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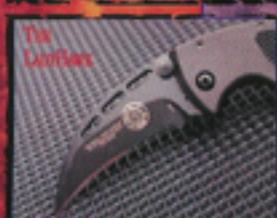
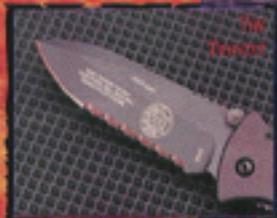
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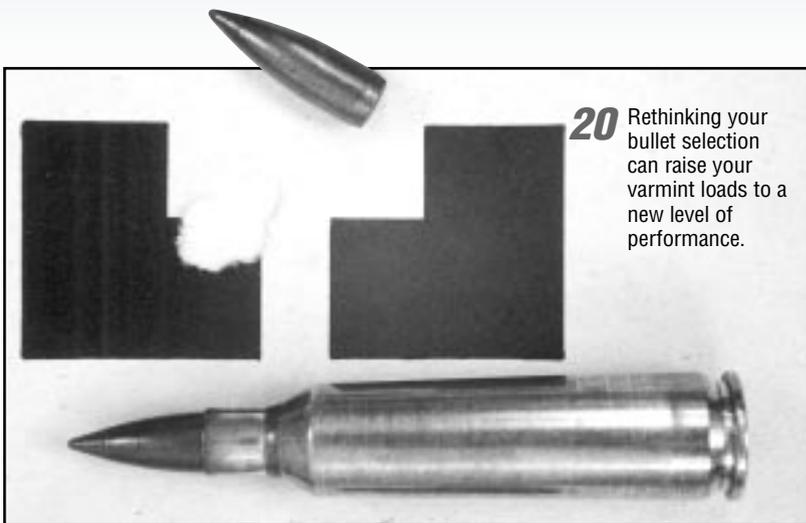
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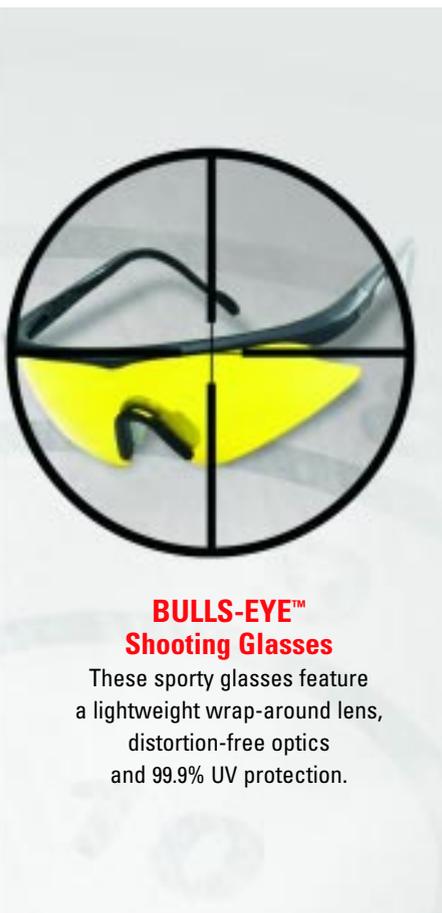
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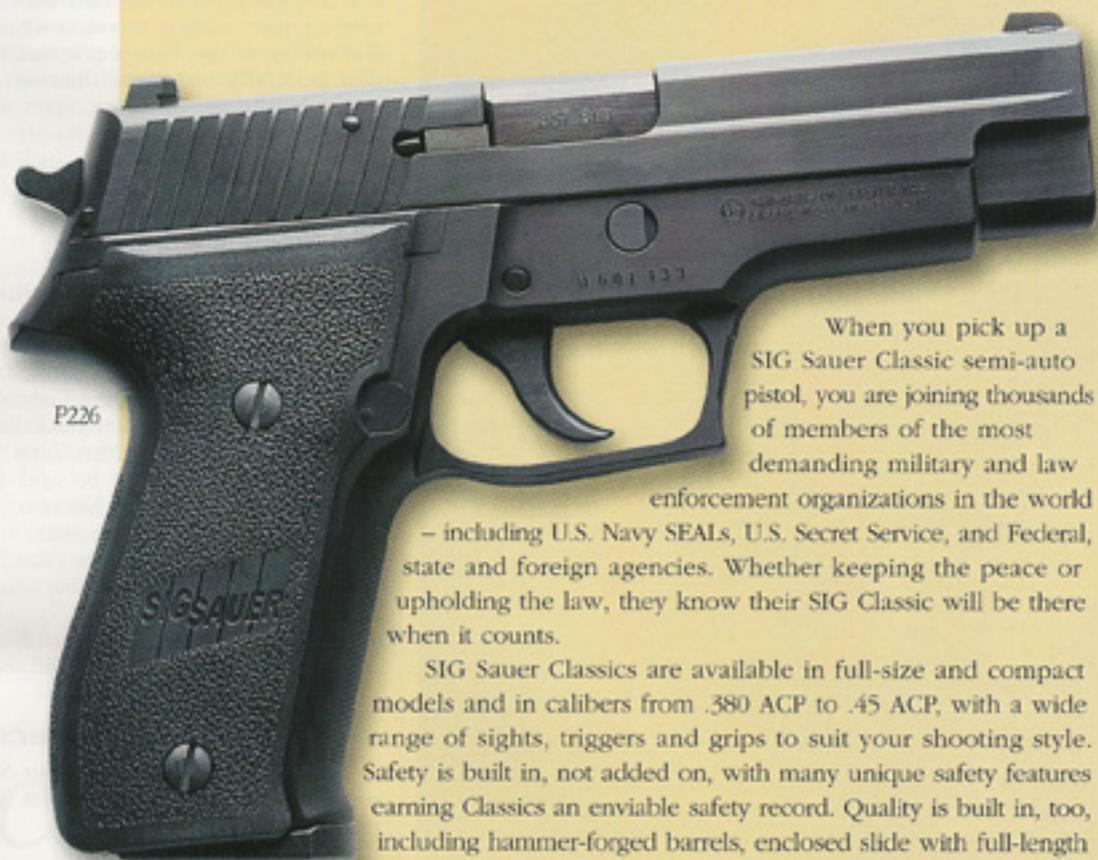
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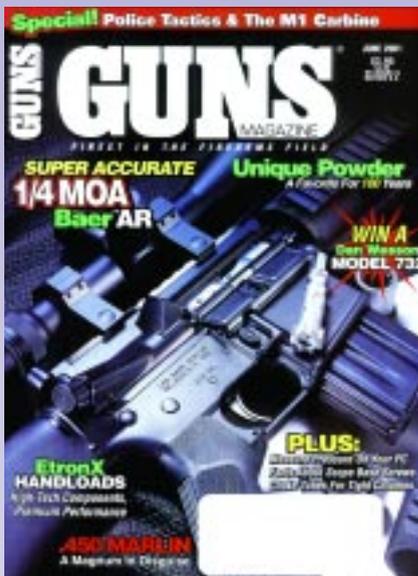
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LETTER OF THE MONTH



GUNS MAGAZINE JUNE 2001

Bravo Baer

After reading the article on Les Baer's Super Varmint rifle ("The Les Baer Super Varmint," June 2001), I can think of only one phrase to describe the man's work. With respect to James Bond, "Nobody does it better."

The quality standards used in designing and manufacturing that gun are nothing short of phenomenal. I've been impressed with Baer's work for years — I bought one of his SRP pistols many years ago — but I think the Super Varmint is undoubtedly his best piece to date. Creating an AR that can shoot 1/4 MOA — better than even most bolt-action rifles — is a level of performance that all American gun makers should aspire to.

Thanks for a great article on a great gun. Les Baer deserves a place in the Shooters' Hall of Fame beside Sam Colt, John Browning, Oliver Winchester and Bill Ruger. I look forward to reading about, and admiring, many more of his guns in the future.

Corbin Fielding
Houston, Texas

Look It Up

Evidently old Massad Ayoob had been drinking too much when he penned his column in the June issue ("Combat Semantics 101"). I have several dictionaries, including *Oxford*, *American Heritage*, *American College* and *Webster's*. They all say that an accepted definition of "revolve" is "to rotate on an axis." Maybe we should all pitch in and buy Ayoob a good dictionary. By any definition, a gun that employs a "revolving" cylinder is no different than one employing a "rotating" cylinder.

Sam Guy
Miami, Fla.

Olé For Taurus

Love your magazine! I've been subscribing for years. I'm writing to tell you about the outstanding service I received from Taurus, a company which I regularly see advertised in your magazine and featured in your articles.

I recently received back my Taurus pistol which was repaired under their Lifetime Repair Policy. After they worked on it, the gun was in tip-top condition — like new! This is a wonderful service to Taurus owners. I can't thank them enough, and I know that anyone else who buys a gun from them will be as happy as I am.

Sumner Thompson
Scarborough, Maine

Great Glock

I am writing to inform my fellow shooters about the excellent service and dedication Glock has for their customers. I bought my first Glock in 1991. I was hesitant at first, but as soon as I fired it, I found it was truly a gun for all purposes.

About a month ago, I was on the range putting my normal monthly 200 rounds through my trusty Glock when the trigger became hard to pull, then stopped functioning altogether. I tried to find a local Glock armorer, but to no avail. I then called the manufacturer directly. I was greeted by a very nice receptionist who directed my call straight to the service department.

The gentleman I spoke with there listened to my problem and told me to ship the gun to the factory. He said that upon receiving the gun, they would upgrade all parts that needed it, and fix any problems with the gun. When I asked how much that would cost, he informed me it was free. He did, however, tell me there might be a slight

delay in the return of the gun due to the number of pistols that owners sent in for upgrade services. When I asked about the best way to ship the pistol, the gentleman informed me of the most economical and dependable means.

After I sent the pistol, I expected to be without my gun for a month or so. Imagine my surprise when it was returned in about eight days. Talk about a slight delay! Upon opening the package and inspecting the gun, it appeared that all the metal inserts in the frame had been replaced, regardless of how much they had been worn under years of use, and the trigger functioned flawlessly. Also, it appeared that they had restored the finish on the slide, which had been worn away due to holstering. I was astounded at the excellent service.

The only drawback in the entire experience was the service I received from UPS. The delivery service left the package on my porch despite the fact that a signature was required from the recipient. I had been at work and didn't find it until the next morning.

If you are thinking about buying a new handgun, I highly recommend a Glock. You just can't beat the dependability and dedicated service from the gun — or the company.

Michael Naegele
Pasadena, Md.

Short But Respectable

Massad Ayoob's column on snub-nosed revolvers ("The Surprisingly Accurate Snubby," April 2001) brings back memories. Ayoob seems to have taken a long time to learn what some of us old-time lawmen knew years ago. A short revolver with the proper grips is one of the most accurate and deadly handguns going. I went through all of the tests of different barrel lengths and sight radii 40 years ago to find, just as Ayoob did recently, that barrel length is not as important as a good grip.

At that time, S&W made the Chiefs Special with both round and square butt frames. You also had a choice of a 2" or 3" barrel. Also, S&W offered a pair of oversize "target style" wood grips that would fit both round-butt and square-butt guns. Don't forget, they also used the J frame for the .32 Hand Ejector and the .22/.32 Kit Gun as well as a .22/.32 Target Model with a 6" barrel.

Back then, everyone thought the 3" Chiefs Special would be more accurate than the 2" version due to the longer sight radius. In order to settle the issue, I took one of each to the range along with a pair of the oversize target grips. I put up two targets and shot a group with each gun. The first group was with the standard grip on the 2" round butt and the oversize grip on the 3" square butt. As I suspected, the 3" gun gave the best group.

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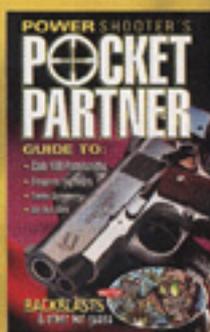
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Then, I put the standard grips on the 3" model and the oversized grips on the 2" gun. I shot another group with each, and this time the 2" gun gave the best group, proving that the grips made more difference than the barrel length or sight radius.

At that time, the police department I worked for issued the 4" S&W Military & Police revolver. We had the option to carry any revolver of our choice as long as it was at least .38 caliber. In the late '60s, when I worked in plain clothes, I carried a 2" M&P with a round butt. With it, I was able to hit rabbits in the head out to 50 feet, again demonstrating that barrel length isn't all that important. Although the M&P was my weapon of choice for on-duty use in plain clothes, my Chiefs Special was always my favorite for off-duty use. In later years I replaced my blued revolvers with stainless models, but I'll still put my 2" Chiefs up against almost any other handgun.

Ron Henarie
San Antonio, Texas

The Limits Of The .30

I read with great interest your article on the M1 Carbine ("The M1 Carbine For Self-Defense And Law Enforcement") in the June issue. I have an M1 Carbine and have used it to fire literally thousands of GI rounds, reloads (lead and copper bullets) and some commercial loads. When I picked up my first M1 Carbine back in '62, the gun was exotic. Even though I loved the gun, I was never deceived about the stopping power of the .30 Carbine cartridge.

The gun uses magazines of various capacities, and that is good, because anyone using it for defense will need a lot of rounds to stop a determined assailant. Sure, modern bullets could increase its stopping power, but I wouldn't count on that unless at very short range. Don't you think that if the military had been interested in improving the .30 Carbine, it would have done so?

Yes, the .30 Carbine and the M1 Carbine are good, but the combination is very limited. To make any comparison to the M1 Garand or the M-16 and their cartridges, no matter what bullet type, is out of the realm of reality.

I've heard from an Army captain who fought in the Pacific theater in World War II. He said that he'd seen enemy soldiers all "doped up" who took all eight shots from a Garand before dropping at his feet. He mentioned that most men wanted to carry a BAR for the tremendous firepower. Could an M1 Carbine be effective in that situation?

Yes, the M1 Carbine is light, fun to shoot and cheap, and that is why I have kept mine for all of these years, but it also gets dirty and is subject to jams under rapid fire. But what the heck — it's my .30 and I love it! But arm the police with it? Not a chance.

M. Seelar
Erie, Pa.



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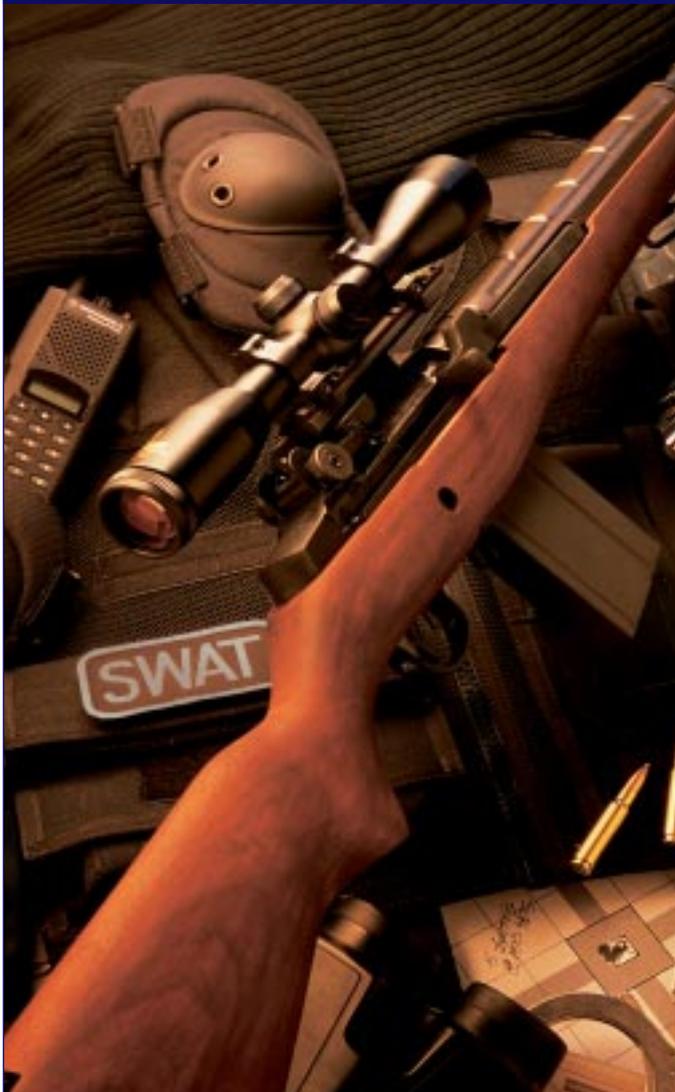
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The Majestic Cutty Sark

COLLECTOR KNIFE

by Robert Taylor

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Rich with accents of 24 karat gold.

The historic *Cutty Sark* set records in the wool trade between Australia and England from 1885 to 1895. Resting today in permanent dry dock at Greenwich, she is a glorious reminder of the Golden Age of Sail. Now, the National Maritime Historical Society presents a powerful tribute to this legendary ship.

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The tang bolster is sculptured in the form of a ship's figurehead and gleams with accents of 24 karat gold.



