringe upon the right to keep and bear arms. Note that the right speaks only of keeping and bearing—it is not a right to murder, to threaten or injure others, to hunt or to have government-funded shooting ranges.

Note, further, that keeping and bearing are inherently peaceful activities. No one is or can be hurt—ever—by the mere fact that some other individual keeps or carries his own weapon.

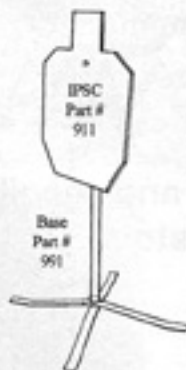
The right exists as against the government only, not as against private individuals. It prevents the government from imposing a prior restraint on the keeping and bearing of arms or from criminalizing the keeping and bearing of arms. As among private individuals, the right is limited by the rights of others.

If a movie theater owner wishes to

Continued on page 97

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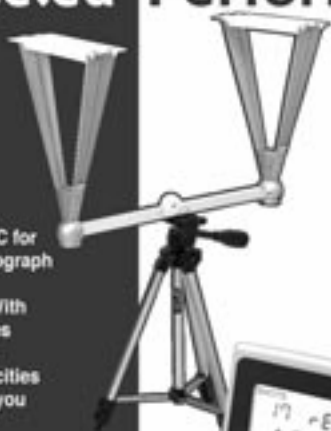
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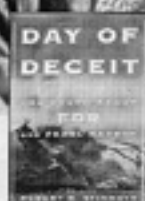
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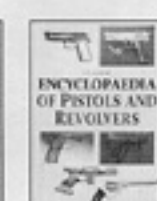
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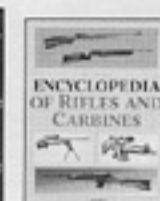
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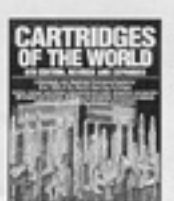
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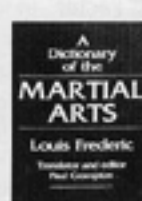
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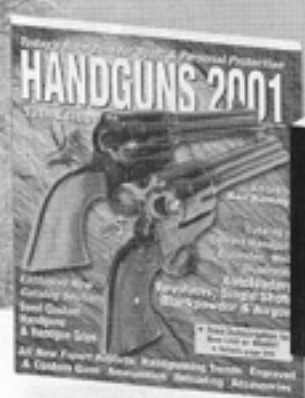
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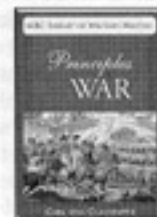
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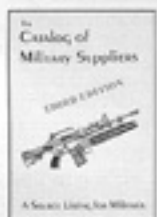
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A Pale Facsimile Of The Original Article

Jesse James may be his name, but “Jesse James” he ain’t. The cops in Oswego, N.Y., no doubt got a few grins out of slamming Jesse Clyde James IV in the clink for robbery, but the famous bandit’s 18-year-old namesake wasn’t smiling for the booking camera. The lad, it seems, had violated one of the original gunman’s robbery rules: “Don’t do anything abominably stupid.” Okay, so maybe old Jesse never said it exactly that way, but you know what we mean.

Typical of novice crime kings, Jesse and two buddies shuffled into a grocery store and tried to act like regular customers while screwing up their courage for the heist. Browsing the pies on display, Jesse even asked a clerk if he would save money on three pies by using his shopper’s bonus card. The clerk replied certainly, if the card is still valid.

Jesse whipped out the card, the clerk scanned it through the machine, and then looked up to see the pie-guy pulling a pistol. Oh, so slick! Jesse and the bumpkin brothers actually made it home with \$600, and had at least 90 seconds to enjoy it before a cops’ convention converged on their front door. Yep, the store had all of Jesse’s ID info— including his home address— from the discount card.

He’ll Be Attending That Class On “Remedial Assassination”

Oh, sure, being a hit man for organized crime has a certain glamorous appeal, but you know, there are certain skills required, like: “Only shoot your intended target; do not shoot yourself.”

In the U.S., novice hit men are closely supervised and schooled by more mature, seasoned types, but this kind of mentoring process isn’t well established yet in the former socialist satellite countries. So it was in Bydgoszcz, Poland, where a guy identified only as Lukasz S. apparently flubbed his first contract.

Approaching his target on a busy sidewalk, he went for the head and clipped the dude in the shoulder. The sidewalk crowd understandably went into a panic,

which Lukasz was depending on to cover his getaway. It almost worked.

Lukasz calmly turned and walked into the crowd, coolly dropped his pistol out of sight to his side... and shot himself through the foot. You’ll note, we didn’t say, “in the foot,” but “through the foot.” This sorta hindered his ability to melt into the crowd.

Polish cops only had to follow the stumping, erratic, bloody footprints for about half a block. Lukasz wasn’t quite up to running.

AND IF YOU DON’T HAVE ENOUGH GUNS FOR YOUR REVOLUTION

And especially if your country is kinda poor, then you have to go for low-tech terrorist tools. That’s the situation in Yemen, where the economically challenged terrorists can hardly afford the pipe to make pipe bombs. Come up with a set of decent wheels for a car-bomb? Forget it, especially since there are so few cars in Yemen that any kind of motor vehicle draws too much attention.

But Necessity is the Mother of Invention, you know, and our pals in Yemen have now given us the innovation of... the Donkey Bomb!

Cars may draw curious stares in the dusty burg of al-Dala’a, but military official Mansour al-Salami and his body-guard didn’t give a second glance to the double-parked donkey in front of his pad as they stepped out the door on their way to headquarters.

They might have even been kinda daydreaming about a leisurely afternoon spent interrogating PIP’s— that’s “politically incorrect persons”— when the donkey exploded. Whapped by multiple high-velocity burro-bits, both guys went to the hospital, but authorities say they’ll pull through.

They still haven’t figured out if the bomb was on— or maybe in— the donkey, and they can’t check his license tags or registration. The usual suspects were rounded up, with no result.

Now the investigation is taking a different turn. Since there are far fewer donkeys than there are people in Yemen, and now there’s one less quadruped, they’re checking to see who might be missing a donkey— late model, four-hoof drive, with factory hair seats.





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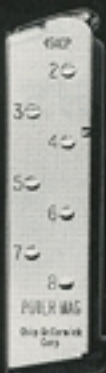


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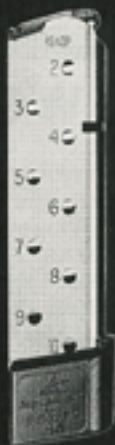
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HERRETT'S HANDGUN STOCKS



About 10 years ago Smith & Wesson began roundbutting the grip frames of their K- and N-frame revolvers. Prior to this time, S&W had only roundbutted their five-shot pocket guns, such as the Model 36 Chief's Special, while custom shops such as Mag-Na-Port were offering roundbutt conversions on the big Ks and Ns.

For my use, the roundbutt belongs on short-barreled, concealable sixguns, not on long-barreled magnums, and certainly not on heavy, underlugged, full-sized sixguns. It is not all that easy to come up with a set of stocks for the roundbutted K-frames that perform perfectly. I have tried several versions, all of which were fairly good, but finally I have hit on perfection.

A few months back, Rod Herrett, of the old-line company founded by his father, Steve Herrett, called to let me know he had some extra-fancy wood in pieces big enough for making grips for roundbutted K-frames. Arrangements were made for him to come up with two pairs of grips for K-frame .357s, one to be made of Coco Bolo in the Jordan Trooper pattern, while the other would be a pair of Detective stocks of fancy walnut.

Bill Jordan designed the stocks that bear his name to be the ultimate answer for his duty gun at the time, a 4" Model 19 .357 Combat Magnum. These grips totally enclose the grip frame and fill in along the backstrap. Jordan stood six feet 6 inches tall, with hands to match. A quarter in his massive

paw looked like a dime in my hand. I have tried Jordan stocks on standard N-frames and my fingers have always proved to be too stubby.

However, on the roundbutted K-frame, the stocks feel large, but I still have enough finger left to reach the trigger. For someone who is going to fire a Model 66 or Model 19 with a great deal of .357 loads, this grip could well be the answer for comfort combined with concealability.

When I ordered the Detective stocks, I specified plain—no checkering—and also asked them to be made as small as possible. I had planned to put them on a 2.5" Model 19, but when they arrived, they would not fit. However, they went on a 3" Model

65 as if Herrett had personally fitted them to the frame.

The problem is not the grips, but the differences in tolerances on the two Smith frames. As soon as I grasped this 3" .357 with Detective stocks, I knew my search for perfection was over. They simply fit my hand perfectly, and I do not use that word lightly.

I see absolutely no way these stocks could be improved. If you have a roundbutted K-frame that is used as a carry gun, try them. I don't think you will be disappointed. Tell Herrett's you want them shaped just like mine!



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How To Beat *Superman*

Ernest Langdon won production division at the 2000 USPSA Limited Nationals. At the 2000 IDPA Nationals, he won not only Stock Service Pistol (SSP) division, but he also won the overall title, defeating IPSC legend Rob Leatham, among others.

Shooters with double-action autos aren't *supposed* to beat living legends with their custom 1911s, but Langdon and his stock Beretta Elite II did just that. Yet it was just a couple of years ago when Langdon first appeared on the national level, winning the 1998 IDPA SSP title.

Where did this guy come from?



Now in his early 30s, Ernest Langdon spent nearly 12 years as a U.S. Marine, more than half that time as a scout-sniper. He saw action in Panama and in Desert Storm, not to mention in a few other incidents he still isn't permitted to discuss. He was an instructor at Marine 2nd Division scout-sniper school, and at the Marine's high-risk personnel protection program at Quantico.

For three years, his job was to study and teach practical shooting. He attended some 16 formal shooting classes. One of his instructors was shooting great Jerry Barnhart.

The birth of his first child changed his priorities. Langdon resigned from the Marine Corps in December 1996. The change brought stability to his family life and gave him the time to shoot competitively. During a recent conversation, Langdon shared his views on some aspects of practical shooting.



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ON THE DA-SA TRANSITION

"Once you're shooting good groups with the DA first shot, begin training in bringing up the gun and firing two shots. Concentrate on maintaining the same level of accuracy. The difficulty in transitioning from DA to SA has been wildly exaggerated. The only difference I find is that it is marginally slower. If my splits [time between shots] are say 0.20 seconds shooting DA-SA, they might be 0.18 seconds shooting SA-SA."

On Shooting The DA Auto

"The first priority is to learn the DA first shot. Always keep the trigger moving—don't stage it. Align the sights and press the trigger through in one rolling break. Decock the pistol and do it again. I can shoot tighter groups firing every shot double action than I can firing every shot single action. The DA pull gives a better surprise break, with less tendency to anticipate the sear release. I'd use a DA-only auto except that on extended strings of fire, the DA pull isn't quite as fast between shots as the SA pull.

"Once you're shooting good groups DA, start with the pistol at the low ready position. As you bring up the gun and index it on target, begin the DA pull. I try to time it so I bring the gun to shooting position and clean up the sight picture just before the sear releases. Start at 7 yards. Groups of 1½" at 7 yards are a good initial goal. As your trigger control improves, keep moving the target back to 10, 15 and finally 25 yards."



On Effective Training

"Every time you go to the range, have a plan for that practice session. Write down what your objective is and what the plan is to reach that objective, then stick to the plan.

"I like to keep each session to about 200 rounds. It takes 50 or 100 rounds before you really start to improve, but after 200 rounds it's easy to get sloppy and careless. Make it a goal at every session to improve your mental sharpness so you can put your best effort into every shot. I might have more than one practice session in a day, but I'll take a break after every 200 rounds.

"At the top level of competition, you must be able to shoot at a subconscious level. You can't be thinking about it. To get to that level takes a lot of shooting, but you'll get there much faster through concentrated effort and disciplined practice."



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The AYOOB FILES

Against All Odds: Bringing A Pistol To A Rifle Fight

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Lesson: If he has a rifle, you want a rifle. But it will still come down to skill-at-arms, indomitable will and courage.

You don't need a 400-level class in logic to figure out that a homicidal attacker with a superior long-range weapon, such as a rifle, is best dealt with by forces of order armed with similar weaponry. Accordingly, American police are adopting semiautomatic rifles for patrol use in record numbers. A study of violent crime patterns in the last 20 years shows why. The two robbers armed with illegal machineguns in North Hollywood shot cop after outgunned cop until SWAT got there and some officers were able to round up AR-15s from a nearby gunshop. One perpetrator was mortally wounded by MP5 submachinegun fire from an LAPD SWAT officer, and another was shot in the neck by an officer with a high-powered rifle at the same instant he shot himself in the head with his own 9mm Beretta pistol.

When James Oliver Huberty committed mass murder with a semiautomatic Uzi in the infamous 1984 McDonald's massacre, it was a SWAT sniper who took him out with a .308 bullet in the chest from a scoped Remington Model 700 .308. The distance was not close.

In Colebrook, N.H., a berserker named Carl Drega used an optically sighted AR-15 to murder two state troopers, a judge and a newspaper editor, and to wound three more officers in a long and dangerous pursuit. In the course of all this, Drega's bullet-resistant vest stopped a 12 gauge rifle slug from a New Hampshire trooper's Remington 870, and reportedly some handgun bullets as well. He was killed by a .308 slug to the mouth fired from the issue M-14 of a Border Patrolman at a range of some 25 yards.

In Connecticut some years ago, a carload of criminals armed with high-powered rifles led police on a bullet-pocked pursuit in which the thugs deliberately shot helpless victims in hopes that the cops would break off the chase to give aid. Some did, but others remained in pursuit. What ended this deadly affray was the accurate, effective deployment of one officer's privately-owned CAR-15, mounting an Aimpoint.

Let's take a quick quiz on six other incidents in which responding officers were initially outgunned.

Case One: A man with a scoped .243 rifle opened fire on the public from a tall building. His reign of terror lasted more than an hour and a half, with heavy return fire from both police and armed citizens, many using high-powered rifles of their own. What finally neutralized him and stopped the mass murder was:

- A) 168 gr. HPBT .308 from a Remington 700 sniper rifle.
- B) 55 gr. JSP .223 from an AR-15.
- C) 69 gr. moly-coated JHP .223 from a Steyr AUG.
- D) 00 buckshot from a Winchester 1200 pump gun.

Case Two: A Federal officer and his comrades are pinned down by a sniper armed with a World War II-vintage Japanese bolt-action army rifle. The officer kills the sniper with a chest shot at 90 yards using:

- A) A Remington Model 760 .308 pump rifle with iron sights.
- B) An AR-15 auto rifle with iron sights.
- C) A Smith & Wesson .357 Magnum revolver.
- D) A Colt .45 auto pistol.

Continued on page 80

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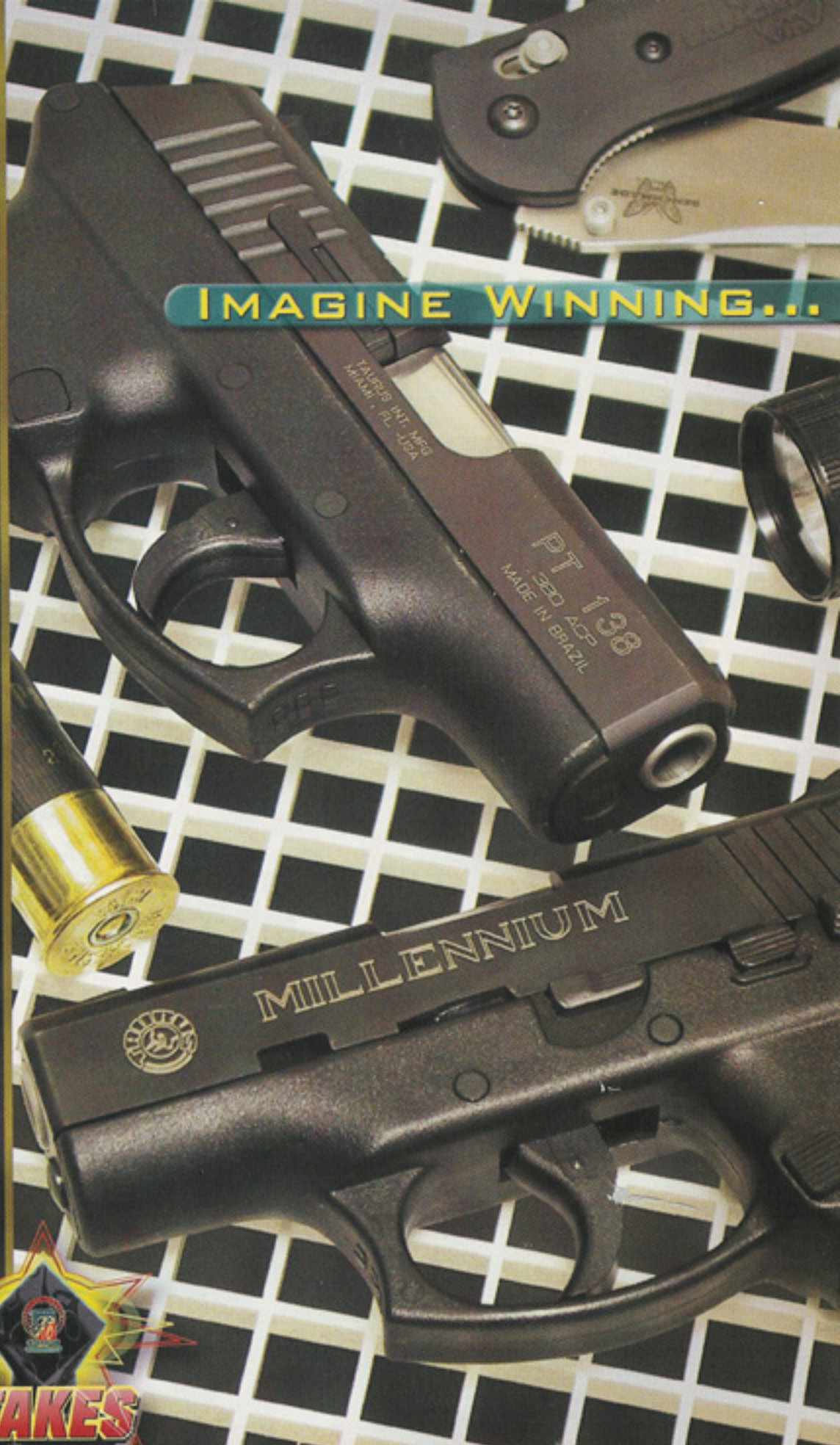


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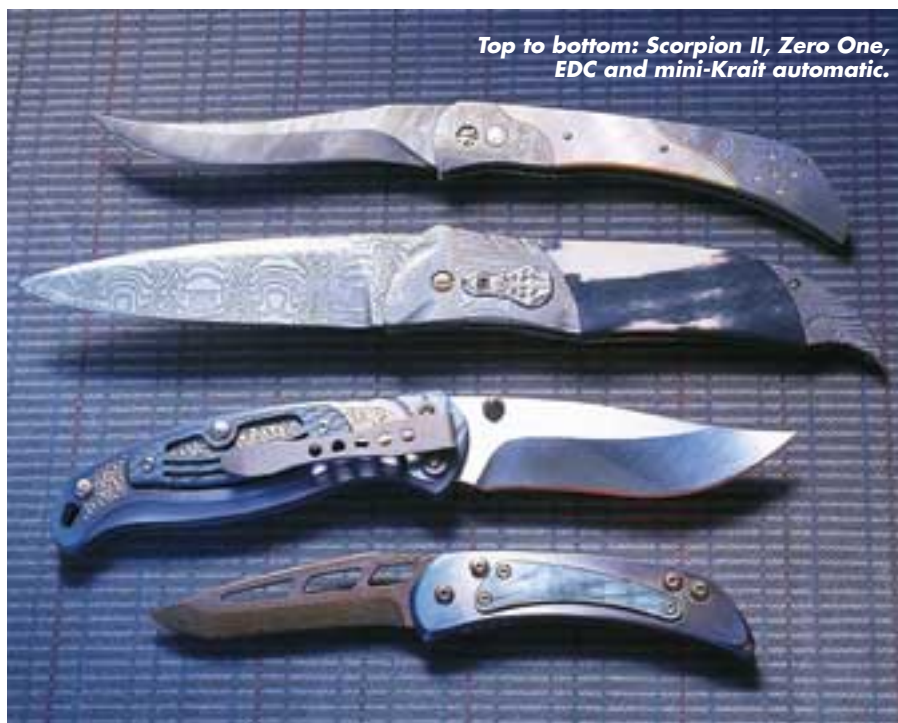
Meet Knifemaker Darrel Ralph And His Masterpieces Of Steel.

