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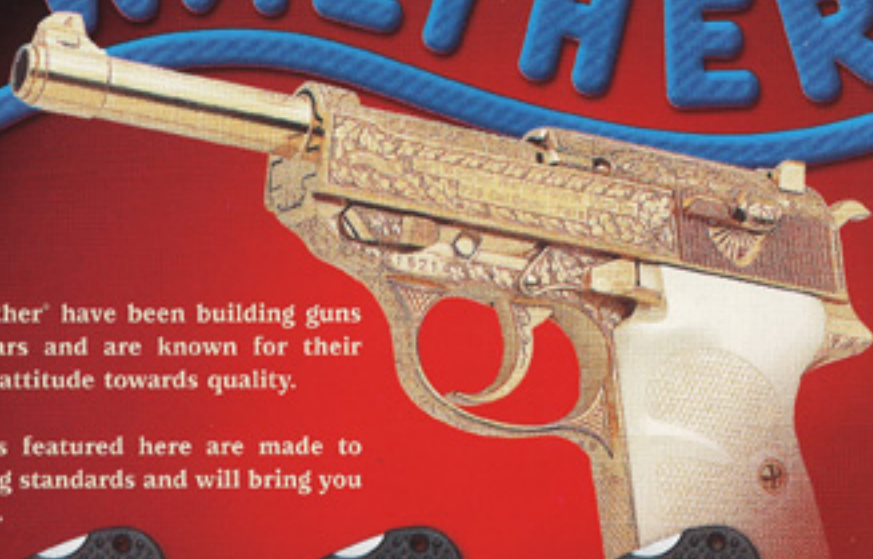
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21 Bobcat Inox



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LETTER OF THE MONTH



GUNS MAGAZINE FEBRUARY 2001

Thank You S&W!

I subscribe to three separate gun magazines and have never written to any of them — until now. In regard to your short editorial, “The S&W Agreement: Love The Sinner, Hate The Sin,” (“The J-Frame Goes Scandium” *GUNS* Feb. ’01) I say, “thank you, thank you, thank you!” I have read many articles about the S&W agreement with the Clinton government, as well as the letters to the editor. I must say that your short article stating your editorial policy is the best statement I have ever read and the one I agree with. It says it like I would like to!

When are we, as a Second Amendment rights group, going to learn to stop executing our wounded? We need to express our opinions to the firearms makers, who I must admit are extremely open to their customers. We do not need *more* casualties in this field, but *fewer*. The people of S&W are among the best in the world in what they do, and I, for one, do not want to lose their quality.

Rev. Michael R. Gordon
Hartford, Wis.

Fortress K9

I enjoyed Ayoob’s piece on “Fortress America” (*GUNS*, Jan. ’01), but was surprised that he did not mention the oldest and most effective alarm system known to man: a barking dog. There is nothing better to alert you to the presence of intruders.

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Henry Johnson
Fults Cove, Tenn.

We Do The Walking For You

Thank you for a great article on a great company (“The Guns of Miltech,” *GUNS* Jan. ’01). I don’t have the time to attend gun shows or spend a lot of time rummaging through the gun listings looking for World War II vintage collectible firearms. I read your article, called Miltech and got what I wanted at a great price from great people. Thanks for doing the legwork for me.

Jim Clark
jclark@flinthills.com

Five On The Floor

It was love at first sight when I saw the new Smith & Wesson Scandium .357 Magnum (“The J-Frame Goes Scandium,” *GUNS* Feb. ’01). I simply have to have one. I think you are playing games with our minds though, when it comes to the pictures of the guns.

One picture shows two guns, one with its cylinder open containing six rounds, while the other is closed, with six rounds lying in front of it.

The other picture shows five rounds lying in front of the gun. I am guessing that the six-round version is the .32 prototype, not the .357. How many rounds does the .357 version hold?

Mark Meyer
mmeyer@subair.com

The editor replies:

The picture in question shows a combination of both types of ammo — three rounds of .357 and three rounds of .32. The .357 Scandium AirLite does, in fact, have a cylinder capacity of five rounds. Sorry for the confusion.

Cry Me A River, Officer

Your article on so-called “Smart Guns” was very interesting. (“State Of The Smart Gun” *GUNS* Feb. ’01) Massad Ayoob has a very intelligent and pragmatic view of the issue — a refreshing thing in a police officer. Unfortunately, most of Ayoob’s brother officers don’t share his views.

For the past few years I’ve watched with increasing disgust as police officers and law enforcement officials have come out in favor of the various “smart gun laws” being proposed in numerous states. These laws, of course, mandate that all new guns sold have to include “smart” recognition devices.

One problem with this is that it will raise the cost of handguns by 100 percent or so. The other problem is that these guns don’t yet exist, so it’s really gun control disguised as safety regulation — the average voter does not know enough about the issue to realize they are being deceived.

So why are cops in favor of this? Oh, did I neglect to mention that these laws don’t apply to police officers? Apparently as long as cops can keep *their* guns, they are more than happy to sell their “civilian” gun-owning friends down the river. Or maybe cops just do not need their guns to be as “safe” as the average gun owners’.

Well, imagine my surprise when I learned that there is a new piece of technology on the horizon at Uncle Mike’s — the “smart” holster. It will only release the pistol to an authorized user, and when the gun is drawn, it broadcasts the user’s location to the police dispatcher via cellular link and GPS — because, of course, it’s a duty holster and will be available only to police.

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ERRATA

“Gun Locks & Security Devices” (*GUNS*, Feb. ’01) incorrectly listed the contact information for Armadillo Firearm Security Products. The company may be reached at 5724 Aluffo Road, Paso Robles, Calif. 93446, (877)423-8073, www.armadillogunlock.com.

The same article omitted the contact information for GunGuard Modular Safes. The company may be reached at 3627 N. Wilton Avenue, Chicago, Ill. 60613-4312, (773) 525-2346. *GUNS* apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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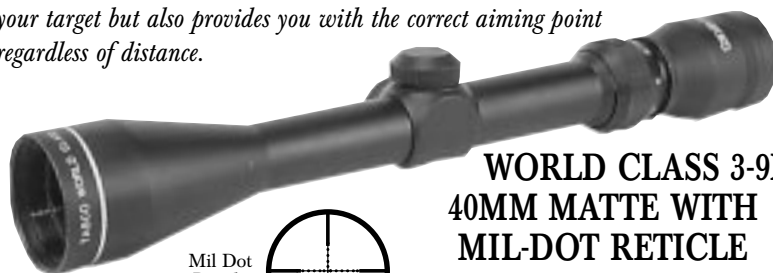


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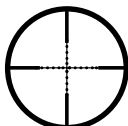
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Glock 9mm.....102-311
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CROSSEIRE

continued from page 10

And now the cops are complaining that "smart" holsters are unnecessary, immoral, a violation of their civil rights, a breach of their privacy, etc. Well cry me a river! Where the heck were these guys where our civil rights and privacy were being violated?

I say, serves them right. Let those cops — who stood in the background in uniform to support the passage of the assault weapon ban, the Brady law and mandatory safety locks — feel the effects of gun control. (Even though a "smart" holster requirement is only a shadow of the kind of restrictions we non-cops have had to endure in the past few years.)

Hey, I'll be happy to put on my business suit and stand behind the president as he signs the "smart" holster bill into law to show that civilians support this "common sense" gun control law!

Or — here's an idea! — maybe this will serve as a reminder to all those cops that what goes around, comes around. If you stand quietly by while others' rights are trampled, you are just endangering your own in the long run. I sure hope the "smart" holster issue puts an end to the hypocrisy of the boys in blue.

Steve Barber

Indianapolis, Ind.

Howling At The Moon

On the way to the newsstand to buy my latest issue of *GUNS Magazine*, I passed a car with a bumper sticker that read "Meat Is Murder." I thought to myself, "Geez, another lunatic extremist who doesn't understand the legitimate purpose of sport hunting." Then, I got to the newsstand and picked up my magazine and saw the topic of the "Rifleman" column: coyote rifles. (*GUNS* Jan. '01)

Come on, guys! This is exactly the kind of thing that makes us all look bad, and fuels the kind of sentiment that leads people to put "Meat Is Murder" stickers on their cars. Hunting for sustenance or even trophies is one thing; do we have to promote the needless slaughter of coyotes, woodchucks and prairie dogs just to see if we can "hit moving targets at long range"?

Why don't we all just put on our oil-stained, Confederate-flag T-shirts and Budweiser caps, take our guns down to city hall and turn them in right now? It would be easier and a lot less painful than allowing coyote hunters to spoil our image and give the general public the impression that all gun owners are uncaring, murderous slobs — and the end result would be the same.

Torture and bloodletting as entertainment went out with the Middle Ages. Please don't publish any more articles which send the message that all gun owners find it acceptable to kill innocent creatures just for the sake of target practice. That is not how I want to be portrayed in the media.

Fred Marcus

Los Angeles, Calif.



THE DRAGON-MASTER'S DAGGER

By World-Renowned Fantasy Artist Greg Hildebrandt.

This magnificent wall display, provided at no additional charge. Knife shown smaller than actual size of 16" (40.64 cm) long.

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PRY MY SNUB-NOSE OUT OF MY COLD DEAD HAND

In the time of high-tech guns, many wise shooters still cleave to the revolver as a base-line home-defense weapon. If you've chosen a revolver to protect the safety of your family, there are some sub-sets to the selection process. Size, for example.

The conventional wisdom used to be that a "snub-nose .38" was good for concealed carry, and a 4" or 6" revolver was better for home defense. The theory was that the larger gun would be easier to shoot

fast and straight, harder-hitting since it generated more velocity from its longer barrel, and would have a more intimidating appearance.

All of these can be debated. One thing you always have to worry about with a "house gun" is that you might end up in a struggle for the firearm with the intruder. I've been practicing handgun disarms and retention techniques for over a quarter century, teaching these topics for 20 years, and certifying other police instructors to teach them for a decade.

There are few absolutes in any fighting discipline, but I can tell you this much: A short-barrel revolver with any kind of decent grips is probably the toughest handgun to take away from the person originally holding it. Most of the leverage is in the hand that grasps the grip-frame. The disarming hand that grabs the barrel has little purchase, and if the homeowner pulls the trigger at this moment, they're probably now grappling with a home invader who only has one functional hand left.

THE SIXGUN IN MORE THAN ONE HAND

Bear in mind that other members of the family may need to resort to the defensive handgun. You may be a gun expert, but what about the rest of the clan?

One top gun expert is partial to the cocked and locked Colt .45 auto, and he's deadly with it. His wife is an ex-cop who did her service in the revolver years. She is well qualified with the double action sixgun, but is less comfortable with autos. The expert likes wheelguns, too, and his solution was simple: a loaded double action .38 or .357 in every room in the house. This turned out to be quite affordable, since the used gun market is glutted with traded-in service revolvers these days.

Keep the same principle in mind when loading the gun. Another friend is a stalwart .44 Mag. man who is seldom out of reach of a Model 29 loaded with Federal 180 gr. full Mag. hollowpoints. Enormously strong and highly skilled, he shoots it faster and straighter than most people shoot .38s. However, he's acutely aware that his slender wife and petite daughter can't handle that much recoil as well as he can. Solution: The "house guns" are loaded with .38 Special or .44 Special ammo that all three members of the family can control.

Tales of armed encounters sometimes come down to, "He survived because he had a seventh shot or an eighth shot or a fifteenth shot," but rarely. What it mostly comes down to is, "Did he or she have a gun? Did they get it out in time to get the drop on the aggressor?"

In the last half of the 19th century and for most of the 20th, the revolver was the dominant handgun. It will work just fine in the 21st century, too.

THE SURPRISINGLY ACCURATE SNUBBY

How much do you lose in terms of "shootability" when you select a snub-nose revolver as your primary home-defense gun? When I did one of my regular qualifications with the snubby I carry for backup, I noticed two things. One was that the little S&W 442 Airweight shot a perfect score, 250 out of 250. But the other was that the group wasn't especially tight.

Not long after, I had occasion to shoot the same course with a K-frame Smith & Wesson Model 15 Combat Masterpiece. This 4" sixgun had better sights and more grip-frame to hang onto than the 2" J-frame had offered. Since it could shoot six shots per string instead of the J-frame's five, the course lasted 60 shots instead of 50. Score

was 300 out of 300, and the group was distinctly tighter than the belly gun's — but even though the barrel was twice as long, the group wasn't twice as tight.

The next day I went out with a 6" barrel S&W 686. The heavy-barreled L-frame revolver hung steady in my hand, and that plus the 2" greater sight radius gave a 300/300 score with an even tighter group. But again, while tighter than the shorter guns, it wasn't *that* much tighter.

At the close ranges employed in home-defense confrontations, you're not losing enough accuracy to make the shorter barrel gun a liability. What we've discovered is that the venerable "snub nose" may be the ideal revolver for home and personal protection.

Six Shots To Keep The **WOLVES AT BAY**

If you keep a revolver for home defense, you have to ask yourself: Are five or six shots enough? They are, most of the time.

In a recent tragic case, a local bad guy blasted his way into the home of a part-time prosecutor, apparently intent on murdering him and his family. He did indeed mortally wound the district attorney, but not before the latter shot him twice and killed him with a .357 Mag. revolver. The prosecutor's last, courageous act saved his family. A revolver had sufficed.

I'm a child of a culture that said, "More is better," and the first house gun I'm likely to reach for is a Beretta loaded with 20 9mm rounds (thanks to a pre-ban maga-

zine) and fitted with a Sure-Fire flashlight.

Is that more than I need? I hope so! Would six be enough? Probably. But don't tell Sarah Brady...

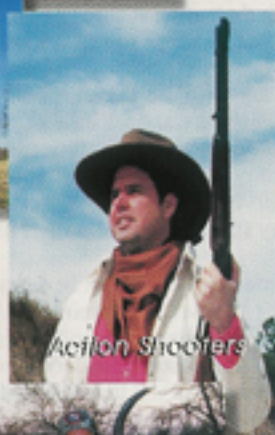


This straight-shooting LFI-I student is perfectly comfortable with a revolver for defense, in this case, her S&W 640-1.

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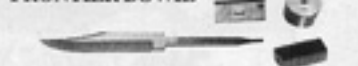
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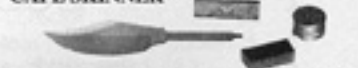
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THE WORLD'S EASIEST HUNTING RIFLE

The new Remington 710 is a moderately priced, entry-level, bolt-action hunting rifle. We who are enamored with fine rifles sometimes forget that many hunters are not terribly interested in highly polished steel and figured walnut, or in accuracy enhancements such as pillar bedding, lapped barrels and blueprinted actions.

There are many shooters who just want a hunting rifle that is simple and safe to operate, reliable, accurate, inexpensive, durable and easy to maintain. Currently, the lowest-priced model in the 700 line is the 700 ADL synthetic at a manufacturer's suggested retail of \$457. In terms of value received, it is a terrific bargain. Still, by the time you add even a moderately priced scope, base and rings, you're looking at around \$550.

With the 710, Remington has combined modern manufacturing techniques and innovative design to produce a quality rifle at moderate cost. Initially, the 710 will be sold as a package, complete with scope base, rings and a Bushnell 3-9x variable scope, mounted and bore-sighted.

