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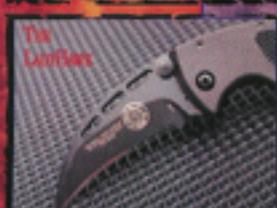
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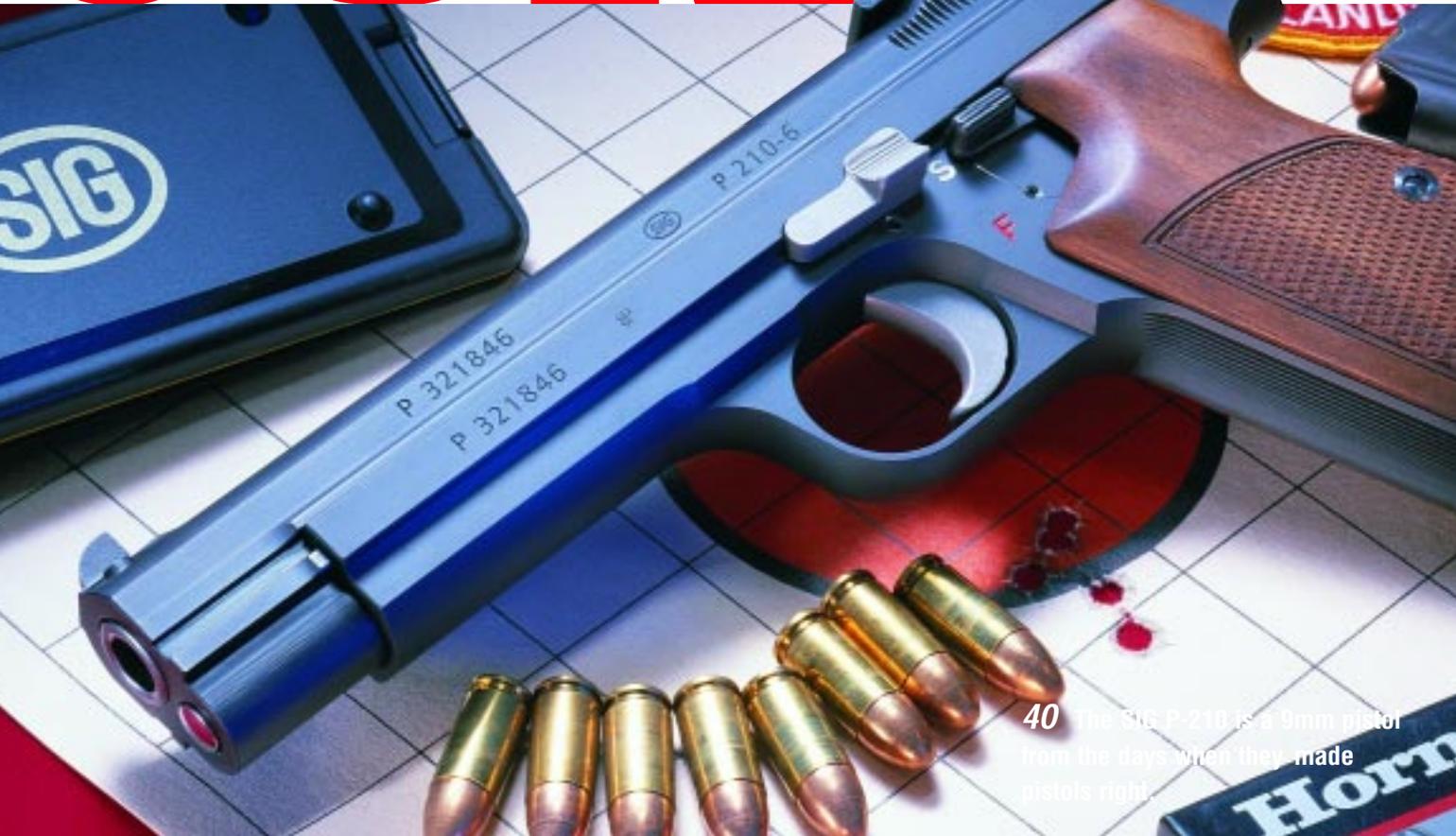
GUNS

MAGAZINE

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FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

TACTICAL GEAR HEADQUARTERS

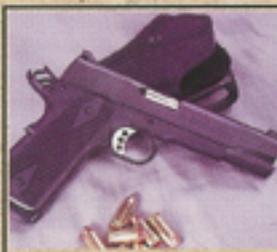


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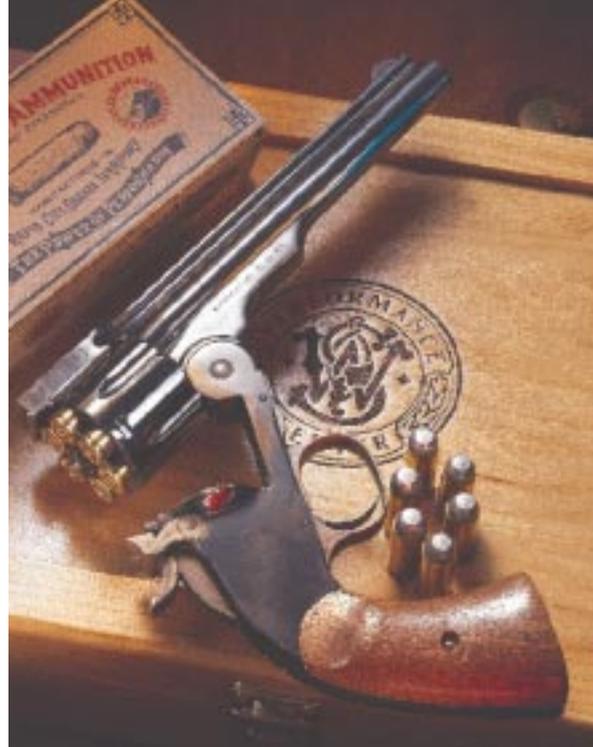
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69 Purists will applaud the fact that S&W's Schofield Model of 2000 is chambered — properly — in .45 S&W, not the more popular .45 Colt.

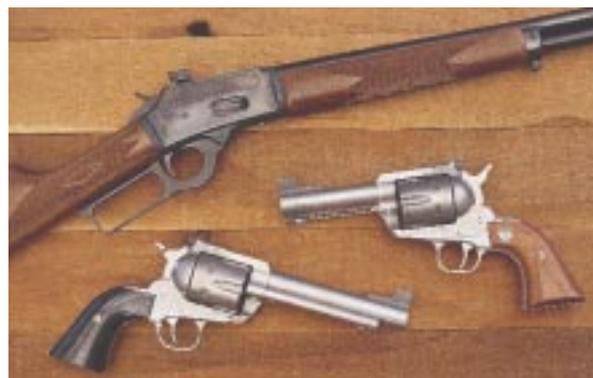
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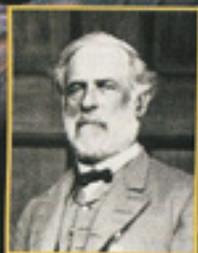


34 Hunters have a lot of ideas about bullet performance — and a lot of them are wrong. Choose your bullet based on ballistic facts.



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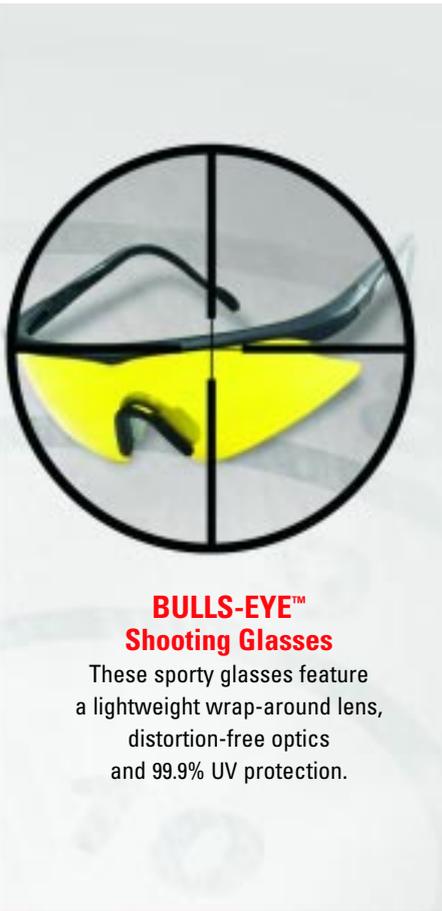
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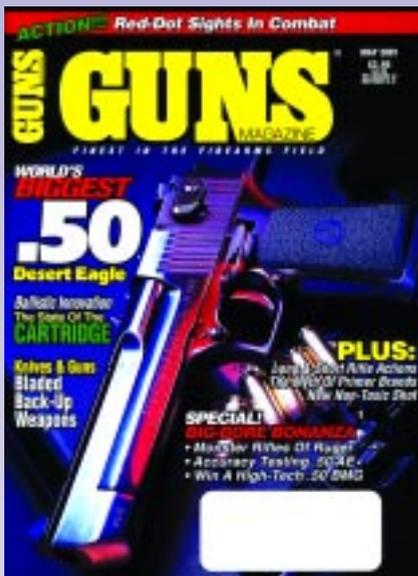
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LETTER OF THE MONTH



GUNS MAGAZINE JULY 2001

The Missing .35

Dave Anderson's article on 20th century cartridges ("State Of The Cartridge" May '01) was both interesting and informative. I do have one criticism, however, regarding a cartridge which I feel was unfairly neglected: the .35 Remington. My own, informal, survey of gun shops in Michigan, Georgia, Kansas and North Carolina leads me to believe that the .35 Rem. is by far the most successful, in terms of sales, of all the commercially loaded .35 bore rifle cartridges.

The little .35 Rem. is easily the oldest and mildest of any of the currently produced .35 bores, if one considers a 200 gr. bullet at 2,100 fps "mild." Also, the .35 Rem. remains popular enough that ammo can be found at any Kmart store in the country based almost exclusively upon one rifle, the Marlin 336, and one factory load, the 200 gr. JSP.

I'll admit that I sometimes get a little giddy at the thought of what sorts of bullet design, load development and increased commercial success might result if the excellent Marlin 336 were to be joined by a Ruger Mini 14 and a Remington Model 7 in this potent, easy-shooting, under-appreciated caliber.

Dave Porter
Lincoln Park, Mich.

Building A Better Rifle

Massad Ayoob's article "Steyr Tactical Rifle" (March, '01) came as a major disappointment and a minor shock: I had just purchased that same rifle and had yet to take it to the range. I had hoped to see Ayoob proclaim the Steyr as one of the miracles of the 21st century, a tribute to Austrian engineering, a 1/2 MOA rifle right out of the box. His inability to shoot even MOA left me distraught and confused. I own a Steyr Scout which routinely shoots sub-MOA with both handloads as well as Federal Match. How could its brother be such a dud, I wondered?

Last Saturday, I took my Tactical out to the range for the first time, primarily to break in the bore with non-match ammo. After going through the break-in procedure and zeroing the scope, I decided to shoot a three-round group just to see what problems lie ahead. With 168 gr. Remington Match, I put three rounds into just 0.6". What a relief. It was already performing better than I hoped.

Based upon my experiences with my Scout and knowing the high quality of the barrels and receivers made by Steyr, I feel certain that either the rifle or scope used by Ayoob had some glitch that accounted for the inaccuracy he encountered. Perhaps there was a problem with the scope mounts, or the scope base was not flush. (I've had that happen, with similar results.) Whatever the cause, I am absolutely confident that this rifle is easily sub-MOA out of the box — and may very well be a sub-1/2 MOA gun with a little experimentation.

Blaine L. Fields
San Jose, Calif.

Pry My Joystick Out Of My Cold, Dead Hand

When discussing the political storm surrounding the Remington and Colt computer video games ("GUNS Insider" April '01) you mentioned *Quake*, *Unreal* and a few other "first person shooters." I wanted to point out that there are a growing number of games referred to (generally) as "tactical simulation" games that are more "reality"-based, featuring real-world weapons. One of the best of these is *Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six* series, including the most recent installment, *Covert Ops*.

Every weapon simulated exists in reality

— Beretta, HK and Desert Eagle pistols, HK submachine guns (MP5, PDW etc.) the M4 carbine and M16A2, and various other assault rifles, sniper rifles and shotguns. These simulations portray realistic scenarios including hostage rescue and counter-terrorist, among others. Also, unlike the typical "first person shooter," these feature realistic weapon-performance effects, emphasizing the single well-placed shot, as well as an emphasis on shooting from cover.

The fact that the anti-gun groups "overlooked" this entire gaming genre makes it obvious why they are targeting the games which carry gun manufacturers' names. For myself, I plan on buying the Colt and Remington games mentioned, simply to show support.

Sean Sharp
maj_sharp@zdnetwork.com

Howling Over Howling

The letter "Howling At The Moon" by Fred Marcus ("Crossfire" April '01) reveals his ignorance of the need to control coyotes (and other predators). In Central and Eastern Oregon, coyotes take 90 percent of the antelope fawns. Last year, most of the mule deer doe were without fawns, even those doe that dropped their fawns for years within a few yards of our house. Coyotes are the problem.

Since hunting bear and cougar with dogs was forbidden, cougar have become very bold, taking pets, cattle, horses and llamas in our area. Bleeding hearts who argue that very few people are killed by predators do not understand that when settlers arrived in America, any predator that killed a domestic animal was a threat to human subsistence — and to human existence — and was shot. This created a fear of humans that was passed along, reducing attacks on humans until recently.

Bill Schneider
wschneider@bendnet.com

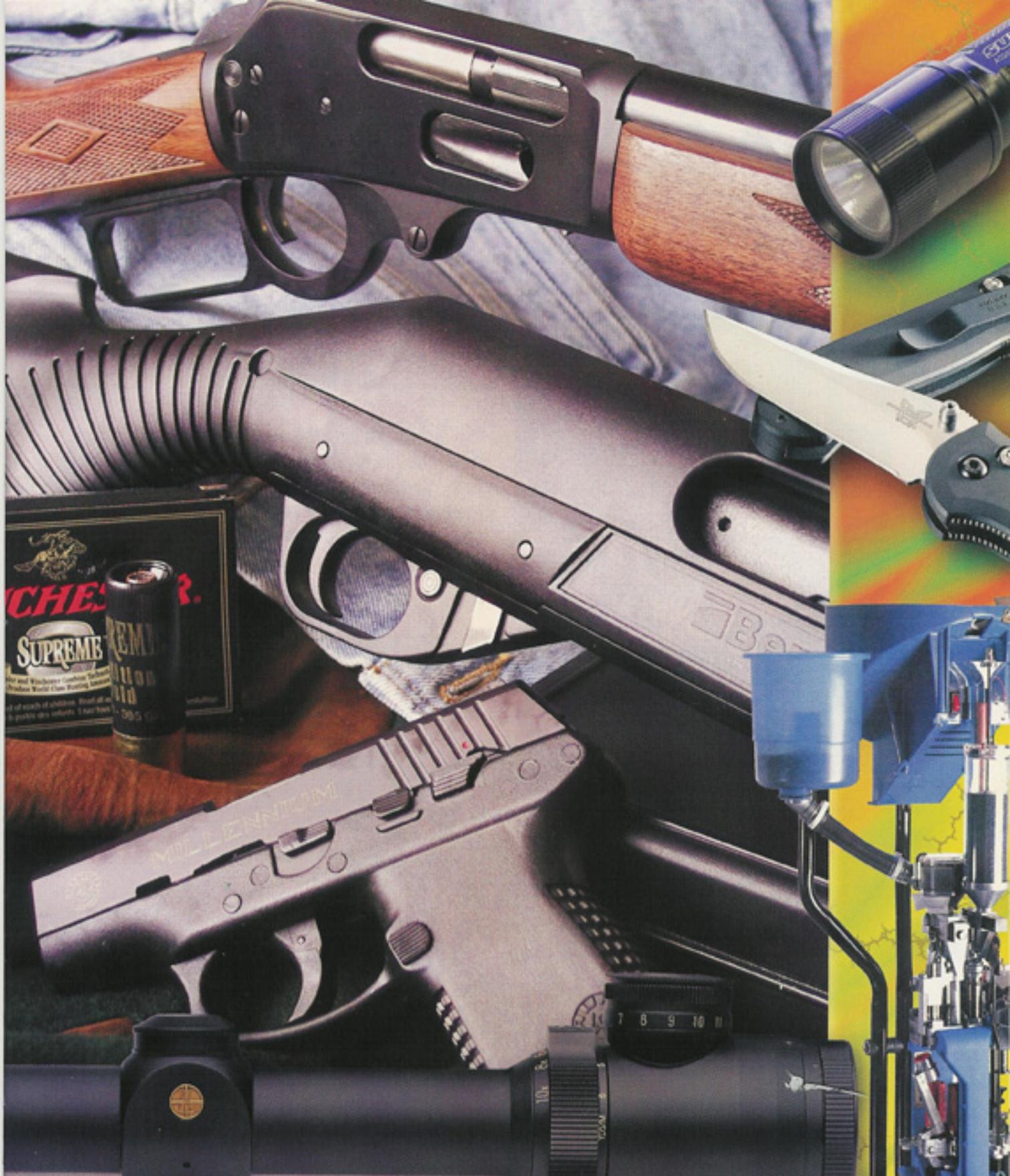
Howling Over Howling, Part 2

Most people that live outside of large cities know how dangerous and costly predators can be. My home state has no limit on coyotes, because even politicians realize the problems they can cause. They are one of the few animals that is legal to hunt at night with a spotlight.

I raise purebred cattle; one calf killed by predators can cost me \$750 to \$1,000. That will pay for a lot of ammo. Marcus also doesn't realize how much damage prairie

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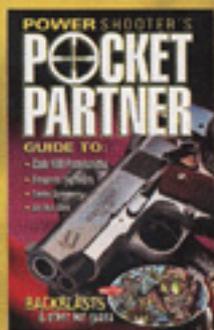
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CROSSFIRE

continued from page 10

dogs can do to pasture land. When they move into an area, acres and acres of land are rendered useless and hazardous for cattle and horses. If he wants these animals in his backyard, fine, but I don't need them in mine.

Richard Cornell
Ringwood, Okla.

Cops, Knives & Freedom

I read with dark amusement Ayooob's article "The Shooter's Blade." ("Handguns" May, '01) I am not a police officer, but I have quite an extensive collection of rare, unique and exotic switchblades. Oops — I used the "s" word. Perhaps I should have used one of the politically correct buzzwords, like "automatic folder" or "side-opening button release."

Although my collection has been admired by a few police officer friends, some overzealous cop with an "I can have it, you can't" attitude could, technically, ruin my day. It puzzles me that the legitimacy of a knife is determined by the method by which it opens.

Ayooob is correct: Life is not fair. I do hope he keeps that in mind the next time a fellow officer bemoans the fact that "us regular folks" have too many freedoms. Perhaps his article should have been titled, "The Cops-Only Blade." 

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The Sword and the Warrior!

From the ancient days, when honor and courage were held in high esteem the sword has defined the Warrior.

The Japanese Samurai, the most elite warriors in the Eastern world, lived by the saying *satsujin ken katsujin ken*. The sword that cuts down evil is the sword that gives life. The courage and nobility of the warrior was defined by his sword and the honor with which he used it. The Samurai revered his sword, it was his most prized possession and represented his very soul as a warrior.

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The hand forged L-6 bainite blade pictured above is the strongest, toughest Japanese sword available anywhere. Beautifully hand polished and traditionally mounted.

The First Gun Question — *We're All Experts*

Many gun owners become de facto “gun experts” when their friends, neighbors, family members and co-workers have questions about firearms and personal defense. We all have found guns that work for us at our level of experience. If we’re not careful, however, people new to the concept will simply model us and buy what we use.

A cocked and locked .45 auto with a 3.5 lb. trigger may be the ideal gun for an experienced shooter. Giving one to a new shooter for use in times of stress, however, would be like putting a new driver behind the wheel of a car with sensitive rack-and-pinion steering and a 140 mph top end. They probably aren’t ready for a lot of power delivered through sensitive controls. Those are things that demand experience.

This is why experts, almost unanimously, recommend the double action revolver as the beginner’s defensive handgun.

When danger is close and time is short, most instructors feel they can instill basic



Nearly all tactical experts agree — the revolver is the best choice for gun novices who need an immediate means of self protection.

competence with maximum “accident resistance” into a new shooter using a revolver rather than an auto pistol. The revolver is much easier to manipulate in “administrative handling” — the routine loading, unloading,

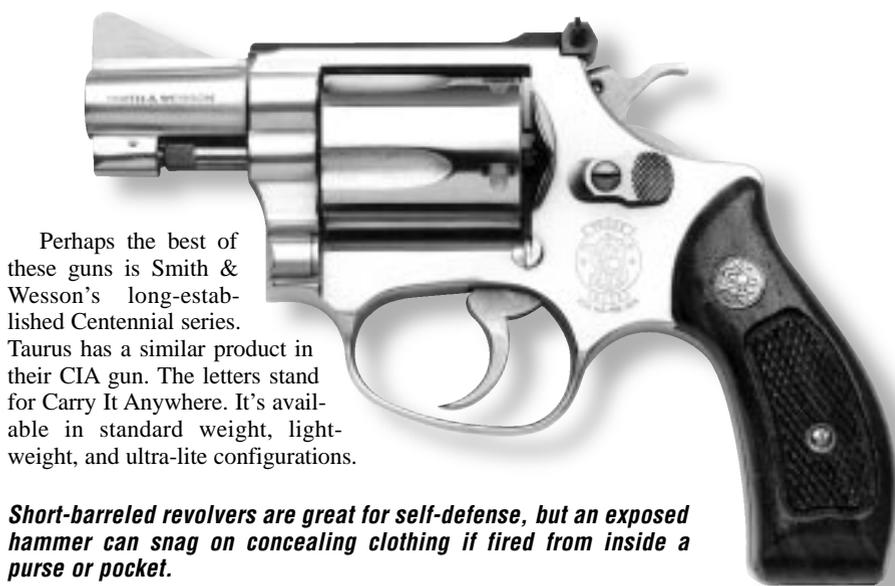
checking and cleaning of the handgun. Particularly for smaller, weaker, more debilitated, or simply less-experienced people, operating an auto pistol’s slide against heavy spring pressure can be difficult.

Short, Sweet & Shrouded

A short-barrel revolver with a shrouded hammer can be easily concealed in the user’s hand, inside the coat pocket. It’ll fire all five shots through the coat if need be, while the fabric would probably foul an auto pistol after the first shot. A conventional revolver’s hammer could also catch in the pocket lining and jam either the spur as the hammer comes back, or the hammer face as it come forward.

A disproportionate number of female stalking victims are attacked while in bed, when the intruder breaks in while they’re asleep. Someone in serious danger can sleep with a shrouded .38 strapped to their ankle, and access it more quickly under the bedclothes than from under a pillow or near the bed. It can be fired right through the sheets and blankets if necessary.

While light revolvers and powerful +P .38 ammo have a nasty kick, with the right grips they’re controllable enough for the few shots the victim is likely to need. If you’re concerned about recoil, a six-shot J-frame .32 Mag. would be a good choice.



Perhaps the best of these guns is Smith & Wesson’s long-established Centennial series. Taurus has a similar product in their CIA gun. The letters stand for Carry It Anywhere. It’s available in standard weight, lightweight, and ultra-lite configurations.

Short-barreled revolvers are great for self-defense, but an exposed hammer can snag on concealing clothing if fired from inside a purse or pocket.

THE PRICE OF HELPLESSNESS

If people aren’t absolutely comfortable with their defense guns (in terms of safety, confidence and related factors) they won’t have those guns accessible when they need them. Even veteran police have discovered this the hard way.

You don’t wait for a fire to buy a fire extinguisher. Remind the people who look to you as an expert that having a gun where they can safely but quickly access it, and knowing how to use it beforehand, is like insurance policy. After the fact, it’s too late to get it. If they never need it, they win by default. But if they ever do need it, they’ll be damn glad they had the foresight to acquire it.



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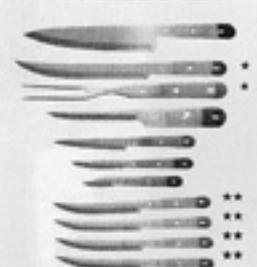
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SS260 Tundra Blade 8.70

KODIAK

Overall length 6 1/8", blade 2 1/2".