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The Shoulder Holster: SPECIALTY CCW RIG

Concealing a shoulder rig is tough under a light jacket, but is a piece of cake under any sort of winter coat. By leaving one button undone at center chest, we allow the coat to remain warmly closed over the torso, but give the right hand quick access to the handgun slung under the left armpit. With long coats, fully fastened, many find this the fastest concealed draw.

Under any circumstances, a shoulder rig gives you one of the fastest draws while seated, such as at a desk or behind the wheel of a car. Just take a moment when you buckle up to arrange the seat belt so it won't block your reach.

On winter days, you go through a few changes of clothes. Each time you come in from shoveling, you're covered with snow and soaked through. Just shrugging off the

shoulder harness saves you unthreading holster, magazine pouch, and whatnot off one belt and re-assembling them later on a dry pair of pants.

The Bianchi Ranger shoulder system contains a spare magazine pouch. A fixed-blade Bill Moran knife from Spyderco, in a horizontal Kydex sheath, fits perfectly in a vertical position on the shoulder strap, and saves trying to open a folding knife with heavily gloved hands.

The "shoulder system" concept, first introduced 30 or more years ago by Rick Gallagher, founder of Galco, makes sense in all kinds of weather. With magazine pouches,

handcuff carrier and whatnot attached, it allows those peace officers and bodyguards who don't like to be armed all the time to at least throw everything on at once and be ready. Of course, this presumes some sort of warning will be available before a tactical encounter occurs. Armed protectors who aren't armed are "unclear on the concept."

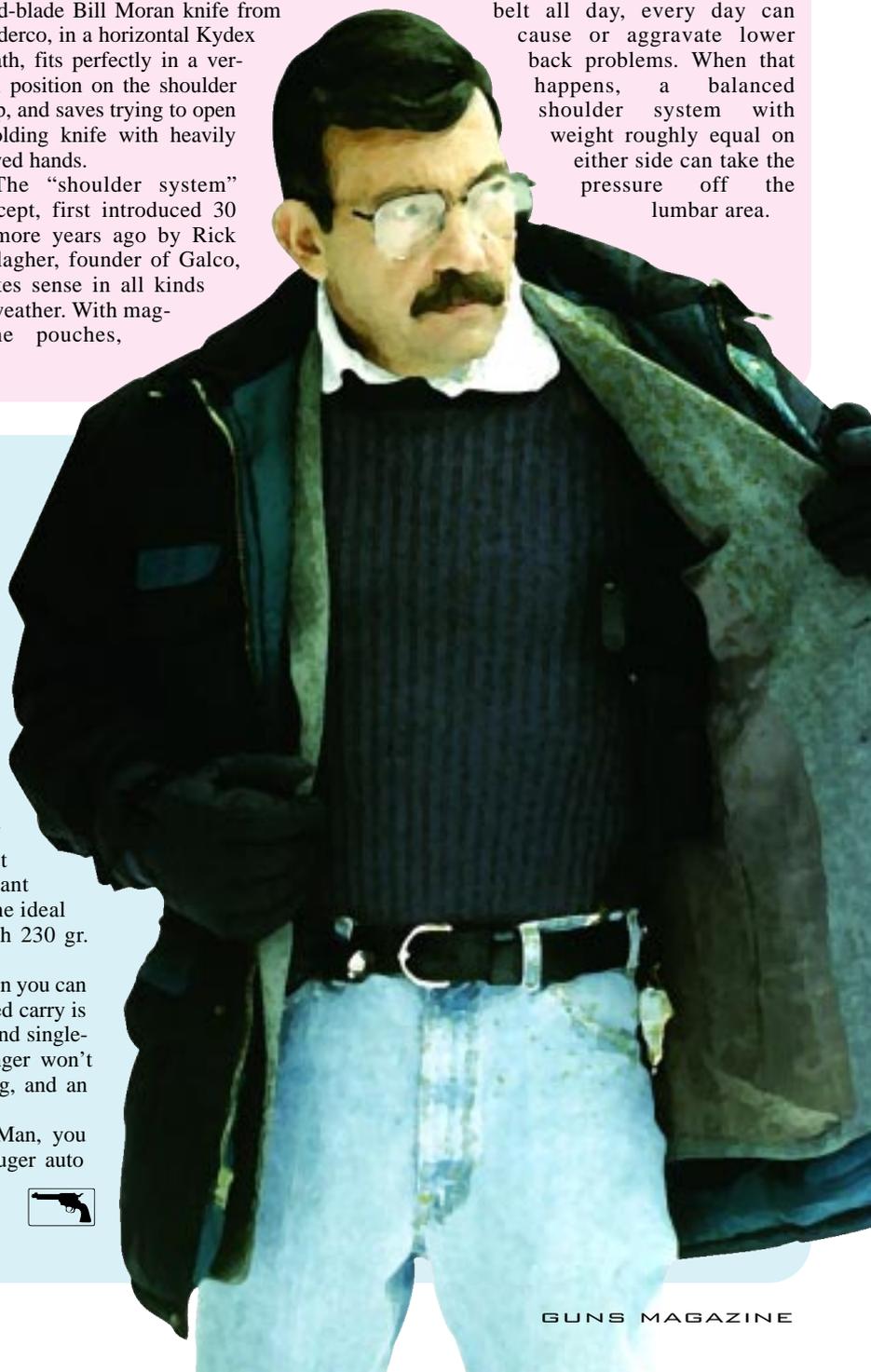
Finally, generations of cops and uniformed security professionals can attest that wearing heavy things on your belt all day, every day can cause or aggravate lower back problems. When that happens, a balanced shoulder system with weight roughly equal on either side can take the pressure off the lumbar area.

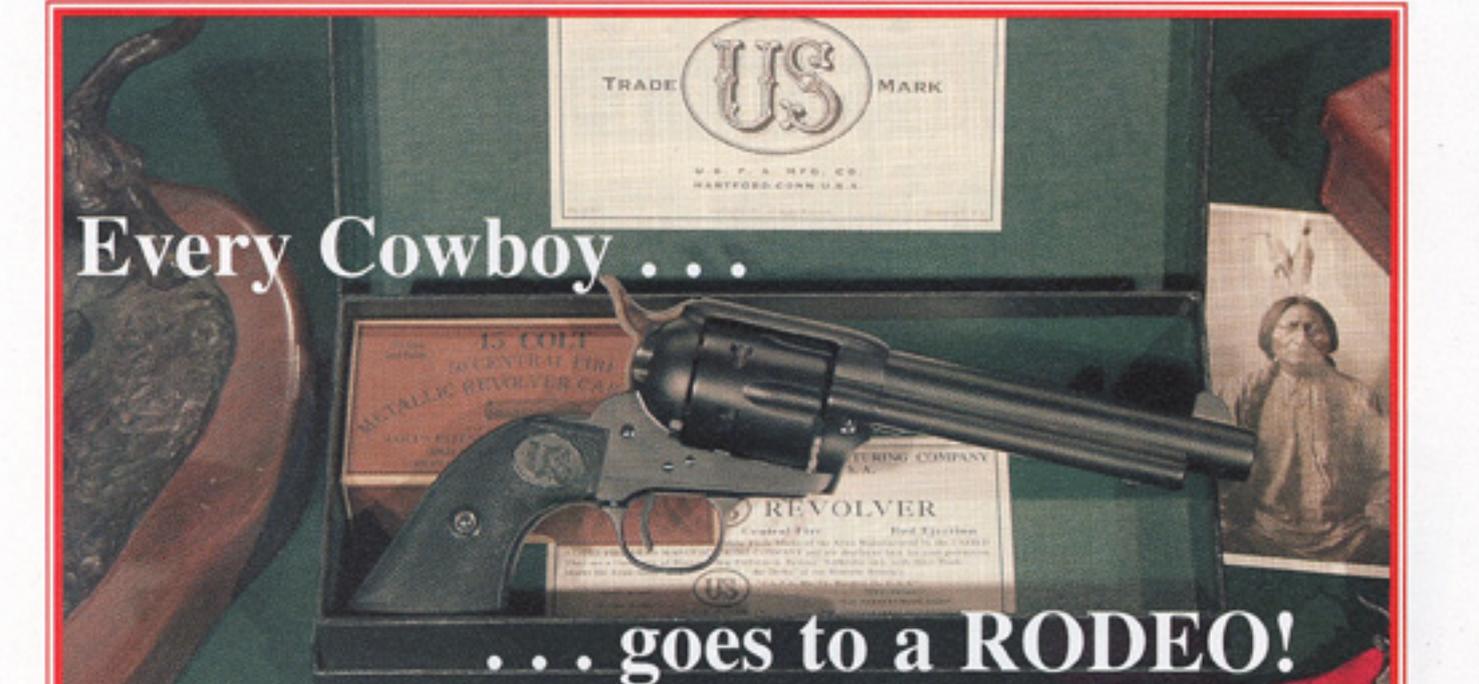
Underarm Protection In THE SNOW

This winter, while bundled up for daily activities in the snow and ice, I comfortably wore a Ruger P97 in a synthetic Bianchi Ranger shoulder holster. When any opponent will be heavily clad with the sort of material that stops up the cavities of hollow point bullets and turns them into flat-nosed ball, you want your bullets to turn into *big* flat nose ball. Thus, the ideal carry choice is a .45 caliber handgun loaded with 230 gr. CCI Gold Dots.

With bulky snowmobile gloves on, you want a gun you can still manipulate. Thus, a prudent choice for concealed carry is the ergonomic Ruger with double-action first shot and single-action follow-ups so the bulky, gloved trigger finger won't block trigger return and prevent further functioning, and an easily operated de-cocking lever.

When you've got to dress like the Michelin Man, you appreciate weight savings. The polymer-framed Ruger auto and the lightweight fabric carry rig, therefore, are the perfect cold-weather carry combination.





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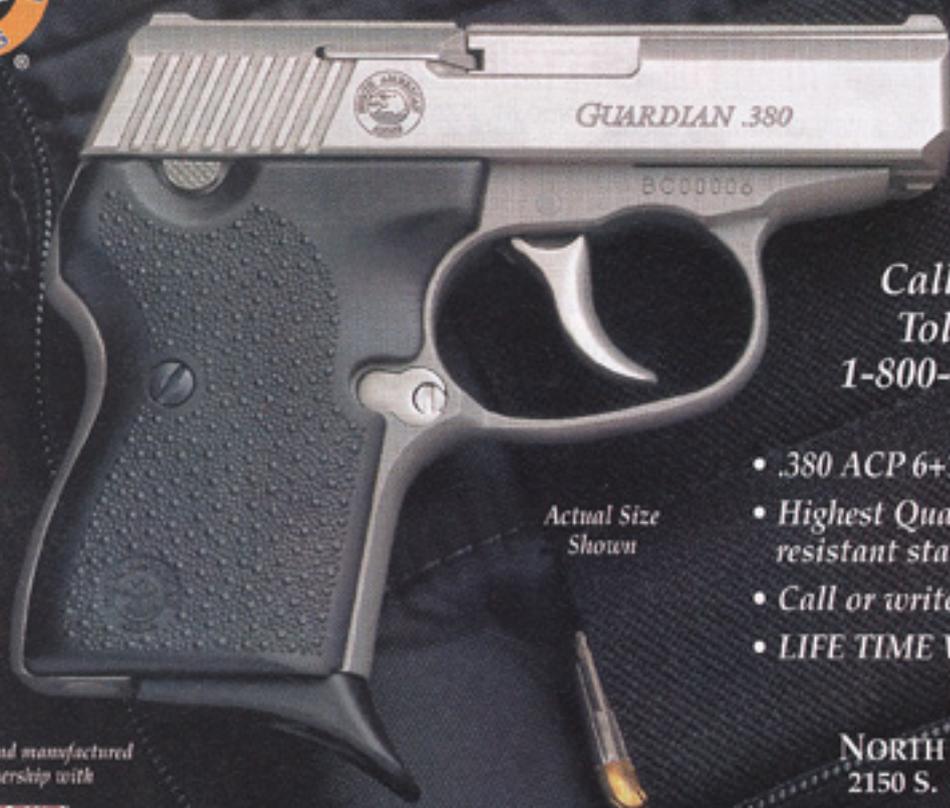
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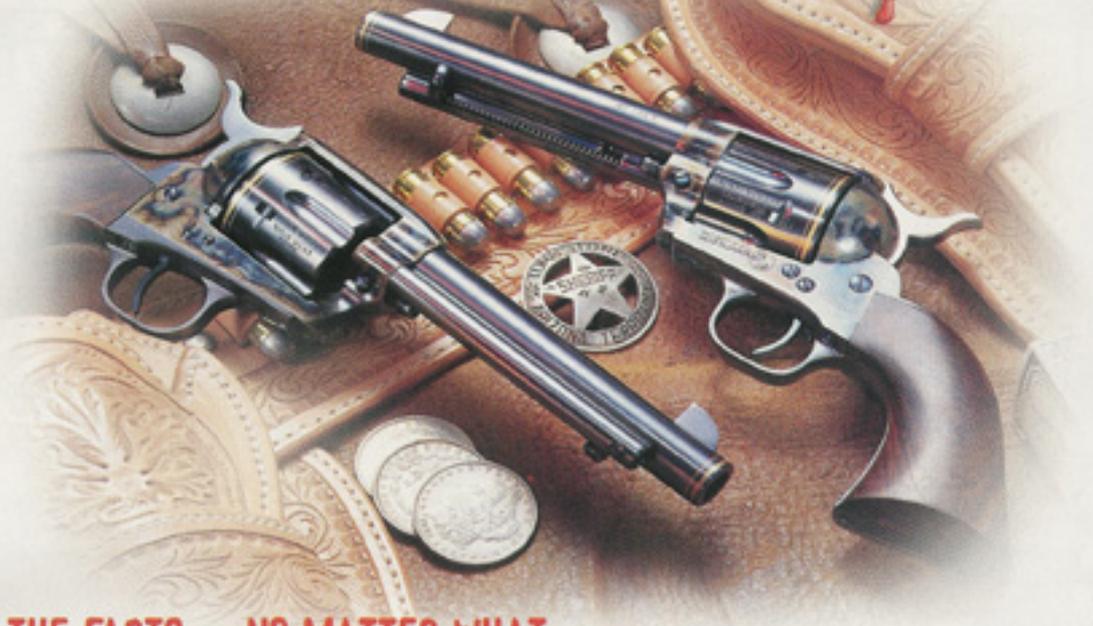
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7 5/8" overall with 3" blade

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7 1/2" overall with 3" blade

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Kit includes: Four 3/4" sewed muslin wheels, one 3/4" loose muslin wheel, one each greaseless brush-on cutting compound in grits 240, 320 and 400, one blending bar, one bar of white rouge and a polishing guide.

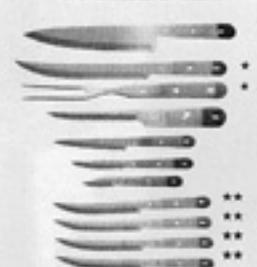
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TRADITIONAL CUTLERY KIT



11 pc. traditional style cutlery set includes pre-shaped surgical stainless blades shown above plus handle material, and rivets. Carving set and steak set also available.

SS801 11 pc. Traditional Set69.95

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The Texas Bowie Blade, (12 1/2" overall, 7" x 1 1/2" x 3/16" thick blade), brass guard and pommel and a pre-drilled dymondwood block for the handle.

SS494 Blade only27.95

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SS914 Frontier Blade only13.95

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SS911 Cape Blade only18.95

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Made from 440C Stainless Steel

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Overall length 7", blade 4 1/8".

SS262 Gut Hook Blade 8.70

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Overall length 7", blade 2 3/4".

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".

SS176 Shark Blade 8.95

STAINLESS DINNERWARE

Supplied with 3 rivets. Made from 440C Stainless Steel.



SS501 Dinner Knife 5.95

Overall length is 8 3/4", blade is 4 1/2". The serrated part of the blade is 2 3/4" long.



SS502 Dinner Fork 5.95

Overall length is 7 1/4", it is 1" wide at the prongs.



SS503 Dinner Spoon 5.95

Overall length is 7 1/4", it is 1 1/2" wide at the spoon.