While actual selling price is up to the individual dealer, manufacturer's suggested retail price is just \$359. This means that for around \$400, you can buy a scope-sighted rifle, a couple of boxes of ammunition, sling, maybe even a carrying case and some cleaning equipment.



Components of the Remington 710 include a steel receiver; synthetic insert to house the trigger mechanism and act as a bolt guide; three-lug bolt; synthetic stock; and the barrel is compression-fitted into the front receiver.

DESIGN FEATURES

The receiver of the Model 710 is a short steel cylinder, open at the bottom to accept the magazine and slotted on the side for the ejection port. Locking lug recesses are integral, with the barrel and the three bolt lugs lock directly into the barrel. The barrel itself is compression-fitted into the front of the receiver.

Unlike most bolt actions in which the recoil lug is integral with the receiver or barreled action, the recoil lug is a steel plate, fitted to the stock. The plate is a tight press fit in its recess in the synthetic stock and is further secured by a bonding agent. When the barreled action is fitted to the stock, a slot cut in the thick steel of the barrel beneath the chamber engages the recoil lug in the stock.

Two hex-head guard screws, one in front of the recoil lug and one behind it, secure the barreled action and stock together. These screws

thread into the barrel, not the receiver. A third guard screw behind the trigger guard threads into the synthetic receiver insert and keeps this component in place.

The trigger mechanism is mounted on a nylon-reinforced fiberglass insert that slides into the rear of the receiver. This insert also acts as a bolt guide and is designed to be self-lubricating, impregnated with Teflon and silicon for smooth bolt operation.

The bolt has three locking lugs; as a result, bolt lift is just 60 degrees, providing plenty of clearance between the bolt and the scope. The bolt release is an unobtrusive lever on the left rear of the receiver. The safety is located at the right rear of the receiver — moved backwards for "safe," forwards for "fire." As with current 700s, the safety does not lock the bolt.

The 710 also incorporates Remington's ISS locking system, as well as a detachable magazine and other great features.

ON TARGET WITH THE 710

Despite its moderate price and unorthodox design, the Remington 710 doesn't look or feel cheap. The matte blue finish on the barrel and receiver and the textured finish on the gray stock give an understated, businesslike appearance. The rifle balances well and has a nice, solid feel in the hands.

Despite the touted self-lubricating nature of the synthetic bolt guide, the bolt took noticeably more effort to operate than a Model 700. It's not rough or jerky, it just takes more effort, particularly in the closing stroke when turning the bolt lugs into the recesses in the barrel.

The trigger mechanism of the Model 710 uses Model 700 components, so, presumably, a knowledgeable gunsmith could adjust the pull. As set by the factory, trigger quality on the half-dozen rifles we handled

varied from adequate to very good.

Lack of a proper heavy benchrest made accuracy testing difficult, but we managed a couple of five-round, 1½" groups from a rather shaky rest. Remington representatives advised that in their testing they were consistently getting 1 MOA accuracy.

There's no reason why the 710 shouldn't be accurate. Remington makes good barrels; the action is strong and symmetrical. The use of guard screws threading into the barrel should allow for consistent barrel and action harmonics when the rifle is fired. The 710 is a lot of rifle for the money and should prove a worthy addition to the Remington line.



Featuring a Bushnell 3-9x scope, base and rings, the Remington 710 arrives already bore-sighted and ready to take to the range.

Specifications:	Remington 710
Overall length:	42"
Barrel:	Carbon steel, 22"
Rifling:	Button rifled, six groove, right-hand twist, 1:10
Weight (empty):	7½ lbs.
Stock dimensions:	Length of pull 13¾", drop at comb 1/2", drop at heel 11/16".
Magazine:	Detachable steel box, four rounds.
Trigger pull:	Factory set at 3.5 to 5 lbs.
Calibers:	.270 Win., .30-06



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Headspace in a bottleneck rifle cartridge is defined as the distance from a datum point on the shoulder to the bolt face of the firearm. Too much headspace in a rifle can be a bad thing, but if you get it *just* right you can wring the best accuracy possible from the gun and also extend the life of your brass.

Every time a case is fired and reloaded, the brass is subjected to high pressure as it expands to fit the chamber and then is shrunk back down by the sizing die to dimensions that ensure it will fit into the minimum chamber in the ammo specification. Normally, this means that the brass is worked more than it needs to be.

The critical dimension in headspace is

established by the shoulder, so full-length sizing almost always pushes the shoulder back, too. But if the case is going to be fired in the same gun, it doesn't need to be completely resized to work well. Neck- or partial-sizing can prolong case life and improve accuracy.

Without some means to measure the headspace in your gun — and then to use that information to properly adjust the sizing die — we really are working in a trial-and-error mode. The old-fashioned method — that still works — was to start with a case that was fired in the specific rifle and resize it incrementally until the bolt would just close without binding.

A fired case will rarely go back in the chamber, so we begin with the sizing die

adjusted to be two or three turns above the shell holder. Size a case and try it in the rifle — probably won't go — so the die is turned in by half a turn and the process is repeated until the case will go in fully but the bolt won't close.

You can actually feel how the process is going, so lower the die one-quarter turn and try again until the bolt closes without resistance. It will take quite a few tries to get it right, but you still won't know what the actual headspace is — just that the brass is adequately sized.

At that point, you could use a neck-sizing die for several loadings, but you would have to go back now and then to make sure the shoulder is still in the right place.

Moving Ahead With **HEAD SPACING**

Now there is an easier way to determine proper head spacing for partial resizing than the old trial-and-error method. Redding's Instant Indicator allows you to measure the true headspace of your rifle easily with accuracy to the nearest thousandth of an inch.

At first glance it looks like a standard loading die with a dial indicator sticking out of the top. Actually that's not far off, but inside the die body is a precisely shaped "shoulder contactor," which is spring loaded via a spacer so the dial indicator gets a precise reading. To set up the Instant Indicator, Redding provides a beautifully machined brass "setup gauge," which is made to the exact specification for the *minimum* chamber established by SAAMI.

With that done and the dial indicator adjusted to zero, replacing the setup gauge with a case fired in your rifle will show how your rifle compares to the minimum. SAAMI has a +0.010" tolerance from minimum to maximum, so the first thing the Instant Indicator displays is whether your rifle is up to snuff.

For example, if your case reads 0.005" larger than the gauge, it's right in the middle of the range. When you reload it, you want to move the shoulder as little as possible — just two- or three-thousandths for most purposes — so you simply adjust the sizing die so that the Instant Indicator reads 0.002" to 0.003". This is just the right amount of shoulder bump for most cases. Lock the sizing die down and you can load over and over until the brass needs trimming or something else changes.

Redding warns that it's best to make the setup adjustments with a

case that has been fired at least twice. If you start with factory ammo, the fired case *may not* completely fire form to your chamber with just one shot.

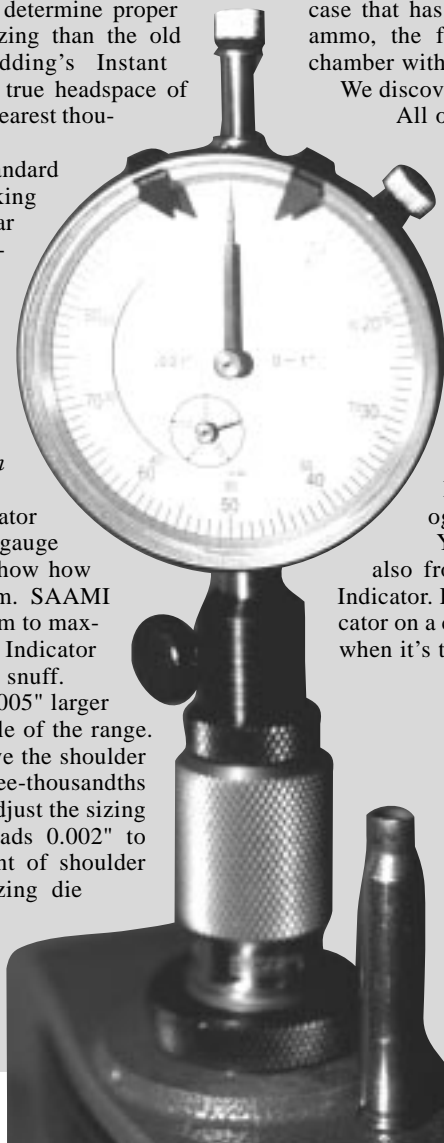
We discovered this with a .223 bolt action firing factory ammo.

All of the once-fired cases showed between -0.002" and -0.003". The same cases were sized just enough to hold a bullet and fired again. This time the reading was +0.003".

The combination of a small-diameter case and relatively moderate pressure simply did not fully form the case against the chamber. The next time it did. Now this is not an everytime thing, but it can happen, and since you're not supposed to have negative headspace, it can be a bit puzzling.

The Instant Indicator can also be used to properly measure bullet-seating depth. Since the overall length of bullets can vary, measuring at the tip can lead to some real variations between rounds. Better to measure from the datum point on the bullet ogive.

You can also measure the uniformity of bullets — also from the ogive by a slight adaptation of the Instant Indicator. Ditto for case length. Simply set up and zero the indicator on a case of the length you wish to maintain and easily see when it's time to trim.



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Redding's Instant Indicator measures headspace with accuracy to the nearest thousandth of an inch.

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NEW	9mm Luger	USA9HP	115 gr.
NEW	357 SIG	USA357SHP	125 gr.
NEW	40 Smith & Wesson	USA40HP	180 gr.
NEW	45 Automatic	USA45HP	230 gr.

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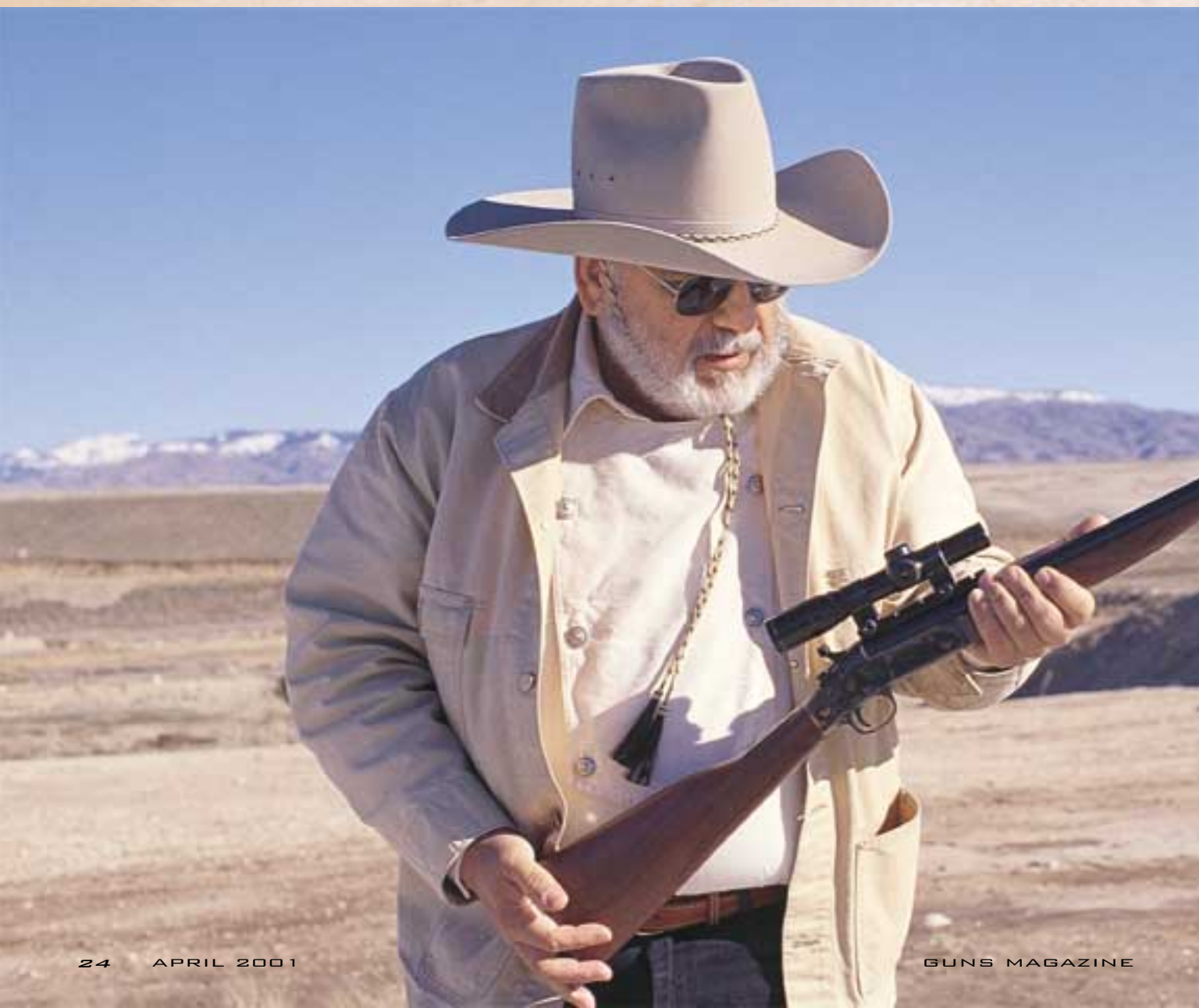


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roud reminders of our shooting heritage, today Harrington & Richardson rifles, under the H&R 1871, Wesson & Harrington and New England Firearms labels, are single-shots that all come from the same factory in Gardner, Mass. The Harrington & Richardson is available in the Ultra Varmint Rifle in .223 chambering, a special favorite with varminters who often spend much more for a scope than for the reasonably priced \$255 rifles. This same rifle in the Ultra Hunter Model is offered in .243, .308, .25-06 and even in .357 Maximum. For an extra \$35 you can have the Comp Rifle in either .270 or .30-'06.

Switching to the New England label, the Handi-Rifle, which definitely is a most handy rifle, is offered in .22

Left: Cowboy shooters and big-bore fans will love the H&R 1871 single-shot Wesson & Harrington rifle. Above: The 350 gr., 405 gr. and 500 gr. bullets from Oregon Trail feature two, three and four lubrication grooves, respectively, and perform very well in the Wesson & Harrington rifle.



Hornet, .223, .243, 7x57, 7x64, .30-30, .270, .280, .308, .30-'06, .44 Mag. and even .45-70. All of these sell for less than \$225 and deliver accuracy that is far above the selling price.

Great Rifles, Great Prices

We tested the Classic Series, the Wesson & Harrington Buffalo and Target Rifles. The Buffalo rifle is offered only in the frontier chambering of .45-70, with a 32" heavy barrel, overall length of 52", and a weight of 9 lbs., even though it seems to weigh less. Both the forearm and the buttstock are good-quality black walnut while the receiver is case-colored.

No sights of any kind are provided; however, the barrel is drilled and tapped for a Weaver base, and dovetailed for a front sight. The rifle features an exposed hammer action, which opens by pushing a lever on the right side of the hammer. Ejection of fired cases is strong and positive. The Buffalo Classic was scoped with a Weaver base and Weaver scope.

The Wesson & Harrington Target Rifle is available only in a 28" heavy barrel version chambered in .38-55, which just happens to be the original chambering found in Winchester's Model 1894. It preceded the legendary .30-30 by one year. In fact, the .30-30 is basically nothing more than a slightly shortened .38-55 case necked down to .30 caliber. The .38-55 was originally a black powder cartridge while the .30-30 entered the world as a smokeless powder round.

