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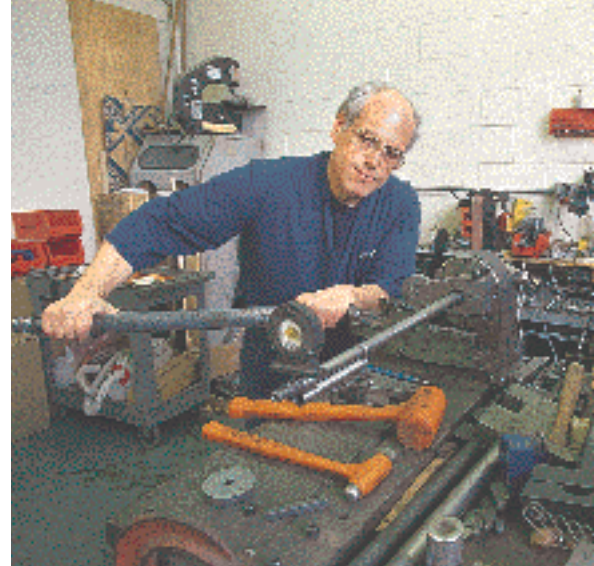
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★★★ America Remembers Presents ★★★

A 20th Century Salute to the Military The VFW 100th Anniversary Tribute



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As we look back at the 20th century, we must never forget the contributions and sacrifices of millions of Americans who proudly served our country in the past 100 years.

When duty called, Americans from all walks of life responded by serving in the trenches during WWI and in Europe and the Pacific during WWII. Others saw action in Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf, and continue to defend our proud nation in wide-ranging conflicts. Many paid the ultimate sacrifice for the principles that America stands for - freedom, liberty, and justice for all the citizens of the world.

Now, to honor the veterans of the 20th century, America Remembers in cooperation with the Veterans of Foreign Wars proudly presents the "VFW 20th Century Salute to the Military." Recently, the VFW celebrated 100 years of service to the Nation, and this issue also honors their efforts to serve all veterans.

For the Tribute, we agreed there was only one appropriate firearm - the classic military sidearm of the 20th century, the military .45 ACP pistol. Review the photographs, and you will agree that we have spared no effort in creating a lasting Tribute. Each Tribute is a working Colt .45 ACP caliber pistol, which has been blued and adorned with 24-karat gold artwork by craftsmen specifically commissioned for the Tribute by America Remembers and available nowhere else.

Certainly, no firearm has been so closely identified with the U.S. military as the Government Issue .45 caliber service pistol, the first choice in all the major campaigns of the 20th century. The .45 ACP was born for a combat role, and generations of American warriors have been united in their admiration for the pistol. Powerful and built to thrive under abuse, it was coveted by all whose issue weapon was a rifle or carbine.

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The "VFW 20th Century Salute to the Military" is individually numbered in a strictly limited edition of only 500 pistols. It will be a family keepsake to be treasured for generations, and a permanent reminder of the sacrifices made by so many Americans throughout the 20th century. We will ship your Tribute through a licensed dealer of your choice. If for any reason you are not completely satisfied, you may return it in original condition for a full refund.

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Top of slide features artwork symbolizing all branches of the Armed Forces, and the inscription, "VFW, 100 Years Service To The Nation And Its Veterans."



Right side features scenes from the conflicts of the second half of this century, including a helicopter dropping a team of American warriors into the jungles of Vietnam, along with a scene depicting Operation Desert Storm. The left side features military campaigns from WWI to Korea. Review the art and you will find a bomber, Navy Destroyer, a tank, machine gunner, and other military scenes, along with the VFW 100th Anniversary Emblem.



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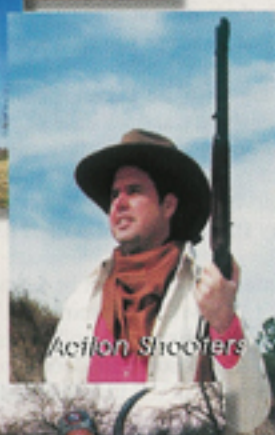
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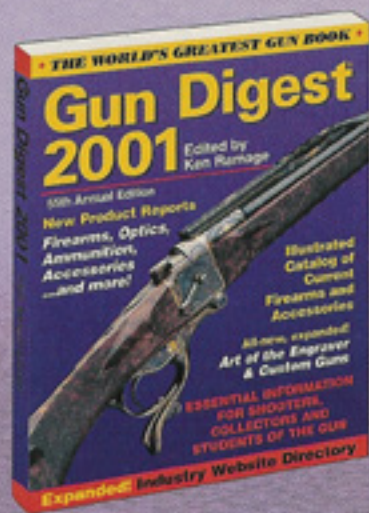
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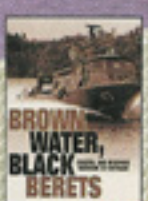
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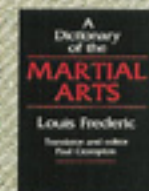
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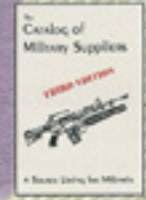
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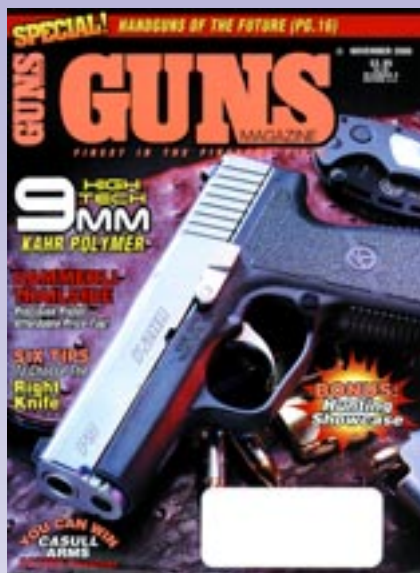
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LETTER OF THE MONTH



GUNS MAGAZINE NOVEMBER 2000

On The Cutting Edge

Thanks for a great article on some great knives. ("Hunting Knives," *GUNS*, Nov. '00) There are very few gun owners who don't appreciate the form and function of a good hunting knife, and your treatment of the subject was a real breath of fresh air compared to most of the un-helpful articles I've read in the other gun magazines that are little more than re-written company catalogs.

I also appreciated Ed Fowler's advice on how to pick a good hunting knife in the same article. Clearly Fowler has used his share of knives, and he had some very good tips to offer, all based on good old common sense — which we seem to be seeing less and less of in these times of marketing hype. I had never heard of his company, Willow Bow, before, but I'm sure going to do a bit of investigation into his knife-making work.

Thanks again and keep up the good work — for both guns and knives!

Jon A. Gwynn
Hartford, Conn.

Everyone's A Comedian

I don't know who is writing the captions for your photos, but it is refreshing to see a touch of humor for a change ("Hunting Downloads," *GUNS*, Oct. '00). I am sure you will receive a mess of flack from the narrow-minded who fail to see humor anywhere.

With regard to improving my intake of brass, I think brass is a copper/zinc alloy. Both minerals are good for the eyes and other parts of the body. When I feel I need a small charge, I will munch on a .38, a medium charge will be a .45 Colt and when I am really down, it will be a .45-70 — all of the above after tumbling, of course.

John Wetjen
coljohn@sum.net

No Waiting On Weekends

Here in West Palm Beach, Fla. there is a five-day waiting period. On August 26th, I bought a Ruger M-II 50th Anniversary Special. It turned out that weekends don't count as "days" (they always did when I went to school, but then that's the stupid politicians for you), so I had to wait two "days" then five days, then the next weekend to pick up the gun on September 4. But wait — That was Labor Day! So wait another day!

I wound up waiting 11 days to get my gun. I was infuriated at the stupidity of waiting periods. Background checks are OK — they do a little good, but waiting periods are a complete waste of time.

Gilbert R. Eggertson
West Palm Beach, Fla.

The Straight Story: Ruger's Pro Gun!

You recently ran a letter, which falsely stated that "Ruger advocated the import ban on assault weapons" and further described a non-existent "photo-op with Clinton and Ruger" ("S&W Down The Ruger Road," Oct. '00).

As you must know, Ruger has never advocated a ban on any firearm, foreign or domestic. In 1989, the entire point of the

magazine capacity restriction, jointly endorsed by all 13 members of the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers Institute, was to *prevent* such gun bans. Law-abiding shooters could continue to purchase and own all firearms of their choice, while addressing mass shootings in a logical and responsible way. The assault weapons bans were imposed *despite* this proposal, not because of it.

As for some alleged photograph, Clinton and Bill Ruger have never spoken, nor even been in the same room; thus, it would be impossible for any photographs to exist unless they are total fakes. Some other gun companies went to the Rose Garden to be photographed with President Clinton in 1998, but *no* Ruger employee, let alone Bill Ruger attended. We voluntarily began shipping our pistols in lockable boxes with padlocks years before President Clinton claimed this idea as his own at that ceremony.

Stephen L. Sanetti
Vice President, General Counsel
Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc.

Write To Your Senator, Not *GUNS*

This is for all the people who are "tired of reading about the 1911." Find a product that has had as great an impact, for as long, in just about any industry the way the 1911 has and I'm sure this fine publication will be more than willing to stop writing about the Browning-designed gun. However, since the industry is still churning them out by the thousands every year, and people are still buying them by the thousands every year, I suggest you get over it.

If you don't like these articles, skip over them. Nobody says you have to read them. I for one thoroughly enjoyed the August 2000 issue ("America's Fighting .45"). What we, as shooters, need to do is not write letters complaining about the number of articles about a particular gun we may not like and spend more time writing to our congressmen and senators about their need to not cave in to Slick Willie and his cronies. That would be time better spent.

Bill Carmickle
btruck@mail.usa.com

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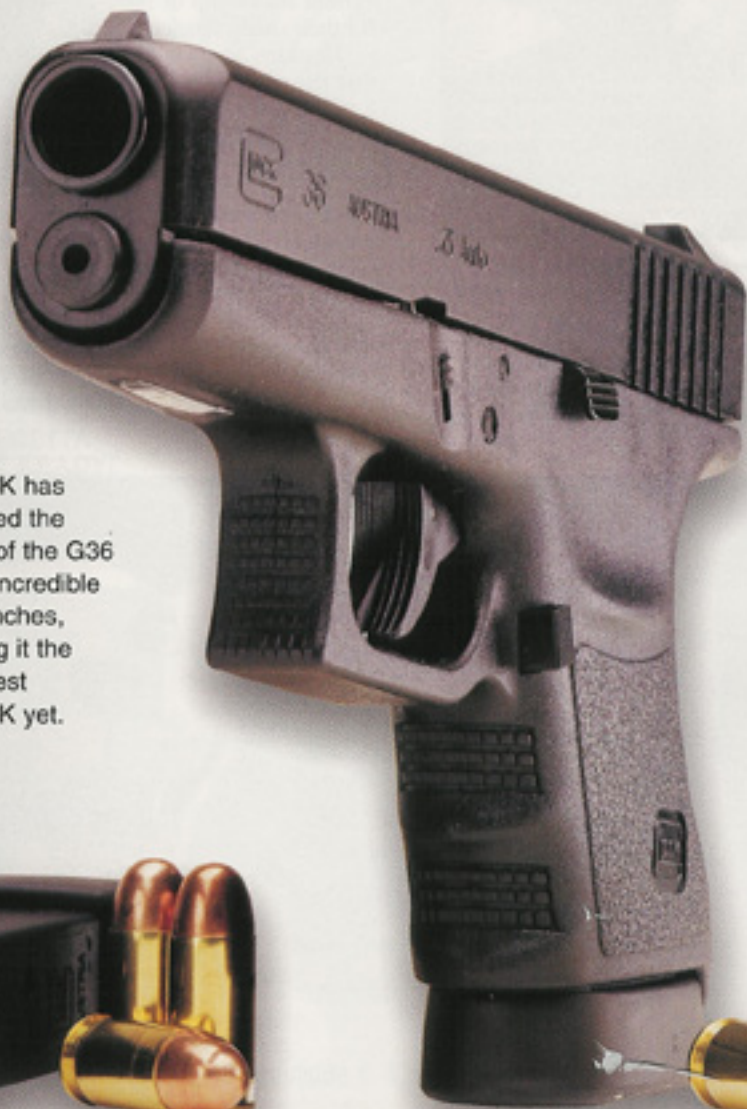
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The Rest Is Silence

I was very impressed with the stated performance of the OPS silencers, however, I was even more impressed with Phil Seberger who owns OPS ("Silencer 101," *GUNS*, July '00). It is always inspiring to hear of someone who is principled and as generous as Seberger (giving the Marines all the silencers they needed, regardless of their limited budget).

Cole P. Thompson
Ft. Collins, Colo.

Rocking The Rolling Block

John Taffin's article "Frontier Single Shot Rifles" (*GUNS*, Oct. '00) strays a bit from the mechanical facts about how the Remington Rolling Block rifle locks up.

When the hammer is cocked, the block that is part of the hammer rotates, or "rolls," out from under the breechblock, unlocking the breech. When a cartridge is inserted into the breech and the breechlock is rotated closed, the rifle is indeed ready to be fired, but the breech is still totally unlocked.

Only when the trigger is pulled and the hammer begins to fall, does the corresponding rolling block that is part of the hammer, slide under and then fully block and lock the

breech, long before the face of the hammer reaches the firing pin.

Jan Owen
janowen1@home.com

Kudos For Cylinder & Slide

I recently sent a Colt 1911-A1 to Cylinder & Slide to be refinished. This pistol had been plated by a nationally known company and the internal work they did left it thoroughly butchered and unreliable. I asked Bill Laughridge at Cylinder & Slide to check the pistol for safety and give it his master reblue and polish.

I got my pistol back a couple of days ago, and I was surprised to open the box and see a pistol so beautifully refinished that I can't take my eyes off it! The mirrored blue finish is incredible — now my 1991 Colt Government looks like a new, commercially produced Colt from 80 years ago. I highly recommend the work done at Cylinder & Slide.

Ed Turner
Waldport, Ore.

Gavin On The Web

Your Web site is very nice. I had read the last two issues and their letters in regard to Gavin de Becker but missed the article itself ("GUNS Interview: Gavin de Becker," July

'00). It was very easy to get to your site and find the interview.

I have just about finished de Becker's book, *The Gift Of Fear* and so it was interesting to read the interview. There are aspects of his views on firearms that make me uncomfortable, but there are some interesting things to be learned in the book as well.

Martin Orloski
Saint Albans, Maine

Necks & Shoulders

The "Crossfire" letter in your November issue regarding Charles Petty's September "Handloader" article ("Mr. Roberts," Nov. '00) further confuses the family tree of the 6mm Rem. Cartridge. First there was the 7mm Mauser cartridge, then the 7mm was necked down to create the .257 Roberts, then the .257 was necked down to 6mm (.244) and the shoulder angle changed from 20° 45' to 26° for the Rem. 6mm.

You can't neck down a .308 case to make a 6mm Rem. because the .308 case is only 2.015" long, whereas the 6mm Rem. is 2.233" long. The .243 Win. is a necked down .308 case; but since it has a longer shoulder, the overall length is 2.045".

Ernie Sample
Louisville, Ky.



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I SING THE LEATHER ECLECTIC

I was visiting an NYPD precinct some years ago when the night watch stood inspection. I noticed that no two officers were dressed exactly alike. They had the choice of at least two caps, three coats and an assortment of belt gear. Under these parameters, each assembled what worked best for them.

I sympathize. While cops often wear duty leather all made by the same firm, the company who makes your favorite holster may not make your favorite magazine pouch or your preferred handcuff carrier. I don't think any two components of my duty gear come from the same maker, but they all work just as I need them to.

The belt itself is "buckleless," from Tony Kanaley at Milt Sparks. It is orthopedically cut, and the most comfortable leather Sam Browne I've ever worn. Clockwise from the front, it mounts a horizontal double mag pouch by Ted Blocker and an issue Safariland SS-III, which I consider the best security holster ever made for uniform wear. My cuff case is by Bianchi, open top and super fast, yet amply secure.

Cushioning the back of the belt is a "leather look" Mirage carrier from Uncle Mike's for the required protective gloves. The carrier for my 9P flashlight comes from SureFire and the belt ring for my PR-24 baton comes from Monadnock.

Behind my left hip, where I reach for spare ammo in plainclothes, is a plastic magazine carrier by Snick. The only thing not always attached to the rig is the carrier for the portable radio, furnished by Motorola for their radios. The snap-on carriers are parked near the radios themselves, which lie in charging consoles in the squadroom.

No one has yet told me, "it doesn't match," because it all looks like plain black leather. If I had to wear "patent leather"



No two items on the author's uniform belt are made by the same company, but each performs its task satisfactorily.

such as Corfam, components made by different makers could be more noticeable.

Black basketweave? It's amazing how many people don't notice the difference between one leather crafter's basket pattern and another's. Brown duty leather requires that all components come from the same manufacturer. If it's to match, it needs to be vat-dyed exactly the same way.

Cops like to look good. This is why when they switch to fabric duty rigs, they generally buy everything from the same company. Fabric is a lot easier to mismatch in both color and texture when each piece comes from a different factory.

UNDER THE ARM IT'S ALL THE SAME

There's one kind of gunleather set where you do want every piece to come from the same maker: the shoulder rig. When Rick Gallagher called his company Jackass Leather instead of Galco, he created the true shoulder rig: a shoulder holster with accessories such as ammo pouches or cuff cases attached.

I've tried mixing and matching the ammo carriers from rig A with the harness and holster from rig B, or a Brand X holster on a Brand Y harness. Seldom have the results been satisfactory, and often they didn't work at all.

The designer of the rig knows what balances what, and how an accessory pouch and its attachment have to be cut to suspend properly from the shoulder harness. One designer's concepts will seldom mesh perfectly with those of another.

Gallagher called his concept the "shoulder system," and he was absolutely right. The system's components work symbiotically with one another.



Unlike most other leather gear, shoulder holsters like this Galco rig cannot be integrated with other manufacturer's accessories.

MATCHING WHAT CAN'T BE SEEN

Why worry about the concealment leather matching? We carry it *concealed*, right? Still, many serious shooters just like everything to match. There's also the matter of the plainclothes officer, whose belt gear is not concealed inside the walls of the police station. Detectives like to look sharp, too.

There's a more practical reason to want your dress gunbelt to come from the same maker as your concealment holster: It's more likely to fit snugly. This reduces "printing," enhances comfort and prevents a sloppy draw. You can, of course, get good results with, say, a 1.5" Greg Kramer belt and a Milt Sparks holster with 1.5" slots, or vice versa.

Some of it, though, is just pride of ownership. I have to admit that my Mitch Rosen dress gunbelt is what I'm most likely to slide my Mitch Rosen ARG holster onto, and that my Milt Sparks Executive Companion holster is usually affixed to a mated Milt Sparks narrow dress belt.



Bianchi B-27 holster, Safariland speedloader pouch and S&W brand Border Patrol style belt combine to create a workable, if mismatched, duty belt.