By Pat Covert

Photos By Ichiro Nagata

Darrel Ralph could have been a lot of things. He chose to be a Wizard, a master of the timeless art of producing some of the most incredibly fine edged weapons that will ever pass before your eyes. A modern-day Leonardo Da Vinci, Ralph possesses the rare ability to envision anything mechanical and transform it into reality with the eye of a true artist. Darrel Ralph does not just make knives; he crystallizes them.

To understand Ralph's immense knife-making talents, you have to understand from whence he comes. His technical background reads like that of a NASA scientist. Before he became a full-time knifemaker, he spent over 25 years engineering precision parts for top-shelf Fortune 500 companies, becoming well-versed in metallurgical science, CAD-CAM programming and CNC manufacturing. All of this would more than qualify one for the pursuit of knifemaking, but it does not



Top to bottom: Scorpion II, Zero One, EDC and mini-Krait automatic.



Apogee (left) and EDC in carbonfiber.

Zero one, left, and Scorpion II, both with damascus blades.



Three variations of Ralph's Arc Lite fixed-blade design.



account for the blademaster's extraordinary sense of design.

Ralph also has an extensive background in art, and it is the melding of these fields that has given him the ability to metamorphose metal and other things earthly into his distinctive knives.

Ralph resides in Galena, Ohio, with his wife Sharon, three children and a Doberman named Bruno. In addition to making knives, Ralph teaches knife-making courses at Montgomery College

and the prestigious Bill Moran ABS Bladesmith School.

His workshop, filled with lathes, mills and a myriad of tools, is his fantasy world. Unlike bladesmiths of times past, however, Ralph's ideas take shape on a computer before he ever takes to shaping steel.

His interests in art and history have given him a broad palette from which to design his wares. Ralph's designs can vary from primitive to futuristic, and it is

not uncommon for him to combine the two. But he also infuses practicality and functionality into his knives, traits he borrows from his technical side.

In fact, Ralph is constantly juxtaposing and juggling polar opposites in his work— the simple with the complex, the organic with the hi-tech, the past with the future. Once he has satisfied the creative side of his brain, the pragmatic side takes over and he meticulously fab-

Continued on page 77

Left to Right: Original Scorpion, Scorpion II and EDC.



Top to bottom: Scorpion II, Zero One and a pair of EDCs.





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GLASPIAN

One sure sign that a particular firearm has come of age is an abundance of after-market accessories available for it, plus world-class gunsmiths who specialize in the given weapon. The Glock has met this milestone. If you need proof, look no farther than the pistol in this article, a virtual showpiece for the plethora of modifications and accessories currently available.



By Andy Stanford
Photos By Ichiro Nagata

Of course, one key reason for the Glock's popularity is that the gun generally works just fine right out of the box. The only modification that could remotely be considered mandatory is replacing the stock polymer front and rear sights with a steel set featuring tritium inserts, available as a factory option from Glock.

Naturally, the same thing could be said for the 1911A1. Provided the particular example functions flawlessly— a more problematic stipulation than with box stock Glock— an issue Government Model will accomplish its intended task with ample aplomb, under average gunfight parameters.

The question therefore arises: Why? Why all the pricey parts and hand-fitting

and other miscellaneous custom touches? If the handguns in question are so good in stock trim, why incur the extra bother and expense?

The answer is: human nature. From the Sistine chapel to the neighborhood tattoo parlor, *Homo sapiens* seems driven to adorn things. The quest for individuality undoubtedly plays a role too.

Literally dozens of world-class gunsmiths specialize in all manner of custom work for the 1911 and its clones. Virtually none do the same with combat tupperware, despite the hundreds of thousands of Glock in private hands. Custom Arms president and chief gunsmith Pete Carber recognized this situation as a ripe business opportunity and proceeded accordingly.

At just 30, Carber is undeniably younger than many of his colleagues,



Note light attachment groove on dust cover.



however, he already has racked up over a decade of experience as a professional smith. At age 17, he attended gunsmithing school in Colorado, then cut his teeth working on 1911s for Behlert Precision. There, he was mentored by some of the top names in the business including Mike Alfeld (now with C-More), George Smith (Evolution Gun Works) and the incomparable Bruce Gray.

With this solid background, his relative youth gives him an edge in a couple of respects: a frenetic enthusiasm and energy for the tasks at hand coupled with the willingness to break new ground. Note that Carber doesn't just do Glocks. He will modify most handguns to the customer's specifications, including one-of work, and represents a true full-service pistolsmith.

Gutting The Glock

Just one glance at the Custom Arms pistol leaves no doubt that this is not your run-of-the-mill Glock. The blocky, black, businesslike appearance of the stock pistol has been replaced by a two-tone visage that testifies unambiguously to extensive alteration. In this case, the "cover" tells much about the "book." Nearly half of the 33 factory parts were cast into the spares bin to make room for alterations.

Carber meticulously fitted a stainless steel Caspian slide to the metal rails molded into the pistol's polymer frame, "melting" its corners to eliminate potential abrasion caused by square edges. The slide

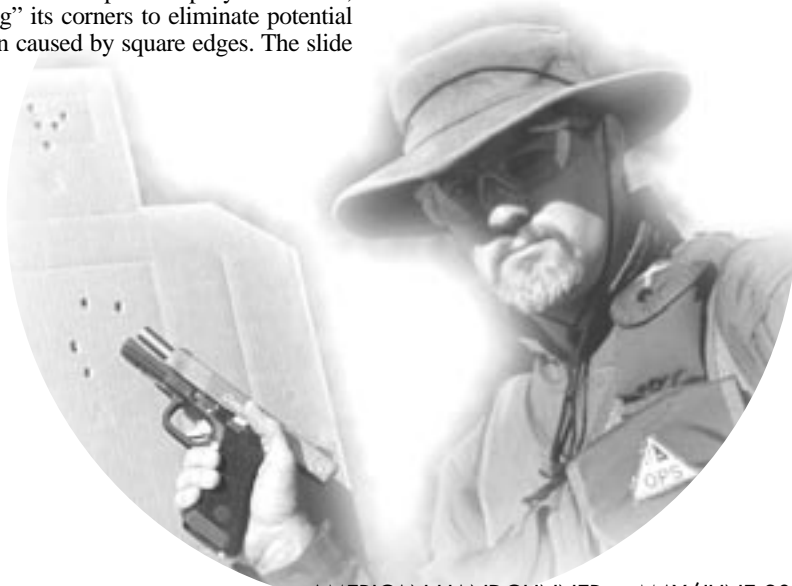
features front cocking serrations, like those found on many of today's .45 autos. If you want the same on a stock Glock, you'll have to pay a gunsmith to mill the grooves, then, due to E.P.A. regs, send your slide back to Austria to be re-tenifered.

Nestled bank-vault solid into the breech block and bushing, a stainless Bar-Sto match barrel, hand-fitted by Carber, ensures minimum group size with a wide variety of ammo. Make no mistake: This is a true match-grade gun. In contrast with the polygonally rifled stock tube, Irv Stone's top-of-the-line pipe is rated for lead bullets, as well as jacketed slugs.

This silver upper half is topped off with a black set of MMC sights, with tritium insert in the front post, designed by gun-sight guru Ashley Emerson, before he left the firm that bears his name to form his own company. Personally, I prefer Ashley's latest Big Dot tritium express sights for combat use, but Carber rightfully felt that for intrinsic accuracy evaluation on paper targets in adequate ambient light, a traditional post and notch would provide superior results.

Moving down to the frame, the stock Glock chassis has been extensively sculpted and retextured. First of all, the circumference of the grip has been reduced, analogous to replacing an arched 1911 mainspring housing with a flat. A

MMC rear sight is winged for protection. Note grip texturing treatment, a practical touch.



number of other smiths perform this modification; Robbie Barrkman and Dane Burns come immediately to mind.

Custom Arms offers personalized finger grooves on the frontstrap, molded from a cast taken of the shooter's hand. I chose to go the opposite route, having Carber remove the factory finger grooves, which are too far apart for my smallish hands. I also asked him to remove the square corner of the trigger guard and to fill in the vestigial "thumb rests" that Glock includes to gain BATF import points. Carber's proprietary process blends new material seamlessly with preexisting polymer parts.

The rear of the magazine well was reshaped to Custom Arms "Coliseum" configuration, providing maximum room for error during high-speed reloads in competition. However, in real world applications—at home, on the street or in the field—any difference in recharge time will likely be moot, given the myriad variables that affect this gunhandling task in an actual fight.

My favorite feature on this particular piece is the wraparound stippling on the frame. Stock Glocks can get a bit slippery when held in a sweaty palm or shot in the rain. A rugged, permanent addition to the weapon, Custom Arms' non-skid surface, looks like black velvet and fixes the weapon securely in the hand during discharge for maximum recoil management. It's definitely a cut above skateboard tape in both form and function.

On the other hand, I could live without the Glock Works' extended magazine release and factory-extended slide stop, at least on a combat gun. The former invites inadvertent activation, thereby jettisoning

on-board ammo, and the latter is simply unnecessary when one uses the preferred tactical technique of simply cycling the slide after each reload. (An extended slide stop can be useful for those with marginal upper-body strength when locking the slide to the rear during unloading or remedial action.)

My opinions aside, many match shooters like these features, and the Custom Arms pistol was commissioned in part to show that you don't have to buy a 1911 to get one. These metal components, along with the takedown latch, extractor and steel frame pins, and Lightning Strikes aluminum trigger, sport an attractive satin,

hard chrome finish, contrasting nicely with the basic black bits.

Lightened Let-off

Speaking of the trigger, 1911 buffs frequently complain that the trigger action of a Glock pales in comparison with that of their favorite single-action auto. I'm not convinced that the difference between the two constitutes an actual disadvantage in a defensive or tactical scenario, but it cannot be denied that a Glock trigger isn't nearly as crisp as that of a Government Model.

The Custom Arms pistol splits the difference between the two. A Glock Works 3.5 lb. connector and skeletonized Lightning Strikes firing pin lessen pull weight

Continued on page 79





GUN OF THE YEAR

This Ruger Vaquero, customized by an elite cadre of members from the American Pistol Smiths Guild, is another stunning one-of-a-kind creation. Hamilton Bowen of Bowen Classic Arms in Louisville, Tenn. (423-984-3583), installed an over-size base pin, ground Colt blackpowder cylinder chamfers, removed all cylinder end-float by installing a new cylinder boss, cut the barrel to 4" and taper-turned it in the lathe to remove the lettering, installed a dovetail front sight base with a pinned-in front blade like the Sheriff's Model, and placed his famous name and logo on the barrel.

Ron Power of Power Custom in Gravois, Mo. (573-372-5684), installed his special hammer, trigger and reverse spin pawl, and performed a complete action job. His work is superlative and his signature is on the gun.

Dan Pursley of Rio Rancho, N.M. (505-892-2845), fitted the Vaquero with a set of bison bone grips that are absolutely beyond anything you have seen. They set the pistol off and tell anyone who sees the revolver that it is really something special.

And now for the ultimate finishing touch—Terry Theis of Harper, Texas (830-248-1816), and a member of the prestigious American Custom Engravers Guild engraved this already gorgeous Ruger with an original Colt scroll pattern. Terry, like the other builders, has signed the pistol with his mark.

Just so the new owner will have something to stick this work of art into, Bart Balew of Missouri (660-248-1816) built a Hollywood-style dark mahogany holster.

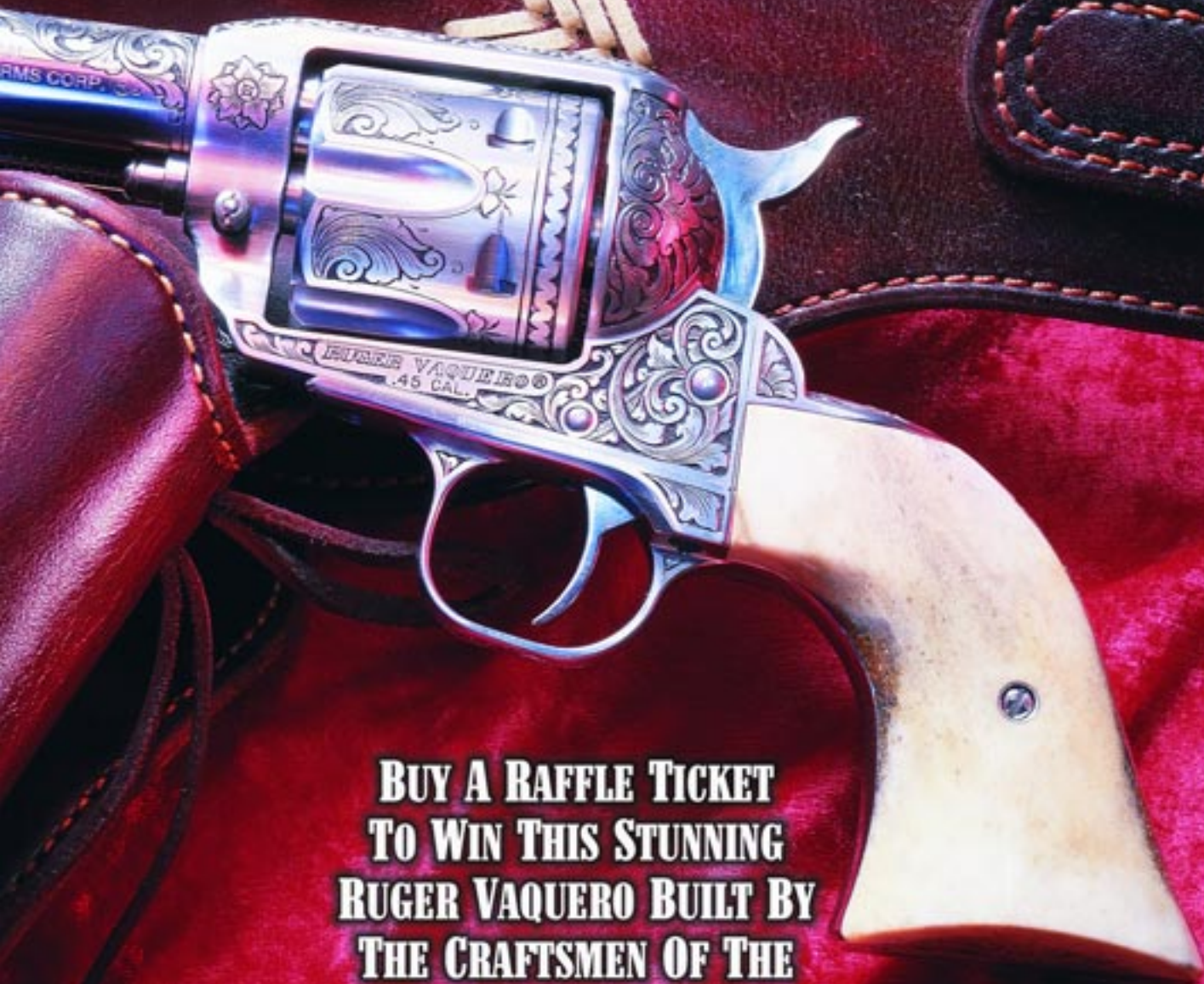
This is a really beautiful gun, built and signed by some of the most famous pistolsmiths and engravers in the world, with enhancements by a famous grip maker and an up-and-coming leather craftsman.

The Guild Ruger will be raffled this coming May at the NRA Show in Kansas City, Mo. Tickets are \$20 apiece and there will be only 950 sold. Tickets can be purchased by sending \$20 to:

Jim Stroh
3238 Della Slaton Road
Comer, Ga. 30629
(706) 783-2131



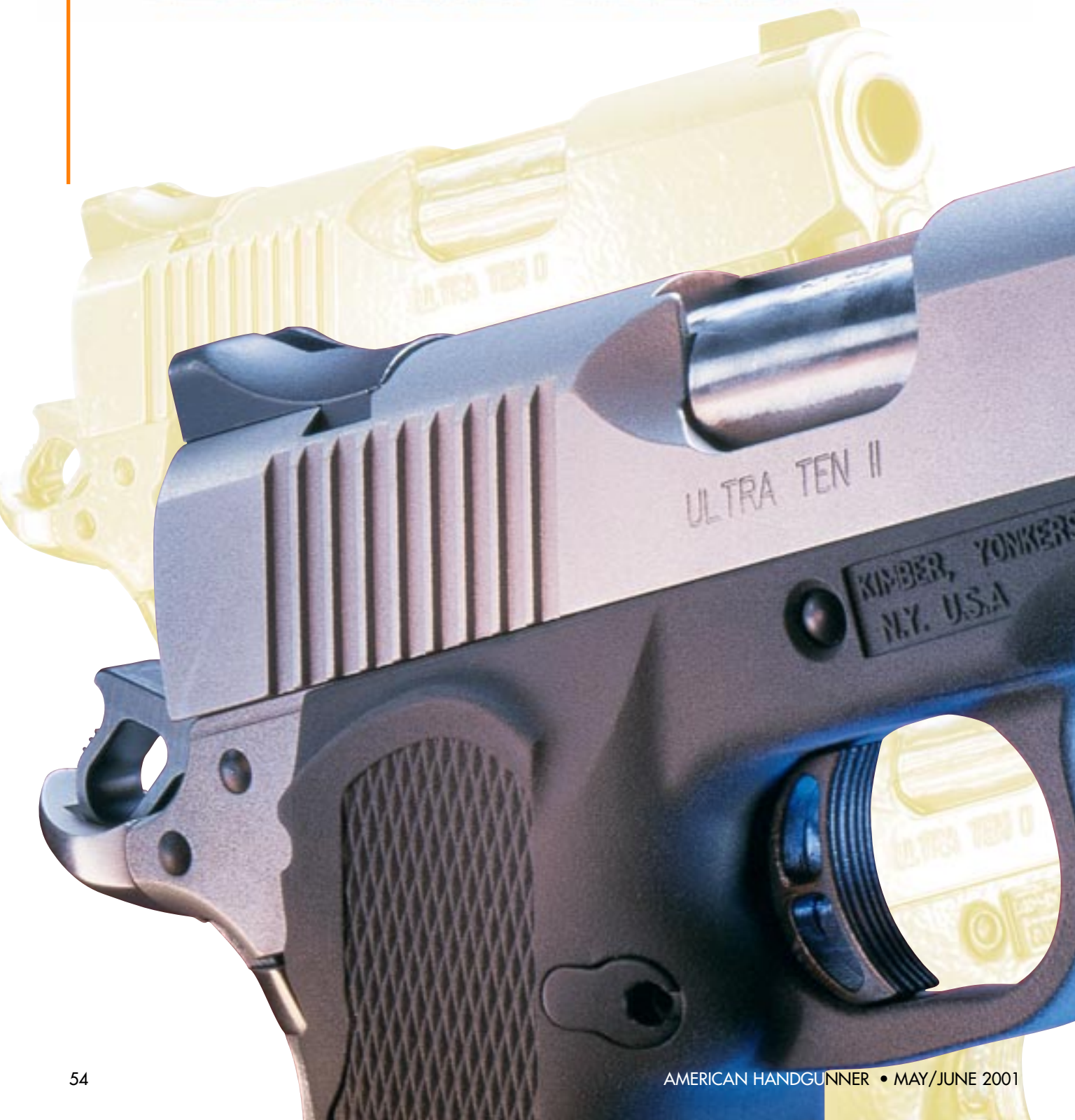
Photo By Ichiro Nagata



**BUY A RAFFLE TICKET
TO WIN THIS STUNNING
RUGER VAQUERO BUILT BY
THE CRAFTSMEN OF THE
GUILD TO BENEFIT THE
GUILD'S MANY PROGRAMS.**

KIMBER

ULTRA TEN II



A New, Dedicated, 10-Round Double-Stack .45 ACP From Kimber Is Ultra-Light, Ultra-Compact and Ultra-Potent.