The .38-55 also has a modern relative in the .375 Win., which is basically the .30-30 necked back up to .38 caliber. If you have been following this you know that the .375 Win. case is slightly shorter than the original .38-55. It is also constructed of heavier brass than the .38-55.

Factory rounds for the .375 Win. are loaded to a much higher pressure than the .38-55 and as such are also much more powerful and should never be used in .38-55 chambered rifles. The upside is that the .38-55 can be used in many .375 Win. rifles.

The appointments of the .38-55 Target Rifle are the same as those found on the Buffalo Classic, operation is the same, and they both have a case-colored metal buttplate. With the .38-55 chambering, this buttplate was no problem; however,

continued on page 26

BY JOHN TAFFIN

APRIL 2001

25

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H&R 1871

continued from page <None>

it certainly got my attention with heavy loads in the .45-70. While the Target Rifle arrived without sights, it did have a Weaver base already in place.

Going The Distance

Both of these rifles fill several niches. There is a special version for use in long-range events in SASS cowboy action shooting, they make very reasonably priced hunting rifles, and they are great fun for shooting cast bullets. This is especially true of the Target Rifle in .38-55, which features easy shooting qualities and superb accuracy with cast bullets.

The only factory jacketed-bullet load in .38-55 is Winchester's 255 gr. JFP. Although it travels at a very sedate 1,280 fps to accommodate its use in guns that are over 100 years old, it shoots superbly in the Wesson & Harrington, grouping three shots in 7/8" at 50 yards and 1 1/4" at 100 yards.

"The Buffalo Classic was shot as the .45-70 was originally intended: with black powder. These loads, with 405 and 500 gr. bullets stayed under 3" at 100 yards."

Switching to cast bullets turned out to be a good news-bad news proposition. The bad news is if the bullets are plain based they probably will not shoot very well in the Wesson & Harrington .38-55. However, switching to gas check bullets, in this case RCBS's #37-250 FNGC, turned this .38-55 single-shot rifle into the proverbial tack driver. We have only tried two loads with this bullet, but the results are spectacular.

With 33 grs. of H4895, muzzle velocity is 1,827 fps, and three shots at 100 yards grouped into 3/4". Using 30 grs. of RE-7, the muzzle velocity is virtually the same at 1,832 fps, and the groups shrink even more to 1/2".

We spent considerable time shooting the Buffalo Classic as the .45-70 was originally intended — with black powder. Black powder loads with 405 and 500 gr. bullets stayed under 3" at 100 yards. Meister Bullets new 405 gr. plain-based cast bullet lubed with the black-powder-friendly SPG lube was pleasantly surprising. This lube is soft and keeps black powder fouling to a minimum.

What? We're Not Serious?

Most serious black powder rifle shooters run a patch through the bore after each shot. We wanted to see what kind of results we

could get by firing 10 shots without cleaning. Using 67.5 grs. of Elephant Brand FFg black powder under the Meister Bullet's 405 gr. plain-base bullet gave a muzzle velocity of 1,242 fps. At 50 yards the first five shots grouped into 1 1/2", the next three shots opened the group to 3" and the last two shots keyholed on the paper.

Switching to 65.8 grs. of Swiss FFg resulted in 100 fps more muzzle velocity; however, the fouling was worse, as the first five shots grouped into 3", the next two shots opened the group to 3 3/4" and the last shot was off the paper. So it is obvious that for many uses we could get at least five good shots without cleaning using either powder.

Some exceptionally good-shooting factory loads in the .45-70 Buffalo Classic were Black Hills 405 gr. FN at 1,300 fps and a three-shot group at 50 yards of 3/4"; and Federal's 405 gr. FN at 1,250 fps and a group of 1 1/2". The Meister 405 gr. bullet over 28.5 grs. of Accurate Arms XMP 5744 came in at 1,455 fps and a group of 7/8"; Beartooth's 405 gr. gas checked bullet over the same charge gave the same muzzle velocity and shrunk the group ever so slightly to 3/4".

The Right Bullet

In the past it has been difficult if not impossible to find machine cast, reasonably priced bullets that would shoot well in the .45-70. Most versions offered came with one inadequate grease groove filled with a hard lube that basically accomplished nothing. Oregon Trail has corrected this with three new .45-70 bullets: a 350 gr. with two grease grooves, a 405 gr. that now has three grooves and the 500 gr. version that carries grease in four grooves.

The Oregon Trail 500 gr. bullet was used with four different powder charges all giving excellent results. Accurate Arms XMP 5744 loaded to 26 grs. gave a muzzle velocity just under 1,300 fps and placed three shots in 1 1/2"; 44.5 grs. of their XMP2495 upped the muzzle velocity to 1,500 fps and yielded a grouping of 1 1/2". The same results were obtained with 35 grs. of RE-7.

Best results were with 36 grs. of IMR 3031 for slightly over 1,300 fps and a three-shot group of 7/8". With a 500 gr. bullet any of these loads should give excellent penetration.

For heavy-duty use with the Buffalo Classic .45-70, Buffalo Bore's 430 gr. LBT clocks out at 2,050 fps, Garrett's 530 grs. Hammer Head does right under 1,600 fps, and our handloads using 405 gr. cast bullets are right at 2,200 fps. All of these are very serious hunting loads.



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BENCHREST SHOOTING 2001

IN THE MOST DEMANDING OF THE
SHOOTING SPORTS, SUCCESS IS
MEASURED IN HUNDREDTHS OF AN INCH.

BY DICK WRIGHT

Winter in the Michigan Northwoods. The ground is frozen and snow-covered, but this one day is sunny and the temperature will be above freezing for a few hours. For the first time in weeks, a solitary figure sits with a rifle at his shooting bench.

His rifle looks heavy and is brightly painted. It is a bolt action with a shiny barrel and a purposeful-looking target scope. His cartridge cases are polished and his bullets are silver.

He works slowly and carefully and shoots five shots at a time, stopping often to make notes on a clipboard. Then, his shots fired, he disappears into his shop. In a short while he reappears with five more rounds, sometimes a few extra for sighters.

Between his shooting bench and the 100-yard target there is a line of windflags. He watches them carefully, shooting only when he is satisfied with the alignment of the several flags. The shooter seems serious and proceeds quietly and carefully.

I am that pilgrim. I am a competitive benchrest shooter and I would like to tell you about my sport.

Leave Nothing To Chance

Later that year — summer has finally come and I am at a benchrest rifle match.

Once again I am sitting at a bench and carefully watching the wind flags. So far, I have taken four shots at my target. They are in one tiny hole and I have a chance to win the match. However, I know that I will still lose if my fifth and final shot does not go into that group.

My first four shots were fired when the wind was coming over my right shoulder and blowing toward the target, what we call a “five o’clock condition.” Now the

wind flags show a left-to-right wind direction. Should I shoot in this wind, it is guaranteed to blow my last shot out of the group and me out of the money. I have waited and waited for the wind to change back to the five o’clock condition and am now running out of time. I hear the range officer announcing, “One minute remaining.”

Now I have no choice but to use the sighter target and shoot in the new wind condition. I move the rifle to aim at the sighter bullseye which is just below the record bull on the target and I carefully shoot one round, noting it’s point of impact. It is roughly 3/8" from where I was hitting in the five o’clock condition. I take one more shot, which hits in the same place.

Now I quickly return to the record bull and use a little “Kentucky windage,” holding off just enough to allow for my impact change. As my rifle fires, the range officer says, “Five seconds remaining.” It’s over and I can now take time to breathe.

I push the rifle back to battery so as to see the target. I find that the last shot went into the group. While the hole got a little egg-shaped and a trifle larger, it is not big to the point

Benchrest rifles are the ultimate in shooting precision — this one is built on a custom Viper action and chambered in 6mm PPC.





Benchrest competitions often resemble Easter parades as shooters use brightly colored flags to help them read the wind.



With a rifle capable of shooting a 0.1" group at 100 yards, the greatest challenge to a benchrest shooter is mastering the wind and weather.

of disaster. I estimate the group to be around .2" and feel that I have preserved my chance to win. Now, while I remove my equipment from the shooting bench and prepare to clean the rifle, the range crew will collect the targets and the scorer will grade them. In a short while a winner will be announced.

What's The Big Deal?

Such is a small episode in the life of a benchrest rifle competitor. Something very similar to this will be repeated many, many times during any season of benchrest competition. I should probably note that shooting well and winning is a lot easier to describe sitting here at my computer than it is to do out in the competitive world where I spend each summer.

Perhaps the most common question benchrest shooters get from the uninitiated is, "What's the big deal? Your rifle

is just sitting there on a concrete bench. How could you possibly miss?"

The truth is that all benchrest matches are shot out-of-doors where the wind is blowing. The further truth is that the wind takes all bullets and carries them as those bullets are travelling through the air, which is itself in an almost constant state of motion.

It is the shooter who is best at evaluating and responding to wind conditions that takes home the trophy.

Contemporary benchrest competition presents shooters with a unique situation. Like the long-range shooters at Camp Perry, benchrest rifles and ammunition have been developed to the point that they are now quite a bit more accurate than can be shot outdoors in match conditions. The benchrest shooter's biggest problem is not trying to get the guns to shoot better, it is learning to shoot them as well as

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BENCHREST

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they can be shot in the wind.

There are two types of benchrest matches. First are "group" matches, and the concept is simple. Competitors each shoot one shot at 100 yards. (It could be 200 or, on rare occasion, 300 yards.) Then four more shots are fired through the same hole. The smallest hole wins. It's that simple.

There are instruments available, mostly modified dial calipers, that make measuring the groups easy. The center distance between the two shots farthest apart in the group determines the group size.

At a typical match, a competitor shoots five groups at 100 yards in the morning with one rifle. Then he or she will shoot five groups with the same rifle at 200 yards in the afternoon. Most often, competitors will shoot 10½ lb. "Light Varmint" or "Sporter" class rifles.

On the next day of competition, shooters repeat the process but with 13½ lb. "Heavy Varmint" class rifles. There are prizes for the smallest groups shot and the smallest average of five and 10 groups. What is notable is that it often requires an average group size under .2" to win at 100 yards and a group size under .4" to win at 200 yards. Smallest individual groups at 100 yards often are under .1".

Most group matches last for a weekend and require a club to have some specialized equipment such as a computer with a scoring program and a set of moving backer targets with which the scorers make sure that there really are five shots through that little hole.

Settling The Score

There are also many "score" matches held each year in the U.S. In this type of benchrest competition, shooters fire at targets that have six bulls, five of which are record targets and one that is a sighter target. On a 100-yard target, the bull, or 10-ring, is 1/2" in diameter. However, in the center of the 10-ring is a dot, called an "X," which is 1/16" in diameter. Almost always, to win, a competitor must hit the 1/2" 10-ring with each of his 25 shots. However, national statistics show they must also hit the tiebreaker "X" 19 or 20 times out of 25. Nowadays, just hitting the 10-ring wins you nothing; it's that little 1/16" "X" that's really the target.

Again, a typical match will involve five 100-yard targets in the morning and five at 200 yards in the afternoon. Prizes are awarded for each yardage and the grand total. Most score matches last one day and are relatively easy for a gun club to put on, needing less specialized equipment.

An Evolving Sport

There have been rifle competitions for as long as there have been rifles and men who shot them. Modern benchrest competition, however, was first organized right after

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World War II. The rifles shot in these early competitions were mainly the "woodchuck" rifles of varmint hunters.

While older benchrest rifles featured wooden stocks, most contemporary benchrest rifles have fiberglass or composite stocks, many of which are brightly painted. They have wide, flat foreends and low centers of gravity which make them sit in the front and rear rests securely. Most are built on custom, single-shot bolt actions that are made especially for accuracy shooting.

Almost all barrels on today's bench guns are made of stainless steel by Shilen, Hart, Krieger, Douglas or other small companies. Most of them are chambered for the 6mm PPC cartridge, which was developed in the mid-'70s by Dr. Lou Palmizano and Ferris Pindel. It is now widely regarded as the most accurate cartridge for 100-, 200- and 300-yard shooting in the world. The 6mm and .22 PPC are now commercial rounds and are chambered in rifles made by several manufacturers.

The most popular scope used is the 36x Leupold target model; the B&L, and Weaver 36x scopes are also used extensively. Almost all bullets used in benchrest competition are handmade by individuals or very small companies. The most popular are Euber, Gentner, Watson, Fowler and Berger bullets.

All bench guns used in serious competition are made by a handful of custom gunsmiths. Most of the actions are by custom makers, although trued-up and sleeved Remingtons have long been popular. The rifles will have special tight chambers that will not accept factory rounds. The chamber neck is especially tight and requires a handloader to neckturn the case until it will hold a bullet and still chamber. All this in an effort to make the ammo fit the rifle perfectly.

The Handloader's Art

A good deal of time is spent weighing, trimming, neckturning and prepping the brass. Many benchrest shooters bring only 15 or 20 cases to a match. They will reload these after they shoot each target. This enables them to use only the best brass and allows them to make minor variations in the powder charge. It is common, as a match progresses and the day gets warmer, for shooters to adjust the powder charge downward.

Reloading is done with "hand dies" and is easy to do at the portable bench most competitors carry with them to matches. Each shooter's tool kit contains loading dies, a small arbor press and a powder measure capable of being adjusted to throw precise charges. The toolbox will probably contain many other hand tools for reloading. Benchrest shooters are among the world's most addicted gadgeteers.

Cleaning materials are also important to benchrest competitors. Each will have one or more one-piece cleaning rods and

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| <input type="checkbox"/> SNUB-NOSED REVOLVER | <input type="checkbox"/> MAGNUM 188 SEMI-AUTOMATIC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WALTHER 38 | <input type="checkbox"/> CASE "LONG RIFLE" SEMI-AUTOMATIC |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> "COMPETITION CLASSIC" SEMI-AUTOMATIC TARGET | |

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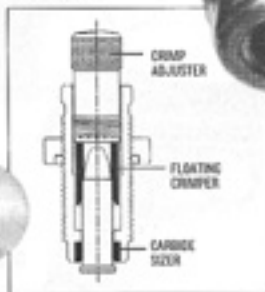
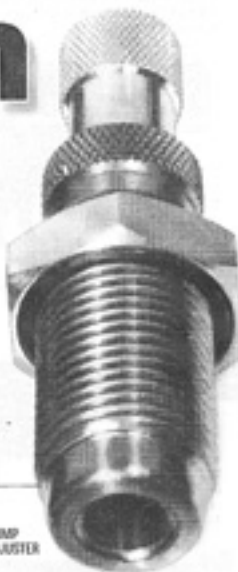
The Lee Factory Crimp Dies are the only way to produce ammunition with factory like dependability and uniform internal ballistics. Magnum powders require a firm crimp for proper ignition. Light, low recoil target leads will produce erratic results if not firmly crimped.

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The Factory Crimp Die produces a beautiful roll crimp on revolver cartridges and a perfect tapered crimp on semi-automatic pistol calibers. A carbide post sizing ring at the base puts a finish size on the case, guaranteeing feed reliability.

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various solvents, patches and potions with which to clean his barrel. Many do so after every single shot.

All this attention to detail has its rewards. Group sizes required to win a major competition decrease each year. At the National Championships in 1999, one competitor won a 200-yard match by shooting five consecutive groups that measured .3" — well under 3/8". This year a shooter set a new record for 200 yards with a five-shot group that was under .1". The 300-yard small-group record is now under .2".