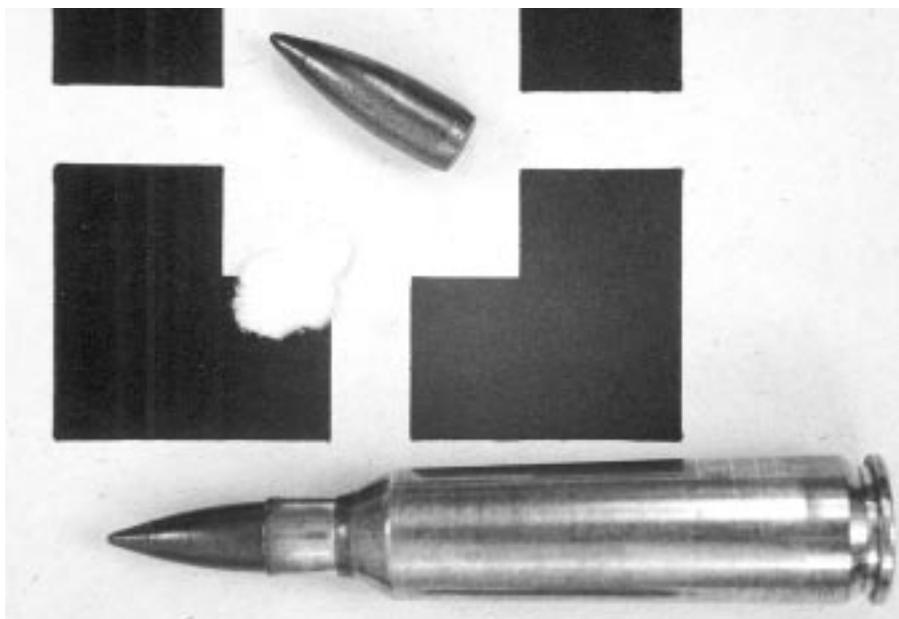
WOODCARVING BLADE SET

4 piece set of blades for wood carvers. Overall length of each 4 1/2-5".

SS263 4 pc. set 12.80

The Ultimate High-Velocity .22-250 Loads

Forget all your outdated ideas about heavy bullets. You'll be amazed at the power, performance and accuracy you can achieve with these long-range varmint loads.



Below: Until recently, shooters who appreciated the high-velocity performance of the .22-250 were confined to heavier .55 gr. bullets. Now, light, plastic-tipped bullets provide a quantum leap in long-range varmint cartridge performance. Above: You don't have to be Einstein to follow this equation: 40 gr. BT .22-250 bullets equal higher velocity, which in turn equals shorter flight time and flatter trajectory, thus creating greater accuracy. (Yes, that's a five-shot group, by the way.)

By M.L. McPherson

Varmint hunters once believed that, to obtain optimum performance, they had to match bullet weight to case capacity. For example, while 45 gr. bullets might have been advised for the .222, hunters shooting the .22-250 or .220 Swift would have chosen 55 gr. or 60 gr. bullets. These choices would maximize hit potential, regardless of range estimation or windage errors.

The lighter bullets do, in fact, launch faster, but, owing to necessarily shorter noses and larger meplats — the diameter of the blunt end of the bullet tip which assures expansion at longer ranges — these bullets cannot hold sufficient velocity to the extreme ranges possible with the larger cartridges. Therefore, heavier bullets, with longer noses and smaller meplats, were preferred.

The advent of the Nosler Ballistic Tip varmint bullet (and its various copies) changed things. That tiny chunk of plastic does three important tasks. First, it allows designers to increase jacket thickness, which accommodates increased velocity. The plug in the bullet nose initiates rapid expansion, even at reduced velocity.

Second, this lightweight insert extends the bullet nose and accommodates use of a longer ogive — the radius of the curve of the bullet tip. This significantly increases ballistic efficiency without reducing accuracy potential.

Third, it allows the manufacturer to include an unusually tiny meplat, again improving ballistic efficiency.

The Theory Of Relatively Light Bullets

With these facts in mind, we recently ran calculations on various varmint loads in .22 caliber cartridges, ranging from .22 Hornet to the wildcat .22-243. In all instances, Nosler's 40 gr. BT provided the best combination of flat trajectory (mini

continued on page 22



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THE ULTIMATE

continued from page 20

mizing ranging errors) and delivered velocity (for maximum terminal effect) at any reasonable range at which prairie dogs and similar vermin might be shot.

Consider the 40 gr. and 55 gr. BT, both loaded to top .22-250 velocity. At 500 yards, the 55 gr. bullet drops 3.0" more than the lighter 40 gr. bullet. This suggests that minor errors in range and wind estimation would result in a significantly greater sighting error with the heavier bullet. It is also interesting to note that the lighter bullet's lighter recoil allows the shooter to get back on target faster, which allows him to see more impacts.

With this principle in mind, we set out to develop maximum-velocity accuracy loads for a pair of varmint rifles: a Savage and a Remington VLS, both chambered in .22-250.

After initial testing with several other powders, we settled on Hodgdon's BenchMark and VarGet. Of several tested primers, the BR2 worked best. Bullets were properly

moly-coated using the Neco process.

We used Redding's Ultra-Mag press, competition dies (neck bushing, full-length resizing and seating) and shell holders. Powder was metered with the RCBS electronic powder dispenser. We seated primers with an RCBS APS hand held tool.

While we only tested a few powders, we are certain that equally good and perhaps superior results might have been obtained with any of several others. Likely candidates include: N540, IMR-3031 and 4895, H-322, RL-15 and Ramshot Big Game. It is feasible that one of these might provide superior accuracy and velocity in any given gun.

We settled on VarGet and BenchMark for two main reasons. First, these are temperature-compensated powders. We often shoot under widely varying conditions (typically between 40 and 110 degrees F). Second, we've had good past experience with VarGet and we wanted an opportunity to become familiar with Hodgdon's newest product.

The current QuickLoad ballistic CD database does not include BenchMark. However, we are told that, in most applications, its burning rate is rather similar to IMR-3031. If true, we would expect BenchMark to shine in our testing, which it did.

Building A Perfect Load

We tested three 40 gr. bullets: Hornady V-Max, Barnes VLC and Nosler BT. The Nosler had the accuracy edge. We prepped several hundred R-P and Norma cases. We used the former during load development, the latter during accuracy and ballistic uniformity testing.

Estimated Velocity*:

.22-250 Maximum Pressure Loads

POWDER	VELOCITY
N540	4,450 fps
BenchMark	4,425 fps
IMR-3031	4,425 fps
IMR-4895	4,425 fps
H322	4,365 fps
RL-15	4,365 fps
TAC	4,355 fps
BigGame	4,355 fps
VarGet	4,325 fps

*Velocities estimated utilizing QuickLOAD ballistic data generation program.

COMPARATIVE BALLISTICS .22-250 Loads: Light vs. Heavy Bullets

40 GR. NOSLER BALLISTIC TIP

RANGE	VELOCITY	FLIGHT TIME	ENERGY	TRAJECTORY	WIND DEFLECTION*
0 yds.	4,491 fps	0.0	1,791 ft./lbs.	-1.7"	0.0"
100 yds.	3,915 fps	0.0716	1,461 ft./lbs.	+1.8"	0.1"
200 yds.	3,408 fps	0.1537	1,032 ft./lbs.	+3.0"	0.4"
300 yds.	2,957 fps	0.2482	777 ft./lbs.	+1.3"	0.9"
400 yds.	2,549 fps	0.3578	577 ft./lbs.	-4.5"	1.6"
500 yds.	2,175 fps	0.4851	420 ft./lbs.	-15.7"	2.7"

55 GR. NOSLER BALLISTIC TIP

0 yds.	4,012 fps	0.0	1,966 ft./lbs.	-1.7"	0.0"
100 yds.	3,571 fps	0.0792	1,564 ft./lbs.	+2.0"	0.1"
200 yds.	3,187 fps	0.1681	1,240 ft./lbs.	+3.0"	0.3"
300 yds.	2,829 fps	0.2680	977 ft./lbs.	+0.5"	0.8"
400 yds.	2,498 fps	0.3810	762 ft./lbs.	-6.3"	1.5"
500 yds.	2,190 fps	0.5093	586 ft./lbs.	-18.7"	2.4"

*Wind deflection based on a 1 mph crosswind.

ULTIMATE .22-50 High-Velocity Loads

SAVAGE MODEL 12BVSS-S

CHARGE	BULLET	OAL	VELOCITY	ACCURACY*
41.0 grs. VarGet	40 gr. Nosler BT	2.38"	4,285 fps	0.58"
42.0 grs. VarGet	40 gr. Nosler BT	2.38"	4,350 fps	1.22"
39.5 grs. Benchmark	40 gr. Nosler BT	2.40"	4,420 fps	0.85"
40.0 grs. Benchmark	40 gr. Nosler BT	2.40"	4,461 fps	0.51"

REMINGTON MODEL 700 VLS

40.0 grs. VarGet	40 gr. Nosler BT	2.40"	4,220 fps	0.75"
41.0 grs. VarGet	40 gr. Nosler BT	2.40"	4,325 fps	1.10"
40.0 grs. VarGet	40 gr. Hornady V-Max	2.40"	4,211 fps	0.85"
40.0 grs. VarGet	40 gr. Barnes VLC	2.40"	4,174 fps	0.90"
39.0 grs. Benchmark	40 gr. Nosler BT	2.40"	4,268 fps	0.70"

Accuracy measurements are the average of three, five-shot groups at 100 yards. All loads assembled using CCI BR2 primers.

Using Redding's bushing die, combined with a 0.221"-diameter expander ball, we neck-sized all cases, which had previously been fired in these rifles. With Remington cases, we used a 0.248" neck bushing; in the thicker-necked Norma cases, the 0.251" bushing worked better.

Case preparation included primer pocket truing, flash hole deburring, minimal length trimming, neck inside- and outside-deburring and careful inside neck polishing. We accomplished the latter by wrapping a well-worn bore brush with 0000 steel wool, chucking that into a vise-held hand drill and running the otherwise finished cases over the spinning brush. These cases were then cleaned and polished in a vibratory tumbler with clean corncob media and RCBS polish. The final steps were washing — to remove any abrasive debris — and drying.

We seated CCI-BR2 primers with the hand held APS tool. With the Stoney Point tool we determined it would be impossible to seat these short 40 gr. bullets anywhere near the rifling in either rifle. Therefore, we chose to seat all bullets with about 0.15" of bullet shank inserted into the case neck — the minimum we feel comfortable using with field loads. This gives the cartridge an OAL near 2.4".

Load development started with 40.0 grs. of VarGet, which is Hodgdon's maximum suggested charge for a 2.35" OAL load using conventional 40 gr. bullets. Our experience with this Savage and moly-coated bullets suggested we would have no pressure problems at

this level; we did not. The same load worked well in the Remington. Loads up to 42.0 grs. worked well in the Savage, not in the Remington (which has far fewer rounds through the barrel).

With BenchMark powder, we used the QuickLOAD prediction for 3031 as a base-line and started load development at 38.0 grs. The Remington shot well at 39.0 grs.; the Savage shot well at 40.0 grs.

High-Speed, Low-Drag

With the loads worked up and favorable weather conditions in the forecast, we headed to the varmint fields to put these hot loads to work. We knew the Savage rifle was capable of accuracy between 0.20" and 0.30", and that the Remington was able to routinely pierce a dime at 100 yards. This is just the kind of accuracy we needed to prove what these .22-250 loads could do to prairie dogs out at 500 yards.

The loads did not fail to perform as expected. In one instance, another shooter was having difficulty with a dog out at maximum range with his .223 and a load made with 55 gr. BT bullets. Our Savage rifle, with the crosshairs settled about 8" right and 18" high to account for distance and crosswind, hit its mark with the first shot. After the fact, we measured the distance at 525 yards — which certainly settles any questions about the effectiveness of a 40 gr. bullet traveling at 4,500 fps.



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Methods Of The Master

Shooting champion Bill Blankenship coined the term “positive pressure” to describe proper trigger control. Blankenship’s competitive career started in the 1950s, first as a member of the U.S. Army rifle team, then as a member of the Army pistol team. His greatest achievements were in pistol competition, in which his many victories included a world championship, five All-Army titles and six national championships.

Blankenship described “positive pressure” as pressure that is constantly increasing, straight to the rear, in such a way as not to disturb sight alignment or impart movement to the gun.

In this method the shooter accepts that the gun is never completely still. Obviously, the amount of movement depends on the shooting position. As the shooter goes from the benchrest to prone to sitting to offhand, the gun is progressively less steady. Nonetheless, the procedure is the same.

The shooter indexes the gun on target and observes the sight

picture as mind and body coordinate to settle the gun into a minimum arc of movement. As the gun settles, the shooter applies positive pressure to the trigger, pressing it straight back at a constantly increasing speed until the gun fires.

The continuous pressure technique avoids the problems of the graduated release method. It takes longer to learn, but once learned it can be accomplished very quickly. It is suitable for fast running shots as well as precision shooting. It does not prevent flinching, but it doesn’t promote it either.



Shooting legend Bill Blankenship, right, seen here with the author, revolutionized shooting with the concept of “positive trigger pressure,” a vast improvement over the graduated trigger-pull method which was commonly used at the time.

I’ll Take Mine Dry And Quiet

Trigger control is best learned by dry firing. With dry firing there is no noise or recoil to cause flinching or to mask errors. When dry firing, check, double check, and check again to be absolutely certain the firearm is empty. There should be no ammunition anywhere

in the vicinity of the practice area, and the backstop should be sufficient to hold the bullet should the gun fire.

The objective is to train the nerves controlling the trigger finger. Align the sights or scope on a blank wall and practice pressing the trigger straight back at a constantly increasing speed. Evaluate the quality of the trigger release by observing the sights during and after the trigger press. Ideally, the trigger break should not add movement to the sight picture.

How much practice does it take? Blankenship has written that he worked on nothing else for three straight months before he felt the skill had become a conditioned reflex. Subsequently he began each competition season with one to three weeks of dry firing to regain trigger control. Once trigger control has been learned, the shooter can move on to the next challenge, which is learning to hold the gun as motionless and consistently as possible.

ACCURACY: Simple, Not Easy

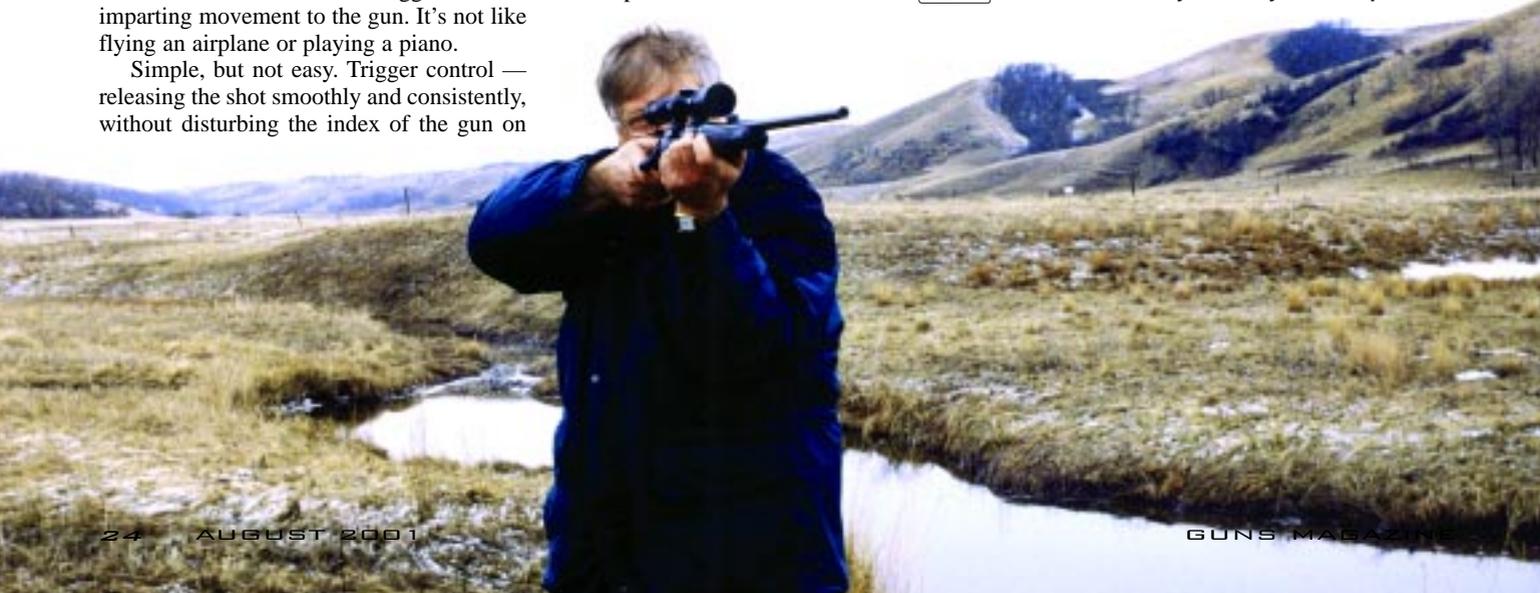
Theoretically, accurate shooting is straightforward. Hold the firearm as still as possible. Hold it the same way for each shot. Release the trigger without imparting movement to the gun. It’s not like flying an airplane or playing a piano.

Simple, but not easy. Trigger control — releasing the shot smoothly and consistently, without disturbing the index of the gun on

target — is the essence of marksmanship. The challenge is difficult enough that you can always find room for improvement.



Trigger control, one of the keys to hunting accuracy, will improve your marksmanship whether you’re shooting from a solid rest or from a relatively unsteady off-hand position.