By Cameron Hopkins
Photos By Ichiro Nagata

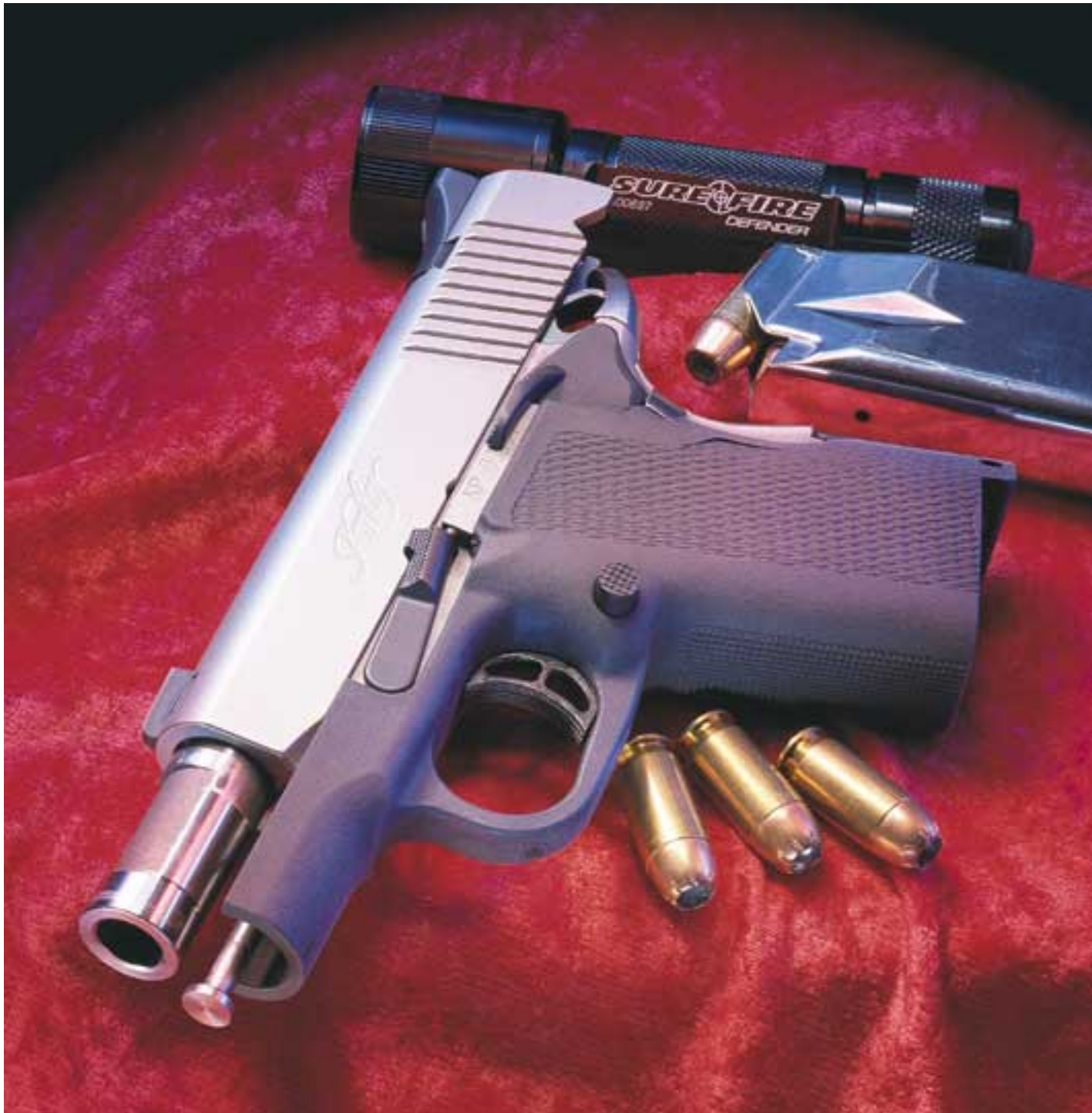


Plastics. It was the one word of wisdom delivered to a newly minted college student played by Dustin Hoffman in *The Graduate*, advice from a jocular uncle who knew the path to financial success lay in the next great growth industry—plastics.

From the Greek *plastikos*, to be plastic is to be formed or molded, susceptible to change or modification, capable of being deformed. To be plastic is to be pliant, yielding, malleable. “In these plastic moments, anything is possible,” said Béla Menczer.

But it was manufacturing, not philosophy, that motivated the well-meaning businessman to steer the young graduate into plastics. Plastic is a substance that at some stage in its manufacturing can be shaped by flow, possibly with the application of heat or pressure, often with the addition of reinforcing agents, fillers and compounds called plasticizers. The liquid “flow” is transformed into a solid, yes, a plastic, that retains a rigid shape under conditions of use. You can throw a plastic object, beat on it, bend it, work with it, machine it,





even shoot it. Plastic is tough. It's everything from the dashboard of a car to a child's toy. I'm writing this on a plastic keyboard. Plastics surely were the future.

Polymerization is a plastics manufacturing method that involves materials with high molecular weights and semisynthetic organic compounds. The process forms products such as polystyrene coffee cups and polyvinylchloride (PVC) plumbing pipes. Polymers are the types of plastics created by polymerization.

Plastics can be molded, injected, cast, extruded, drawn or laminated under a variety of conditions. Heat is used to form thermoplastics. Casting is often used in polymerization to form objects of

all sizes and shapes.

The gun industry has preferred the term polymer and shunned the use of "plastic" as somehow derogatory, but that is rather like saying you like wine, but not alcoholic beverages. A polymer is nothing more than a plastic that has been formed by polymerization. I don't mean to be polemical about all this, but a polymer *is* a plastic.

Plastic Pistols

Plastics first came to the gun industry courtesy of Remington when the old-line manufacturer introduced the radical Nylon 66 in 1959. With its sleek lines and—shudder—a plastic stock, the Nylon 66

represented a paradigm shift in gun technology. Remington then applied its space-age design principles to the XP-100 pistol, which sported a rakish "Zytel" grip. Zytel was, of course, a fancy term for plastic.

As innovative as the Remington guns were, it was the Europeans who perfected synthetics in handguns. HK created the first "plastic handgun" with the VP70Z. Steyr produced the GB 9mm, but polymers really started to roll when Gaston Glock tipped the handgun market upside-down with his eponymous sidearm. Dubbed a "terrorist's pistol" by columnist Jack Anderson, the Glock 17 garnered incalculable publicity on network television and in newspapers

nationwide. The anti-gunners decried the certain prospect of a sky full of plastic pistols. Needless to say, a Glock shows up just as clearly on an airport X-ray machine as an Uzi, but it was too late. The world was now very much aware of the radical new handgun from Austria.

Since those halcyon days of the mid-'80s, every major handgun manufacturer has introduced a plastic pistol of one sort or another. Some have been design breakthroughs, like the brilliantly engineered HK USP, while others have been utterly uninspiring, like the defunct Colt All-American 2000. Kahr Arms, Beretta, Browning, Ruger, S&W, Taurus, Walther—every major player has followed the sage uncle's advice and gone into plastics.

Most of these polymer handguns were designed in-house by the different engineering departments of the manufacturers, but some were contracted from outside sources, such as Tripp Research's "modular 1911" collaboration with independent engineer Sandy Strayer, which is today made by the successor firms to Tripp Research, STI and SVI.

Springfield Armory went to Israel for a plastic-framed 1911 with which to enter the polymer market. There they found an arms company named Bul that produced what can best be described as a plastic version of the Para-Ordnance P-14. Springfield imported the gun for only a brief time, in 1994, under the name XM4. When the Brady Bill passed in late '94, a lot of the wind fell out of the high-cap sail, and Springfield abandoned the Bul.

Kimber acquired the rights to import the Bul in 1997. It came to America under the utilitarian name of Polymer Model. No longer utilizing Para magazines, the Polymer Model utilized a Kimber 5" slide with McCormick fixed sights. Add adjustable sights and it becomes the Polymer Target Model.

A switch to a stainless slide in 1998 rendered the Kimber Polymer Stainless. Going back to a chrome-moly slide in 1999, shortening it to 4", and adding a bushingless bull barrel produced the Polymer Pro Carry. Substitute a stainless slide and it morphs into the Polymer Pro Carry Stainless. Add some target upgrades and the Polymer Gold Match materializes.

Bullish On Bul

There were, by 2000, seven versions of the Bul/Kimber pistol. Enter number six in 2001. It's by far the best version—a small, compact, lightweight .45 ACP—with a dedicated 10-round magazine to tuck into a bobbed grip frame. Atop rides a short, matte, stainless slide incorporating a bushingless 3" bull barrel. The slide is identical to that of the Stainless Ultra Carry in the single-stack line. McCormick fixed sights and a dovetail front sight complete the package.

Hidden from both sight and feel is the new firing pin safety that Kimber will be incorporating on all of its handguns in 2001. Unlike the spring-plunger Series 80 safety on a Colt, the Kimber system does not affect trigger pull. All Kimbers with the new firing pin safety will have a "II" appended to their name, hence the designation Ultra Ten II.

The frame is marked "Kimber, Yonkers, N.Y.," and the metal insert accommodates the gun's serial number. The frame insert is machined at Kimber's state-of-the-art factory in upstate New York and then shipped to Bul's factory in Israel, where the inserts are molded into the plastic frames.

The Ultra Ten II incorporates an aluminum frame insert. This shaves an impressive 4 ozs. of weight from thebantamweight pistol, which only tips the

scales at 24 ozs. empty, with the mag. This is 1 oz. less than a single-stack equivalent, the Stainless Ultra Compact, even though the Ultra Ten holds 10 rounds.

"While our full-size Polymer Models have a frame insert machined from solid stainless steel, the Ultra Ten II frame insert is machined from 7075-T7 aluminum," explained Kimber's vice president of marketing, Dwight Van Brunt.

"This aluminum is the same material we use on all our aluminum-frame pistols, and is the hardest and strongest aluminum available. We tested this material in standard frames, like the Ultra CDP, to 20,000 actual rounds of .45 ACP and could not find any meaningful evidence of wear. This aluminum also machines to and holds the same tight tolerances we demand from steel."

An interesting feature is a dished-out



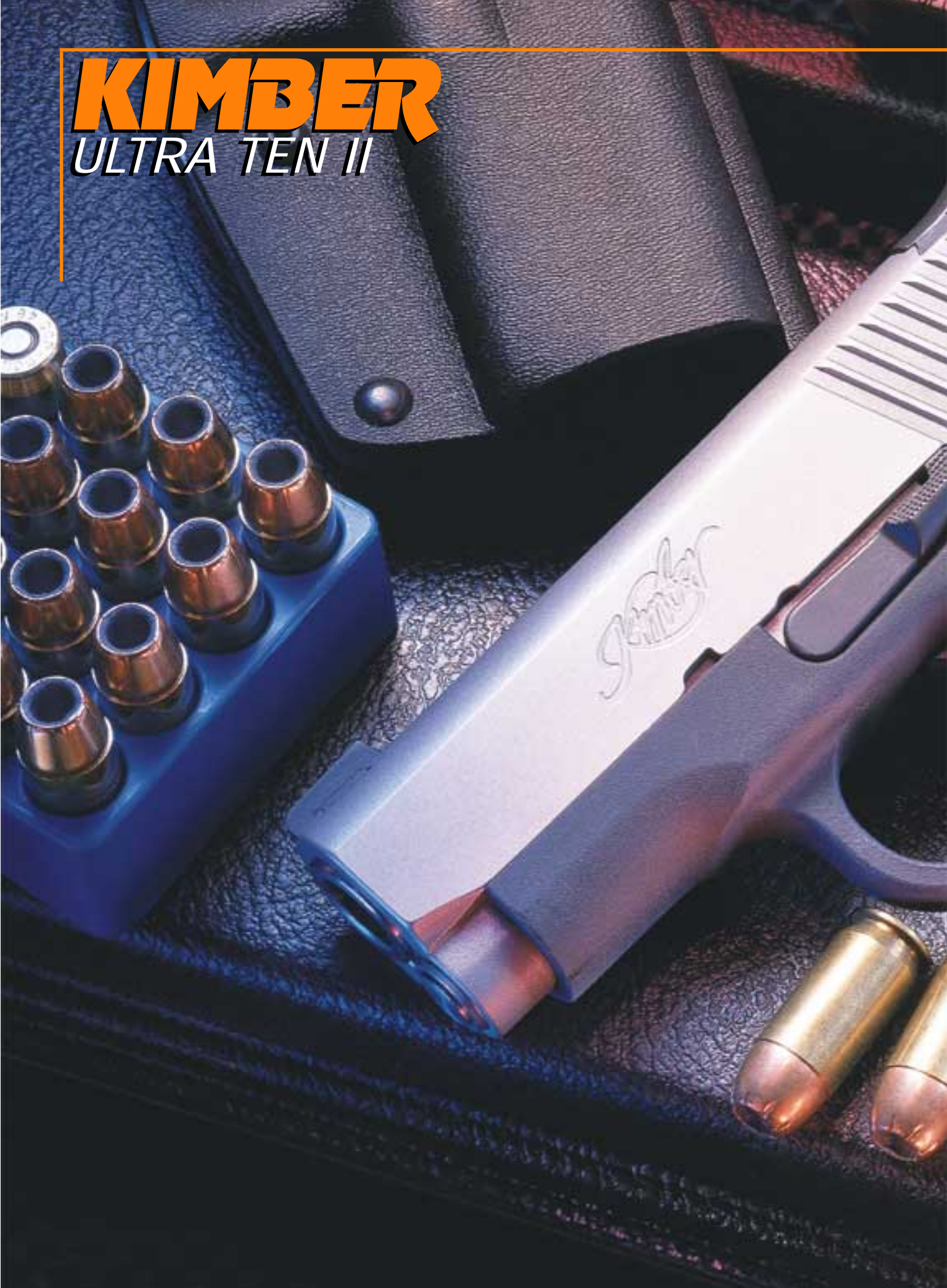
McCormick fixed rear sight is snag-free.

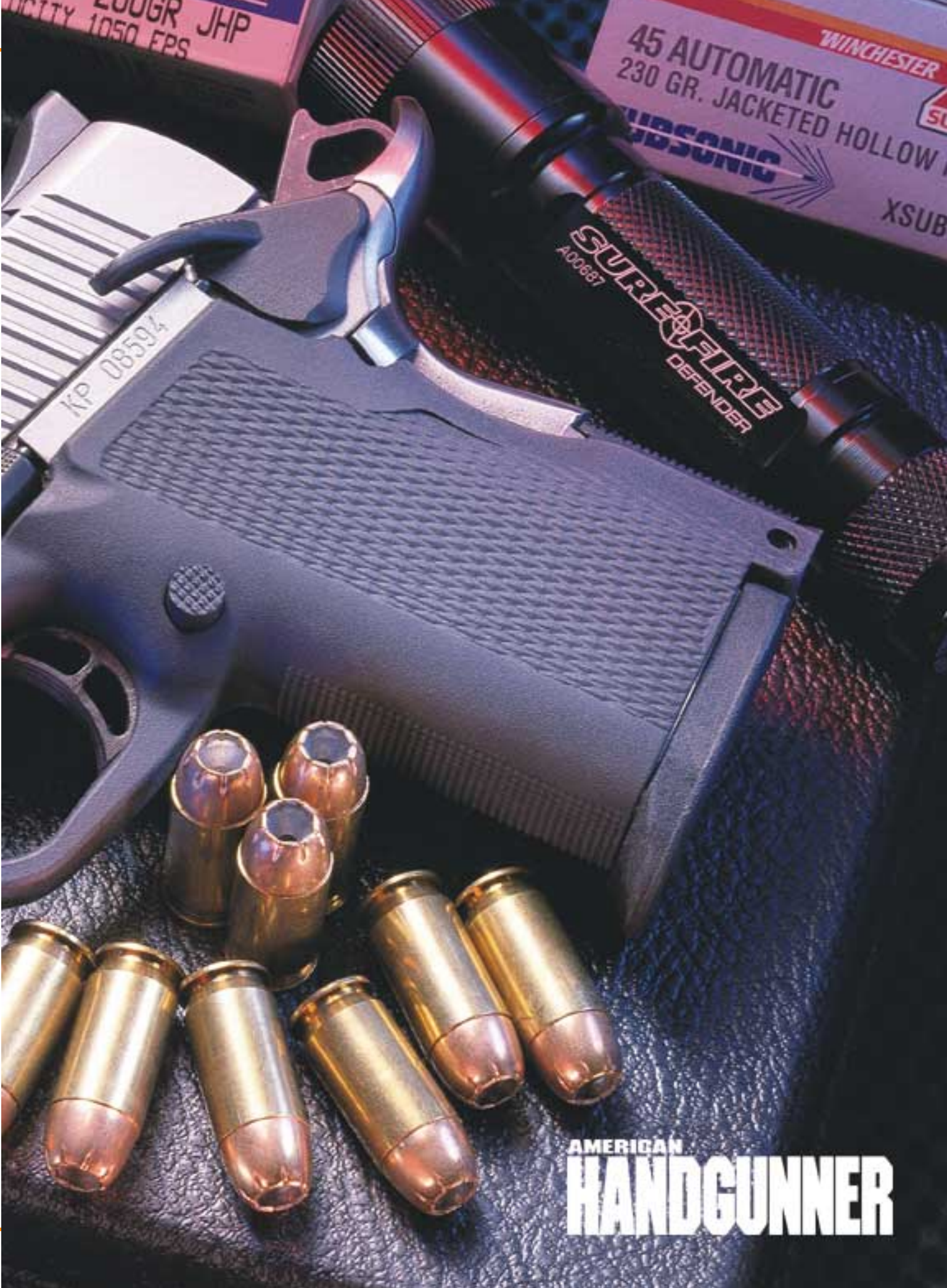


The plunger tube is integral with the frame insert, a plus over conventionally staked ones. The barrel is a bushingless bull style with Seecamp recoil spring system.