Benchrest shooting can be a rewarding avocation. Getting that fifth shot into the tiny hole downrange — you just have to be there and shoot it yourself to know the sense of accomplishment involved. However, it can also drive good men to drink strong beverages. One vagrant breath of wind can ruin an entire weekend.

At any match, much attention is paid to the windflags. These sensitive instruments are made by a few of the competitors who, in turn, sell them to others.

Should you visit a benchrest match in your area, your first impression is of color. The range will be covered with gaily colored windflags. The rifles themselves are painted in a wide variety of colors and paint schemes. The shooters will alternate between shooting from the benches and returning to their loading areas to reload and clean the rifles. Many are friendly and will be happy to answer questions.

There are two controlling organizations in benchrest shooting. The International Benchrest Shooters are mostly in the Northeast part of America, although there are a few I.B.S.-affiliated clubs scattered around the country. The National Benchrest Shooters Association holds matches spread over the rest of the country.

A membership in either organization gets you a magazine featuring ads for the specialized equipment used in the sport. Either organization will be happy to provide you with a schedule of their matches, along with the location and a contact person for each match.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

National Benchrest Shooters

Association

c/o Pat Ferrell

2835 Guilford Lane

Oklahoma City, OK 73120-4404

International Benchrest Shooters

c/o Joan Borden

RR 1, Box 250 BC

Springville, PA 18844

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The Secret Of THE PERFECT CRIMP

The shotshell crimp fulfills so many important tasks that it requires some careful handling. Consider for a moment that the crimp retains the shot charge, seals the shell and, most importantly, establishes the ideal resistance necessary to ensure a uniform powder burn at proper pressures.

There's nothing prettier than a nicely formed crimp and nothing uglier than one that has been botched in the handloading process because the shooter wanted to get one more reload.

One of the secrets to a nice, crisp crimp is using a shell with a skived, or tapered, mouth. Some factory shells exhibit this feature and some do not, even from the same manufacturer. Those that don't can be easily modified by the handloader with a simple, tapered case skiver.

In practice, the skiving tool is inserted into the mouth of the case, and rotated back and forth several times until the mouth is

sufficiently thinned. "Sufficiently" is defined by practice and observation.

Skiving is easiest to apply to new, straight-walled empties, but don't let that deter you from skiving shells that have already been fired once. In fact, the skiving tool can even help to clean up the "weld" applied to the center of Winchester hunting cases.

Whether you're forming six- or eight-point crimps, the skiver is a handy tool to have on the bench.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Ballistic Products
(612) 494-9237
www.ballisticproducts.com

The skiving tool can do wonders in helping to build a crisp crimp.



SHORT SHELLS FOR SHORT GUNS

One of the interesting spin-offs of the cowboy action shooting game has been the appearance of reasonably priced, short-barreled, hammer guns. These short-barreled, big-bore boomers are rather colorful, nostalgic and handle surprisingly well. In fact, they're not only simple and practical personal-defense guns, but also have sporting qualities as well. Frankly, the bottom line is they're awfully fun to shoot.

Standard 2¼" field loads with 1½ oz. of shot have a tendency to sting a bit when fired in these short, light hammer guns. Looking for an alternative, we broke out some Aguila 1¼" Minishells and some 2" 50mm Super Game cartridges by Game Bore. The Minishells held 5/8 oz. of #7½s, while Game Bore's 2" loading carried 24 grams of #6s.

The combination of short shells in short coach gun barrels proved ideal. Patterns, even with the 5/8 oz. Minishells, were sufficiently balanced to take anything flying at 25 yards.

Recoil was minimal. The use of short shells just changes the whole character of these short, double-barreled side-by-sides.

A short-barreled, hammer gun like the Charles Daly Liberty Coach model stuffed with "shorts" is a load of fun.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Charles Daly
P.O. Box 6625
Harrisburg, PA 17112-0625
(717) 540-8518
www.charlesdaly.com

Kent Cartridge
(888) 311-KENT
Fax: (304) 725-0454
www.kentgamebore.com

Cole Distributing (Aguila Ammunition)
P.O. Box 247
Scottsville, KY 42164
(888) 264-9625
www.cole-distributing.com

New TURKEY LOADS For Spring

With the spring turkey season approaching, there should be some new turkey loads on the shelves of most dealers. These are premium, high-performance loads that the factories have customized to the specific needs of the dedicated turkey hunter.

High velocity is certainly a factor. Winchester has boosted its Supreme copper-plated buffered #4, 5 and 6 shot loads for the 10 ga. 3½", as well as the 12 ga. 3½" and 3", to a screaming 1,300 fps. Federal has added a Premium High Energy Turkey load that is doing 1,300 fps with #4, 5 and 6 shot in the 10 ga. 3½" and 12 ga. 3" shells, while keeping the 12 ga. 3½" load to 1,275 fps.

How did they do it? By reducing the shot charges across-the-board by 1/4 oz., thereby giving us 2 oz. loads in the 10 ga. 3½" and 12 ga. 3½" and 1¼ oz. in the 12 ga. 3".

Remington has an interesting Premium "Duplex" turkey load that layers copper-plated #4s over #6s. The concept is that the heavier #4s offer greater retained energy and penetration, while the #6s maintain overall pattern density. The 4x6 Duplex loading is offered in the 12 ga. 3" with 1½ oz. at 1,210 fps and in the 2¼" with 1½ oz. at 1,260 fps.

Look for these specialized turkey loadings this spring on your dealer's shelves.

Loaded with short shells, the Charles Daly Liberty Coach gun is a fun-to-shoot piece of Americana.



Ahrends Revolver Grips

Grip maker Kim Ahrends is renowned for his superbly crafted 1911 grip panels, but now the Iowa-based artisan has turned his attention to revolvers. Debuting a line of smooth and finger-groove grips for S&W revolvers, Ahrends now offers the revolver fancier the sort of quality and style that auto aficionados have enjoyed for years.

The Ahrends grips are available for N-, K-, L- and J-frame revolvers, both square and round butts. There are special J-frame grips for Airweights, which have thinner frames than standard-weight J-frames. The grips come in exotic hardwood (cocobolo, moradillo, or walnut) and a hybrid called Dymondwood, which blends the beauty and warmth of wood with the durability of synthetic resins.

The smooth grips are of the Roper style, which is to say, thin and tapered. The smooth version is better suited for hard-recoiling bigbore magnums while the finger-groove seems more conducive for controlling rapid fire from the little J-frames.

Ahrends prices his custom stocks fairly, given his quality and reputation. Traditional hardwood grips, smooth or finger-groove, cost \$60 a set and Dymondwood is \$72.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ahrends Custom Grips

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QUARTERMASTER

BY GUNS STAFF

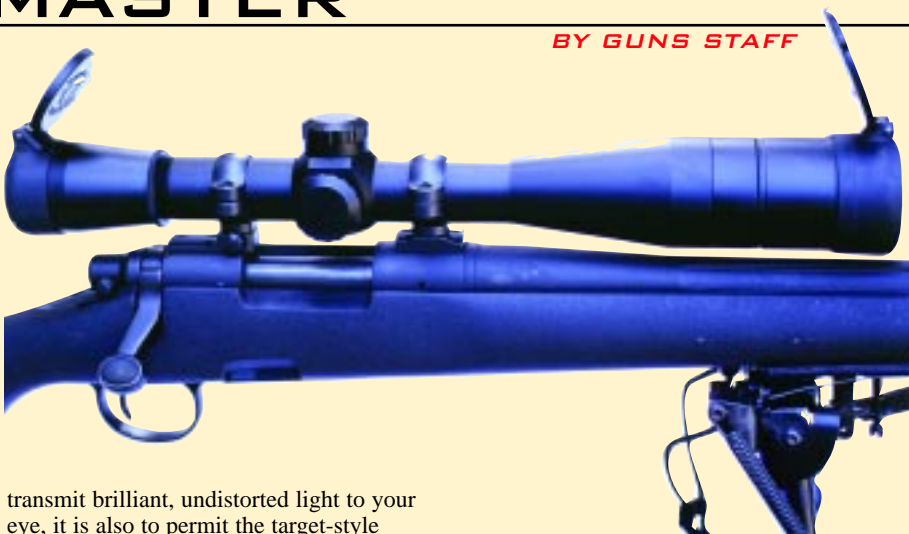
Leupold Mark 4 Scope

The adage, "the lighter the better" applies to scopes, as well as rifle triggers. We have long been advocates of putting the best optic on a working rifle, the better to gather light, resolve detail, and render sharp, clear images. Hunting is best at dawn and dusk — low light — and those are the hours that a good scope shines.

We are not going to mince words here — across the board, everything considered model for model, Leupold & Stevens is the finest scope manufacturer in the world. The Germans produce some pretty good glass, but they don't hold up to Leupold when you factor in price.

When it came time to outfit a Remington 700P, we went straight to Leupold's Mark 4 tactical scope. The Mark 4 is a 30mm tube of solid 6061-T6 aircraft aluminum, tough as a framing hammer, with a special side-focus knob and precise quarter-minute clicks for windage and elevation. We tested a 10x Mark 4, but there is also a 16x version.

The reason for the 30mm tube is not just to allow those precise Leupold lenses to



transmit brilliant, undistorted light to your eye, it is also to permit the target-style knobs to have plenty of room to move within the turrets. The reticle of choice is the Mil-Dot, which features a conventional Leupold Duplex thick-thin crosshair, but with the addition of small "dots" to estimate distance and allow for wind drift.

The Mark 4 has a 40mm objective lens. Needless to say, the Mark 4 is fogproof and waterproof. If the Leupold name means anything, it means rugged. The Mark 4 is the pinnacle of Leupold's line; the suggested retail price is \$1,600.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Leupold & Stevens

P.O. Box 688
Beaverton, OR 97075
(503) 526-5195
www.leupold.com

QUARTERMASTER

BY GUNS STAFF

Blackhawk Mag Harness

The Blackhawk chest harness system is multi-purpose, capable of holding 30-round M16 mags, AK-47 banana clips and M14 mags with equal ease. We found our FAL mags fit as well. The harness consists of adjustable, padded, criss-cross shoulder straps with 1.5" side release buckles. Suspended from the shoulder straps, covering the chest, are four mag pouches and two accessory pouches on the left and right sides.

Each of the four pouches holds three M16 and AK mags or two M14 or FAL mags. Each pouch has a divider to prevent the mags from noisily rattling when quiet movement is imperative. The two end pouches can hold any other gear — compass, radio, first aid kit, etc. There is a snap-opening pocket that can be used for storing a map or secret plans to invade Sweden.

The quality of the Commando Chest Harness is in keeping with Blackhawk's tradition of excellence. All edges are bound and double-stitched and the material is the

finest 1,000-denier Nytaneon nylon. There is a quick-release waist strap with a belt loop attachment system. The harness comes in olive drab or woodland camo and retails for \$123.95.

We found the adjustments on the harness more than adequate for different body types. It would easily fit over a ballistic vest. The padded shoulder straps were comfortable, even when the four pouches were stuffed full of M16 mags, a total of 360 rounds. The weight was not unbearable — no pun intended — at around 20 lbs.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Blackhawk Industries

1133 Executive Blvd.
Chesapeake, VA 23320
(800) 694-5263
www.blackhawkindustries.com

Blade-Tech Concealex

Kydex is a thermoplastic material that can be molded into complex shapes with heat and pressure. One of the pioneers of the use of Kydex in holster manufacturing was Blade-Tech Industries of Tacoma, Wash.

Blade-Tech's latest innovation is Concealex, a camouflaged form of Kydex that incorporates the camo pattern right into the plastic itself. This remarkable material is resistant to most chemicals, oils and solvents, and is absolutely waterproof. It has a permanent memory with excellent retention qualities, facilitating extremely smooth operation.

The unique camouflage patterns are integrated into the Concealex and have a matte finish for tactical field applications. They blend very well with their respective BDU patterns or solids. Patterns include Olive Drab, Arctic, Woodlands, Desert, Stealth Black, Realtree, Advantage, Wetlands and Hardwoods.

One of our favorite Blade-Tech designs is the straight-drop holster for a 1911. This holster is approved for competition, but it is secure enough for daily carry. The front is cut down to the middle of the pistol's ejection port, a "speed cut" as Blade-Tech describes the design, but it is a far cry from the radically low-cut "competition rigs" used in IPSC.

The basic Blade-Tech holster retails for \$54.95, while Concealex models go for \$64.95. Mag pouches are \$22.95 in standard Kydex and \$27.95 in Concealex.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Blade-Tech

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(253) 581-4347
www.blade-tech.com

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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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BARREL TEMPERATURE & ACCURACY

BY M.L. MCPHERSON

Unless you're a guaranteed one-shot hunter, barrel heat will affect your accuracy. With the right data, however, barrel thermodynamics can actually work in your favor.

enerally, four classes of conditions exist within a rifle receiver when firing numerous shots. The first condition occurs when several shots are fired very quickly — little heat can move from the barrel into the receiver.

The second occurs when several shots are fired very slowly, and a lot of heat moves from the barrel into the receiver, but overall cooling allows all parts of the gun to approach ambient temperature prior to each subsequent shot.

In the third condition, the first few rounds are fired in an ambient-temperature gun, which causes an intermediate rate of fire to exist in which the front-to-rear temperature gradient within the receiver becomes significant.

The fourth condition occurs during extended shot strings, at any particular (relatively constant) cadence, when the system eventually reaches equilibrium, so that, prior to each shot, both temperature and temperature gradient are essentially similar.

Of course, myriad variables influence each of these situations, but the general idea is that it is often advisable to either



Still determining barrel temperature via the “wild guess” method? Puh-leeze! Temperature-sensitive, Mylar Bar-L Temp Strips from NECO give you quick, easy-to-read data about the condition of your rifle — and more data always means better accuracy.



220 Swift EtronX Handloads

Group	Shots	Gun Condition	Time From Prev. Group	Delay Between Shots	Accuracy
1	5	Cold	NA	40 seconds	.46"
2	5	Cold	20 minutes	40 seconds	.38"
3	5	Warm	2 minutes	40 seconds	.77"
4	15	Hot	2 minutes	40 seconds	.81"

fire a group as quickly as is feasible or to fire it very slowly — waiting up to 30 minutes between shots is often a good idea for a hunting rifle. In a recent test, we discovered just how important firing rate can be. (Our testing was done on a moderately warm day with only a modest breeze.) We found that meaningful results while sighting-in a rifle or doing load-development work can require critical control of gun temperature.

Shoot A Lot, Cool A Little

While working with handloads in a .220 Swift Remington EtronX rifle, we were unable to obtain component primers, so we opted to pull bullets on four boxes of factory loads. We resized the case necks and prepped the mouths. Then, using 40 of those cases, we worked up loads with two powders.

After determining the likely accuracy charge for each powder, we chose one powder for further testing, then loaded up the remaining 40 factory-primed cases with the

selected powder and charge.

We had two goals: to see how good the combination would do with five-shot, 100-yard groups and to see what would happen during an extended shot string — with insufficient time for the gun to cool significantly between shots. Results of an initial five-shot group persuaded us that it was necessary to clean the bore before continuing. After firing a second set of fouling shots, only 30 rounds remained for firing groups.