SS261 Kodiak Blade 8.10

THE SHARK

Overall length 5 1/2",

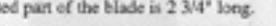
blade length 2 7/8", 2
3/4"

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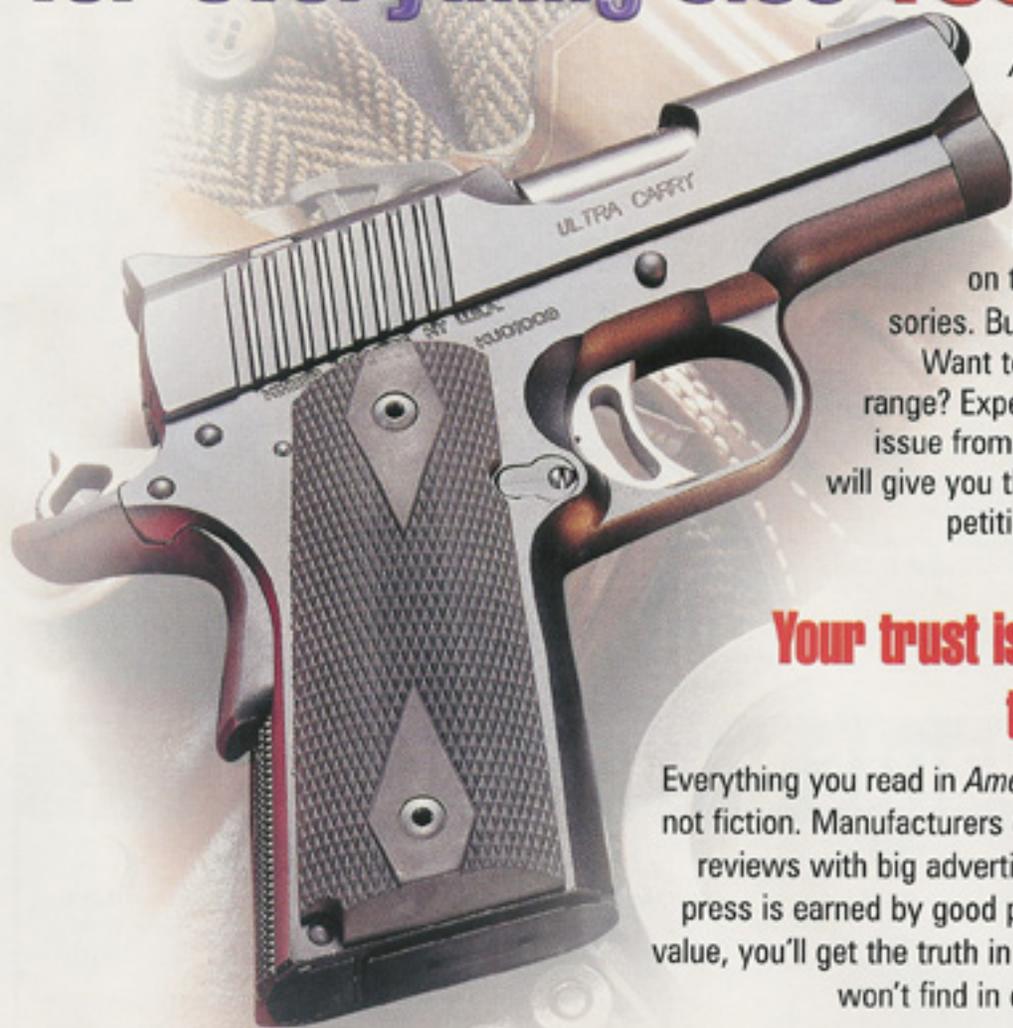
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A Handloader Learns To Love The .45 Auto Rim

Back in the '50s, many of us learned to enjoy shooting .45 caliber revolvers. These guns, from the then-modern Model 1955 to the old standby Model 1917, taught us two things. First, that the .45 ACP cartridge could perform well in a sixgun, and second, that we hated loading those auto cartridges into half-moon clips.

That dislike for revolver clips was pretty universal, which is why the Peters Cartridge Co. (now Remington) introduced the .45 Automatic Rimmed. The

most remarkable feature of the cartridge was the very thick rim, which was required to fill the larger space between cylinder and breech face. This is much larger in .45 ACP revolvers than in normal rimmed cartridges, because of the relationship of the rim to the clip.

Back in those days, you could only get brass by shooting factory ammo. Today, you can't get factory ammo, but brass is plentiful. It is made by Remington and available from companies, such as Midway USA, that sell bulk brass. So the

.45 Auto Rim is almost exclusively the handloader's province.

Half a century ago, there was but one factory load: a 230 gr. Lead Round Nose at a velocity of about 800 fps. (For a short time, there was also a load using a 230 gr. FMJ at about the same speed.)

The Auto Rim can be loaded using standard .45 ACP dies, although you will need a different shell holder. Any bullet that can be used in the .45 ACP *can* be used in the Auto Rim, but there really is no need to use jacketed bullets here. There aren't very many people who carry .45 revolvers for defense these days, but if someone does, they can surely handload .45 Auto Rim ammo to their heart's delight for practice purposes, then load a few clips of .45 ACP ammo for defensive purposes.

HANDLOADING THE AUTO RIM

The .45 Auto Rim is just as easy to load as the .45 ACP with only one small caveat: If you don't get a crimp that reduces the case mouth diameter to the same as factory ammo, you may find that the cartridges don't want to chamber fully. Make a dummy round first to check chambering before you start loading a bunch of ammo. We've found that a taper crimp works really well since most of the bullets we use don't have crimp grooves anyhow.

Over the years, our customary load has been 3.7 grs. of Bullseye with either 180, 185 or 200 gr. LSWC bullets, which is the

same used in .45 ACP target loads. But with all the new powders available these days, it seemed reasonable to try some of them.

So over the last few months we've been loading and chronographing loads with a variety of powders, even adding a 230 gr. round nose lead in order to duplicate ball ammunition. This is especially important for those who want to shoot those wonderful old 1917 Models from Colt and Smith & Wesson. Their fixed sights are regulated for 230 gr. ball ammunition at 825 fps, so while the newer guns have adjustable sights and pose no problems, the older guns are likely to be ammo-sensitive to get them to hit at point-of-aim.

Experience with .45 target loads teaches that best accuracy is usually achieved at velocities of 700 to 800 fps. With that in

mind, we've run through trials of several different powders and found, once more, that the old ways are better. This series showed that Bullseye and Winchester 231 still work quite nicely.

Using Oregon Trail's 180 gr. LSWC, and the Bull-X 200 gr. LSWC and 230 gr. RNL, loads were worked up to the desirable velocities and then informally tested for accuracy. The tests are "informal" because we didn't sit down and measure each and every group, but rather formed very distinct impressions just by looking through the scope.

In the velocity ranges specified, nothing shot really poorly, but a load of 3.7 grs. of Bullseye with the 200 gr. LSWC was capable of ragged hole accuracy. Velocity was only 635 fps, but so what? All we want is plinking ammo and it makes absolutely no difference how long it takes to get there.

With the 230 gr. bullet, things changed a little bit. It took 5.5 grs. of WW 231 to get 835 fps and effectively duplicate ball ammo, but a load of 5.0 grs. of WW 231 (762 fps) gave much better accuracy. With the 230 gr. bullet, a charge of 5.0 grs. of Bullseye gave 790 fps and equally good accuracy. Don't place too much emphasis on a difference of 45 fps. Neither you nor the target is likely to tell the difference. And they are *still* fun to shoot.

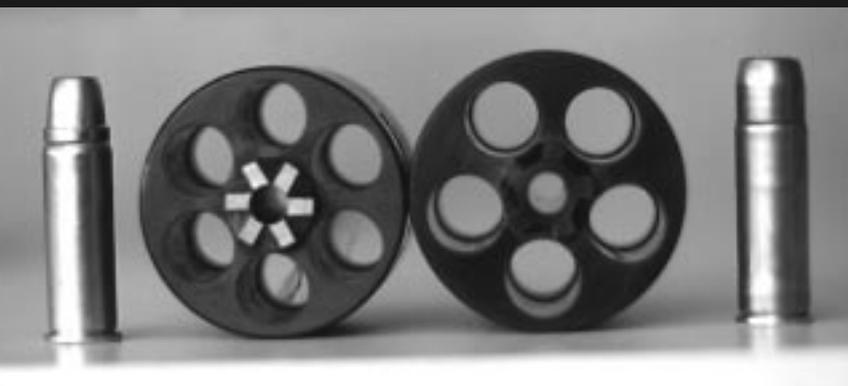
The .45 Auto Rim (left) is as easy to load as the .45 ACP (right), but case mouth diameter must be reduced to the size of factory ammo or the cartridge may not chamber fully.



By John Taffin

Custom Loading The .45 Colt

From mild blackpowder loads to high-velocity numbers rivaling the .454, this good old “cowboy cartridge” proves to be one of the most versatile revolver loads around.



Even though the .45 Colt cartridge will celebrate its 125th anniversary very shortly, it is still our most versatile sixgun cartridge. There are few sixgun cartridges that can best it in any one category, and certainly none can do so

as an all-around sixgun cartridge. It simply does it all.

Many of the detractors of the .45 Colt come up with the same old tired reasoning that it is a weak cartridge case, whatever that means. They would almost have us believe that cartridge manufacturers somehow have a section in their plant where they deliberately manufacture weak brass and the .45 Colt is the number one product.

Yes, the old balloon-head or folded-head .45 Colt brass originally loaded with blackpowder is weak compared to today's solid head brass found in the .44 Mag. case. Anyone using this argument, however, is at least 50 years behind times as solid head .45 Colt brass has been the norm since 1952. Dick Casull did all of his experimenting that led to

Above: Rule of thumb for .45 Colt handloads: six-shot cylinder, left, light, cowboy-style loads — five-shot cylinder, heavy, big-game style loads. Of course, the Ruger won't be damaged if you confuse the two... Below: Some of the many bullet choices which make the .45 Colt so versatile are, from left, the Keith-style Lyman 260 gr., NEI 310 gr. and 325 gr.; the gas check Lyman 300 gr. and 325 gr., and RCBS 300 gr.; and the LBT 350 gr. LFN.

Modern guns, like the Ruger Blackhawk, can handle heavy .45 Colt loads, dispelling the myth that the cartridge is incapable of handling heavy handloads with powders like Hercules 2400.



the .454 by using so-called “weak” .45 Colt brass. Those experiments began in the 1950s and should have settled the weak argument right then and there.

Perhaps .45 Colt brass has been regarded as weak simply because of the early sixguns in which it was chambered. Frontier revolvers chambered in .45 Colt have almost paper-thin cylinder walls and should be treated accordingly.

From 1873, when the Colt Single Action Army debuted, it would be almost 100 years before we had a factory-produced .45 Colt revolver that was capable of even beginning to tap into the versatility of the .45 Colt. That sixgun, of course, was the Ruger Old Model Blackhawk chambered in .45 Colt, which arrived on the scene in 1971.

For several decades, loading manuals have had two sections for the .45 Colt — one for the Colt Single Action and the other for the Ruger Blackhawk. This barely begins to touch the range of possibilities with the .45 Colt; however. There are at least six levels (with some overlapping) to be considered when attempting to create .45 loads. This means that loading this most versatile cartridge must not be approached light-heartedly. Knowledge of the capabilities of the sixgun being used is imperative as using the wrong load for the wrong sixgun can result in disaster.

Blackpowder Loads

Most of the .45 Colt revolvers manufactured in the 19th century were blackpowder sixguns. Colt changed from the screw holding in the cylinder pin to the spring-loaded latch system at serial #165,000 and many also take this as the change from blackpowder to smokeless in 1896.

However, Colt stated that they did not guarantee Single

Actions under serial #180,000 for smokeless use. This gets us to 1899. To be safe, do not use any Colt Single Action under serial #192,000 (beginning in 1900) with smokeless powder.

Vintage Colt revolvers can still provide a great deal of shooting enjoyment. The original blackpowder loading was 40.0 grs. of FFg blackpowder under a 255 gr. bullet. Now there are many grades of blackpowder and we certainly have better primers now, but using old balloon head style brass and 40.0 grs. of Goex brand FFg, with a 255 gr. bullet in a 7½" .45 Single Action results in a muzzle velocity of 1,050 fps. That is definitely a load to be reckoned with and also explains why they were able to kill such large animals as grizzly bears and buffalo with a sixgun even back then. This load was quickly dropped to 35.0 grs. for civilian use (875 fps) and 30.0 grs. for military use (800 fps).

Early Smokeless Loads

Even though these sixguns were and are designed to be used with smokeless powders, their cylinder walls are very thin by modern gun standards and should be loaded cautiously. For these sixguns we stay at 900 fps to 1,050 fps with 250 gr. to 260 gr. bullets. Favored loads with a Keith bullet from a 7½" sixgun include 9.0 grs. of Unique for 1,000 fps; 10.0 grs. Unique for 1,090 fps; 20.0 grs. of H4227 for 1,085 fps (a great load); and 16.0 grs. of HS-7 for 1,065 fps. Any of these loads with their game getting Keith bullets are certainly adequate for deer and black bear sized critters at reasonable ranges.

continued on page 22

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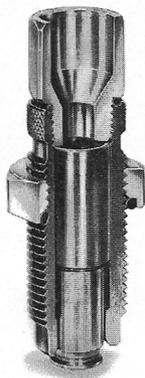
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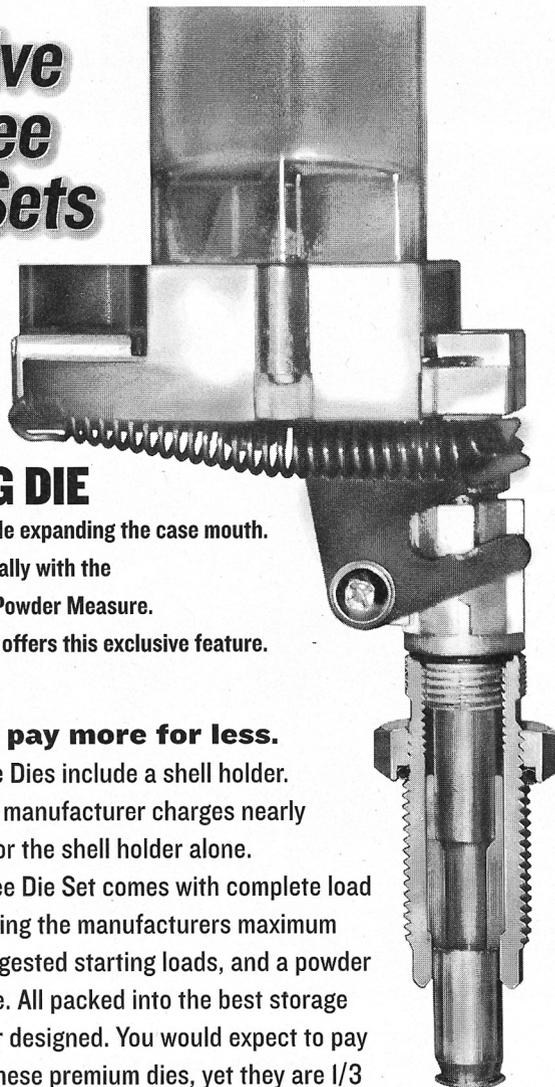
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CUSTOM LOADING

continued from page <None>

Cowboy Shooting Loads

Vintage (replica and authentic) sixguns are also the ones most used in cowboy shooting activities. For these, we prefer a realistic blackpowder-style load and by the rules of cowboy shooting, we must stay under 1,000 fps. To keep within these parameters, we work up loads using a commercial cast 250 gr. RNFP from Bull-X or Oregon Trail running from 800 to 900 fps. A loading of 7.0 grs. of WW231 yields 800 fps; 6.0 grs. of TiteGroup yields 810 fps; 6.0 grs. of Red Dot runs at 835 fps; 6.0 grs. of N-100 runs at 870 fps; and 8.0 grs. of Unique yields 900 fps.

Transition Loads

New Frontier and S&W sixguns from the first half of the 20th century are only slightly stronger than the Colt Single Action, with the New Frontier being nothing more than the Single Action Army with a heavy top strap and adjustable sights. The New Frontier is also one of the most beautiful of all the single action models to surface in the last 125 years.

Smith & Wesson's Model 25-5 and various 625 Models chambered for the .45 Colt are regarded as being quite a bit stronger than the Colt Single Action Army by some who even see it nipping at the heels of the Ruger Blackhawk. We tend to be a bit more cautious and place it somewhere in between the Colt Single Action Army and New Frontier, a very narrow range. Perhaps we are overly careful, but we will never get into trouble nor lose a grand and valuable sixgun by having this attitude.

For these sixguns we start at 1,050 fps and approach 1,200 fps. A load using 18.5 grs. of #2400 with a 250 gr. to 260 gr. Keith bullet is used a lot, also 23.0 grs. of WW296 with the same bullet for right at 1,200 fps.

We even use JHP bullets with these .45 Colt sixguns. Sierra's 240 gr. JHC, Hornady's 250 gr. XTP and Speer's 260 gr. JHP all yield 1,075 to 1,100 fps with 23.0 grs. of H110. For hunting, these loads will easily handle deer and black bears.

Modern .45 Loads

Ruger opened a whole new vista of six-gunning experience with the .45 Colt with the introduction of the Old Model Blackhawk in 1971. For the first time since the introduction of the .45 Colt in 1873, we finally had a sixgun that could even begin to tap into the real possibilities of the .45 Colt cartridge. Several .45 Colt sixguns have arrived since the advent of the Blackhawk with sufficient strength to handle these loads, namely the Dan Wesson Model 45, the Ruger Bisley, the Colt Anaconda and the Ruger Redhawk in .45 Colt.

These sixguns, with their appropriate loads, are capable of taking any American

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big game, except the big bears. For the bears they may be capable yes, but we doubt that it would be a very wise thing to attempt.

With these sixguns, our most used load is a 300 gr. bullet over 21.5 grs. of H110 or WW296. The bullet is usually BRP's 305 gr. FPGC for around 1,200 fps. Going up to 23 grs. of powder will get the muzzle velocity in a 7½" sixgun right at 1,300 fps. This is certainly well above the factory 240 gr. .44 Mag. in actual killing power on big game.

Two other heavyweight bullets that we particularly like for these sixguns are NEI'S 310 gr. and 325 gr. Keith bullets. The former is #310.451 and the latter is #325.454. These are both plain-based bullets of a true Keith design with wide driving bands and a deep grease groove. With the same powder charges of WW296 and H110 as for BRP's 305 gr. GC, muzzle velocities are about the same.

The strength of these sixguns also allows us to experiment with the 250 gr. to 260 gr. Keith bullets at muzzle velocities far above what we would try to attain with sixguns on the Colt SAA pattern. With Lyman's #454424 Keith bullet we work up from the standard 18.5 grs. of #2400 loading to 20.0 grs. which yields 1,240 fps; 21.0 grs., yielding 1,265 fps; and 22.0 grs., yielding 1,330 fps.

Switching to H4227, 24.0 grs. gives 1,250 fps and 25.0 yields 1,300 fps. These are very potent .45 Colt loads and we cannot emphasize enough that these loads must never be

used in any Colt Single Action or replica.

The LBT line of bullets is probably the most popular these days with handgun hunters who use the .45 Colt. The LFN (Long Flat Nose) and WFN (Wide Flat Nose) from LBT feature bullets that have a wide meplat, much of the weight in the nose, and increased powder capacity compared to the Keith-style of bullet.

Cast Performance Bullet Co. is now offering a complete line of LBT hard cast bullets including those for the .45 Colt. These are game-getting bullets pure and simple. In Ruger's .45 Redhawk, the 335 gr. GC over 21.0 grs. of WW296 clocks out at nearly 1,300 fps while the 360 gr. bullet over 19.5 grs. approaches 1,200 fps.

Custom .45 Loads

For many years, gunsmiths such as Hamilton Bowen, David Clements, John Linebaugh, Gary Reeder and Jim Stroh have been building custom five-shot .45 Colts on Ruger Blackhawk or Bisley platforms. For these super-strong .45 Colt sixguns, over-sized cylinders are used that completely fill the frame window top to bottom and front to back.

Cylinders are normally line-bored to match the lineup of cylinder chamber to barrel as perfectly as possible. Actions are tightened up, blocks are even placed in the interior to prevent the bolt from moving under recoil — in short everything is done to make these guns as tight and strong as pos-

sible and keep tolerances to minimum.

What then can we expect performance-wise from these sixguns? Now we are talking 260 gr. bullets at 1,500 to 1,600 fps, and 300 gr. at 1,500 to 1,600 fps — from a "weak" .45 Colt case! With these sixguns, the 260 gr. Keith bullet over 32.0 grs. of WW296 is good for 1,575 fps; the SSK 270 gr. FN does 1,690 fps, and the 310 gr. Keith with 29.0 grs. is good for 1,475 fps. Recoil is stout, pressures are right up there, and you can hunt anything that walks with these perhaps short of Africa's Big Four.

There are some that will read this and feel they could go farther with some loads in some categories. Perhaps. But we would rather err on the side of safety. We have never blown a sixgun except under controlled tests performed deliberately to see exactly what that sixgun was capable of holding. This was done with the sixgun placed in a container not hand held. We do not want it to ever happen any other way!

Always begin by reducing powder charges by 10 percent and working up to the recommended loads with caution, discontinuing use of any load that shows signs of excessive pressure, and never use a load in an older gun than it was designed for. Stick to these simple, common-sense guidelines, and we're sure you'll find the "old" .45 Colt to be one of the most versatile, practical loads around.



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THE Walther PPK/S BB Pistol

By J.I.Galan

With a 15-round magazine and a working slide mechanism, this look-alike airgun is an enjoyable backyard plinker.

Walther's PPK is undeniably one of the world's most recognizable handguns. Made famous by novelist Ian Fleming's immortal secret agent, James Bond, the handy PPK has become a tremendously popular sidearm with plain-clothes law-enforcement personnel and VIP-protection specialists, as well as with law-abiding civilians wanting a compact semi-auto for lawful concealed carry and home defense.

Since its appearance in 1931, the Walther PPK has been produced in such mundane calibers as .32 ACP, .380, .22 LR, and even in .25 ACP, with the .380 being by far the most commonly encountered version on our side of the Atlantic.

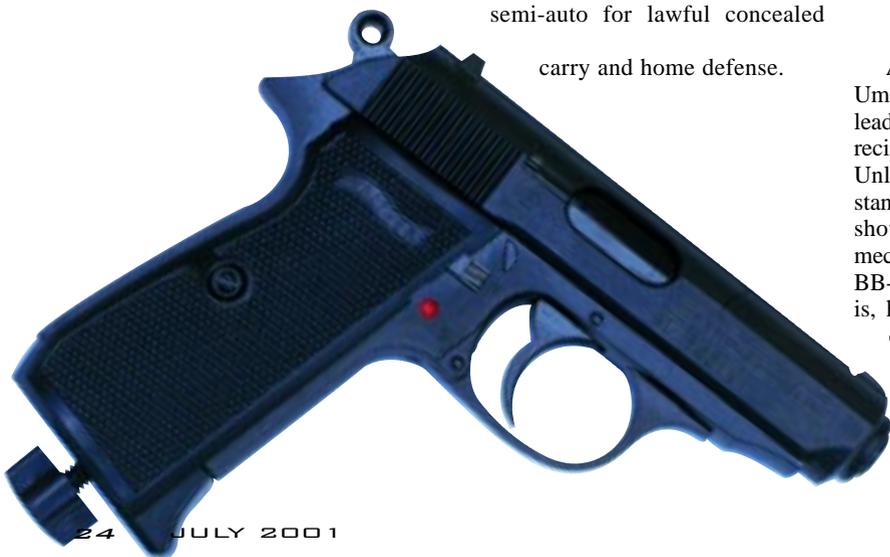
In recent years, Walther was bought by another German company called Umarex. Umarex has been a major producer of CO₂-powered pellet pistols that are almost exact replicas of world-renowned handguns, including Walther's own P-88, SIG Sauer P-225, Beretta 92FS, Colt 1911 Gov't. Model, and Smith & Wesson 586/686 revolvers.

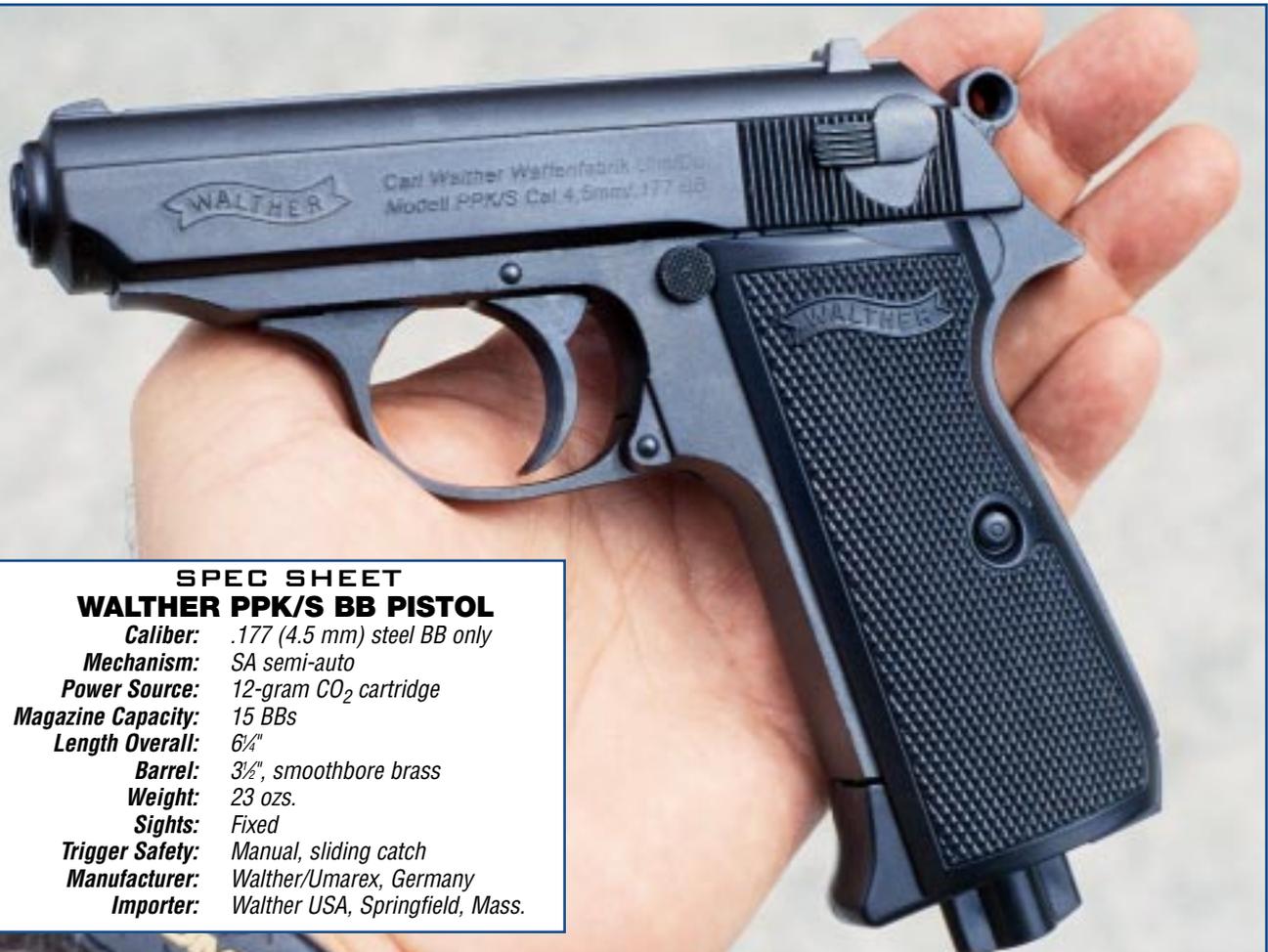
With that impressive track record, it was only a matter of time before Umarex decided to produce a CO₂-powered copy of the always-popular PPK/S. In 1999 they did just that.