KIMBER

ULTRA TEN II





200GR JHP
VELOCITY 1050 FPS

WINCHESTER
45 AUTOMATIC
230 GR. JACKETED HOLLOW
SUBSONIC
XSU

SURE-FIRE
A00687
DEFENDER

Kp 08594

AMERICAN
HANDGUNNER



area of the frame where it meets the stainless beavertail. This allows the hand to reach as high on the gun as possible, the better to align the forearm with the bore for maximum recoil control.

"Note that circumference of grip is just .200" greater than a single-stack," Van Brunt pointed out. "At the same time, the extra width distributes recoil more evenly."

The port-side thumb safety is extended for a more positive thumb shelf to anchor the strong hand's opposing digit. The slide stop is checkered and the hammer is a Commander-style with an elongated oval hole.

The slide's cocking serrations are widely spaced, like the Gold Cup before Colt discontinued it. The trigger is a McCormick lightweight match unit. The recoil spring is the Secamp system of a captive double spring.

"We use the dual-captured, low-effort recoil spring design. One of the advantages here is that manual slide cycling is relatively easy. Women like this feature," Van Brunt noted.

There are subtle refinements to the Ultra Ten, as there are on all of Kimber's pistols. This is a result of the Kimber Method, which is to incorporate features on their production models that

are normally found only on custom guns from top pistolsmiths. The Kimber Method is what put the former rifle-maker on the 1911 map.

An example is found on the Ultra Ten slide. The ejection port is beveled at both the front and rear, not just the side, to give adequate clearance to ejecting brass. The slide has the longest cycle time of any short 1911, giving the magazine spring extra time to push the next round into proper feeding position. "This design also is resistant to jams caused by dirt and powder residue," Van Brunt said.

At The Range

The trigger pull was crisp and creep-free, with just the right amount of take-up. The factory specs call for a 4 to 5 lb. trigger, but the sear and hammer hooks must be mated particularly well on the sample we tested, because the pull "felt" like a 3 lb. trigger. If we were to buy this gun and carry it, we wouldn't mess with the trigger pull, which is more than we can say for 90 percent of the guns on the market.

The short sight radius of the 3" barreled slide affected accuracy more than the gun's intrinsic capability. We did not mount the stubby little rascal in a Ransom Rest, so we actually don't know the intrinsic accuracy potential, but does it matter on a belly gun? Reliability is about 8 million times more important than pupil-dotting precision on a carry gun.

The Ultra Ten II scarfed up everything we fed it and begged for more. The recoil was not at all disturbing, thanks to the cushioning effect of the plastic frame and the low mass of such a short slide. A common misconception is that these half-pint .45s kick a lot because they're so small. Granted, weight does soak up recoil—thank you, Mr. Newton—but you reach a point of diminishing returns when the abbreviated slide becomes so light that the sharpness of the recoil is offset by the modest mass of the slide coming back to hit the frame's recoil shoulder at the peak of the gun's cycle.

Accuracy was good. At 15 yards, standing on our hindlegs, shooting as we would "for real," the Ultra Ten II clustered a full magazine of 230 gr. Federal Match hardball into a silver-dollar-size hole in the head of an IPSC target. Most importantly, the sights shot to point-of-aim with the ball rounds.

Delightfully, this little beast did not bite our hand. The beavertail obviated any chance of hammer-chomp and there were no sharp edges to abrade us, thanks to a tasteful "carry bevel package," as Kimber calls their dehorning.

For diehard 1911 fans, there is now a serious self-defense .45 that packs a lot of punch—2,300 grs. of copper jacketed lead, plus another 230 in the chamber. The quality is in keeping with Kimber's reputation. The future is indeed in plastics.



There is less than 1.5" of actual rifled bore in the 3" barrel.

The frame has "checkering" as part of the mold. The grip is only .2" greater in circumference than a single-stack.



GOT A SECOND?

HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE CEREBRAL DYNAMICS OF COMBAT.

BY KEN J. GOOD

Today's environment of accelerating scientific discoveries and technological change brings ever-improving hardware. In this climate it is easy to overlook and even abandon the core foundation of any weapon system—the interplay and perceptions of the human mind in a combative situation.

A man who understood this better than most was Col. John Boyd, USAF (Ret.). Col. Boyd was tasked with determining why American pilots in apparently inferior aircraft were consistently outmatching their Korean counterparts. Air-to-air combat takes place in a 360° sphere and represents the pinnacle of the man-and-machine relationship, coupled with a man-on-man dynamic that warriors dream about.

Col. Boyd was an extremely accomplished pilot who had a standing bet with all students under his tutelage. The bet was \$40/40 seconds. The student would be allowed to start in a position of advantage and if Col. Boyd could not maneuver his aircraft, always of the same type, into a position of advantage within 40 seconds, the student could collect \$40. I don't think any ever collected.

Col. Boyd developed and pressed forward a simple, yet deeply profound, model now known as the OODA cycle or, as it often called, Boyd's Cycle. The cycle of Observe, Orient, Decide and Act (OODA), is the essence of combat. It is present in any human conflict.

Col. Boyd considered and defined the nature of combat in terms of time. All engagements were a competition for time, a precious commodity not voluntarily

relinquished by either party. Col. Boyd understood the importance and advantages of relentlessly forcing his adversary to deal with a rapid series of events in order to disorient and "get inside" his opponent's OODA cycle.

Once "inside," time for the insider moves as it should, one event flowing to the next in a predictable pattern, the outcome virtually certain. On the other hand, the "victim" is stuck in time. He has no apparent opportunities to Observe and Orient meaningful events. Decisions and Actions are ineffective. He is pulled down and entangled in an unrecoverable death spiral.

The laws of the universe seem to have been unhinged. Time has somehow stood still like in a bad dream when one cannot run away from a terrible manifestation of the inner mind.

In the battle of "mind-space," the goal is simple—get inside and stay there.

Essential Knowledge

The OODA cycle is absolutely crucial to understand if one is regularly in harm's way. In order to consistently and effectively defeat opponents, you must sequentially move through the OODA cycle, whether you are aware of it or not. It is a model that can be used to dissect compressed time frames in a logical and sequential manner. All engagements—whether they are air-to-air dogfights or hand-to-hand combat—conform to this simple, powerful and insightful model.

I have noted that by studying and learning to apply this cycle, one has an

effective way to segment, analyze and improve human performance in confrontational situations. It is a gemstone to be admired and constantly examined.

The first issue is our perception of time. I often illustrate people's perception of the time by walking to the back of the classroom and then back to the podium while elucidating some tactical point. While the class is still trying to digest the point, I then ask the students, "How long did it take for me to walk to the back of the room and return to the podium?"

Typically, I get a few turned faces, questioning looks and frowns. They are non-verbally asking me, "What difference does it make how long *that* took?" The answers I receive typically range from two seconds to 10 seconds, a substantial variance. Some will argue that I did not give them any preparation to ready their internal stopwatch. But this misses the point. No one in a rapidly developing engagement is going to stop and remind you to calibrate your chronograph. The point is: Using recall alone, the same event witnessed by trained observers is perceived to have taken place in different universes where physical reality moves at different speeds.

The other interesting thing to note is that I never get an answer like 3.345 seconds. Why is this so? Sometimes I get an answer of 3.5 seconds, but that's as fine a gradient ever expressed. Our everyday



existence does not require a division of time any closer than seconds for most events, in terms of verbal articulation. But in the world of close-quarter engagements, using only full seconds to measure time is like using a sledgehammer to fine-cut a diamond.

Tremendous and significant changes can happen in one second. A proficient adversary can fire three rounds out of a semiauto shotgun while passing by an open doorway, horizontally and vertically changing position in relation to you—all in under a second.

To further illustrate the calibration point in the classroom, I ask someone to stand up. I give the volunteer a “red gun,” an inoperative, hard plastic, replica handgun. I tell him to put it in his waistband, and I do the same. I tell him that he is now part of a futuristic new game show that pits one man against the other in a gunfight at a distance of six feet. The participants face each other, winner to receive \$1 million. Both are wearing metallic braces on their wrist and ankles and are held in place by a strong magnetic field. Both will actually be using real, perfectly functioning firearms. When the green light is observed, you will be free to access your firearm and dispatch your opponent as required.

Now I throw a twist into the scenario. I tell the student that he was smarter and more cunning than me, so he has offered half his winnings to the operator of the magnetic field if he would release his magnets one second earlier than mine. The operator says no, because one second is too obvious and the producers would have him executed for this breach of the rules. So the negotiations continue.

How about .9 seconds? How about .8 seconds? How about .4 seconds? How about .2 seconds? The operator finally agrees to release my opponent’s magnets .125 seconds prior to mine.

At this point in the discussion, I then ask the student, “Would you take this time advantage, if given to you, even if you had to pay \$100,000 for it?” The answer is inevitably in the affirmative. Any sane person would take any increment of time he could in a gunfight, no matter how small the margin.

The Internal Clock

We zoom back out. How important is time? How important is learning to perceive time? How important is it to re-

calibrate our internal chronographs? How does one get better and more efficient at anything?

A familiar shooting drill that many trainers use to roughly gauge a shooter’s proficiency is the El Presidente. When you ask a new shooter to perform this drill, you are not even looking for a time hack, but are more concerned about weapons handling and overall safety during the entire process. If the shooter safely completes the drill in under 15 seconds, everybody is happy.

Give that same shooter some solid instruction and a few hundred rounds of practice and he should be hovering around 10 seconds consistently. But how does one go from 10 seconds to the low fours? What should be examined is not how fast the shooter is shooting; one should examine the process by which this shooter eliminated so much unnecessary motion and negative mental distractions in order to consistently repeat this performance.

For the remainder of this discussion, let’s assume that we are talking about split seconds of time to move through the OODA cycle. Let’s enter into the matrix.

The First Quarter

Observation— the first “O”— has to be your highest priority. Find the threat before he finds you. An insight on the obvious, you say. There is more to it than meets the proverbial eye.

Evaluating the modern battlefield, one should note that an enormous amount of effort and resources have been dedicated to “seeing” or observing the conflict in real time. The investment in these resources has paid off handsomely during recent conflicts. The U.S. military exploits a tremendous satellite network, flies high-altitude reconnaissance missions, deploys airborne and ground-based radar systems, runs patrol operations, and gathers real-time intelligence from a variety of sources, all in an effort to gain an overwhelming advantage as hostilities unfold. At this point in our military development, if we can see it, we can destroy it.

If you place yourself in the cockpit of a modern fighter jet, your prime directive is to find your opponent first and deploy your weaponry in a firing envelope advantageous to you before your opponent even knows you are there, just as it was when aerial combat first unfolded.

It is no different in a CQB situation using hand-held or shoulder-fired weapons.

You must first find the threat through your main “radar system,” your eyes, and then deploy your weaponry in a firing envelope advantageous to you before your opponent even knows you are there.

Zooming back in, let’s examine some areas that can cause a degradation of our on-board radar system.

Weapon Placement: Under the duress of searching for armed threats, we have noted that even very experienced operators have a strong tendency to place the weapon in the visual cone before they have located the position of the threat. More often than not, their finger is on the trigger, a well-known unsafe practice. The weapon, arms and hands are now blocking out vital visual information.

This would be exactly like a fighter pilot placing a 3" x 5" note-card over part of his radar display and putting his finger on the missile-release button, all the time believing he is somehow more ready to defeat his unseen opponents.

Body, Head, and Eye Movements: The body obviously carries the head, the neck articulates the head, and eyes are directed from within the head. This body movement— coupled with head articulation, eye direction, angle and focal placement— allows for an almost infinite number of possibilities for employment of your main sensory system, your vision.

This freedom can lead to large gaps for potential threats to move through unopposed. You must understand this and deal with it through proper training. An easy way to visualize this is to imagine watching a home video a friend filmed. You sit down and have an expectation that you are going to receive good visual information. As the videotape is played, you soon become agitated because the camera operator is inexperienced and out of control. The recorded images are jumping and jerking all over the television. Important details of the dynamic situation are lost and indistinguishable. Lots of good intent, energy and activity, but unfortunately, the most important aspects of the event go unseen.

This video-camera example illustrates the body, head and eyes moving without intelligence and efficiency. To make matters worse, the individual who was operating the camera is using the zoom feature randomly. This illustrates an individual improperly setting the focal length of his eyes while searching for an unseen threat.

I have noted that individuals and

Continued on page 86

The Continuing Search For The Perfect Packin' Pistol



The Ruger Blackhawk (bottom) is a slightly larger version of the Colt New Frontier (top).

Ruger Colt-sized .45 is flanked by ivory and stag-gripped Colt New Frontiers.



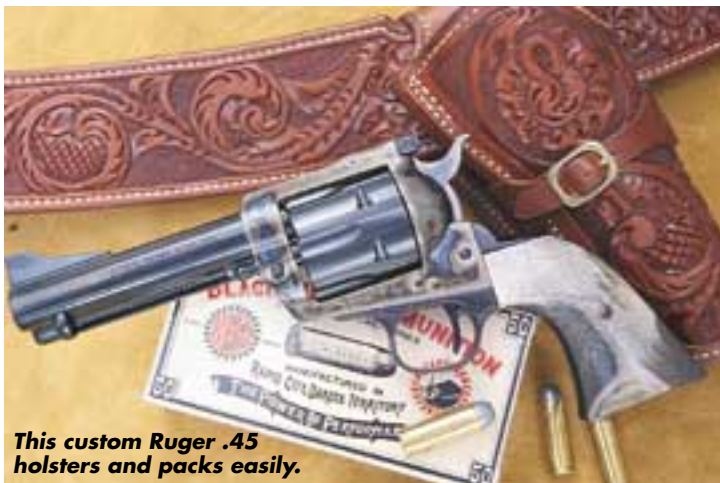
Several years ago, I put forth my definition of a packin' pistol in this forum. I wrote, "Much of my time is spent 'packing' the long barreled handguns, as they are superb for hunting, but they are not real 'packin' pistols." To fit my definition of a packin' pistol, a bigbore sixgun must be relatively light in weight, have a barrel length of not less than 4" nor more than 5.5", be easy to holster and, most importantly, be chambered in a caliber that can be depended on to do the job. Any job encountered."

I leave the choice of action, double- or single-, to the individual, and I give even more leeway in the area of caliber. Some handgunners find the .357 Magnum, .41 Special or .41 Magnum to be adequate for any situation that might arise, and others deem it necessary to be armed with nothing less than a .475 or .500 Linebaugh.

However, I would guess that most six-gunners would side with me and fall right in the middle, going with the .44 Special, .44 Magnum, .45 Colt and .454 Casull.

My continuing quest for the perfect packin' pistol is one that affords much pleasure, as there are so many options and the joy is in the search— the continuing journey— rather than in arriving at the almost mythical goal. It is my good fortune to have several "perfect" packin' pistols,

Continued on page 95



This custom Ruger .45 holsters and packs easily.

CLASSIC PERFECTION

By Charles E. Petty

Photos by Ichiro Nagata

ED BROWN'S
MAGNIFICENT
RENDITION OF THE
1911 IS AS CRISP
AND TASTEFUL AS
A FLUTE OF DOM
PERIGNON.



Ed Brown's shop is one of the premiere custom pistolsmithing operations in the country. His accolades run the length of your arm. He is a member of *Amer-*

ican Handgunner's prestigious Club 100, was chosen by his peers in the American Pistolsmith's Guild as Pistolsmith of the Year and is a former author of the "Pistolsmithing" column in this magazine, longtime IPSC competitor, an avid hunter and a firearms designer. His shop produces almost every part needed to make a Government Model pistol.

Before us now is one of his Classic Custom pistols, one that Brown calls his flagship pistol. It's easy to see why. While many custom guns tend to favor exotic finishes and embellishments, Brown's has

an elegant simplicity. The flat surfaces of the slide are polished mirror bright. The only marking is "Custom by Ed Brown" on the right side, but it does not detract from the blue and classic lines. This is the

same marking that has adorned his custom guns since at least the early '80s, possibly prior to that. The frame has a very fine matte finish. It's not shiny, but has a nice deep blue just the same.

A cosmetic tour of the pistol shows some of the work that helps justify the pistol's price of \$2,750. The front strap is checkered 30 lpi and if there's a flaw, it's invisible. The same fine checkering is on the steel mainspring housing. The magazine well is nicely beveled. Brown's "memory groove" beavertail grip safety is installed. This is especially nice, for the "memory groove" lets your hand ride well up on the frame and also fits nicely into the palm to virtually insure that you can't fail to release the grip safety.





This pistol sports one of Brown's signature ambi safeties. These are almost *de rigueur* these days and, for a southpaw like me, one of the great inventions of the 20th century. Of course, you can have a right-hand-only safety if you prefer.

As with almost all new custom guns, the Classic Custom needs a little break-in work, and the thumb safety here is an example. It was very difficult to engage the safety with one hand, but the stiffness improved with use, along with a drop of oil inside the plunger tube.

Dropping down to the magazine catch, you'll see that it is one of Brown's extended styles. The trigger is a light-weight aluminum type and the pull is set to a crisp 3.75 lbs.

Up now to the slide and, once more, the cosmetic appeal is high. The rear of the slide, excluding the extractor and ejector, is nicely grooved in a pattern that matches the normal serrations on the leaf of a Bo-Mar adjustable sight. While the sides are nicely polished, the top radius has a light matte finish, topped off with a set of grooves just a tad under 0.4" wide that run the length of the slide. All of this adds up to a very pleasing, absolutely non-glare view for the shooter. The front sight is a dovetail style that is pinned to the slide for added security. There are no cosmetic flaws.

Luxurious Test

I had the luxury of being able to work with this gun for several months and, as a result, it has been shot more than usual and has yet to experience a stoppage. As far as the accuracy job is concerned, Brown's work is very similar to the way I was trained so long ago as an Air Force armorer. If the parts are properly fitted, they do not *have* to be incredibly tight—snug is almost always enough.

The best way to evaluate an accuracy job is to look at the major components individually before you try to evaluate the whole. The way I do this is to field-strip the pistol, then look at and feel the fit of the various parts.

Some people think that the slide-to-frame fit must be such that there is neither horizontal nor vertical play between the two. This is hard to do and not absolutely mandatory. If there is a tiny amount of play, it is of little concern and will be eliminated when the gun locks up.

You can look at the back of a gun and see how well the slide and frame go together, but the best way is to simply feel how the slide moves without any interference. My training was that the slide should be able to move the length of its travel with no binding, and be able to fall freely off the frame from its own weight.