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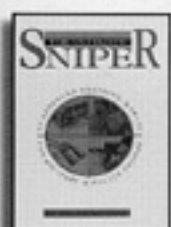
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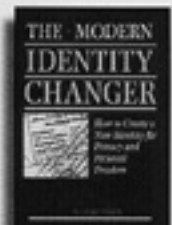
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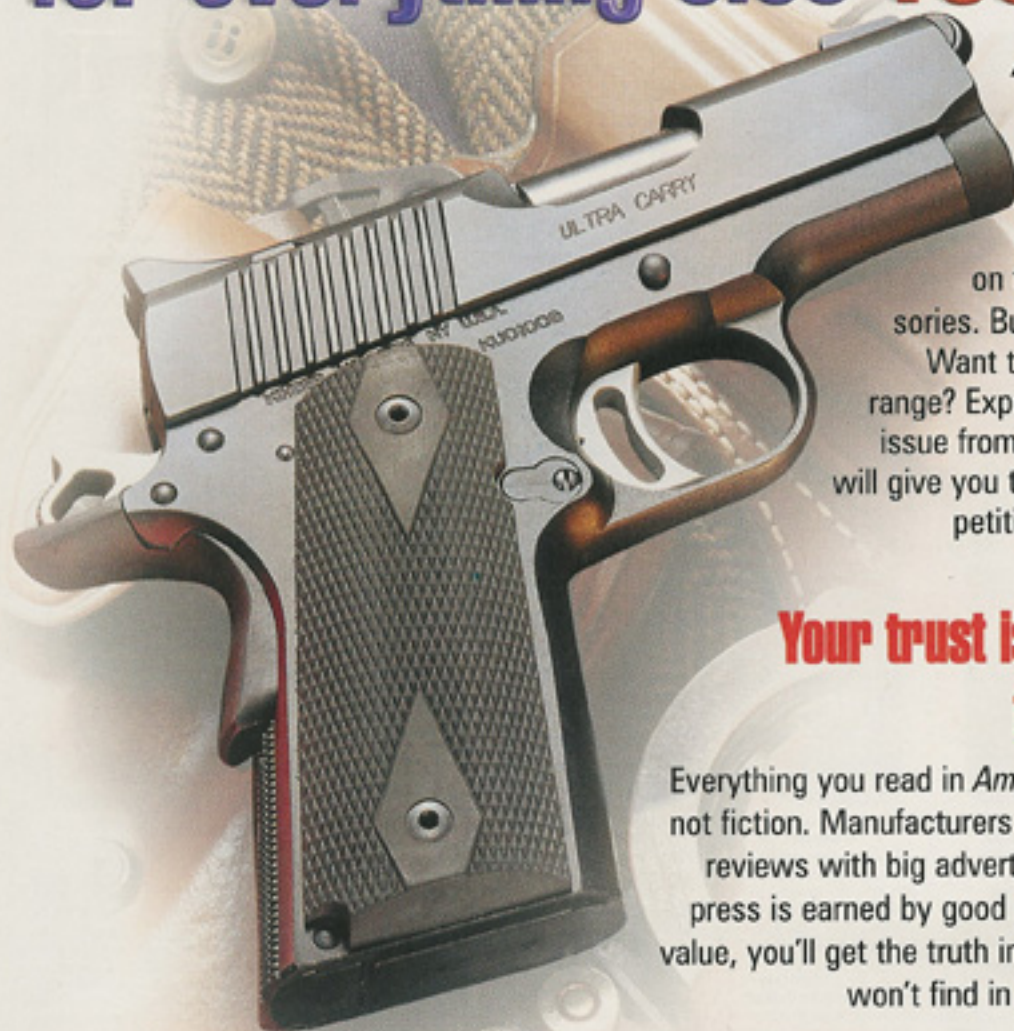
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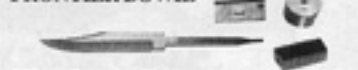
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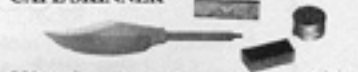
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HANDLOADING THE .444 MARLIN

BY JOHN TAFFIN

With the right components and data, this 37-year-old cartridge becomes one of the most versatile levergun rounds available today.

Rarely is there a cartridge able to overcome wrong configurations by both the rifle and ammunition manufacturer and manage to survive, and the fact that the .444 Marlin still exists is a grand testimonial to its excellence. The .444 Marlin is about as useful a close-range, hard-hittin', easy-handlin' levergun and cartridge combination as a man could possibly conceive for anything short of the big bears and Africa's toughest. With a heavy, tough jacketed bullet in a short lightweight levergun, it is near perfection.

Introduced in 1964, the original .444 Marlin rifle was a 24" barreled levergun with a two-thirds magazine, a straight-gripped stock and a Monte Carlo cheek piece. The cartridge was a glorified .44 magnum loading with the same 240 gr. bullet that the sixgun round utilized. The rifle was wrong and so was the ammunition.

A 24" barrel belongs on a long-range rifle, while the bullet loaded was not good for anything much larger than deer. Remington gave us a glimmer of hope with the use of

Left to right: More powerful than the .44 Mag., but not as hard on the shooter as the .45-70, the .444 Marlin is one of the most versatile levergun cartridges around. Ever dream of sending a 275 gr. or 300 gr. bullet downrange at 1,900 fps or more? Heavy bullets like, from left, the Hornady 265, Barnes 275, Freedom Arms 300, Sierra 300 or Speer 300, work very well in the .444 Marlin. One of the drawbacks of the .444 Marlin is its relatively short OAL. This 320 gr. bullet has to be seated very deeply to fit through the short levergun action.



CUSTOM LOADS FOR THE .444 MARLIN

LOAD

VELOCITY*

JACKETED BULLETS

Barnes 275 gr. JFP/48.0 grs. H322	1,956 fps
Barnes 275 gr. JFP/46.0 grs. RE-7	2,081 fps
Barnes 300 gr. JFP/45.0 grs. RE-7	2,030 fps
Freedom Arms 300 gr./48.0 grs. H322	2,006 fps
Hornady 265 gr. JFP/50.8 grs. H322	2,000 fps
Hornady 265 gr. JFP/51.3 grs. H4895	2,046 fps
Hornady 265 gr. JFP/47.0 grs. RE-7	2,067 fps
Hornady 300 gr. XTP/51.3 grs. H4895	1,927 fps
Hornady 300 gr. XTP/48.0 grs. H322	2,075 fps
Sierra 300 gr. JFP/51.3 grs. H4895	1,894 fps
Sierra 300 gr. JFP/48.0 grs. H322	2,006 fps
Speer 300 gr. JFP/48.0 grs. H322	2,036 fps
Speer 300 gr. JFP/51.3 grs. H4895	1,923 fps
Speer 300 gr. JFP/49.6 grs. H4895	1,728 fps

CAST BULLETS

BRP 295 gr. GC/51.3 grs. H4895	1,900 fps
BRP 295 gr. GC/49.3 grs. H4895	1,831 fps
BRP 295 gr. GC/46.0 grs. RE-7	2,142 fps
Cast Performance 320 gr./45.0 grs. RE-7	2,065 fps
RCBS #44-300 gr. SWC GC/49.3 grs. H4895	1,831 fps
SSK 310 gr. FP/51.3 grs. H4895	1,906 fps

*All velocity results are chronographed from an 18 1/2" barrel.

a tougher 265 gr. bullet, but it was only recently that Marlin, with its Outfitter, brought forth an 18 1/2" barreled, easier-handling up-close levergun.

The 265 gr. Remington load is gone, but several heavier bullet loads from Buffalo Bore and Cor-Bon have replaced it. The latter has both a 280 and 305 gr. load, while Buffalo Bore offers ammunition loaded with 270, 300 and 325 gr. bullets. All of these loads are designed for tough use on tough critters.

Marlin's Distinctive Cartridge

The .444 Marlin, at a length of 2.225", is not an elongated .44 Mag. as some may think. It is a slightly tapered case going from .470" at the base to .453" at the case mouth, while the 1.285" long .44 Mag. is a straight case of .456" diameter.

In addition to the Outfitter, Marlin still offers their basic levergun though it now features a 22" instead of a 24" barrel. Even Winchester has now climbed on the .444 bandwagon with both an 18" Timber Carbine on the Big Bore platform and a 20" Black Shadow Big Bore with a black synthetic stock.

The straight-walled .444 Marlin case requires a three-die set for reloading. The case is tapered enough that carbide dies are not available for its reloading. We have been well served by RCBS .444 Marlin dies for two decades. This three-die set consists of a full-length re-sizing die with built-in de-capper, an expander die and a seating/crimping die.

Everything utilized to load the .444 Marlin is available in RCBS green. The primers are seated with the RCBS hand-priming tool, powder is dropped from an RCBS Uniflow powder measure which is set with the RCBS Electronic scale.

The Uniflow Powder Measure does not see a lot of variation when it comes to powders and the .444 Marlin. In fact, our reloading chores are handled quite well with only three powders: H322 and H4895 from Hodgdon's and Alliant's Reloader 7. It is almost a certainty that these powders are

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.444 MARLIN continued from page <None>

ignited with CCI's #200 large Rifle Primer.

The .444 Today — Alive And Well

Unlike the mid-'60s when the .444 Marlin was introduced, we now have excellent .44 bullet choices in both heavyweight cast and jacketed style. The 300 gr. bullets designed for the .44 Mag., that work so well in sixguns, are even better in the .444 Marlin, but there are tradeoffs. When reloading for the .444 Marlin, overall length must be closely watched and most bullets will need to be seated deep and crimped over the shoulder in the case of cast bullets.

Bullets designed for sixgun use in such long-cylindereed .44 Mags. as Ruger's Redhawk and Super Redhawk normally protrude too far from the .444 Marlin case to work through the action when crimped in the crimping groove. We always make up a dummy cartridge first to check all loads for positive feeding through the Marlin action. Even jacketed bullets may be too long if the crimping groove is used.

Also, the older .444 rifles will accept rounds that newer guns will not. The problem is not in feeding or overall length, but that the wider bullets will not allow the cartridge to make the turn as it is inserted into the loading gate. Check all rounds with dummy cartridges worked through the loading gate and action before loading up several boxes.

More Than Just A .44

We did not approach the .444 Marlin with the idea of somehow coming up with a ".44 Mag. Swift." Trying to see how fast we could drive a 240 gr. .44 Mag. bullet did not even enter the picture. Instead we wanted the .444 to do with heavyweight bullets what the .44 Mag. could do with standard weight .44 bullets — perhaps even a little more. To this end, we do not recall ever loading any bullets less than 265 grs. in the .444 Marlin.

The first .444 Marlin ammunition from Remington used the same 240 gr. bullet as the .44 Mag., and the .444 really only came even remotely close to big-game rifle cartridge performance with the introduction of Hornady's 265 gr. jacketed flat-nosed bullet.

For our purposes, reloading the .444 Marlin starts with the Hornady 265 gr. JFP and ends with Cast Performance Bullet Company's 320 gr. hard cast LBT flat-nosed gas check. The latter is chosen as the ultimate heavyweight bullet simply due to the fact that even it must be seated so deep as to allow it to enter the loading gate and work through the action. A bullet of any greater length would simply not be practical. In between these two bullet selections are several options, both cast and jacketed in weight ranges from 275 to 310 grs.

Handloading heavyweight bullets for the .444 Marlin was simply a process of trial and error, backed up by a whole lot of experience. Things are much less complicated now

with heavyweight factory loads from Buffalo Bore and Cor-Bon. Not only are these excellent loads for the non-reloader who is looking for a tough big-game bullet, they also give us guidelines for our own reloading ventures. While we have no way of reading pressures, Cor-Bon and Buffalo Bore do. It is best to stay at or below their muzzle velocities with identical bullet weights.

Here are those parameters with all loads clocked in an 18½" custom .444 over Oehler's Model 35P sky screens. From Buffalo Bore, the 270 gr. JFN does 2,210 fps; the 300 gr. JFN, 2,095 fps; and the 325 gr. LBT LFN hard cast, 2,009 fps. With Cor-Bon's two loadings, we find the 280 gr. Bonded Core at 2,248 fps and the 305 gr. JFP at 2,070 fps.

For most of us whose big game hunting is restricted to whitetail deer and maybe, if we are fortunate, a chance at a black bear, the 265 Hornady remains a fine choice. It gives superb long-range accuracy in .44 Mag. sixguns; we used it for years for long-range silhouetting, as well as for hunting big game.

In The Footsteps Of The Magnum

When it comes to cast bullets, we once again use the same bullets that have been so successful in .44 Mag. sixguns. Both the BRP 295 gr. gas-checked semi-wadcutter and RCBS' 300 gr. versions of the same bullet are traditional Keith designs with flat points and wide front driving bands. They are not recognizable as such when loaded in the .444 Marlin, as they must be crimped over the front shoulder to allow feeding.

For top accuracy, these bullets, as well as the jacketed counterparts, should be driven to a minimum velocity of 1,900 fps in the original 24" barrel. A 300 gr. bullet at 1,900 fps or more and the .444 Marlin, even with MicroGroove rifling, will perform. One can only dream of what could be done with these in a longer action.

The slightly heavier bullets from the old SSK #310.430 mold and Cast Performance Bullet Co.'s 320 gr. LBT gas check are both flat nosed for maximum energy transfer when they hit. These are probably the best choice in cast bullets for using the .444 Marlin on really big, tough critters. They break big bones and penetrate heavy muscles.

The .444 Marlin fills an important shooting niche. It does with a 300 gr. bullet what the .45-70 accomplishes with a 400 gr. bullet. Accompanying recoil is, of course, significantly less. Hornady, Sierra and Speer all now offer 300 gr. bullets suitable for use in the .444 Marlin. Accuracy with them is superb.

If our levergun were to be used only for small deer and small hogs, we would go with the .44 Magnum. If the menu included the larger bears and possibly Africa, our choice would certainly be the .45-70. But for a levergun that can nearly do it all, the .444 Marlin, properly loaded, remains an excellent choice.



FAST FLYIN' COYOTE WILDCATS

Coyote hunters who insist on velocities over 4,000 fps experiment with various wildcats. The .22-250 Improved is an inexpensive conversion, and has the advantage of still being compatible with factory ammunition. Others neck down the .243 Win. case.

Around the mid-1980s, the .22 CHeetah, designed by Jim Carmichel and Fred Huntington, was getting a lot of publicity. Based on the Remington .308 BR (using small rifle primers), the CHeetah is both fast and accurate.

A good friend has a .22 CHeetah, the sharp-shouldered Mark 1 version. He notes that with some primer/powder combinations, ignition has proven erratic in cold weather. For cold-weather hunting my buddy makes his CHeetah cases from .243 Win. brass. He says the rather laborious procedure is worth it for the superior ignition provided by large rifle primers. Accuracy is reduced a bit, but his McMillan-barrelled custom rifle still shoots into 3/4" or less.

The factory and wildcat 6mms such as the .243 Win., 6mm Rem., .240 Wthby., 6mm-'06 and 6mm-.284 certainly have the power and performance. Of course, the best reason for choosing these cartridges is the availability of a rifle loaded in one of these calibers. If so, load 70 to 80 gr. bullets of varmint construction, but expect more hide damage. The same can be said for the various .25s. All in all it's hard to beat the standard .22-250.



COYOTE RIFLES

Coyote numbers are up dramatically in many areas, to the point where they are having an impact on other species. By some estimates, predators, mainly coyotes, are taking up to 90 percent of newborn antelope. That seems high, but there's no doubt they are highly efficient hunters.

If you want to help keep their numbers in check, do some good for both game species and the coyotes themselves, and find out how good you are with a rifle, give coyote hunting a try. Success requires the ability to hit moving targets at long range, to improvise field-shooting positions, and to shoot fast and accurately. Though fur prices are nothing like they were 20 years ago, there's still a market for good pelts.

We've shot quite a few coyotes over the years. Calibers used on these hunts have ranged from .222 Rem. to .284 Win. If you aren't concerned about recoil or pelt damage, most any caliber will do provided it shoots accurately and flat enough to stay on a 6" target out to 250 yards.

Hunters looking to collect the pelts almost invariably choose high-speed .22s for their flat trajectory and resistance to wind drift. The best way to avoid pelt damage is to keep the bullet from exiting.

The way to achieve that is to use 50 to 55 gr. SP .224 bullets wound up as fast as they'll go. The cartridges that best fit the bill are the .22-250 Rem. and .220 Swift. Depending on barrel length, with 55 gr. bullets the .22-250 will achieve velocities of around 3,700 fps; the Swift about 150 fps more.

The Remington 700 .22 CHeetah with Leupold 3.5-10X scope is ideal for hunting coyotes.

WILE E. VARMINT GUN

Coyote hunting can involve considerable walking, often while carrying a variety of equipment. Although many hunters like the stability of heavy barrel varmint rifles, for this type of hunting, they can be burdensome.

On the other hand, lightweight rifles can be hard to hold steady for long or

running shots. A plain old "sporter weight" rifle is ideal. Most major manufacturers offer such rifles in .22-250, though in .220 Swift the only sporter weight rifle available is the Ruger 77.

Bolt action rifles are most popular, since they generally offer accuracy and reliability at a reasonable price. For coyote

hunting there's something to be said for other action types. An overlooked choice is the Browning BAR semi-auto in .22-250.

The BAR has a fine reputation for accuracy, especially when equipped with the BOSS option. Even if you don't expect to run into massed hordes of coyotes, a fast second shot can be an advantage on running targets. Unlikely as it seems — it's even possible to miss a standing coyote.

A scope in the range of 3.5-10x, 4-12x or 4.5-14x is hard to beat. Even a 6.5-20x isn't out of place if you don't mind a little extra bulk. Quality optics are very important when hunting coyotes in the dim light of early morning or late evening.



Five cartridges above .22 caliber suitable for hunting coyotes are from left: .243 Winchester, 6mm Remington, .250 Savage, .257 Roberts and .25-'06 Remington.



Top to bottom: Remington's first O/U for the new millennium, the Model 300 Ideal, is weighted slightly toward the muzzle for excellent swing-through. The racy profile of the Beretta AL391 indicates that this gun is a smooth performer on sporting clays as well as upland game. With a retail price of just \$299, the slim, well-balanced Charles Daly Field Hunter is a considerable bargain.





MODERN SHOTGUN TRIO

By Holt Bodinson

These three new firearms from Beretta, Charles Daly and Remington represent a new breed of sporting shotguns.

or all its hype, one of the nicer aspects of the millennium is the appearance of some interesting new shotguns. Three field-grade guns have recently been unveiled that vary widely in design and cost — the Beretta Urika 391, the Charles Daly Field Hunter and the Remington 300. Here are our impressions based on use during the year on sporting clays courses and during the early dove season.

Beretta AL391 Urika U

Italians have a national, natural flare for superlative design. It came as no surprise then that in reshaping their existing Model 390 semi-auto, Beretta turned to the internationally acclaimed design studio, Giugiaro Design. Considering some of the clunkers still apparent in the firearms field, this was a great idea. In fact, Giugiaro recently worked with Beretta on the design of their new 9000S pistol series so we can look forward to seeing a lot more of Giugiaro's tasteful touches.

The first evidence of this elegant and thoughtful design is the permanent polymer hard case that accompanies the AL391. This case houses every part of the gun and every accessory, including a complete set of five Mobilchokes, a choke wrench, gas valve disassembly tool, stock drop and cast spacers and shims, sling swivels, grip cap, alternative thickness rubber recoil pad and Beretta gun oil.

The new AL391 is furnished in 12 or 20 gauge in an extensive variety of field and target models and stock options. Our gun is a wood-stocked, field-grade 12 gauge with a 26" chrome-lined barrel.

The AL391 has been slimmed down perceptibly in the forearm, receiver, trigger guard and pistol grip areas. It looks and feels trim. At an average weight of 7 lbs., it has shed about 1/2 lb. when compared to the 390.

Appreciable attention has been paid to the elimination of recoil and vibration in the 391. The self-regulating gas system that is permanently attached to each 391 barrel adjusts automatically from the lightest 2¼" target loads to the heaviest 3" hunting loads.

The system is self-cleaning and Beretta recommends a thorough cleaning only after 3,000 to 5,000 rounds have gone downrange. Gunsmiths also agree that the Beretta gas system is remarkably trouble-free. To moderate vibration

continued on page 26

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SHOTGUN TRIO

continued from page 25

created during extraction and loading cycles, Beretta has added a buffer behind the bolt and a compensating system in the magazine cap.

From a recoil standpoint, the 7 lb. AL391 is very comfortable to shoot with target loads, but not uniquely so when firing 3" magnum loads as compared to a Browning Gold, Remington 11-87 or Winchester SuperX2. A 7 lb. 3" magnum is still a light gun.

Overall, Beretta and Giugiaro Design have done an outstanding job of remodeling and refining a great basic design. The AL391, a delight to shoot at the range and to carry in the field, is currently priced around \$960.

"Appreciable attention has been paid to the elimination of recoil and vibration in the 391. The system is self-cleaning and Beretta recommends a thorough cleaning only after 3,000 to 5,000 rounds have gone downrange."

Charles Daly Field Hunter

The name Charles Daly has been associated with fine, imported shotguns for over a century. Ranging from the famous Prussian, a Diamond Grade SxS that retailed for \$145 in 1894 to their stunning Diamond grade O/Us and SxSs of today, Daly hasn't fielded a semi-automatic since the Breda-made Novamatic that was imported under their name 30 years ago. That's why we are excited about the latest Daly 12 gauge, field-grade, semi-automatic made in Turkey.

The Daly Field Hunter is a no-nonsense, fully equipped, hunting gun. It's a remarkable value considering that it's currently retailing for approximately \$299. The Field Hunter incorporates a 3" chamber and is offered with a 22" sighted slug barrel and 24", 26", 28" and 30" shot barrels — the latter featuring ventilated ribs and removable chokes.

Each shotgun is supplied with a selection of three choke tubes and tube wrench, sling swivels, magazine plug, trigger lock and a clearly-written, well-illustrated owner's manual. The Field Hunter carries a one-year warranty. In other words, the Field Hunter is a complete package.

The lines of the black synthetic forearm and stock of the Field Hunter are slim and refined with just enough molded-in "checking" to give you full control. Our Field Hunter was furnished with a 28" barrel, giving the Daly a pleasant, neutral balance and a weight of 7½ lbs.