THE FULL-SPECTRUM .32

We worked up a variety of general-purpose handloads for the .32 S&W Long. Most of our experience with the .32 has been target shooting with the 98 gr. HBWC, but we added the Bull-X 100 gr. LSWC to the plan. Just to be sure we didn't miss anything, 85 gr. and 100 gr. JHPs were shot too.

While it may seem strange to younger shooters, there is a connection between the .32 and the target shooter. For years the .32 S&W Long has been a virtual standard for the International Centerfire Match. Here the shooters use serious target pistols chambered for the cartridge in an event that requires both speed and accuracy.

The minimal recoil makes it a perfect cartridge. The only small drawback is the fact that the SAAMI standard rifling twist is 1:18.75, which is pretty slow. Sometimes the little wadcutters can lose stability by the time they get to 50 yards, so velocities can't be too low. For recreational shooting, however, that isn't a concern.

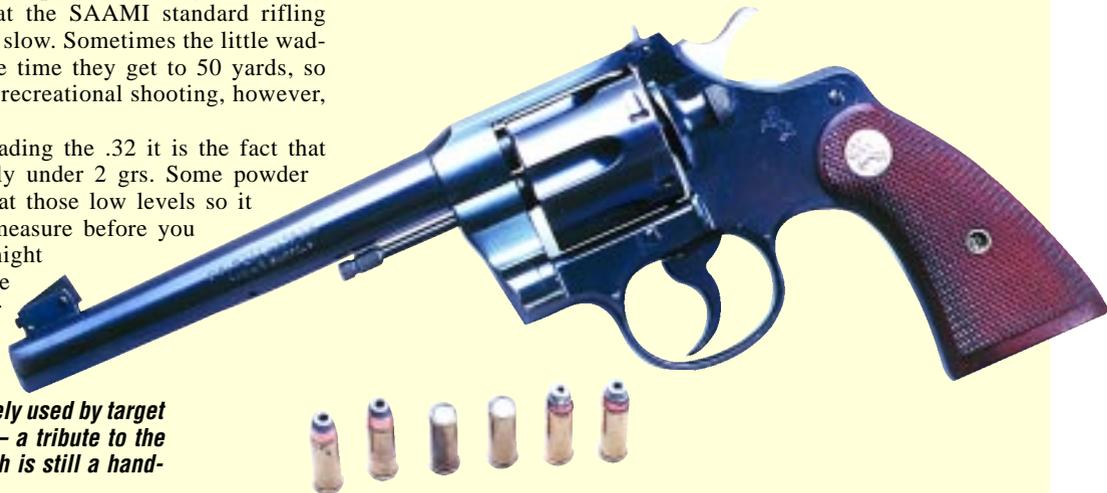
If there is a downside to loading the .32 it is the fact that powder charges are tiny, usually under 2 grs. Some powder measures may not be accurate at those low levels so it pays to thoroughly check the measure before you load much ammo. As you might expect, fast-burning powders are the rule, and Bullseye or Winchester 231 both work well with this cartridge.

The .32 S&W Long was once widely used by target shooters and law enforcement — a tribute to the versatility of this cartridge, which is still a hand-loading favorite.

Since the pressure limit for the .32 S&W Long is a very modest 12,000 CUP, excessive velocity is a concern. Many older guns out there simply cannot tolerate much more pressure. This is perhaps the best example ever of the futility of trying to increase velocity without a specific reason for doing so.

All of our loads were taken from published sources. A couple of these loads were very promising. The Bull-X 100 gr. SWC emerged as a new favorite with a charge of 2.5 grs. of WW 231. The wadcutter seemed to shoot best with 1.9 grs. of the same powder. The 788 fps velocity is plenty to stabilize that bullet out to 50 yards and beyond.

The combination of reasonable gun cost and reloads that don't cost much more than shooting .22 rimfire, make the .32 S&W Long a fun and affordable cartridge.



Where Have All the .32s Gone?

Long before the power craze swept handgunning, citizens and cops alike often carried revolvers chambered for one of the .32 revolver cartridges. They were just fine with that and didn't think anything was wrong until somebody told them they were under-gunned. Things have never been the same.

In spite of prevailing opinion, the .32 S&W Long is not a toy. Nor is it a "mousegun." It's a neat old cartridge with very little recoil and pleasing accuracy. These old guns are readily available, often with modest price tags, and provide enterprising reloader with a very different kind of plinking fun. The beauty of the .32 S&W Long — the most common of all the older .32s — is that it is amazingly accurate, inexpensive to shoot, and brass seems to last forever. Of course, you can also shoot it in .32 H&R Mag. revolvers.

Components are readily available and the biggest decision will be which bullet to use. Even though JHP styles are available in 85

gr. to 100 gr. weights, the little cartridge simply screams for lead bullets. After all, this is not a candidate for hotrod hand-loading. Data can be found in most loading

manuals so don't be afraid to try some different load work-ups for this classic handgun cartridge.



.32 S&W LONG LOADS

TEST FIREARM: S&W MODEL 16 (4" BARREL)

Cases: Federal, Primers: CCI

POWDER CHARGE	VELOCITY
Hornady 85 gr. JHP	
2.5 grs. Unique	.632 fps
2.6 grs. WW 231	.600 fps
2.8 grs. WW 231	.654 fps
Speer 98 gr. HBWC	
1.6 grs. Bullseye	.658 fps
1.8 grs. Bullseye	.789 fps
1.7 grs. WW 231	.659 fps
1.9 grs. WW 231	.788 fps
Bull-X 100 gr. SWC	
2.3 gr. WW 231	.651 fps
2.5 gr. WW 231	.744 fps

DOUBLE LUBRICATION

Shotgunners consider the O/U and SxS to be the most delightful guns in the world – and, of course, they are also the most expensive. Yet when examining many quality doubles on the used gun rack or at shows, it's disheartening to see galled hinge pins and trunions, stiff cocking cams, gummed-up bolts, and general lack of attention given to the working surfaces of fine double actions by previous owners. Here are a few maintenance suggestions that will keep a double's easily accessible working parts in tip-top shape.



1: TRUNIONS

These are the hard working, precise pivot points of an action. Every time a gun opens or closes, these points of contact between the hooks of the barrel lumps and the frame are wearing against each other. They should be cleaned each time the gun is cleaned and re-lubricated with a light, temperature-insensitive grease. The widely available Shooter's Choice All Weather High-Tech Synthetic Grease, packaged in a plastic syringe, has an operating working range of -65 F to +350 F and is harmless to plastic and rubber. It's easy to apply, stays put, is inexpensive and works.

2: KNUCKLE

This is the radius at the front of the frame that bears against the matching radius of the forearm iron. It's another important shotgun grease fitting. Clean both surfaces and apply a light coating of grease upon reassembly.

3: BOLTS

Bolts and bolting recesses are so perfectly fitted that we favor a light touch of synthetic oil rather than grease. Birchwood Casey's Synthetic Gun Oil with Teflon is temperature insensitive, doesn't gum up, and a small dab applied with a cotton swab works to perfection. Again, re-lubricate at every cleaning.

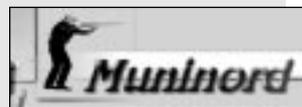
4: CAMS, RODS & EJECTORS

They do a lot of work: tolerances are tight and timing is perfect, but they move very little. Again, keep them clean and lubricated with a slight film of synthetic oil.

Keep these hard-working parts cleaned and properly lubricated and you will extend the life of your double-barrel shotgun.

DOUBLE IMPACT

Here's a curious load coming out of Italy under the Muninord



label. It's a 12 ga. shell in which the shot column is loaded in two separate wads. The maker claims the patterns delivered by the dual-wad system are effective for distances from 30 meters to 100 meters. Even with a cylinder bore, the Muninord shells are rated effective from 20 meters to 80 meters. This is one load that's really worth a try.

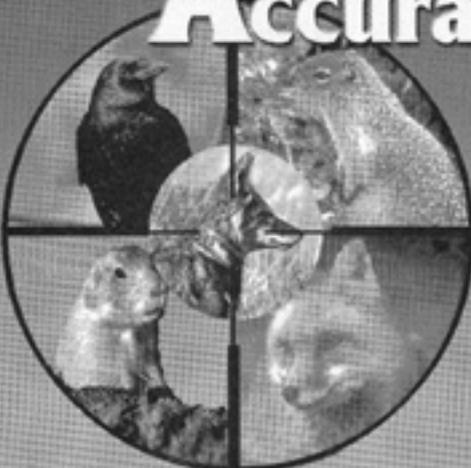


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LEE LOADER



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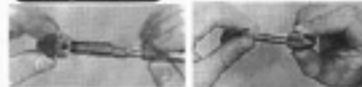
All other rifle shooting should be done with dies that full length size and apply a firm crimp. Only Lee Pace Setter Dies include a shell holder, load data and a factory crimp die; all of which are essential for factory-like ammunition.

Lubricate



Lubricate, deprime and size all of your cases which are in good condition.

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Gauge and trim the cases with the Lee Case Trimmer.

Remove sharp edges from inside and outside after trimming. One turn with the Lee Chamfer Tool does the job with no chatter.

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Seat bullet



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Laser Grips

Crimson Trace is the leading maker of micro-lasers for handguns, under the brand name Laser Grips. As the new name implies, the laser is incorporated in a replacement grip. The laser-aiming device is fully adjustable for windage and elevation, and the grip does not interfere with any holsters.

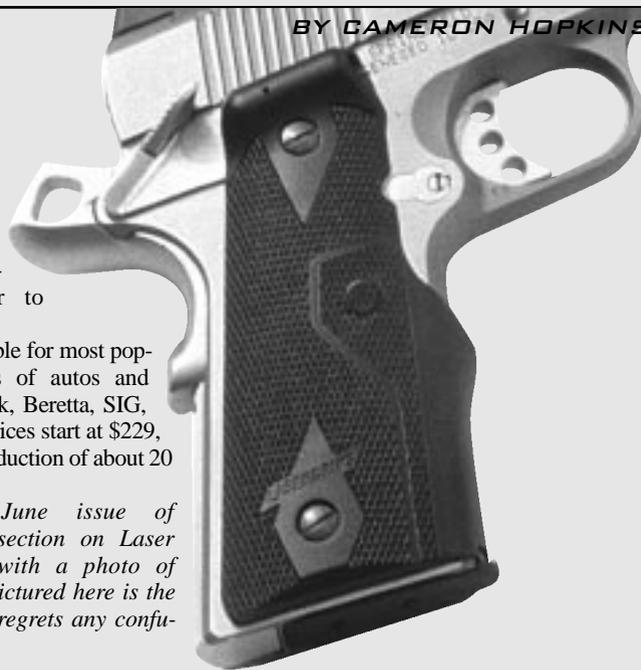
Most importantly, the Laser Grip people emphasize that conventional iron sights are still fully functional, unobscured and unimpeded — and they advise you to use them, except in certain situations that lend themselves to the tactical use of their built-in laser. Laser Grip tells you up front that their product is an auxiliary aiming device. “We believe you should always be able to sight and shoot a handgun without a laser,” says the first page of the company’s catalog.

Having granted that practical point, the Laser Grip is, in fact, an excellent adjunct to iron sights. First, a laser can be aimed from awkward positions, like reclining in bed or sprawled on the floor. Second, the laser is superimposed on the target so that if the eye is drawn to the threat, instead of the sights,

there is an aiming reference. Third, the laser can be a powerful deterrent, allowing a potentially lethal encounter to de-escalate.

Laser Grips are available for most popular makes and models of autos and revolvers, including Glock, Beretta, SIG, S&W, Colt and Taurus. Prices start at \$229, reflecting a recent price reduction of about 20 percent.

Errata: In the June issue of “Quartermaster,” this section on Laser Grips was published with a photo of another grip. The grip pictured here is the correct product. GUNS regrets any confusion caused by the error.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Leatherman PST

Bumming around Europe in the 1970s, a carefree young American engineering student met a spot of trouble when his rental car broke down in the middle of nowhere. A can-do sort of a guy, the young man attempted a make-shift repair but was unable to cobble the jalopy together because he didn't have a pair of pliers.

Back in the States, the young man put his engineer's mind to work on the problem and devised a small, handy device that contained every tool a person could want, in a pinch. The young man's name was Tim Leatherman.

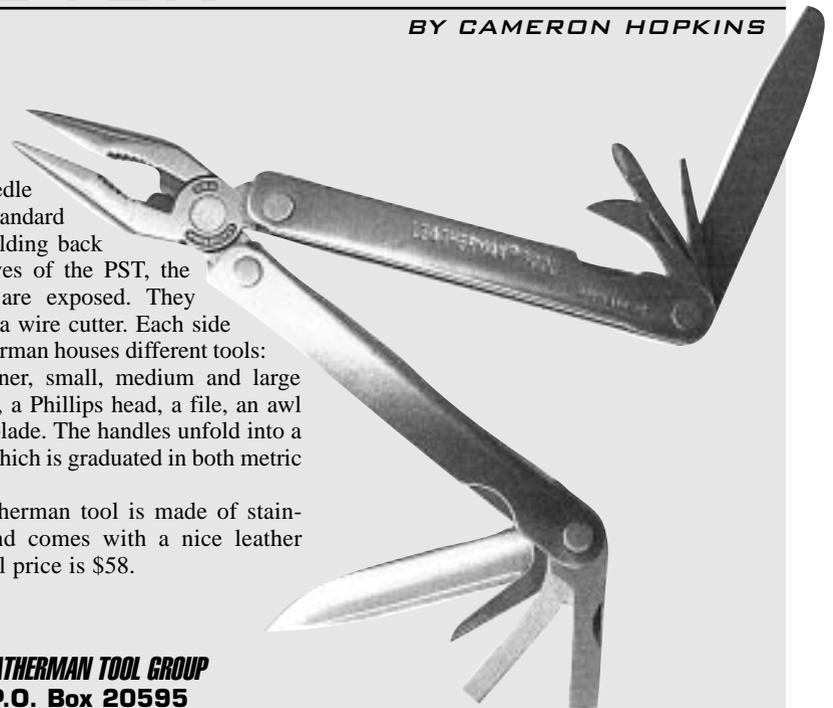
Today the Leatherman Tool Group Inc. manufactures a wide array of different versions of the original Leatherman multi-purpose tool. The patent on the original Pocket Survival Tool ran out several years ago and there are a host of imitators on the market, but we find the original model, now called the PST, to be elegantly simple and wonderfully useful.

The PST contains the signature tool of a Leatherman — pliers. They are a combina-

tion of a needle nose and a standard pliers. By folding back the two halves of the PST, the pliers jaws are exposed. They also contain a wire cutter. Each side of the Leatherman houses different tools: a bottle opener, small, medium and large screwdrivers, a Phillips head, a file, an awl and a knife blade. The handles unfold into a 7.75" ruler which is graduated in both metric and English.

The Leatherman tool is made of stainless steel and comes with a nice leather pouch. Retail price is \$58.

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Meprolight Reflex Sight

Flat-top AR-15s and M4s allow shooters to mount a variety of sights onto the weapons. Optical sights are not only faster in acquiring a target, but they are also more precise in hitting it than iron sights. We tested an optical sight by Meprolight that's designed for assault rifles.

It's called the Reflex Sight and it features an illuminated aiming reticle, a small, amber crosshair. The crosshair subtends 5.5 MOA.

The Meprolight Reflex sight does not rely on batteries to illuminate the aiming reticle. Instead, it uses tritium in the dark and fiber optic light transmission in the day. We mounted it on a Colt with a flat-top M4 upper.

We found the Meprolight's aiming reticle to be fuzzy and indistinct compared to a battery-powered dot in an Aimpoint clicked on its brightest setting. On the other hand, when we removed the battery from the Aimpoint, the Meprolight was considerably brighter!

Therein lies the attraction of self-illuminated sights like the Meprolight — they are

not dependent on batteries. The downside is that they are not as distinct as a battery-operated sight.

The adjustments on the Reflex Sight are calibrated in 1/4-minute clicks for windage and elevation. The unit attaches to a Picatinny rail with a single Weaver-style clamp. It is rugged and reliable. What performance it sacrifices with its self-illuminated reticle is more than compensated for by its greater durability and reliability. Made in Israel by Meprolight, the Reflex Sight is imported by Kimber and retails for \$350.



MEPROLIGHT

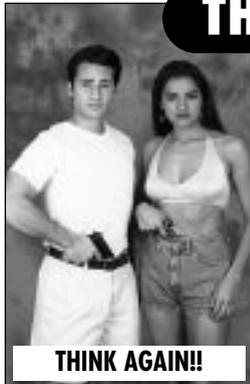
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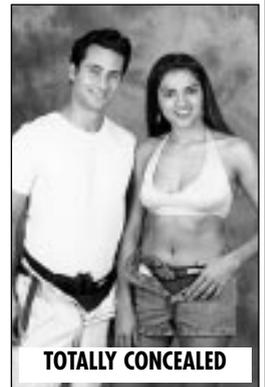


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QUARTERMASTER

BY CAMERON HOPKINS

Galco CCP Holster

Galco International produces the finest quality holsters and leather accessories of any of the major manufacturers. That's a bold statement and one that we don't make lightly, but we have used so many of Galco's excellent products over the years that we feel we can confidently say it — Galco can't be beat.