You can also see how well the slide fits by looking for blue wear on both parts. It is virtually impossible to get 100 percent contact along the whole



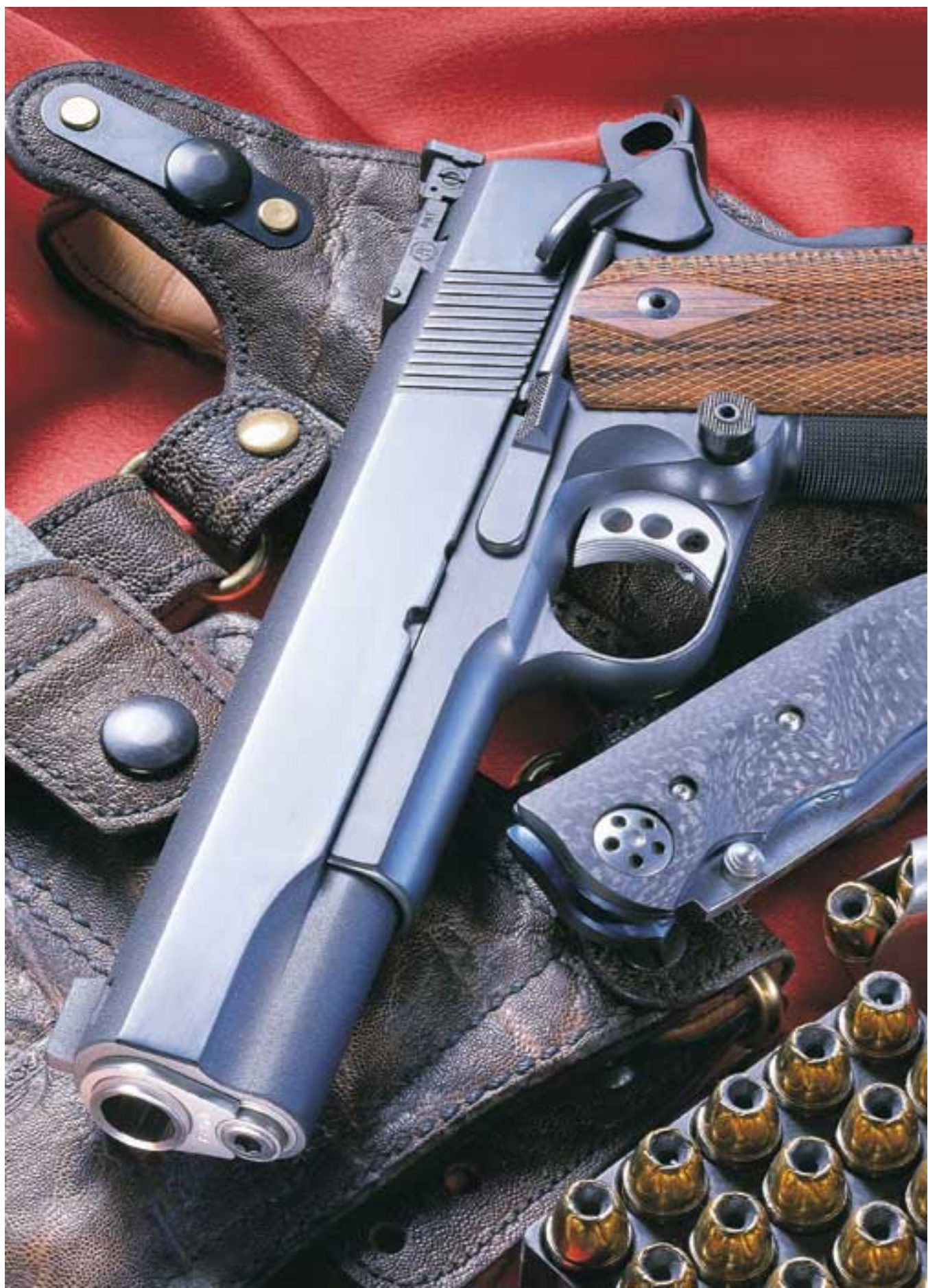
channel, but blue wear should be even. In this regard, the Classic Custom gets high marks.

The next thing to look at is how the bushing fits. There are two aspects—how the bushing fits in the slide and how the barrel fits in the bushing. These are not the same.

The bushing should be moderately snug in the slide. It should not require heroic efforts to turn, nor should it be sloppily loose. The Classic Custom wasn't quite as tight as I'd like and could be

moved with bare fingers, but it wasn't so loose that it could be blamed for anything.

The fit of the barrel-to-bushing is one of the key elements of an accuracy job and, again, too tight is just as bad a thing as too loose. We have to remember that Mr. Browning's wonderful design demands that the barrel be able to tip up and down for locking and unlocking. If the bushing holds the barrel too tightly, it places a great deal of stress on the barrel and can actually warp it a little.





The Classic Custom's fit is just right. You can tell by the wear marks on the barrel. Most match barrels, such as Brown's, have a slightly oversize— usually about 0.005"— area on the forward quarter-inch or so of the barrel. On a well-fitted bushing, you'll see a wear

mark on top near the back end of the oversize portion and a corresponding mark near the front end on the bottom. This one has that.

Barrel Judging

When you judge barrel fit, there are three things to check. First, there should be no inordinate wear between the top barrel lugs and the slide. You can usually judge this by blue wear in the slide— just a little— and wear on the top of the barrel lugs to show they're making good contact. There normally will be some wear on the top of the barrel as seen through the ejection port.

Second, a perfect fit of the barrel's headspace extension into the corresponding portion of the slide should reveal little or no visible light when you hold the barrel up in the locked position— with the bushing installed— but it should be able to move up and down with no resistance or *snap*. The gig here is that the headspace extension is not *perfectly* square and you can see marked blue wear in the area where the headspace extension hits the slide. You can also feel the slightest hesitation when the barrel drops down out of the battery position.

Third, and the most important part of all, is the way the bottom lugs contact the slide stop pin. If this isn't done well, everything else can be flawless and the gun still

will not reach its true accuracy potential. These are nicely polished and show none of the battering often seen due to a poorly fitted barrel link. However, you can see that one lug has a little more contact with the slide stop pin than the other. My bet is that when the headspace extension and slide wear into a better fit, this will correct itself.

If you think it sounds as if I'm nit-picking, you're right. When you talk about guns that cost \$2,750, they should be held to the highest standard. And following the *American Handgunner* tradition of "tell it like it is," we truthfully report on our findings. But here's the rub. Our review is based on thorough testing of *one* gun. There is absolutely no reason to believe that all the guns are like this. In fact, I'd bet they aren't.

So all of this must be weighed against the gun's reliability, which was flawless, and its accuracy, which was very good. Thus the big-picture rating is high. None of the defects noted in any way compromised reliability, and they will likely resolve themselves with nothing more than additional shooting. And this sure is a gorgeous gun.



Readers can find out more from Ed Brown Products, P.O. Box 492, Dept AH, Perry, MO 63462; phone: (573) 565-3261; web-site: www.edbrown.com





SHOT SHOW 2001:

The Garden Of Good And Evil

YOU, A MERE GUN OWNER, ARE NOT INVITED TO THE GUN INDUSTRY'S BIGGEST EXTRAVAGANZA OF THE YEAR. TRADE ONLY. SO WE SMUGGLE YOU IN.

**By Michael Bane
Photos By Russ Thurman**

It is midnight on Bourbon Street, and I am in search of degradation. Not just your run-of-the-mill degradation; I'm looking for the serious, soul-searing stuff. The kind that leaves you slightly queasy with the coming of dawn, as if one of New Orleans's famous night creatures has left you drained of blood and spirit, watching the muddy brown water roll down the Mississippi. In short, I am looking for what the Big Easy has always offered, with a wink and a nod, to outsiders— a jazz-fueled walk on the Dark Side, with your own choice of delicious poisons.

As it happens, I'm not having much luck.

Or maybe, with the SHOT Show in town, all the vamps are at Anne Rice's house over in the Garden District— yet another party I'm not invited to— and the more general, less-defined evil has taken note, as I have, of all the sagging front-mounted fanny packs, awkwardly hanging coats and fetching leather purses on show attendees and have hightailed it on back to St. Louis Number 1 cemetery.

Maybe iron repels ogres, and on a SHOT Show Saturday night, there's enough hardware on Bourbon Street to take over, if not a small South American

nation, at least Emeril Lagasse's flagship restaurant. *Alors, enfants! Barbecue shrimp or morte!*

I'm leaning against a wall near the Old Absinthe House, drinking not absinthe— that legendary green hallucinogenic— but coffee and chicory strong enough to strip paint. I'm watching a woman old enough

She takes a step forward, then takes off her heavy winter coat. Underneath, she is wearing a blue sweatshirt that reads, "Beretta" in big white letters. She hands the coat to one of the Fanny Pack Guys, takes another step forward, then two steps back. She moves to the edge of the crowd, catches her breath, then darts



Know Thy Enemy Booth Award goes to the morons who brought the UPS car to the show.

to know better talking herself into a wild and crazy moment. She is being egged on by a crowd of perfectly dressed men and women crowded onto a balcony festooned with "Mossy Oak" camouflage banners. The crowd on the balcony is so straight they could have been transferred *en masse* from the Bush inauguration, or a Bob Jones University frat party, or the set of *Friends*, for that matter.

They chant, "Do it! Do it!"





Reload on a progressive press, drive to your deer stand in a 4WD cart... who said hunting wasn't tough?





directly in front of the balcony, peeling up the Beretta sweatshirt and a white, lacy bra. The crowd, as they say, goes wild. She turns to give everyone a view, then grabs her coat, pulls down her shirt and heads on down the street.

"Goddamn it!" she gasps, walking away. "I did it. I goddamn did it!"

I guess even degradation isn't what it used to be. I decide to hike back to my hotel room and watch a Brittany Spears special.

Neither the author nor American Handgunner means to infer that the barer-of-breasts was in any way connected to the Beretta company. She may have bought or borrowed the sweatshirt for all we know. Similarly, we are not implying that the lecherous drunks on the balcony were in any way associated with the Mossy Oak company. They could well have been—probably were, for that matter—freeloading party guests. Editor-in-Chief.

Gun Culture

What are we to make of this year's SHOT Show?

To be sure, it is the annual celebration of what our detractors call the "gun culture," the one place and time in the world when "1911" needs no additional explanation or modifiers, and the sound of duck calls doesn't leave you inexplicably searching for Daffy.

This year's show was, for me, more hectic than usual, thanks to a last-minute mission from the Powers-That-Be. Would I, the P-T-Bs asked nicely, be willing to escort a television producer

from the hit series *Survivor* and his military advisor around the floor of the show? It seems the producers of *Survivor* are doing a follow-up show, called *Combat Mission*, and my mission was to "make sure they get what they need."

Roger that.

For the record, that list included a .50 caliber sniper rifle, a bunch of night vision goggles, tons of knives, binoculars, BDUs, some hi-tech electronics and imaging gear, a collection of handguns, some nice inflatable boats and so on. After a full day of "shopping," call me crazy, but I had this overwhelming urge to outfit a team and seize a small African country. No, no, that movie's already been made!

The thing about all SHOT Shows, though, is the inevitable WQ, the Weirdness Quotient. On a scale of one to 10, what's the weirdest thing at the Show? This year's WQ was fairly high, because nothing else seemed to be going on. Every year, all the attending journalists sit around the Press Room, drink the free coffee and discuss what we're going to go rush home and write about. This year, we took an informal poll and decided that the coolest, must-have thing at the Show was... missing.

I mean, how many 1911ish guns and AR-15ies can you look at without going blind? Plus, where was Aerosmith? Ted Nugent? Hank Williams Jr., even? Zero on the old celeb-o-scale, unless you count Irlene Mandrell twice.

Still, as a responsible reporter, I feel compelled to take you through my own Top Ten Sights, Sounds and General

Weirdness at 2001 SHOT. Seat belts fastened? Well then, away we go:

Top Ten List

10) **The Only Pez Dispenser With Bullets...** comes from Redi-Clip, who, for only \$69.95, will give you a little plastic box that holds a magazine and pops them up, one at a time, sort of like an automated Milt Sparks' Six-Pack. I envision a giant, economy-sized version of this for IPSC shooters, who will need to wear combat suspenders to hold the thing up, as it spits out 2 lb. hi-caps. A tip of the tip-up barrel to Marty Hayes of the Firearms Academy of Seattle for spotting this one.

9) **The Only Duck That Matters...** runs on a 6-volt rechargeable battery! Are you one of those parents who got sucked into buying your kid a computerized dog last Christmas? Sucker! Forget computerized dogs. Next Christmas, be prepared to yell, "Duck!" Actually, RoboDuk, a battery-powered duck decoy. Get one of these bad boys (about \$100) and you can amaze your kids for most of the year and befuddle ducks during the season. Hell, I don't even hunt ducks, and I think RoboDuk (billed as the "Ultimate Duck Attractor") makes a great home decorating item. My parrots are gonna love it!

8) **The Gift That Keeps On Giving...** is, of course, handcuffs. Sure, we've all got a set of corroding S&W handcuffs lying around, but for the times when you really want to impress that new Significant Other, I suggest a visit to www.americuf.com. What really

The SHOT Show is a touchy-feely sort of experience, and Beretta made sure there were plenty of pistols to touch and feel.



caught my eye (and, luckily, that's all it caught) was the Boot Cuff, a set of oversized leg irons designed to fit over cowboy boots. I'm not sure of the implications of the Boot Cuff for the new Bush administration. They also offer gang chains for those of you with several teenagers in the house.

7) Delightfully Retro, Amazingly Politically Incorrect, But A Crowd-Pleaser... was Springfield Armory's use of Booth Babes. For those of you new to the SHOT phenomenon, years back, in less enlightened times (i.e. before the former President started nailing interns, and the definition of "oral sex" became required third-grade discussion), many exhibitors would hire buxom young women to stand around partially clothed to draw attention to their booths. In a room made of roughly 90 percent men, this ploy worked. In the past couple of

years, though, Booth Babes were thought to be extinct. Leave it to Springfield, though, to find the two last remaining examples of the species. I have to say that this definitely beat Springfield's *other* plan, which was Team Springfield member Rob Leatham in a tutu.

6) Shoot 'Em, Shuck 'Em... and prepare to be amazed with the 10-Minute Deer Skinner. And, no, I'm not making this up. Having skinned a few deer myself in my Impetuous Youth, I've got to marvel at "a product that has perfected the age-old method Indians used to skin buffalo with a horse and a rawhide rope." Silly me—I used a knife and a scraper, as a horse wouldn't fit into my Isuzu, much less my hand. Here, all you need is a vehicle with a trailer hitch and \$29.95! They've got a video (bfrits@yahoo.com), which should be perfect for those times when you've got the handcuffs out. Next year? The Seven-Second Squirrel Skinner, requiring only \$9.99 and a Ducati with a tow rope.

5) Uncocked, Unlocked And Still Ready To Rock... sort of. That is, if you've got the L.A.S.H. Smart Holster. With this puppy, your piece (no, you moron, not a revolver) is locked in the holster with no round chambered. You then "draw with one hand, automatically loading and cocking, on target with a perfect combat grip in less than a second." Plus, think of the potential hi-jinks if the Smart Holster has a brain fart; you arrive on target in less than a second with a perfect combat grip... and no bullet in the chamber! Yucks all around! Frankly, there are some things in life that should remain dumb, and I suspect toasters, zippers and holsters are on that list.

4) The Latest Weapon Destined To Render The 1911 Obsolete... the spear! I just have this gut feeling that, as a child, Cold Steel's Lynn Thompson ran with scissors. How else to explain his latest addition to the Cold Steel line— spears, spears and more spears. They got your Boar Spear; they got your Assegai; your large and small Javelins. And new for this year, a Samburu Spear. The Boar Spear is excellent for travelers in areas where guns (evil!) are prohibited— just set the Boar Spear at an angle pointed at the

motel room door and wait for someone to come crashing through. By the way, don't believe that picture of Lynn standing next to a Cape Buffalo he "speared." We have it on good authority that the buffalo in question is just nap-napping.

3) There's Nothing Quite Like Grace Under Fire... and you didn't see a bit of it at the Women's Shooting Sports Foundation reception. There, the ubiquitous women's self-annointed self-defense expert "Paxton Quigley" received the WSSF's Annie Oakley award, their highest honor, voted on by their members. In her long, rambling acceptance speech, Paxton revealed this would be her last SHOT Show, as the embattled Smith & Wesson was no longer giving her a free ride. This went over like a lead canapé in a room full of people— mostly women who had *paid their own way to get there* and who are involved in the *other* end of the shooting sports— the end that pays the freight. Gee, Paxton, maybe you can sell autographs.

2) Deer Humpers Of The World, Unite... under Buck Studs' Drop Dead Drops, "single-use, air-tight, naturally collected 100% deer urine product." Now there's a dream job— collecting deer urine. Rates right up there with the New Zealand scientists charged with (and, again, I am not making this up) measuring the methane gas output of sheep flatulence. Still, that's not why Buck Studs (available in Doe Estrus, Dominant Buck and Doe Urine, try all three... with gin) made the list. Rather, it is for their remarkable full-sized, totally life-like display of a buck, having sex with a buck, having sex with a doe. Yes-siree, there's a conversation piece for the old den! Goes great with your mechanical ducks. Buck Studs' slogan— honest— is "Hop On Board!" This easily blows away (so to speak) last year's Top Bestiality display winner of a camo-clad hunter displaying the tail feathers of a huge turkey. The most frightening thing to me about the Buck Studs display was the number of men just standing there staring at the Bambi *menage a trois*... far more than were looking at the Springfield Booth Babes.

Continued on page 76



PMC rolled out their big rig for the show.



Massad Ayoob, R, checks out a new Taurus revolver.

You Can Win A
CUSTOM RUGER
REDHAWK “ALPINE”
From Bowen Classic Arms





Hamilton Bowen's "Alpine" conversion of a Ruger Redhawk is a handy companion for fishermen and hunters who require a simple, no-nonsense gun that is tough enough to handle heavy hunting loads that discourage bears and other pests. Bowen, a former president of the American Pistolsmiths Guild, is renowned for his meticulous workmanship and attention to detail on his signature revolvers. The "Alpine" is a case in point.

Available in any standard Redhawk caliber, modifications include a hand-honed action and trigger tuning with the hammer nose refitted for maximum firing pin protrusion. The Redhawk's barrel is cut to 4", and the grip frame is roundbutted and reshaped. A subtle, but nonetheless pleasing, aesthetic touch is the beveling of the cylinder in the Colt blackpowder style.

The "Alpine" shown here is a .44 Magnum and retails for \$1,600, with upgraded features such as a trigger over-travel stop, Ashley Emerson V-notch rear sight and "big dot" tritium front sight in a handsome Ashley base.

Bowen Classic Arms was founded by former Pistolsmith of the Year Hamilton Bowen to lead the field of finely tuned revolvers and custom revolver work. Bowen offers a diverse and sophisticated roster of modifications including big-bore caliber conversions, five-shot cylinder conversions, fine metal finishing, tuning and special-order custom work.

The grips on the "Alpine" are from legendary grip maker Roy Fishpaw. They are highly figured French walnut, handfitted to the customized Redhawk's frame.

Bowen Classic Arms
P.O. Box 67
Louisville, TN 37777
(865) 984-3583
www.bowenclassicarms.com
(send \$5 for catalog)

Roy Fishpaw
793 Mount Olivette Church Rd.
Lynchburg, VA 24504
(send \$2 for catalog)

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Limit 1 entry per household. 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. No purchase necessary to enter.