Beginning with an ambient-temperature gun, we rapidly fired a five-shot group, followed immediately by a second, five-shot group. Then we waited long enough for the gun to cool completely (while changing targets and recording data) before rapidly firing a third, five-shot group. Finally, without waiting for the gun to cool, we fired a final 15-shot group.

Shooting conditions were relatively good and we are comfortable that the shooter's skills behind the stock did not significantly influence any shots or the general outcome of this test.

continued on page 55



The racy, new Model 9000 is just the latest in a long line of respectable mid-caliber pistols from the biggest name in Italy.



Beretta's Fabulous .40s

Story by Massad Ayoob

Photos by Ichiro Nagata

When a cartridge becomes popular, big gun companies don't just chamber one handgun for it.

Introduced in 1990, the .40 Smith & Wesson cartridge continues to be a huge success. It was an instant hit with the cops, because a 12-shot .40 split the difference between a 16-shot 9mm and an eight-shot .45. Developed as a compromise cartridge, the .40 cut the Gordian knot of indecisiveness surrounding the "9mm versus .45" debate. Before long, private citizens were buying .40s in droves for much the same reasons.

Most big gunmakers offer more than one model chambered in this groundbreaking cartridge. Beretta now offers

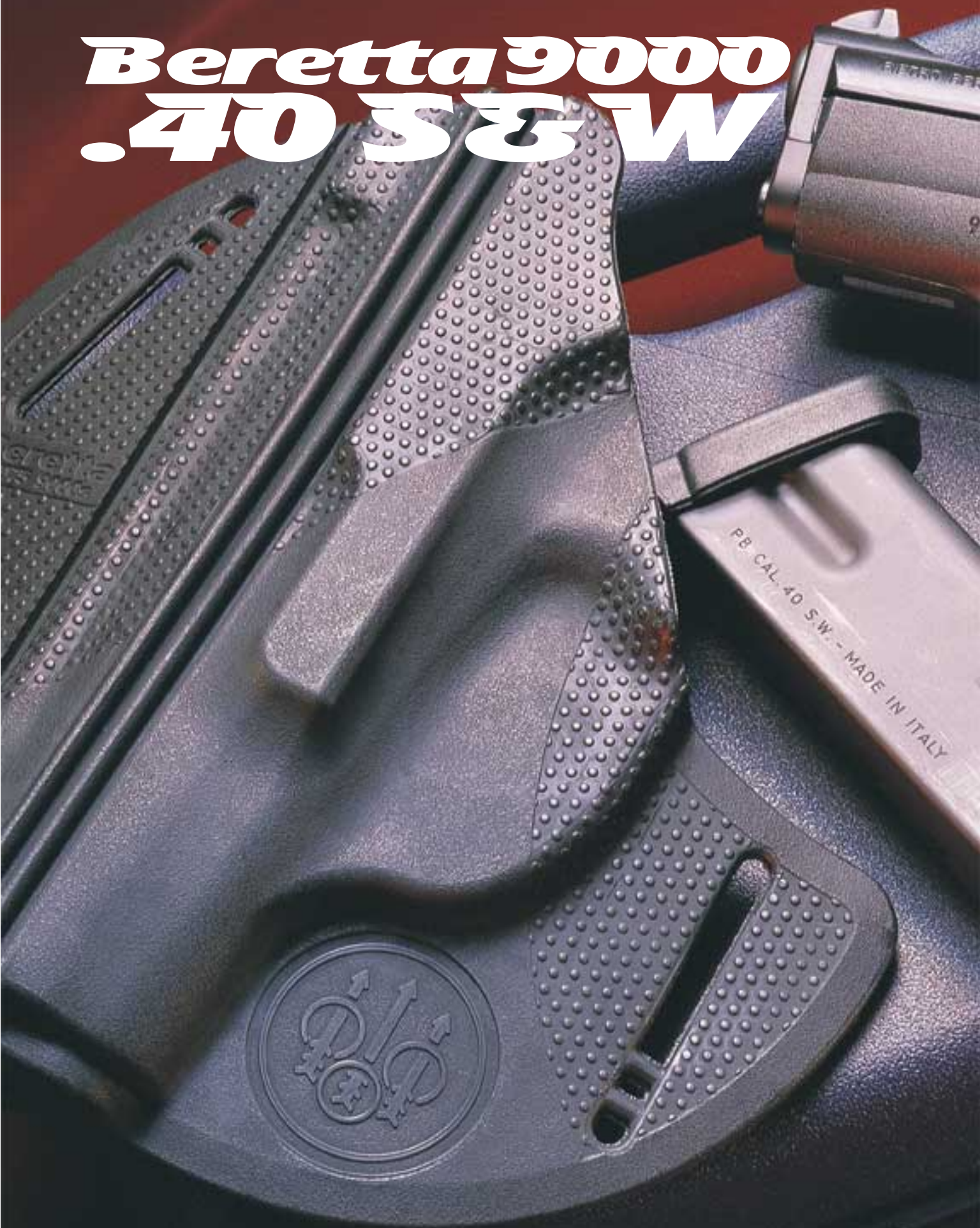
Opposite: The new high-tech Model 9000, with its three model variations, brings to 21 the number of .40 caliber pistol offerings from Beretta. Bottom-right: The Model 96 is the first, and still the best, of the Beretta .40s. Top-right: With a compact design and full-sized performance, the Model 8000 Cougar in .40 can fulfill the role of either duty or personal protection gun.



"RENDERED WITH A POLYMER FRAME, THE MODEL 9000 WEIGHS ONLY 26.8 OZS. WITH ITS 3.4" BARREL, AND MEASURES ONLY 6.6" OVERALL. A SOFTER POLYMER COM- PRISES MOST OF THE GRIPPING SURFACE."



Beretta 9000 ***.40 S&W***





GUNS

MAGAZINE

Despite its compact size, the Beretta 9000 retains the high-visibility sights that distinguish all Beretta pistols.



three .40 caliber pistols. However, that understates the real breadth of what's offered, which doesn't become apparent until we realize that barrel length and firing system options widen the Beretta .40 field considerably.

First came the Model 96, essentially the famous and well-proven Beretta 92, but in .40 S&W. Next came the 8000 series, which the company dubbed the Cougar. In 2000, Beretta introduced a third platform, the modernistic Model 9000 with polymer frame. We've had the opportunity to shoot all three.

As noted, however, the choices don't end there. The 9000 currently comes only in one size — compact. The standard 8040 Cougar is best described as "compact/service size," and is also available in a much smaller version, the "Mini-Cougar."

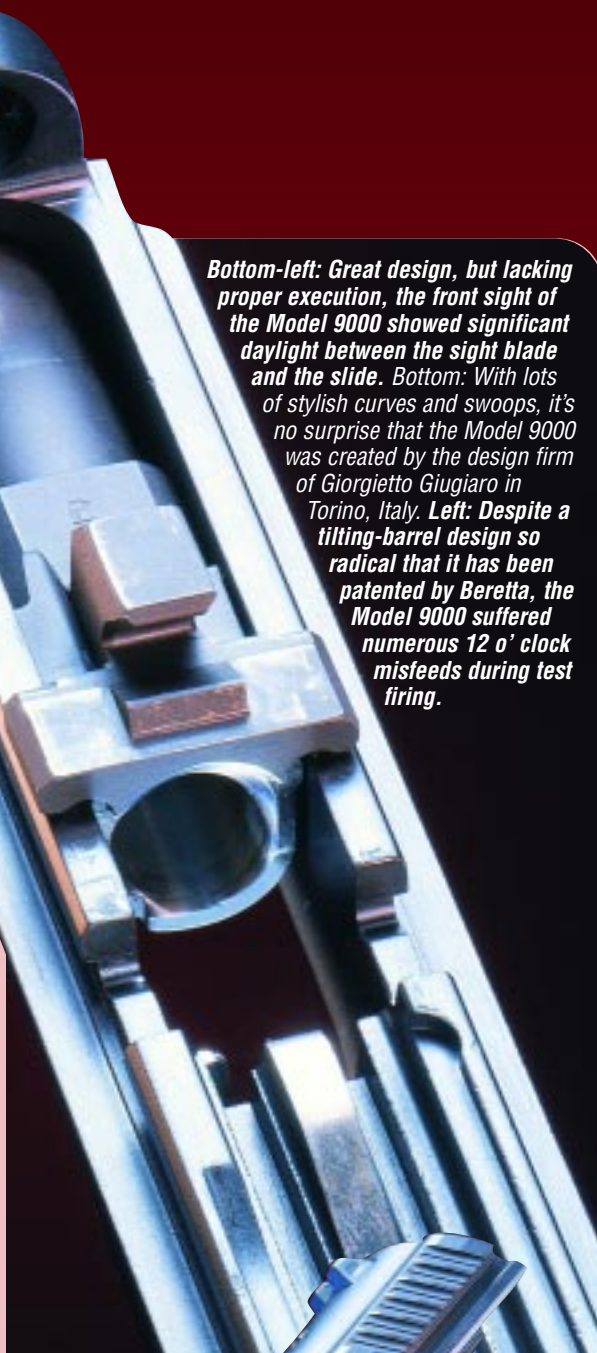
The 96 is available in full-size with a 4.9" barrel, and as the shorter Centurion with 4.3" tube. Counting the different sizes, that's five separate .40 models in the Beretta line. But, there's more — the full-size 96 is also available in Brigadier format with beefier slide. The 96 can also be had in stainless. That makes seven offerings from Beretta.

Control Games

Each of these models, however, is available in a choice of three fire-control systems. The conventional double action first-shot style, self-cocking thereafter, with a combination safety/decocking lever is the "F" style. This is what the Army uses in their Beretta M9 9mm. The same system with a spring-loaded slide lever that decocks only and is always in the "fire" position is the "G" style. The DAO — called the "slick-slide" by Beretta insiders because it needs no levers of any kind on the slide — is known as the "D" style.

We now have a *smorgasbord* of 21 .40 caliber Berettas

Bottom-left: Great design, but lacking proper execution, the front sight of the Model 9000 showed significant daylight between the sight blade and the slide. Bottom: With lots of stylish curves and swoops, it's no surprise that the Model 9000 was created by the design firm of Giorgietto Giugiaro in Torino, Italy. Left: Despite a tilting-barrel design so radical that it has been patented by Beretta, the Model 9000 suffered numerous 12 o'clock misfeeds during test firing.



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GIUGIARO DESIGN.
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MUCH OF THE FACT
THAT THE SHAPE OF
THE MODEL 9000
WAS DESIGNED BY
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from which to select.

The "F" is the oldest and most proven of Beretta's systems. On-safe carry gives you a weapon-retention fallback. If the bad guy gets your gun, he has to find the safety catch before he can shoot you. Being lightly spring-loaded, it's among the quickest to release. If you have a long enough thumb, a downward swipe will activate it.

If you don't like the idea of the pistol being locked on safe, the "G" model is your best bet. This is because it can't accidentally get "on safe" when you're not expecting it to,

which could slow down an emergency reaction draw and shot. The gun is self-cocking, with an easy trigger pull for every shot after the first until you hit the decocking lever. Because of the heavier decock lever spring in the "G" model, this action will require a little more thumb effort than with the "F."

In addition to the sleek, uncluttered look from which it derives its nickname, the slick-slide "D" style appeals to police chiefs because of the long, heavy double-action pull for every shot. Actually, because of its slightly different mechanism, this DA trigger stroke is actually a little lighter than the first DA pull on the "F" and "G" variants.

The theory is that this will eliminate accidental discharges traceable to those who forget to decock their guns under stress, and holster them or run around with them while the hammer is cocked.

Beretta 9000 Polymer

In the 1950s, the futurists said that by the dawn of the 21st century, we'd be riding cars which traveled on cushions of air, we'd have mass-transit space travel, and handguns would look like the Beretta 9000. So far, the 9000 is the first of these predictions to become reality.

Rendered with a polymer frame, the pistol weighs only 26.8 ozs. with its 3.4" barrel, and measures only 6.6" overall. A softer polymer comprises most of the gripping surface of the frame. The safety/decocker or decocker levers are mounted on the frame instead of the slide. This design has returned to Beretta's signature open-top slide.

What this sleek little pistol has going for it are those wonderful big sights, excellent pointing characteristics and the Beretta name.

The trigger is a long reach from the backstrap, worse for small hands than the 92 or 96. When grasping the pistol properly (barrel in line with the long bones of the forearm) I can just get the whorl of my fingerprint onto the trigger. This means that a petite female with proportional hands will barely be able to touch the trigger, much less exert enough leverage to make a fast, controlled shot.

The first pistols off the line were the DAO models. The "G" models were scheduled for a later delivery, and the "F" had suffered from a limited recall. It seems that a batch of the investment-cast safety/decock levers had made it through inspection with detents that weren't deep enough. When the pistol was brushed, bumped, or just set down, the lever would slip from "safe" to "fire."

Gabriele de Plano, Beretta's product marketing manager, says that the factory spec for double action pull weight on a 9000 is 8 lbs. to 12 lbs. Ours is on the high side of that. With the poor leverage afforded by the long trigger reach, it feels significantly heavier. And it's a *long* pull, about .875".

Manipulation of the pistol proved extremely awkward.

continued on page 56

With the Model 9000, Beretta returns to its distinctive open-topped slide design.



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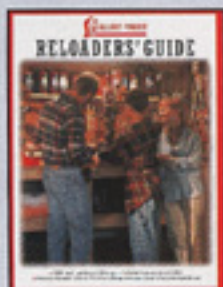
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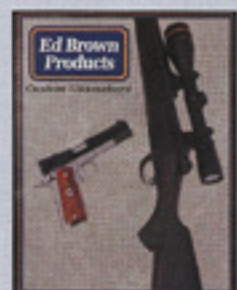
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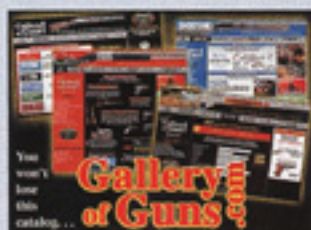
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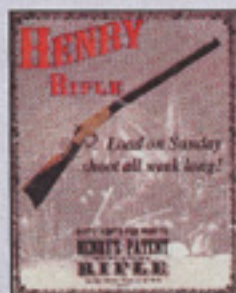
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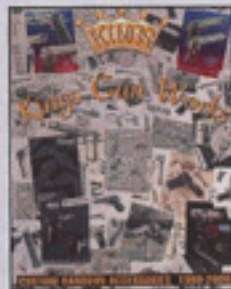
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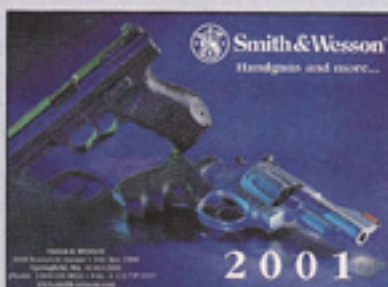
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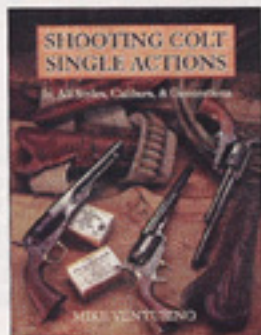


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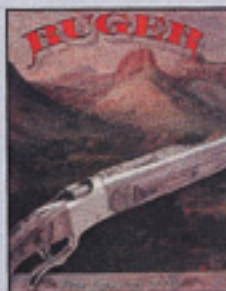
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CATALOG INQUIRY #70

TEMPERATURE

continued from page 39

The test revealed some interesting performance trends. First, the gun shoots passably well with a cold barrel and before significant receiver heating occurs. Then, with a hot barrel and the receiver beginning to warm, accuracy is noticeably degraded. Finally, as both barrel and receiver achieve a temperature equilibrium, the rifle exhibits outstanding (even phenomenal) accuracy, putting 15 shots into .81", with the final six of those shots measuring just .3".