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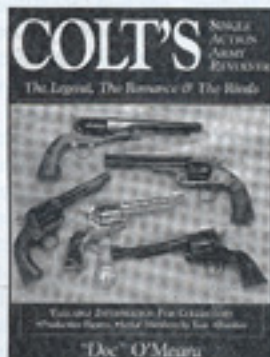
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Attention Handgun Enthusiasts



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By Doc O'Meara

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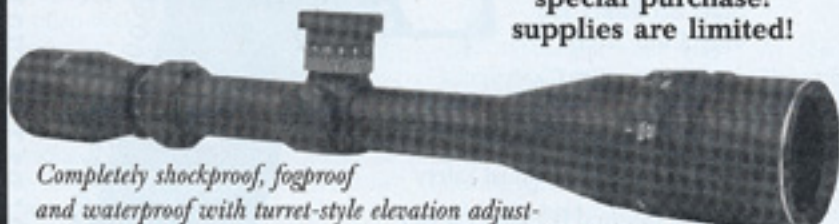
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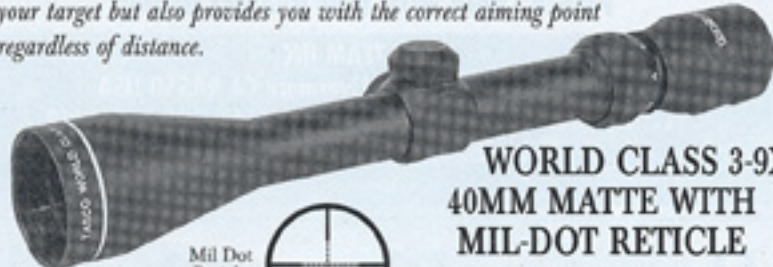


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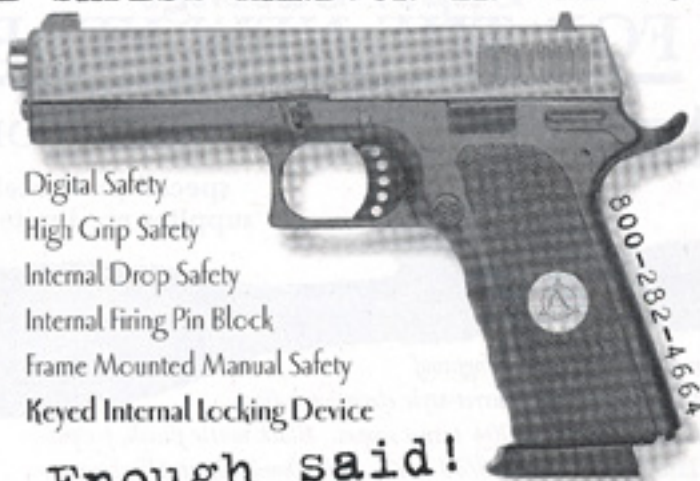
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According to the Brownell's pull and drop gauge, the length-of-pull was 14 1/4", drop at the comb, 1 1/8" and at the heel, 2 1/2". The slim forearm and open pistol grip enhance the Daly's pointability on the sporting clays course. Recoil is very manageable.

The overall black tone of the Daly is a blend of the polymer stocks, anodized aluminum receiver and matte finished barrel. In short, it's a totally non-reflective field gun, although factory applied Realtree and Advantage camouflage patterns are also offered for approximately \$75 more.

The gas system is self-adjusting, utterly simple, reliable and easy to clean and maintain. Reflecting very modern engineering, the system's moving parts are composed of lightweight materials that minimize the mass and vibration of the recoiling components. The system handled every combination from light 1 oz. target loads to the heaviest 3" turkey pills without a hitch.

Overall, the Charles Daly Field Hunter is a lot of shotgun for the money, plus the line has recently been expanded to include both ported sporting clays and trap models and a 3 1/2" powerhouse called the Maxi-Mag.

Remington's Model 300 "Ideal"

For the millennium, Remington is back in the O/U shotgun business with a completely redesigned model designated the "300 Ideal." It had to happen, and it was time with the disappearance of the 3200 and the Peerless in their line. The only shock for the new millennium model is the sticker price of \$1,995.

The model name, "Ideal," was coined by Remington to signify an ideal blend of balance, weight and pointing characteristics. In fact, the word "Ideal" is engraved on both sides of frame to the rear of a small scroll panel. "Remington" and "Model 300" are engraved on the bottom of the frame.

Sporting light contoured barrels with an 8mm ventilated rib and 3" chambers, the 300 is able to achieve a shallow frame profile by the use of trunions and a locking design featuring two lug extensions projecting on either side of the lower barrel plus two recoil lugs on either side of the upper barrel that engage the top of the frame just in front of the breech face. This is a strong lock-up, and the only disconcerting aspect was the amount of daylight plainly visible between the end of the barrels and the standing breech.

The barrels are fitted with Rem Chokes, and Remington supplies a quick-action wrench to get them in or out. The gun is fitted with automatic ejectors that proved positive in the field and can be easily disengaged if so desired.

The Ideal boxlock features a single selective trigger with the selector switch located in the middle of the tang safety. Moving the selector to the right uncovers the letter "T" for the top barrel and to the left, the letter "B" is visible indicating the bottom barrel. Movement of the selector switch left and

right was easy and crisp.

The trigger and sears are mechanical, not inertial, so you don't have to go about bumping the butt to dry fire both barrels. For competition purposes, the safety can be pinned in the "fire" position, and the instructions to do so are contained in the operating manual.

The new 300 sports an interesting stock. The shape of the forearm is very comfortable and the radius of the slim pistol grip is open and swept back, giving the gun a rather dynamic feel and plenty of room for a gloved hand. Drop at the comb is 1½" and at the heel only 2" — dimensions that help keep recoil in a straight line.

The quality and color of the American walnut is good and our piece did have some figure. The wrap-around checkering panel on the forearm and the panels on either side of the pistol grip are cut with 20 lpi. Among the nicer design details are the raised, tear-shaped wood panels just to the rear of the frame at the beginning of the pistol grip.

The forearm is shipped from the factory without being fitted to the forearm lug. Like most gunners, we unboxed the gun and immediately assembled the barrels to the frame and then the forearm to the barrels. Big mistake. The forearm rattled around on the barrels like it belonged to a parts gun.

A glance in the owner's manual provided the solution. To accomplish this small gunsmithing feat, you are instructed to use the small 3/32" hex key, provided in the box, to adjust a screw in the forearm lug to either tighten or loosen the fit.

The balance of the Model 300 is most definitely toward the muzzle, and this could be modified by the addition of some lead or a mercury recoil reducer to the butt. The average weight in the 28" barrel format is already 7½ lbs. and additional weight would be less than ideal in a field gun.

Both over sporting clays and in the dove fields, the Model 300 pointed and handled well. It's good to see Remington back in the O/U business for the millennium.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Beretta U.S.A.

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Non-Toxic Handloads To SAVE THE WORLD

More and more indoor ranges are requiring the use of non-toxic ammunition. Political correctness has dictated that lead is the next great peril threatening the earth.

There are two principle sources of lead from ammunition: the bullet and the primer. All the major ammo makers are addressing both of these issues. Conventional primers use a compound called lead styphnate as an initiator. Even though the amount of lead released by a single primer is measured in milligrams or smaller quantities, it does add up. In addition, the rear end of a bullet is exposed to considerable heat so if any lead is exposed, some will be vaporized, entering the atmosphere.

The industry has approached these issues at both points. Lead-free, and more recently, toxic-metal-free primers have been developed and are in use. In the primer, a compound commonly called dia-

zodintrophenol (DDNP) replaces lead styphnate. The chemistry isn't new, but it has taken years of research to get lead-free primers to a marketable stage — largely due to issues of reliability.

There are two types of primers that use DDNP. The first is one where only the lead is eliminated. These are normally called "lead-free" and are widely used. There's another type that eliminates other potentially toxic metals such as antimony; these are usually labeled, "non-toxic." Both afford loaders new concerns, including sealing, precise control of seating depth, flash hole size and powder compatibility.

You can't simply switch from one primer to the other. Some powders that work well with conventional primers are hard to light with lead-free primers and cases must be thoroughly sealed to avoid water absorption. At this time no American maker offers lead-free primers to the hobby loader.



The frangible Sinterfire .45 ACP — loaded round and component bullet.

Dust In The Wind — Handloading Frangible Bullets

Efforts to eliminate a shooter's exposure to lead from bullets have taken a number of different tracks. The simplest solution is just to avoid exposed lead on the base of the bullet. One of the best examples is Speer's TMJ (total metal jacket) design that plates a layer of copper over a lead core. Other variations "encapsulate" the lead by covering it with a washer of jacket metal.

This is a considerable improvement. Studies have shown that the bullet is responsible for up to 80 percent of airborne lead at the firing point.

There are other approaches though. Some makers eliminated the lead core altogether and replaced it with a non-toxic element such as zinc. Others created frangible bullets that contain no toxic materials and are reduced to little more than dust on impact.

Until recently the handloader has not been able to buy frangible bullets. SinterFire Inc. in Kersey, Pa., is now manufacturing high-tech frangible bullets. They are OEM suppliers to some of the ammo biggies but component bullets are also available through their distributor.

The idea of frangible bullets is hardly

new. The first one dates back to the '30s when a .30 caliber cartridge with a Bakelite bullet was used for training aircraft gunners. Since then, we've seen a number of frangible designs using powdered material, in a large variety of metallic elements.

One of the early drawbacks was that the molded bullets were fragile and would not withstand use in autoloaders. Those problems are now solved and there are several different products available.

As with any frangible bullet, crimp can be a problem and modern frangibles feature a small crimp groove along with a warning to use only a modest taper crimp. Over-crimping can actually fracture the bullets.

SinterFire's line includes everything from 9mm up to .45 along

with some special bullets for IPSC and a few rifle bullets in .223 and .308. Early experiments show great promise and a couple of powder companies are developing loading data, which should be available by the time you read this.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

SinterFire Inc.
200 Industrial Park Rd.
Kersey, PA 15846
(814) 885-6672
www.sinterfire.com

From left to right: Sinterfire .45 loaded round, Sinterfire component bullet, conventional jacketed bullet with exposed lead, Speer TMJ and Federal BallistiClean, a jacketed soft point with a zinc core instead of lead.



The Year Of The Slugs

Ammunition breakthroughs have a tendency to take a long time to work their way through the retail distribution system. The past 12 months have seen the development of two super shotgun slug loads by Winchester and Hornady, which shotgunners will find eminently useful if they hunt shotgun slug zones. If these new loads are not yet in your local store, they soon will be.

We've been field-testing prototypes of Winchester's new slug for the last eight months including hunting wild boar on the Tejon Ranch north of Los Angeles. The wild boar is probably California's most prolific, free-roaming, big game animal. Boars are physically and anatomically tough and a 12 ga. shotgun slug is not too much gun.

Both the new Winchester and Hornady 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " 12 ga. loads carry sabots designed exclusively for rifled shotgun bores. The Winchester Supreme load sports a .50 caliber, 385 gr. Partition jacketed bullet loaded to a velocity of 1,900 fps, producing an energy level of 2,250 ft./lbs. at 100 yards.

The Hornady Heavy Mag H2K load contains a .45 caliber, 300 gr. XTP Magnum bullet with a muzzle velocity of 1,930 fps from a 24" barrel. At 100 yards, the XTP bullet is still packing 1,800 ft./lbs.

What is remarkable about both loads are their 1,900 (and over) fps velocity levels and extremely flat trajectories. Sighted in 2" high at 50 yards, both loads are approximately 2.5" high at 100 yards and right on the money at 150 yards. Considering the average distance that game is typically taken, either load from an accurate rifled bore shotgun would qualify as a fine big game combination.

Shooting the Winchester Supreme Partition load in a scoped Browning Gold slug gun, 2" to 3" three-shot groups at 100 yards can be achieved rather consistently. Typically, the Partition slug will plow right through the bone and tissue of an animal the size of a deer. A few recovered slugs show complete expansion down to the Partition with minimal loss of weight. Pictures of recovered Hornady slugs demonstrate similar terminal results.

Try the Winchester and Hornady super slugs before the next big game season rolls around. They're light years ahead of what you've been shooting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Winchester Ammunition

(618) 258-3568

www.winchester.com

Hornady Manufacturing Co.

(308) 382-1390

www.hornady.com

A HUNTER'S HEARING AID

Walker's Game Ear amplifies sounds while its tuned-circuitry cuts off the destructive sound of gunfire, making it ideal for hunting and target shooting.

Weighing 7 grams, the Game Ear looks much like a hearing aid. Fortunately, it's relatively inexpensive and requires no special fitting. It can be worn in one ear, which is the way it was originally designed to be used, or separate units can be used in both ears. To fit it, simply adjust the length of the sound tube from the unit to the foam earplug, loop the unit over your ear, adjust the volume with a small rolling switch, and you're in business.

What's doubly nice about Walker's unit is that it serves the same purpose as a set of electronic shooting muffs without the muffs' bulk, heat, and interference with the comb of the stock. For the shotgun sports, it's an ideal hearing protection system.

The latest models of the Game Ear offer two improvements to the basic circuit that greatly extend the unit's usefulness to hunters and shooters. First is a small rotary switch that permits the user to fine-tune the unit to emphasize either the higher or lower frequencies — Walker calls this "adjustable frequency tuning."

The second improvement is "ultra-frequency broadcast" that is incorporated into the Game Ear 111W-C model. This model looks like a regular Game Ear, but it's packaged with a separate wiring harness that loops around your neck and consists of a miniature clip-on mike and two leads that plug into the output and mike jacks of compact walkie talkies like Motorola's popular TalkAbout.

Walker's Game Ear is comfortable for all-day wear. It will amplify the sounds of birds and game animals like you've never heard them before, let you enjoy conversations and hear range commands while protecting your hearing from gun fire, and it's priced competitively with electronic muffs.



Light and unobtrusive, Walker's Game Ear enhances sounds while protecting your hearing.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

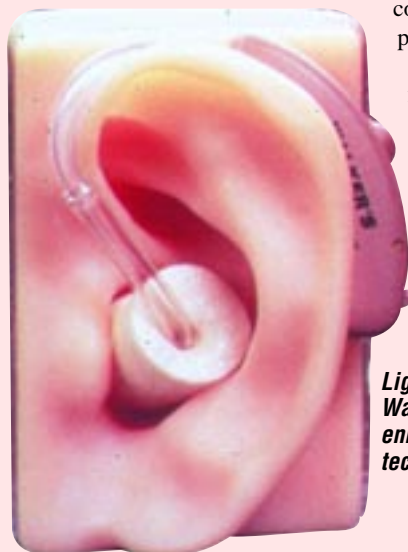
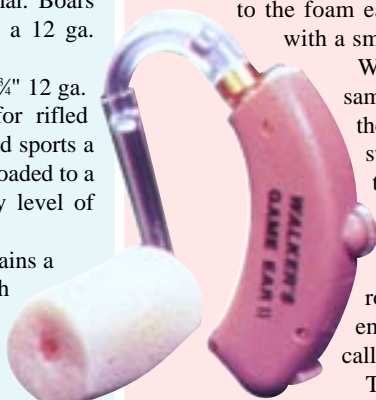
Walker's Game Ear, Inc.

P.O. Box 1069

Media, PA 19063

(800) 424-1069

www.WalkersGameEar.com



Bowen Ruger Sight

Ruger revolvers come equipped with more-than-adequate adjustable rear sights, making the need to replace the factory unit somewhat of an exercise in repairing that which is not dysfunctional. Like a lot of things, however, just because it works is no reason not to improve it.

Improving Rugers is the stock in trade of noted revolversmith Hamilton Bowen. The former president of the American Pistolsmiths Guild has upgraded the Ruger rear sight with a target-type rear sight. The sight is fully machined from stress-proof, pre-heat-treated bar stock, and the quality shows.

Featuring a large, serrated, black sight blade, the Bowen rear sight provides a sight picture reminiscent of the fabled Bo-Mar target sight. We found it much easier to pick up, with a noticeably sharper sight picture, than the stock Ruger sight.

The adjustments are positive and "click" snugly into place. Nominally, the movement is .300" per click at 25 yards. A standard screwdriver turns the windage and elevation knobs. Installation of the Bowen rear sight was a no-brainer. Simply unscrew the Ruger sight and screw in the Bowen.

Bowen sights fit all New Model Ruger revolvers except the Old Army. Bowen also makes an Old Model rear sight that differs slightly from New Model Blackhawk sights. It fits the Old Army blackpowder gun. The sights have a matte blue finish.

The Bowen rear sight sells for \$60 for all New Model revolvers and \$65 for Old Models.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bowen Classic Arms

(865) 981-8869

www.bowenclassicarms.com



Brownells Scope Ring Lapper

Scope bodies are made of aluminum while scope rings that hold them are made of steel. Does this suggest a potential problem? As anyone who has ever installed, and then removed a scope knows, the answer is yes. The problem comes in the form of "ring dings," scratches and abrasions on the anodized aluminum scope tube.

The solution is to properly align a set of rings before installing a scope, making sure the rings are perfectly concentric and true. This is especially important with pivoting rings, like Redfield and Leupold, that are often torqued into place by the scope itself — a very bad thing.

Enter Brownells' "Scope Ring Alignment Lap," a specialized tool for lining up a set of rings and then lapping them to remove any high spots or other manufacturing defects that can mar the surface of an aluminum scope tube. The tool consists of a precision steel rod, exactly 1" or 30mm in diameter, with two handles to enable a brisk lapping action.



The Brownells ring lap comes with lapping compound. To use, install the bottom half of the rings as normal, then insert the Brownells lap as if it were a scope. Loosely tighten the top half of the rings. Slather on a generous portion of lapping compound and begin moving the lap back and forth in a rapid fashion.

Eventually you will see the compound turning grayish, indicating the lapping action is removing some material from the rings. Loosen the rings, remove the lap and inspect. There will be shiny spots through the bluing on the rings indicating where the lapping compound has polished out a high spot. Continue until the lap moves freely through the rings without binding.

Remove the top halves of the rings. Keep

them separate! Your rings are no longer interchangeable, they're mated. Keep the orientation of the rings the same as you put them back on your scope — left-front matches to left-front, et cetera.

Et voila, perfectly mated rings, perfectly aligned scope, no more "ring dings" on your scope. Brownells sells the scope ring lap for \$34.11 (1") and \$42.22 (30mm). There is enough lapping compound included to last for a lifetime supply of scopes, at least for the average guy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Brownells

(515) 623-4000

www.brownells.com

QUARTERMASTER

BY GUNS STAFF

Shilen Model 700 Trigger

Happiness is a good trigger. A crisp, light trigger provides more improvement in practical accuracy than any other single modification to a firearm. We speak of course about a see-me, feel-me sort of improvement, a tactile gain, something realized on paper, with real bullets, punching actual holes, not some theoretical "advancement," like cryogenic freezing. (Not that cryo-ing a barrel isn't beneficial, it just can't be qualitatively perceived, like a good trigger.)

Enter the drop-in aftermarket trigger from renowned barrel maker Ed Shilen. Accuracy is something Shilen understands, and something his air-gauged stainless steel match barrels have proven he understands. His eponymous trigger proves it once again.

Shilen's fully adjustable triggers come in two versions — a "light" and a "heavy." They are both three-way adjustable for pull, sear engagement and over-travel. The pull on the Standard Trigger is adjustable from 1.5 to 3 lbs. while the Competition Trigger can be varied between 2 and 6 ozs.

That's right, *ounces*. Such triggers have to be felt to be believed. The Competition Trigger is a breathe-and-it-goes-off kind of light. Unless you are a competitive shooter, you really don't need this kind of light. A match trigger, it is easily set for pull weight, sear engagement, and over-travel. It cannot be adjusted heavier than 6 ozs.

Shilen's trigger is sweet. It improves the actual off-the-bench accuracy of our Remington Stainless Fluted varmint model by a good 30 percent, simply by allowing us to concentrate on sight picture and let the crispness of a glass-rod release take care of the rest.

It is so much easier to hold an even pressure, a steady cheek weld, and a consistent grip, with such a light trigger.

Shilen's triggers are easy to install (follow the instructions) and require no gunsmithing. The "heavy" version works with the factory safety, but the "light" version forsakes a manual safety for a cerebral one. In other words, there is no safety besides that which should be bred into every shooter — muzzle awareness and safety consciousness.

The Shilen Standard Trigger retails for \$79 and the Competition Triggers is \$119.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Shilen Inc.

P.O. Box 1300

Ennis, TX 75120

(972) 875-5318

fax: (972) 875-5402

www.shilen.com

"When I get out, I'm getting a Browning safe."

Inmate #8390027, a.k.a. "Sledge"

Sledge is currently serving a seven to 15-year sentence for his fifth conviction on breaking and entering an occupied dwelling (he has plea bargained away over 20 other "B & Es" and admits that he has done more than he could count in his 15-year criminal career). In a letter to Browning written from his cell, Sledge freely admits, "My partner and I broke into hundreds of houses, many with so-called gun safes, and after we tried to get into a Browning gun safe, it was the last thing we ever wanted to see."

In his letter, Sledge cites a previous advertisement for Browning gun safes under the headline, "The Competition Hates Our Guts."

He responds, "Now that I see what goes into your safe, I see why I could never open one. The competition isn't the only one who hates your guts!"