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SHOT SHOW

Continued from page 73

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1) **The Unkindest Cut Of All...** goes "Boom!" or, at least "pop," with the amazing knife that's also a gun! That's right, folks, finally the one thing you've all been clamoring for— a knife that is also a 5-shot .22 Long Rifle pistol! Make sure your next SSE (Serious Social Event) reprises the old beer commercial: "Tastes great... Less filling!" Shoot 'em, or stab 'em? The coolest thing about the knife/gun, er, gun/knife, er, whatever... is that you can also get a version that works as an AR-15 bayonet! Now, if you're like me— and even if you don't want to admit it, you are... you're reading this magazine, aren't you?— you often run into "situations" that can't be resolved with a couple of 30-round 5.56mm mags and a fixed bayonet. So what do you do? If you've got one of these babies, you haul down with five rounds of .22 Stingers and, viola!, sign the contract for the movie version and call Brad Pitt! Situation resolved! And just think of the fun Crocodile Dundee could have had if he'd had one of these pig-sticker-smokers: "That's not a knife. *This* is a kn... Bam Bam... sorry, mate."

The Spin Cycle

Okay, let's put it all together and hit the spin cycle. One other thing the show was full of was treeless tree stands, self-rising shooting platforms for times when climbing a tree just sucks, which is most of the time, when you're older than 12. One was even quick, whipping the hunter up 20 feet in just a couple of seconds.

A little judicious cutting on the top stop, slip the seat belt, and the hunter becomes the projectile. Yes, a 200 lb. Mossy-Oak clad predator hunter zipping through the forest like a catapulted melon. There are 437.5 grs. per ounce, 16 oz. per pound, so a 200 lb. hunter would be 1,400,000 grs. at— let's be conservative here— 20 fps. That gives us a power factor of 28,000— that's major-majored, dude!

Don your Kevlar underwear, have a seat on the modified instant deer stand, douse yourself with Buck Stud, clutch your Samburu Spear to your chest, clinch the knife-that-shoots in your teeth and get ready for lift off! Bambi's perverted daddy is in serious trouble this fall. And don't forget your 10-Minute Deer Skinner. You're gonna need it.



Author, professional speaker, ace snowboarder and former candidate for president of USPSA, Michael Bane is recovering nicely from the SHOT Show, although he was asked to leave a ski resort after refusing to surrender his spear.

WIZARD OF EDGE

Continued from page 47

ricates and assembles his knives.

Ralph's folders come in two varieties: bad and wicked. Take his Apogee model, for instance. A top seller among custom tactical folders today, the Apogee in its basic form is a pure fighting machine. Featuring titanium handles with a rock-sturdy frame lock and standard pocket clip, this knife is as well-built as a tactical folder can be.

The Apogee's action is smooth, and once the blade hits full open, the lock slams it into place with the surety of a bank vault. The shape of the knife's handle fits the hand with great comfort, and its recurvate blade offers miles of cutting surface for ample slice.

When handled, Darrel's knives exude confidence. His blade actions have the feeling of Swiss precision, yet the overall construction feels as solid as a single piece of steel—both hallmarks of a well-constructed tactical folder.

Dressed up, the Apogee is just plain wicked. Like all of his models, Ralph offers upgraded versions of the knife in a variety of options. The frame can be further enhanced with fly-cut patterns, bright anodized colors and custom overlays. The Apogee's standard blade steel is 420V stainless, but lively patterned Damascus is also available for those who want something more on the wilder side.

Ralph's most recent design is the EDC (Every Day Carry). This model has a blade design very similar to the Apogee, but the handle has a bulbous mid-section that fits the palm of the hand extremely well. The EDC is a frame-lock design as well, and is fitted with a curvaceous pocket clip designed to be not only attractive, but also be functional in that it is virtually snag-proof. It's a small thing, but anyone who has ever had their tactical folder hang-up on retrieval will appreciate this feature.

Those who find production knives more in line with their budget can rejoice. Cutlery manufacturing giant Camillus and Darrel Ralph have teamed up to offer the EDC as a production knife. The prototype versions of the Camillus EDC that were passed around at this year's SHOT Show were a real hit. The production knife will feature Ralph's original design with matte-finish skeletonized stainless steel handles. Better news still, the knife will retail at under \$100.

Collector Market

Some of Ralph's designs are geared more to the collector market. Ralph's Scorpion II would no doubt get the job done in a hairy situation, but if you can afford one in Damascus and fossilized



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walrus ivory, no doubt you could foot the price for one of his base-level tacticals for doing the dirty work.

The Scorpion II, however, is a perfect example of where the high-end folder market is today. Like many of Ralph's offerings, this model is available as an automatic. These are just a few of the designs Ralph produces, but suffice it to say he is equally at home making a folder with historical roots or one with future implications.

Many custom knifemakers have developed a successful design, then milked it for years and even decades, but you won't find Darrel Ralph meandering down this path. Like a true artist, Ralph's next work will be his best work. This rare breed of knifemaker enjoys the thrill of creativity too much, and that spirit won't let him rest. Ever.

Fortunately, there's that practical side to Ralph that keeps him working full-time turning out well-designed, precision-made tactical folders as good as they come.



For more information on the maker and his knives, contact Darrel Ralph at 4185 South State Route 605, Galena, OH 43021; phone: (704) 965-9970; e-mail: dr@darrel-ralph.com; website: www.darrelralph.com

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and lock time respectively. Equally important, Carber fitted and polished all parts associated with trigger action and ignition. While not exactly a glass rod let-off, the trigger action on this gun is noticeably lighter and smoother than that on a stock Glock.

Of course, on a self-defense or service gun, such a light trigger pull could be a liability, particularly on a weapon without a manual safety. Not to worry, the Custom Arms Glock can be quickly brought up to street specs by simply replacing the coil trigger spring with the New York version. This also circumvents the only part that rusts or breaks with any regularity, the closest thing a Glock has to an Achilles' heel.

Caliber Conundrum

You may be wondering why the Custom Arms gun is a .40 S&W, based on a G22, instead of a 9mm. Two reasons. First, the concept here was a polymer-framed gun that just might appeal to fans of the 1911. No self-respecting .45 man would carry a 9mm, but some, like Chuck Taylor, feel that big-bore jujitsu trickles down as far as the .40 caliber. Second, you can't get there from here. Caspian doesn't make a slide for the 9mm.

In evaluating any handgun, my interest lies in the realm of reliability and practical accuracy, not intrinsic precision. This gun certainly meets all of these criteria. That said, the Custom Arms piece begged to be run through its paces off a set of sandbags to establish the results of the aforementioned fanatical fitting. Now it's time for true confessions.

I'm a pretty good quick-and-dirty combat shooter, but can hardly claim to be one of the world's great slowfire marksmen. Please take this paragraph in that context. With Black Hills ball, the pistol at 25 yards printed sub-3" groups on the head of an IPSC silhouette with boring regularity. I have no doubt that in the hands of a master marksman, this highly tuned un-Glock would give a National Match 1911 a run for its money.

The bottom line? With the complete treatment by Custom Arms, the planet's premier polymer pistol plays the part of full-blown custom gun every bit as well as Browning's big-bore blaster. And even if you prefer a minimally modified weapon, gunsmith Carber's grip-reduction work and superlative stippling can make your pet piece more positive in hand when things get dicey. Combat tupperware has truly come of age.



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AYOOB FILES

Continued from page 42

Case Three: An armed robber with a Mini-14 opens fire, shooting several people. An officer stops the killing with an arm wound delivered from 42 yards that makes the gunman drop the rifle. When the killer continues to fight with a revolver in his other hand, another officer closes on him and finishes the fight, with lethal results. The weapons used by the officers were:

A) Winchester Model 70 .30-'06 and Remington 1100 12 ga. shotgun.

B) Colt AR-15 .223 and HK MP5 9mm submachinegun.

C) Ruger Mini-14 .223 rifle and Ithaca 12 ga. pump shotgun.

D) S&W Model 459 9mm pistol and S&W 4" Model 686 revolver.

Case Four: A gunman with a rapid-fire weapon cuts loose at a municipal police officer who is caught in an open street without cover. The officer kills his assailant with one shot to the heart, fired at 50 yards, from a:

A) Precision rifle.

B) Patrol rifle.

C) Slug-loaded 12 ga. shotgun.

D) Medium-caliber service revolver.

Case Five: A barricaded gunman opens fire with a bolt-action .303 British rifle, shooting several people. Besieging police return fire. At a range of more than 50 yards, the deadly rifleman is killed by a shot to the chest from a:

A) Leupold-scoped Savage 110 Tactical .308 loaded with 168 gr. HPBT.

B) Leupold-scoped Remington M/700 .223 loaded with 69 gr. JSP.

C) Aimpoint-sighted Colt M-16 loaded with 55 gr. .223 ball.

D) Bead-sighted Winchester Model 1200 12 ga. pump loaded with slugs.

Case Six: An enlisted man on a U.S. military base in the Northwest snaps and opens fire on his comrades with his own 7x39mm auto rifle. He is taken out with a head shot at a range of some 78 yards by an MP equipped with a:

A) M-21 semiautomatic .308 sniper rifle.

B) M16A2 rifle.

C) M4 rifle with C-More optical sight.

D) M9 Beretta 9mm service pistol.

The Answers

It's easy to score. The answer to all six is D. In all the incidents, it was the shortest-range weapon on the list that did the job.

Case One was the infamous Texas Tower incident of August 1, 1966, in which Charles Whitman shot 45 people, 14 of them fatally. He had earlier stabbed both his wife and mother to death. His weaponry included a sawed-off J.C. Higgins semiautomatic 12 ga. shotgun with which he killed and wounded multiple victims inside the



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tower, a .30 M-1 carbine with which he shot several people, and the weapon with which he wrought most of his havoc— a bolt-action Remington in 6mm Rem. mounting a 4x scope.

The Austin newspapers reported that “dozens” of armed citizens returned fire on Whitman along with police, primarily using rifles. Most were “deer rifles,” many of them accurate, scoped bolt-actions as precise as the killer’s weapon. A military reservist deployed an M-14 .308 semi-automatic, believed to be match grade. While the shots came close enough to greatly reduce the death toll, once return fire started after the initial 20 minutes or so, Whitman kept shooting for more than an hour and a half.

McCoy shot him once more at close range, arm-into-chest.

Private citizen Allen Crum, armed with a rifle given him by a policeman, led Austin police officers Ramiro Martinez and Houston McCoy up through the tower to the killer’s perch on the roof. They approached the sniper’s lair from opposite sides. Crum fired the first shot, which did not strike the killer but did startle and disorient him. Martinez then emptied his service revolver at Whitman, and McCoy fired twice with his Winchester 1200 pump. Whitman fell, dropping his .30 carbine.

Martinez dropped his empty sixgun, grabbed McCoy’s Winchester, charged the downed Whitman and shot him once more at close range, arm-into-chest. Researcher Gary M. Laverne interprets the autopsy of the murderer to say that the fatal shot was McCoy’s first shotgun blast from 50 feet away, which caught Whitman in the eyes and forehead and pierced his brain.

FBI Shoot-Outs

Case Two involved special agent Walter Walsh, a living legend of the FBI. His distinguished law enforcement career was interrupted by World War II, when he fought in the Pacific where this incident took place. A crack pistol shot with phenomenal coolness in deadly danger, Walsh and his squad of Marines were pinned down by a sniper 90 yards away. Walsh knew exactly where to hold the sights of his 1911 pistol to put a 230 gr. .45 ball round into the sniper’s torso, extinguishing the threat.

This incident happened before I was born, but I had the honor of being present many decades later when Walsh was presented with the Outstanding American Handgunner of the Year



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award in 1997. The same coolness that brought him through gunfights on American streets, and the same precision shooting skill that made him a champion shot and master marksmanship coach, had allowed him to perform this wartime feat of arms against a much better-armed enemy.

Case Three was the well-known FBI shootout that occurred on April 11, 1986 in a suburb of Miami, Fla. This incident has been discussed in exhaustive detail in these pages more than once. Army-trained gunman Michael Platt had been wounded multiple times, including the controversial "unsurvivable" 9mm wound that had gone through his arm and into his chest, cutting an artery but stopping before it reached the heart.

Platt had used his stolen Mini-14 to kill two agents, including the one who shot him, as well as to wound five more, when Agent Ron Risner, a measured 42 yards away, braced his Model 459 two-handed over an auto hood and put a 115 gr. 9mm Silvertip through Platt's right forearm.

This was the bullet that stopped the killing. His dominant hand no longer working, Platt dropped the gun that had given him his deadly advantage. However, it didn't keep him from grabbing a 6" S&W Model 586 revolver and pumping three more shots weak-hand only, all of which missed. He was trying to drive himself and his wounded partner in crime, Edward Matix, away from the scene in a hijacked FBI sedan when severely wounded Agent Ed Mireles staggered toward the car, firing Federal lead hollowpoint .38 +P rounds from his 4" 686 service revolver. These were the bullets that finally killed both gunmen.

Though Mireles was unquestionably the hero of the incident, Risner was probably the role model.

High Noon

Case Four took place on July 21, 1865, in Springfield, Mo., in what some historians believe was the only actual case of two Westerners walking down the street toward one another for a "shootout at high noon." Gambler Dave Tutt had it out with James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok in the town square. Tutt opened fire first with his weapon, a revolver, the most common rapid-fire weapon of the period. He missed.

Hickok did not. He fired a single shot, from what most witnesses described as a two-handed stance. The .36 caliber ball from his trademark Navy Colt revolver struck Tutt in the heart, killing him instantly. Though Hickok would become famous as a lawman, this was not a line-of-duty shooting.

The distance has been put at a minimum of 50 yards and a maximum of 75, the latter by historian James D. Horan, who was no admirer of Hickok's.

Case Five took place in the American Midwest approximately 25 years ago.



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The deranged gunman exhibited deadly accuracy with his Lee-Enfield. None of the police responding to the scene were equipped with rifles.

With their inner perimeter more than 50 yards from the embattled house, officers with handguns and shotguns were at a distinct disadvantage against a man armed with what many believe to be the fastest-handling of all bolt-action battle rifles.

Buckshot from open chokes was hopeless at that distance. One officer deployed a radical weapon for the period, a personally owned 20 ga. Remington autoloader filled with 5/8 oz. rifled slugs and mounting a red dot sight. However, the gun was not properly sighted-in for the distance and none of his shots connected.

The state policeman carefully squeezed the trigger.

The best shot present, a competitive shooter who participated in then-fledgling IPSC shooting, cut loose with his personally owned, department-approved weapon, an accurized Colt .45 auto. However, he overestimated the drop of the .45 auto slugs at 50 yards and held too high, putting an excellent group into the building's structure over the rifleman's head.

Enter a state police supervisor, who had jumped into a squad car with a trooper and raced to the scene. He grabbed the squad car shotgun, a Winchester 1200, and pulled out the standard buckshot and loaded it with the reserve box of rifled slugs kept in the glove compartment.

Buying on bid, that agency had at least three different makes and models of shotguns in the field, and the 1200 was different from the gun the supervisor had been issued. However, he owned one exactly like it for hunting, and more importantly, he knew that with a bead-sighted gun, he had to hold low to hit with slugs at what he correctly estimated was a distance of about 50 yards.

Bracing himself carefully, he brought the bead down into the grooves milled into the top of the gun's receiver, and put the sight picture at the crotch of the man he now saw exposed in the doorway leading to a porch. Before the man with the .303 could fire another shot, the state policeman carefully squeezed the trigger of the Winchester.

An instant later, the man in the doorway jerked violently, then slumped to the porch floor. The 1 oz., .72 caliber shotgun slug had torn through the center

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of his chest, killing him outright. The nightmare was over.

Going Ballistic

Case Six took place a few years ago in the Pacific Northwest. An airman "went ballistic" at Fairchild Air Base and opened fire on personnel with his privately owned semiautomatic AK-47 clone. Air Policeman Andy Brown raced to the scene on his patrol bicycle. He dismounted to face the deadly threat, a reported 78 yards distant.

Armed only with his M-9 service pistol, he opened fire. Despite the exertion of racing to the scene, his aim was steady. The high-velocity, flat-shooting NATO ball rounds hit the crazed gunman in the chest and in the head, according to reports, dropping him instantly and fatally.

Being outgunned need not foredoom you to being outfought. In five of the six numbered cases, the bad guys had long-range firepower and the good guys had to make do with what any reasonable person would consider to be short-range guns.

In the fourth, the Hickok/Tutt gunfight, both men had revolvers, but Hickok had sacrificed the advantage when he allowed his opponent to draw first and take the first shot.

In all six cases, it was skill-at-arms and coolness under pressure that allowed the victors to win at the outer edges of their weapons' effective ranges. Mireles and Risner in Miami were both capable and highly trained shooters. Hickok was known to practice with his Navy Colts daily, and delighted in showing off his trick-shooting skills to Eastern journalists. A veteran of multiple fatal shootouts by the time of the Tutt killing, Hickok was known for icy calmness in the face of lethal danger, and an absolute absence of hesitation to use deadly force.

The Midwestern trooper who killed the rifleman with a borrowed shotgun was not a gun enthusiast, but he was an avid hunter. He knew exactly how and where to aim his weapon, was an excellent judge of distance, and had long since taught himself to watch the front sight and squeeze the trigger when a living thing was in his sights.

Walter Walsh was a competitive shooter at the time of his 90-yard "feat of arms" in which he killed a rifle-armed sniper with a weapon most American fighting men considered hopelessly inaccurate beyond 10 paces. Taught with old-fashioned techniques and no ear protection, generations of GIs had learned to cringe and jerk from the .45's blast and recoil as they pulled the trigger.

Walsh was a man whose idea of recreation was to pump .45 slugs into small 10-rings at 50 yards in the pressure of important shooting matches. He had conditioned himself to ignore the kick and the sharp report, and to hold the sights steady and press the trigger smoothly. His recreational shooting had also taught

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him the trajectory of a .45 ball round at long range. These things came together to save Lt. Walsh's life and the lives of his men that day on Okinawa.

Houston McCoy was not so much a gun expert as he was simply a classic Texan who was cool under stress. His instructors at Austin PD had taught him what he had to do to make his shots count. It is obvious that he held the shotgun steady and squeezed the trigger, aiming carefully at 50 feet.

The long-range shooting encounter is an aberration of the statistics.

Training would have taught him that at that distance, his open-choked Winchester would allow enough spread of the nine .32 caliber 00 pellets that they wouldn't all hit a man's head, but if he centered the pattern, enough would. In this case, enough did.

Final Caveat

None of the above should be taken to mean that good guys don't need rifles when facing bad guys who might present danger at a distance. Note that the author had to reach over a span of 135 years to find a mere six cases where the guy with the short-range gun beat the guy with the long-range gun at long range.

The six cases cited in the "test" should not be taken as an argument against allowing police patrol officers— or, for that matter, law-abiding citizens— to have rifles. Anyone who uses such cases to argue against giving the good guys long-range weaponry is being disingenuous at best, and if you hear these cases brought up as reasons not to allow rifles for cops or armed citizens, stand up and say, "You're twisting the facts and history!"

No, the final lesson is something else. It is the fact that sometimes, the good guy with the rifle is caught away from his rifle, with only his handgun or shotgun between him and certain death in the crosshairs of the rifle the bad guy was already forbidden to have, but had anyway.

The long-range shooting encounter is an aberration of the statistics. But so is every other defensive shooting encounter. Those who carry guns to protect the innocent from evil owe it to themselves and those they're responsible for to learn to use even their short-range guns at extended distances, "just in case."

Law enforcement agencies, knowing that their personnel may have to deal with criminals armed with rifles, owe it to their rank and file to issue them rifles, too. It's fact. It's logic. And it's supported by history.



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GOT A SECOND?