Just Like The Real Thing

An interesting twist to all of this is the fact that the Umarex-produced PPK/S fires regular steel BBs instead of lead airgun pellets, and is a true semi-auto, incorporating a reciprocating slide, just like its gunpowder-driven cousins. Unlike the cartridge-firing PPK/S, however, this outstanding BB shooter does not have a double-action-on-first-shot capability, having instead a single-action-only mechanism. This means that the exposed ring hammer of the BB-firing clone must be cocked first in order to shoot. This is, however, a minor divergence from the traditional DA operation of the PPK/S.

Another difference is the absence of a hammer-drop safety mechanism. Although the decocking/safety lever appears to be in its proper place on the left rear part of the slide in the BB version, it is only a dummy non-moving protrusion that's





SPEC SHEET

WALTHER PPK/S BB PISTOL

Caliber: .177 (4.5 mm) steel BB only

Mechanism: SA semi-auto

Power Source: 12-gram CO₂ cartridge

Magazine Capacity: 15 BBs

Length Overall: 6¼"

Barrel: 3½", smoothbore brass

Weight: 23 ozs.

Sights: Fixed

Trigger Safety: Manual, sliding catch

Manufacturer: Walther/Umarex, Germany

Importer: Walther USA, Springfield, Mass.

Opposite: For plinking fun or realistic training at home, the BB Walther PPK/S has no peers. Above: Power for the Walther PPK/S BB comes from a disposable 12.5 gram CO₂ cartridge housed in the grip. Right: The reciprocating slide of the BB PPK/S remains open after the last BB in the magazine is fired.

a solid part of the cast zinc alloy slide.

The real manual safety is a small sliding catch on the right side of the frame, directly behind the trigger and operated easily — after a bit of practice — by the trigger finger of a right-handed shooter. This decidedly different manual safety (for a PPK) actually disengages the trigger instead of blocking it, as in so many air and CO₂ pistols.

Putting It All Together

At 6.3" long and 5.5" high, the BB-spitting PPK/S is definitely a tad bigger than the original. The height difference cannot be avoided, given the fact that the 12-gram CO₂ cartridge is housed in the grip, and its piercing mechanism — including the beefy thumb-screw — adds a bit to the length of the grip. Checkered black plastic grip panels, complete with the Walther logo, are supplied with the BB PPK/S as well.



The frame is also constructed of cast zinc alloy, with a matte black finish. In the weight department, this BB pistol is also extremely realistic. The gun tipped the scales at 25 ozs. with a magazine full of BBs, plus the CO₂ cartridge in place. This is the same weight as an original German-made PPK/S — empty.

continued on page 26

“THE BB PPK/S IS ONE OF THE GREATEST BACKYARD PLINKERS TO APPEAR IN RECENT TIMES. THE ENTIRE 15-BB MAGAZINE CAN BE EMPTIED IN ABOUT THREE SECONDS FLAT.”

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WALTHER BB PISTOL

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Of course, this thoroughly nifty BB spitter does not have the customary chamber-loaded indicator found in the cartridge-firing PPK/S, either, but that's also an insignificant difference.

The Poor Man's James Bond

The BB PPK/S is one of the greatest backyard plinkers to appear in recent times. The entire 15-BB magazine can be emptied in about three seconds flat, in rapid fire. The highly realistic recoil generated by the reciprocating slide makes this pistol not only great fun to shoot, but eminently practical as well in the role of a serious firearm trainer. Incidentally, this pistol fieldstrips exactly like its centerfire counterpart, enhancing even further its value as a training tool.

Extensive testing revealed that the BB-firing Walther PPK/S could generate a muzzle velocity in the range of 250 to 260 fps. While not exactly a hair-raising blaster, that level of power is entirely acceptable for relaxed plinking in a lot of places, even in areas where the use of a more potent airgun might be objectionable. Just remember that the shooter, as well as persons nearby, should wear eye protection against ricocheting BBs.

Featuring the same basic fixed sights as the centerfire PPK/S, the BB version produced groups averaging 2" to 3" at 15 feet. Again, that kind of accuracy is quite adequate for plinking applications and, combined with this pistol's quick semi-auto firing capability plus peppy recoil action, puts the fun factor way, way up there.

Incidentally, this pistol is a real miser as far as CO₂ consumption goes. The gun fired about 90 shots per CO₂ cartridge, which is quite amazing, especially given that some CO₂ is utilized in cycling the slide with every shot.

Another important reason why this BB semi-auto is destined to become a gigantic seller — even among die-hard firearm pistoleros — is its stunningly affordable retail price of around \$70. Spare BB magazines are available in packs of three for about \$10. We would strongly recommend buying several extra mags, because once you get your hands on this awesome BB-spitting replica of the Walther PPK/S, you'll be totally hooked — and while you're at it, lay in a good supply of CO₂ cartridges and BBs as well.



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A Shooter's Most Valuable Resource

If you really want to become a good shot, the first step is setting a goal and committing to it. The second is allocating resources. The most valuable and scarce of these resources is time. All of us have the same number of hours in a week, and the unending challenge is to spend those hours in ways that produce results.

People learn at different rates, but for most people, training is most effective when done on a regular basis. Lengthy training sessions at erratic intervals generally have little effect. Quality practice sessions of even 15 minutes every day are more productive than three-hour sessions once a week.

That sounds nice, but, realistically, few people are going to drive an hour every day to a rifle range in order to shoot for 15 min-

Give Your Scope **A SHAKE**

When you buy a scope for your air rifle, make sure it is specifically intended for that purpose, with parallax adjusted to short range and designed to handle the double recoil (from forward movement of the spring piston) that can shake regular scopes apart.

utes. The answer is an air rifle. A typical barrel-cocking, single-shot, spring-piston, air rifle of good quality is durable and amazingly accurate.

Avoid the temptation of believing that bigger and faster means better. A high-velocity air rifle is preferable for small game hunting or pest control, but it is also louder, heavier, more expensive and tougher on scopes. A .177 caliber with a muzzle velocity of 600 fps or so is perfectly ade-

quately. Similarly, buy good quality pellets. Top-line match pellets aren't essential, but avoid the low-priced, no-name pellets that often produce disappointing accuracy. Experiment with different brands and types. For some reason, air rifles are highly ammunition-sensitive.

quate.

While all the rules of firearm safety apply to air rifles, range requirements are much simpler. All that is required is a distance of 10 yards or so that is secure from people getting in the line of fire, a safe backstop, and eye protection for the shooter and spectators. The modest cost of pellets, along with the lack of noise and recoil, permits longer and more productive practice sessions.

ACCURACY — The Weakest Link

Accuracy is a chain with a number of links — the rifle itself, the sighting equipment, the ammunition and the shooter. The weakest link in the chain is the shooter, yet this is the link that receives the least attention. Perhaps that's a reflection on our culture. We feel that if we want something, technology should supply it, easily, painlessly and for a reasonable price.

Let's not kid ourselves that technology isn't important. Our equipment today is not just more accurate than ever, it is more consistently accurate. A modern stainless steel rifle with synthetic stock and premium scope can be drug through a downpour and maintain accuracy and point-of-impact. Under the same circumstances, Grandpa's rifle would rust, the stock would swell, the scope would fog and point-of-impact would shift to North Dakota.

Is our equipment better than Grandpa's? You bet it is. Are we better shooters than Grandpa? Not likely. The other links in the chain have gotten stronger over the years, but the

weakest link, the shooter, hasn't improved much. In fact, it may not have improved at all.

There are no shortcuts and no tricks to becoming a good shot. The shooter has to train mind and body to accomplish skills that do not come naturally — to keep the body still, to hold the rifle consistently from shot to shot, to coordinate mind and body so as to release the shot without imparting movement to the gun. No money can buy those skills. No one can acquire them for you.

The good news is you can do it if you choose. In many activities, genetics are the limiting factor — size, speed, strength, coordination. To a considerable extent, those limitations do not apply to shooting. Physical tools are less important than mental

tools — determination, commitment, discipline and self-control.

Legendary shooting coach Bill Pullum, describing the attributes of a champion, wrote, "There is no question that the Olympic [shooting] champion is exceptional. But natural physical abilities have not made him so. What makes him exceptional is the quality of his mind, his ability to engage his consciousness fully and exclusively in the act of shooting ... There is no reason to believe he was born with this mental ability. He developed it through training." (*Successful Shooting*, by Bill Pullum and Frank Hanenkrat, NRA Books, 1981).



Practice shooting without going to the range — all it takes is a secure area with a distance of at least 10 yards, a safe backstop, eye protection (for shooter and spectators), and a typical barrel-cocking, single-shot, spring-piston air rifle.

The Daly DDA 10-40

This off-the-beaten-path .40 pistol from a company best known for its shotguns may, in fact, be one of the best bargains you'll ever find in a defensive handgun.

By J.B. Wood

When choosing a pistol for serious personal protection, we have always preferred those chambered in 9mm over .40 S&W. That rule has changed, however, with the introduction of the Daly DDA 10-40 — a model designation which reveals this gun's combination of medium caliber and a 10-round magazine capacity.

The name Charles Daly, which is now owned by KBI of Harrisburg, Penn., is most frequently associated with high-quality shotguns, which they've been providing since the last part of the 19th century. Daly also offers a line of rifles, and some excellent pistols made for them by Bul, Ltd., of Tel Aviv, Israel. The DDA 10-40 is the latest in the Daly handgun line, and the compact version seemed a logical choice for evaluation.

Light, Slim And Tough

The DDA 10-40 has a tough polymer frame that keeps the weight down to 26 ozs. Along with the other advantages of polymer, there is a freedom of design that has allowed the manufacturers of the 10-40 to give this gun an outstanding ergonomic feel in the hand. An optional magazine floorplate extension will accommodate even the largest hand.

A classic Browning-style, falling-barrel locking system is used, with two separate locking lugs in addition to the chamber abutment. Barrel movement is controlled by an oblong enclosed track in the underlug of the barrel. The gun has a full-length guide rod with two concentric recoil springs.

A pair of sub-frame units, front and rear, extend upward to form the slide rails. An automatic firing pin-block safety in the slide is cleared in the last fraction of the trigger movement.

continued on page 28

Top to bottom: Outstanding ergonomic design contributed to the surprising accuracy of the DDA 10-40, a compact self-defense .40 with fixed, tactical sights. The DDA 10-40 has low-profile, fixed rear sights to prevent snagging on your vest or jacket.

The internal lock work and external controls follow the pattern of the reliable CZ-75. The manual safety directly blocks the sear, and it can be applied with the hammer in any position. The magazine release button is located at the left rear of the trigger guard.

The trigger shape is perfect, and it has no annoying vertical grooves. The double-action pull is smooth and



THE DALY DDA 10-40

continued from page 28

easy; single-action pull has minimal take-up and over-travel, and breaks at just a fraction over 4 lbs.

The sights are non-adjustable, but, after all, this is not a target pistol. The contoured rear sight will not snag, and it has a white dot on each side of its square notch. There is a larger white dot on the rear face of the front sight.

The magazines are particularly well made, and finished in bright chrome. Aside from preventing rust, this will also make them easy to find and recover, even in low light.

ACCURACY TESTING

Charles Daly DDA 10-40

Load	Accuracy
Remington 180 gr. JHP	1.375"
Hansen 180 gr. JHP	1.50"
Winchester 180 gr. JHP	1.75"
Norma 155 gr. JHP	1.875"
3D 155 gr. JHP	2.25"
Cor-Bon 135 gr. +P JHP	2.625"
3D 180 gr. SWC	2.75"

SPEC SHEET

Charles Daly DDA 10-40

Caliber:	.40 S&W
Magazine Capacity:	10+1
Weight:	.26 ozs.
Length:	7.50"
Height:	4.80"
Width:	1.33"
Barrel Length:	3.85"
Sight Radius:	5.70"
Suggested Retail:	\$499

Performance Factors

At the range, the DDA10-40 was fired off the bench at 25 yards. We tried seven different loads, all of which stayed in the black of a standard pistol target. There were no malfunctions.

The smallest group, centered in the 10 ring, was fired with Remington 180 gr. JHP ammo. It measured just 1.375". The largest group, with the 3D SWC load, measured only 2.75". For a .40 S&W compact pistol, this is certainly outstanding accuracy.

Recoil was quite mild due, at least in part, to the gun's excellent ergonomic design. The grip is just supremely comfortable. Daly also offers the DDA in a 10-45 version, a .45 ACP pistol, in both compact and full-sized models. We'd expect that gun to be just as pleasant to shoot and accurate as this one.



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Make The Gun Fit You (Not The Other Way Around)

Considering that the eye is the rear sight of a shotgun and that shotguns come in a variety of shapes and use shotguns for many different sports, it's somewhat amazing how well the average American shooter performs with a standard factory stock. The fact is, most of us accommodate ourselves to the stock rather than changing the stock to accommodate us.

Of course, if you have the money and time, a well-fitted stock can be obtained rather readily these days. If you shoot a brand that comes supplied with stock shims or enjoy adding or removing wood, moleskin, recoil pads, and ventilated ribs, you can easily experiment with cast and drop to fine tune the gun to your style of shooting. And you should — even a slight .125" variation in comb height can translate into a 1' shift in the center of your patterns at 40 yards.

For shooters looking for that custom fit, 2001 has marked the appearance of more stock shotguns that provide some means for adjusting drop and cast. Winchester's new Super X2 sporting clays model is supplied with a set of stock shims that fit between the end of the receiver and the grip of the stock to change drop and cast.

Similarly, Mossberg has released their own version of a stock drop spacer system that uses shims to raise or lower the vertical angle of the 835 Ulti-Mag and Model 500 stocks up to 0.5". If you already shoot these models, do obtain the new shim kits from the manufacturers' parts department.

Since lengthening a shotgun stock has the effect of lowering the comb line, this is another adjustment with which shooters can experiment. Pachmayr now offers "pre-fit" Decelerator recoil pads that are designed to fit within .050" on standard factory stocks that include the Mossberg 835 and 500; Remington 1100, 11-87 and 870; Ruger Red Label; and Winchester 1300 models. Pachmayr also offers spacers and a "slip-on"

recoil pad in three sizes that permits the shooter to accomplish the same end somewhat more economically and less intrusively.

The addition of a raised rib to a plain barrel can be of immense help to many shooters, and not just target shooters. One of the greatest sources of missing game is our natural inclination to raise our heads to look at the game and not keep our face down and properly positioned on the comb of the stock. EasyHit offers an "owner applied" glue-on ventilated aluminum rib in four different heights and barrel lengths complete with a mounted center bead and interchangeable front sights. Again, this is a way to try a ventilated rib without permanently altering your shotgun.

By all means, don't be afraid to experiment a bit with your shotgun. The result could be most rewarding.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

EasyHit
(805) 693-1898
www.easyhit.com

Right top-bottom: The new Sporting Clays model is just one of the additions to Beretta's line of Urika shotguns for 2001. Remington's 11-87 and 870 lines have been updated with six new camo-patterned turkey models, including this Super Magnum semi-auto. Shooters looking for a touch of distinction will be happy to find the new Browning Citori Privilege 20 ga. in this year's catalog.



SHOTGUNNING In The 21st Century

While there were a lot of line consolidations this year, the shotgunning world has seen the advent of some interesting new products. Here is a sampling of some of the more popular introductions we've seen in 2001.

Ithaca is back in a big way with a fixed barrel 16 ga. Deerslayer; Model 37 Ultra Featherweights in "grouse," "youth" and 20 ga. formats; ported Model 37 target models plus a sporting clays version with an adjustable stock; and a full selection of accessory barrels for existing Model 37 owners.

Browning has reduced the weight of the successful Gold autoloader by 8 ozs. with the introduction of its Gold Fusion model and now offers a lightweight Gold Upland Special with a straight English stock; a Gold 20 ga. Micro scaled down for smaller shooters; and a Gold 20 ga. slug gun. The

highly popular BT-99 trap gun has been returned to the line. In the Citori line, a 20 ga. Privilege model with embellished sideplates, a 20 ga. Ultra XS Skeet, and a 28 ga. Ultra XS Sporting Clays model made their debut.

Winchester has added a Super X2 Sporting Clays model and a Super X2 field model chambered for the 3" magnum, and you can expect more models to be forthcoming.

Some beautiful new 28 ga. guns have debuted in 2001. **Weatherby** has added the chambering to its Athena Grade 111 O/U offerings. **Merkel** has designed a petite-framed 28 ga. SxS carrying the designation Model 280 EL. **Franchi** came through with a 28 ga. Veloce O/U — Veloce means "fast" in Italian and indeed the Franchi lives up to that name.

Speaking about elegant small-framed guns, **Charles Daly** is marketing a svelte .410 O/U and SxS under the "Country

Squire" label. Also added to the Charles Daly stable are an ultralight Field Hunter O/U in 12 and 20 ga., and a standard Field Hunter model in 12, 20, 28 and .410 ga.

Beretta's successful Urika line has been expanded to include slug, sporting clays, trap, youth and synthetic/camo models.

A new **Mossberg** Model 500 "Bantam" youth gun, featuring a completely scaled down buttstock and closer forearm for smaller-framed shooters, made its appearance this year and comes with a half-price certificate for a full-size buttstock and forearm which can be redeemed when the young owner grows up.

Remington has added the 3½" chambering across its 11-87 line under the title "Super Magnum," as well as adding six camo-patterned turkey hunting models in the 11-87 and 870 lines featuring Mossy Oak's Break-Up motif.



QUARTERMASTER

BY CAMERON HOPKINS

Kidd Ruger Triggers

Retailing for some \$50 more than the price of the gun it fits, this match trigger for Ruger 10-22s sells for \$279.95, but delivers superb performance. Fully-adjustable for length of pull, cant, over-travel, sear engagement and weight of pull, the Match Trigger from Kidd Innovative Design renders a Ruger into an Anschutz — at least as far as trigger pull is concerned.

Manufactured using high-tech systems such as CNC and EDM machining technologies, the Kidd trigger features a 50 percent lighter-than-stock hammer for a fast locktime. There are three versions of the trigger with different pull weights, adjustable within their ranges: the Super Match (7 to 14 ozs.), Match (14 to 28 ozs.) and Sportsman (20 to 40 ozs.). We tested a Sportsman model on a Briley custom 10-22.

The trigger was easy to install, without professional gunsmithing. After removing the barreled action from the stock, we removed the two pins that hold the stock trigger in place. We substituted the Kidd trigger, replaced the pins and were good to go.

The Kidd Sportsman Trigger once again



corroborated a longstanding belief: Nothing increases the accuracy of any firearm more than good sights and good triggers. We experienced the subtle joy of pressing a crisp, light trigger on a Ruger 10-22 and indeed we could shoot noticeably better offhand. The trigger is a two-stage design, meaning there is some takeup before the lighter second stage. We find such triggers to be highly conducive to position shooting — sitting, kneeling and standing — than conventional single-stage triggers.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Kidd Innovative Design
2633 Terminal Loop
McQueeney, TX 78123
(830) 560-1044
www.coolguyguns.com

KEL-TEC SUB-2000



The SUB Rifle 2000 is a self-loading carbine for pistol cartridges. Different versions of the SUB-2000 will accept most modern handgun magazines, e.g. S&W, Glock or Beretta. By rotating the barrel upwards and back, the SUB-2000 can be reduced to a size of 16" x 7" to facilitate secure storage. The SUB-2000 also features an internal keyed deployment lock.

Technical specifications
Weight unloaded 4 lbs 1.8 kg
Length open 30" 760 mm
Length closed 16" 405 mm
Barrel length 16.1" 409 mm
Practical range 150 yd 150 m
Safety: Reccocked push-button
Lock-back operating handle
Keyed deployment lock

OTHER KEL-TEC PRODUCTS



P-40



P-30



P-11

KEL-TEC CNC INDUSTRIES INC.
PO BOX 236009
COCOA FL 32926

www.kel-tec.com

Rescomp Holster

Handgun competitions have evolved in recent years to resemble something from *Battlestar Galactica*. High-tech retention devices with all manner of locks and devices have supplanted the age-old force of sheer friction to retain their guns.

The new Model 2000 from Rescomp Handgun Technologies, based in Pretoria, South Africa, is the Ferrari of race holsters, a totally minimalist “holster” that retains the pistol by an ingenious lock around the trigger guard. Flip a small retention switch on the trigger guard lock and get ready for a lightning-fast draw.

The RHT Model 2000 was used by reigning IPSC world champion Eric Grauffel as well as many other top-class shooters, including the winning Open Division team from the 2000 World Shoot.

The RHT Model 2000 is adjustable eight ways from Sunday — for cant, angle, drop, left-hand or right-hand, up and down, barrel length, you name it. The holster “body” is attached to a machined aluminum rod that



can be rotated and slid on a universal joint of sorts where it attaches to the belt holder.

We tested a revolver and an autopistol version. A bull barreled S&W Model 25 with a Bo-Mar rib fit perfectly in the revolver holster, after we made the necessary adjustments for the barrel length. The draw was slicker than Bill Clinton on the witness stand, yet once we flipped the retention switch, a team of WWF wrestlers couldn't get the gun out. We imagine anything from a .454 Casull to a PPC gun would fit the highly adaptable rig.

We also tested an STI “Edge” 1911 pistol

in the Model 2000 with the same results — faster than a greased presidential pardon. We were impressed with every aspect of the performance of the Rescomp holster. The Model 2000 retails for \$134.95 and is available through dealers in the U.S.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Rescomp Handgun Technologies
 +27 (12) 333-4768 (South Africa)
 www.crspeed.co.za
 sales@rescomp.co.za

BY CAMERON HOPKINS

Buffer Technologies Jet Loaders

Jet Loaders came on the scene as a faster method of speed loading a revolver in competition. A Jet Loader looks like a normal, everyday speedloader except with the addition of a powerful spring that propels the fresh cartridges into the cylinder. With a normal speedloader — gravity is the sole source of “power” to insert fresh rounds.

A new Austrian-made Jet Loader is now available for the increasingly popular S&W J-frames. With the surge of interest in titanium hammer-shrouded J-frames, the new Jet Loader should be popular with CCW holders.

We tested the J-frame Speed Loader with an S&W Model 342, the model known as AirLite Ti, chambered in .38 Special. The Jet Loader holds both .38s and .357 Mag. rounds. Inserting the cartridges in the loader was literally a snap. We placed five rounds in the loader’s “cylinder,” held them firmly in place with our palm and then rotated the loader’s activation knob to lock the rounds in place.

The loaded Jet Loader is sturdy. We dropped it several times and it held the cartridges securely. There is a built-in

“safety” that won’t release the rounds until the Jet Loader is firmly seated into a revolver’s cylinder.

Insertion was easy, even left-handed, and the rounds popped positively into place, thanks to the spring tension. There is no faster way to reload a revolver that fires rimmed cartridges. (Yes, a moon-clipped .45 ACP is slightly faster, but who carries a Model 1917 in their pocket?) The Jet Loader is imported by Buffer Technologies and retails for \$14.95.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Buffer Technologies
 P.O. Box 10493
 Jefferson City, MO 65110
 (573) 634-8529
 www.buffertech.com

BY CAMERON HOPKINS

Jane's Military Books

Modern military firearms are explained in detail in the Bible of small arms, *Jane's Infantry Weapons*. Fred T. Jane was a British naval enthusiast in the latter part of the 19th century who gathered information on the world's naval forces as a hobby. In 1897, he published the first *Jane's Fighting Ships*, which he updated on an annual basis. Since then, Jane's Defense Information has become the largest and arguably the most accurate civilian intelligence organization in the world, with year-books covering virtually every form of military technology, from ships, aircraft, artillery and tanks to small arms.

Lots of fun things in Jane's: Yugoslavian hand grenades, Canadian mortar sights, TOW anti-tank rockets, Croatian submachine guns, even pedestrian Ruger .22s are all covered in Jane's 859-page definitive reference work.

The companion book is *Jane's Ammunition Handbook*, 688 pages of nothing but things that go bang, boom, bam. The handbook contains every conceivable round that fires from a rifled barrel, a category which includes tanks, cannons, artillery, small arms, coastal defense guns and battleships.