Sledge can't stay locked up forever. Isn't it nice to know that your valuables can?


BROWNING
www.browning.com



While nicknames, inmate numbers and mug shots have been fabricated, written excerpts are taken from an actual letter received by Browning. Do not assume that any safe is impenetrable — it is not! A knowledgeable thief can get into virtually any safe with the appropriate tools and enough time. A safe is a deterrent and a delaying device. You can make it even more effective by placing it in the right location and anchoring it to the floor and wall.

Sinclair AR-15 Covers

Sinclair International, a purveyor and manufacturer of high-quality handloading tools and accessories, offers an impressive array of sophisticated products for serious shooters. For instance, Sinclair manufactures precise neck-turning tools, micrometer gauges for reading bullet run-out and a bench-quality rifle rest that costs more than some actual rifles. It is apparent from reading Sinclair's impressive catalog that pedestrian plastic do-dads are not part of the plan.

Until we come to Sinclair's AR-15 covers. You can't get much simpler than a soft plastic slip-on protector for a muzzle, front sight gas block or a rear sight. So be it, Sinclair is not above a clever idea, even if it is rather simple.

The AR covers come in yellow or black. They serve to keep dust, moisture, and debris out of your AR. "More of the [competitive shooters] use the muzzle covers than anything else, but the guys that are using the sight covers don't want anything to mess up their sights. They might have smoked 'em up with carbide. It just keeps them from getting dinged," explained Bill Gravatt, president of Sinclair. A set of protectors costs \$11.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sinclair International

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function. The Model 722 is built by Benchmade for those individuals who demand a higher standard of performance from their gear. This isn't just some "wanna be" hard-use tactical trinket, it's definitely for real. Are you?



Blade length: 3.25"
Overall open length: 7.62"
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Integral finger treads top and bottom for non-slip positive blade control.

Machine contoured handle shape with raised texture for aggressive grip.

The Model 722 is available in four different blade configurations, including SBT, a partially serrated edge with black BT2® blade coating for increased corrosion resistance.

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RUGER PC4

Ruger's handy tactical carbine gets a turbocharge with this new .40 S&W chambering.

by Charles E. Petty
photographs by Bob Maddox

ACCURACY TEST RESULTS RUGER PC4

Ammo	Velocity	Accuracy*
Black Hills 155 gr. JHP	1,381 fps	1.80"
Federal Personal Defense 135 gr. JHP	1,392 fps	1.24"
Federal American Eagle 165 gr. FMJ	1,164 fps	0.88"
Speer Gold Dot 165 gr. PHP	1,340 fps	1.85"
Pro Load 180 gr. JHP	1,028 fps	2.09"
Remington 180 gr. JHP	1,026 fps	2.44"
Average	1.72"	

*Accuracy measurements are the average of three five-shot groups at 25 yards from benchrest. Velocity is the instrumental average of 10 shots at 10 feet as measured with a PACT Mk. IV Chronograph.

There is almost universal appeal in having a small, handy carbine that fires the same cartridge as your chosen handgun. This is true with the Ruger PC4, a carbine which fires a .40 caliber autopistol cartridge. The PC4 is also available chambered in 9mm.

The basic design of the PC4 features direct blowback operation with a steel bolt, receiver and barrel. The stock is a molded synthetic material. The standard rear sight is a typical notch adjustable for both elevation and windage. An optional ghost ring sight mounted on the rear of the receiver extends the sight radius considerably. The receiver also wears Ruger's special scope bases to allow the mounting of optical sights. Our PC4 was tested with the standard adjustable sights.

The carbine weighs 6 lbs. 6 ozs. The first time you shoot it recoil seems unusually heavy, but that impression goes away quickly with just a little more shooting experience. There were no stoppages throughout the course of initial function and break-in testing — roughly 100 rounds of assorted ammunition.

Real-World Performance

Further accuracy testing was done with ammo selected to cover
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Fired from the Ruger PC4 carbine, the .40 S&W cartridge is extremely accurate, even at distances which would be considered "extreme range" for a handgun.



A full-page photograph of three soldiers in a forest. The soldier on the left is in the foreground, wearing a helmet and a jacket with a red circular patch that says 'HALF POLY'. He is holding a rifle. The soldier in the center is kneeling and aiming a handgun. The soldier on the right is standing, wearing a helmet and a jacket with a yellow patch, and holding a rifle. The background is a dense forest with trees and foliage.

THE GUNS OF MILTECH

By Cameron Hopkins

Take a close look at these Garands, M1 Carbines and other fine weapons. You may not be able to tell them from expensive, collector's-grade rifles — until you get to the price tag!

“Wouldn’t it be great if you could take a ‘beater’ Garand and get it restored to ‘in the Cosmoline’ condition? That is precisely what Miltech offers — restoration of select military rifles to ‘as issued’ condition.”

Immediately following World War I, the Ordnance Department of the U.S. Army settled upon the notion of a semiautomatic rifle to replace the rugged but slow Springfield 1903A3. The Marines sneered at the idea of a self-loading rifle, saying it would be too unreliable for combat. Undeterred, the Army hired two firearms experts,

J.D. Pedersen and John C. Garand, to design the new rifle.

Pedersen jumped out front with the first design, a delayed blowback rifle with a peculiar toggle mechanism to increase the inertia of the bolt. Due to the eccentricity of the design, there was still residual breech pressure while the fired case was in the chamber, causing dif-

ficult extraction.

Pedersen “solved” this problem by applying a wax coating to the ammunition. Everything worked when the ammo was well-lubed with the wax, but functioning came to a halt with untreated cases. Interestingly, the same problem (of cases sticking to the chamber due to residual gas pressure) was solved on future designs, like the HK G3, with a fluted chamber.

The Army realized the folly of being dependent on specially treated ammo, so the Ordnance Dept. passed on Pedersen’s idea. That left Garand in the driver’s seat and the rest, as they say, is history.

Garand’s legendary M1 rifle, the rifle Gen. George S. Patton termed the “best battle implement ever devised,” was a gas operated semiautomatic design firing eight rounds from an *en bloc* clip.

The reason for the unique clip, infamous for causing “M1 thumb,” was because the Ordnance Dept. had prohibited Garand from using a detachable magazine, which was deemed unreliable. The Army also wanted GIs to hunker down as low as possible when firing from prone, something hindered by a detachable box magazine.

The M1 Garand was adopted in 1936 by the Army. The stubborn Marines wanted no part of the new-fangled self-loader and stuck with their Springfields, a circumstance they quickly sought to rectify after the fierce fighting in the Pacific when the Garand’s superior firepower proved its worth.

When World War II broke out, only 40,000 M1s had been produced; by the time the Enola Gay flew over Hiroshima, over 3.5 million Garands had been produced. By the time the Korean War was over and production of the Garand ceased with the introduction of the M14, a total of over 6 million Garands had been made.

Today’s Garand

Today the Garand is viewed as a nostalgic sort of throw-back, a quaint and unusual rifle with a lot of military romance, an image that was recently enhanced by *Saving*

Left: Miltech restores poor-quality Garand rifles by completely disassembling them, repairing any damaged or worn parts, and replacing the barrel with a stainless steel, match-grade version. Above: All metal parts on the restored Miltech Garand rifles are finished with a GI-spec Parkerized finish.





The Miltech shop, like most custom gunsmithing operations, is a belnd of organization and chaos. It may look like a jumble of parts, but the Miltech craftsmen know what's what. One of the really trick things Miltech does to improve the Garand's function is to replace the gas piston (above inset) with a stainless steel piston that's silver soldered onto the end of the op rod. Note the "step

shoulder" machined into the piston which allows the silver solder to flow for a better hold. Another Miltech operation for the Garand involves TIG-welding a new guide lug (inset at bottom right) on the op rod. This vital nubbin is then remachined to mil specs and re-heat treated. The difference in an old peened one and a Miltech re-weld is obvious in the inset.

Private Ryan. A decent "shooter" can be easily obtained at any gun show in the \$400 to \$600 ballpark. A minty specimen with all matching numbers fetches in the \$800 to \$1,000 range. A pristine "in the Cosmoline" example easily jumps into the same price range as a good used pickup.

The Miltech Garand

That's too bad, because a lot of shooters would love to have a cherry Garand, but most guys aren't willing to pay collector prices. Wouldn't it be great if you could take a "beater" Garand and get it restored to "in the Cosmoline" condition?

It would indeed be great, and that is precisely what a small California company offers — restoration of select military rifles to "as issued" condition. Miltech Inc. specializes in the Garand, as well as other classic military rifles such as the '03A3, Mauser K98, 1917 Enfield, M1 Carbine and their *piece de resistance*, the 1941 Johnson rifle.

Company president Ed Silva grew up, as did many kids in the late '40s and early '50s, with a fascination for military weapons. "Militaria was big in our lives. One of our hobbies was military weapons and the goal, the dream, was to find an original in the crate," Silva recalled.

He and his father were both avid shooters, but it wasn't until the mid-'60s that Silva finally found his dream, a mint Garand in the crate. "I paid \$70 for mine, but Dad paid \$80 because the guy said he would take off the Cosmoline for an extra 10 bucks," Silva said. "But you just don't find mint Garands any more. They've all gone to the collectors."

Ground-Up Restoration

And so it came to be that, 20 years ago, Silva decided to relive his childhood dream by creating a company that specialized in restoring Garands to mint condition. Perhaps "restore" is not quite the right term. Given the extensive work that goes into a Miltech rifle, "remanufacture" is probably a more apt description.

"People think they're just getting a refinish, a \$99 Earl Scheib paint job. Well, that's not what we do," Silva said. Using original GI-manufactured receivers, Silva's crew completely rebuilds the Garand including a new match-grade barrel and a new walnut stock. The finished rifle is Parkerized with original GI-spec manganese phosphate.

A typical M1 comes into the Miltech operation with a dinged up stock and rusty, pitted metal. The bore is often



a cylinder in an internal combustion engine, Silva said. "If a piston or a cylinder is worn, you get a loss of compression. When the cylinder is worn or corroded, you get gas blow-by around the piston which causes the most common problem in the Garand, short cycling."

Short cycling occurs when the op rod fails to shove the bolt far enough to the rear to pick up a fresh cartridge from the *en bloc* clip. To cure this condition, Silva remachines the op rod with a new stainless steel piston designed by Miltech machinist Roger Slocum. It's a centerless ground piston from 416 stainless. The piston features a stepped groove to allow a better silver solder between the piston itself and the op rod. Technicians then hone the gas cylinder, removing any corrosion and polishing the walls to mate exactly with the new gas piston.

Another critical element in the gas system is the guide lug on the op rod. This is the lug that causes the op rod to rotate the bolt out of battery. It is often peened and sometimes cracked from wear. Silva grinds off the guide lug and precision TIG welds a new one in place. The guide lug is then remachined to original GI specs and re-heat treated.

Invisible Work

Because a lot of stress cracks are not visible to the naked eye, Silva has the bolt and receiver Magnafluxed to determine if there are any defects. Magnafluxing is a process by which non-visible cracks in the structure of the metal are revealed. If there are any, Silva either replaces the part with an as-new GI part or repairs it.

A crucial dimension on the Garand is that of the bullet guide, a part contained in the follower mechanism. Silva carefully inspects the bullet guide and repairs or replaces it as necessary.

Safety is a paramount issue for Miltech and all of their rifles are checked and re-checked to ensure that the guns are safe. The triggers and sears undergo rigorous inspection and

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pitted and the gas piston is usually corroded. The sear has seen better days and the op rod may be out-of-true.

To work go Silva and his team of specialist gunsmiths. The Miltech shop is a jumble of jigs, tools and fixtures, each dedicated to a specific task, such as an original M1 barrel vise. A fully equipped machine shop is on premises to remachine the receivers and manufacture new parts as needed, such as rear sights for the Johnson rifle.

Garand Heart Surgery

The heart of a Garand is the gas system, and it is here that Silva's knowledge and experience with the 65-year-old battle rifle really shines through. "You go to the trouble-shooting charts and you don't find anything on the sorts of problems some of these guns have. The chart might have what to do if the op rod is bent or the guide lug is peened, but it doesn't say what to do if you have several of these conditions all adding up to a totally new problem. They didn't anticipate the combination of problems that can arise on a rifle 55 or 60 years old," Silva, an Army vet, commented.

The gas cylinder on a Garand can be likened to



The Sendero's awesome performance comes at a price — the gun tips the scales at nearly 10 lbs. Hunters who work from blinds or stands won't have much to complain about, however.



REMINGTON SENDERO .338 ULTRA MAG

Story by: Dave Anderson Photos by: Ichiro Nagata

The most remarkable production rifle available today gets a turbocharge with Remington's newest high-performance cartridge.

Would you like to have a rifle capable of consistently hitting a silver dollar at 300 yards? Big deal, you say, plenty of varmint rifles in .22-250 or .220 Swift can do that. How about one capable of hitting a silver dollar at 300 yards — with 3,000 ft./lbs. of energy? That's more energy than a .30-'06 develops at the muzzle. If you feel you need such a combination of accuracy and power, Remington has the equipment that can provide it — the Sendero in .338 Rem. Ultra Mag.

For 50 years competition bench rest shooters have been unlocking the secrets of accuracy. While benchrest rifles may seem impractical to the average hunter, many design features developed in competition have been adopted by practical shooters. Varmint rifles, because they require the accuracy to hit a small target at long range, have benefited most from such improvements.

An interesting trend in recent years has been the development of extended range hunting rifles — rifles

The History Of The .33

By: Dave Anderson

From the modest .33 Win. to the screaming .338 Ultra Mag, this mid-range caliber has a long and tumultuous lineage.

Cartridges for .33 caliber bullets go back a long way. The .33 Win. (1902) was the only cartridge for the 1886 Winchester that was originally designed for smokeless powder. Ballistics are modest by today's standards. Hornady's Third manual shows a 200 gr., 0.338" flatpoint bullet at 2,200 fps.

Two British-designed cartridges, the .318 Westley Richards (1909) and the .333 Jeffery (1911) were popular with English gentlemen hunting in Africa and India. Despite the difference in names they were quite similar.

The .318 fired bullets 0.330" in diameter

while the Jeffery's bullets measured 0.333". Both used non-belted, rimless cases. The Jeffery was also offered in a rimmed version — "flanged," in British terminology — for double rifles. Velocities with 250 gr. bullets ranged from 2,400 to 2,500 fps. In *African Rifles and Cartridges*, John Taylor spoke well of the .333 Jeffery with 300 gr. bullets at about 2,200 fps.

Around 1908 the eccentric genius Charles Newton along with gunsmith Fred Adolph designed a series of cartridges, including a .33 caliber, on a beltless case roughly similar

in capacity to the current 7mm Rem. and .338 Win. short magnums. When Newton got the Western Cartridge Company to manufacture

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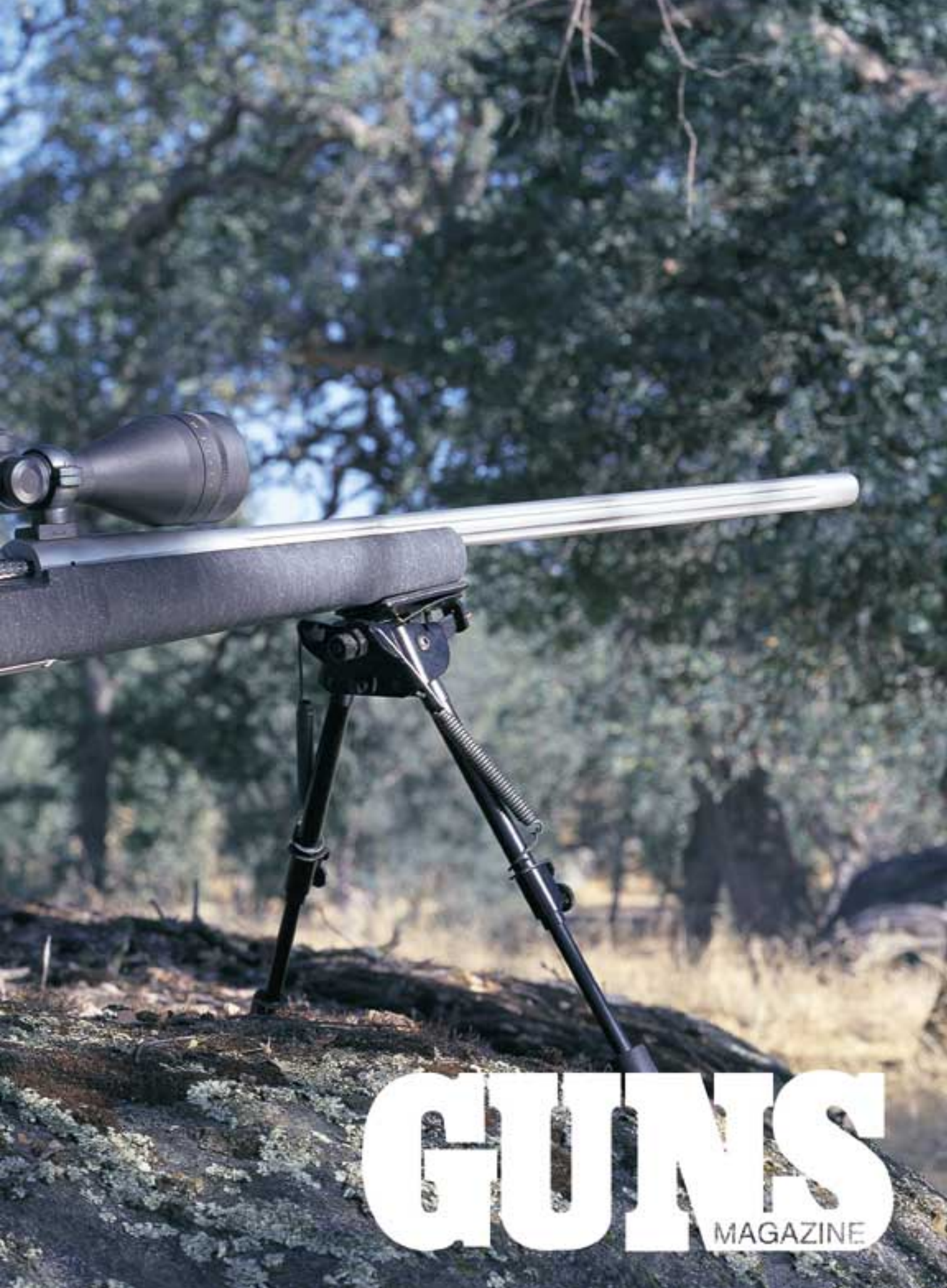
Remington's new proprietary cartridge, the .338 Ultra Mag, dwarfs the venerable .308.

With the accuracy of a benchrest gun and the power of an elk rifle, the .338 Ultra Mag Sendero is a capable long-range, big-game hunter.



REMINGTON SENDERO **.338 ULTRA MAG**





GUNS

MAGAZINE



With recoil energy significantly above the .375 H&H, and approaching the .458 Win. Mag., the .338 Ultra Mag Sendero isn't a gun you'll take out for a pleasant day on the range.



with varmint rifle features, but chambered for flat-shooting big game cartridges such as .25-'06 Rem., 7mm Rem. Mag., .270 Win. and .300 Win. Magnum. The genesis of this trend was a specific need. Deer hunters in southern agricultural areas found an abundance of deer around the edges of huge soybean fields. Hunting from elevated stands, they needed accuracy beyond that of typical lightweight hunting rifles. They needed varmint rifles with big-game power.

The Beanfield Guns

One of the first to adopt varmint rifle technology to big game cartridges was gunmaker Kenny Jarrett. His super-accurate "beanfield" rifles began attracting attention from enthusiasts nationwide. There was never a rifle enthusiast yet who didn't want more accuracy, all else being equal.

We know that a rifle that will shoot consistent 2" groups at 100 yards is adequate for most big game hunting. We know it, but we fiddle with barrels, bedding, scopes, powders, bullets and primers, we turn case necks, clean bores, and adjust triggers to get groups down to 1" — when we get there, we want 1/2" groups.

Gun manufacturers grow and prosper by paying attention to what shooters want and meeting those demands. That sounds obvious and easy, but it's not. Remington has been prospering for a long time because they've achieved that objective more often than not.

In 1994, when it became evident that beanfield rifles were more than just a fad, Remington developed the Sendero rifle. Eddie Stevenson, an executive with Remington, commented "with the success of our Model 700 Varmint models, we saw need for an extremely accurate, long-range magnum offering."

It would have been easy for Remington to screw a heavy barrel into their 700 action, bolt on a molded plastic stock, and let it go at that. To their credit, Remington didn't take the easy way.

Take the stock, for example. Stevenson noted, "The model 700 Sendero stock is manufactured for Remington by H.S. Precision. It features a full-length aluminum bedding block that runs the full length of the action." This strong, rigid bedding block supports and stiffens the action.