Galco's latest is the "Concealed Carry Paddle" made for most every handgun that one could want to carry. We tested one with a Glock 19. Constructed of premium saddle leather, the CCP features a patented belt lock on its paddle. The paddle is contoured to fit the hip comfortably, and allows the holster to be securely retained, but also quickly removed.

The idea of a paddle holster is to accommodate CCW holders and other professionals who wear a gun concealed in public, but want to remove it at work or around the house. The paddle tucks inside the pants and the belt-lock clip secures it.

Construction of the CCP is immaculate. The stitching is straight and even, double-

stitched in stress areas. Like all of Galco's leather holsters, the CCP features a hand-boned fit that is crisp and beautifully executed. Such a tightly boned fit makes a brand-new holster a bit stiff to draw, but the holster becomes more supple with use. We worked our Glock in and out to loosen the fit, a normal "break in" with a quality leather holster.

The color was a rich Havana brown, the dye deep and lustrous. The edges were polished to a sheen and dyed a darker shade. Black is also available.

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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. SA&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
Selector:	Reversed push-bolt Lock-back operating handle Keyed deployment lock	

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P-40



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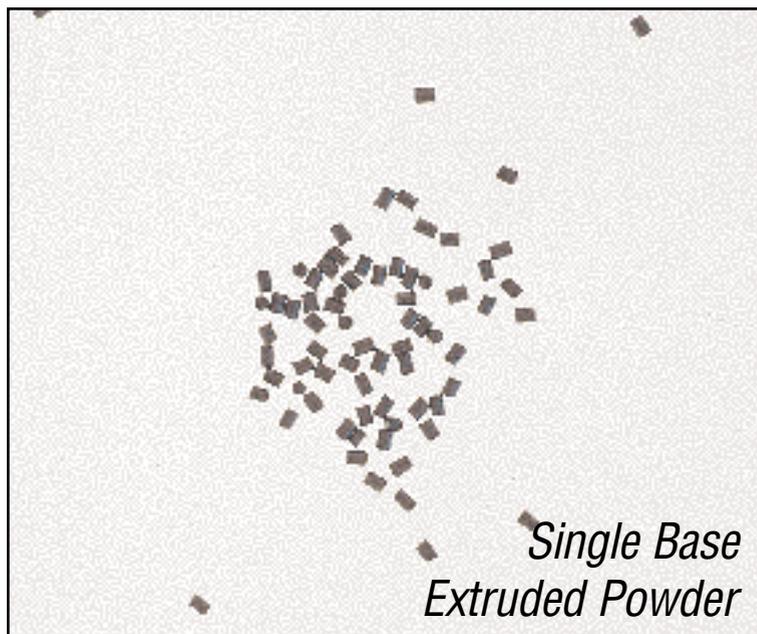


GUNPOWDER: *AN INSIDER'S VIEW*

It's black, it comes in a can and it goes "bang." Beyond that, few handloaders know the facts that make powder selection such an important aspect of load development.



Above: Don't take them for granted — today's powders are miracles of chemical innovation and industrial development. Left: Ever wonder why they call it "Cordite"? Opening a .303 cartridge reveals that this substance is indeed cords of "powder."



*Single Base
Extruded Powder*

By Holt Bodinson

Located in the Ballistics Laboratory of Alliant Powder is a jug of water which contains a batch of Unique powder that was produced in 1899. Periodically, a small sample is withdrawn, dried and test fired. After 102 years, it still meets the current specifications for Unique.

As handloaders, we are blessed with the largest selection and quality of canister-grade powders in history. There are over a 100 different smokeless powder formulations available from the major manufacturers and importers, including Accurate Arms, Alliant, Hodgdon, IMR, NobelSport, Norma, Vihtavuori, and Western Powders plus dozens of other formulations through smaller surplus powder dealers.

Stepping back in time for a moment, the history of gunpowder is rather intriguing. That foul-smelling, smoky mixture called blackpowder begins to appear in historical accounts around 800 A.D. Composed of 15 percent charcoal, 75 percent potassium nitrate, and 10 percent sulfur, the chemistry of this basic mixture is relatively simple. The charcoal is the fuel; potassium nitrate, the oxidizer; sulfur facilitates the ignition process. For centuries it was carried around and loaded in loose powder form — even mixed on the spot sometimes because the vibrations of transport would cause the three chemical components to separate.

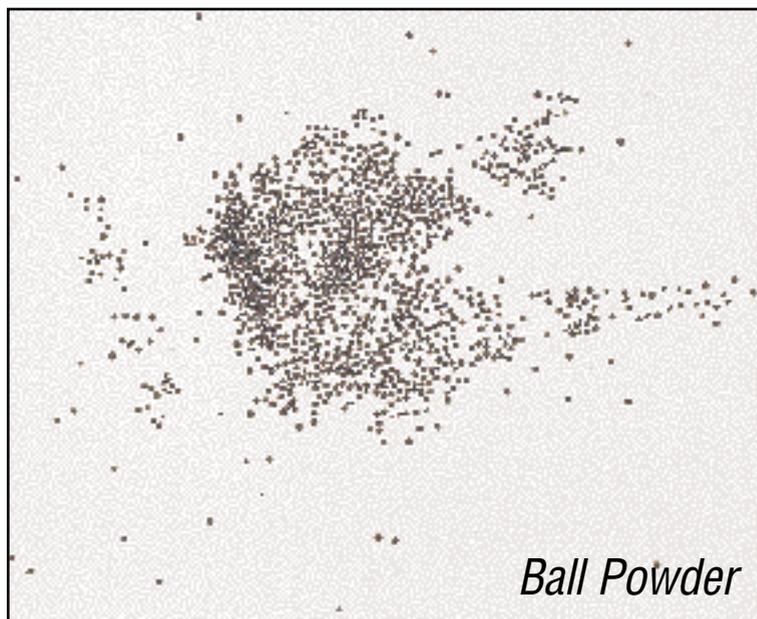
Finally, around the 16th century, someone developed the process of adding water to the mixture, rolling it out, letting it dry, crushing it and sorting out the grains by size. Essentially, blackpowder remains unchanged today. If it has a redeeming quality, it is its incredible stability. This, of course, can be seen in the occasional report of an antique muzzleloader, left loaded for years, discharging when the trigger is pulled.

Powder In The Modern Age

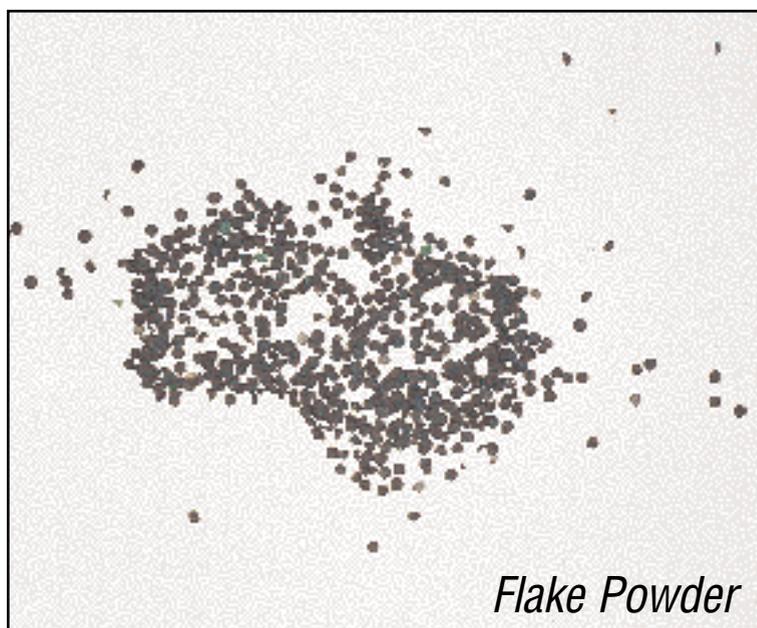
Modern, smokeless propellants date from 1846 when both nitrocellulose and nitroglycerin first emerged from European laboratories.

Nitrocellulose, or “guncotton” as it was once known, was produced by impregnating cotton fibers or wood pulp with

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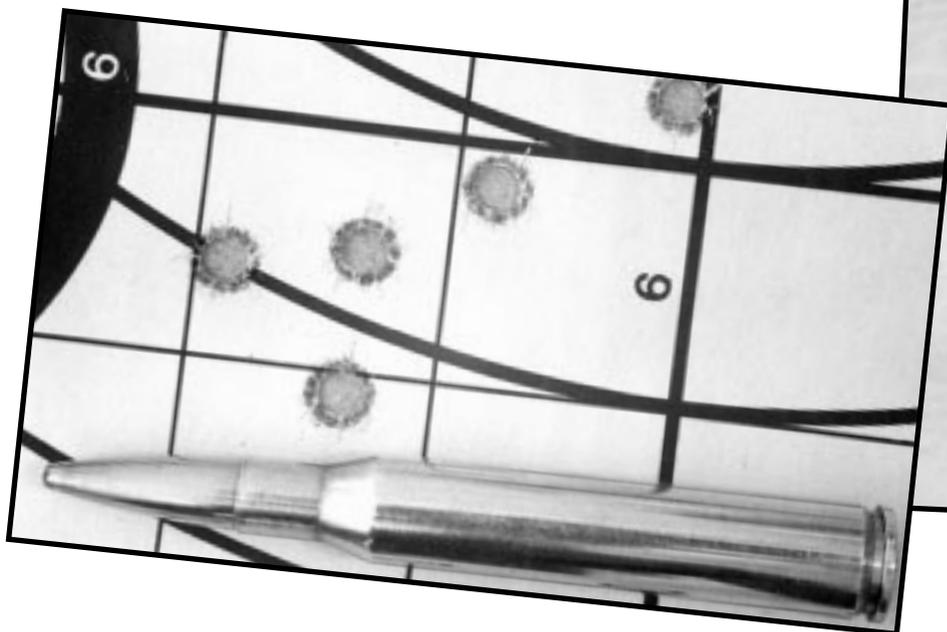
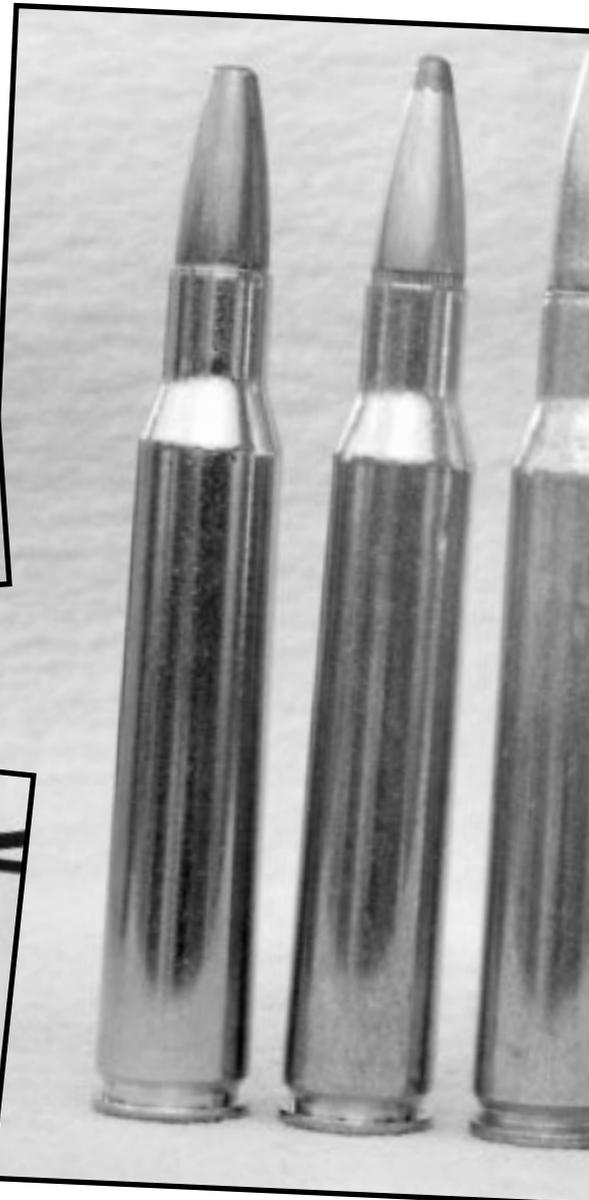
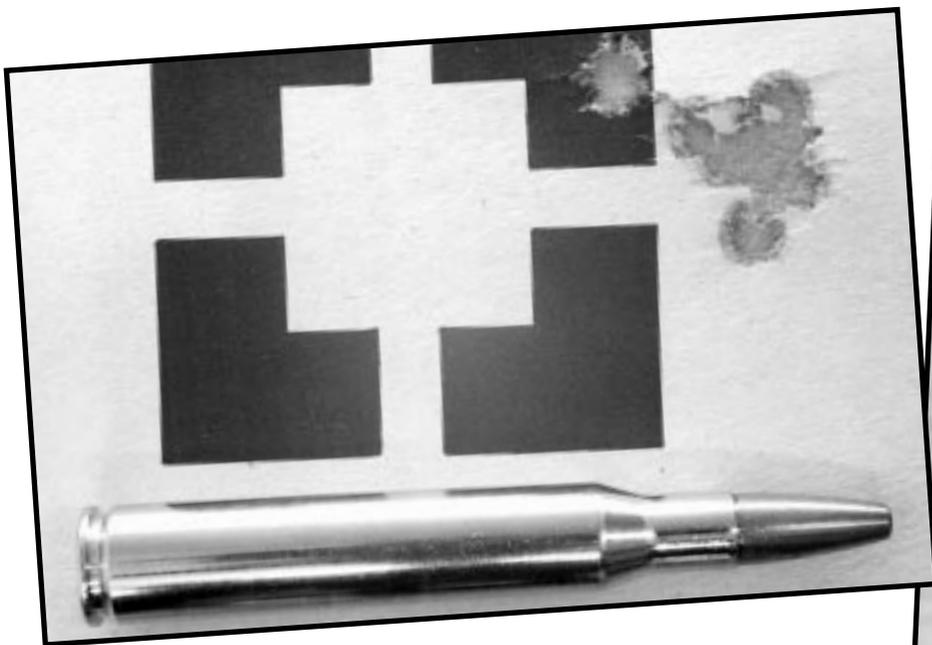
Ball Powder



Flake Powder

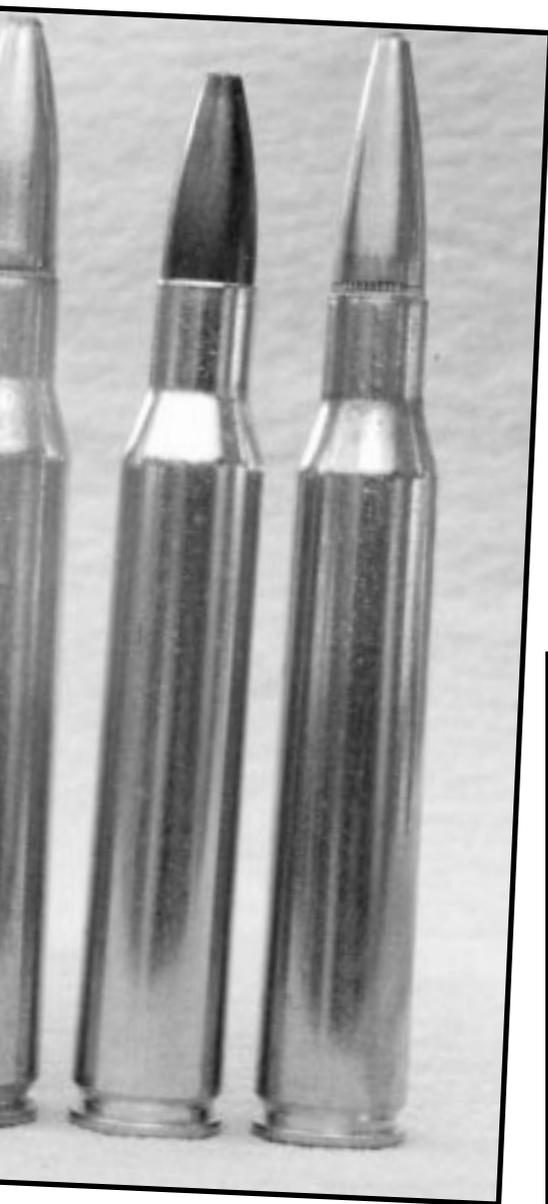
FACTORY AMMO/CUSTOM

*Think you have to be a **handloader** to wring out of your rifle? Think again. Here are the achievements that drive tackdriving performance with off-*



TOM ACCURACY

match-grade accuracy out tricks the experts use to the-shelf ammo.