Continued from page 63

teams have a strong tendency to tune their "radars" to one distance and angle and leave it there. This is especially true when the first threat is located and identified. Tracking one target, and one target only, could spell death to a fighter pilot over the battlefield. It is equally dangerous on the ground.

Since our visual sensors do not obtain data like phased-array radars, we must constantly change the distance and elevation of our vision, in a systematic manner. One must relegate this cycling of the vision to the subconscious mind through proper training and experience.

Your Six

Our eyes are set in the forward area of the skull, representing approximately 210 degrees of view. This leaves us with an additional obstacle to overcome—a large area unseen directly behind us.

What is the optimal sequence for establishing the best direction, angle, focal length, body speed and timing to use our vision properly in a tactical environment? This is the art and science of using vision to properly observe. This is where the inner man reigns supreme over the external tools deployed in the environment.

This is an area of combat that immediately begins to separate a highly proficient shooting sportsman from a combatant on the modern, urban battlefield or street.

The Second Quarter

Once you have obtained good visual data—ideally before your opponent has—you must orient yourself to the overall situation. You must put things in the proper perspective, based on real-time input, previous intelligence and generated assumptions.

You are not processing in a linear-sequential manner; you are processing in parallel. If you had the opportunity to freeze-frame these moments and ask yourself, "What data are you considering at this moment?" the list would grow quite long as the subconscious is probed with the conscious mind.

To help illustrate the concept, imagine a personal computer with an outdated CPU, a few megabytes of memory, not enough data storage and a B&W 10" monitor, all controlled by an antiquated operating system. Now try to run a sophisticated software package that requires significant resources. You will be immediately frustrated with the result.

When I was in the military, I had the opportunity to free-fall parachute out of a perfectly good airplane. When I immediately recalled the first jump experience, it appeared to be a virtual slide show. Only key images were etched into my mind. I remember checking my altimeter numerous times, verifying the location of my rip-cord

(this dates me!), seeing the beauty of an inflated canopy, finding the "T" and then contacting the ground. Yet the entire event was five to seven minutes long.

After 60 to 100 jumps, the slide show morphed into a streaming digital video. Same time frame, but now my brain did not have to spend precious resources finding a "spot" to burn in the information, since it was no longer new information, but familiar territory. I could now casually see everyone exit the aircraft, and I could immediately place myself in proper perspective to all jumpers, the aircraft and the ground.

I was spending plenty of time doing relative work with other jumpers, flying my canopy and landing extremely close to the desired target. I was now able to assimilate huge blocks of visual data effortlessly, as well as recall them with great accuracy and clarity. I was now oriented to this somewhat stressful event.

The brain has an amazing capacity for data storage, recall and decision-making, provided it has some meaningful reference points. But when we are presented with a totally new set of circumstances, with no prior reference points, we become disoriented.

When is the last time your brain faced the threat of a loaded firearm swinging in your direction and displayed this image on its internal movie screen? Most likely, it hasn't happened recently. Hence, the need for realistic training that creates these movies and turns them into valid reference points. High-quality training paves a new and much-needed information access road to a now cached experience. The experience will be real enough to prevent disorientation when actual combat is faced.

Consistent with the personal computer example, you are giving your brain upgrades specific to orientation. A larger cache of stored experiences on the hard-drive, a faster CPU, memory and data transfer rate, and greater display size, resolution and color. You now have a greater probability of arriving at a sound solution in a shorter period of time.

Training For Real

I have spoken with numerous law-enforcement officers and military personnel who had participated in force-on-force training prior to the real thing. Following firefights on the street and in combat, they told me that they were not disoriented. Quite the opposite, they could articulate the details of the engagement and follow a logical and effective sequence of events during the engagement.

Since all participants in an engagement must move through the OODA cycle to achieve consistent and repeatable results, you must strive to disorient your opponent. Note that I did not say out-shoot, out-run, out-maneuver. The prime directive is to *disorient your opponent*.

Once in this state, he should be overcome by events as you move smoothly

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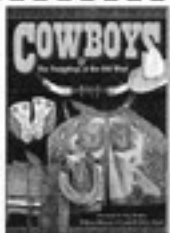
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onto the next phases and around the clock again and again. The opponent's perception of time becomes distorted, incoming data is dismissed, decisions are irrational, and actions become erratic and ineffective. This is an immensely powerful and often-overlooked tactical tool.

You should have no sense of hurrying or waiting. You should be in harmony with what is actually happening.

The Pipeline

Practical decision-making can easily be divided into two basic paths. The subconscious mind processes hundreds of variables simultaneously, in parallel, and the conscious mind works in serial, or sequentially, handling seven or so variables before disregarding or misinterpreting incoming data.

Any process that must be accomplished in a compressed time frame should be relegated to the powerful subconscious mind. This should be done through training. In 1645, the famous Japanese warrior and philosopher Miyamoto Musashi said, "If you consciously try to thwart opponents, you are already late."

Subconscious decisions are decisions arrived upon based on what we perceive, how we orient that perception and the time allowed to make the decision. If the threat is close and the time frame compressed, we will automatically default to the subconscious pipeline. Whatever we brought to the situation—genetics, personality, training, assumptions, tools—will pour out of us without conscious thought or effort.

I frequently use an example based on a real-world incident in southern California. A police officer has pulled over a motorist on the roadway to issue a traffic citation. Starting off, the officer does everything correctly. He finishes his initial assessment and begins to approach the vehicle to make contact with the driver.

As he makes visual and verbal contact, the driver reaches down between his legs to grab a handgun, fully intending to shoot the officer. The officer has just entered the OODA cycle in terms of this particular engagement. The suspect has already started cycling.

As the officer reads the body language then, moments later, actually sees the handgun coming into view (observation), he begins to orient to the situation. It is not something he regularly witnesses. During the orientation phase, he concludes that this is really a handgun, this threat is real and imminent, and he must decide what to do. As the threat is relatively close and the time frame is compressed, the subconscious immediately dominates the decision phase, and the officer is now on autopilot.

The officer is driven backwards by the pressure of the moment and rotates 90 degrees to his right and begins to run to get back to his vehicle. The vehicle represents everything that is friendly and safe. It embodies familiarity, cover, concealment,

communications and additional weapons.

The suspect, by attempting to engage the officer, has forced him to make a decision-action. The cop has turned and left the immediate vicinity, a subconscious decision that the suspect is now exploiting. The bad guy continues to move through the OODA cycle again, arriving at the top of the loop to observe.

The suspect now exits the vehicle and observes the police officer with his back turned, running away. Where is the officer in the OODA cycle? He is in the unseen third O- "Oh sh#@." He can no longer obtain any good visual information in relationship to the suspect. Only the grace of God can help him now.

How did he find himself in this situation with little prospect of successfully overcoming the circumstances? A virtually instantaneous subconscious decision compelled him to arrive here.

Could it have been avoided? Most certainly it could have. How? Through well-directed force-on-force training, training that would have allowed the officer to observe this situation before experiencing it on the street under extreme duress. These observation opportunities should be given progressively and repeatedly. This observation process starts creating a cache that ends up becoming a reference point from which to properly and efficiently orient. All the non-verbal cues, timings, biomechanical possibilities and constraints of the combatants are now identified, sorted, stored and are ready for retrieval by the powerful subconscious mind. New courses of action will be discovered and can be experimented with.

The subconscious now has new experiences from which to draw upon. This creates an improved matrix of actions, increasing probability of success in the future.

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multiple threats, while sorting critical information and dealing with the physiological and psychological factors associated with flight in combat?

To increase your chances of survival in this complex environment, you might construct a mock joystick at home and practice pushing the button really fast, over and over.

Operators love to show others how well they see the relationship of two pieces of metal and pull a lever. They will run downrange, carefully pull their target and hold it like a newborn. They will cherish it and show all interested and non-interested parties, including their neighbor's dog, their prowess at pulling a lever (pushing a red button). It's comical sometimes.

If you simply learn to properly release a tiny metal missile from your handheld or shoulder-fired missile launcher, then you are no more ready for combat than you were with your newly found piloting skills. It all leads up to the point of missile release, and that's what ultimately matters. Your observations, orientation and decisions are what allow a relatively minor action on your part to define the difference between success or failure, life or death.

Whether you are in an F-15 or controlling a firearm, once you push the button or pull the trigger, you are not going to make any difference on where that missile is going to strike. It will conform to its "programming" and the immutable laws of physics.

I have had the opportunity to work with quite a few shooters who have the action phase of their personal development honed razor-sharp. Their ability to shoot a handgun, shotgun and rifle at paper and steel is literally world-class, far outpacing anyone on our training staff if the only measuring stick is speed and accuracy on non-threatening targets. This is certainly not a negative, but can lead to a false sense of security and accomplishment.

When weapons are out and everybody is carrying lethal force at the push of a button, the proverbial wheels fall off the chariot until all phases of the OODA are understood, mastered and consistently applied.

A smoothly running OODA cycle translates to good situational awareness. Situational awareness is the ability to collect, collate and store data in a fluid, dynamic environment, accurately predicting future events based on that data. Predicting future events in a tactical environment is a potent asset to have in your personal arsenal.



The author is the director of the SureFire Institute, where force-on-force training is conducted in low-light environments. Classes cater primarily to law enforcement and military, but properly accredited civilians are also welcome. To contact the SureFire Institute for a schedule of classes, call (714) 545-9007.

GUNNY SACK

By Charles E. Petty

DAY 30X CONVERSION UNIT

Shooters have long been fascinated with the ability to convert one gun to shoot another caliber. Indeed, using the same frame and trigger for a whole match has a certain appeal for competitors.

Colt's Ace conversion unit was a fine plinker, but lacked the accuracy for serious target shooting.

Back in the '70s, retired Air Force pistolsmith Bob Day designed, built and marketed a conversion unit that he called the 30X. The name comes from the fact that a perfect score in the difficult National Match Course would be 300-30X. And his unit could do that if the shooter did his part. Sadly, pressure of other businesses led Day to discontinue production.

The good news is that the Day conversion unit is back. And better than ever.

Most parts are original, but a few changes are present. The new 30X accepts Colt Ace magazines, which are plentiful. The buyer has a choice of barrels and may have either a Douglas premium or a micro-groove style with either iron sights or a scope base.

Day cautions that variations in frames may cause difficulty with non-Colt 1911s. However, it can now be used on either Series 70 or 80 Colt frames and mine worked perfectly on a Kimber as well.

After a brief break-in period, the unit has functioned flawlessly with a good assortment of match and standard velocity ammo.




Since these really are target-grade units, high velocity ammo is not recommended. Ten-shot, 50-yard groups from the Ransom Rest averaged 2" with 10 different match and standard velocity loads. With the ammo it liked—Federal Ultra Match for this unit—that mark was cut almost in half. There was no difference in accuracy with either barrel option.

Since the conversion is not a firearm, it can be ordered directly. The price is \$300 postpaid for the unit with iron sight; with a scope base it's \$315.




For more information, contact Day Arms Co., 15464 FM471 W. No. 6, Dept AH, San Antonio, TX 78253; phone: (210) 520-4414.



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GUNNY SACK

By Charles E. Petty

PRO LOAD AMMUNITION

Pro Load ammunition is one of the best kept secrets in the ammunition industry. Compared to the biggies, Pro Load is a small outfit. That is their charm. And because of that, they turn out some *very* fine ammo. The ammo that comes from this small Idaho company makes no claims for warp speed velocities or dragon-slaying bullets— it's just good stuff.

Pro Load offers 30 handgun cartridges from .380 ACP up to .44 Magnum. None of them are "reloads" since Pro Load uses only new brass. Although made for them by Starline, most cases have the Pro Load headstamp. A few have the Starline stamp, but *all* of Pro Load's ammo is loaded in shiny, bright, nickel-plated cases.

While Pro Load has some bullets made specifically for them, most of their hollowpoints look very familiar. I don't think we're supposed to say this, but many have an appearance that looks strikingly like Speer Gold Dots. If that guess is accurate, it would contribute to the fact that the majority of their duty and defense loads shoot so accurately.

It isn't always easy to find Pro Load ammo, so if there isn't a



dealer nearby, you can buy direct from the factory. Quantity pricing is available and orders over \$50 are shipped prepaid. A complete list is available on their website.



For more information, contact Pro Load Ammunition, 5180 E. Seltice Way, Dept. AH, Post Falls, ID 83854; phone (800) 729-6978; website: www.proload.com

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GUNNY SACK

By Charles E. Petty


C&S MATCH TRIGGER SET

Even though “drop-in” trigger parts for the Government Model have been around for quite awhile, we’ve been reluctant to talk about them because some mechanically challenged people really shouldn’t be altering a gun’s trigger mechanism. We still feel caution is warranted, but we’re not quite as firmly opposed to drop-in triggers as before, thanks to a new kit from Cylinder & Slide that truly did just that—dropped in. The label said “4 lb. trigger,” and without changing anything, that’s what it was.

I actually did that some time ago and the gun has been shot regularly since. The trigger is still the same weight, but has become even smoother as the parts have worn-in together.

This job is not too hard if, and only if, you are able to detail-strip a 1911, and put it back together in a reasonable time. It could be a life and death issue if done wrong.

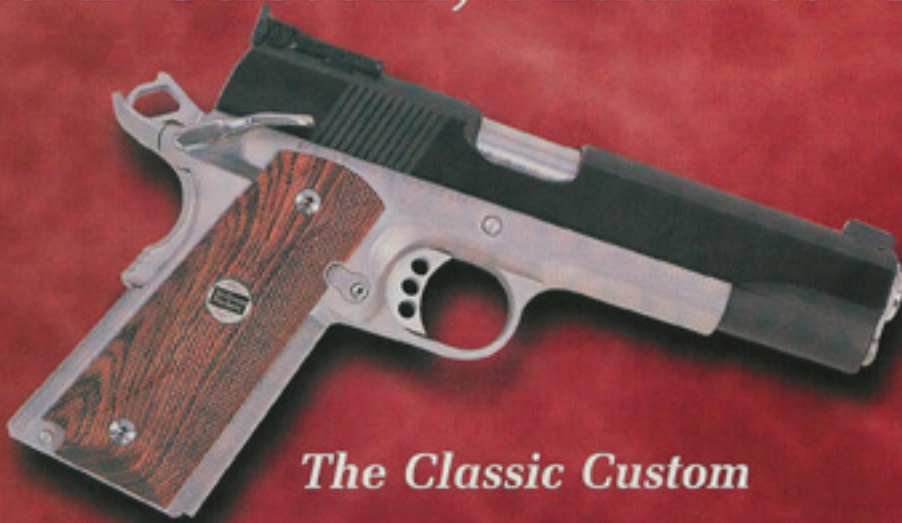
After all, we’re changing parts that immediately and directly influence the operation of the pistol’s safety systems. No parts in the kit should be modified. Files and stones should be looked upon as venomous snakes by those who haven’t been trained in precisely how and where to use them.

With the parts installed, the final act is to verify the operation of all the safeties. After all, we changed parts that directly influence the operation of the thumb and disconnecter safeties and, although rarely, the grip safety too. Fortunately, the instructions include how to do that. They also include warnings galore. So if you do this and even the tiniest thing doesn’t go right,  take your gun to a pro.

For more information, contact Cylinder & Slide Inc., P.O. Box 937, Dept. AH, Fremont, NE 68026; phone: (402) 721-4227, website: www.cylinder-slide.com



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GUNNY SACK

By Charles E. Petty

TETRA GUN RUST AND BLUE REMOVER

Recently, we received a sample of Tetra Gun Blue & Rust Remover. My initial response was that I hardly ever want to remove bluing. To the contrary, my collector heart wants a way to put the original stuff back. But a look around the shop showed a number of tools with spots, or a serious covering, of rust. You can see where we're going here.

The directions tell us to degrease the part and then swab on the solution and let it sit for a few minutes. Then use a piece of very fine steel wool to remove loosened rust, degrease again and apply a preservative. As an alternative, and maybe preferable, method— as long as it can be done without getting water inside something important— you can rinse with very hot water to remove the solution. Several rusty screwdrivers got the treatment, and then a couple of punches were allowed to sit in the bottle for a few minutes.

Since the main ingredient is phosphoric acid, due care must be used while working with the liquid. Phosphoric acid is not terribly aggressive compared to some other acids, but it will damage metal if left on too long.

The metal doesn't look brand-new when you're finished, but it's a good first step for small refinishing jobs. A light coat of rust on a screwdriver probably doesn't hurt anything, but this sure makes the screwdriver look better.



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SIXGUNNER

Continued from page 64

but that does not end the search. The stable always has a least one stall left.

Colts Are Tops

Colt SAAs and New Frontiers have always been among my favorite packin' pistols, but they do have their drawbacks. The first is handicapped with fixed sights—yes, I know some do not consider this a handicap— and both have breakable flat springs.

In my early days of sixgunning, I was frustrated with Colt SAAs that continually broke both hand and bolt springs. That, of course, was before such single-action tuning wizards as Eddie Janis, Bob Munden and Tom Sargis arrived on the scene.

The Colt New Frontier is one of the most beautiful sixguns to ever come from a factory. The New Frontier was offered in both Second Generation guise (in .38 Special, .357 Magnum, .44 Special and .45 Colt) as well as Third Generation form, with the same chamberings, minus .38 Special, plus .44-40.

The last New Frontier was made in the very early 1980s, and we will never see this great sixgun again unless there is a drastic—make that cataclysmic—change for the better at Colt.

The New Frontier comes very close to being a perfect packin' pistol when chosen in .44 Special or .45 Colt. With its heavy flat-top frame, the Frontier is a little stronger than an old Single Action Army. However, the Frontier is not an overly strong sixgun, and heavy loading of either the .45 Colt or .44 Special should be approached with caution and common sense.

Dreams Of Perfection

The truly perfect sixgun would have the beautiful look of the New Frontier, but could also be safely loaded with 260 gr. hardcast bullets at 1,300 fps and 300 gr. hardcast slugs at 1,100 to 1,200 fps.

We have reached that perfection! My latest sixgun worthy of the title of "perfect packin' pistol" is a highly customized Ruger .45 Blackhawk.

This sixgun is dubbed the Cougar by its creator, a combination of Colt and Ruger. I think it is a grand name, even though it was applied to some Ruger Speed Sixes and GP101s fitted with Python barrels a couple of decades ago.

What, then, does one do to a Blackhawk to turn it into a Cougar? First, several exterior parts are replaced. The original Ruger Flat-Tops from 1955 to 1963 came equipped with the XR3 grip frame identical in size and shape to the Colt SAA. However, all Ruger .45s, both Old Model three-screw patterns and New Models with transfer bar safeties, have the redesigned and "improved" grip

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frame known as the XR3-RED.

My Cougar is a 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ " .45 Blackhawk and, having been manufactured in 1972, is one of the last of the Old Models. The grip frame was replaced by an XR3 version; the cylinder pin, ejector tube, ejector rod and head were all replaced with Colt parts; the hammer was re-profiled to follow the contours of a Colt hammer and also checkered Colt-style.

Another Colt influence can be seen with the beveling of the leading edges of the cylinder. The original sights, both fore and aft, were discarded. The Cougar now wears an adjustable Bowen rear sight mated with an original front sight from a Colt New Frontier.

The action has been tuned to make this Ruger feel exactly like a Colt. That is no easy task.

I have seen some heart-stopping, mouth-watering stocks in my time.

The barrel has been set back and the cylinder gap set at .002", while the forcing cone has been cut at 11 degrees.