Elements Of Excellence

Located in Rapid City, S.D., H.S. Precision supplies stock material that is an extremely strong and stable laminate of Kevlar, fiberglass cloth, carbon fiber and laminating resin. Their stocks are regarded as among the best. It's clear that in building the Sendero, Remington was prepared to assemble the best available components.

Sendero barrels are made by hammer forging. On the standard Sendero, the 26" heavy barrel brings total rifle weight to 9 lbs. The Stainless Fluted model is longitudinally fluted to cut weight by half a pound while sacrificing little in terms of rigidity. The flutes also increase barrel surface area to enhance barrel cooling.

Though Remington says Sendero barrels are standard production and not specially selected, the chambers are cut to minimum dimensions. Measuring fired .338 Ultra Mag cases with a micrometer indicated minimal expansion over unfired cases. Muzzles of the Sendero barrels are given a precision concave crown.

The 700 action has a fine reputation for accuracy. It is strong, rigid and symmetrical; its cylindrical receiver has a greater bedding area and is easier to consistently fit to the stock than a flat-bottomed action. Modern manufacturing techniques have made parts more precise.

According to Stevenson, "Even though Model 700 Senderos are factory production grades, special attention is paid during the production process to ensure proper receiver-to-stock bedding fit and proper torquing of the

.338 LINE-UP: CASE CAPACITY

Cartridge	Case Length	Case Capacity
.338 Win. Mag.	2.500"	86.0 grs.
.330 Dakota	2.540"	98.0 grs.
.340 Weatherby	2.820"	106.4 grs.
.338 Ultra Mag	2.750"	113.4 grs.
.338 A-Square Mag.	2.850"	129.0 grs.
.35/.404 (wildcat)	2.850"	114.9 grs.
.375 H&H Mag.	2.850"	95.0 grs.

.338 PERFORMANCE COMPARISON

Cartridge	Velocity	Barrel Length
.338-'06 (wildcat) 250 gr.	2,500 fps	24"
.338 Win. Mag. 250 gr.	2,650 fps	24"
.330 Dakota 250 gr.	2,900 fps	24"
.338 Rem. Ultra 250 gr.	2,860 fps	24"
.340 Weatherby 250 gr.	2,940 fps	26"
.338 Arnold 250 gr.	2,950 fps	26"
.338 Lapua 250 gr.	2,970 fps	24"
8.59 (.338) Titan 250 gr.	3,100 fps	27"
.338/.378 Weatherby 250 gr.	3,060 fps	26"
.338 A-Square 250 gr.	3,120 fps	25"

The .338 Sendero, with its heavy, fluted barrel and recessed muzzle crown, is one of the most accurate out-of-the-box rifles available today.



With pinpoint accuracy at 200 yds. and beyond, and enough power to hunt nearly any North American game, the .338 Ultra Mag can put a scope and rings, like this 3-12x Burris rig, to the test.



The .338 Ultra Mag seems destined to find a place beside the classic cartridges of our age.

action screws.”

The increased rigidity provided by the bedding block in the stock is undoubtedly an important factor. Although the 700 is a stiff action, it isn't as rigid as a modern bench rest action. The magazine well opening further reduces rigidity. Bolting the action tightly to the solid aluminum block greatly increases the ability of the receiver to consistently support the heavy, free-floating barrel.

Other components of Model 700 accuracy include a fast lock time and a good trigger. According to Stevenson, on Sendero rifles “special attention is paid at the factory to insure the triggers are set at 3.5 pounds with a crisp clean break.”

Maybe so, but someone must have misread the scale. The trigger break on our rifle was consistent and clean enough, with minimal overtravel, but weight of pull was two ounces over six pounds.

One Tough Gun

A long-range rifle needs a long-range scope. Anticipating the recoil of the powerful .338 Ultra Mag cartridge, we also wanted a scope that would hold zero. We've been pleased with the Posi-Lock feature on a Burris scope mounted on a rather light, hard-kicking .340 Weatherby.

To sight in, the Posi-Lock screw is backed out so the reticle cell can be adjusted for windage and elevation. If you forget or don't want to use the Posi-Lock, the cell is held in position by spring pressure as with any other scope. Once sighted in, however, the Posi-Lock screw can be tightened down, locking the reticle cell in position.

The scope selected was a Burris Signature 3-12x in matte finish with adjustable parallax setting and Posi-Lock. It was mounted to the Sendero using Burris bases and rings, the rings fitted with the Posi-Align synthetic inserts. These inserts compensate for minor misalignment of rings and scope, and prevent marring of the scope tube.

Bases and rings use “torx” screw heads, which we prefer for this purpose over slotted or Allen-head screws. Other than fitting the scope, the only pre-shooting work done was checking that the action screws were tight and running several patches through the bore to assure it was clean and dry.

Accuracy testing was complicated by the heavy trigger pull, substantial recoil and a strong, gusty wind blowing from right to left. A shooter can manage a tough trigger pull or heavy recoil, but managing both while dealing with the wind is mentally fatiguing.

Groups were fired at 100 and 200 meters since the range is sometimes used for shooting handgun metallic silhouettes and that's where the target stands are located. The first group was an uninspiring 1½" with one shot a full inch away from the other two. Two more groups to finish the sighting in were 1" and .75" — better but not remarkable.

There may have been some slight reticle cell movement, or maybe our trigger control was improving, but after locking down the Posi-Lock screw and waiting out the wind, the next group was a cloverleaf measuring 0.36". Discounting the one flyer in the first group, five three-shot groups average 0.65".

Waiting Out The Wind

Moving to 200 meters, the wind factor increased, causing groups to string horizontally. Time and again the three shots would fall into 1/2" to 1" vertically but closer to 2" horizontally. Finally wearying of battling the wind, we packed up and started for home, planning to return the next day.

Then just before sundown the wind dropped so we raced back to the bench, got set up and managed to get in three three-shot groups before the light faded. Group average was 1.45" at 200 meters (220 yards) which equates to about 0.66" at 100 yards.

All shooting was done with Remington Premier-grade factory ammunition loaded with the 250 gr. Swift A-Frame bullet. Muzzle velocity claimed on the box was 2,900 fps. Chronographed over an Oehler 33 the ammunition tested had an average velocity of 2,897 fps. That was measured at 12' from the muzzle, so correcting for that factor, muzzle velocity would have been averaging right around 2,904 fps.

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FORTRESS AMERICA

BY MASSAD AYOOB

From good old-fashioned locks to high-tech electronic countermeasures, there's much more to real home security than just knowing how to use a firearm.

Violent crime is trending downward in this country. That's the kind of news that builds false confidence. One is reminded of the rural cop who once asked firearms trainer John Farnam, "How often do you think people get killed around here, anyway?" Farnam's reply was not only memorable, but classic: "Same as anywhere. Just once."

Home invasion is the forcible entry of an occupied home by presumably violent and usually armed criminals. In some statutes, it is described as "violent and tumultuous entry." Given that occupants are present, the criminal justice system sees it as a much more serious crime than burglary, which occurs in an unoccupied place and is a crime against property rather than life and limb.

The laws of reason and prudence dictate that those intruders who would confront the lawful residents in such a situation would do so in a violent manner. This is why, when intruders force their way into an *occupied* dwelling, a situation has been set in motion that can quickly rise to the level of justifiable homicide in self-defense or lawful defense of others.

Hard Targets

Some people who haven't read the fine print think the law allows them to shoot anyone trying to enter their home without permission. This is *not* the case. As a rule, the law still demands some action to have taken place to cause the armed defender to reasonably perceive immediate physical danger before pulling a trigger is authorized.

As any bodyguard (or "executive protection specialist") can tell you, the best fight is the one that's prevented. Shooting it out with the intruder is a last-ditch option, an act of grave desperation that should be avoided if



Although you may be well armed, comprehensive security measures like two-way intercoms, motion-sensitive lights and reliable alarm systems can protect the entire family even when you're not there.

reasonably possible.

Every gun owner concerned with home security should practice what those executive protection specialists call "target denial," a series of strategies that thwart the intruders before they ever come close enough to physically harm you or your family.

The first line of physical defense of your home should be solid doors in solid frames with good locks. While deadbolt locks are superior to spring-bolt locks, you want one of each on every major door. The spring-bolt lock can be "loided," or opened with a piece of celluloid like a driver's license, a trick that won't work on a locked deadbolt.

However, if a member of the family has been chased to the door, he or she may not have time for the necessary manual turning of the deadbolt that locks the door behind them. The spring-bolt lock activates automatically as the door slams shut, buying them time to then turn the deadbolt and "double-lock" the portal.

Barred windows are in vogue in some neighborhoods. If you choose them, make sure they quickly release from the inside. Statistics show us far more people burn to death in home fires than are murdered by home invaders. You don't want to restrict your own exit potential; you just want to prohibit unauthorized entry from anyone on the outside.

Let There Be Light

Some home defense hardware should come from the gun shop, but some can come from the electronics store. Two of the most useful defensive items are intercoms and remote switches.

Intercoms let you communicate with family members in other rooms. They also allow you to project your voice into other rooms in the house without giving your own position away. Intercoms can, if budget and family privacy views allow, offer the option of listening to what's going on in any room in the house.

Remote switches for interior or exterior lights can be activated from a radio console, which should be kept near the door of the "safe room." (The safe room is the room the family understands will be the gathering point for all members if security is breached by intruders.) These switches allow you to control light in any room in the house. You can keep yourselves in the invisible darkness, while lighting up the intruders and denying them much of the concealment they want.

Imagine that you are the intruder. You are two rooms into the house when the lights start going on and off around you. A disembodied voice booms, "Intruders! Do not move! Police are coming! If you enter the sleeping quarters you will be shot!" The technology required for this level of home security is surprisingly affordable.

Coming Through ... Not!

An extremely common form of home invasion is the "push-in" robbery. In this



No matter how many combat training videos you've seen or how often you've been to Gunsite, leave the dangerous job of tactical house-clearing to experienced law enforcement officers while you remain in contact with the police dispatcher via cell phone from your safe room

scenario, one criminal shows up at your door pretending to have legitimate business, to be lost or seeking emergency assistance. As soon as a member of your family opens the door to see what he wants, he shoulders his way through, often accompanied by multiple armed companions. The person at the door is commonly the first to be brutalized in this type of assault.

With the affordability of modern technology, there is no longer an excuse to open the door to someone you don't recognize. Go beyond the minimum-recommended peephole and get a closed circuit video camera. This allows you to not only hear, but also see the person at the door. Even the cheapest intercom lets you talk with a visitor without opening the portal.

Avoiding The 3 a.m. Cat Detector

You want good locks and good alarms. The locksmithing industry polices itself pretty well, but it's still a good idea to get recommendations from the crime prevention bureau of your local police or sheriff's department.

Alarms are another story. That industry is filled with wannabe amateurs who sell the cheapest alarms they can get.

The best way to find a reputable alarm service is to go to the police department and ask for referrals. Police dispatch and the Patrol Division know who the fly-by-night alarm salesmen are, and who installs alarms so poorly that they give false alarms every time there's a thunderstorm. The litmus test question to ask the officer: "What service installed *your* alarms?"

Closing The Loopholes

There are other services readily available from almost

every local police department. You can request what is called a "security survey." A trained officer will be sent to your home to help you make sure you've got the best possible defenses against felonious intrusion.

The officer will make recommendations for closing any neglected elements that could be exploited by a burglar. In addition, this officer will usually be happy to answer questions about burglary patterns and home invasions in your neighborhood and community.

One more thing the cops offer at no charge: When you're going to be gone for a day or more, you can call the police department to request a "premises check." This may require a one-time visit to the department to fill out a form providing information including how many doors and other access points your home may have, who has keys to your house and is authorized entrance to the premises and surroundings (such as neighbors, housekeepers, gardeners, etc.).

When The Spaghetti Hits The Fan

For daily storage you want your guns where you can reach them and unauthorized

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If you're seriously concerned about the security of your family, your nightstand should contain not just a defensive handgun, but a cell phone and a powerful hand-held light.



A Shooter's Last-Minute GIFT GUIDE

BY HOLT BODINSON

*Hunters be merry! Here
are a host of great
stocking-stuffers for
gun owners who are on
Santa's "good" list.*

With Christmas just around the corner, everyone is looking for that perfect gift for the hunter or gun collector in their life—even if that person is you. Sure, there are plenty of good old stand-bys in the hunting aisle of your favorite sporting goods store, but how about something a little more unique, individual or unusual? Something you've never heard of before, but which becomes absolutely indispensable after the first time you put it to use.

Well, fear not. Whether you're a tardy holiday shopper or a shooter who hopes to find something exciting in your stocking come Dec. 25, here are several unique choices that might just fit into your "last minute gift" category.

Micro-Light

We simply cannot believe the light generated by this tiny little flashlight. In fact, this remarkable tool rides the Space Shuttle and was given out as a gift to the Cosmonauts on Mir.

The Micro-Light 11 is the size and weight of a quarter, and with a flick of a switch it will light up a 10'x10' room from wall-to-wall, take you safely down the roughest trail at night, and even signal for help if needed. The essential value of this powerful

Turn your truck or car into the world's most portable shooting bench or spotting scope platform with the handy, versatile Magna-Pod.



but tiny flashlight is that it's always on hand, always around when needed, and in our experience, always works.

Replaceable lithium batteries with a shelf life of 10 years power the Micro-Light 11. Depending upon the color of the unbreakable bulb, the continuous use rating on the batteries ranges from 12 hours to seven days.

We keep one Micro-Light 11 on a key ring, one in our shirt pockets and one in our packs when afield. Moreover, we keep the flashlight in our first aid kit, on our bedside tables, and give them as welcomed gifts to hunting companions.

Try the blue bulb for the brightest light (a trail favorite); yellow for a typical warm flashlight type illumination; and red if night vision is important (excellent for night fly-fishing).

Red, yellow and orange models retail for approximately \$16 and blue, green, white and turquoise for \$20.

Make sure you order or buy the "11" model that has an off-on switch rather than a pressure switch.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
L.R.I.**

(541) 484-6898
www.PhotonLight.com

Magna-Pod

The name Shepherd is synonymous with optical innovation. The company thrives on creating new concepts and designs. Shepherd's Magna-Pod is a revolutionary spotting scope, binocular, camera, or rifle rest tripod. We've been using it for two seasons as a spotting scope mount in the field and on the range.

Why revolutionary? Well, the base is actually two bases. The visible base is an equilateral triangle measuring 12½" on a side and made from polymer. At each of the three corners is a rubber foot. The tripod effect created by this triangular base makes a highly stable platform, ideally suited to holding your spotting scope on flat surfaces such as a shooting bench.

Nighttime is awfully dark, whether you're in the woods or looking for the keyhole at your front door. The Micro-Light 11 can lighten things up.

By removing a steel plate on the underside of the base, the main mount with a 4" diameter magnetic foot attached is released. The

rubber-padded magnetized mount can then be secured firmly to any metallic part of your hunting vehicle — hoods being the most obvious. It's the fastest and handiest spotting scope mount we have ever used, and we've spent many hours gazing through Shepherd's clear 15-40x spotting scope over the hoods of our trucks while scouting and hunting.

The tripod head is a standard, threaded camera mount offering vertical, horizontal and angular adjustments. The new models of the Magna-Pod are fitted with a fast-adjusting ball head, and true to their reputation for quality



Above: Could toasty toes (or fingers) be any easier? Just open the envelope, allow the air to activate the exothermic Hot Hands, and chase the ice cubes out of your boots and gloves. **Below:** Although it bears a slight resemblance to a Klingon warrior's weapon, the Uluchet is so rugged and versatile that you'll find 101 uses for it in the field.

service, Shepherd is sending current owners of the Magna-Pod the new ball head without charge. Pop off the tripod head on either model, and Shepherd has provided a "U" shaped rifle rest unit that replaces it.

The Magna-Pod is typical Shepherd —innovative, functional and designed by hunters for hunters. Retail price is \$129.

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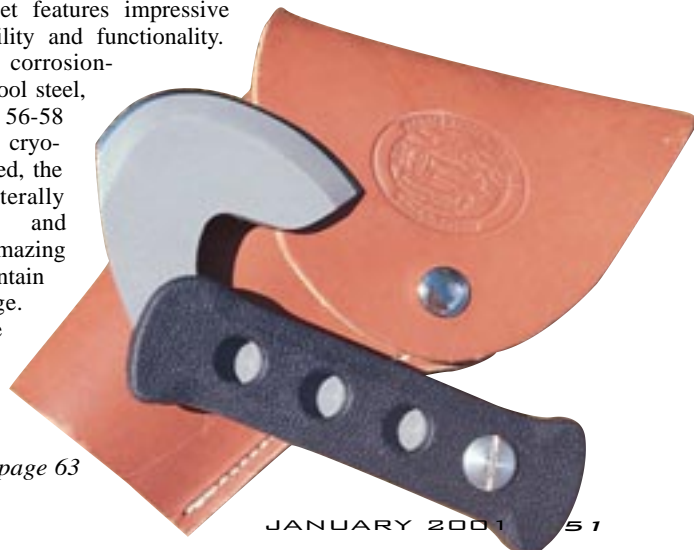
Uluchet

The Uluchet is a multi-purpose hunting tool that does a very sharp job of field dressing and skinning game as a traditional ulu as well as quartering and accomplishing light chopping jobs when opened up as a hatchet — hence the name, Uluchet.

The Uluchet features impressive quality, durability and functionality. Made from corrosion-resistant D-2 tool steel, hardened to 56-58 Rockwell and cryogenically treated, the Uluchet is literally razor sharp and exhibits an amazing ability to maintain that edge.

Converting the tool back-and-forth from an ulu to a hatchet is

continued on page 63





Want a rimfire rifle that is a little bit racy? Decorate your shooting bench with the eye-catching SVT.

KIMBER'S NEW .22 RIFLES

The new rimfires from Kimber
bring shooters back to an
age when the company was
known for world-class rifles.

BY CHARLES E. PETTY

From 1979 to 1994 the name “Kimber” was synonymous with, “fine accurate .22 rifle.” The name of the company was Kimber of Oregon and they were located in the Portland suburb of Clackamas. Kimber prospered by turning out really classy .22 rifles. They were ambitious too and began an aggressive program with centerfire rifles.

Unfortunately, the money went out faster than it came in and Kimber was always strapped for cash — eventually filing for bankruptcy. A couple of years later a new corporation, Kimber of America, emerged from the ashes.

But they were still cash poor and a minority interest in the company was sold to Leslie Edelman, a firearms wholesaler. Soon the minority became a majority and in 1997 the Kimber facilities in Oregon were closed.

On a parallel track a small defense contractor, Jerico Precision, in Yonkers, N.Y. was having hard times too. Government contracts were disappearing and the company was looking for something profitable to do. President Ron

Cohen found Chip McCormick, who just happened to be working on a project to adapt the Government Model .45 to be made on modern CNC equipment.

Jerico just happened to have the equipment and know-how to build the 1911. It was a match made in heaven, resulting in Kimber’s now-familiar line of fine pistols. As the 1911 project was just getting started, Edelman purchased Jerico Precision, which then became Kimber Manufacturing. Today when you say “Kimber” almost everyone thinks of pistols and perhaps some new shooters reading this won’t have known that Kimber first made rifles.

Back To The Basics

When Kimber first resumed production in Yonkers, in 1997, it was just assumed that they would begin making the Model 82 rimfire rifle again. Israeli weapons designer, Nehemiah Sirkis came aboard to help. The old tooling was badly worn and not readily adaptable to Kimber’s modern manufacturing methods. Sirkis’ early work concluded that it would be easier to start with a clean sheet of paper — so he did.



Prefer something a bit more traditional? How can you go wrong with the timeless lines of the Classic?

The design that emerged was geared toward modern manufacturing technology, but retains the classy look of the original. Sirkis borrowed heavily from the Mauser model 1934 that he called, "the ideal .22 rifle." One of the things everyone will notice is that it has a true Mauser claw extractor and a classic two-position safety that echoes the Model 70.

The convenience of manufacture is not easily noticed. The first thing to notice is that the receiver is perfectly round. There are lots of holes and milled cuts but these are the stock-in-trade of modern CNC machine centers.

One of these subtle differences is that the bolt is offset in relation to the centerline of the bore. It's about 0.2" higher. This eliminates the need to drill an off-center firing pin hole

Kimber designer Nehemiah Sirkis inspects new barrel making equipment in the Kimber factory.



in the bolt or offset the barrel to accommodate the rimfire cartridge.