Clockwise from top left: A few trips to the range and some intelligently evaluated data can produce this kind of hand-load-quality accuracy with off-the-shelf ammo. Most popular hunting calibers are offered by several manufacturers in similar bullet styles and weights. It would be a miracle if any given .280 Rem. rifle shot equally well with, from left, a Federal 140 gr. Trophy Bonded, a Federal 150 gr. Classic, a Remington 150 gr. Core-Lokt, a Winchester 160 gr. Fail Safe, and a Remington 165 gr. Extended Range. Selecting your ammo based on nothing but brand preference can produce this kind of result. This sort of 100-yard accuracy is common but, by finding a factory load that works well in the specific rifle, shooters can usually do much better.

By **m.L. McPherson**

Accuracy fanatics know that observing the shooting practices of “occasional shooters” — as happens each year at “hunter sight-in days” at myriad ranges around the country — is an eye-opening experience. It is common to see these shooters, who may fire only a handful of cartridges each year, demonstrating the belief that ammunition choice has no accuracy or point-of-impact consequences.

Consider this case as an example. One hunter recently arrived at the range with his scoped, bolt-action .30-'06. Randomly grabbing cartridges from a large plastic bag, he proceeded to load and fire two five-shot groups at 100 yards. After finishing the second group, he was perplexed and asked for advice from some of the more experienced shooters at the range.

He had previously cleaned the bore (on someone's good advice) but the gun still would not shoot with acceptable accuracy. Then he bought an expensive 4-12x scope (someone suggested that might help him aim better). He carefully rested the rifle over sandbags (someone had explained that the gun should be properly supported during bench testing). Nevertheless, his rifle kept on shooting 5" 100-yard groups. At that point,

continued on page 73

Five Tips For Better Accuracy With Factory Loads

- *Practice your technique and know your capabilities. Don't expect MOA performance out of your ammo if you need more experience to achieve that level of performance.*
- *Clean your bore before starting. Few guns perform well when they need cleaning.*
- *Use a bigger scope. When evaluating your gun's accuracy, switch to a high-power target scope that you know will reliably hold its zero.*
- *Foul before you fire. A clean gun may fire to a different point-of-impact after a few rounds. Put three or four rounds “into the berm” before you commence accuracy testing.*
- *Consistency is everything. Once you begin testing, don't change bullet weight, ammo brands or sandbag placement. All of these can have a significant impact on your point-of-impact.*

HUNTING

With The **.30-30** Today

Advances in bullet design and loading technique have kept this grand old cartridge on the forefront of ballistic performance.

SUPER ACCURATE .30-30 HANDLOADS

Cooking up handloads for the .30-30 is easy, economical and interesting. Here are a few of Holt's favorite, accurate handloads assembled in Winchester brass with Winchester large rifle primers:

BULLET	POWDER	VELOCITY
Hornady 93 gr. RNSP	35.0 grs. RL-7	3,095 fps
Sierra 125 gr. HPFN	30.0 grs. RL-7	2,550 fps
Speer 130 gr. FNFP	35.0 grs. AA 2520	2,530 fps
Sierra 150 gr. FNFP	28.0 grs. RL-7	2,350 fps
Sierra 170 gr. FNFP	34.0 grs. RL-15	2,352 fps
Laser-Cast 173 gr. FNGC	19.0 grs. IMR 4227	1,872 fps

All handloads assembled using Winchester brass and large rifle primers. The 93 gr. Hornady Luger bullet is available only from the Old Western Scrounger. The 173 gr. gas-checked lead bullet is available directly from Laser-Cast.

BALLISTIC DATA

.30-30 FACTORY LOADS

LOAD	VELOCITY
Remington 55 gr. Accelerator	3,495 fps
Winchester 150 gr. Power-Point	2,405 fps
PMC 150 gr. Starfire	2,308 fps
Federal 170 gr. Nosler Partition	2,175 fps



By Holt Bodinson

After kicking around for 106 years, the Winchester .30-30 should be clawing for life in the face of ballistic advances throughout the ensuing decades. Yet, this historic big-game cartridge continues to breeze along, placing among the top five best-selling centerfire rifle cartridges year after year after year. Perhaps this venerable old cartridge deserves a second — or even third — look.

Introduced in 1895 in the Model 94 Winchester rifle, the .30 Winchester Center Fire was America's first smokeless-powder sporting cartridge. Loaded with a 160 gr. bullet at 1,970 fps and chambered in a rifle that had the slim lines of a Model 92 Winchester, the .30 WCF virtually buried the big-bore, blackpowder cartridges and the ponderous rifles chambered for them.

Chambered in Winchester, Marlins, Savages, and dozens of other domestic and foreign brands — literally millions of firearms — the .30-30 emerged as the supreme "deer" chambering. In this, the era of super magnums, the little .30-30 still has a lot to offer savvy shooters.

First and foremost, it is a balanced cartridge. It has been around so long that the soft point bullets loaded by the factories are highly refined. They expand well and hold together perfectly at .30-30 velocities. If you've ever wanted to see a picture-perfect mushroomed soft point, just recover a .30-30 bullet from any big game animal. Moreover, the excellent factory ammunition is cheap.

It's an accurate cartridge. Maybe lever action designs don't deliver the best a cartridge has to offer, but we've owned many .30-30 rifles and carbines that would easily do 2" at 100 yards with factory ammunition — some even better. When chambered in bolt actions like the Winchester 54, Savage 340 and Remington 788 or in single shots like the Browning 1885, Savage 219 and 24 or the current T/C Contenders, the handloaded .30-30 can deliver sub-MOA groups.

Factory ammo for the .30-30 is available in a variety of loads ranging from 55 gr. .224 sabots to 170 gr. big game bullets.



The .30-30 gained its reputation as a deer-hunting cartridge, and it's just as effective today as it was 106 years ago.

Inset: Whoa! Loading spitzer bullets in a .30-30? Actually, as long as you make sure you only have one round in the magazine, you can take advantage of these ballistically superior projectiles.

The .30-30 is an effective 200-yard, light big-game cartridge when used in a scope-sighted rifle. It's an often-repeated fact, but more big game is shot under 200 yards than over. We've known the .30-30 to perform well on deer, black bear, antelope, elk and moose, and you can't ask for much more than that from any cartridge.

What More Could Anyone Ask?

The .30-30 is very mild in the recoil department when chambered in light and handy firearms. In fact, the modest recoil dished out by the .30-30 is one of its most endearing qualities. We would place the .30-30 at the head of the list as an ideal big-game caliber for many women and youths or other shooters who are recoil sensitive and who find a 6½ lb. rifle just about all they want to carry afield.

It's a handloader's dream. Headspace is fixed by the case's rim, so the .30-30 doesn't require any critical resizing die adjustments. The long, forgiving neck just seems to align any bullet — cast or jacketed — a bit better than modern stubby-neck designs.

Its modest case capacity of around 30 grs. of powder provides high loading densities when loaded to the max, and yet not excessive air space when stoked with mild,

reduced loads. Often overlooked is the fact that inexpensive 170 gr. gas-checked cast bullets can be driven as fast in the .30-30 as jacketed bullets of the same weight — both around 2,150 fps.

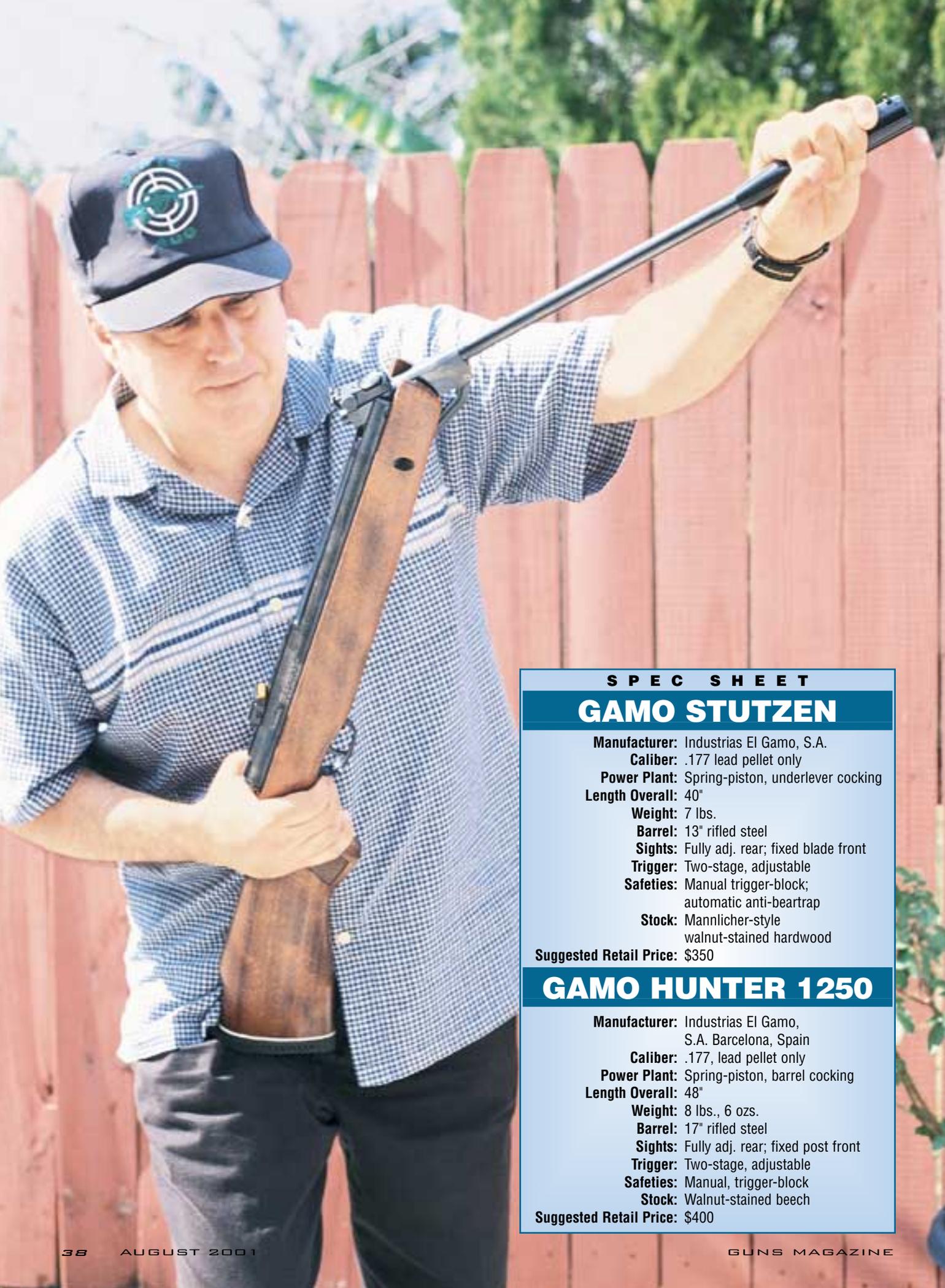
If you don't handload, the factories offer every conceivable loading from Remington's 55 gr., .224 sabot Accelerator revving up at 3,400 fps to Federal's 170 gr. Nosler Partition at 2,200 fps. The most popular loadings are the 150 gr. offerings. Every manufacturer offers one or two, and the hotshot of the group is Winchester's new 150 gr. Power-Point Plus at 2,480 fps.

No, this is not your grandpappy's .30-30 pushing a 160 gr. soft point at 1,970 fps. When zeroed at 100 yards, the new Winchester load is down only 3.5" at 200 yards. Then there's PMC's wicked-looking 150 gr. monolithic Starfire with a hollowpoint cavity so large it actually encircles the primer ahead of it in a tubular magazine.

The Unconventional .30-30

While factory loads are tailored for safe loading in tubular magazines and feature round or flat nose soft points or cavernous hollowpoints, spitzer bullets can be

continued on page 72



S P E C S H E E T

GAMO STUTZEN

Manufacturer: Industrias El Gamo, S.A.

Caliber: .177 lead pellet only

Power Plant: Spring-piston, underlever cocking

Length Overall: 40"

Weight: 7 lbs.

Barrel: 13" rifled steel

Sights: Fully adj. rear; fixed blade front

Trigger: Two-stage, adjustable

Safeties: Manual trigger-block;
automatic anti-beartrap

Stock: Mannlicher-style
walnut-stained hardwood

Suggested Retail Price: \$350

GAMO HUNTER 1250

Manufacturer: Industrias El Gamo,
S.A. Barcelona, Spain

Caliber: .177, lead pellet only

Power Plant: Spring-piston, barrel cocking

Length Overall: 48"

Weight: 8 lbs., 6 ozs.

Barrel: 17" rifled steel

Sights: Fully adj. rear; fixed post front

Trigger: Two-stage, adjustable

Safeties: Manual, trigger-block

Stock: Walnut-stained beech

Suggested Retail Price: \$400

Gamo Air Rifles: *Stutzen & Hunter 1250*

Capable of generating awesome velocities and outstanding accuracy, these magnum-class airguns are second to none in the realm of pure power.

By J. I. Galan

Gamo airguns have a well-deserved reputation for superior quality and respectable performance at affordable prices. That hard-won fame is quite apparent in two of their top-selling models, the Stutzen and the Hunter 1250. Both models are fine examples of magnum-class air rifles in every respect.

A Hunter's Airgun

Introduced approximately one year ago, the Gamo Stutzen has the compact, elegant and trim lines of the classic Mannlicher-style European centerfire hunting rifle. With an overall length of 40" and tipping the scales at a comfortable 7 lbs., the Stutzen is handy enough for use by most adults, as well as many younger shooters ready to move up to a hard-hitting, adult-class pellet rifle. Employing an underlever-cocking, spring-piston power plant, this air rifle can generate a muzzle velocity of approximately 920 fps in .177 caliber.

The relatively short cocking lever of the Stutzen is neatly concealed in the forward part of the sleek full-length stock and incorporates a spring-loaded release button. As expected in such a potent "springer," the cocking effort is a bit on the rough side, but is still manageable by most shooters.

Cocking this rifle automatically forces the pellet loading chamber to pop out from its seat in the forward part of the action, just behind the rear sight. Upon manually loading a .177 pellet, the chamber has to be pushed in prior to firing.

The Stutzen sports a finely rifled 13" steel barrel. The barrel is deeply blued to match the rest of the metal surfaces, including the stout cocking lever. The beautiful Mannlicher-style stock is made of walnut-stained hardwood with a Monte

continued on page 62



Opposite: Oof! Cocking the powerful Hunter 1250 requires 58 lbs. of pressure, making this magnum-class air rifle one of the most potent "springers" on the market. Below: Although the underlever cocking system of the Stutzen is a bit stiff, it is still quite manageable by most adults.



ULTRA-T





TECH 870

Combat shotguns are more sophisticated than ever, customized with computer-designed ports, laser-sighted, infrared-equipped and tuned for total reliability. Say hello to the next generation of Remington's classic 12 ga. pump.

*By Cameron Hopkins
Photos By Ichiro Nagata*

Combining the latest, most sophisticated technology available for combat weaponry in 2001 on an "old fashioned" Remington pump shotgun may seem like putting a turbocharger on a Model T, but the tried-and-true Model 870 is so fundamentally sound that it easily adapts to these ultra-modern enhancements.

Having proved itself in combat in Vietnam with the Marines, the Remington 870 in "riot gun" guise is the quintessential social shotgun. Carried in countless police cruisers and leaned against innumerable bedroom nightstands, the 870 is the best-selling pump shotgun of all time. Remington had sold over 8 million 870s as of the end of 2000. That's an awful lot of life insurance for one gun company to sell.

SCATTERGUN TECHNOLOGIES
BERRYVILLE, AR TR-870

GUNS

MAGAZINE

ULTRA-TECH 870



M900 vertical-grip combat light and Universal light by Sure-Fire (800) 828-8809. Fighting knife by Strider custom knives (760) 471-8275.





The use of scatterguns as fighting weapons — remember, the Second Amendment ain't about duck hunting — dates to the trenches of World War I when American doughboys found the devastating power of a magazine tube full of 00 buck to be a great “sweeper” for cleaning out a Jerry position. The German military officially protested the use of shotguns as “barbaric.”

The 97s used in World War I were modified from their sporting configurations with ventilated handguards and fitted with bayonet lugs. In Vietnam, Remington 870s were outfitted with extended magazines, again to enhance their combat effectiveness.

Remington's police version of the 870 comes with a three-shot magazine extension, special sights and optional Davis “speed feed” magazines for fast reloads. The principle here is clear — it makes sense to modify the slide-

action for increased capability in a fighting role.

From the side-by-side Greeners of the frontier gun-fighters to the leathernecks in the trenches of Flanders to the “men with green faces” in Vietnam, the combat shotgun is a proven performer. To show just how far the combat scattergun has progressed, we set about designing the ultimate fighting pump gun.