Jane's are not only the most definitive "gun books" in the world, they're also the most expensive. *Infantry Weapons* sells for \$480 and *Ammunition Handbook* runs \$10 less.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jane's Information Group
1340 Braddock Place, Ste. 300
Alexandria, VA 22314
(800) 243-3852
www.janes.com

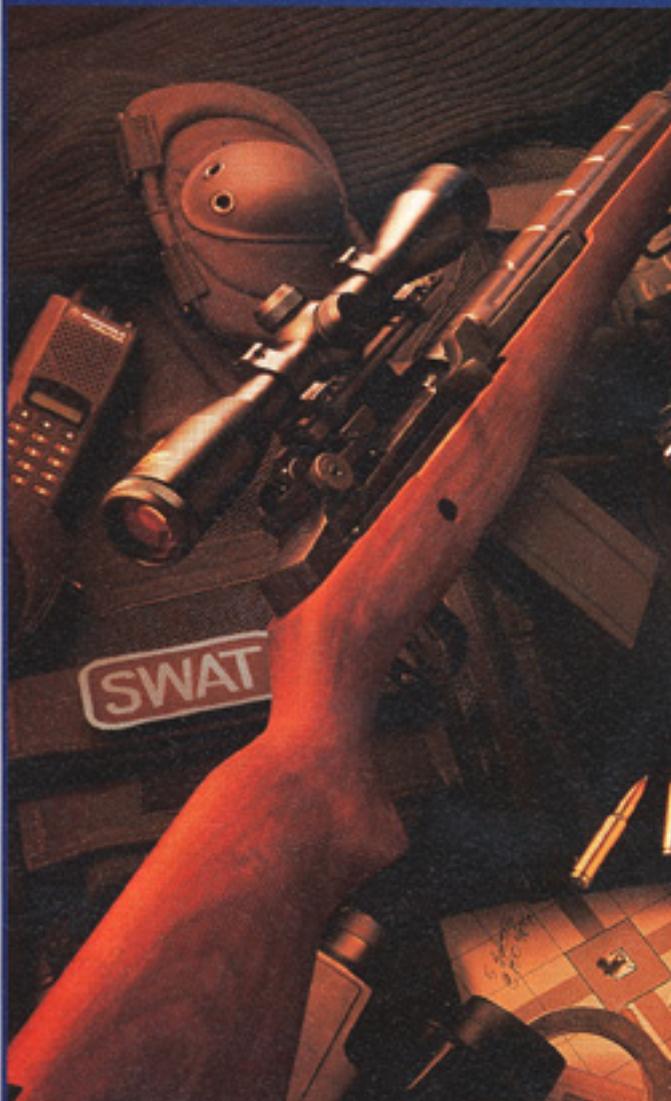
Jane's

INFANTRY WEAPONS 2000-01

Edited by Terry J Gander

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BULLET PERFORMANCE

Lots of "facts" about the effects of wind and brush are based on old myths. Real-world ballistic data is the only way to be sure you have the right bullet for your hunt.



By Dan Johnson

Below: Whether the caliber is, from left, .243 Win., .25-06, .257 Wthby., .260 Rem., .270 Rem., .270 Wthby., .280 Rem., 7mm Rem., 7mm STW, .30-'06, .300 Wthby., or 7.82 Warbird, hunters often make their choice of bullet based on some widely held performance myths. Left: A .338-06, such as this classic 98 Mauser with a Shilen barrel, is capable of taking any game in the lower 48 — provided the hunter selects the right bullet for the job.



CARTRIDGE	BULLET WT.*	VELOCITY	RECOIL	TRAJECTORY**				
				100 yds.	200 yds.	300 yds.	400 yds.	500 yds.
.243 Win.	100gr.	3,000 fps	10.2 ft/lbs.	+2.7"	+2.2"	-3.7"	-16.2"	-36.7"
Wind Deflection				0.8"	3.2"	7.5"	14.0"	23.0"
.25/06	115 gr.	2,900 fps	14.6 ft/lbs.	+2.9"	+2.4"	-4.0"	-17.4"	-39.4"
Wind Deflection				0.8"	3.3"	7.8"	14.5"	23.8"
.257 Wthby.	115 gr.	3,200 fps	20.2 ft/lbs.	+2.2"	+1.9"	-3.2"	-13.9"	-31.5"
Wind Deflection				0.7"	2.9"	6.8"	12.6"	20.6"
.260 Rem.	125 gr.	2,900 fps	12.6 ft/lbs.	+2.8"	+2.3"	-3.8"	-16.4"	-36.8"
Wind Deflection				0.7"	2.9"	6.9"	12.8"	20.8"
.270 Win.	130 gr.	3,000 fps	17.8 ft/lbs.	+2.6"	+2.2"	-3.6"	-15.7"	-35.3"
Wind Deflection				0.7"	2.9"	6.9"	12.8"	20.9"
.270 Wthby.	130 gr.	3,250 fps	25.4 ft/lbs.	+2.1"	+1.8"	-3.0"	-13.1"	-29.4"
Wind Deflection				0.6"	2.6"	6.2"	11.4"	18.6"
.280 Rem.	140 gr.	2,900 fps	17.9 ft/lbs.	+2.8"	+2.3"	-3.8"	-16.7"	-37.4"
Wind Deflection				0.7"	2.9"	6.9"	12.8"	20.8"
7mm Rem.	140 gr.	3,100 fps	23.0 ft/lbs.	+2.3"	+2.0"	-3.3"	-14.3"	-32.1"
Wind Deflection				0.7"	2.7"	6.3"	11.6"	18.9"
7mm STW	140 gr.	3,500 fps	29.9 ft/lbs.	+1.6"	+1.5"	-2.5"	-11.0"	-24.5"
Wind Deflection				0.6"	2.3"	5.4"	9.9"	16.0"
.30/06	150 gr.	3,000 fps	19.7 ft/lbs.	+2.6"	+2.2"	-3.7"	-16.2"	-36.6"
Wind Deflection				0.8"	3.2"	7.5"	13.9"	22.8"
.300 Wthby.	150 gr.	3,300 fps	32.7 ft/lbs.	+2.0"	+1.8"	-3.0"	-13.0"	-29.5"
Wind Deflection				0.7"	2.8"	6.6"	12.2"	19.9"
7.82 Warbd.	150 gr.	3,850 fps	47.6 ft/lbs.	+0.9"	+1.1"	-2.0"	-8.8"	-20.0"
Wind Deflection				0.6"	2.3"	5.3"	9.7"	15.7"

Wind Deflection is based on a 10 mph crosswind.

Recoil is estimated with an 8 lb. rifle.

All velocities are representative of safe maximum loads and barrel lengths common to that caliber.

*In order to provide uniform results, all bullets used in testing, regardless of weight, were Nosler partition as this bullet design varies little throughout various calibers.

**All test rifles zeroed at 250 yds.



Man is a gullible creature by nature. We tend to believe what we see, even when our observations are based on faulty data. If Joe Hunter misses a buck with a .25-06 at 200 yards in a light breeze one year, then the next drops one off the fringe of a tornado at 400 yards with a .270, he's liable to form some definite opinions as to which cartridge bucks the wind better. And he is liable to be wrong.

Wind Deflection

One of the most tenacious myths concerning ballistics is that a heavy bullet bucks the wind better. There's just enough truth in this to be misleading. Perhaps this misconception came about because it would seem logical that a heavier object would be blown about less than a lighter one.

This would be true if both projectiles were of the same dimensions. But, given like designs, the heavier slug has more surface area for the wind to act on thus negating any advantage based solely on weight.

The deciding factor in wind deflection — and trajectory — is time of flight. The less time wind and gravity have to act on a bullet, the less they will divert the bullet from its path. While a heavier projectile has more momentum and

continued on page 58

Clements CUSTOM GUNS

BY JOHN TAFFIN

Whether you're looking for a mild, target-shooting revolver or a lever action for big game, this talented gunsmith can meet your needs.





Above: A collection of revolvers and leverguns from Clements Custom Guns and a wide open prairie sky — you’ve just described our version of paradise. Opposite: The 4" Ermine, right, and 5 1/2" Tayra from Clements Custom Guns are both built on the tough stainless steel Ruger Blackhawk.

PERFORMANCE RESULTS

Clements Custom Guns "Tayra" .45 Colt

Load Velocity

Factory Loads

Buffalo Bore 300 gr. Speer JFP	1,222 fps
Buffalo Bore 325 gr. LBT Hard Cast	1,270 fps
Cor-Bon 265 gr. Bonded Core FP	1,163 fps
Cor-Bon 300 gr. Bonded Core FP	1,161 fps

Handloads

LBT 260 gr. Flat Point/10.0 grs. Unique	1,066 fps
LBT 260 gr. Flat Point/21.0 grs #2400	1,287 fps
Lyman #454424 260 gr. Keith/18.5 grs. #2400	1,116 fps
Lyman #454490 260 gr. Gas Check/20.0 grs. #2400	1,227 fps
Lyman #454490 260 gr. Gas Check/23.0 grs. H4227	1,264 fps
Lyman #457191 300 gr. Flat Point/18.5 grs. #2400	1,167 fps
BRP 305 gr. Gas Check/21.5 grs. H110	1,081 fps
NEI 310 gr. Keith/21.5 grs. H110	1,082 fps
NEI 325 Keith gr./21.2 grs. H110	1,107 fps

PERFORMANCE RESULTS

Clements Custom Guns "Ermine" .45 Colt

Load Velocity

Handloads

Bull-X 250 gr. RNFP/6.2 grs. AA#N100782 fps
Bull-X 255 gr. SWC/9.0 grs. Unique925 fps
Oregon Trail 255 gr. SWC/7.2 grs. WW231818 fps
Oregon Trail 255 gr. SWC/8.0 grs Unique777 fps
Oregon Trail 255 gr. SWC/6.0 grs. TiteGroup762 fps
RCBS #45-250 gr. Flat Nose/8.0 grs. Unique903 fps

Once in a while, we come across a top sixgunsmith who also turns out some mighty fine leverguns. Such a gunsmith is David Clements.

Clements was born and bred in Mississippi and grew up doubly blessed with a father who not only taught him hunting and fishing, but also how to do metalwork with a welder, drill press and lathe. After high school, Clements went on to technical school and then landed a job working with CNC and EDM machines as well as tool and die making. His path for the future was set.

His love of guns and metal working soon blended together, and a new gunsmith was born. Clements is now president and CEO of Clements Custom Guns.

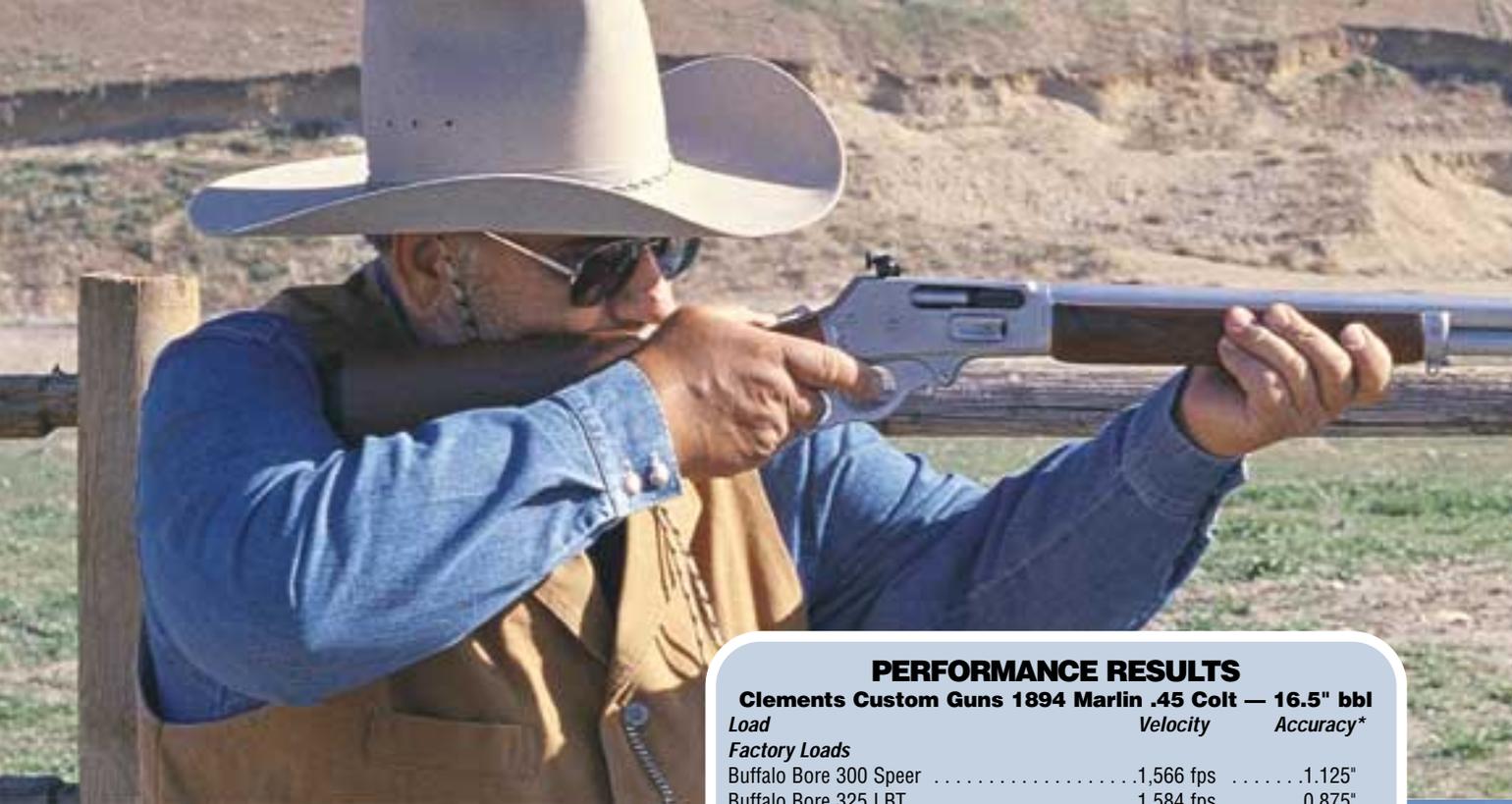
Cowboy Gun Maestro

Recently, Clements delivered two sixguns — both custom Ruger .45s — and two leverguns — custom Marlin in .45 Colt and .45-70 — for *GUNS* to review. Marlin and Ruger make excellent basic guns, but it takes a gunsmith such as Clements to bring them to perfection.

Both of the custom .45s are built on the Ruger New Model Blackhawk, but that is where the similarity ends. Although both are easy to pack and a pleasure to shoot, these are two sixguns built for two different purposes. First we examined the Ermine, a lightweight, 34 oz., .45 Colt designed for daily wear, whether in a holster, mounted on a cartridge belt, or a pants belt.

Clements starts with a Ruger Stainless Blackhawk in .357, .44 Mag. or .45 Colt to build, as he says, “a short, light carry gun for outdoorsmen.” Starting with the basic Blackhawk, Clements installs a 4" match-grade barrel, slightly tapered and fitted with a .110" wide, Patridge-style, easy-to-see front sight that is solidly anchored to the barrel with an Allen screw.

To shave weight, the stainless steel grip frame and ejector housing are replaced with lightweight aluminum alloy versions. The front edge of the cylinder is given a Colt



The Clements Custom Marlin 1894, right, is chambered in .45 Colt, while the beefy Model 1895 is chambered in .45-70 and is ready to hunt any game in North America.



PERFORMANCE RESULTS

Clements Custom Guns 1894 Marlin .45 Colt — 16.5" bbl

Load	Velocity	Accuracy*
Factory Loads		
Buffalo Bore 300 Speer	1,566 fps	.1.125"
Buffalo Bore 325 LBT	1,584 fps	.0.875"
Cor-Bon 265 Bonded Core	1,461 fps	.0.625"
Cor-Bon 300 Bonded Core	1,469 fps	.1.0"
Handloads		
Hornady 250 XTP/20.0 grs. #2400	1,401 fps	.1.125"
Lyman #454424KT/18.5 grs. #2400	1,405 fps	.0.625"
Lyman #454424/20.0 grs. #2400	1,532 fps	.1.0"
BRP 305 GC/21.5 grs. H110	1,457 fps	.1.0"
Bull-X 250/6.2 grs. AA#N100	.977 fps	.1.25"
Bull-X 255/9.0 grs. Unique	1,152 fps	.1.0"
Oregon Trail 255/7.2 grs. WW231	1,010 fps	.0.875"
Oregon Trail 255/8.0 grs. Unique	1,013 fps	.0.75"
Oregon Trail 255/6.0 grs. TiteGroup	1,024 fps	.1.125"
RCBS #45-250FN/8.0 grs. Unique	1,088 fps	.1.0"

PERFORMANCE RESULTS

Clements Custom Guns Marlin 1895 .45-70 — 18.5" bbl

Load	Velocity	Accuracy*
Factory Loads		
Buffalo Bore 430 LBT	1,881 fps	.1.375"
Garrett 530 Hammerhead	1,444 fps	.1.875"
Handloads		
Bull-X 405CSJ/37.5 gr. #3031	1,341 fps	.1.75"
Fusilier 400GC/37.5 gr. #3031	1,409 fps	.1.5"
Fusilier 400GC/52.0 gr. H322	1,964 fps	.1.5"

*Accuracy measurements are the result of three five-round groups at 25 yards.





With the right handloads, the Marlin 1894 can be used as either a delightful plinking rifle or a hard-hitting brush gun for big game.

blackpowder-style chamfer from the 1880s.

At the same time, the action is tuned and smoothed, the trigger is set between 3 lbs. and 3½ lbs., all end shake is removed, the lock-up is tightened to remove side-to-side play in the cylinder, the chambers are polished, and the throats of the cylinder chambers are properly sized. Most Rugers come with very tight mouths — especially in .45 Colt — and Clements opens these up to the proper size.

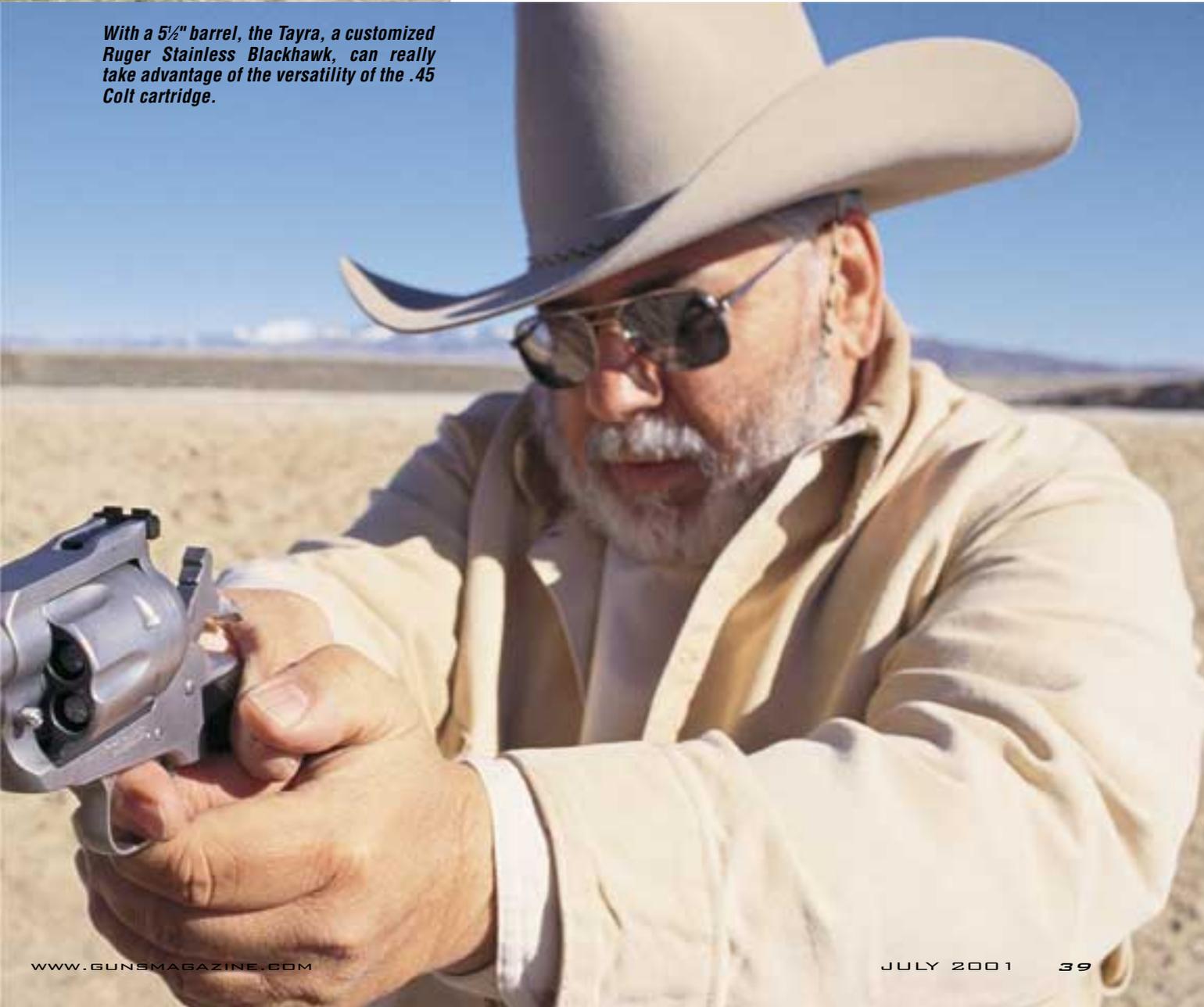
For the ejector rod to work with a 4" barrel, it is necessary to shorten the rod and the ejector housing. Clements also fits a shortened base pin with a flat head to allow the ejector rod to travel as far as possible to eject empties.

The cylinder is given the free-spinning treatment. This allows it to be rotated backwards in case a bullet jumps its crimp and locks up the gun. With this modification, you simply have to spin the cylinder backwards and remove the round. Very handy.

The Ermine is then finished by bead blasting the entire gun to give an outdoors-friendly, non-glare, dull finish. This Ermine came with re-finished Ruger factory grips and a factory rear sight. It is also available with custom micarta grips and a Bowen rear sight.

Our favorite plinking loads for this little .45 are the Bull-X 255 gr. SWC over 9.0 grs. of Unique for 925 fps from the

continued on page 65



With a 5½" barrel, the Tayra, a customized Ruger Stainless Blackhawk, can really take advantage of the versatility of the .45 Colt cartridge.



The SIG P-210 9mm might not make it onto too many shooters' "10 classic pistols" lists — but that just goes to show that a lot of shooters could use a bit more schooling in the classics. Opposite: The P-210 uses an eccentric slot, not a hinged link, to facilitate lock-up — a revolutionary design for its time.

SIG P-210



Back before the days of plastic and stamped sheet metal, SIG was making 9mm pistols, and making them right.

By Charles E. Petty

Photos by Ichiro Nagata

People sometimes lament, “They don’t make things like they used to.” Sadly, that is often the case, but not with the SIG P-210. Compared with today’s hi-tech handguns, the

P-210 is a dinosaur. It is a throwback to a time when guns were made of steel and wood with parts machined out of solid metal. That, however, is still a good way to do things and dinosaurs are *in* these days.

If we polled knowledgeable shooters and asked them to prepare a list of *classic* pistols, few would put the P-210 on theirs. And even though we’ve known about the gun forever, and even shot one a long time ago, we probably wouldn’t

have put it on ours either. That would have been a mistake.

With the exception of a brief hiatus for the last year or two, the P-210 has been in continuous production since 1947. This is *not* a wondernine, it is a single-stack 9mm pistol with a magazine capacity of eight rounds. Barrel length is 4.75" and it weighs 32 ozs.