The bolt is machined from a single piece of 1/2" round stock to allow the locking lugs to be an integral part of the bolt. The threaded handle screws easily into the bolt. In

ACCURACY TEST RESULTS: KIMBER CLASSIC .22 RIFLE

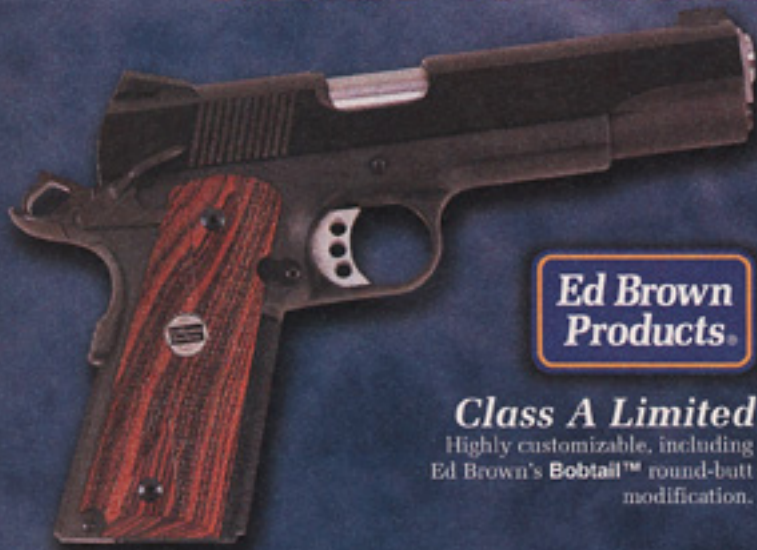
LOAD	VELOCITY	ACCURACY
HIGH VELOCITY		
Federal Classic HV	1,242 fps	.721"
Remington HV-HP	1,256 fps	.917"
W-W Super Silhouette 1247	.653 fps	.899"
Average .846"		
STANDARD VELOCITY		
CCI Green Tag	1,108 fps	.742"
PMC Scoremaster	1,143 fps	.596"
Rem/Ely Club	1,081 fps	.512"
Average .616"		
MATCH		
Ely 10-X	1,119 fps	.510"
Federal GM Ultra Match 1184	.654 fps	.595"
Federal GM Ultra Match (1080)	1,156 fps	.551"
Average .552"		
Overall Average 0.692"		

KIMBER SVT

LOAD	VELOCITY	ACCURACY
HIGH VELOCITY		
Federal Classic HV	1,220 fps	.400"
Remington HV-HP	1,217 fps	.561"
W-W Super Silhouette	1,220 fps	.772"
Average 0.561"		
STANDARD VELOCITY		
CCI Green Tag	1,068 fps	.495"
PMC Scoremaster	1,128 fps	.662"
Rem/Ely Club	1,055 fps	.536"
Average 0.564"		
MATCH		
Ely 10-X	1,018 fps	.622"
Federal GM Ultra Match	1,162 fps	.259"
Federal GM Ultra Match (1080)	1,117 fps	.279"
Average 0.387"		
Overall Average 0.504"		

Notes: Accuracy results are five-shot groups at 50 yards from benchrest. Velocity is the instrumental average of 10 shots at 10 ft. as measured with a PACT MK IV chronograph.

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addition, the bolt features a helical cut on the bottom that cams the bolt the last 1/8" to lock up. This serves to firmly seat the cartridge in the chamber and also provides positive initial extraction.

Sirkis calls the chamber a "flared, match chamber." The idea is to have a snug fit at the front of the chamber and throat where the bullet actually engages the rifling, but to be just a little larger toward the rear for good feeding. Even though you can see where the bullet actually touches the rifling, extracting a live round is no problem.

Upgrading The Classic

A five-shot magazine is standard and fits flush with the floorplate. It is held by a simple spring catch. To remove, simply push the spring to the rear and the magazine falls right into your hand. It takes just a bit of practice, but it is easily done with one hand.

Supplied by a vendor, the magazine is *strongly* reminiscent of the old Winchester 75 but is not interchangeable. Many shooters are asking why Kimber didn't use the magazine from the Model 82. Sirkis explains that the old tooling was not useable. In addition, the new style allows better alignment and more reliable feeding.

Sirkis also explains the reasoning behind the interference-fit barrel, as opposed to a threaded barrel. While it would seem that an inch of threaded metal would be stronger than a similar length of metal-to-metal contact, it really isn't. An engineer's drawing of two threaded parts will reveal that, at the very most there's only about 70 percent contact — most of the time it's less.

Threading also introduces some problems. Obviously there are two sets of threads to cut and they have to be *just* right so that when the barrel is torqued-in, the extractor, cut will be in the right place. In a way, threads provide two opportunities for something to go wrong.

Kimber's manufacturing is well suited to turning round parts, or reaming round holes to very precise sizes. So the barrel shank is turned to be about 0.001" to 0.002" larger than the corresponding hole in the receiver. There is absolutely no way you can put part "A" into hole "B" — unless you know the trick.

Steel expands when heated. So a very precise fixture was made to hold both the receiver and the barrel in proper alignment. Propane torch heads are mounted on either side of the receiver. When everything is lined up, an insulating material is placed between the receiver and barrel and the torches lit. Using color as their guide, the receiver is heated until it expands 0.002" to 0.003" and the barrel is pressed in.

A dummy bolt is in place in the receiver so headspace is set at the same time. Even so, it takes quite a bit of leverage to seat the barrel. When the receiver cools, the barrel is "grabbed solid by the receiver," said Sirkis. Variations of this method are used in the manufacture of many rimfire rifles. "It's not



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Note: It is unlawful to alter a post
ban magazine's capacity to
hold more than ten rounds.

screwed in because a press fit is more accurate," said Sirkis.

Cut And Dry

Everyone wants to know if it is safe to dry fire a gun. Sometimes dry firing can damage rimfires, but the Kimber design is such that dry firing is no problem. Sirkis explained that the firing pin is a very precise fit in the bolt, but comes to a positive stop that allows enough firing pin protrusion for positive ignition but not enough to ding up the chamber. Just out of curiosity we dry fired one rifle 50 times and carefully inspected the chamber. There was no damage or even any evidence of dry firing.

Everyone who is familiar with the old Kimber rifles will recall the classy looks and stock work. A great deal of effort has been expended to maintain the look with a stock that is both pleasing and accurate. Pillar bedding blocks are permanently embedded in the stock, as is a steel recoil lug that engages a cutout in the receiver. The barrel is free-floated.

Speaking of barrels — Kimber has embarked on making their own. In the past they relied upon barrels supplied by vendors but their experience with making pistol barrels suggested that they could do a better, more controlled job on their own. The very first guns had barrels supplied by vendors, but Kimber's in-house barrelmaking is now up to production speed.

When all is done, there will be four models of the .22 rifle. The Classic, Super America, SVT (Short Varmint/Target) and HS (Hunter Silhouette). The SVT is a special case, but the other three are mechanically alike and differ only in the quality or style of wood and the finish.

The Classic has a plain walnut stock checkered 18 lpi. The 22" barrel tapers to a 1/2" diameter at the muzzle. The HS has a high-comb, Monte Carlo stock, a 24" barrel and matte finish.

Judging from pre-production samples, these rifles will be gorgeous. The stocks are AAA claro walnut, checkered 22 lpi and accented with an ebony forend tip. Metal is highly polished blue, but the mechanical stuff is all the same.

Same But Different

The SVT rifle uses the same action, but all the other features are different. The barrel is an 18" fluted stainless steel tube with the now-standard match diameter of 0.920". The stock is a gray laminate. It has a very high comb and a pistol grip that strongly favors right-handed shooters.

We recently had a chance to compare the SVT and the Classic version of these Kimber rifles. Our test procedure was pretty simple. Each rifle was tested with the same ammo: three match, three standard velocity and three high velocity loads. The rifles were dressed out with scopes appropriate for their use. The Classic wore a 4.5-x10x

Leupold Vari-x III; the SVT a Leupold 6.5-20x target scope. All benchrest shooting was done with the scope set at the highest possible magnification.

There were no mechanical malfunctions although we did have one balky magazine that wouldn't always feed the first cartridge. Kimber replaced it.

Kimber has earned an enviable reputation for good triggers on their pistols and the tradition continues here. The fully adjustable trigger on both rifles was set just a hair over 2 lbs. with a nice, crisp let-off. We didn't feel the need to change it, and really don't like triggers much lighter on this type of rifle.

Kimber .22s have always been renowned for their accuracy and always came with a neat little laminated test group. The standard was — and is — that no rifle will be shipped unless it can shoot at least 0.4" five-shot groups at 50 yards. The test ammo is Federal Gold Medal Ultra Match. Our Classic came with a group that measures 0.263". The SVT's was a stunning 0.120".

Our testing protocol was to fire each rifle with 50 rounds of standard velocity ammo (CCI Green Tag) for zeroing and to break in the barrel a little. Then record shooting was done from a solid benchrest.

The Results Are In

When discussing accuracy results it is often difficult to generalize. That is surely the case here. Looking at the two rifles on an

individual basis, it's easy to see that it won't be hard to find a load either gun likes. One of the pleasant surprises was that both rifles shot well with at least one of the high velocity loads. Anyone who buys one of these little treasures would be well advised to try lots of different kinds of ammo.

The name Kimber has always been associated great guns and good value. In just five years Kimber's pistols have become the acknowledged leaders in both quality and value. The cheapest Kimber pistol has all the nice features that used to cost a ton of money when done by a custom gunsmith. And their success has brought the return of a rifle with the Kimber name. Only time will tell if the new exceeds the old, but odds are good that they will.



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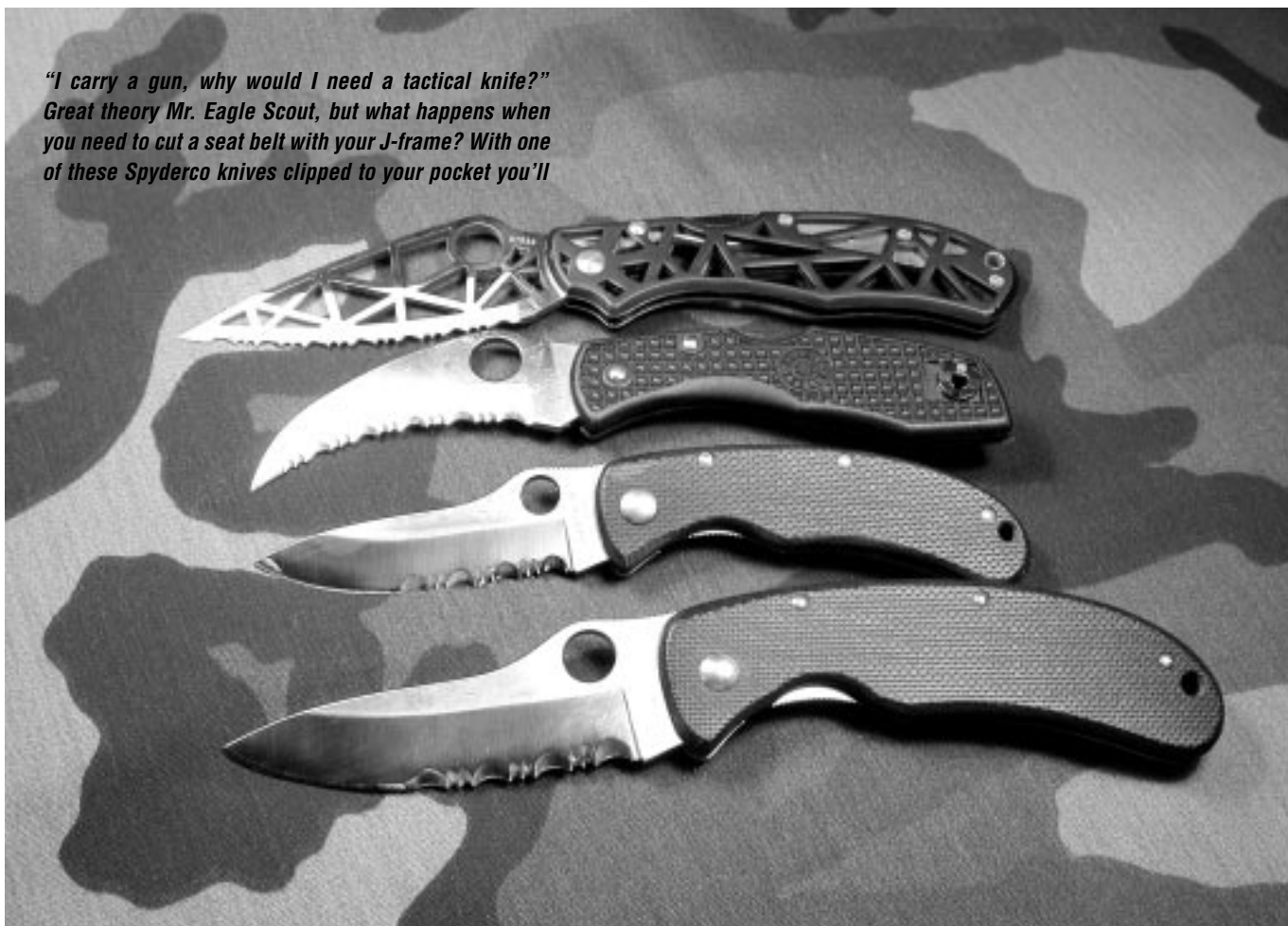
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Dept. 321

*"I carry a gun, why would I need a tactical knife?"
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you need to cut a seat belt with your J-frame? With one
of these Spyderco knives clipped to your pocket you'll*



***From self-defense to
work-a-day tool-box tasks,
these multi-purpose blades
give the term "survival
tool" a whole new meaning***

Back in the mid-'70s, the Buck 110 folder was considered a rather radical accessory. "Why the hell do you need that on your belt?" was the typical reaction of grizzled police vets upon seeing the innovative folder on the belt of younger officers. They would then pull a Stockman, Canoe or more often than not, a Barlow or electrician's knife from a pocket. Usually the knife was well worn and the blade was stained and showed many visits to a pocket stone.

But the concept of the folding tactical knife was here to stay, and design improvements came quickly. When Sal Glesser put a

TACTICAL KNIVES

**BY ROY
HUNTINGTON**

hole in the blade of a knife and Spyderco was born, things changed seriously. Until then, Buck, Puma, Victorinox, Wenger and a small handful of others reigned supreme in the “working” knife department.

The one-handed opening feature of the original Spyderco “Clip-It” was astonishingly simple. Prior attempts to accomplish this feature most often consisted of sheaths that kept the blade open slightly and “automatically” opened the knife when it was drawn. They were mostly pretty scary to use and there were lots of bad cuts among cops as they learned to use them. They were finally labeled “Verbotten” for duty use. Spyderco’s groundbreaking design made us realize there was a different way to think about the concept of a truly one-handed knife.

The Tactics Of The Knife

A tactical knife is one that can be put to use quickly and will perform mightily in its intended role of “separating” one thing from another. Usually, this feat is accomplished with one hand.

We’re not going to spend too much time on the specifics of too many of the breed, but rather concentrate on the “whys” and “what fors” of the family. It would take a book to cover what’s out there, even if we just stuck to “what’s new.” Suffice to say that if you pay your money (between \$50 to \$250 or more), you can pretty much get something that will keep your kiester out of hot water. Also, they’re all so damn sharp these days you’ll probably cut yourself while you’re fiddling with it. Be advised.

In addition to the one-handed opening innovation, Spyderco did something else that rocked the boat — Glesser put a pocket clip on that same funny knife with the hole in the blade. Amazingly, the force shifted significantly and everyone in the blade

continued on page 58

Five Tips For Picking The Right Tactical Knife

With the trainload of choices out there it can be tough to choose just the right knife for your needs. In order to manage the chore, start by asking yourself, “What is the job at hand?” If you are honest with yourself, you’ll often find you need much less knife than you might imagine.

The Working Knife

Looking for a daily, “working” folder to clip to your pocket, ride at your waist or drop into a purse? Perhaps something to open boxes at work, trim that recalcitrant plant by your front door or cut that old fan belt off the ’63 Chevy.

What’s your price range? For \$40 to \$50, peace of mind is available in the form of a Spyderco Delica. The stainless blade and synthetic handle make this knife virtually impervious to the elements. If you opt for the serrated blade, you could cut one of the Queen Mary’s mooring lines if you had to — all the while feeling quite tactical.

Rough And Tumble

Got more money to spend and maybe your line of work runs more toward the rough and tumble? Plunk down \$50 to \$150 and you’ll find yourself with a Kershaw Blizzard, Black Out or Whirlwind, all with Ken Onion’s “Speed Safe” opening feature. Once again, with high-tech steels and handle materials like Polyamide, these knives are tough as nails, perfect for use as hard-cutting tools.

Just as tough, or maybe even more so, might be a Cold Steel, Benchmade or Emerson tactical folder. Cutting-edge designs, serrated edges, curves and non-slip handles have created a family of folders

suited to be at your side as you patrol the streets, open a parachute, dive to 120 feet or just open your mail.

Let There Be Light

Is lightweight your fancy? Al Mar’s “Ultralights” define the breed. Weighing around 1 to 2 ozs., these slender, pocket-friendly folders have pocket clips, easy one-handed opening and are classically styled. Looking almost like fine jewelry, their good looks hide their tough demeanor.

Airline Legal

Traveling is always a problem with knives. A standard-looking, classic folder without a serrated blade most often survives airport security checks. A bone-handled Case or Buck knife looks friendly to the uninitiated but can still handle serious cutting chores of the tactical variety.

A word of caution, however: Think hard before you take your 4" \$200 tactical folder to L.A.X. assuming that you’ll be catching that plane with it still in your pocket! The “less-than-4” blade rule” is not consistent. Sometimes it works, sometimes not. We lost a Spyderco Cricket to an airport cop who thought the serrations made it a “deadly weapon.”

Don’t Pick The Low Bidder

Whatever you do, don’t scrimp. Foreign-made rip-offs are just that, and simply because it looks like a Spyderco doesn’t mean it is. Especially if it’s only five bucks!



Above: In situations where you are unable to arm yourself with a handgun, a fixed-blade tactical knife in a quick-access holster, like this Nealy model from Boker, may be a viable option. **Right:** A hefty fixed-blade knife, like a classic Ka-Bar or a high tech model from Cold Steel, may not be right in all circumstances, but can fulfill certain tactical needs.



TACTICAL KNIVES

continued from page <None>

industry was left in the dust.

Suddenly you could lay your hand on your knife quickly and easily, open it and put it to work just as quickly, all with one hand. Sounds pretty "tactical" to us. All those Buck 110 folders quickly became antiques.

Fixing The Problem

Is a fixed blade knife a "tactical knife"? We'd say yes. Perhaps one of the original tactical knives is the Marine Ka-Bar knife.

Are bayonets tactical knives? Perhaps not, but then a Ka-Bar was made for one thing — to cut, and cut it did. A generation of Americans relied on their Ka-Bars to save their collective bacon, and the spirit of that knife has generated a slew of new ideas.

Look at any "tactical fighter" today and you can see some history behind it. Lots of times that history might be a Ka-Bar. But the only problem is, in today's world, it's not socially acceptable to carry 7" or 8" of fixed blade on your hip unless you want people to stare and cops to meet you at all hours of the day and night.

We must broadly interpret the idea behind the term "tactical knives," because what might be "tactical" for a schoolteacher might not be up to the job for a Navy SEAL or a

beat cop in the "bad" part of town.

The knife industry is currently in the midst of a renaissance. There was only a small handful of quality factory makers to pick and choose from 30 years ago, but today, well, hold on to your wallet. Chances are pretty good if you can think it up, someone is making it and probably in several models, to boot!

From O1 or D2 tool steel, bone, antler, ivory, wood and micarta we've progressed all too quickly to a rash of numbers that are difficult to comprehend. "CPM440V, 410, G-10, 6060T6, Titanium and 440C" all describe fairly common knife components.

Tactical usually means high-tech, which means "highly technical," and for once the term is probably right. Steels, handle materials, blade materials and methods of heat treating, manufacturing and fitting are so far from the technology of only 10 years ago that to say we have a new generation of knives is to understate the obvious by several levels.

Tough Enough

Today's knives, both folders and fixed blades, are the most rugged, bulletproof, ergonomically-designed tools that have ever been manufactured. For sheer value, money plunked down on a quality folder or fixed blade tactical knife from the likes of SOG, Kershaw, Al Mar, Gerber, Buck, Emerson, Spyderco, GT, Cold Steel, Camillus,

Columbia River Knife and Tool, Microtech, Mission Knives, Meyerco, Randall, Benchmade or Timberline (to name just a few) will make you a happy person and the envy of all who see that cool tool riding in your pocket or on your hip. Not to mention it just might actually become indispensable in your daily life.

Recently, Gus Grissom's Mercury space capsule, "Liberty Bell 7," was raised from the deep after a 40-year sleep 15,000 feet down on the ocean floor. Inside it they found his Randall knife (the No. 17 Astro). After being cleaned up it was found to still be serviceable.

An astronaut might have used his Randall knife to pry his way out of his capsule, survive on a desert island or open his space rations — all of which sounds pretty tactical. Perhaps this particular Randall No. 17 (one of two made) might rank as one of the most famous "tactical knives."