The results of this test suggest that the bedding on this particular rifle is less than ideal because something bad is happening during that period when the receiver is heating and the temperature gradient within the receiver is significant. Of course, one test proves very little, but these results are indicative of a common trend.

Hunting Without A Warm-Up

Generally, if you are working with a hunting rifle, you might want to allow the gun to completely cool after each shot. The theory behind this is that the first shot is always from a cold gun, and the first shot should always be the best a hunter will ever get. Therefore, it makes little sense to fire groups while heating up the gun. While some guns are relatively insensitive to this effect, many are quite sensitive. (High sensitivity might well be indicative of imperfect bedding.)

We have seen factory guns and ammunition that would not put five shots into a 2", 100-yard group when tested conventionally; nevertheless, the same combination would routinely produce 1/2" groups when the gun was allowed to return to ambient temperature before firing each subsequent shot.

In comparison, if you are working with a varminting rifle that you intend to use during extended shot strings, this big-game-hunting rifle protocol makes no sense. In this case, you want to know how the gun will do while varminting. For such guns, a testing protocol similar to what is reflected in the table might be appropriate.

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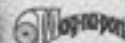
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FABULOUS .40s

continued from page 46

Perhaps in the name of racy looks, the slide is so narrow from top to bottom at the grasping point that there's only about .375" of serrated steel to hang onto. This made racking the slide extremely difficult, no matter what the size, shape or strength of the users' hands.

The slide's polish wasn't what we're used to seeing from Beretta, inside or outside. The roughness was visible. The front sight sat up out of its dovetail notch with light visible between it and the slide.

The 9000 On The Range

Accuracy was not at all up to what is expected from a Beretta. Despite the heavy trigger, the sights were dead on target each time the shot broke (We just brought the trigger back more slowly). Five out of six test loads ran from 5" to more than 7" for five-shot groups at 25 yards. The best we could do was one 2.9" group with Winchester's 180 gr. police-only load, the Ranger Talon.

Just to make sure this wasn't a case of shooter error, we went back the next day and tried again, and had some friends of known high skill shoot the 8000-S. The results of this test firing were nearly identical.

To ensure a fair trial for the new pistol, we compared the 9000 with a 96D Centurion. It gave a 2.1" group. We put each gun to the test over a combat course, using tactical instead of speed reloads with the two 10-round mags that came with the 9000.

At ranges of four to 15 yards, all under time, the 9000 was tough to shoot well. "Trigger finger fatigue" took its toll. At 15 yards, two shots landed high left, costing three points and leaving a 247 out of 250 possible points on the IPSC target, or 98.8 percent.

The same course was then shot with the 96D and the same American Eagle 180 gr. subsonic .40 ammo, resulting in a perfect 250. I checked the record later, and the last such course I'd shot with a Cougar had also delivered a 100 percent score.

The group with the 4.3" Beretta 96 measured 3 3/8" center to center, with 40 of the 50 bullets going through one ragged hole. The record showed that the Cougar had delivered about a 5" group. By contrast, the shot spread with the 9000 was 8 1/8", and the 47 out of 50 shots that were in the center A zone were more of a pattern than a group, measuring 7 1/8".

Finally, the 9000 jammed. Every stoppage was a 12 o'clock misfeed, the last thing we expected with a tilting-barrel design so radical that it's patented. We noted about one jam to every 60 shots. By contrast, our 96D, which has been carried and lent out to students, has suffered but one stoppage. It was a failure to go into battery (i.e., a failure to completely close the slide) on a 180 gr. Winchester HP.

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The Beretta 9000 11-shot .40 is almost exactly the same height, length, and thickness of a Glock 30 11-shot .45. The Glock is .1" longer, actually lighter, much more accurate and reliable, and easier to operate to boot.

Drive two hours west from Beretta's headquarters in Brescia, and you come to Torino, the home of Giorgietto Giugiaro Design. Beretta has made much of the fact that the shape of the Model 9000 was designed by Giugiaro. Unfortunately, while this design firm has created such things as helicopter interiors, cool helmets, eyewear and automobiles, their only experience with firearms was Beretta's AL-391 shotgun. The 9000 is their first pistol.

Beretta: Model 96

The Model 96 is Beretta's oldest .40. It's presently in use with Border Patrol, city cops from San Francisco to Providence, and the state troopers of Indiana, Rhode Island, North Carolina and Florida.

Ray Chapman, the first world champion of combat handgunning, used to say that handguns are always most reliable with the cartridge for which they were originally designed. This statement has been invoked with the Berettas. It could be said that while the 96 is a very reliable gun, it is not quite so extraordinarily reliable as its 9mm predecessor, the 92. When feed problems started showing up in early 96s, Beretta jumped on top of the problem and did a lot of work to fix it.

Some find the trigger reach long. Beretta makes a shorter reach trigger that will help solve the problem. If we were in charge of Beretta, we'd have that part fitted on every 92/96 pistol that left the shipping department, unless the customer expressly ordered the longer reach trigger.

The Beretta 96 in all configurations has big, blocky sights that are easy to see. This is much appreciated by geezers, myopes, and in my case, myopic geezers. It is also a boon to anyone who has to take a flash sight picture in a fraction of a second in an emergency.

Beretta: Cougar

The Beretta 8000 series was seen as radical for its rotary-lock barrel, which also allowed a size reduction. It has a conventional closed slide, not the trademark open one of its predecessor.

A lot of people appreciate this gun's improved concealability. It has been suggested that the unique action retards recoil. Some shooters perceive this, some don't, but in any case, the recoil of the .40 caliber version, the Model 8040, is quite manageable.

The good, big sights are there just like on the older guns.

No one complains about a Beretta 8000's accuracy, though again, it doesn't quite reach the gold standard set by the Model 92 9mm. Our favorite in the 8000

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series is the .45 caliber Model 8045. We've seen the occasional stoppage in the Model 8000 9mm, and fewer malfunctions than that in the 8040, but I have yet to see an 8045 jam.

The standard Cougar is a genuine compact, in overall length if not in grip length, with a 3.6" barrel. De Plano says that the .45 caliber version with a specially made longer barrel has been approved by LAPD. In fact, a number of .40 Cougars have been appearing in police holsters lately. The gun is catching on.

One reason for this popularity is a very successful design element. The 8000 series has the rear of the grip-frame shaped inwards to give the hand more reach to the trigger. Thus, it fits smaller hands better than its bigger, older brothers do. The chiefs like that because it reduces the chance of disparate impact lawsuits from female officers and other personnel with small hands who suffer occupationally because they can't qualify with a gun too big for them. It also fits the hand well.

Actions are smooth, if lacking that "glass against glass" feel that is a hallmark of the older Beretta design. Triggers are good as well. This particular Beretta .40 isn't a famous classic like its older brother, but it has its share of devoted fans, who like it for good reasons.

The Line Continues

Some years ago, when Brian Felter was still with Beretta, I told him that I thought the ideal Beretta .40 would be a 92 Compact chambered for that round. The short, double-stack magazine that held 10 rounds of .40 S&W, making it exactly the right size for the 10-rounders we're stuck with today, and we already knew that a slide the same length as the Centurions would work on a .40 Beretta.

The idea apparently caught on, and a .40 caliber double-stack 96 Compact with a short, easily concealed butt should be available at any moment. This size Beretta always fit my hand the best, and coupled with the short-reach trigger, may well become the best and most efficient 11-shot .40 Beretta has yet produced.

The Model 9000 is a gun that shows promise, but after seeing it in action, the jury is still out. Significant design and manufacturing changes will be necessary before this .40 lives up to the gold standard set by its older siblings.

Beretta makes some fine defensive pistols in the form of the Cougar and Centurion in .40 S&W — proven performers that will keep you safe under any circumstances. Even with only three models, Beretta offers plenty of choices to anyone who wants a medium-caliber pistol for home- or self-defense.




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GUNS at Auction: **The .700 NE H&H DOUBLE**

To help raise \$1 million for charity, one philanthropist put this fine rifle on the block.

By Tom Murphy



To raise money for the Wheelchairs for the World Foundation, Kenneth Behring donated his collection of classic hunting rifles. The .700 Nitro Express from H&H brought over \$150,000 to the cause.

Kenneth E. Behring has been in the gun selling and collecting business for many years. He began his love affair with firearms and hunting in his early teens when he purchased a used .22 single-shot rifle. Eventually he began collecting custom engraved rifles.

On his first African safari, Behring took a record rhino with an H&H double rifle. As finances increased, he purchased a DC-9 jet that made the trip to eastern Africa on a fairly regular basis. Many of his trophies are on display at the Safari Club International World Headquarters in Tucson, Ariz. He continued to acquire fine rifles over the years until his collection of firearms was second to none.

In recent years, he has shifted his focus from business to philanthropy, and in the process started the Wheelchairs for the World Foundation, dedicated to raising \$150 million over the next five years to deliver 1 million wheelchairs to people in need who otherwise would have no chance to own one.

Behring donated his entire gun collection to the Foundation, to be sold at auction for the benefit of the cause. This auction took place Tuesday, August 28,

continued on page 66

“THE LANDSCAPE SCENES ON THE RIFLE SHOW A RHINO ON THE LEFT LOCK, THREE CAPE BUFFALO ON THE RIGHT LOCK, AND AN ELEPHANT ON THE FLOORPLATE. PHILIPPE GRIFNE DID ALL ENGRAVING AS THE GUN WAS BEING BUILT.”



WORKHORSE SHOTGUNS

By Nick Sisley

Any scattergun is fine for a day at the range, but these seasoned guides and professional hunters know which smoothbores can withstand the rigors of hot-barrel hunting.

Back in the early 1970s, relatively few shotgunners left this country to go hunting. International wingshooting was in its infancy, and as a consequence, not a great deal was known about which shotguns were capable of withstanding the brutal conditions of shooting hundreds, sometimes thousands of rounds a day, for three, four, even five days.

By the '80s, however, high-volume bird shooting was really becoming popular. Hot-barreled havens like Colombia's Cauca Valley, Central America's Honduras and Nicaragua, the Cordoba area of Argentina, Uruguay and others were testing the mettle of shotgun after shotgun.

As the '90s were drawing to a close, additional dove hotspots had been added to the "I-want-to-go" list, like Bolivia, Paraguay, new areas in Argentina around Parana, Tucuman, Bahia Blanca and others. Shotgunners were also traveling to South Africa, New Zealand and elsewhere in their globetrotting travels.

Through all this shooting, shotgun after shotgun was seen to break down. Relatively few guns have weathered



this figurative storm well. Sometimes it's the traveling sportsmen themselves who have discovered which shotguns keep on ticking. Even more expert in this field could be the outfitters themselves, as day in and day out, these are the people who see which shotguns break down and which ones serve their owners well.

A shotgun purchase is an investment. It is important to purchase one that will serve you well, living up to your shooting demands and your expectations of reliability. With that in mind, we asked a panel of shotgunning experts for

continued on page 62

Facing page: South American bird hunters know which shotguns stand up to hard use after putting several cases of shells into the sky on a single day. Left: Hector Sarasola, who guides hunters after doves in Uruguay, recommends Perazzi 20 ga. O/Us for his clients. Above: Argentinian outfitter Gustavo Olsen likes to see his clients carrying Benelli and Beretta 3" semi-autos on his high-volume dove hunts.

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WORKHORSE

continued from page <None>

their opinions on the best and worst of available shotguns.

These experts include Gustavo Olsen, a dove outfitter in the Parana and Tucuman areas of Argentina; Hector Sarasola, an outfitter in Uruguay who specializes in both doves and perdiz, the latter over pointing dogs; and Ed Kaltreider of Livingston, Mont., a well-traveled shotgunner with a keen eye for the shotgun itself. Let's take a look at what each of these individuals has to say, both pro and con, about shotguns that are really put to severe tests.

The Experienced Hunter's View

Ed Kaltreider's perspective comes as a top and very experienced shooter, rather than as an outfitter. One of his prime considerations for a high-volume shotgun is a double trigger—or a fast barrel selector like in the Miller single trigger or a Browning Superposed. With regard to the double trigger, it's an obvious reason why he likes a number of different SxSs; however, Kaltreider has O/Us rigged with double triggers, as well.

Kaltreider is also a believer in screw-in chokes for this high-volume work. No wonder. You never know what bird-flight conditions or typical distances are going to be until you get to the shooting site. Further, these ranges might vary from day to day, even hour to hour. Screw-in chokes allow a hunter to change as conditions change.

Kaltreider says, "I have very good luck with what I call the 'Killer Bees,' that is, Beretta and Browning O/Us. I favor breech guns like this for their reliability and the opportunity to chose between two different choke constrictions, but I have carried Beretta and Benelli semi-autos to South America. I do, however, prefer breech guns. One favorite type is the Beretta SO4, but you have to watch out for sear wear, which can cause the triggers to get light. Otherwise, these O/Us are as reliable as any.

"For me, a couple of Browning Superposed 12 gauges have really been workhorses. These guns seldom break down—I have lost one extractor on my Diana Superposed in about 25,000 rounds—and these breakdowns are easy to handle for most gunsmiths. The Superposed is also very easy to open and close without adding wear and tear to the hands and arms, important during high-volume shooting."

Kaltreider said that Perazzi will still build double triggers in a new gun, and that these triggers are well-known for reliability and longevity, especially because you can carry a spare trigger group. "I consider Perazzi O/Us to be a top choice and took both my old DC 1 SxS and MX 8 O/U to Cordoba, Argentina, last May.

"Right now I have a pair of Perugini & Visini O/Us being made, and I'm really

looking forward to shooting them. They'll be rigged with Briley choke tubes and Vincenzo Perugini's double triggers."

Finally, Kaltreider says the Japanese Brownings (Citori models) have shown themselves to be extremely reliable in high-volume situations, especially the sporting clays models. "I shot a Citori 28 gauge recently with 28" barrels and the gun was a dandy."

Relying On The Best

Hector Sarasola flatly states, "Inexpensive shotguns don't work here, especially semi-automatics and many of the older shotguns."

To help with recoil reduction, due to the massive amounts of shooting his clients experience, Sarasola only stocks 7/8 oz. and 1 oz. 12 ga. loads. However, he also can supply 20, 28 and, sometimes, .410 shotshells. The Benelli Super Black Eagle, he claims, won't work with their 7/8 oz. 12 bore loads.

A shotgun purchase is an investment. It is important to purchase one that will serve you well, living up to your shooting demands and expectations of reliability.

With regard to Remington 1100s, "If they are old models, these semi-autos can experience metal fatigue of several types. Also, the rubber O rings that ride on the magazine tube of 1100s get too hot and burn during hot-barreled Uruguay dove-shooting action. Later model 1100s, with constant maintenance, will work, but bring extra rubber O rings."