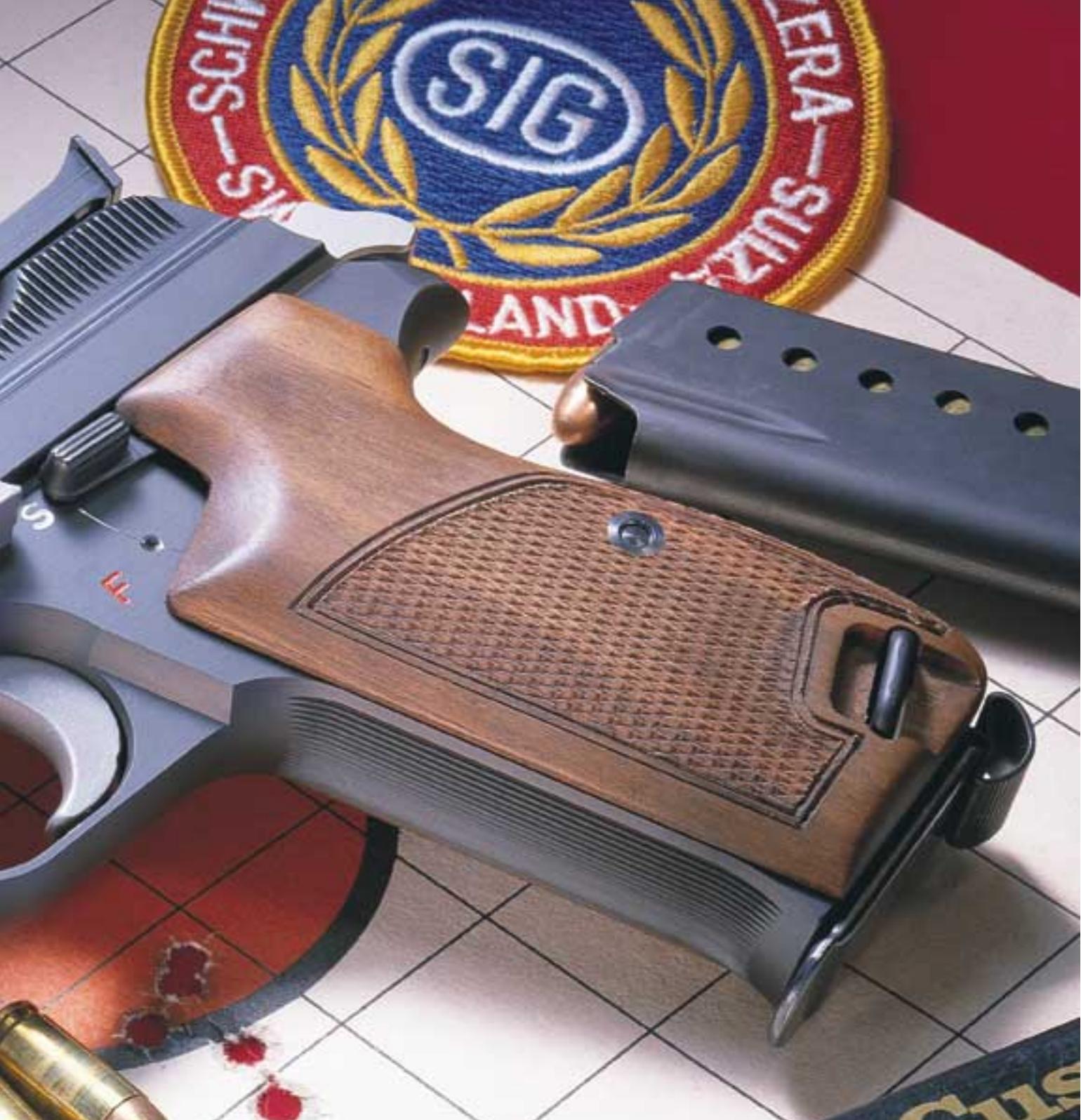
Pistols Of The Post-War World

In the years immediately following World War II, many countries looked at replacing their service pistols. In the U.S. there were extensive trials of 9mm pistols made to very different government specifications. Colt, Smith & Wesson, High Standard and others built guns for the tests, but in the end, the government decided to stick with the 1911.

For decades the Swiss Army’s issue pistol had been the Luger, and they, too, began to investigate a new pistol. The outcome, in 1947, was that the SP47/8 SIG was adopted and achieved an enviable reputation for both function and accuracy.

SIG P-210 9mm





GUNS

MAGAZINE



The P-210 features full-length slide and internal slide rails for glassy smooth operation. Inset: The SIG's butt-mounted mag release is strictly Euro. An Americanized version is available (at a substantial extra charge), but c'mon, you don't put raspberry syrup in your coffee or teriyaki sauce on your prime rib — don't mess with a classic.

Munition

hütze

50 m

32 44

78 T

R. Blasen

Stellung

Schüsse

Datum

aufgestützt/fr

The design was a departure from the norm of the time. The P-210 featured internal slide rails, which mated frame and slide for the full 6.5" length. The fit of frame to slide was, and still is, exceptional. The test gun's slide moves with perfect ease, yet displays only the barest hint of vertical or horizontal play.

The locking system is of the Browning short-recoil, locked-breech design in which the barrel tips up and down to lock and unlock. There are also two locking lugs in the top of the slide, as in many Browning designs. The barrel's footprint is just a bit different.

The tilting barrel concept requires that the barrel move by either a barrel link or some form of mechanical cam action with the lockup usually driven by the slide stop pin. The barrel of the P-210 works that way too but instead of a barrel link, the barrel has an eccentric slot that allows the slide stop to control both locking and unlocking moves.

The fit of the slide stop pin to the barrel lugs is an absolutely vital component of accuracy in the Government Model and exactly the same thing is true of the SIG. Examining the barrel and slide stop pin of the gun clearly shows that the two parts mate just right.

Another feature of interest is the modular assembly of the hammer, trigger, disconnect and ejector into a single unit that can simply be lifted out of the frame. This is a helpful feature for cleaning the trigger mechanism now and then, although it doesn't need to be done very often. The assembly should stay as a single unit — just because it will come out doesn't mean it should be taken apart.

The trigger feel is very European with just a little movement preceding a nice clean break. The trigger on our gun was just a tad over 3 lbs.

Lost In The Translation

The P-210 is European through and through so a couple of features are contrary to American custom. Foremost of these is the magazine release, which is located on the butt and is a simple spring-loaded latch that catches the bottom of the magazine. This is not just any little spring either; it takes over 10 lbs. of pressure just to move it enough to release the magazine.

Even after you defeat the spring, removing the magazine is still a challenge. Drop-free magazine? Not hardly. This is

a standard European design feature based upon a concern that the magazine might be lost in service. There is a P-210 variation with a magazine release on the frame for American tastes, but it costs roughly twice as much.

Overall workmanship is truly superior. A diligent search for flaws found none. The finish is a pleasing matte blue. The top of the slide features fine anti-reflection grooves running from the ejection port to the dovetail-fitted front sight. There are models with either fixed or adjustable rear sights. Grips are oil-finished walnut with about 60 percent coverage of hand-cut checkering. The front strap of the frame is gently grooved for a nice gripping surface.

Hard-Bitten Accuracy Testing

As is customary, accuracy testing was done in three parts. First was just a break-in period with a mixed bag of ammunition to evaluate function and reliability. No problems ... well, just one.

At the very first shot the fleshy part of the shooter's hand was thoroughly mashed between hammer and frame. Another shot ... same thing and two blood blisters rose on the web of the shooter's hand. A slight alteration of grip ended the hammer bite problem, and this certainly won't be a problem for everyone, but it is something to be aware of — ouch! All in all, about 200 rounds of mixed ammo, including a variety of JHP rounds were fired with no malfunctions of any kind.

The second phase of testing was in the Ransom Rest at 25 yards. Ammunition chosen for this element included two match loads, and JHPs of 115, 124 and 147 gr. weights. The first load, Black Hills' 124 gr. JHP shot pretty well, but there was a noticeable tendency for the first shot from the magazine to drift a little left at 9 o'clock.

With the second load, Federal's Match, this tendency became a rule. The first shot landed precisely at 9 o'clock 2" to 3" left of the rest, which clustered together nicely. This effect increased group size by an average of 2.3".

Subsequent loads were better but still had flyers. When we got to the 147 gr. Speer Gold Dot ammo, it was as if the sun had come up. Even though there were still a few flyers, their effect was almost negligible and the gun averaged 0.82" for the five, five-shot groups. Winchester's 147 gr. SXT was almost as

continued on page 57

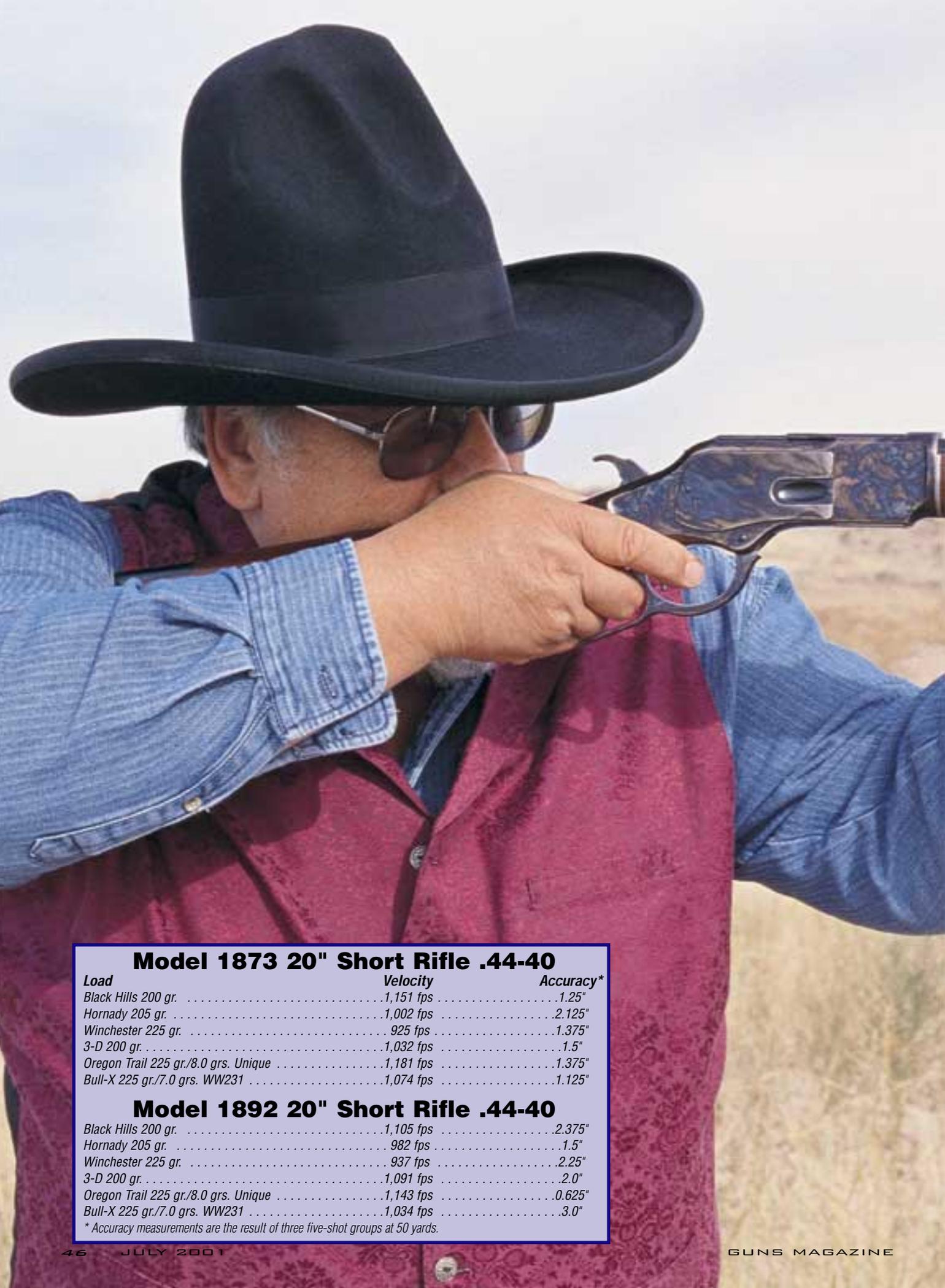
ACCURACY TEST RESULTS SIG P-210

LOAD	VELOCITY	GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4	GROUP 5	ACCURACY*
Black Hills 124 gr. JHP <i>First shot excluded</i>	1,178 fps	1.98" 1.17"	1.51" 0.91"	1.51" 1.12"	1.41" 0.86"	1.46" 1.12"	1.57" 1.04"
Federal GM Match 124 gr. FMJ <i>First shot excluded</i>	1141 fps	3.29" 0.91"	3.86" 1.74"	3.28" 1.49"	3.56" 1.26"	4.02" 1.07"	3.60" 1.29"
Pro Load 115 gr. JHP +P <i>First shot excluded</i>	1,349 fps	1.68" 1.14"	2.00" 0.37"	1.79" 0.75"	2.27" 0.60"	2.14" 0.55"	1.98" 0.68"
Remington Match 147 gr. FMJ <i>First shot excluded</i>	961 fps	1.37" 0.91"	1.25" 1.25"	3.06" 1.67"	2.16" 1.11"	1.55" 1.33"	1.88" 1.25"
Speer Gold Dot 147 gr. JHP <i>First shot excluded</i>	1,037 fps	1.16" 0.87"	0.68" 0.68"	0.89" 0.35"	0.49" 0.49"	0.90" 0.77"	0.82" 0.63"
Winchester SXT 147 gr. JHP <i>First shot excluded</i>	1,004 fps	1.01" 0.79"	1.02" 0.33"	0.67" 0.37"	1.05" 0.49"	1.20" 1.20"	0.99" 0.64"

AVERAGE (ALL): 1.81"

AVERAGE W/O FLYER: 0.92"

* Accuracy is the resultant average of five five-shot groups. Velocity is the average of 10 shots measured on a PACT Professional chronograph.



Model 1873 20" Short Rifle .44-40

Load	Velocity	Accuracy*
Black Hills 200 gr.	1,151 fps	.1.25"
Hornady 205 gr.	1,002 fps	.2.125"
Winchester 225 gr.	925 fps	.1.375"
3-D 200 gr.	1,032 fps	.1.5"
Oregon Trail 225 gr./8.0 grs. Unique	1,181 fps	.1.375"
Bull-X 225 gr./7.0 grs. WW231	1,074 fps	.1.125"

Model 1892 20" Short Rifle .44-40

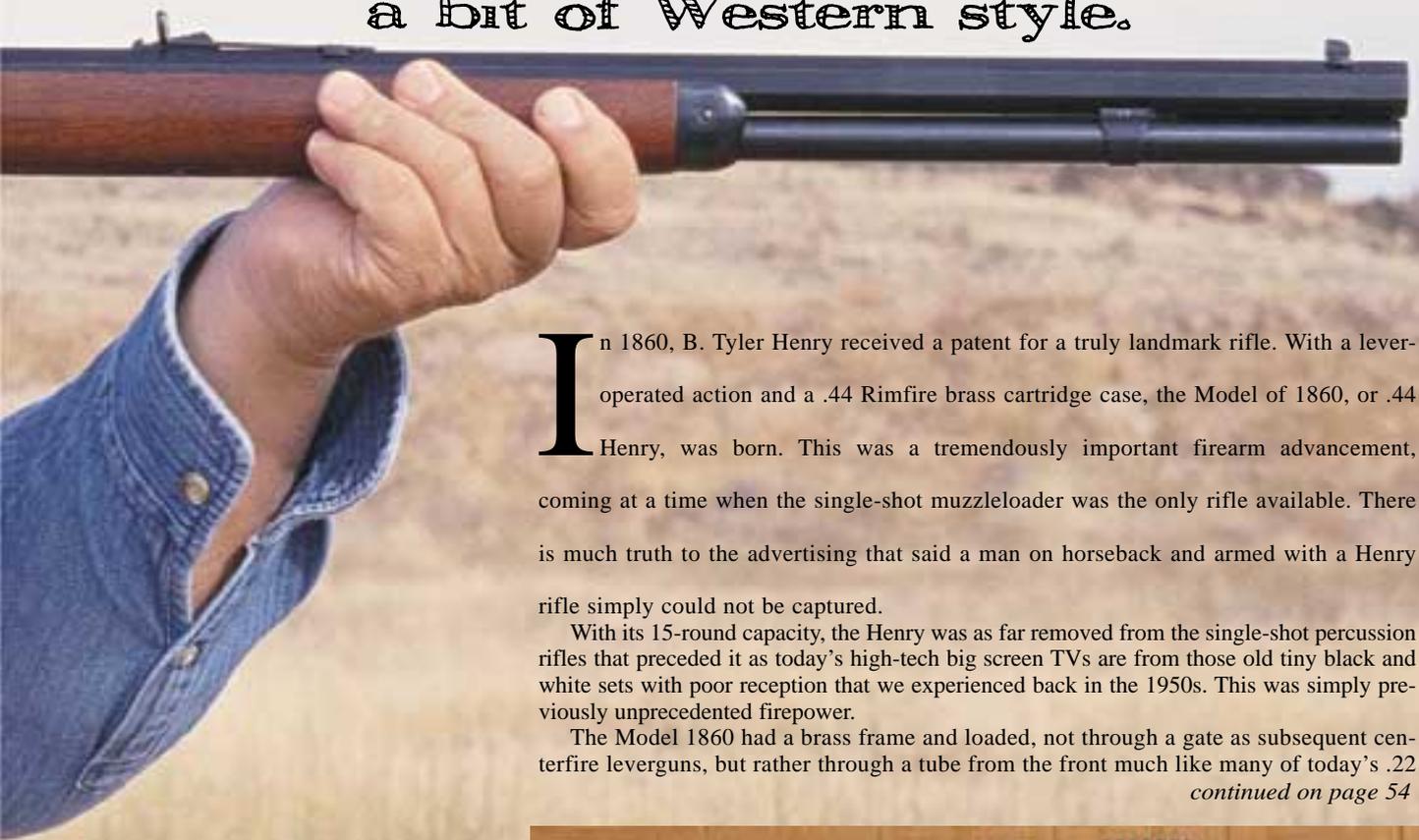
Black Hills 200 gr.	1,105 fps	.2.375"
Hornady 205 gr.	982 fps	.1.5"
Winchester 225 gr.	937 fps	.2.25"
3-D 200 gr.	1,091 fps	.2.0"
Oregon Trail 225 gr./8.0 grs. Unique	1,143 fps	.0.625"
Bull-X 225 gr./7.0 grs. WW231	1,034 fps	.3.0"

* Accuracy measurements are the result of three five-shot groups at 50 yards.

NAVY ARMS Model 1873 & 1892

By John Taffin

These classic leverguns are back in the saddle again with cowboy shooters and anyone who appreciates a bit of Western style.



In 1860, B. Tyler Henry received a patent for a truly landmark rifle. With a lever-operated action and a .44 Rimfire brass cartridge case, the Model of 1860, or .44 Henry, was born. This was a tremendously important firearm advancement, coming at a time when the single-shot muzzleloader was the only rifle available. There is much truth to the advertising that said a man on horseback and armed with a Henry rifle simply could not be captured.

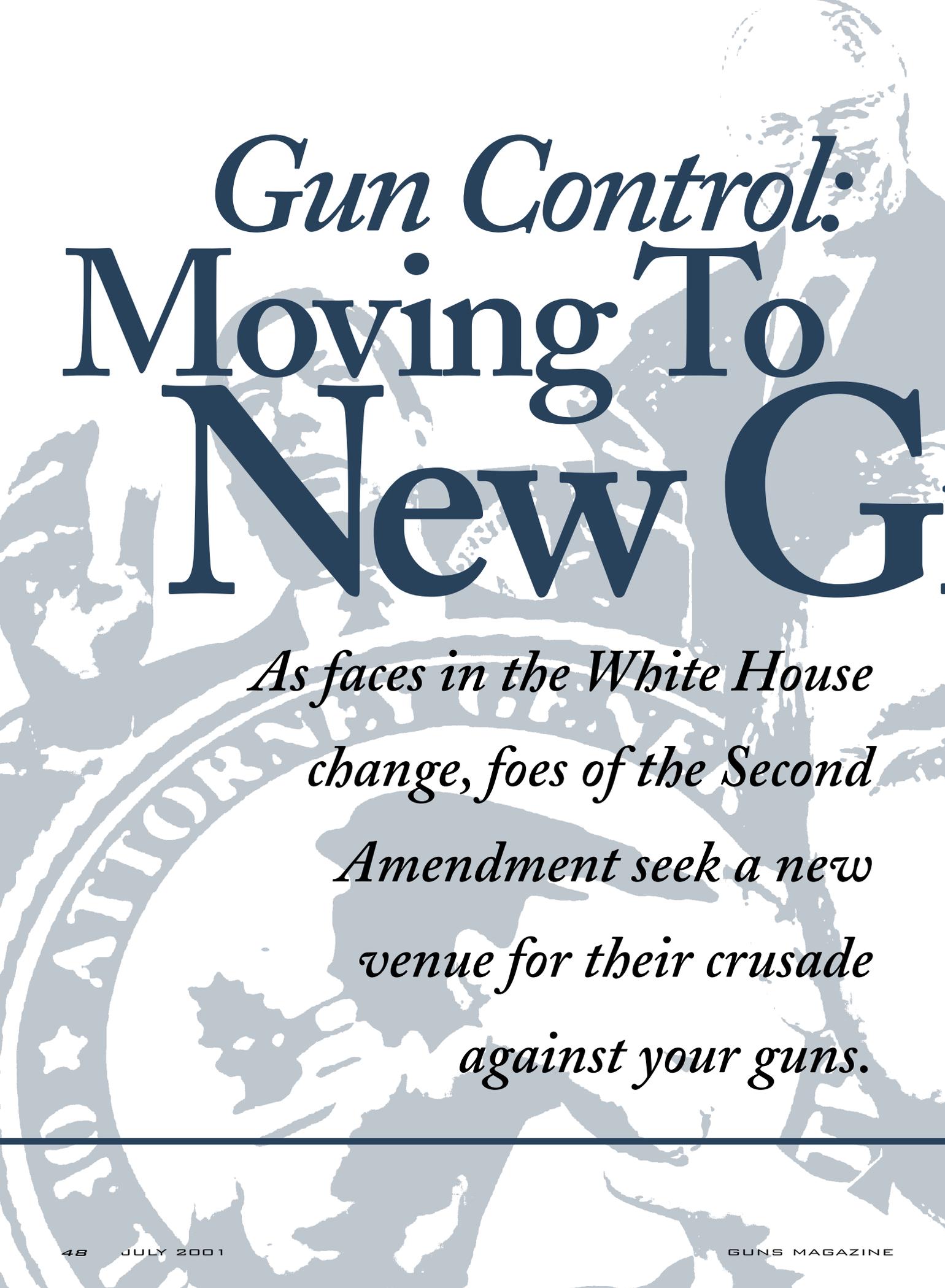
With its 15-round capacity, the Henry was as far removed from the single-shot percussion rifles that preceded it as today's high-tech big screen TVs are from those old tiny black and white sets with poor reception that we experienced back in the 1950s. This was simply previously unprecedented firepower.

The Model 1860 had a brass frame and loaded, not through a gate as subsequent centerfire leverguns, but rather through a tube from the front much like many of today's .22

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Left: The Model 1873 from Navy Arms, chambered in .44-40, is a perfect choice for cowboy shooting. Right, above: With its full-length magazine tube, the Model 1873 holds 10 rounds of .44-40 ammo. Below: Handloaders may appreciate the stronger design of the Model 1892, which can be had in .357 Mag., .45 Colt or the .44-40 version seen here.



Gun Control: Moving To New G

*As faces in the White House
change, foes of the Second
Amendment seek a new
venue for their crusade
against your guns.*



round

For many years, the lobby in the federal building which housed Congresswoman Helen Chenoweth's Idaho offices was decorated with pictures of Bill Clinton and Al Gore.

Today, those photos have been replaced with a pair of countenances that look honest, upright — and totally unsympathetic to the gun control crowd.

John Ashcroft's mug has replaced Janet Reno's at the Justice Department. Already Ashcroft is making good, instituting an aggressive, nationwide prosecution program modeled after the National Rifle Association's smashingly successful Project Exile. Josh Bolton has taken the reins as Bush's domestic policy advisor, replacing Scott Reid, Clinton's liberal henchman.

Swift change is occurring throughout the bureaucracy, but there is one enclave of gun-control which the Bush Administration can't touch — those who sit on the federal bench. The debate rages over which will distract and harass the nation longer, Clinton's own legal mendacity or his

continued on page 50

By Chad Hyslop

GUN CONTROL

continued from page 49

legacy of leftist federal judges.

One fact remains clear: The anti-gun groups will be turning to the courts — and especially the federal courts — to accomplish their agenda now that their chances of new anti-gun legislation are diminishing.

Junk Lawsuits

Municipalities have lead the litigation against gun manufacturers. “This area of law is where tobacco was 10 years ago. It’s ripe,” said Temple law professor and left-wing activist David Kairys. “Their marketing is their weakness. There are some promotions out there that bring Joe Camel to mind.”

Still, marketing by gun manufacturers is one of the two basic areas where the anti-gun groups are on the attack. To date, the suits have argued that manufacturers create a public nuisance, and engage in negligent marketing and distribution practices.

According to Jim Dorr, who defends Ruger in over two-dozen such lawsuits, nine of the public nuisance actions have been dismissed, and nine of the negligent marketing/distribution actions have also been thrown out.

“They should lose,” said Professor Richard Epstein of the University of Chicago school of law. “These are not serious legal cases. They are straight political actions ... it offends me as a lawyer to see these perversions of stable legal theories for political ends.”

The courts are agreeing. In the latest victory at the appellate level — a unanimous decision by the District Court of Appeals for the Third District of Florida — the court wrote that the litigation “is an attempt to regulate firearms and ammunition through the medium of the judiciary. Clearly this round-about attempt is being made by the counties’ frustration at its inability to directly regulate firearms.” The court added some mild verbal spanking: “the county’s frustration can’t be relieved through litigation.”

Scholars, the courts, and most attorneys recognize that tort law is founded upon rock-solid principles. If someone is due compensation, it is because the product was defective, the defect posed an unreasonable danger to the user, and the defect caused the injury. Litigation against gun manufacturers meets none of these criteria.

Dire Threat

The legal attack against the industry is reminiscent of the tobacco wars — sue until you win by dint of sheer persistence. “If you get enough of these claims lodged against you, all you need is one jury getting mad at you,” said Harvard law school professor W. Kip Viscusi.

But this isn’t tobacco, it’s the gun industry, where profits are modest and margins slim. “We are a very mature industry, and we are all fighting for a very finite amount of business,” Alan I. Mossberg said in an interview in *Business Week Online*. Mossberg and

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about a lawsuit, but they were the only one thinking about it out loud.”

Outside of the dozen-plus states that have passed preemption laws, NRA’s spokesmen say another 16 are following this year.

With more than 30 states updating their code books to block junk lawsuits, there’s nothing to prevent the anti-gunners from simply jumping from the increasingly-

unfriendly state judicial system into the federal courts, suing under federal law. As an added bonus, they’ll get Clinton-appointed judges.