Sure-Fire's M900 vertical grip is attached to the same company's Picatinny forend, augmented with a high intensity green laser. Below, the differing intensities of the twin Sure-Fires can be seen. With the red filter in place (far left) the light is more subdued than with the dazzling brilliance of the full white-light from the adjacent Millennium Universal light on the gun's right side. Both lights could be on white for maximum blinding effect.





Combining the talents of three of the top companies at customizing fighting firearms, our “ultra-tech” 870 is a demonstration of just what is possible with today’s technology to enhance a basic pump gun. Some of the modifications are rudimentary — slicking up the action bars for a smoother slide — and some are quite sophisticated, like the M900 vertical grip lighting and laser module.

Let’s catalog the modifications that are possible on an 870 and explain why they are desirable.

Basic Building Block

We began with a Remington Express Synthetic HD version of the 870. The HD stands for “home defense,” and this is essentially the same as their police model, your basic, garden-variety “riot gun.” It comes with an 18”, cylinder-bored barrel, a plain gold-bead sight and a standard four-shell magazine. This is a plain vanilla shotgun, more than

continued on page 54



Note the unique configuration of Briley’s porting system in the barrel.



GUNS

MAGAZINE

Website Showcase

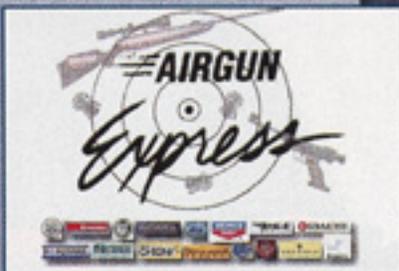
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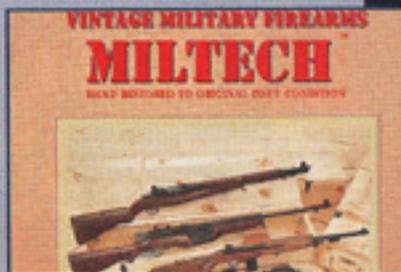
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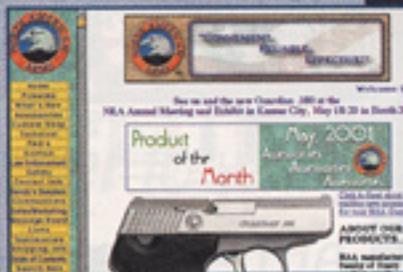
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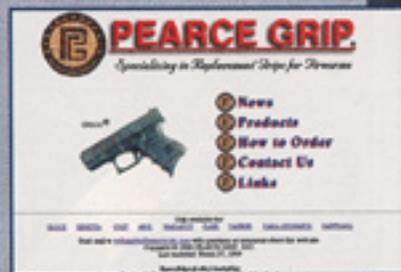
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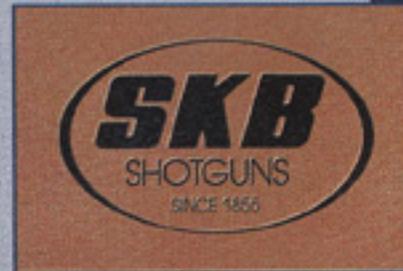
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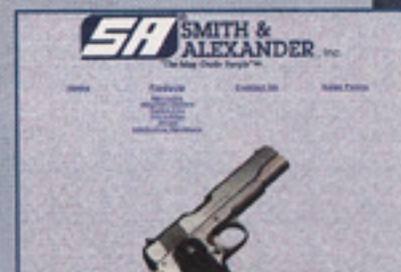
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SECRETS OF A PROFESSIONAL SHOOTER

Secrets Of A Professional Shooter: Part 1

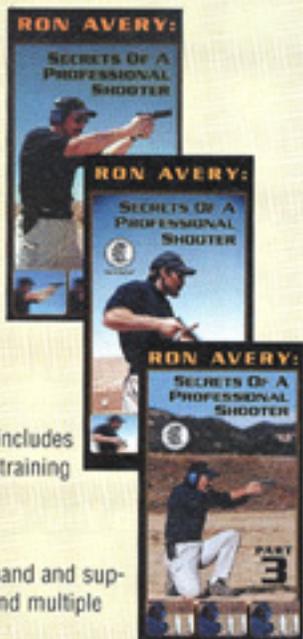
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ULTRA-TECH 870

continued from page 46

adequate as it comes from the box for self-defense purposes, and very affordable.

We sent the HD to Scattergun Technologies, a division of Bill Wilson's ever-expanding custom gunsmithing operation at Wilson Combat, for upgrading with Wilson's best-selling "Border Patrol Package." This set of modifications and improvements is identical to what the U.S. Border Patrol orders from Scattergun Technologies.

The Border Patrol Package includes Wilson's adjustable "Trak-Lock" ghost ring rear sight mated to a high-visibility, ramp front sight with a tritium insert. The ghost ring rear sight is hands-down the best sighting system for a combat shotgun because it allows the precise placement of slugs and tight-patterned buckshot at close range. The "ghost" refers to the large aperture which fuzzes out, or ghosts, when you focus on the front sight.

With its adjustable base, the "Trak-Lock" sight can be moved for both windage and elevation, making it possible to zero for slugs at your desired range. We set ours for point-of-aim at 50 yards, which means we can hold at the upper chest and still drop 1 oz. chunks of spiraled lead into the K-zone at 100 yards. That setting is good for making head shots at 25 yards too.

The front sight contains a tritium dot — a self-illuminated aiming point. A tactical shotgun should always have a tritium front sight.

As a quick aside, we are aware that shotguns for aerial targets should be "pointed" instead of "aimed," but the entire dynamic changes when confronting land-based targets. The shot pattern of 00 buck is much smaller than a typical hail of No. 8 shot at 40 yards. A 00 buck "group" at 15 yards is only about 6" in diameter, meaning you better aim and not point. The importance of aiming with slugs should be obvious. The ghost ring sight setup has evolved as the best way to aim a combat shotgun.

The Scattergun 870 also includes a magazine extension, upping the payload to seven rounds. The BP package also includes an extra power, heavy duty stainless mag spring and a non-binding follower. We opted for a four-round "Side Saddle" spare shell carrier which bolts to the port side of the receiver, which is an optional addition to the Border Patrol package. Wilson also offers a six-round Side Saddle, but we prefer the four-round for reasons of weight and balance.

We stoke slugs in the Side Saddle, keeping 7+1 rounds of 00 buck in the gun. If we need a slug for tactical reasons, we can either single-load from the Side Saddle, or shove a couple into the magazine, if there's room.

Wilson adds a highly practical jumbo-head safety button, which greatly reduces the "fumble factor" of disengaging the safety in a crisis. There is also a multi-purpose tactical sling included with a buttstock swivel and a rigid magazine-tube sling mount.

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To ensure total reliability — a hallmark of Wilson-tuned firearms — the gunsmiths hone the slide action bars and ensure they are straight and parallel. The bolt is checked for smooth operation and the ejector and extractor are inspected for correct fit and function. There is not an awful lot that can go wrong with an 870, which is why it is the favored police shotgun of all time, but Wilson's skilled technicians make double-certain everything checks out.

The 870 is then finished in Wilson's "Armor Tuff" coating. This is a highly resistant finish, enduring scuffs and humidity alike without marring or corroding. The ultra-tech 870 is Armor Tuffed in olive drab green, but black is also available.

This completes the Border Patrol package, representing what we consider one of the best bargains in the custom gun world at \$675 — including a brand new 870 as the base gun! (The four-round Side Saddle is optional and costs \$30 more.)

Briley Upgrading

The Border Patrol package makes for a rugged, reliable combat shotgun, but we sent the 870 on to the famed house of Briley, specialists in thin-wall, high-performance chokes. In addition to fitting Berettas, Krieghoffs, Perazzis and other top-drawer shotguns with their superbly crafted choke tubes, Briley also offers some special enhancements that are appropriate for duty shotguns.

The performance of any shotgun can be improved by reducing its kick, and Briley is a leader in recoil-reduction technology. Their porting system, known as Ultra Ports, is particularly effective because the ports are scientifically designed to maximize the redirection of propellant gas to reduce muzzle jump.

Briley's Ultra Ports are EDM-machined into the top of the barrel in a precise configuration of rows. Curiously, they look like little commas. Briley calls them "tear drop" shapes. The ports are as high on the barrel as possible, to vent gas up rather than sideways.

Additionally, Briley back-bored the 870 barrel and lengthened the forcing cone, two modifications that are popular on sporting clays guns to reduce felt recoil. Back-boring is a honing process in which approximately 0.01" is taken out of the barrel, increasing its diameter for the length of the entire barrel. According to Briley's Claudio Salassa, this serves to reduce pressure in the barrel, thus reducing felt recoil. Typically, a 12 ga. bore is increased from .730" to .740" with Briley's back-boring.

Lengthening the forcing cone is similar to throating the leade in a pistol barrel, Salassa said, serving to smooth the transition of the shot column into the barrel. This reduces the peak pressure that occurs when the shot column slams into the forcing cone by "easing" the shot into the barrel in a more gradual transition. Again, the effect is to lessen the gun's kick.

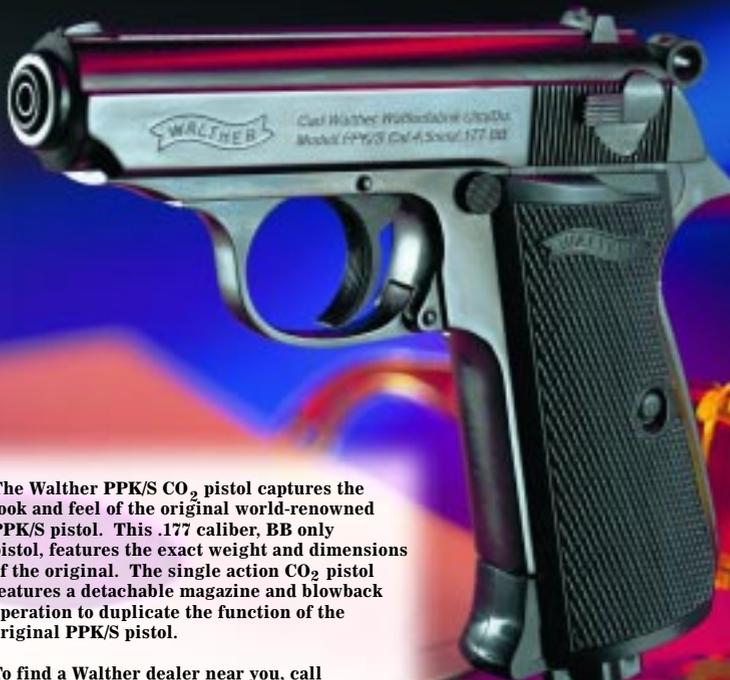
Taken together, the porting, back-boring and lengthening of the forcing cone reduce

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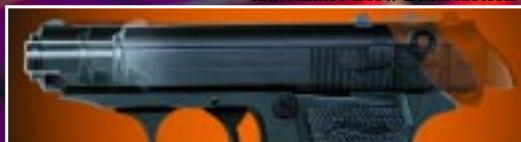
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recoil by 20 to 30 percent, according to Salassa. We found the Briley-tuned 870 to kick noticeably less than a stock 870 with the same barrel length, but we would be hard pressed to quantify the difference. Between 20 and 30 percent seemed about right to our shoulder.

The cost of Briley's modifications are \$95 for the Ultra Ports, \$150 for back-boring (it's a rather lengthy — if you'll forgive the pun — process) and \$55 for the forcing cone work.

Briley also fit a set of their flush-mounted, thin-wall chokes for which Jess Briley's namesake company is so justly famous. We ordered cylinder bore, improved and modified, a standard set of three chokes that Briley sells in the their "Three Choke Package" for \$139, including installation.

Lights & Lasers

Weapon-mounted lights multiply the effectiveness of a combat arm by a quantum leap. It's not an exaggeration to say that a brilliant, searing white light is *more* effective in neutralizing an opponent in a CQB environment than the actual firepower of the weapon. Hitting an adversary with a sharply focused beam of white light right in the eyes actually blinds the enemy temporarily.

Sure-Fire, a California company specializing in tactical lights for police and military, manufacturers an impressive array of combative lights. We mounted a Sure-Fire vertical grip M900 combat light on the 870, attached to a Picatinny rail forend also manufactured by Sure-Fire.

The M900 houses a powerful Millennium combat light capable of putting out 225 lumens of blinding light. The Xenon bulb in its metallic-coated lamp assembly is powered by three lithium batteries with a 10-year shelf life. A conventional police flashlight with eight D-cells is less powerful than the flashbulb-like intensity of the Sure-Fire M900.

The vertical grip on the M900 contains a pressure switch for ambidextrous operation of the light, providing a momentary on-off capability that is the single most important key in a tactical light. Additionally, there are two LED "navigation lights" with very limited output for picking one's way through darkened hallways without using the main battle light, which would ruin your dark-adjusted night vision. The M900 also has a constant-on switch for the white light.

While an M900 is more than adequate by itself — in fact most SWAT members and Special Forces operators would use nothing but an M900 — we upgraded the combative lighting potential of the ultra-tech 870 with an additional Sure-Fire light. We hasten to add that we gilded the lily, for there is no "need" for a second light, but we wanted to demonstrate the *potential* of today's fighting scattergun, not necessarily its most expeditious tactical form. In fact, with two lights and a laser, the forend is too heavy for rapid and sure handling.

Bearing in mind this was for "demonstration purposes only," we added Sure-Fire's Millennium Universal Light which consists

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of a two-battery Centurion light with an integral Weaver-style mount to attach to the Picatinny rail forend. The tailcap of the light is a momentary on-off switch. The light is positioned on the Picatinny rail such that you operate it with your thumb.

We added a red filter to the M900 light and left the Universal Light as our white light source. The red filter reduces the level of light to that of a navigational tool. Sure-Fire also makes an infrared filter for use with a night vision device (NVD).

The highlight — no pun intended — of the assembly is Sure-Fire's green laser, an industry first. We mounted the green laser on the port side of the Picatinny rail, also operated by a momentary on-off tailcap.

Why green? Because a green laser operating at the same intensity as a red laser appears much brighter to the human eye. Operating at 35 nanometers, a green laser actually appears eight times brighter to the human eye than a red laser.

If that's true, why are all the lasers out there red? Because Sure-Fire pioneered a method of generating a green emission with a diode pumped solid state (DPSS) laser. This is not exactly proprietary technology, but no one else in the firearms industry is using it. To give you some idea of the cost involved, a typical red laser diode costs the manufacturer \$5. A DPSS green laser costs the manufacturer \$300.

Using a weapon-mounted laser is a viable tactical option for certain situations, such as shooting around a ballistic shield or firing from awkward positions. The laser can also be used as a deterrent, instantly "signaling" the bad guy that he is about two pounds of trigger pressure away from a one-way ticket across the River Styx.

Tuned for reliability, outfitted with ghost ring sights and an extended magazine, ported, back-bored and Briley choked, lasered and white-lighted, the ultra-tech 870 is a far cry from the mud-caked trench gun of Flanders. If the German high command thought those rusty Winchester 97s were "barbaric," we shudder to think what they would think of the ultra-tech 870.



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GUNPOWDER

continued from page 33

nitric and sulfuric acid. The ensuing product was very unstable and difficult to work with, resulting in several headline-making accidents.

In 1884, it was discovered that the fibrous guncotton could be gelatinized by treating it with a mixture of alcohol and ether. The resulting product could be rolled into sheets, cut into squares and strips, and stabilized by adding up to 2 percent diphenylamine. This substance was named "Poudre B" by the French. It was the first successful "single-base" powder.

With great secrecy, the French exploited this breakthrough by designing the first smokeless, small bore, military cartridge, the 8mm Lebel, and a new rifle, the Model 1886 Lebel, to fire it. The French "Poudre B" truly revolutionized military small arms.

One of the intriguing qualities of nitrocellulose is that it is the basic material in many harmless, domestic products including celluloid plastic, early photographic film, rayon, fingernail polish and lacquer. Not that such items couldn't be converted to other uses. An old article in *National Geographic* describes tribesmen along the Indian border with Pakistan who were adept at producing gunpowder by dicing up nitrocellulose movie film.

In 1888, Alfred Nobel took smokeless powder production to a new plateau by using nitroglycerin to gelatinize nitrocellulose, thereby producing a new commercial smokeless powder named "Ballistite." The effect of the nitroglycerin was to increase the energy of the powder. Ballistite was the first commercially viable "double-base" powder and was produced in 1889 at the Nobel factory in Ardeer, Scotland.

In that same year, the British patented a combination of 58 percent nitroglycerin, 37 percent guncotton, and 5 percent vaseline. The resulting paste was squeezed through a die to form strings or cords, and the resulting product was named "Cordite."