On the positive side, Sarasola says, "The Beretta 302 and 303 models work fine with light loads. Browning O/Us have problems with bottom firing pin breakage, but this problem is easily fixed. Otherwise, the Browning O/U has a good record of reliability."

Sarasola is not very complimentary when it comes to old SxSs. "When you shoot hundreds of shells per hour, these old SxSs experience all manner of problems, whether they're AYAs, Hollands, whatever. Various parts simply loosen. Maybe metals used then weren't hard enough for the punishment we put them through."

Sarasola also has high praise for the Beretta AL390 in either 12 or 20 ga. Ditto for the Benelli 20 ga. semi and the Browning Gold. So far, the new Beretta semi-auto 391s, in both 12 and 20 ga., are also apparently top of the line. O/Us that have seldom, if ever, failed in the hands of his customers include the Perazzi, the Browning Citori and the Spanish-made Keman.

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If money were no object, but keeping good dollar value in mind, what shotgun would Sarasola buy or recommend?

"I believe my choice would be for a 20 ga. Perazzi O/U, and not one with an overly long barrel. A second choice would be a Beretta AL391, again in 20 ga. If the gun I bought was a 12 ga. Perazzi I'd insist that it have Briley or Kolar full-length tube inserts. To me, a 20 ga. is important in the high-volume, hot-barreled shooting our clients consistently experience — because of the lesser recoil."

The Dove Test

Referring to semi-automatics, Gustavo Olsen suggests that the ones that have really worked for his dove-shooting clients have been the Benelli and the Beretta. However, he is quick to point out that the 3½" versions of any auto-loader have failed to perform to Benelli and Beretta 3" semi-auto standards. These guns fail to function flawlessly with the Argentine 2¾" shells, even the high brass Fiocchi loads that are made in Argentina.

Further, he says semi-autos from Franchi, Browning, Remington and other prominent makers generally won't stand up to his high-volume dove shooting, which can consume three cases of ammo per day. "These guns tend to jam up often, break firing pins and have ejector problems."

He has found that the Benelli and Beretta

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semi-auto shotguns with 3" chambers do hold up long term, with few, if any, problems. The 3½" semi-autos and a number of other semi-autos are not recommended by him, at least for reliability in high-volume shotgunning situations.

Interestingly, Olsen believes the very high-priced SxSs have more than their share of problems in these high-volume shooting situations. Here, Olsen refers to the Holland and Hollands, Purdeys and those of similar high-dollar ilk. He says, "Evidently, these shotguns are not made for the heavy shooting we have. Malfunctions tend to occur as these expensive SxSs heat up, and on a number of occasions they cannot be opened." Hand tolerances on these guns are simply too tight for such hot-barreled action.

"The less expensive O/Us that work for us with little or no problem," Gustavo continues, "are the Browning Citoris, the 686 Beretta series and Winchester 101s. Of course, the more expensive O/Us, the various Perazzi and Krieghoff models, are tough to beat in our estimation."



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THE .700 NE

continued from page 59

2000 at Butterfield's auction house in San Francisco. It was an opportunity to purchase some of the finest sporting arms ever made.

Guns Of A Hunter

One of the finest pieces to cross the auction block was a cased Holland & Holland Exhibition Grade ejector double rifle in .700 Nitro Express. This gun was custom-built in 1994 for Behring and showed little, if any, wear. He is noted for taking large-caliber double rifles on safari, so this gun probably spent some quality time in Africa.

The .700 Nitro Express is the gun-maker's solution to the .600 Nitro's "paltry" 900 gr. bullet, which travels at 1,950 fps and delivers 7,610 ft./lbs. of muzzle energy. The .700 has a muzzle velocity of 2,000 fps and throws a 1,000 gr. bullet out the barrel with an astounding 9,050 ft./lbs. of energy. Not exactly for the meek and mild.

Holland & Holland have been building fine rifles since they were established in London in 1835. Their specialty is top-grade, exquisitely engraved double guns of both the rifle and shotgun persuasion. An average H&H gun (if there is such a thing) retails in the \$90,000-and-up range. The last quoted retail price for a .700 Nitro Express was over \$150,000.

This particular double rifle, serial number 35623, has 26½" chopper lump barrels gold inlaid "Holland and Holland, 33, Bruton Street, London." Rear sights are of the express-type with one fixed leaf marked "50 yards" and one folding with "100 yards." Foresight is a spear-type with a folding moonlight on a 4" partially matted, gold-inlaid, spear-pointed block.

The action is case-hardened, the reinforced sidelock is 100 percent deeply engraved with floral designs on a gold background. The locks, triggerguard, upper tang, forend iron and grip cap are similarly figured.

The landscape scenes on the rifle show a rhino on the left lock, three Cape buffalo on the right lock, and an elephant on the floorplate. Philippe Grifne did all engraving as the gun was being built.

This double rifle has just about every feature you can imagine. A partial list includes: double triggers, automatic safety, rolled triggerguard, cocking indicators, disc set strikers, checkered walnut pistol-grip stock, cheekpiece, drop points, and engraved oval steel grip cap with trap.


Its case is a combination oak and leather trunk with brass corners and blue baize interior. The red leather maker's label is fixed to the inside of the hinged lid. Extras include two horn containers with strikers and spare foresight, gold plated snap caps, four turn-screws with horn handles and a horn-handled cleaning rod with miscellaneous cleaning equipment. All in all, one of the finest double rifles ever to cross an auction block.

It was estimated to bring \$130,000. The winning bid was \$155,250.



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QUESTION OF THE MONTH

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- (B) ELK
- (C) WATERFOWL
- (D) UPLAND BIRDS
- (E) VARMINTS
- (F) SHEEP



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Retail value of this Mag-na-port custom Ruger Super Redhawk is \$1,270; an identical custom job performed on a customer-supplied gun retails for \$525. For more information on the full line of custom services available from Mag-na-port International, contact the company at (810) 469-6727, or visit them on the web at www.magnaport.com.

The AR-10, introduced in 1955, was a well-balanced and relatively light rifle which had the advantage of firing the powerful .308 cartridge.

ARM



ALITE

In an era of hard-hitting, post-World War II battle rifles, Eugene Stoner's innovative design led the way into the modern age of small arms.

AR-10

BY ROBERT BRUCE

Eugene Stoner, newly hired chief engineer for the California-based ArmaLite Corporation, began working on an interesting prototype battle rifle in 1955 incorporating a number of features inspired by Melvin Johnson's remarkable light machine guns.

External similarities to the Johnson Light Machine Gun included straight-line layout, pistol grip, detachable box magazine and high-mounted sights. Inside, at the heart of the weapon, was Johnson's patented eight-lug rotary bolt, allowing strong positive locking into a barrel extension.

Stoner leaped over two centuries of firearms tradition by putting this bolt system inside a relatively weak but very light and inexpensive aluminum alloy receiver. Further weight savings over traditional autoloading designs were realized in fiberglass-reinforced plastic furniture and Stoner's patented update development of a direct gas system.

Tool Time

By early 1957, three successive prototypes had been built, tested, and improved upon to the point where serious efforts could be made to find a production facility to handle quantity



manufacture. ArmaLite/Fairchild partner Richard Boutelle used his inside track with the Dutch to cut a deal with the government-owned firm of Artillerie-Inrichtingen, which reportedly invested the equivalent 2.5 million U.S. dollars into state-of-the-art machinery and tooling.

Unfortunately, all was not well over in Holland where delays were soon being experienced because of conversion from inches to millimeters, modifications resulting from field trials, and a bit more than usual debugging of the production process. Because of this, several large orders were lost to the excellent Belgian-designed FAL.

Seemingly undaunted, Stoner kept up ArmaLite's commitment to the project by fabricating an AR-10 family of weapons utilizing a common core of parts and assemblies to the greatest practical extent. These included a shortened carbine, a sniper rifle, a belt-fed light machine gun, and a heavy-barreled squad automatic weapon.

In spite of many impressive demonstrations worldwide, the radical new AR-10 rifle just didn't sell. The final blow for Artillerie-Inrichtingen came when even the Dutch Army

rejected it, joining the parade of most other European nations who were fielding the FAL.

Here Comes Colt

In 1959, ArmaLite revoked the Dutch license and awarded it to the famous American gunmaker Colt. This arrangement proved mutually beneficial in that the stodgy and financially troubled Colt got a exciting new product while ArmaLite was now associated with an American-based company having a long and well-established reputation for sporting, police and military guns.

What followed for the AR-15 is a colorful story that should be well known to military rifle enthusiasts. The ArmaLite/Colt rifle, ultimately chambered in .223 has confounded most of its critics to become, as the M16A1 series, the standard issue assault rifle for the U.S. Armed Forces and a host of allied nations. There is every indication that this will remain true well into the 21st century.

As for the AR-10, somewhere between 5,000 to 6,000

***THE RADICAL NEW AR-10 RIFLE JUST
DIDN'T SELL. THE FINAL BLOW CAME WHEN
EVEN THE DUTCH ARMY REJECTED IT,
JOINING THE OTHER EUROPEAN NATIONS
WHO WERE FIELDING THE FAL.***

production copies of all models were made at Artillerie-Inrichtingen. Amid some dark speculation about the CIA buying up a bunch for various spooky programs, ArmaLite's openly confirmed large deliveries were only to Guatemala, Sudan and Portugal, totaling about 3,000.

Going Semi-Auto

In the early 1980s the American firm Paragon Sales and Service of Romeoville, Ill., bought from Artillerie-Inrichtingen a quantity of original selective-fire AR-10 rifles and spare parts sets. Some 200 parts sets were assembled on Telco Inc.'s new machined-aluminum semiauto receivers for sale to the general public as the "XM-10." These were quickly snapped up despite a \$1,200 price tag.

Field Test Notes

The AR-10's sights are tried-and-true aperture rear and post front, protected against damage by the sides of the forged aluminum carrying handle and milled steel "ears" on the front riser assembly. They are easily and quickly adjusted for windage and elevation with the two large knurled drums located on the carrying handle/sight rail.

The distinctive stamped waffle-pattern aluminum magazines are quite flimsy and so light it is reported that empty ones have a tendency to remain in place even after the mag release is depressed. Also, the feed lips are notorious for sustaining terminal damage in even moderately rough handling.

The magazine release button is easily reached with the index finger of the right hand even while maintaining a good hold on the pistol grip. However, the button is exposed in a vulnerable position above the surrounding receiver. This can easily mean inadvertent loss of a full mag when energetically carrying out any variety of military duties.

The selector switch is well located just above the pistol grip on the left side of the lower receiver and can be operated by a thumb without having to release the gripping hand.

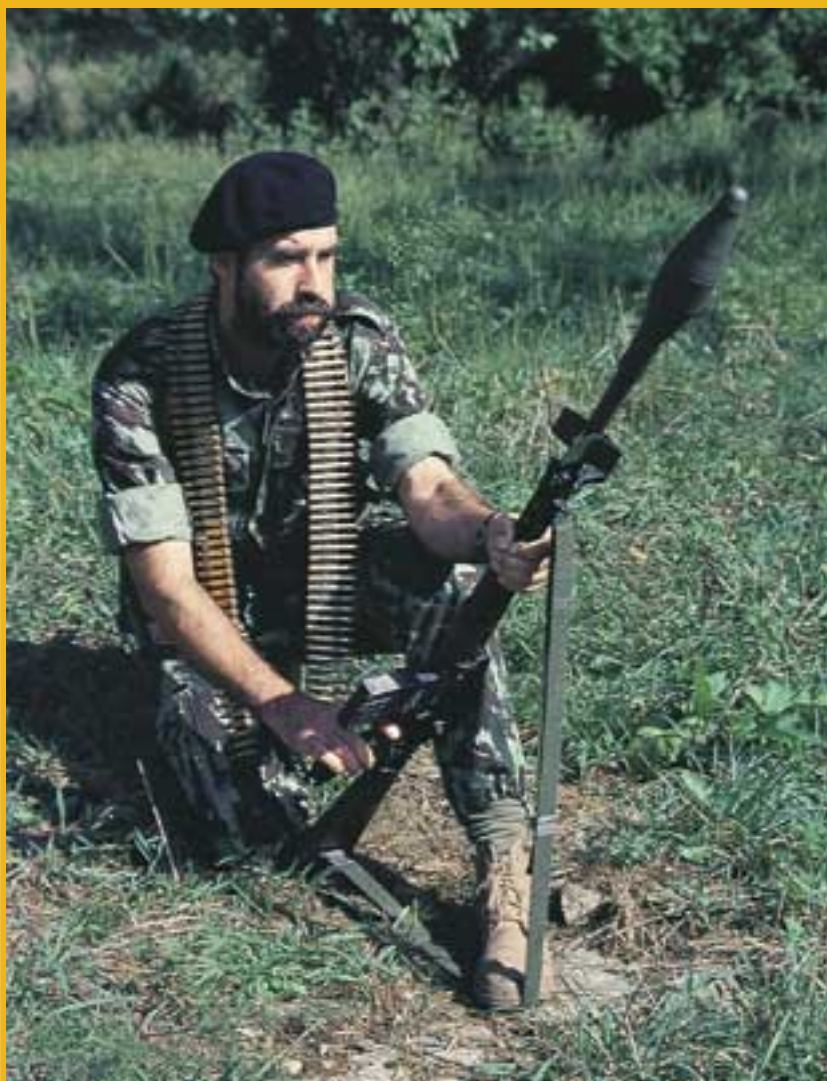
Cocking the AR-10 takes a bit of getting used to. While most shooters are accustomed to grabbing a side-mounted cocking handle (like the M2 carbine's) or even drawing back on the little charging handle on the M16, the experience of inserting a knuckle into the AR-10's carrying handle slot is a bit awkward at first. To compound the problem, the charging handle — looking for all the world like an extremely disoriented trigger — has to be pressed downward a bit to unlock before it can be drawn rearward.

Shooting

The trigger pull on factory built AR-10s has been described as "marginal to poor." For anyone who is not an accomplished target shooter, the gun's trigger release will be entirely satisfactory as military rifles go.

The AR-10, like the Belgian FAL and the German G-3, has a couple of virtues that are immediately apparent on firing. Their straight-line buttstock, pistol grip, and high sights all contribute to fast, instinctive handling and little barrel movement on firing.

The optional heavier plastic composition foregrip with sheet metal extender and light folding bipod make the gun about 2.5 lbs. heavier than a standard rifle, putting weight a bit forward of the regular balance point to minimize climb



in rapid fire from a number of unsupported positions.

The AR-10 really shines when the bipod legs are dropped into the dirt and firing begins from the prone supported position. The rifle stayed right on target shot after shot. Even on full auto, it behaved well as long as a tight hold was maintained in the classic auto rifle manner; right hand on the pistol grip, left on the comb of the buttstock, and cheek pressed tightly against that hand.

Good News and Bad News

The AR-10 fires from a closed bolt (when the trigger is pulled, the bolt is already fully forward and a round is locked in the chamber), which is good for accuracy. However, this system is prone to overheating and “cook-

off” when fired full-auto for even a relatively short duration.

Unlike the Soviet AK-47 and the German G-3, the AR-10 is provided with a bolt hold-open device that keeps the action open after the last round in the mag is fired. This is quite useful in operation as the locked open bolt instantly signals the gunner that it is time to insert a fresh mag. A potentially fatal second or two is also saved in not having to cycle the operating handle — just hit the bolt release and the rifle is ready to shoot again.