Some in Congress are concerned about just such an attack, including Congressman Bob Barr (R-Ga.), who introduced legislation last year to stop frivolous lawsuits at the federal level. Unfortunately, his bill hasn’t moved.

The Defense Strategy

In a court battle, a public policy battle or a tangle with the local hoods, you’ll never win playing defense, you’ll only make losing last longer. It’s a military truism as old as the art of war.

Once again it’s the people in Texas who are on the hunt. Blocker and two-dozen Texas legislators under the moniker of the Civil Liberties Defense Foundation have made an offensive attack on the anti-gunners’ tender flank.

In a lawsuit filed last November, they accuse 25 cities and counties of collusion and conspiring to infringe upon the Second Amendment right of Texans. For subverting and defiling the U.S. Constitution and harassing Texas citizens and businesses, they’re seeking to penalize the socialists who’ve plagued the gun industry for the last several years.

“We want to put a stop, once and for all, to the attempts by litigious attorneys to hold lawful industries liable for the criminal misuse of their products,” said former state Senator and CLDF President Jerry Patterson. “If we do not stop them now, the alcohol, automotive and countless other industries will be attacked next, sending prices skyward and affecting the availability and affordability of products for the average consumer.”

In the spirit of Lone Star independence and self-reliance, Blocker said, “Chicago doesn’t have the right to dictate to Texans what we can and cannot do, or tell Texans what guns they can possess.”

The Money

When it comes to following the money behind social causes, Montanan Dave Skinner is an authority. Skinner’s dug deep in the environmental movement, tracking the money behind fringe groups like the Ruckus Society that shut down the World Trade Organization talks in Seattle last year.

Skinner says most people don’t realize that the funding of the environmental movement and the anti-gun crusade come from the same pot. “The public needs to become aware of the foundation money scam — even gunnies. This is not ‘philanthropy’ by any means

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... it's a shadow government-by-litigation."

Some feel the gun manufacturers should gladly shoulder the burden of protecting both their own business and America's Second Amendment rights. But with monthly lawyer bills running into the tens of thousands and the bottom line running red, that's too great a burden to expect them to carry.

"Gun owners need to become a lot more active because the interests of the gun companies may not necessarily align with the interests of gun owners and Second Amendment supporters," Valone said. "That's why we need an independent effort by Second Amendment supporters to protect our own interests."

Attorneys representing the gun industry harbor a deep sense of resentment and offense at the damage to American jurisprudence that these lawsuits are causing. The issue is both professional and personal. To these guys, the anti-gun forces are attacking not only their industry and America's right to keep and bear arms, but the very foundation of our system of government.

About The Author:

Chad Hyslop is a former senior staffer for retired Congresswoman Helen Chenoweth-Hage of Idaho. As a spokesman and political advisor to a Second Amendment champion in Congress, Hyslop has spent the last several years immersed in national gun politics. Hyslop lives in Boise, Idaho and consults and writes on gun politics and other national public policy issues.



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NAVY ARMS

continued from page 47

leverguns. This was a serious drawback when it came to reloading, because the rifle could not be used when it was being reloaded. Additionally, there was no forearm to protect the tubular magazine from dents and dings.

A Good Gun Gets Better

When Oliver Winchester lent his name to a levergun, the first Winchester rifle came forth as the 1866, or as it was soon called due to its brass frame, the Yellow Boy. By adding a forearm and a loading gate, Winchester set the stage for a whole line of great leverguns. The 1866 was a great rifle and still exists today in a replica form that is quite popular with Cowboy Shooters.

The 1860, followed by the 1866, were both great steps forward, but the best was yet to come. In 1873 the now-legendary Winchester '73 emerged, differing from the 1866 in two major areas. The frame was made of steel instead of brass, and the ammunition was no longer rimfire, but rather a reloadable centerfire — .44 WCF, or as it is simply and more commonly known today, the .44-40.

The original chambering was joined by the .38 WCF in 1879, and this was followed by the .32 WCF in 1882. When Colt added these three cartridges to the Colt Single Action Army it became possible for a shooter of that age to have a sixgun and saddlegun that chambered the same cartridge. A most desirable feature.

John Browning's first levergun was the large and powerful 1886 Winchester chambered in such cartridges as the .45-70, .45-90 and .50-110. This was a great gun but overly powerful and large for most uses. So Browning combined the best attributes of the 1873 and 1886 by miniaturizing the '86, an action that resulted in the Model of 1892.

One was the toggle link action of the '73, replaced by the much stronger double locking bolts of the '86. The Model 1892 was mostly chambered in the same cartridges as the Model 1873 — .44-40, .38-40 and .32-20.

Rifles For Today's Frontier

Both the Model '73 and '92 are grand choices for cowboy shooters, but originals are hard to find in good, shootable condition at a reasonable price. They are either dogs that need to be totally re-built or are priced at collectible levels. Thanks to Navy Arms, shooters can now have one, or both, Winchesters in replica form.

For over 40 years, Navy Arms has been importing quality replica firearms, both cap-and-ball and cartridge-firing sixguns, and muzzle-loading and cartridge-firing rifles. Perhaps the most noteworthy are the Model '73 and Model '92 Winchesters from Navy Arms.

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The company offers four distinct Model '73 Winchesters all made by Uberti of Italy. There is the 24" Rifle with octagon barrel; the round-barreled 19" Carbine; and the Sporting Rifle with pistol grip stock and choice of a 24" or 30" barrel, all in .357 Mag., .44-40 and .45 Colt.

The fourth version is the Navy Arms 1873 Border Model. Navy Arms says of this model that the original 1873 Short Rifle was very rare and available on special order only. It was very popular in the Southwest along the Mexican Border in the 1870s and 1880s.

Best Of The Leverguns

The slickest Winchester ever, the Model 1892 is well represented by Navy Arms with five models. Unlike the Model 1873 and most of the rest of Navy Arms offerings, the Model 1892 comes not from Italy, but rather from Brazil and the Rossi factory that formerly turned out Model '92s for Interarms.

The standard Rifle Model has a 24" octagonal barrel and the choice of either a blued or case colored receiver. Real American walnut is found in both the forearm and butt stock. Joining the Rifle is the 20" round-barreled Carbine, the most popular of all the original Model 1892s, as seen by millions of us in four decades of John Wayne movies.

Brass frames ended with the 1866 Yellow Boy. While the original Model 1892s were never seen with bright yellow frames, Cowboy Shooters can have the look of the 1860 and 1866 combined with the smooth operation of the Model 1892, with both a carbine and a rifle provided in either .44-40 or .45 Colt, and with a brass receiver.

The final '92 levergun offered by Navy Arms is the Short Rifle, a mate to the above-mentioned '73 Border Model Rifle. The Short Rifle features a 20" full octagonal barrel and a blued receiver, and is stocked with real walnut. Navy Arms says of these carbines that the originals were ordered by the Eagle Hardware Co. of Eagle Pass, Texas, and marketed as "Texas Specials."

Yesterday's Style, Today's Quality

We chose the original chambering of .44-40 simply because it is the original. This 1873 Border Model has a brilliantly case colored receiver mated up with a red-colored wood forearm and butt stock, blued barrel and crescent-shaped butt plate.

As with the original, there is a sliding dust cover over the top of the exposed action and a small locking lever to hold the operating lever in place. The front sight is a black post riding in a dovetail, thus easily adjusted for windage, while the rear sight is a buckhorn on a sliding ramp to adjust for elevation.

The 1873 has a unique action that is unlike any later models. The cartridge is fed back onto a lifter from the magazine tube. This sliding brass lifter then comes straight up and the cartridge is fed into the chamber

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by the bolt. It makes a most distinctive sound in operation that endears itself to its users much like the clicks of a Colt Single Action as the hammer is drawn back.

With its short but heavy octagon barrel, the 1873 balances very well and comes right up on target. After sighting in, all test shots were fired at 50 yards. Four factory cowboy loads from Black Hills, Hornady, Winchester and 3-D, as well as two favorite handloads for cowboy shooting, were fired in both the 1873 and 1892. This levergun handled all loads with ease and turned in groups in most cases that were well under 1½".

The Model '92 also came with a 20" full octagon barrel. The blued barrel, receiver, lever, forend cap and crescent-shaped butt plate are all set off well by the good-quality, American walnut used for stocking this new-old model. Sights are not as good as those found on the Model '73, with a black post front mated up with a square notch rear on a sliding ramp. We would much rather see this model provided with a buckhorn rear sight for cowboy shooting.

The front sight is set in a dovetail for easy windage adjustment, while the rear sight is also on sliding ramp for elevation changes. Both the dovetail-mounted front sight and the walnut used in the stocks are upgrades by Navy Arms from the previous models offered by Interarms. The operation of the action is also much smoother than models previously made by Rossi.

Fired with the same loads as the Model 1873, the '92 was not as consistent. The most accurate load turned out to be the Oregon Trail 225 RNFP over 8.0 grains of Unique. It clocks out at 1,150 fps with measured accuracy of 5/8" at 50 yards. We are satisfied with that level of accuracy!

The Model 1873 will probably only be used for cowboy shooting matches and testing of cowboy ammunition. It is not a strong action and should not be subjected to loads that are anywhere near the heavy class.

The Model 1892, however, is capable of singing a much different song as it is a very strong action and will be used for many more varied activities than the 1873. It also deserves better sights, and we can easily foresee a gold bead front sight mated up with a Lyman #66 receiver sight.

Cowboy shooting has spawned a whole industry of Western sixguns, leverguns, leather and clothing. The Model 1873 and 1892 are most welcome additions to the cowboy shooting scene.



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SIG P-210

continued from page 45

good, averaging just less than 1".

We measured the groups with and without the flyers. Now this is cheating a bit, because you don't get to throw out the first shot in any real-world setting, so the average accuracy is 1.81". The only excuse to throw out any shot is if the shooter knows it was his fault. That's hard to do in the Ransom Rest. It is neither scientifically nor ethically proper to do otherwise.

For a cartridge with a reputation for being less than stellar in accuracy, that's really not bad at all. But wait ... with the flyer removed the average was cut virtually in half to 0.92". Positively *stunning* accuracy.

Casting The First Bullet

It is a frequent lament that autopistols will often put the first shot outside the group, but this is almost always in the vertical plane. The explanation is that the gun does not lock up the same when chambering the first round by dropping the slide, compared to how it closes under the influence of recoil.

Horizontal displacement is not unheard of, but unusual. Close examination of the field-stripped pistol provided no clues. You could plainly see how nicely and evenly the bottom lugs mated with the slide stop. There were no dings or wear marks. No method available provides a real explanation.

But we do not condemn the pistol for this — stuff happens. Still, a glance at the data reveals two things: Either use Winchester or Speer 147s, or be patient and put the gun through a proper break-in period — a luxury which was simply not allowed in this case due to a rapidly approaching deadline. A very loose gun might continue to perform in this erratic manner, but a nicely fitted gun like this one will normally resolve the problem as the parts wear in. So we regard this as an observation we must report, but hardly a fatal flaw.

The third and final segment of the test was another trip to the range with plenty of ammo. Among those were some more Speer 147 gr. Gold Dots. They positively terrorized the 72-yard gong. At the end of the day the gun had over 500 rounds through it without a hiccup.

For us, each test is a learning experience and occasionally we find that we must abandon firmly held notions. Our impression had always been that the 9mm Luger cartridge was inherently inaccurate. That notion is gone.

The SIG P-210 is a helluva gun. When you consider its history of production it surely is among the longest lived. Some of the design features may seem difficult to us, but there's nothing we can't learn to overcome.



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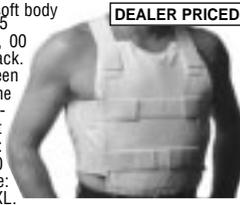
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BULLET PERFORMANCE

continued from page 35

thus maintains velocity better, a lighter bullet can be started at a higher velocity. That's what makes it a horse race. Some contenders break fast on the short track while others fare better on the long stretch.

What may surprise many, in looking at the charts, is how small the difference in wind deflection really is between the various cartridges. At 300 yards the difference between the best and worst of the cartridges tested was only 2 1/2". Only the best shooters can dope the wind and hold steady enough to take advantage of that difference. Of course as the wind increases so does the amount of deflection, but the percentages remain the same. Long range accuracy with any cartridge in a wind much over 10 mph takes a bit of guesswork and no small amount of luck.

Trajectory

Nine out of the dozen cartridges we tested do not have enough variation in trajectory to make one bit of difference in the field. It doesn't matter that the .25-06 drops 10" more than the 270 Wthby. Mag. at 500 yards because a responsible hunter is not going to be shooting at any animal larger than a coyote with the .25-06 at that range. Any cartridge on the list is capable of accurate shot placement at 300 yards, but even then, some may not have enough remaining power for a clean kill.

If you feel you must possess the capability of taking game out to 500 yards, then look to the super magnums. Represented here are the 7mm STW and the 7.82 Warbird. They both offer the flat trajectory and remaining horsepower to harvest medium game at that range. But there is a price to pay in the form of lighter recoil.

Recoil

For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction, but when it comes to increasing the velocity of a bullet, the reaction on the shooter's end is not equal, because recoil increases at the square of velocity. For example, if you increase velocity by 15 percent, you increase recoil by 32 percent. The same equation holds true for any increase in bullet weight. It's easy to see why muzzle brakes are so common on the big magnums. They, too, come with a price — obnoxious muzzle blast.

Any hunter shoots better with a level of recoil he is comfortable with and, after all, accurate shot placement is the surest element of a clean kill. It is often said that a hunter is not conscious of recoil when caught up in the excitement of the hunt and this may be true. The trouble is, flinching is a subconscious reaction. If a rifle has been punishing your body for weeks at the shooting range, don't expect your subconscious reflexes to take a holiday just

because your conscious thoughts are occupied with the trophy of a lifetime.

This doesn't mean anyone need go afield under gunned. A bull elk is probably the toughest game animal in the lower 48, but it is seldom necessary to take them past 200 yards if a hunter does his job.

The .338-06 is all that is needed for any elk. This cartridge is relatively easy on the shoulder and the ears and yet packs plenty of punch out to 200 yards, or more.

If you want to estimate the recoil of your particular gun and load, here is a simple if not absolutely precise formula: Powder weight in grains plus the bullet weight in grains multiplied by the powder weight in grains divided by 80 times the gun's weight in pounds.

Brush Deflection

It was once a favorite topic of conversation which bullet could best plow through the intervening vegetation and put meat on the table. Now we know that any shot through the brush is a poor gamble. A bullet that will shoot through an engine block will turn tail and run when it meets a sap-filled twig. There are however, a few things that will tilt the odds slightly in your favor.

Slow heavy bullets have always been promoted as the best for hunting in thick cover, but military testing at Aberdeen Proving Grounds suggest this theory is only half right. While a heavy blunt bullet does

show an advantage, high velocity rather than low velocity seems to be a key factor in getting through the brush. Also, the bullet should be properly matched to the barrel's rate of twist for maximum stability. A bullet with marginal stability is easily tumbled.

Finally, the bullet should be of heavy construction. Many times, a fragile bullet will simply break apart when it meets with even light resistance.

Summary

The next time someone says one bullet is vastly superior to another in regards to wind deflection, take their advice with a grain of salt and check for yourself. As you can see, wind deflection varies little among most medium game cartridges. In case anyone is still clinging to the "heavy bullet bucks the wind better" myth, it is interesting to note the .458 Win. Mag. with 500 gr. bullet drifts over twice as much at 300 yards as any of the rounds studied.

As to trajectory, most of our popular hunting cartridges can be divided into three categories: the standard rounds, most of which are based on the .30-'06 or .308 cases; the standard magnums such as the 270 Wthby. and 7mm Rem.; and finally, what might be called the super magnums like the 7mm STW and 7.82 Warbird.

Choosing a cartridge from any category is a compromise. The standard rounds will handle most hunting situations, but the pos-

sibility does exist you may have to pass on a trophy because it is out of range. The magnums extend your maximum range but they kick more, are louder, require a longer barrel to be effective, and are overly destructive at close range.

For the vast majority of hunting on this continent, which of these three categories you choose is dependent on what range you plan to be shooting, not on how large the animal. Any good hunting bullet will expand quickly, penetrate sufficiently, and deliver an adequate amount of hydrostatic shock at an impact velocity of between 2,300 fps to 2,700 fps, provided your bullet is of proper caliber, weight and construction for the game you are hunting.

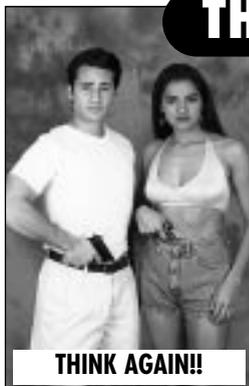
Impact velocities over 2,700 fps will not kill the animal any deader, but will certainly waste more meat. The standard cartridges shown meet the 2,300 fps minimum out to 300 yards. The standard magnums will extend it to about 400 yards. And the super magnums will deliver at 500 yards and more. A simple rule is: If you need more stopping power, go to a larger caliber. If you need more range, go to a larger case.



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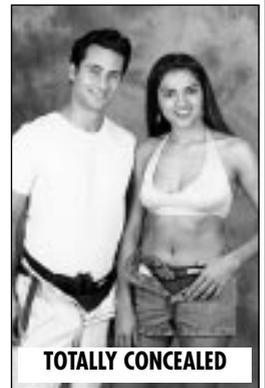
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This month's Gun Of The Month prize is a spectacular custom 1911 FED Model pistol from Burns Custom Pistols and P-T Partners, a gun dealer specializing in custom firearms. The .45 ACP FED Model is rugged and reliable — perfect for home defense, duty use or even action-style handgun competition.

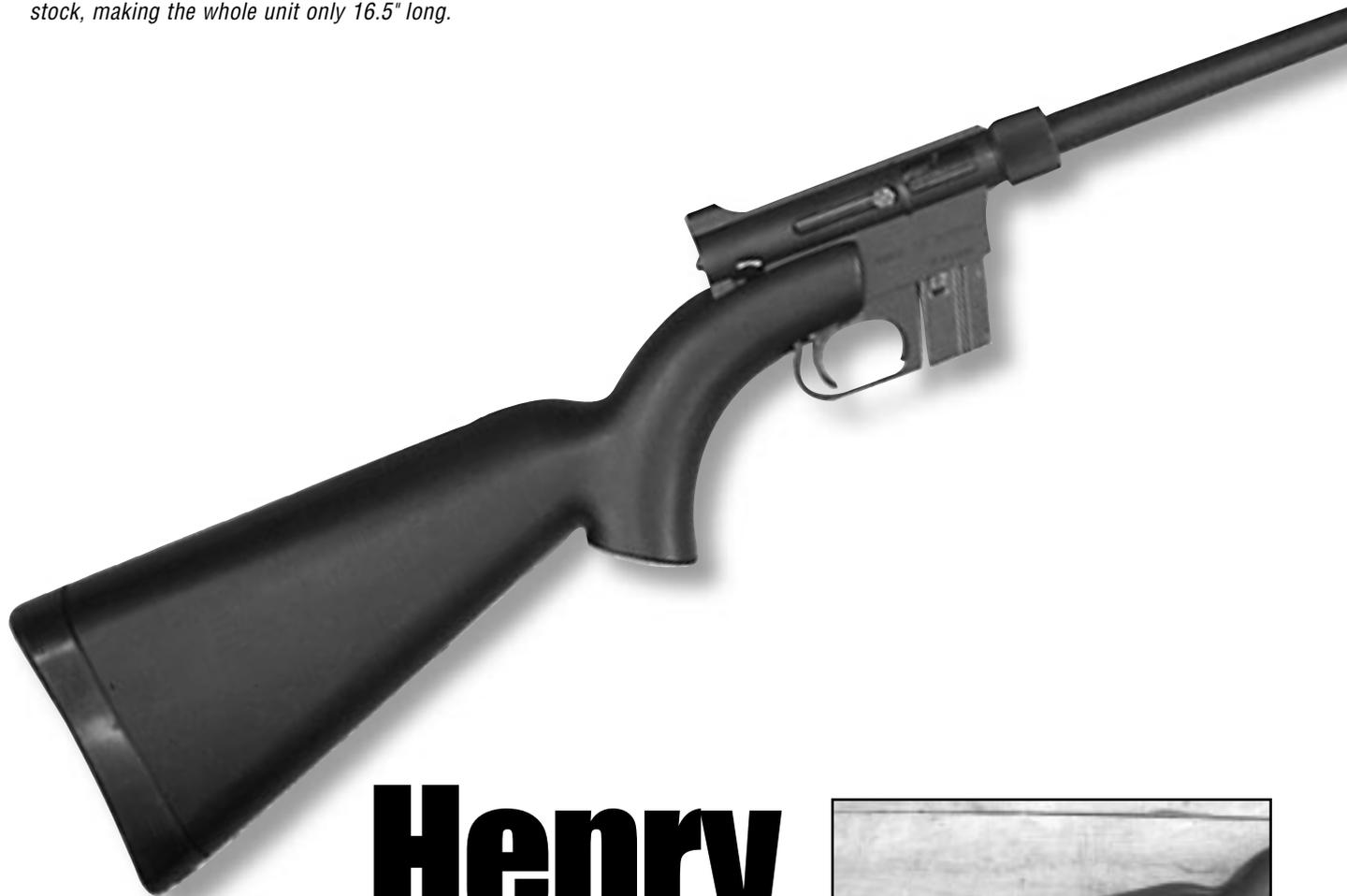
The FED Model features a CNC-machined, top-quality slide and frame by Chip McCormick, a match-grade barrel for supreme accuracy, and a Videcki trigger and Commander-style hammer. The trigger is set at 4 lbs. for safety and accuracy. The gun also comes with Heinie Slant Pro fixed sights, perfect for duty use or concealed carry.

This gun is also fitted with an Ed Brown Tactical thumb safety, a McCormick high-ride grip safety, and Trijicon tritium sight inserts for low-light shooting. The presentation-grade coco bolo wood grips are from Hogue Grips. The front strap features 30 lpi serrations, while 20 lpi serrations have been added to the mainspring housing for a reliable grip under any conditions. The hard chrome Metaloy finish makes this gun nearly impervious to corrosion.

The FED Model 1911 from Burns Custom has a suggested retail value of \$1,699. For more information on owning your own FED Model, or to find out more about the full line of custom gunsmithing services offered by Burns Custom Pistols, contact the company at (425) 391-3202, or visit them on-line at www.burnscustom.com. For more information about the quality custom guns available from P-T Partners, contact them at (972) 476-1542, or visit their website at www.pt-partners.com.

Opposite: The Standard Model levergun, left, and Henry pump action rifle are delightful .22 rimfire versions of the vintage .44 rimfire guns.

Below: There's hardly a shooter around who wouldn't appreciate the utility of the Henry Survival Rifle — the receiver, barrel and magazine slide easily into the buttstock, making the whole unit only 16.5" long.



Henry .22 Rifles

By John Taffin



Whether you enjoy the feel of a Western levergun, the style of a pump action rifle, or the utility of a survival gun, Henry has a rimfire rifle for you.



Rifle making was radically changed in 1860 with the advent of B. Tyler Henry's revolutionary lever action rifle. Henry was backed financially by a man whose name would soon become a household word — Winchester. Oliver Winchester and his .44 Rimfire reached the Northern troops of the Civil War in 1862. That is, for those that could afford to buy their own. The standard issue rifle was still a single-shot muzzleloader, yet there were enough 17-shot Henrys around to earn it the nickname of "That damned Yankee rifle that loaded on Sunday and fired all week!"

The 1860 Henry evolved into the 1866 Yellow Boy with a loading gate replacing the tube loading magazine of the Henry. By 1873, the .44 Rimfire became the .44 Winchester Centerfire in the new Model 1873 and the rest, as they say, is history.

A Little Piece Of History

Today the Henry rifle is back in production, not as a .44 Rimfire but as .22 Rimfire. You can now have the feel of shooting the original without the outlandish outlay of cash now required to purchase a .44 Henry, which runs around \$15,000 to \$20,000 in good shooting condition.

Henry Repeating Arms of Brooklyn, N.Y. offers a standard Henry .22 levergun in three models. The original with an 18.25" barrel, a magazine that holds 15 rounds of .22 LR, and an easy handlin' weight of 5.25 lbs. In addition, a special Youth Model is 3" shorter with a shorter length of pull and weighs only 4.5 lbs.; and finally there is the Large Loop Model with a John Wayne-styled large operating lever.

All models are extremely attractive with blued barrel, genuine walnut forearm and butt stock, and alloy receiver with a baked-on black finish. The action is unbelievably smooth. It is, in fact, the smoothest lever action we have ever experienced. The Henry levergun also comes scope ready with a grooved receiver and side ejection.

Frontier Magnum

For those that prefer the extra power of the .22 WRM, the Henry now comes chambered for the Rimfire Magnum with a magazine that holds 11 rounds and a barrel length of 19.25".

With a \$20 SportView scope in place we shot the Henry at 50 yards with 10 different .22 loadings. Groups close to 1" were not all that unusual but surprisingly it would not shoot either CCI Green Tags or Winchester's High Velocity Hollow Points well.

In addition to producing these fine little leverguns, Henry Repeating Arms is also cataloging a pump action .22. Some shooters are just as ecstatic about pump rifles as many of us are about leverguns, and this one is a dandy. With genuine walnut butt stock and forearm, 18.25" barrel, magazine capacity of 15 .22 LR rounds, and receiver grooved for a scope, the Henry Pump Action .22 was also fired with the same test rounds as used in the Henry levergun. Accuracy at 50 yards was approximately 1.5". However, both Green Tags and Winchester High Velocity Hollow Points were among the most accurate in this .22. Go figure!