The moral of the story is that it's best to not get caught up in the term "tactical," but focus on the needs involved. If a 50-year-old Marbles Game Getter is your idea of the perfect knife, then it's pretty tactical for you. If your tastes run a bit more "new millennium," check out the newest offerings available over the counter. You're sure to find more performance than you could ever need.



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FORTRESS AMERICA

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people can't. "Unauthorized people" include your guests, your kids' friends and perhaps your own children if they're not yet at a level of responsibility and competence to have access to lethal weapons.

If you choose the gunlock or lock-box route, make sure that you and other authorized family members can get the gun loose and into firing condition quickly and smoothly. One police supervisor in California has responded to the aftermath of numerous home invasions. When off-duty, he wears his department-issue Glock in an off-duty Aker hip holster, leaving it on his person until he goes to bed, at which time he places the loaded gun at bedside.

"Home invasions happen too fast," he says. "I'm not going to take a chance that I can't reach a gun at a storage point in time to defend my family."

"House-clearing" scenarios, in which you grab a gun and a flashlight and go looking for bad guys, are all but suicidal. This is a microcosm of what a soldier calls a MOUT environment. That means Military Operation, Urban Terrain — house-to-house combat.

As a rule in MOUT environments with conventional small arms, it takes a force of up to nine times the size of the defending force to dislodge the latter, and it will be accomplished only with a very high casualty rate. Whoever goes to ground and stays still gets the enviable position of being the defender; whoever is mobile and aggressive becomes the cannon fodder.

When you start moving, you'll be detected if the invader is at all alert. He gets behind cover and shoots you the second you appear at the door. The advantages are hugely on his side.

This is why professionals use the strategy of marshaling their families into a safe room and ensconcing there, taking the defensive position and forcing intruders to become the moving target. Now it is the intruder who will be enfiladed — trapped in a free-fire zone, like a hall or staircase, where there is no cover and no concealment to protect him from the guns of the threatened family members if he approaches them and puts them in reasonable and prudent fear for their lives.

Don't Remember The Alamo

Even if you have a buffalo rifle to back up your six-shooter, this isn't the Battle of Adobe Walls. The blue-clad reinforcements are only a phone call away. You want to have a cell phone when you're out and about anyway — it is to the armed citizen what the police radio is to the patrol officer — and at night you want it resting next to your regular phone. That way, if you get one of the proliferating breed of smart burglars who cut the phone lines before they make entry (among other things, they know this disables

a lot of alarm systems) you have an immediate line of unassailable communication available to call in the cavalry.

When you or another family member makes contact with the dispatcher, *give your address and repeat it*. Make this your plan because A) "dedicated 911," which is supposed to flash your address on the dispatcher's screen, doesn't always work; B) you may be calling from an unfamiliar place that doesn't have dedicated 911; and C) cell phones don't register a location on a dedicated 911 board.

Don't say, "I want to report a burglary." It sounds "after the fact" and in some jurisdictions is not a high priority call. Say instead, "I think there are intruders in my home!" This is the kind of high priority call that will scramble the local gendarmes like fighter pilots at a SAC base.

You or another family member should stay on the line. This puts you in almost direct communication with responding officers through the dispatcher.

The burglars sound like they're leaving? Tell the dispatcher: "I think they're exiting the back door, which would put them on the west side of the house on Ninth Avenue." This is the kind of immediately delivered information that can make the difference between the offenders escaping, or their being caught in the rapidly closing capture net of the converging police units.

Have a key to the house on a stick of Cyalume, the chemical light-sticks you can buy any time of year at a camping shop or hardware store. This combination gives you the ability to readily deliver a house key to responding officers, even if you have to drop it from a second story window. In addition to the house key, draw a floorplan of the house, reduce it on a copier, and have it laminated and attach it to the light-stick with the key.

Don't Shoot The Good Guys

Never take a gun and go looking for the bad guys after you've called the police! This sets the stage for a mistaken identity shooting.

Scenario One: The first responding officer is reconnoitering your house, looking through a window, fearing "man with a gun" call. Through the window, he sees you with your firearm — "Man with a gun!" He shouts a command, you reflexively turn toward him, and he fires. You're dead.

Scenario Two: Because a home invasion is a high priority call, all available personnel are mobilized, and the first responding officer is in plainclothes or perhaps even in a scummy-looking "undercover" disguise. You see him fiddling with the back door, a pistol in his hand. You shout a challenge, he turns instinctively toward you with his gun turning with him, and you fire. You've killed a cop.

Stay in the safe room, on the line. If you hear sounds of entry, tell the dispatcher, and the dispatcher will tell you if it's a cop or not. Put down your gun and step away from it before coming into sight of the officers. At

moments like this, follow the Holiday Inn rule: "The best surprise is no surprise."

The Arming of Fortress America

The choice of home defense guns is a topic involved enough to warrant books, not just articles. The short form is: Tailor the tool to the predictable task and the pre-identified users.

Make sure the handgun's grip is small enough in circumference, and the long gun's stock short enough in length, that the smallest of the people authorized to use it can handle it comfortably and competently. A large man can easily adapt to a small handgun or a short-stocked rifle or shotgun, but a petite female is severely handicapped by a gun that is too big. Make sure the power level is such that any of those you've authorized to use the gun can handle its recoil in rapid fire with the home defense loads you've chosen.

The handgun is "infantry;" it allows you to go mobile, shepherding other family members from their bedrooms to the safe room. It leaves a hand free to work a flashlight, light switches, the remote light console, the intercom and the phone. You can go to the door with it discreetly concealed, or step outside to cautiously investigate a suspicious sound, without "frightening the horses."

The long gun is "artillery," not just because of its power but because it is used from a fixed location and directed into an already-plotted zone of fire. If the family is in the safe room and the intruders are kicking down that door, the carbine, rifle or shotgun comes into its own. A person who can only afford one gun will find the handgun much more versatile than the long gun.

Which guns? One ill-advised gun owner I knew kept an HK91, a splendid .308 semi-automatic rifle, as a home defense gun. He lived in a trailer park. A classic example of a fine gun in the wrong environment.

Friends of ours who live on a sprawling Texas ranch keep short AR-15 .223 auto rifles and Les Baer custom .45 autos loaded with hardball for home defense. This choice makes eminent good sense for their environment.

My wife Dorothy and I live in the city. The guns we'll reach for are high capacity 9mm pistols with +P+ hollowpoints and a 12 gauge autoloading shotgun, which make eminently good sense for our environment. No one set of tools is perfect for every task.

Defense against home invasion isn't just about guns. A spectrum approach of defensive architecture, hardened perimeter, redundant communications, and above all, a planned family response to such an emergency are absolutely critical.

Don't let anyone tell you that firearms have no place in home defense. They are the final line in the sand that prevents crippling injury, rape, torture and murder at the hands of some of this nation's most wanton criminals.



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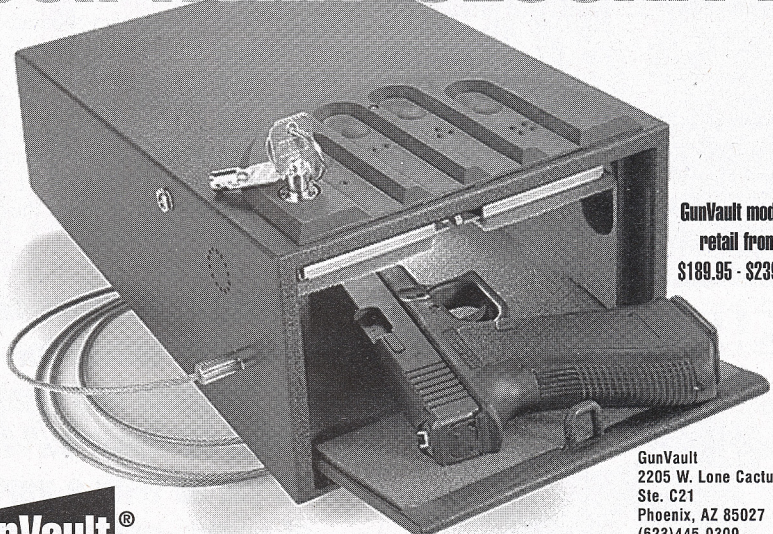
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GUNS OF MILTECH

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testing with GI-original replacement parts installed as needed. A slam fire can occur, Silva noted, if the hammer hooks or the sear is out of spec.

Silva replaces the barrel, whether it needs it or not, with a new match grade GI-spec barrel. He also replaces the stock with a new walnut stock that is handfinished with the original oil used by government contractors. Even the oil and the grease he uses is GI-spec.

"The average customer can't see the precision, he only sees the beauty of [the finished rifle]," Silva commented.

Guaranteed Shooters

Miltech's Garands are guaranteed to shoot 1½" at 100 yards with a variety of ammo, not just match ammo. The sights are all tight and recalibrated.

All surfaces are reground and refinished. A typical receiver is pitted and worn with most of the square corners rounded off. Everything is restored to "as issued" condition, including the stock hardware and steel buttplate. In all, there are over 2.5 man-hours of metal refinishing alone in a Miltech Garand.

Completed rifles are thoroughly tested for reliable function and Miltech's accuracy standard. This entails two separate trips to the range, the first for function firing and setting a rough zero at 50 yards and the second for serious 100-yard group shooting. The groups are shot "by a guy on a bench just resting his elbows, no sandbags or rests," Silva said. "If we don't get 1½" groups, the gun doesn't go out," the 55-year-old company president said.

"Completed rifles are thoroughly tested for reliable function and guaranteed to shoot 1½" at 100 yards with a variety of ammo, not just with match ammo."

The final embellishment to a customer's Garand is to pack it in the crate that Silva always dreamed about as a kid. Miltech's signature, as it were, is a military-style pine crate just like those in which the Garands of yesteryear used to be delivered from manufacturers like Springfield Armory, Winchester and Remington. Each rifle comes with a new Model 1907 leather sling, two *en bloc* clips, a sectional cleaning rod and combination tool, a chamber brush, a manual, historical literature, a padded case and a pine box.

A Miltech Garand costs \$1,475. If you supply your own "beater" Garand, the price for a complete restoration is \$825, which is a bargain considering the degree of detail

and level of craftsmanship that goes into a Miltech restoration.

Miltech's Other Rifles

While the Garand does most of Miltech's talking, the company also offers other military rifles restored to "as issued" condition — the '03A3, Mauser 98, Enfield 1917 and M1 Carbine.

The Springfield is a notably good deal, selling for \$1,095. Lately, we haven't been able to find even a "shooter" at a gun show for less than \$850, and those were pretty bad. Anything with good metal, a decent stock and a clean bore was in the \$1,000 to \$1,200 range. A completely restored, rebarreled, restocked Springfield for \$1,095 is a deal. Trust us on this one.

Miltech's M1 Carbines run \$1,025 for most makes; Winchester and Rock-ola marked guns are an extra \$100. The Enfield's tab is \$995 and the Mauser runs \$1,025. All of the rifles exhibit the same level of quality and fine finish as the Miltech Garand.

There is one other Miltech specialty, a relatively obscure rifle from World War II that didn't see much service but was hugely influential in the later development of the M16 — the Johnson rifle. The 1941 Johnson was designed by Marine Capt. Melvin Johnson who incorporated a rotary bolt, recoil spring plunger in the buttstock, a tubular receiver and a tall front sight. Sound familiar? Johnson later worked with Eugene Stoner at Armalite.

The Johnson is a .30-'06 with a rotary magazine and a quick-change barrel. The rifle is quite rare with a total production of around 50,000, many of which were sold overseas and never heard from again. The price of a fully restored, "as issued" Johnson is \$3,495.

Silva has offered other rifles in the past, such as a Mk. IV Lee-Enfield, and may do so again on a limited edition basis. He also accepts special orders, such as a really pristine 1903A4, the sniper version of the Springfield, as seen in *Private Ryan* complete with a mint condition original scope.

"Any of us could be doing something else and make more money," Silva sighed, "but that's not why we do this. I know it sounds like flag waving, but World War II was very significant. These Garands are the real apple pie, the real protectors of freedom." Pick up a 9 lb., 8 oz. piece of history called the M1 Garand and find out what it's like to shoot the same rifle that stormed the Normandy beaches and battled through the Bulge.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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GIFT GUIDE

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merely a matter of spreading the locking Zytel handles and reversing them.

Using the Uluchet for the first time takes a bit of learning since you work with a straight arm rather than with a wrist motion, but in a few minutes the motion becomes quite natural. The curved 3½" cutting edge of the Uluchet (powered by a straight arm motion) makes skinning a cinch.

Opened into a hatchet form, the Uluchet is 9½" long with a nice weight-forward balance. It can be ordered with either a leather or a Kydex sheath, and frankly, we like the soft, quiet leather sheath better. Priced at \$130, the Uluchet carries a lifetime guarantee and will be resharpened at no cost forever.

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We particularly like their camouflaged shooting mittens that incorporate openings in the palm and thumb so that you can quickly grasp and operate a gun or knife. Built into the palms of the mittens are small pockets that accept one thin 2 ¼"x4" HotHands packet, which lasts up to 10 hours.

Their line of sportsmen's socks made with various blends of wools and synthetics is equally effective with the HotHands packets fitting into a pocket on top of the foot and lasting up to six hours. There's also a small adhesive-backed pad called "Toasti Toes" that can be applied to your own socks and is ideal for walking about.

To keep your core and kidneys warm there is a camouflaged body belt that accepts a larger HotHands packet generating heat for up to 18 hours. There's even a survival packet, "Survival Heat," measuring 9"x13" that churns out warmth for 15 hours and, in its G.I. application, has kept many a soldier warm in a sleeping bag overnight.

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HISTORY OF THE .33

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his cartridge line, the .33 was omitted, likely due to lack of proper bullets.

The first belted .33 was designed by Birmingham Small Arms in 1921. Based on the belted Holland & Holland case, yet shortened and with a sharper shoulder, the .33 Belted Rimless Nitro Express was also called the .33 BSA. It was a true .33 with bore diameter of 0.330" and bullet diameter of 0.338".

Taylor refers to it as the .330 BSA, but cartridge headstamps and rifle barrel markings clearly show that .33 was the correct designation. The .33 BSA is virtually identical to the .338 Win. Mag. (which came out nearly four decades later) except that the case is 1/10" shorter.

Why did it fail? For some reason BSA insisted on a velocity of 3,000 fps. To achieve that with powders then available they had to go to a 165 gr. bullet. With their poor sectional density these short bullets gave poor penetration, and the soft-point versions at high velocity blew up on impact. Given decent bullets it would have been a success, but as it was, the cartridge quickly got a bad reputation with hunters. It was discontinued before World War II.

Belts & Wildcats

In the 1930s Elmer Keith and a couple of

fellow rifle enthusiasts, Charlie O'Neil and Don Hopkins, were experimenting with .33-caliber wildcats. They settled on two versions: the .333 OKH, based on the .30-'06 case, and the .334 OKH on the belted Holland & Holland case. Except that they used 0.333" instead of 0.338" bullets, the cartridges were similar to the .338-'06 and the .340 Weatherby.

As loaded by Keith the .333 OKH gave a 250 gr. bullet a muzzle velocity of 2,600 fps, the .334 OKH a velocity of 2,850. (We list these for comparative purposes; Keith preferred to use 275 and 300 gr. bullets at somewhat lower velocities.)

At about the same time a German gunsmith named Gerlich was experimenting with various large-capacity cases using improved German powders. One of his cartridges, the .335 Halger (for Halbe & Gerlich), based on the H&H case, claimed performance of 3,125 fps from a 240 gr. bullet. If this velocity was actually reached, it must have been at very high pressures or else in a very long barrel. Halger rifles and cartridges never got much distribution in America but they did get a lot of publicity in the shooting press.

Modern .338s

In 1956, Winchester launched its magnum series of cartridges based on the H&H belted magnum case, shortened to 2.5"

to function in standard (.30-'06 length) actions. First in the series was the .458 Mag. "African." The second, in 1958, was the .338 Mag.; Winchester called it the "Alaskan," indicating the type of game for which the company thought it was best suited. In capacity and design it was similar to the .33 BSA of 1921 but with better powders, better choice of bullet weights and much better bullet design.

Roy Weatherby, not to be outdone by a conservative old company like Winchester, responded by necking up his .300 Wthby. Mag. case to accept 0.338" bullets to create the .340 Wthby. Magnum. Muzzle velocities exceed those of the .338 Win. Mag. by 150 to 200 fps in similar barrel lengths.

The new magnum .338s proved successful — not runaway successes like the .308 or 7mm Rem., but solid, steady sellers. This is rather surprising. Certainly the number of Alaskan and African hunters alone couldn't account for these steady sales.

During the mid-1960s Elmer Keith and Bob Thompson shortened the .378 Wthby. case a bit and necked it to accept .338" bullets. The .338 K.T. (or Katy, as it came to be known) was a fairly popular wildcat. Muzzle velocity with 250 gr. bullets was 2,950 to 3,000 fps. Case forming was a bit tedious and because of this the Katy seems to have faded away.

The belt on the H&H case is needed for headspacing on cartridges with little or no shoulder such as the .375 and .458 Mags. On cartridges such as the .338 and .340, which have an adequate shoulder, the belt is redundant.

Beltless cases have some advantages. Overall case diameter can be the same as the belt, increasing case capacity. Feeding, headspacing and bore alignment are improved. Admittedly these advantages are largely theoretical — the 7mm Rem. and .300 Win. Mags. have proved extremely accurate in long-range competition and belted cases do feed and function reliably. But the pursuit of perfection is what rifle shooting is all about.

A Magnum Without The Belt

The first beltless, magnum-capacity .338 was made in the mid-'70s by a gunsmith named Gwyn Davidson, a South African who emigrated to Canada and later to America. Davidson had used a .404 Jeffery for African hunting. He designed a series of cartridges using .404 brass from RWS and Bertram of Australia. All were improved (blown out to maximum dimensions) with sharp shoulders and one-caliber necks.

His personal favorite was in .358 caliber, but he also made rifles in .338 caliber. His rifles were made to customer order. He had no interest in promoting his wildcats, possibly because it was hard to come by brass.

Another Canadian gunmaker, Aubrey White, developed the "Imperial Magnum" cartridge series based on the .404 Jeffery

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case in the 1980s. Muzzle velocity of the .338 Imperial Magnum was nearly 3,000 fps with 250 gr. bullets. For whatever reason, the Imperial Magnums have faded away.

During about the same time frame, Don Allen, founder of Dakota Arms, was developing cartridges also based on the .404 Jeffery case. The .330 Dakota is the .404 case shortened a bit and improved with a sharper shoulder and shorter case neck. Ballistically it is similar to the .340 Weatherby with 250 gr. bullets at 2,900 fps.

Even more powerful is the Lazzeroni Arms 8.59 (.338) Titan. The Titan uses a beltless case similar in capacity to the .378 Wthby. It is similar, but not identical to the .416 Rigby.

The .338 Lapua, developed initially as military cartridge in Finland, also breaks the ".404" pattern. It is a non-belted case, based on the .416 Rigby shortened slightly and more heavily constructed in the web area.

Belted cases aren't about to go away. Arnold Arms developed the .338 Arnold in 1994 with a 250 gr. bullet at nearly 3,000 fps. The big .378 Weatherby case (which is in effect a belted version of the .416 Rigby) was necked down to accept .338" bullets by A-Square and offered as the .338 A-Square Magnum.

The .338/.378 Wthby. is virtually identical in capacity, the difference being that it features Weatherby's distinctive double-radius shoulder where the A-Square version has a conventional shoulder.

A Niche For The Ultra Mag

The .338 Remington Ultra Mag is based on the .404 Jeffery case, slightly shortened and improved with a short (0.33") neck. Case capacity is expressed in terms of grains of water with the case completely filled, although effective powder capacity differs slightly since the bullet takes up some of the space, depending on seating depth.

However, this method of measuring capacity does indicate case volume for comparison purposes. The .338 Ultra Mag has slightly greater case capacity than the .340 Weatherby. However do not conclude that this means it is safe to use .340 Weatherby loading data. Other factors can vary — Weatherby chambers, for example, usually have considerable freebore. Use only data from reputable sources that has been properly pressure tested and found to be safe.

Velocities typically vary 35 to 50 fps per inch of barrel length, though this rule of thumb is by no means infallible. The .338 Ultra Mag, listed at 2,860 fps in a 24" barrel, chronographed at almost exactly 2,900 fps in a 26" barrel.

Though velocities are shown for comparison purposes with 250 gr. bullets there is a trend to use premium bullets in the 225 to 230 gr. range. Such bullets typically show velocities 100 to 150 fps higher than the 250 gr. bullets with somewhat flatter trajectory. With nine factory versions available, plus one that should be (the popular .338-'06 wildcat), fans of .33-caliber cartridges have never had it so good.