That takes care of all the mechanics, but it is the outside finish that really sets this special packin' pistol apart from all the others. The entire sixgun— except for the main frame and the hammer— have been deep blued, while the screws are bright, fire blue. As on all early Colts, the hammer and frame are beautifully case-colored.

Finally, we come to the grips. I have seen some heart-stopping, mouth-watering stocks in my time, but nothing that can surpass these. Of all things, they are made of buffalo bone. They are indescribably beautiful. They look somewhat like stag without the brown mottling, but they are full of marbled color— blue, gray, black, tan, ivory, white— you name it, it's there.

Good News, Bad News

The project is done, and the Cougar turned out beautifully, but it is a good news/bad news proposition. The bad news is that the master pistolsmith who did all the work is well-known for other specialties and does not want to do anymore of these. The good news is that several gunsmiths come to mind who could do the same type of work. Hamilton Bowen, David Clements, Milt Morrison and Jim Stroh are all well-qualified for such a project.

For everyday use, this packin' pistol will probably be fed a steady diet of 260 gr. cast bullets at an easy shootin' 900 to 1,000 fps while always having the ability to handle the heavier loads. It would seem that I have reached the apex of the "perfect packin' pistol" search with this sixgun. Will the search stop?

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GUNRIGHTS

Continued from page 32

exclude persons from his premises who carry weapons, his property rights entitle him to do so; and if you carry a gun onto his premises in violation of his rights, you are trespassing, and the government can punish you for violating his property rights.

Thus, when I argued that there are no exceptions to a right, I meant that the government may not impose a prior restraint, such as licensing or a permit system. Further, the government may not criminalize or otherwise infringe the keeping and bearing of an individual's arms that are included within the meaning of the right.

Making your violation of the rights of others a crime is not an infringement of the right.

The government certainly cannot infringe this right on grounds of public safety. I expect that some would argue that the right applies only to competent adults, not to children or the insane, the blind, the criminal. I will not argue that here. But if the arms you possess are stolen, or if you do anything with your arms to violate the rights of others, you may be punished, and punishing you or making your violation of the rights of others a crime is not an infringement of the right.

Nor is it an exception to the right, because your right is against the government only and is not a license to violate the rights of others.

The Felon Exclusion

Next, I received a letter arguing felons were properly excluded from the right to keep and bear arms, not because of public safety, but because they were felons. The gentleman cited a passage from Stephen Halbrook's book, *That Every Man Be Armed*, in which Halbrook argued that a decision excluding felons from the exercise of the right to keep and bear arms was correct because, in part, felons were excluded from participating in the militia in the first federal militia act.

If felons were excluded from participation in the militia, that fact is some evidence that our forefathers may have believed that the right to keep and bear arms did not extend to felons. It is not conclusive, however, for it judges the scope of the right by the scope of the militia (which I believe to be an error), and to date I have not learned of any

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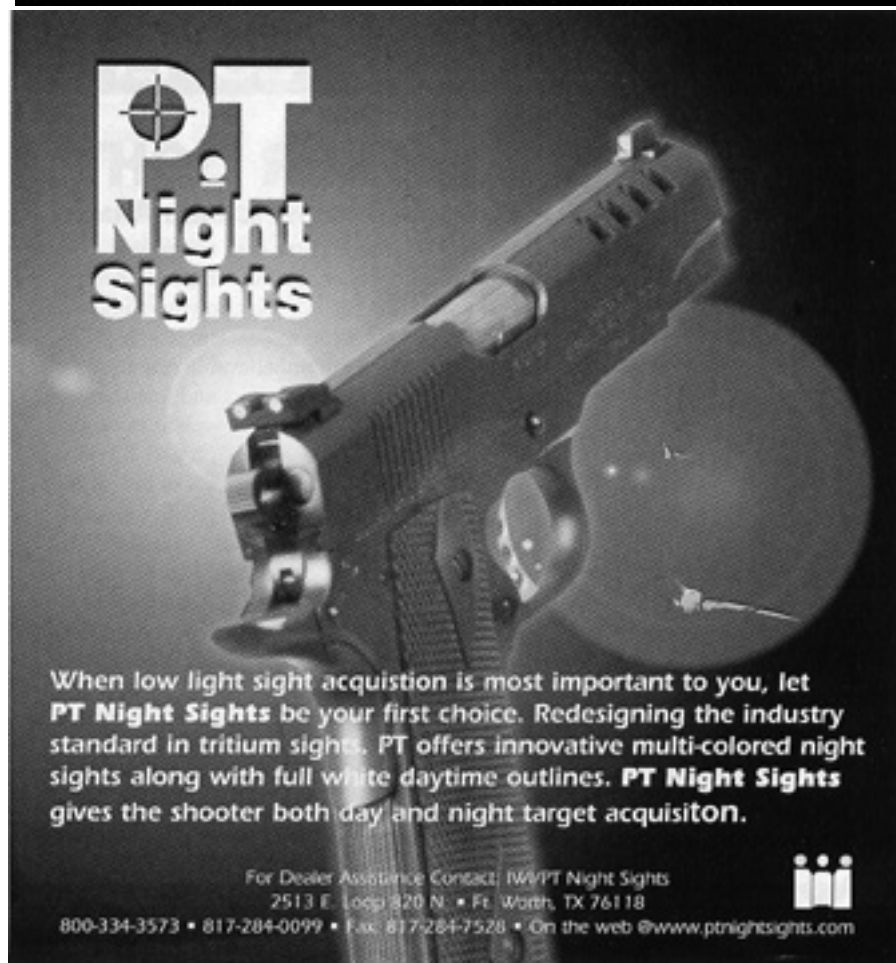


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colonial or English statutes that denied felons the right to keep and bear arms.

In fact, these laws seem to first appear only in the 20th century. How *did* our forefathers survive without this lifesaving protection from the government?

Be that as it may, the felon exception tends nowadays to be justified by reference to public safety, as it was in the New Hampshire Supreme Court opinion I described. My primary argument was that felons may not be excluded on this basis, because there is no public safety exception to the Second Amendment.


There can be no "felon" exception per se, as that term is used nowadays.

It is possible to argue that felons can be excluded because they are not one of "the people" referred to in the Second Amendment. This harkens back to the old sense of a felon as an "outcast" of society, which in turn relates to the historical fact that, in ancient times, persons who committed particularly egregious crimes were actually cast out of the community that protected them.

Thus, it would be consistent to argue that a person whose crime was so egregious as to warrant death or status as an outcast would lose his right to arms with which to defend himself. Society has either decided he should die or does not care if he lives.

This is a far cry from what a "felon" is now, however. Today, a felony is simply any crime punishable by more than one year in prison, and includes such "crimes" as failing to tell the government that you are carrying more than \$10,000 out of the country or carrying a large pocketknife into a post office. Thus, again, I conclude that there can be no "felon" exception per se, as that term is used nowadays.

I do not believe that every man who spends more than one year in prison deserves to lose the ability to defend his life and those of his loved ones, or ceases to be one of "the people"—not under the laws of *this* government. Nor am I willing to sacrifice these people so that I can appear "reasonable" to my enemies, or buy support for my right.

The "felon" exception is a Trojan horse for the public safety exception, and I will never open the gates to accept this "gift" from the government. 

Jeff Snyder is the author of Nation of Cowards—Essays on the Ethics of Gun Control, available from Accurate Press (1-800-374-4049). He can be reached at jsnyder@ekks.com.

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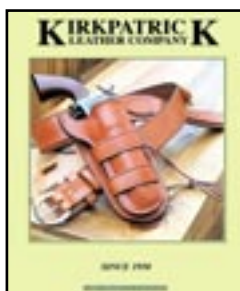
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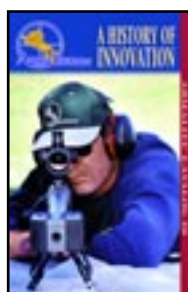
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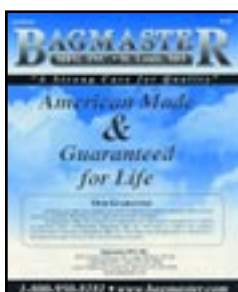
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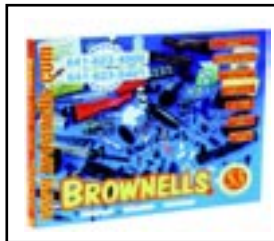


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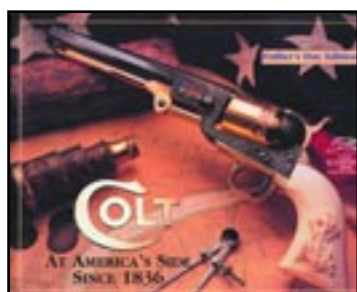
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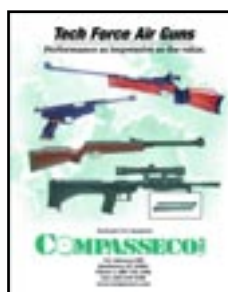
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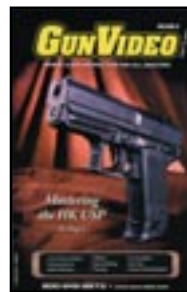
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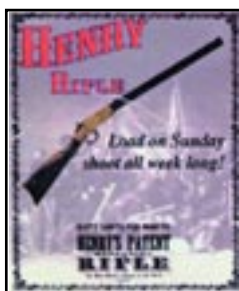
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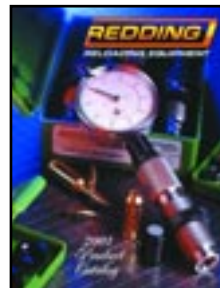
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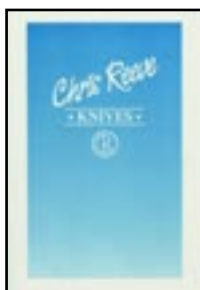


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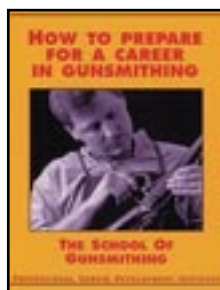
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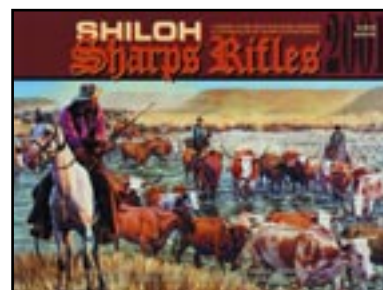
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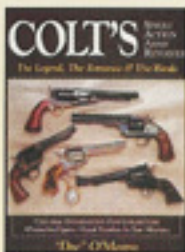
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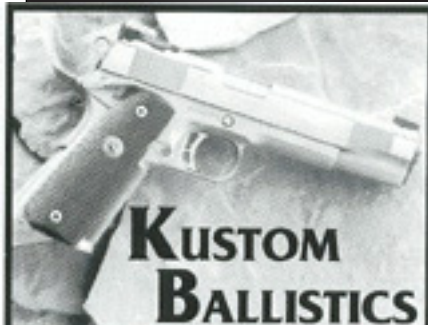
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NICS background checks run in 2000, down nearly 9% from 1999's 9.2 million

3

Former employees of AOL who are suing for wrongful dismissal over the Internet giant's policy of not allowing guns at work, even though the Utah residents had valid CCWs

62-39

Vote in the Michigan legislature for passage of the state's new CCW bill that will allow thousands of new armed citizens, all of whom will hopefully cancel their AOL accounts

85

Motion pictures in which the Desert Eagle pistol has been featured in the hands of leading men, from Austin Powers to Arnold Schwarzenegger

2

CCW permits in Hawaii prior to a newspaper's investigative report

1

CCWs in Hawaii after the report, when Honolulu's police chief's sister was deleted from the rolls

Continued from page 114

SPINNING THE SHOT SHOW



Photo By Russ Thurman

Despite dismal attendance by gun retailers and a pitiful amount of aisle traffic, the organizers of the shooting industry's biggest trade show boasted that the 2001 SHOT Show set new records. Omitting any mention of attendance, the spin doctors at the **National Shooting Sports Foundation** proclaimed there was a record amount of floor space booked by exhibitors. One reason for the nearly 50 percent decline in attendance—the show was held in New Orleans, the first city in the U.S. to sue the gun industry.

Ninety-nine out of 100 people in the gun business would like the SHOT Show

to take place in Las Vegas, where there are cheap air flights, inexpensive buffet meals, plentiful and convenient hotel rooms and, of course, no shortage of Elvis impersonators. The last time the event was in Las Vegas was 1999, when over 22,000 dealers flocked to the show. About 17,000 attended in 2000 when the event moved to Atlanta.

In New Orleans this year, attendance was less than 13,000. This represents a drop of nearly 50 percent from the last Vegas show.

The NSSF should count the chads—and the brads, mikes, henrys, jims and franks—and move the show back to Las Vegas. Permanently.

Miss Manners' Guide To Firearms Etiquette



Dropping a loaded firearm is not so much a gross violation of gun etiquette as it is an invitation to a lawsuit. These days, the bottomfeeders are looking for any excuse to sue a gun company. Despite the fact that the grip safety on a 1911 was originally added at the request of the Army to act as a self-activating "safety" in case the gun was dropped, there has been a hue and cry to make the 1911 "more safe" by adding a firing pin safety. **Colt** invented an inelegant solution with its Series 80 device that serves primarily to frustrate the achievement of a good trigger pull.

Kimber has entered the firing pin fray with a new "drop safety" that the New York-based manufacturer claims does not interfere with the trigger pull in any manner, yet precludes an accidental discharge from a dropped gun. Guns with the new safety will be indicated with a II in their name, i.e. Ultra Carry II. Look for new models to begin arriving on dealers' shelves this spring.

THAT'S BECAUSE BILL GATES IS A LEVER-ACTION MAN



Photo By Nyle Leafham

Microsoft Word, edition 98, has a built-in spelling dictionary that is remarkably complete. If you type in "Winchester," it accepts the word. If you type in "Remington," it cues you that the dictionary does not recognize it.

THE PHOTO PHILES

If things ever get really boring around the office, we read the mail. It is almost sure to contain some sort of pick-me-upper, like the letter from the mental patient in Kansas who wanted to know if we could send him a gun. Letters written in crayon are a personal favorite. Lately we have been receiving particularly good photographic amusement, both from you, our readers, and from company press releases. A sample:

Reader Karel Michalek from the Czech Republic sent us this photo of an unnamed friend-of-a-friend who wanted to test fire a rifle after a little "home gunsmithing." No range was available, and he didn't have any ear muffs. Well, there's always the old milk-bucket-in-the-cellar method. (We seem to recall Doug Koenig tried something similar at The Masters with a motorcycle helmet.) According to Michalek, all went well until the ricochet hit Mr. Buckethead in the knee.



No, this is not a PR photo from the video, Self-Immolation Made Easy. It's the amazing new Evac-U8 from Brookdale International of Vancouver, Canada. The idea here, we gather, is that you don't the Evac-U8 the next time you're in a hotel fire or stumbling from the wreckage of a burning jet.

INSIDER



The Springfield ILS is a "gun lock" that blocks the mainspring.

When Kimber raised the bar in quality standards for 1911s, the rest of the market was caught flat-footed. The new guns, designed in cooperation with former Steel Challenge champion Chip McCormick, were laden with features normally found only on custom pistols from the top 1911 pistolsmiths.

Kimber's guns were so feature-rich that Colt's then-head of marketing, Joe

1911 Wars

Cartabona, frankly admitted, "We can't compete with Kimber." Since then, Colt has virtually abandoned the 1911 market to Kimber. From 1996, when Kimber crawled out of bankruptcy and first started making 1911s, their annual production has jumped like a dot-com stock, from 4,000 that first year to an estimated 70,000 last year. In four years!

With Kimber's gauntlet down, **Springfield Armory** is stepping up to the plate in 2001 with a whole raft of upgrades to their signature "Loaded" line of 1911s. **Novak** fixed sights are now standard, many with tritium inserts. An add-on mag funnel, tactical ambi safety, a High Hand beavertail, hammer-forged match barrel and bushing, front strap checkering and an adjustable combat trigger are now standard on all TRP and Trophy Match models.

A "Carry Bevel Treatment" is another custom touch, plus there's a loaded chamber indicator and a dovetail front sight. The firing pin is now made of tita-

nium with a heavy duty Wolff spring. "Loaded" guns come with flat, checkered mainspring housings that incorporate the new ILS safety. The mag well is beveled to mate with the mag funnel.

Phew! If that list reads like something out of a custom gunsmith's catalog, it is. Springfield took the most popular custom modifications from their Custom Shop and incorporated them into production models.

The winner of 1911 wars is clear—you, the gun-buying public. Competition is a good thing.



TRP Operator with integral Picatinney rail and SureFire tac light.

Industry Insider

by Cameron Hopkins



The P-220 .45 now comes in stainless.



The legendary P-210 is back in production.

SIGnificant News

In a rather lackluster year for new handguns, the SHOT Show provided two attention-getters from SIG Arms. Our favorite is the new stainless version of the classic P-220. We have always been partial to the P-220, considering it the best double-action service auto out there. The new offering in stainless makes a good gun better. Sharp-eyed

readers will have noticed the new light-mount slots on the dust cover, a modification that is quickly becoming universal.

Retro is hot these days, and SIG may have thought the time was right to bring back the most accurate 9mm pistol ever in factory production—the legendary P-210. There is nothing “new and improved” in the re-introduced P-210, just pure SIG excellence.

Treehugger Logik

“Phasing out the human race will solve every problem on earth, social and environmental.”



Dave Forman, founder of Earth First!, member of the board of directors of the Sierra Club

ONE GUN TOO FEW

The fundamental reason why workplace killing sprees are allowed to progress unchecked is that there is only one gun present, that of the nutcase doing the shooting. Like the one-eyed man in the land of the blind, a lunatic with a gun in a land of unarmed people is king. Suzanne Gratia, survivor of the Luby's shooting in Texas several years ago, was the most articulate spokesperson for such thinking—that there was one gun too few in the cafeteria that dreadful day—but we continue to see rampages going unopposed in states like Massachusetts with strict gun control. Not so in Virginia.

A lawfully armed citizen utilized his concealed handgun to kill an armed robber during a liquor store holdup in South Hampton Roads, Va., recently. The shooting was ruled a justifiable homicide, but the family of the deceased robber, 18-year-old Neshion Claiborne, called it “cold-blooded murder.” The local newspaper, *The Virginian Pilot*, took an online poll of its readers over the shooting, and 92.7 percent said they supported the actions of the armed citizen.

Aaron Glassman, a 21-year-old Norfolk resident, was one of those surveyed. “As harsh as it may sound, in a situation like that, it’s kill or be killed,” said Glassman, who has a CCW. “That’s what it boils down to. I’m a law-abiding citizen, he’s a criminal. I reserve the right to win.”

Nationwide, violent crime has decreased, in some cases quite dramatically, after passage of “shall issue” CCW legislation. Michigan recently became the latest state to join what we like to call the “victim empowerment” movement.

Continued on page 112

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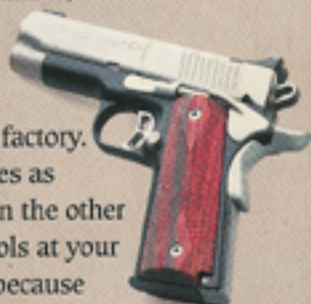
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The Pro CDP .45 ACP has a four-inch barrel and standard length grip. Weight is still just 28 ounces.

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