ACCURACY RESULTS Henry Repeating Arms .22 Levergun

Load	Velocity	Accuracy*
CCI MinMag HP	1,264 fps	.125"
CCI Standard Velocity	1,022 fps	.1375"
CCI SGB	1,281 fps	.1625"
CCI Blazer	1,228 fps	.1125"
Federal Classic HP	1,289 fps	.1125"
Remington Yellow Jackets	1,406 fps	.1625"
Winchester Power Points	1,255 fps	.1375"
Winchester Wildcats	1,225 fps	.15"

Henry Repeating Arms .22 Pump Action

Load	Velocity	Accuracy*
CCI MinMag HP	1,250 fps	.225"
CCI Standard Velocity	1,009 fps	.175"
CCI SGB	1,279 fps	.1625"
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*Accuracy measurements are the result of three five-shot groups at 50 yards.

continued on page 64

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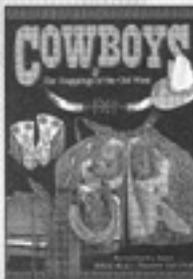
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HENRY .22 RIFLES

continued from page <None>

Both the Henry Lever Action .22 and Pump Action .22 carry the same price tag of a suggested retail of \$249.95. In today's market that is a great bargain. Both guns handle .22 Longs as well as .22 Shorts in addition to LR cartridges. Would you believe 21 rounds of the quiet .22 Shorts for in-close shooting where noise is a factor?

Ugly But Sensible

Finally, from Henry Repeating Arms comes one of the most un-aesthetically pleasing but most sensible firearms offered to shooters. This is the Henry U.S. Survival .22. In the past, several manufacturers have offered this as the AR-7 .22. Now Henry Repeating Arms is offering their version of the Air Force Survival Rifle.

This strange looking rifle comes as a waterproof and weather resistant butt stock with the rifle and receiver stored inside along with two eight-shot magazines. To use the Survival Rifle, the action and barrel are removed from the butt, the action installed, the barrel screwed on and the rifle is ready to go. When stowed disassembled, it packs easily in boat, camper or pick-up. With all component parts packed in the butt stock, the Survival is a compact 16.5" in length.

The test gun came only with the rear peep sight installed, but current models are now grooved to accept .22 scope mounts. All of the same .22 loads were used in the Survival .22 with groups at 25 yards hitting in the 2" to 3" category. Unlike the other Henry Models, which accept both .22 Longs and Shorts, the Survival is for .22 LRs only. Remington Yellow Jackets would not feed from the magazine of the test rifle.

Several versions are offered in the Survival form. In addition to the \$165 standard model with gray butt stock and black Teflon coated barrel, the Survival Rifle can now be had in a full Mossy Oak camo finish or a silver colored butt stock and barrel. All versions weigh only 2.5 lbs. and are a must for any shooter's battery. In addition to breaking down into a very small package, the U.S. Survival Rifle also comes with a plastic box with carrying handle.

After shooting big bore sixguns and getting pounded by heavy recoiling rifles it is always a pleasure to return to the light recoil and outstanding accuracy of the .22. Henry rifles fill this niche exceptionally well.



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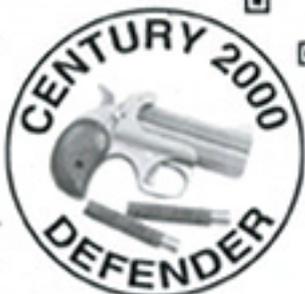
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CLEMENTS CUSTOM

continued from page 39

short barrel, or RCBS's #45-250 250 gr. FN and 8.0 grs. of Unique for just over 900 fps. It is great to know that this gun, as small and light as it is, will also safely handle 300 gr. bullets at 1,100 fps. They are by no means pleasant to shoot in such a lightweight sixgun, but they will get the job done.

Heavy Duty Sixgun

The Tayra is a larger and heavier single action sixgun from Clements Custom Guns offered in .45 Colt or .44 Mag. Again, Clements starts with a stainless steel Blackhawk, but maintains the factory stainless steel grip frame and ejector housing, since the Tayra is not designed as a lightweight gun, but rather one that will hold up to constant use of heavy loads.

The weight in .45 Colt with a 5½" match-grade bull barrel is 46 ozs. It is, of course, much more pleasant to shoot with heavy loads than the little Ermine. It also requires a sturdy holster and a likewise sturdy cartridge belt or quality shoulder holster for packin'.

The Tayra receives all the same niceties found on the Ermine, in addition to a special heat-treated ejector housing screw to prevent it from bending under heavy recoiling loads, a wide hammer spur and black micarta grips. Standard barrel lengths are 4½" or the supplied 5½", with others available at the customer's request.

While the Ermine is a sixgun designed to shoot loads tailored to yield 800 fps to 900 fps with 250 gr. to 260 gr. bullets, the Tayra takes a different tack. This tough sixgun will take heavy loads all day with nary a whimper.

Levergun Masterpieces

Clements is also a top gunsmith when it comes to leverguns. We had the pleasure of examining two examples of his levergun work recently. As with his two sixguns, these two leverguns were designed to be used for fun, or for serious hunting.

Clements starts with a Marlin 1894 and fits a match-grade barrel with the proper twist for heavy bullets in .44 Mag. or .45 Colt with a length of 16½" or 18½". The chambers are cut tight for each caliber and then the barrel is free-bored slightly for the best results with cast bullets. The magazine tube is full-length to fit either barrel length chosen. Chambered in .45 Colt with a 16½" barrel, this is one sweet-shootin' little levergun.

The action has been smoothed, the trigger pull — as with the sixguns from Clements — is set at 3 lbs. to 3½ lbs., the new barrel has been blued, and the factory sights are replaced with a post front sight and a Williams rear receiver sight. By installing a new barrel, the unsightly dovetail for the factory rear sight is eliminated.

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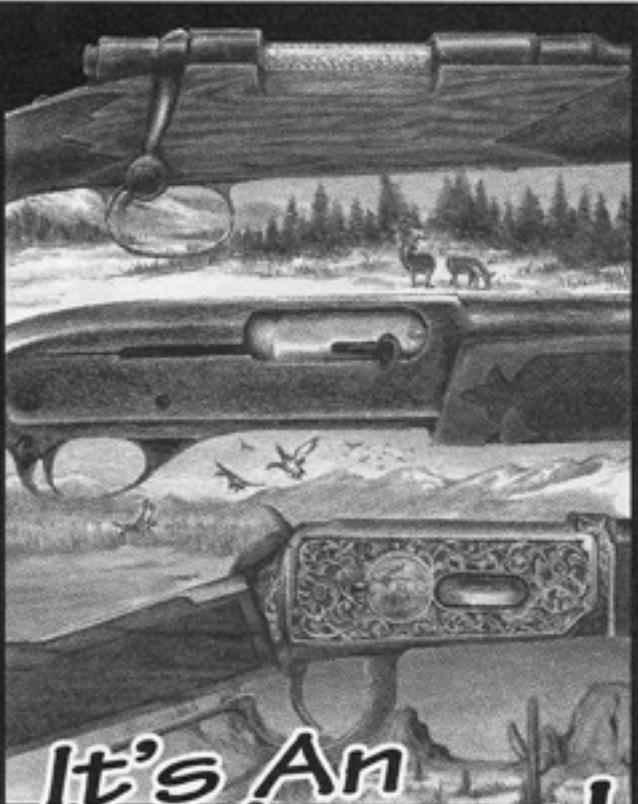
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not for punching tight little groups in paper. At least not for us. At a Cowboy Shooting distance of 25 yards, however, this little gun practically has radar. With 300 gr. bullets at 1,500 plus fps, this little lightweight carbine would be excellent for deer-size, and even larger, game. Yes, it kicks with heavy loads, but Clements Custom Guns provides a Pachmayr Decelerator pad that helps minimize felt recoil.

Call In The Big Guns

Finally, we are ready to take on *anything* with Clements Custom Guns' 1895 Marlin. Clements starts with a pistol grip stock, as he has found that this model handles heavy recoil easier than the better-looking straight grip stock. You can have aesthetics or comfort, but not both. To further reduce felt recoil, a Decelerator pad is installed.

Several options are offered by Clements Custom Guns on this model. This gun came with an 18½" Pac-Nor match grade barrel. These are threaded, crowned and chambered in Clements' shop. Again, the chambers are cut tight, and free-boring is used for maximum accuracy with cast bullets.

The magazine tube is full-length and mounted so it puts little or no pressure on the barrel. Capacity is five rounds of .45-70. The entire gun is re-finished in a choice of blue or matte hard chrome and several sight options — nine to be exact. For the rear sight, the choices are an Ashley Ghost Ring or receiver sights from Lyman or Williams; while the front can be a black post, black post with a vertical stripe, or a gold bead. This 1895 .45-70 came set up as a hunting gun with a Lyman receiver sight and a black post front sight.

In addition to building complete guns, Clements also offers upgrades on Marlin big bore leverguns. Starting with either a Model 1895SS .45-70 or Model 444 in .444 Marlin, the factory barrel is cut to 18½", and chambers are re-throated to better handle cast bullets. The .444 is at its best with 300 gr. cast bullets at 1,900 fps or more, while the .45-70 thrives on bullets in the 400 gr. weight range.

The magazine tube is extended to hold five rounds, and the tube is then re-mounted to provide the least stress on the barrel. Sight choices are the same as offered on the 1895, the dovetails for rear sight and magazine tube are filled, and the entire gun is then matte blued or matte hard chromed.



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NEW

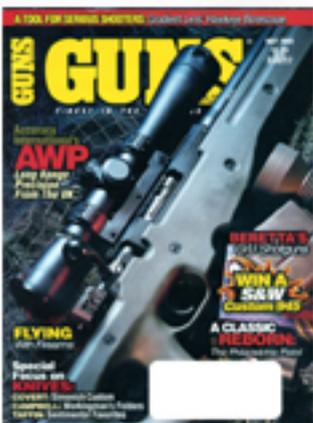
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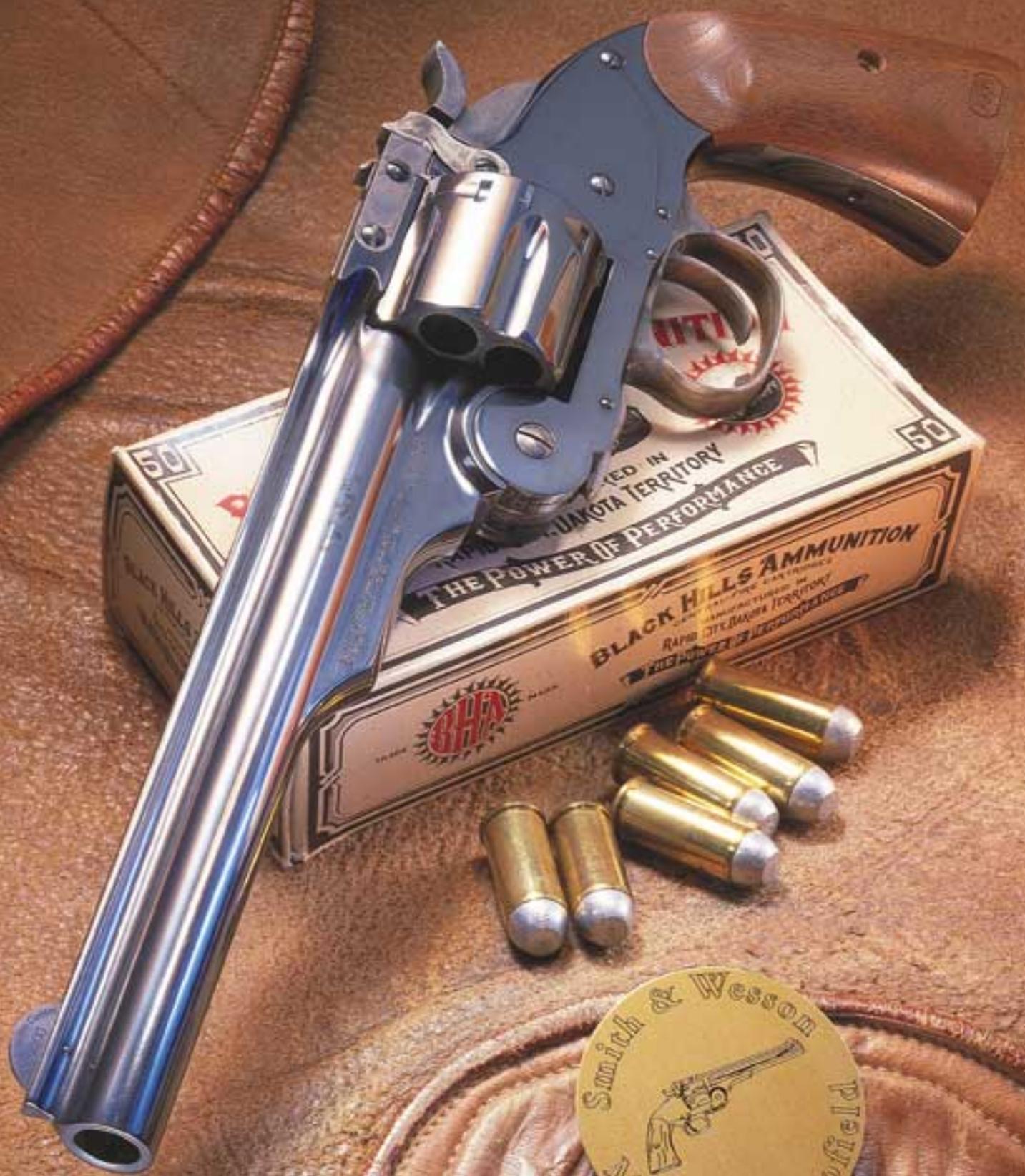
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THE SCHOFIELD MODEL OF 2000

By Charles E. Petty
Photos by Ichiro Nagata

The second most recognizable revolver of the frontier is back, from the company that made it in the first place: Smith & Wesson.

Cowboy shooting's growing popularity is largely responsible for the renewed interest in both old guns and old cartridges. Manufacturers, both here and abroad, offer copies — and sometimes absolutely faithful replicas — of desirable old guns. To the list of these replicas we can now

add the S&W Schofield.

Maybe even more surprising for today's shooter is the cartridge. It is the .45 S&W, which is not the same as the .45 Colt — but that's getting ahead of the story.

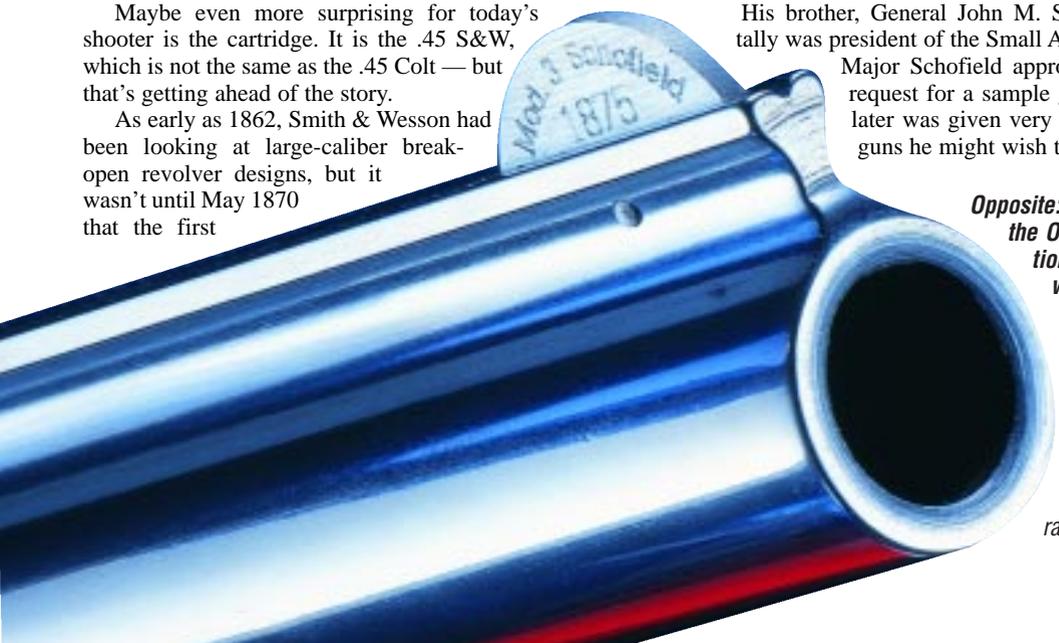
As early as 1862, Smith & Wesson had been looking at large-caliber break-open revolver designs, but it wasn't until May 1870 that the first

Model 3 left the factory. The revolver was originally chambered for the .44 Henry rimfire cartridge. A centerfire adaptation, the .44/100 (sometimes known as .44 S&W) came quickly and was, in turn, replaced by the .44 Russian. The Model 3 went through many variations, but military contracts with Russia, Turkey and Japan absorbed a large part of the production.

S&W wanted U.S. military business as well, so the first Model 3 went to the U.S. Army Small Arms Board. In December 1870, S&W received an order from the Army for 1,000 guns. This is where Major George W. Schofield, later Brevet Colonel (equivalent to today's Lt. Col.) enters the picture.

His brother, General John M. Schofield, coincidentally was president of the Small Arms Board. So when Major Schofield approached S&W with a request for a sample gun, he got one, and later was given very attractive pricing for guns he might wish to sell.

Opposite: For shooters with a love of the Old West, no Italian reproduction will do — only a Model 3 with the name "Smith & Wesson" stamped on the side can ever truly be called a Schofield. This page: The V-notch rear and simple half-round front sights aren't made for precision target shooting, but testing proved they can be surprisingly accurate.



Schofield embarked on improving the gun specifically for use by cavalry troops. He designed an improvement to the ejector mechanism, as well as a latch that was mounted on the frame instead of the barrel, as was the case with other Model 3s. He received patents for both these improvements. Schofield also went to bat for his design with the Army, and after testing, S&W was awarded a contract for 3,000 guns.

From The Horse Soldier's Mouth

One of the great benefits of the original Model 3 was that, as the barrel was swung down, the ejector rose and kicked out the empties. This, combined with Schofield's latch, made it possible for a cavalry trooper to reload the gun with one hand and still maintain control of his horse. In contrast, reloading an SAA is nearly impossible on horseback unless you use two hands and have a very trustworthy horse.

The Army was also buying Colt SAAs chambered for the .45 Colt cartridge. So the Schofield had to be a .45, and the Army wanted the Colt cartridge. S&W stated that the rim of the Colt cartridge was too small to work properly with their extractor/ejector and also that the length of the cartridge would necessitate making a longer cylinder and frame.

Instead, S&W proposed a new cartridge, the .45 S&W, that would work in their gun but could be used in the Colt as well. This proposal was accepted.

The .45 S&W cartridge fired a 250 gr. lead bullet with a charge of 30 grs. of black powder. By comparison, the .45 Colt used a 255 gr. bullet with 40 grs. of black powder.

Measurements of current cases confirm S&W's argument. The .45 S&W rim is about 0.010" larger than the Colt and the case is between 0.15" to 0.20" shorter.

The order for 3,000 guns was delivered to Springfield Armory on July 12, 1875. An order for an additional 3,000 guns was received. A change was made in the barrel latch to make it easier to operate, a change that created a *Second Model* Schofield.

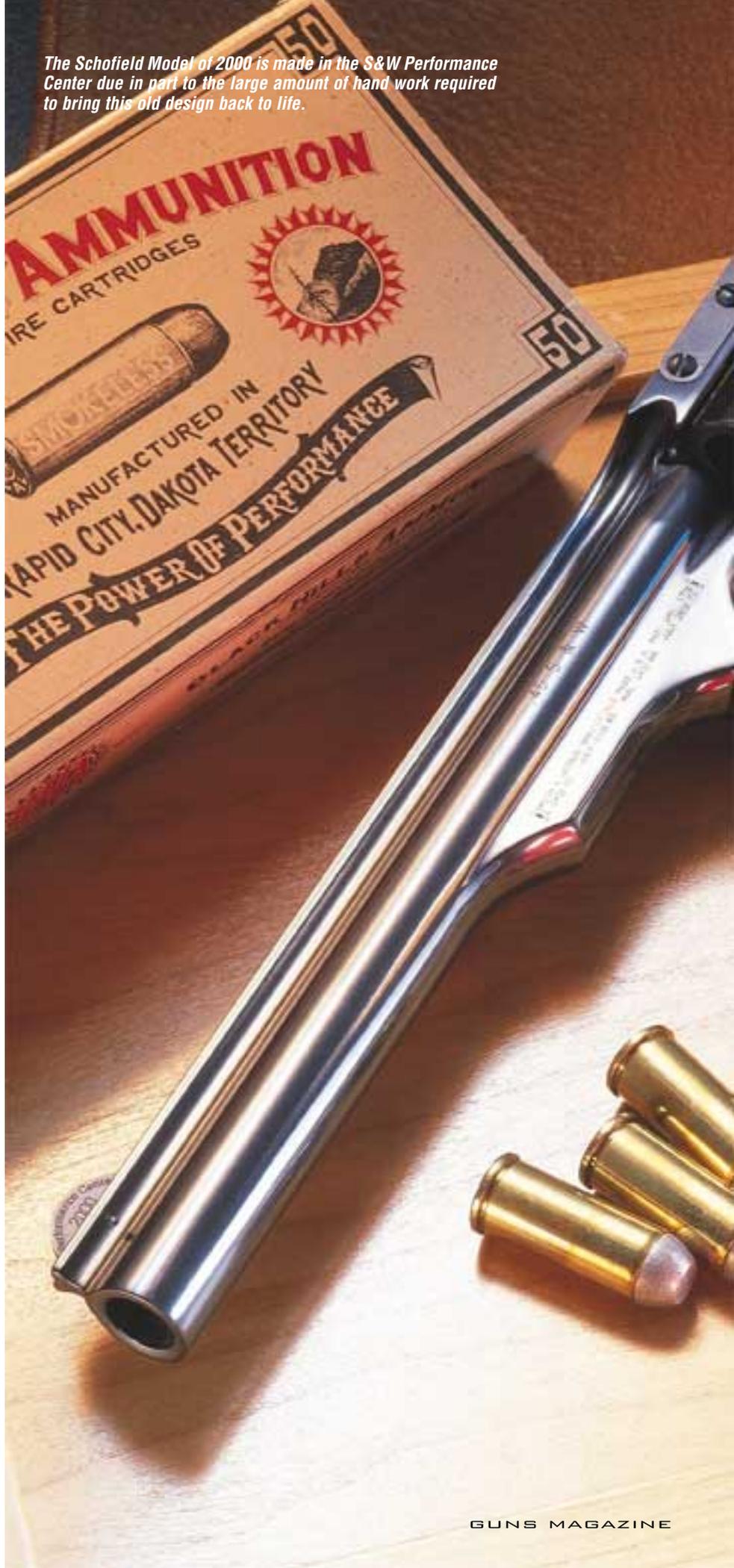
Decline Of The Schofield

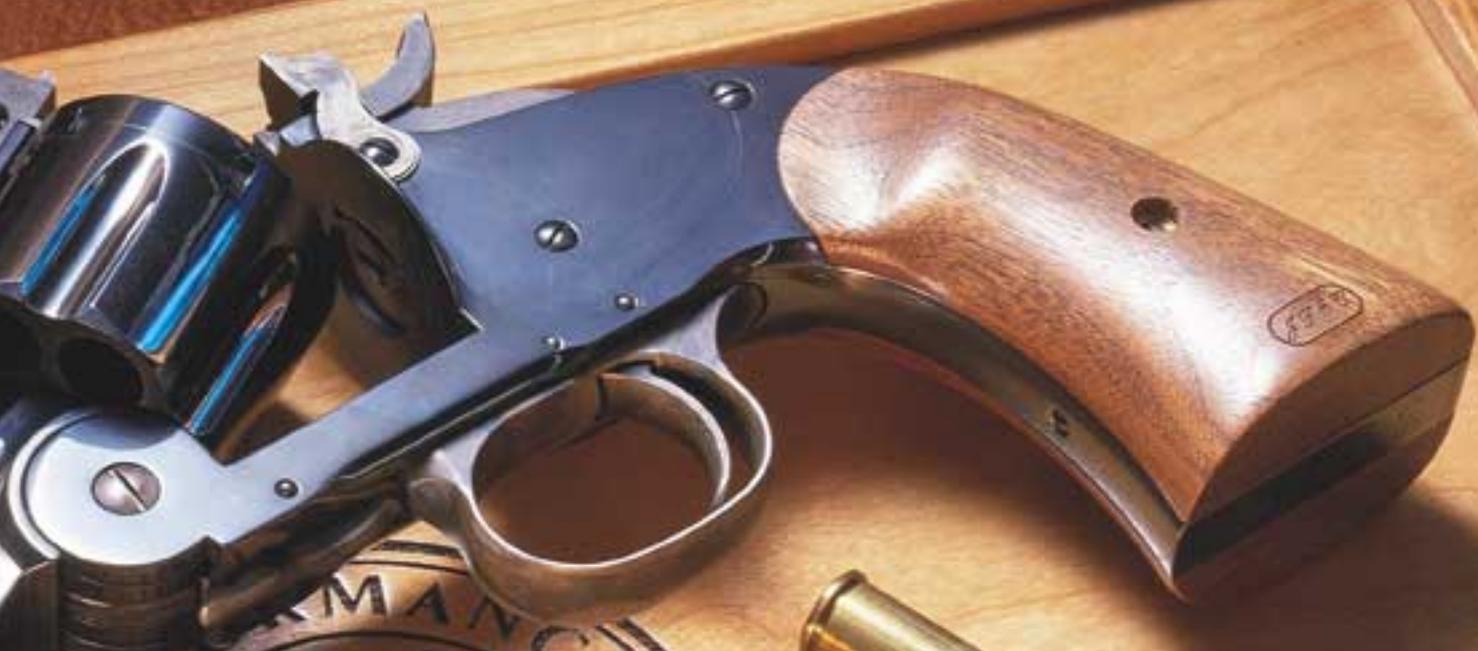
For an Army that craves uniformity and simplicity above all, the availability of different types of ammunition posed a logistical problem. Troops armed with Colts could readily use .45 S&W ammunition, but the reverse was not true and was probably the major factor in the relatively short life of the Schofield.