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REMINGTON SENDERO

continued from page 47

Clearly this is superb ammunition and the handloader who attempts to beat it has some work cut out. Speaking of which, the new .338 Ultra Mag brass is going into factory ammunition, but unprimed new cases for handloaders should be available early in 2001. Other bullet weights and styles should also become available before long. The Swift A-Frame has a splendid reputation as a big-game bullet but some shooters do like other weights and designs.

Flirting With Greatness

Now we'll concede that fifteen groups is hardly conclusive, that five-shot groups would likely have been a bit larger, that custom-made and tuned rifles with carefully developed handloads will shoot consistently under 1/2" and sometimes better. We'll concede all that and still state that the Sendero's accuracy was amazing.

Think of taking a factory rifle out of its shipping carton, bolting on a scope, and shooting 2/3 MOA groups with factory ammunition — ammunition developing over 4,500 ft./lbs. of muzzle energy. It speaks well of the designers and makers of rifles, bullets, ammunition and scopes that such accuracy has come to be almost expected, if not routine.

What about recoil? The .338 Ultra Mag is a powerful cartridge. In terms of recoil energy, the .458 Win. Mag. has some three times as much as the .30-'06, whereas in terms of momentum it has less than twice as much. Some would argue that momentum gives a better comparison of felt recoil, but however you measure it, recoil of the .338 Ultra Mag falls roughly halfway between the .375 H&H and the .458 Win. Magnum.

The excellent stock design with 5/8" drop at comb and heel directed recoil straight back and prevented any damage to the face, and the thick, soft recoil pad and a PAST recoil shield prevented shoulder bruising. There are some wimpy crybaby types who are so weak they actually admit to disliking massive recoil. Actually we're among them.

Our definition of "being able to handle recoil" is the ability to hold and squeeze with the same precision as if the gun were empty. By that standard, we can "handle" the Sendero's recoil; we're rather pleased that the last group of the day was the best, three shots into 0.85" at 200 meters. That doesn't mean that we enjoy recoil.

The .338 Ultra Mag is a big game cartridge, and except for sighting in and load development there should seldom be a need to fire more than a shot or two. Obviously this is not intended to be a varmint rifle. But if the need arises to deliver smashing power with extreme precision at long range, if the shooter has the ability to hold and squeeze, the Sendero .338 Ultra Mag will deliver.



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This month's Gun Of The Month prize is a Compact CDP .45 pistol from the Kimber Custom Shop — ideal for personal protection and home defense. The Compact CDP features a light-weight aluminum frame, stainless steel slide, ambidextrous thumb safety, beavertail, rosewood grips and fixed three-dot tritium night sights.

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The Kimber Compact CDP has a suggested retail value of \$1,109. For more information about owning your own Kimber pistol or to find an authorized Kimber dealer in your area, contact the company at (800) 880-2418, or visit them on the web at www.KimberAmerica.com.





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- (G) OTHER

TO ENTER CONTEST: Fill out the **GUN OF THE MONTH** entry card located on the previous page. If the card is missing, use a postcard (no envelopes please). Send to **GUNS Magazine, GOM JANUARY**, P.O. Box 639033, San Diego, CA 92163-9033. Entries must be received before FEBRUARY 1, 2001. Limit one 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. 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.

HECKLER & KOCH **USC** **.45**

This new fighting carbine combines cutting-edge German tactical design and the proven power of the good ol' American .45 ACP.

Photographs by: Steve Richie

Story by: Charles E. Petty



“THE USC IS BOTH INNOVATIVE AND A BIT DIFFERENT. IT HAS TAKEN AMERICA A WHILE TO COME TO ACCEPT POLYMER HANDGUN FRAMES AND IT’S GOING TO BE ANOTHER ADJUSTMENT TO GET USED TO THE LARGE AMOUNT OF POLYMER IN THE USC.”

Just as it is with people, first impressions of guns can be misleading. You’ve probably had the experience: You meet someone and somehow get off on the wrong foot, but if you have a chance to get to know them a little better they turn out to be very different than that first impression.

That is exactly how it was for us with the HK USC .45. On the first trip to the range, the gun felt awkward and had a peculiar series of sounds associated with the firing cycle. Recoil seemed surprisingly heavy for a gun weighing 6.9 lbs. and it was uncomfortable to get a good view of the iron sights.

A call to HK produced a Picatinny rail that permits the installation of scopes or optical sights and a couple of weeks later the USC went back to the range. This time things were different. With a Bushnell Holographic II installed, the head position was comfortable and the action noises less noticeable.

The other change I made was to adopt a more aggressive stance — just as one would with an MP-5. Then it was a very different — and much better — ball game. The result may not be love but it will do until the real thing comes along.

Plastic And Steel

The USC .45 is both innovative and a bit different. It has taken America a while to come to accept polymer handgun frames and it’s going to be another adjustment get used to the large amount of polymer in the USC .45.

The bolt and barrel are steel but very few other parts, except for pins and springs, are composed of steel. Within the trigger group, again excluding springs and pins, only the hammer and bolt stop are made of steel.

The USC .45 operates under the principle of direct blowback, so you would expect the bolt to be pretty heavy. At 1.6 lbs., it is. We couldn’t weigh the 16" barrel alone, but the two parts will account for a majority of the gun’s weight. The upper receiver group is one large molded-polymer part, as is the trigger group and stock.

Field stripping requires the removal of two screws, one on each side of the stock. A metric hex wrench is provided in the tool kit. Check to see that the magazine



HK USC .45 CARBINE ACCURACY TEST RESULTS

AMMO	VELOCITY	ACCURACY*
Black Hills JHP 85 gr.	1,193 fps	1.83"
Federal Match FMJ 230 gr.	996 fps	2.51"
Remington Golden Saber 230 gr.	993 fps	2.27"
Speer Gold Dot 230 gr.	999 fps	1.17"
Winchester Winclean BEB 230 gr.	873 fps	1.87"
Average	1.93"	

*Accuracy measurements are the average of three five-shot groups at 25 yards fired from benchrest. Velocity is the instrumental average of 10 shots at 10 feet as measured with a PACT Mk. IV Chronograph.

is removed and the chamber empty. Then engage the safety and lower the bolt.

With those two screws out, field stripping is a snap. Simply pull the stock to the rear and set it aside. When the stock comes clear, the entire trigger group will swing down

on two pivot pins located at the front of the trigger group. It can also be set aside for separate cleaning if needed.

The final step is to slide the recoil spring and guide out of the upper receiver and then raise the muzzle just a bit. The bolt will fall out in your hand. That's it.

For years we have been conditioned to be able to field strip a gun without the need for tools and I suspect that some will criticize the USC in that regard. I don't think that criticism is entirely justified.

We've learned that polymer pistols are incredibly tough and durable. The fact that moving parts ride on a polymer surface with built-in lubricity, means that only minimal lubrication is needed. When we field

Top: Although a bit radical in appearance, the stock of the USC takes full advantage of the inherent strength of the high-tech polymer to make the carbine as light and low-profile as possible. Bottom: In operation, a release button drops the bolt on a new magazine, which means the operator doesn't have to touch the operating handle to perform a reload. Opposite: With a Holosight and HK's tactical sling attached, no paper plate within 50 yards is safe from the USC.



“THE PISTOL GRIP IS EASY TO REACH AND ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GRAB IT AND PUSH FORWARD. THE GUN ALMOST SEEMS TO SPRING TO YOUR SHOULDER. IT WAS SIMPLY NO PROBLEM TO ENGAGE AND HIT A 6" TARGET AT 50 YDS.”

stripped the gun after 500 rounds, cleaning really wasn't necessary. The oil that we put on guns is usually what holds the crud in.

As you study the construction of the stock, the use of screws becomes more appealing. Sure, a latch mechanism could be designed but it would need to be pretty big and complex to do the job and be as sturdy as the simple screws. And it almost surely would increase the cost of an already expensive gun (\$1,199 suggested retail).

Familiar Operations

The operating controls of the USC will be familiar to anyone who's handled an MP-5 or most other HK shoulder weapons. The safety is ambidextrous and easily moved from safe to fire.

The operating handle is very similar too, although it functions just a bit differently. With it you can lock the bolt fully to the rear but when you're shooting, a separate hold-

open device works with the magazine to hold the bolt back. A button strongly reminiscent of the AR-15 is located on the left side of the receiver. When the bolt locks back on an empty magazine, simply reload and push the button to chamber a fresh round. You need never touch the operating handle other than for safety reasons during a shooting session.

The right side of the bolt has a half-moon shaped cut that H&K describes as a "forward assist." This is very different from what we're used to with ARs and the operator has no mechanical advantage working for him. It looks as if you should be able to push the bolt forward with the thumb. Just be sure you don't try it with the nail.

A better solution would be to either eject the bad round straightaway or use a case rim to help push the bolt shut. During all the shooting the forward assist was never needed.

Reminiscent of the MP-5, the magazine release is located at the rear of the magazine well. This is where the

continued on page 81



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NEW .38 1911-STYLE PISTOL

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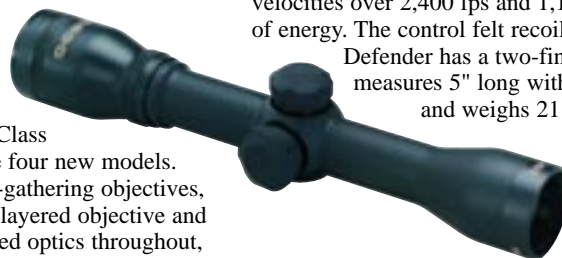
panying cartridge. The .38 Casull Custom is a 1911-style pistol with a match grade 6" barrel that features a hand-fit slide, high-grip beavertail grip safety, 20 LPI-checkering on the front strap and mainspring housing, fully adjustable rear sight, full-length guide rod and match trigger. The .38 Casull cartridge attains velocities in excess of 1,800 fps with a 124 gr. bullet and 1,650 fps with a 147 gr. bullet. Comes with locking aluminum carrying case, containing an instruction manual, bushing wrench and guide wrench. Suggested retail price is \$2,495.

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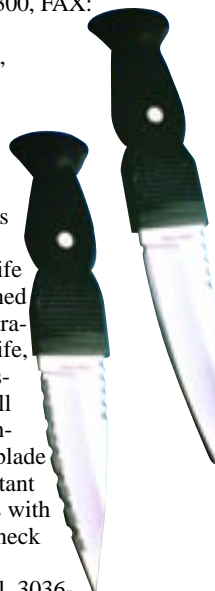
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NEW MINI KNIFE From Cold Steel

The Mini Culloden is a new compact serrated edged ultra-compact knife from Cold Steel. Designed as an alternative to the traditional bulkier boot knife, the Mini Culloden measures seven inches overall and has a 3½", corrosion-resistant stainless steel blade and a durable, slip-resistant Kraton handle. It comes with a quick-draw neck sheath.

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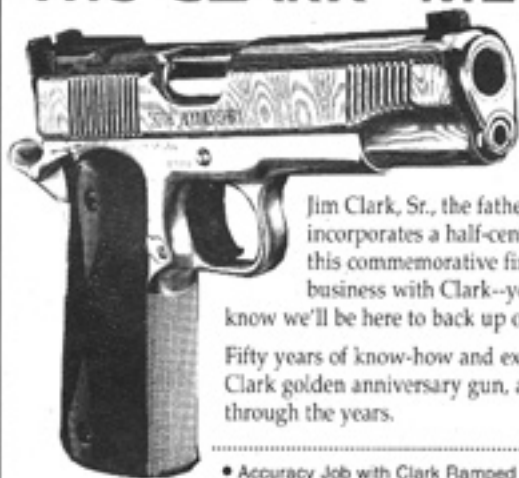
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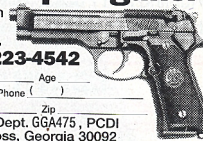
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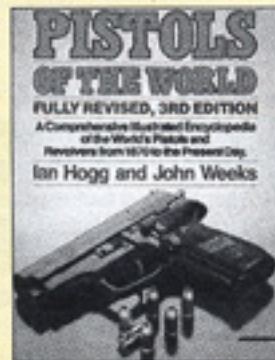
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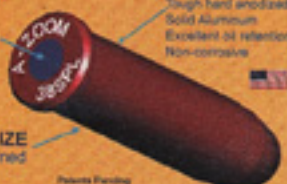
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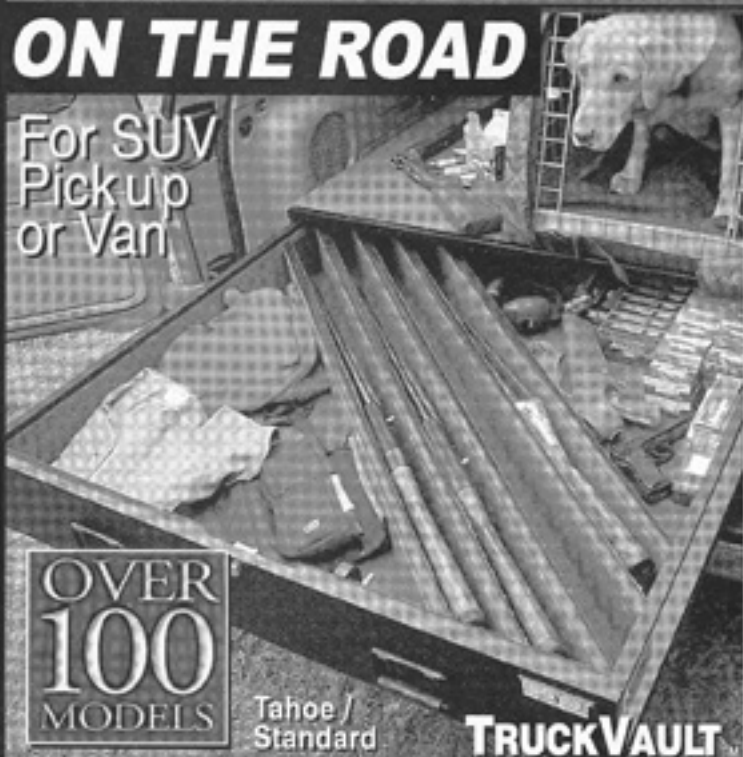
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RUGER PC4

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all the bases in bullet weights normally seen with the .40 S&W. We also set out to determine the differences between a 165 gr. bullet loaded to full velocity and the FBI's chosen load that normally runs about 950 fps from handguns. As expected, the FBI's load was clearly the accuracy champ when fired out of the Ruger's 16.25" barrel.

Accuracy results fit very nicely with proven performance of this round in a number of handguns. The Federal 165 gr. American Eagle or companion Hydra-shok loads almost always shoot well. Surprisingly, the Federal Personal Defense load — which really hustles along out of the carbine's barrel — came in second.

Typically, as velocity increases — at least in the .40 S&W — accuracy decreases. That was not the case here and all the other loads had pretty much the same accuracy.

During testing we experienced three stoppages with three different kinds of ammo. All were magazine related. There were two occasions where the bolt locked open prematurely and one double-feed.

Unfortunately, the rifle comes with only one magazine and even though it uses the same as Ruger's pistols, another magazine was not available. During follow-up shooting with more of the ammo used in the accuracy test, as well as some other loads, there were no further stoppages.

Both Sides Of The Badge

Ruger's PC4 is available to both civilian and law enforcement buyers. There is something to be said for having a convenient carbine in the patrol car. Many officers adamantly avoid the 12 gauge shotgun — even when it might be the very best weapon for the task at hand — and rely only on their handgun. This may be more of a training problem than anything. Shooting just a few rounds of buckshot — let alone rifled slugs — in a light pump shotgun can be brutal for someone who is not trained well in recoil management.

The carbine avoids those concerns and, as a fringe benefit, extends the officer's effective range considerably. With training, officers should be able to hit a man-sized target at 50 yards; some better shooters could double that. That's enough range for most normal situations to contain things until the cavalry — in the form of S.W.A.T. guys — can arrive.

All in all the Ruger PC4 is both fun to shoot and a worthwhile addition to the armory for those situations where a handgun isn't enough but where a tactical rifle might be too much.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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HK USC .45

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release really ought to be. Located immediately behind the magazine, shooters can push the release and pull the magazine out in one motion. It's just a simple latch so there are no buttons to push and reloading is a one-hand operation.

The 10-shot magazine seems a little long for the capacity and my guess would be that somewhere in the rest of the world are some dreaded high capacity dragon-slayers that might hold 15.

The important thing is that the magazine lines up just right for feeding and the USC fed and functioned with everything from 185 gr. wadcutter to 200 and 230 gr. +P loads. Ejection was brisk with the hotter ammo and even target wadcutter brass was thrown several feet from the gun.

From Good To Bad

Shooting tests were conducted over three trips to the range. The first session was just an opportunity to get acquainted and evaluate the gun's function and reliability.

The second session is where things get serious with accuracy tests, chronographing and additional function firing with a variety of ammo. It was at this point, with the HoloSight II mounted, that my preliminary opinion got turned around. Accuracy was excellent and the longer barrel accounted for some pretty zippy velocities.

A third trip to the range gave the opportunity to do some tactical drills. The USC comes with a nylon sling and four possible connections. At the front is a forend hand stop with a bracket that permits either right- or left-hand installation of the sling. On the stock are two more. One is located just behind the pistol grip and the other is all the way at the butt.

The longer setup would be right for over-the-shoulder carry. When carried over the shoulder, the gun hangs almost straight down across the chest. With the gun in this position, the pistol grip is easy to reach and push forward. The gun almost seems to spring to your shoulder. With the HoloSight II installed it was simply no problem to quickly engage and hit a 6" diameter steel target at 50 yards.

All in all, the more I shot the gun the better I liked it. What was at first a bit awkward became second nature and the gun's unique sound became mere background noise. About 700 rounds were fired including ball, hollowpoint and even target loads — all without a single stoppage of any kind.



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Gun Retailers Fight Back Against Illegal Gun Sales

While gun control advocates and anti-gun politicians claim that gun manufacturers and retailers are guilty of marketing firearms to children, criminals and others who are legally prevented from owning guns, the National Shooting Sports Foundation has teamed up with the BATF to actually do something about illegal gun sales. By launching a new public awareness campaign entitled "Don't Lie For The Other Guy," the NSSF hopes to educate dealers and gun buyers alike about the risks involved in straw-man sales.

Straw-man purchases occur when a legal gun buyer purchases a firearm with the intent of passing it illegally to someone who is prohibited from buying or owning a gun; the penalty for acting as a straw man is up to 10 years in prison. BATF statistics indicate that more than 26,000 illegal firearms

were purchased in straw-man transactions between July 1996 and December 1998.



"Straw purchases have been identified by the BATF as one of the primary means of firearms trafficking," said NSSF President Robert Delfay. "We welcome the opportunity to partner with the BATF in this effort and know that the nation's responsible firearms retailers will embrace the program as another tool in the effort to keep firearms out of the hands of those who legally cannot and should not own them."

Under the program, dealers will be provided with posters, counter mats and brochures which will educate customers about the penalties for straw-man purchasing. In addition, the NSSF will provide materials to dealers to help them more effectively identify potential straw-man purchasers in their stores.

GUNS THAT MAKE YOU GO "WOW!"

Connoisseurs of classic firearms and spectacular engraving may want to start making plans now to visit the NRA's National Firearms Museum in Fairfax, Va., to check out the newest exhibit. On display there are four of the most amazing firearms to ever be graced by an engraver's chisel — the Beretta "Set Of Four" African double rifles. The guns are a quartet of Beretta Model 455 EELL rifles which have received custom treatment from world-renowned engraver Maestro Angelo Galeazzi.

These four guns feature photographic quality engraving, with each gun's receiver depicting game scenes appropriate to the gun's caliber. The .30-'06 displays a pride of lions at rest; the .375 H&H shows a herd of Cape buffalo; the .470 Nitro Express is decorated with a crash of rhinos at the watering hole; and the .600 Nitro Express displays a troop of elephants. Although these four guns by themselves are worth the price of admission, Beretta has graciously thrown in 100 other pieces from the family's private collection — at no extra charge.

The guns are on display throughout 2001. For more details about the collection or the NRA Firearms Museum, contact them at (703) 267-1600 or visit them on-line at www.nrahq.org/shooting/museum.



DOIN' THE NUMBERS

600

Number of test-fire rounds required from each handgun model in order to be approved for sale under California's new "consumer safety" regulations; handguns cannot experience more than five failures throughout the test protocol, and cannot misfire at all in the first 20 rounds.

Source: California Department of Justice

\$2,916

Estimated amount California's new consumer safety regulations will cost manufacturers for each model of handgun which must be submitted to state-mandated testing. The new regulations went into effect in October, 2000.

1

Number of free bolt-action rifles buyers get at Advantage Auto Sales in Powell, Tenn., when they buy a used car during the dealership's "Second Amendment Saturday" sales promotion.

QUOTE of the MONTH:

"In hunting, one must expect much hardship and repeated disappointment. Yet the hunter worthy of the name always willingly takes the bitter if by so doing he can get the sweet, and gladly balances failure and success, spurning the poorer souls who know neither."

— Theodore Roosevelt

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