With one notable exception, field stripping and maintenance are fast and easy thanks to the simplicity of the parts and the hinged receiver that allows instant access and easy reach into remote corners. No special tools are required for pushing through the takedown pins. These stay locked to the receiver so you don’t have to paw around in the dirt or

Spec Sheet: ArmaLite AR-10

Caliber:	7.62x51mm NATO (.308)
Length:	40"
Barrel:	21.4", four grooves, right twist 1:10
Weight:	9 lbs. 14 oz.
Operation:	Direct gas, closed bolt in semi and full automatic
Locking:	Rotating eight-lug bolt
Cyclic rate:	700 to 750 rpm
Muzzle velocity:	2,750 fps/830 mps with mil-spec ball ammo
Sights:	Fully adjustable aperture rear sight and fixed front post. Adjustable in 100 meter increments from 200 to 600 meters.



snow to recover them.

All this having been said, there is perhaps no one who has ever gotten an AR-10's or M16's chamber extension area, forward of the bolt locking lugs, properly cleaned and decarbonized without going through extraordinary contortions accompanied by foul cursing.

Despite these misgivings, the ArmaLite AR-10 is an extremely interesting and innovative main battle rifle that is arguably as effective and capable as most of its better-known counterparts worldwide. Think about what might have happened had it not been for administrative and technical problems surrounding startup production in Holland. It is not unreasonable to speculate that Stoner's AR-10 could well have taken a place among the "Big Four" military rifles of the early Cold War period; FAL, CETME/G3, M14, and AK-47.



Left: The waffle-stamped magazines look sturdy, but thin aluminum walls make them prone to deformation even under the routine treatment. Above: An unprotected magazine release, located near the shooter's thumb, was the cause for many prematurely dumped AR-10 magazines.



The author would like to thank the following people for their assistance with production of this feature:

AR-10: Paragon XM-10 owned and legally converted to selective fire by Charles Erb, Fredericktown, Pa.

Gunner: Charley Brown, Richmond, Va.

Uniforms & Equipment: National Capitol Historical Sales, Springfield, Va.

Primary Reference Source: The Black Rifle by R. Blake Stevens and Edward C. Ezell, 1987, Collector Grade Publications, Ontario, Canada

ArmaLite Today

Former US Army Ordnance officer Mark Westrom acquired rights to the ArmaLite name and his firm, Eagle Arms, is now officially known as ArmaLite Corp., based in Geneseo, Ill.

Westrom has recently introduced the .308 caliber AR-10B, a nostalgic version of the original Dutch-made rifle, complete with brown synthetic furniture and the distinctive inside-the-carrying-handle charger. Its formidable retail price tag of \$1,729 may not seem all that high in recalling that the Paragon semiautos of nearly 20 years ago sold for \$1,200 each.



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The popular Tomcat folder from SOG Specialty Knives is now available with an exotic CocoBolo wood handle. The Tomcat features a 3.75" 440A stainless steel blade and a super sharp edge for maximum cutting performance. Measuring just over 8" long and weighing only 8 oz., The Tomcat's slimline design makes it perfect for concealable carry. For more information, contact SOG Specialty Knives, 6521 212th St. SW, Lynwood, WA 98036, (425) 771-6230, FAX: (425) 771-7689, www.sogknives.com



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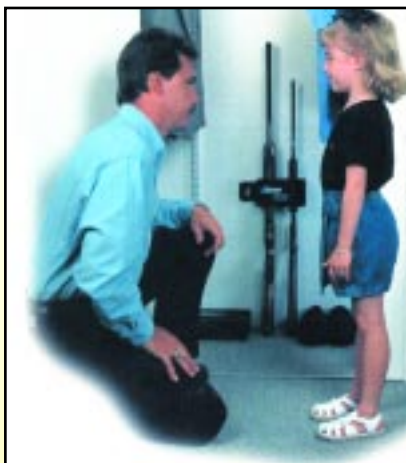
The new compact Jammit Target Stand from MTM Case-Guard has a single stake for mounting in the ground and packs down to a handy 3" x 4" x 17.5". The compact Jammit weighs less than 1 lb., making it small enough to carry in a duffel bag or shooter's accessory box. The packaging opens up to become the first target backer. An optional corrugated plastic replacement backer is also available. For more information, contact MTM Molded Products, P.O. Box 13117, Dayton, OH 45413, (937) 890-7461, FAX: (937) 890-1747, e-mail: mtmmail@cs.com, mtmcase-guard.com



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IvenCom also offers weapon-specific locks to fit most popular shotguns and rifles. For more information, contact IvenCom, 800 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28217, (704) 339-0508, www.ivencom.com





New "Quest II" Carbine

From Gibbs Rifle Co.

The new Quest II carbine from Gibbs Rifle Co. is inspired by the legendary No.7 Jungle Carbine. Chambered in the powerful .380 Winchester, the Quest II features a modern 2A barreled action crafted from chrome vanadium steel. The 20" barrel comes with a fully adjustable rear leaf sight and a front sight protector. The compensator/flash-hider helps tame recoil and significantly reduces muzzle jump. Other features include water-

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New Cowboy Action Rifles

From Navy Arms Co.

Navy Arms has introduced two new Cowboy Action competition rifles for 2001. The Model 1866 Short Rifle and the Deluxe 1873 Border Rifle offer premium performance and accuracy for the serious marksman. The 1866 Short Rifle features a full octagonal 20" blued barrel with a buckhorn rear sight and a 10-round magazine. The walnut forend and straight stock both have a rich oil finish, while the receiver and furniture are "Yellow Boy" polished brass. Comes chambered in choice of .38 Spl., .44-40 or .45 Colt.

The 1873 Deluxe lever action has a 20" blued octagonal barrel, buckhorn rear sight, 10-round tubular magazine and oil finished checkered forend and pistol grip stock. It is available in .357 Mag., .44-40 and .45 Colt. For more information, contact Navy Arms Co., 689 Bergen Blvd., Ridgefield, NJ 07657, (201) 945-2500, FAX: (201) 045-6859, e-mail: valforgett@msn.com, www.navyarms.com

Winchester Model 94 Custom

From U.S. Repeating Arms

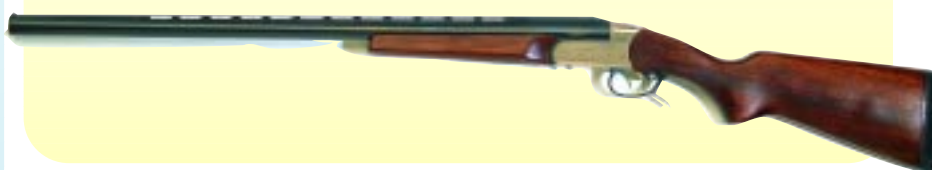
The Custom Shop at U.S. Repeating Arms is offering a handsome limited edition version of the popular Model 94 lever-action rifle. The custom limited edition features a top ejection configuration, a 26" satin barrel, spade checkered fancy hardwood stock, rich case-colored receiver, finger lever and hammer. It has a five-round magazine, weighs just over 7 lbs., and is chambered for 33-55 Winchester. For more information, contact U.S. Repeating Arms, 275 Winchester Ave., Morgan, UT 84050, (801) 876-3440, FAX: (801) 876-3737, www.winchester-guns.com



New Trap/Field Shotgun

From European American

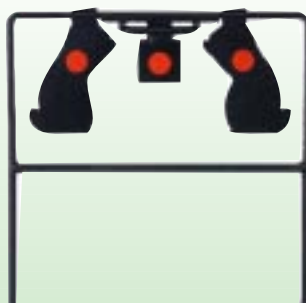
European American Armory is importing a new single barrel shotgun that is versatile enough to be used for both trap and field use. The Model IZH18 MAX features a polished nickel receiver, full vent rib, three screw chokes (IC, M, F) titanium-coated trigger, walnut stock and forend, selectable ejector/extractor, rubber butt pad and specially designed decocking system. For more information, contact European American Armory, P.O. Box 1299, Sharpes, FL 32959, (321) 639-4842, FAX: (321) 639-7006, e-mail: eaacorp@bv.net, www.eaacorp.com



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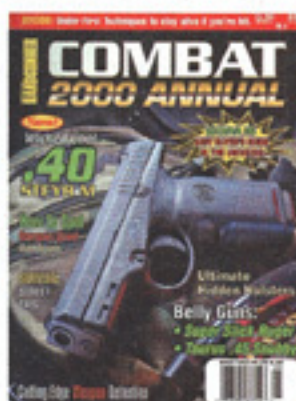
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UNCLE MIKE'S LAW ENFORCEMENT HOLSTER

Uncle Mike's of Oregon City, Ore., has introduced a new holster designed strictly for police officers. Called the Pro4 ID, the holster includes a fingerprint recognition device which locks the pistol into the holster unless it is gripped by an authorized user.

According to the company, the Pro4 ID offers an advantage over other "retention" holsters because officers do not have to perform any sort of specialty draw — many require the user to twist or tilt the gun in order to remove it. The user simply assumes a natural firing grip with the finger alongside the holster, the scanner reads the fingerprint and releases the gun for use — all in the space



of a second or less.

Also, the holster can be programmed to recognize multiple fingerprints, allowing the officer to use any finger to access the weapon; this also allows the weapon to be released for use by other officers on duty. When the holster is unlocked, it alerts the officer to its condition with a pager-style silent vibration, and once unlocked, it can be frozen in that condition so the firearm is ready for instant withdrawal.

The holster will initially be available for the Glock Models 17, 19, 22 and 23, and will soon be available for the Beretta 92 and 96, Sig 220 and 226, and most S&W 9mm and .40 caliber pistols.

The World's Most Dangerous Video Games

Remington and Colt have come under fire recently for putting their guns "in the hands of children" ... in the form of video games. In a statement issued last December, the anti-gun Violence Policy Center criticized these two manufacturers for "marketing guns to children" in their Remington Top Shots and Colt's Wild West Shootout computer games. These two games allow players (children and adults alike) to choose from a collection of realistic firearms. In the game from Remington, players participate in a variety of shooting sports, including trap and sporting clays. The action-style game from Colt puts players in the role of a frontier sheriff armed with various Old Western revolvers and rifles.

"Through these games, gun makers offer virtual versions of their deadly products to children to introduce them to firearms and engender brand loyalty in future customers," said VPC spokesman Marty Langley. "Such flagrant mar-

keting of a deadly product to children has not been witnessed since the days of Joe Camel and Spuds McKenzie."

Although the report did not offer any criticism of more mainstream computer video games such as Quake, Unreal, Marathon, or Duke Nukem — all of which allow players to commit various acts of violence against virtual human beings, albeit with non-brand-name flamethrowers, rocket launchers and machine guns — it did call for legislative action against these brand-specific games. And the call did not go unheeded. According to a Cox News Service report, Massachusetts Representative Edward Markey said that this report revealed "the depths to which this industry is sinking." Markey threatened to introduce legislation into Congress to allow the FTC to charge entertainment companies with "unfair trade practices" if they "engage in niche marketing to children of a product that would be illegal for them to buy."

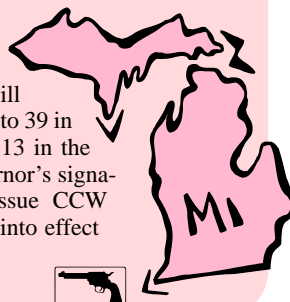
MICHIGAN APPROVES SHALL-ISSUE CCW LAW

One more state has been added to the list of those with "shall-issue" concealed carry permit laws. In December, Michigan's senate approved a measure which would allow any resident of that state to receive a CCW permit if they are over 21, have no record of mental illness or criminal history, and complete an eight-hour certified firearm safety course.

Needless to say, prior to the bill's passage, anti-gun lobbyists and commentators did their best to convince lawmakers that allowing just anybody to carry a defensive handgun would result in murder and mayhem in the streets. One columnist in the Detroit News postulated: "If the present legislation (passes), any paranoid

whacko with enough cash to buy a Saturday Night Special will legally be able to carry it anyplace except schools, sports arenas and saloons."

Fortunately, the state's lawmakers saw things a little differently. The bill passed by a vote of 62 to 39 in the House, and 23 to 13 in the Senate. With the governor's signature, the new shall-issue CCW regulations should go into effect this summer.



DOIN' THE NUMBERS

\$113 Million

Remington's recorded third quarter profits for 2000. That figure is down from the \$124 million from the same period in 1999.

Source: Remington

472,000

Number of square footage of display space in the 2001 SHOT Show, held Jan. 11 to 14 in New Orleans, La. The number was up from the record size of 466,000 set in 2000.

Source: NSSF

57

Percentage of Americans who feel "prosecuting individuals who use a gun in a crime" is the solution to gun violence; only 2 percent of those responding to the same poll felt that "more gun control legislation" would solve the problem.

Source: Zogby poll

QUOTE of the MONTH:

"We have inadvertently created an unintended consequence of a de facto ban on some weapons from some manufacturers."

Maryland House Speaker Casper Taylor, one of the sponsors of the newly enacted "gun safety" measure which requires all handgun manufacturers to submit a ballistic fingerprint for every gun sold in the state. California and Massachusetts are considering identical legislation, and a similar law went into effect in New York on March 1.

— Source: The Washington Post

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It's A Big World...

*...and big worlds demand
superior performance.*

With 10 + 1 round capacity in 10 mm or .45 Auto, it's easy to see how the new GLOCK models 29 and 30 are once again setting the world-wide standard for compact automatic pistols. And, as with all GLOCK pistols, out-of-the-box accuracy and reliability assure that you'll put each and every shot where you need it - ON TARGET.

Introducing the
compact **GLOCK 29**
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PERFECTION

It's A Small World...

*...and small worlds have
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Compact, concealable, and packed with GLOCK features, the G29 and G30 can go where other 10's and .45's can't. Both come equipped with GLOCK's recoil-taming, light-weight polymer frame construction, finger gripped front strap and ambidextrous thumb rests to make these new compacts more ergonomic than ever before. GLOCK's corrosion resistant Tenifer finish leaves them diamond hard and ready for anything. And, these diminutive heavy hitters accept the standard size magazines of their larger counterparts - a big selling point for law enforcement officers and citizens alike.

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The Ultra CDP .45 ACP
has a three-inch barrel
and weighs 25 ounces.

Never, ever compromise.

With that in mind, Kimber announces the CDP Series.

Never compromise on the quality of your carry pistol. The new CDP (Custom Defense Package) .45 ACP pistols from the Kimber Custom Shop combine custom features with the three most popular carry models

at a savings of over \$500! Each CDP features a beveling treatment that rounds corners, Tritium

three dot night sights, stainless steel slide and small parts, checkered front strap, ambidextrous safety, Premium Aluminum match grade trigger, hand-checked double diamond rosewood grips and special Custom Shop markings.


Each pistol has a lightweight frame machined from solid bar stock of 7075-T7 aluminum, the hardest and strongest available. These frames have been tested to 20,000 rounds without measurable evidence of wear. Also standard are Kimber features like match grade barrel and chamber, beveled magazine well and high ride beavertail grip safety.

Kimber pistols are made in America in our state-of-the-art factory. Every one of them has tolerances as much as three times tighter than the other brands. See the CDP Series pistols at your nearest Kimber Master Dealer, because there is just no reason to compromise.



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The Compact
CDP .45 ACP
has a four-inch
barrel and
short grip.
It weighs
28 ounces.



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