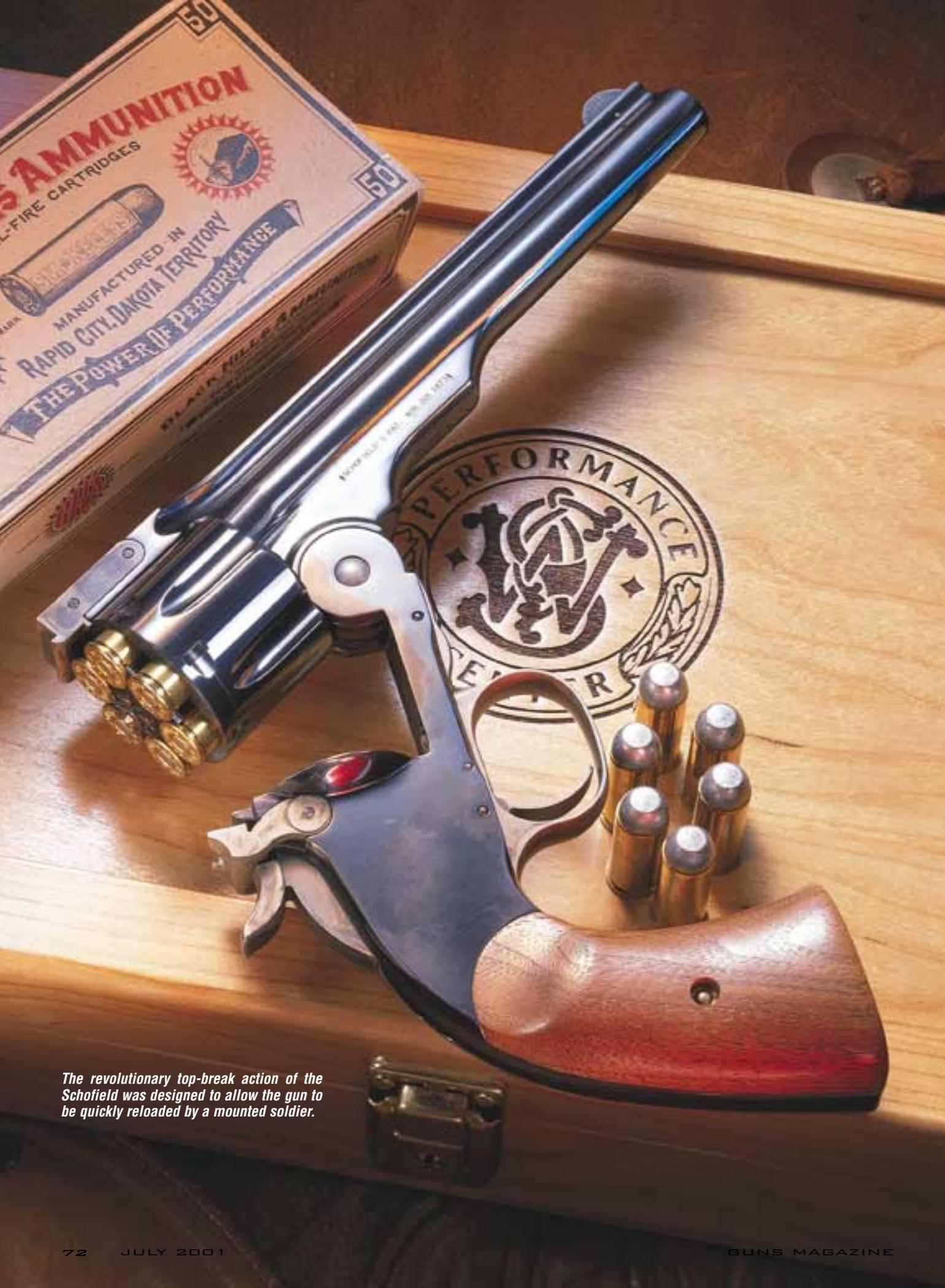
The last gun was sold in 1878. The total production, divided between two models, was 8,969 guns. Today an original Schofield — even in only fair condition — is worth well over \$1,000 and the price goes up steeply as condition improves.

When the Army dropped the Schofield, the used guns were quickly sold through civilian channels. Even though the Colt SAA is almost synonymous with cowboys and the Old West, the fact is that the

The Schofield Model of 2000 is made in the S&W Performance Center due in part to the large amount of hand work required to bring this old design back to life.







The revolutionary top-break action of the Schofield was designed to allow the gun to be quickly reloaded by a mounted soldier.

Schofield was a big player too. It acquired a legend that, owing to the popularity of nostalgic firearms today, makes it a natural for a comeback.

S&W Historian Roy Jinks reports that he originally proposed bringing the Schofield back in 1975 for the company's 125th anniversary. But that was at the height of the Dirty Harry craze and the company couldn't even meet the demand for the Model 29, so the idea was put on hold. For a long time.

Finally, in 1999 the S&W Performance Center was looking for a product to capitalize on the nostalgia fever. The Schofield was an idea whose time came again.

A Classic Revived

The new Model 3 Schofield begins life with something of an identity crisis. S&W's own literature refers to it both as Model 3 Schofield *and* Schofield Model of 2000.

Smith & Wesson obviously wanted to be as faithful as possible to the original, including the chambering. Fortunately, Starline Brass had begun production of cases in response to customer requests, doubtless sparked by a desire to shoot the correct cartridge in replicas, even though such replicas are designed to shoot the .45 Colt.

In keeping with their leading position in Cowboy ammo, Black Hills began loading Schofield cartridges in Starline brass with 180 gr. and 230 gr. LRNFP bullets. Here, a small misnomer creeps in — the name *Schofield* is almost accepted as a generic term, so both use “.45 Schofield” instead of the historically accurate .45 S&W.

Not only is the caliber appropriate, it is a great cartridge for reloaders. Loading data has reappeared in several manuals, good brass is available from Starline, and a wide variety of suitable cast bullets are also available.

The only fly in this ointment is that most standard seating dies will not crimp the shorter case. In their cowboy die line, RCBS has a seater that will accommodate either case.

Old Gun, New Technology

The current Schofield is made almost entirely in S&W's Performance Center, but the process begins at the forge. Production required new forging dies for both barrel and receiver. The forgings go into the main plant where they receive some preliminary machining — called the “A” operation — that includes making sure the sides are flat and parallel, as well as drilling a few critical locating holes. Any part that is to be machined to precise dimensions has to have some means of putting each piece in the right place in the machine for subsequent operations. The “A” operations accomplish this.

The partially machined forgings then go to the Performance Center where the balance of the work is done on another group of CNC machine centers dedicated to the specialized

work involved in building near-custom guns.

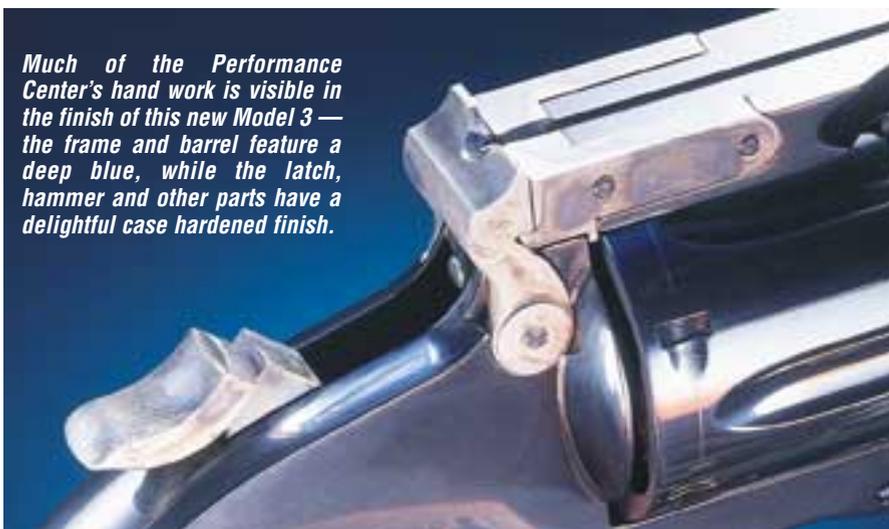
According to the Performance Center's revolver genius, Jim Rae, completion of the Schofield frame takes three times longer than one of the current models because so much work must be done by the hands of skilled craftsmen. And that's easy to see. When you consider how the barrel and frame hinge together, it would be hard to get in there with a machine to do the final fitting, so it is done by hand.

When the mechanical work is done, the gun is hand-polished and buffed to a mirror shine. That's the only way to achieve the deep, lustrous blue. The frame and barrel are finished that way, but the latch mechanism, hammer, trigger, trigger guard and a portion of the hinge assembly are color case hardened. The visual effect is really spectacular.

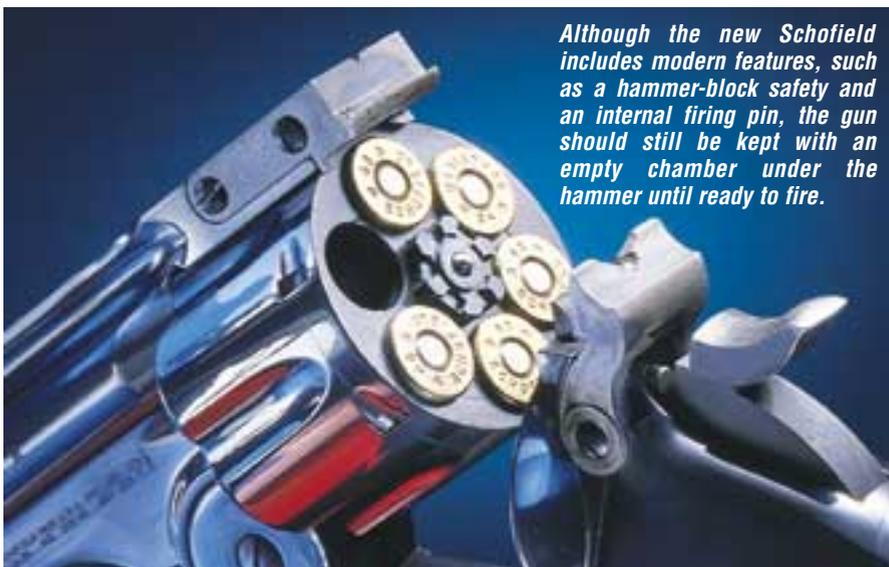
Bringing It Up To Date

A couple of mechanical changes have been made to conform to current safety and legal standards. Foremost is the inclusion of a “rotary hammer block safety” that per-

continued on page 74



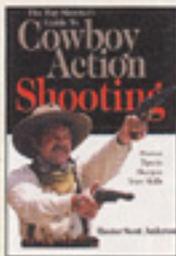
Much of the Performance Center's hand work is visible in the finish of this new Model 3 — the frame and barrel feature a deep blue, while the latch, hammer and other parts have a delightful case hardened finish.



Although the new Schofield includes modern features, such as a hammer-block safety and an internal firing pin, the gun should still be kept with an empty chamber under the hammer until ready to fire.

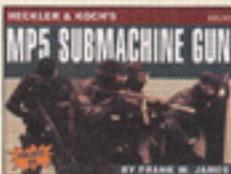
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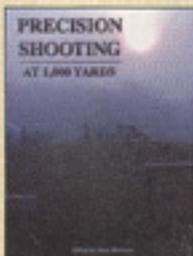
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THE SCHOFIELD

continued from page <None>

forms exactly the same function as the one in their present guns: It prevents the hammer from striking the firing pin unless the trigger is pulled all the way to the rear.

Another change moves the firing pin from the hammer to an internal position — again similar to present production. But we need to keep in mind the precautions advised for all single-action revolvers: Keep an empty chamber under the firing pin except when actually shooting. S&W includes a sheet of instructions specific for the Model 3, in addition to other normal paperwork.

One deviation from the original, and our only major criticism, involves the finish of the stocks. Even though they are walnut, properly shaped, and bear the original inspector's cartouche "JFEC," for J.F.E. Chamberlain, they are finished with a synthetic of some kind instead of the oil finish used on the originals. It just doesn't look right.

Almost all functions involving the gun require that the hammer be placed on the half-cock notch. The latch cannot be opened without this position, but it also releases the cylinder stop, which means the cylinder is free to rotate. When you're loading to shoot immediately you can simply position the empty chamber under the firing pin and cock the gun in a normal manner. This will bring up a live round and lock the cylinder in place. But if you're going to holster the loaded gun — as cowboy shooters do — the cylinder needs to be locked on that empty hole. The instructions tell you how to do this.

Revolver shooters today are used to being able to remove a single screw to take the cylinder out for cleaning. Actually you do that on the Schofield too, but at considerably greater peril. The barrel portion of the latch mechanism also serves to retain the cylinder, so disassembly requires pushing that part of the latch up out of the way — a feat accomplished by simply removing the rearmost screw on the latch.

This, however, is an operation that shouldn't be done too often. The screw is long and thin with fine threads, and it must pass through the left side of the latch and a hole in the barrel and then engage threads on the right side. The latch is very snugly fitted to the barrel — it requires a gentle tap with a nylon mallet to move it — and precise alignment to get the screw back in.

Of course, the screw slot is pretty fine, so without a properly fitting screwdriver, there is a real risk of marring things. And you don't gain much by taking it apart. The only thing you can't reach by just opening the gun is the area of the top strap over the cylinder. Since the radius of the top strap matches that of the cylinder — and the parts are closely fitted — no daylight is visible between them. Yes, some soot will accumulate there, but unless something builds up to the point that it interferes with cylinder rotation, it's best left alone.

History Comes To Life

Black Hills provided some .45 Schofield ammo for our test. To be honest, we had never fired a round of this, and while we really didn't expect it to be much different, it sure was fun. The shape of the Schofield's grip is very similar to that of the SAA, so you get a nice rolling feel from recoil — not that it is in any way substantial.

The gun is demanding to shoot because of a very heavy trigger that weighs 6.5 lbs. S&W reports that this is deliberate to be sure that the gun conforms to regulations from states like Massachusetts and California. Rest assured however, that gunsmiths are planning ways to make the trigger more user-friendly.

Black Hills offers two factory loads: a 180 gr. LRNFP at 805 fps and a 230 gr. LRNFP at 710 fps from the 7" barrel. Accuracy is simply superb. Groups under 2" at 25 yards came when we did everything just right, but errors of trigger control or sight alignment could easily double the group size.

After quite a bit of informal plinking, it was time to put up a target at 25 yards. The first shot using a dead center hold, plopped solidly inside the "X" ring. So did three more, with a single 10 to mess things up.

The sights are a little coarser than most of today's guns. The rear is a "V" cut in the latch mechanism and the front sight is about 0.07" wide. It only takes a little while to adjust to them, and the "V" notch really can be quite precise.

There will be two distinctly different points of view about what to do with this gun. The purist collector will keep it unfired and in the lovely oak case with the Performance Center seal on the top. But some shooters will shoot them. After all, that's what you're supposed to do with guns — and this one is a joy to shoot. Either way, this is a neat gun and a worthy addition to anyone's collection.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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A great deal of historical information is available about both the Schofield and the numerous Model 3 variations. The author would like to acknowledge the following books as sources for the historical information presented in this feature:

History of Smith & Wesson by Roy Jinks, available from Smith & Wesson (800) 331-0852, www.smith-wesson.com

Standard Catalog of Smith & Wesson by Supica and Nahas, available from Krause Publications (715) 445-2214

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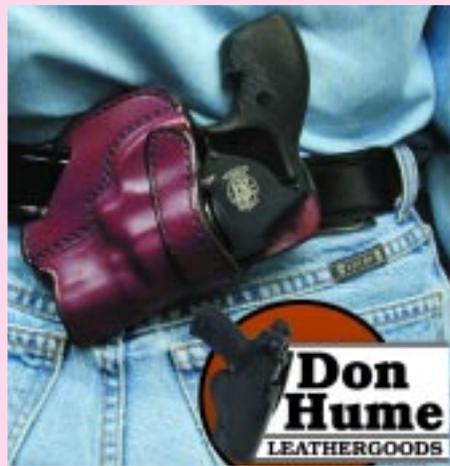
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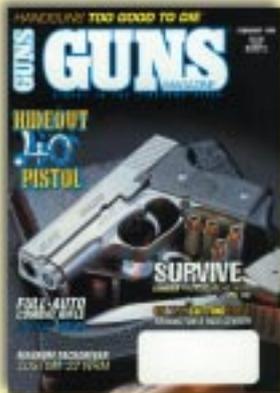
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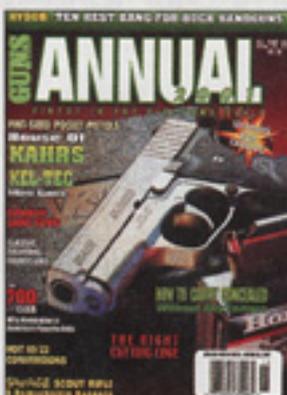
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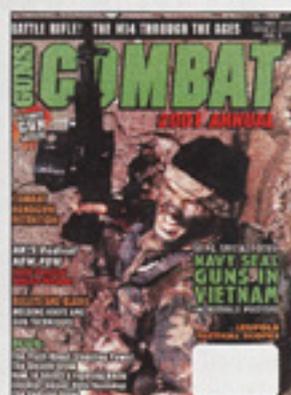
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RIGHT ON TARGET

One thing that is true of all shooting ranges — from the high-tech, big-city indoor shooting range to the country hillside — is that interesting targets are more fun than boring ones. That being the case, the new line of Predator targets from Wholesale Targets should be, if you'll forgive the pun, a blast.

This line of 23"x35" color targets includes 65 different photo-realistic subjects. Designed to enhance police officers' target recognition skills



in live-fire practice houses, the Predator series features a band of baddies straight out of a police line-up — caught-in-the-act criminals, drug dealers and deranged maniacs wielding guns, knives and blunt instruments. It also features some more thought-provoking targets — a school girl with a bookbag and a .25 auto; a corporate executive complete with ID badge and salon hairstyle carrying a gun into the workplace; and even an attractive, bikini-clad model who may divert your gaze away from her low-held 1911 with other, *ahem*, notable features.

If you run a police tactical training facility, these targets will be great teaching tools. Even if you're just enjoying some target practice at the local range or the north 40, a Predator target can add a bit of interest to your next shooting session. Contact the manufacturer at (888) 449-9699, or www.wholesalestargets.com.

L.A. Residents BITE THE BULLET

If you are a law-abiding gun owner living in Los Angeles, stand by for yet another assault on your Second Amendment rights courtesy of the city government. According to a report by MSNBC, the L.A. City Council voted 11 to 1 on April 3 to enact a ban on ammunition sales within city limits.

Of course, they're not presenting this as an outright ban. According to the council, this legislation



will only prohibit certain types of "especially damaging (ammunition) designed to inflict great bodily trauma." What does that mean? According to the proposal, this will eliminate "bullets of greater than .46 caliber, fragmentation bullets, magnum load bullets and hard penetrating bullets that can blow through concrete." Can you think of any ammunition that couldn't be made to fall under one of those criteria? Maybe a .25 ACP FMJ — maybe.

Make no mistake, this watered-down ban wasn't due to any restraint or second thoughts on the part of the City Council. The report states: "Five council members sought unsuccessfully to pass a total ban on ammo sales ... But the majority of the council said that a partial ammo ban would be more likely to stand up against legal challenges." (Read — if they could have gotten away with an outright ban, they would have.) Final approval of the new law is expected within 30 days — and a lot of other city governments across the country are undoubtedly watching to see how this ordinance fares in L.A.

101 Women Say "Thanks VPC"

The Violence Policy Center, a "research" group dedicated to furthering the cause of gun control, released the results of its latest study recently. According to the VPC: "For every 101 women who are shot and killed, only one woman uses a gun to kill an attacker."

Interestingly, the VPC uses this data to assert A) that gun manufacturers have used negligent marketing tactics to create unrealistic expectations in the minds of female gun buyers, B) that a woman who buys a gun for self-protection puts her

family at risk, and C) that there should, of course, be more gun control laws.

In reality, the VPC's study seems to be a validation for the few women who have made the choice to buy a gun and take responsibility for their own safety. We suspect that the 101 women who were caught without a means of self-defense might disagree with the VPC's interpretation of the data — if they were still alive to talk about it.



BY THE NUMBERS

6³/₄x4¹/₂

Minimum size, in inches, of handguns that would be allowed for sale in Los Angeles under a bill, currently being considered by the L.A. City Council, which seeks to prohibit "ultra compact" firearms. (Source: Firearm Business)

30

Employees, out of 35, of the Million Mom March organization that were laid off on March 9. According to MMM founder Donna Thomasses, even though the group is running low on funding, the layoff is "not a sign that support for gun control is waning."

(Source: www.millionmom-march.com)

24

State legislatures which have enacted preemption laws to prevent cities from filing lawsuits against the gun industry — including, most recently, Louisiana, where the supreme court upheld the state statute in a decision passed on April 3.

(Source: NSSF press release)

QUOTE of the MONTH:

"I have never felt I was being ill-treated by the press — ill treated by Barbara Streisand, maybe. But Ms. Streisand, I suggest, is inadequately educated on the Constitution of the United States."

NRA president Charlton Heston, on whether pro-gun Republicans are misrepresented by the liberal media. (Source: Excite News)

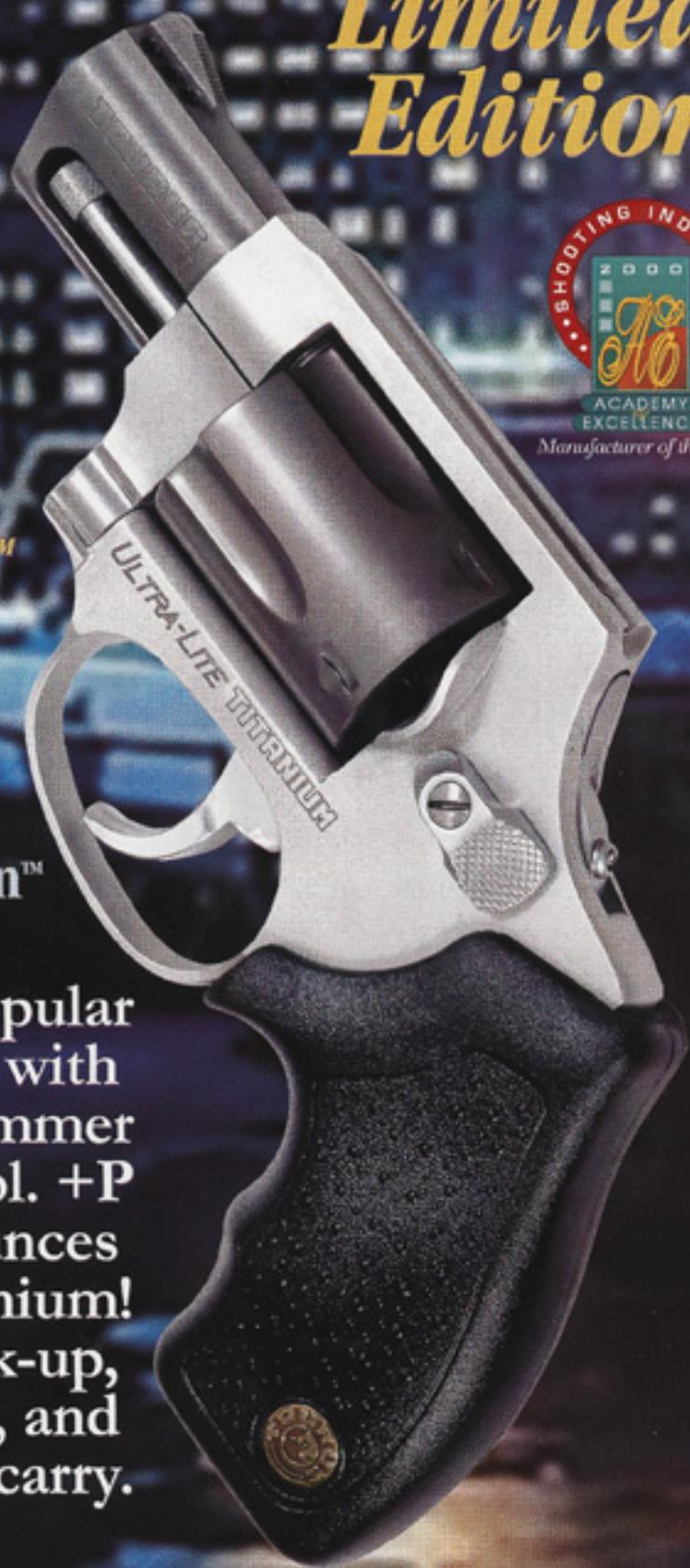
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