So by 1890, the essential chemistry of modern smokeless powders was well established. We still work with single-based powders exemplified by the IMR series, and double-based powders common to the Alliant series and Winchester ball powders. Formed into cords, flakes, sticks, and balls, modified with stabilizers, surface treatment agents, flame reducing agents, de-fouling agents, and blended to produce a fairly consistent level of performance from lot to lot, canister-grade smokeless powder sold at your local gun shop is a chemical marvel and an exceptional value.

Inside The Handloader's World

Since 1890, three developments have occurred that are particularly relevant to handloaders.

The first was the invention of ball powder in 1933. This type of powder was created by dissolving nitrocellulose in ethyl acetate, and forming the round grains under water — much like the oil droplets formed when one shakes vegetable oil and vinegar to make salad dressing. Nitroglycerin is then impreg-

nated into the grain and a deterrent coating is added to control the burning rate. Ball powder is a "double base" powder.

Second was the global trade in canister-grade powders in which Hodgdon, for example, may be importing powder from Australia and Accurate Arms from the Czech Republic.

The third factor was the improved manufacturing techniques and quality control resulting in powder that is cleaner burning in sporting arms. We recently asked Dick Quesenberry, canister sales manager for Alliant Powder, how they "cleaned up" Red Dot and Unique. We expected to hear that they had modified the chemistry. Not so.

Quesenberry said, "The problem was particle residue. Particle residue is the result of powder flakes that did not completely burn because they were thicker than the average grain thickness of the powder. By improving the extrusion rate and cut rate, we can now assure that the majority of the flakes are the same thickness. We have also changed our quality standards to eliminate a major portion of our blending to attain a specific burn rate."

Snapping A Cap

So what happens when we "snap a cap" and ignite smokeless powder? There is a sudden and complete conversion of the powder into gases — carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, water vapor, hydrogen and nitrogen — and heat. The heat generated raises the temperature of the confined gases causing them to exert tremendous pressure, thereby accelerating and expelling the bullet or shot pellets from the bore. Essentially, the chemical energy contained in the powder has been converted into thermal energy, a portion of which has been converted into mechanical energy.

The projectile in flight has kinetic energy that we typically express in terms of foot/pounds. At the end of this cycle, if we see a muzzle flash, it is hydrogen and carbon monoxide gas exiting the muzzle at high temperatures and igniting in the oxygen-rich atmosphere.

The Heart Of The Load

The ability of the manufacturers to provide us with powders with a specific and consistent burning rate is what makes handloading possible, otherwise we would not be able to control pressure or follow the excellent recipes provided in handloading manuals. Burning-rate charts are readily available in most loading manuals, and today, rates range from Norma's ultra-fast R-1 pistol powder to Hodgdon's sleepy 50 BMG. Lot-to-lot variations still occur, of course, so we are wisely admonished to drop our current loads by 10 percent each time we open a new can of powder with a different lot number.

Trends in powders come and go with new powders replacing old, and the introduction of powders designed for specialty purposes, filling a gap in another group of



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calibers. For example, Alliant's 2400 was originally designed for the diminutive .22 Hornet case. Yet, today it is loaded primarily in handgun calibers while IMR 4227, H4227 or AA1680 shine in the .22 Hornet.

Winchester's 748 ball powder was designed specifically for the .308, and it is a terrific powder for maximum hunting loads; yet over-the-course match shooters shooting the .308 tend to favor one of the various single-base, extruded powders like 4895 or 4064 because they found them cleaner burning at the pressures being loaded.

Certain powders just seem to be more accurate in certain cases than others. The Nosler, Sierra and older Lyman manuals are very specific about the most accurate powders for each caliber. Hodgdon issues an informative sheet of recommendations called "HPC Preferences."

The Hornady, Accurate Arms and Speer manuals contain excellent comments in the narrative sections for each caliber about powder selection. Some of the best and most interesting data on powder and recommended loads is contained in literature freely available from Alliant, Accurate Arms, IMR, Hodgdon, Winchester, Vihtavuori and other powder companies.

From a handloader's viewpoint, staying current with all available powder data is very important. Yes, there really is a genie in that can of powder you bought — all made possible by the technicians who produce quality powder for handloaders.



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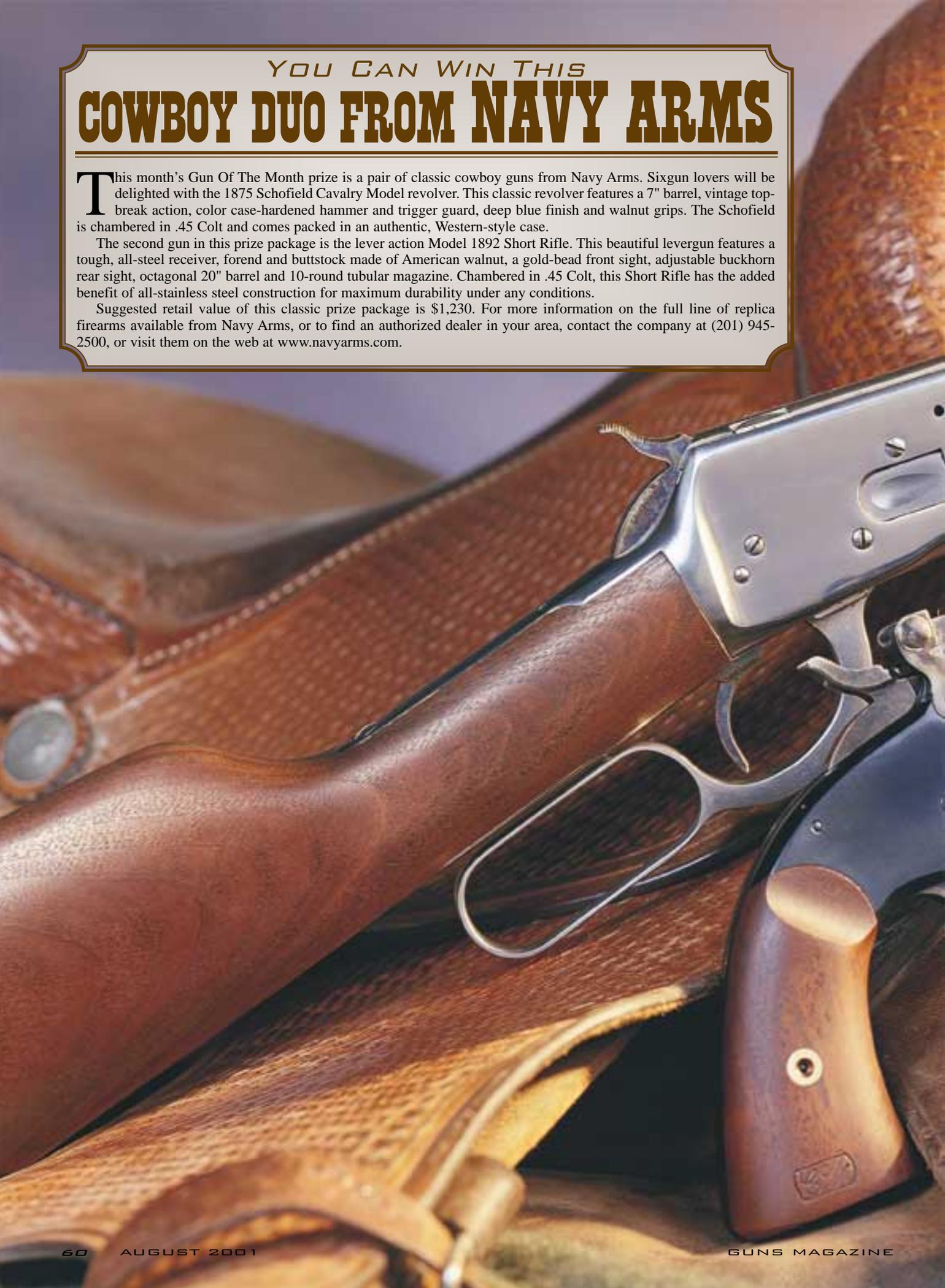
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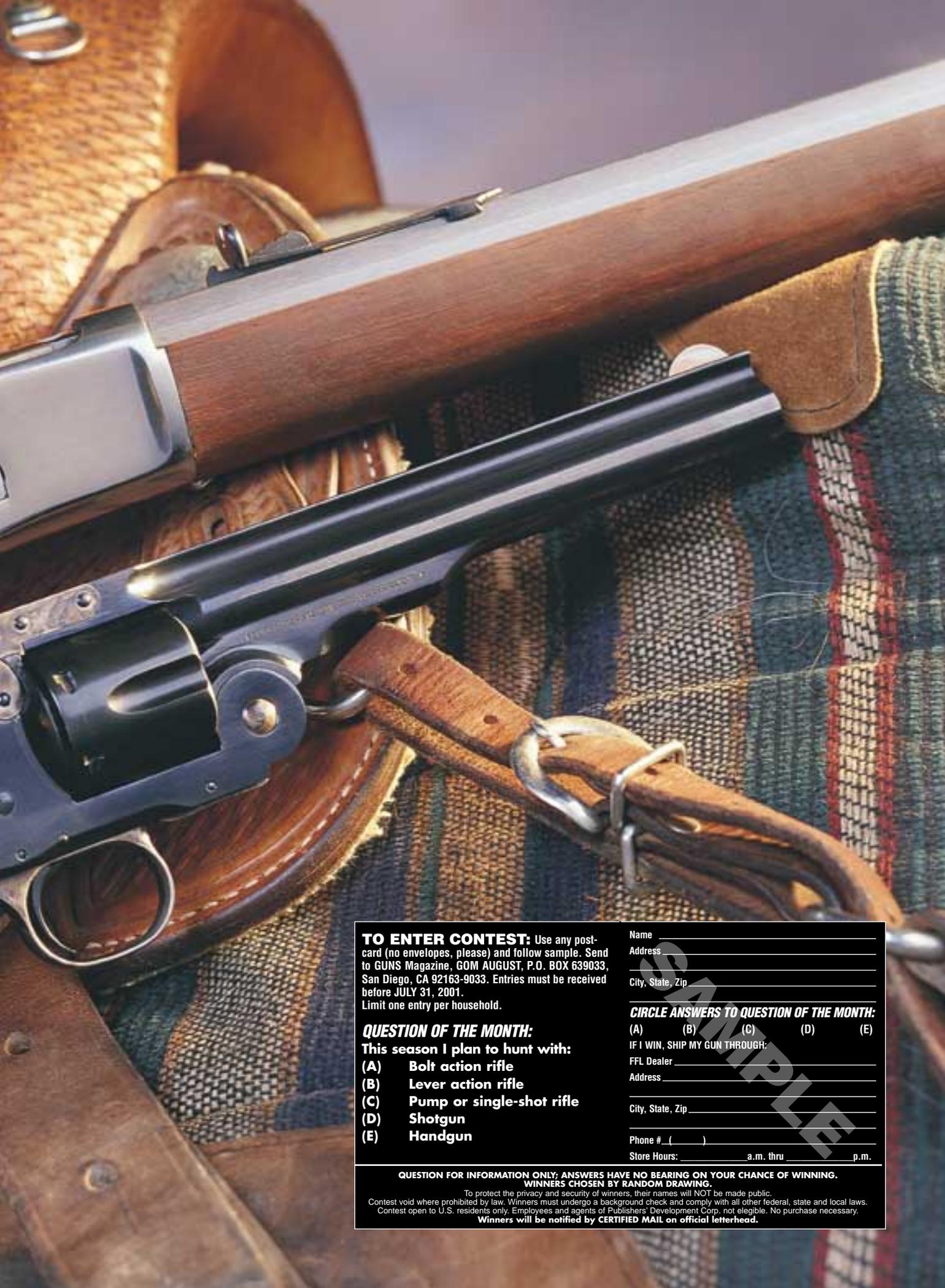
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This month's Gun Of The Month prize is a pair of classic cowboy guns from Navy Arms. Sixgun lovers will be delighted with the 1875 Schofield Cavalry Model revolver. This classic revolver features a 7" barrel, vintage top-break action, color case-hardened hammer and trigger guard, deep blue finish and walnut grips. The Schofield is chambered in .45 Colt and comes packed in an authentic, Western-style case.

The second gun in this prize package is the lever action Model 1892 Short Rifle. This beautiful levergun features a tough, all-steel receiver, forend and buttstock made of American walnut, a gold-bead front sight, adjustable buckhorn rear sight, octagonal 20" barrel and 10-round tubular magazine. Chambered in .45 Colt, this Short Rifle has the added benefit of all-stainless steel construction for maximum durability under any conditions.

Suggested retail value of this classic prize package is \$1,230. For more information on the full line of replica firearms available from Navy Arms, or to find an authorized dealer in your area, contact the company at (201) 945-2500, or visit them on the web at www.navyarms.com.





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GAMO AIR RIFLES

continued from page 39

Carlo comb, plus a beefy ventilated rubber recoil buttpad.

The pistol grip area has checkering, while up front the stock adds a touch of real class by ending in a Schnabel-style rosewood cap that definitely enhances the gorgeous looks of this rifle.

The open rear sight is made of steel and is fully adjustable via click dials. It also gives a choice of four different notches in a rotating plate. Up front there is a substantial blade sitting on a ramp, giving the gun a 12" sight radius. In addition, the Stutzen comes with a raised dovetail base for telescopic sight use.

An air rifle of such quality and elegance usually also incorporates a great trigger mechanism, and the Stutzen follows that tradition. The two-stage trigger is adjustable for length of pull. Adjustments are carried out through a hole in the steel trigger guard that provides access to the trigger-adjustment screw.

This trigger mechanism also features a manual trigger-block safety lever, located directly ahead of the trigger blade. In addition, there is an automatic anti-beartrap safety mechanism that prevents the trigger from being pulled until the cocking lever is returned to its closed position in the stock.

Rugged Raw Power

In contrast to the gorgeous-looking Stutzen, the .177 caliber Gamo Hunter 1250 has the generic looks of a traditional barrel-cocking spring-piston air rifle. That said, there is no question that the Hunter 1250 looks extremely rugged, exuding raw power.

In fact, power is probably the most remarkable attribute of this full-sized adult air rifle. Its model designation is based upon the fact that this brute can generate a muzzle velocity of 1,250 fps. That translates into a muzzle energy in the realm of approximately 23 to 29 ft./lbs. — depending upon pellet weight — making this air rifle quite capable of nailing rabbit-size game at ranges of from 30 to 40 yards with a well-placed shot.

At 48" overall and weighing nearly 8 lbs., the Hunter 1250 is clearly intended for adults, and strong ones at that, given its stiff cocking effort of approximately 58 lbs. This certainly places the Hunter 1250 among the most physically demanding "springers" in current production.

As an aid to help the shooter manage the ponderous cocking effort of the Hunter 1250, Gamo has given this model a beefy muzzle brake that doubles as a cocking handle. This muzzle attachment also incorporates the post front sight.

Like the Stutzen, the Hunter 1250 also comes with an all-steel open rear sight, fully adjustable via click dials. Likewise, the massive receiver sports a raised dovetail for scope use. Given this rifle's tremendous scope-slipping recoil as its potent spring-piston power plant is unleashed, the receiver dovetail base incorporates a scope-arresting block.

In the stock department, the Hunter 1250

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is also well endowed. The adult-sized stock is made of select beech and is given five coats of hand-rubbed walnut stain. It also sports a hand-carved cheekpiece and checkering on the pistol grip, plus a thick ventilated rubber recoil buttpad with white-line spacer.

The two-stage trigger is adjustable for length of second-stage travel. The trigger action is creditably smooth. Incidentally, this model also has a manual trigger block safety similar to that of the Stutzen.

Not surprisingly, the Hunter 1250 features solid steel construction throughout. Even the trigger blade and trigger guard are made of blued carbon steel. The massive tubular receiver and rifled steel barrel display a rich glossy blue finish similar to that found on the finest firearms.

10 Cents Worth Of Accuracy

In the performance department, both of these spring piston-powered magnums produced impressive results. The Stutzen demonstrated a muzzle velocity averaging 927 fps with a sundry diet of round- and flat-head match pellets. Although only the rifle's open sights were used, most groups fired at 10 yards were consistently dime-sized. That level of accuracy, coupled with the rifle's power, indicates that the Stutzen is just fine for a wide variety of field uses, including small-game hunting at up to 30 yards or so.

The Gamo Hunter 1250 readily showed what an awesome brute this "springer" really is. Using Gamo Master Point .177 pellets weighing around 7.9 grs., the muzzle velocity averaged 1,211 fps. Remember, that is "out-of-the-box" performance from a brand-new air rifle that hasn't been broken in. New spring-piston guns usually undergo a break-in period before they reach full performance levels. This period can take anywhere from a few hundred to several thousand shots, depending upon the given model and power plant lubrication.

As far as accuracy, the Hunter 1250 doesn't take a back seat to the Stutzen — or, for that matter, most "springers" in its category. Five-shot groups fired from 10 yards averaged 0.5" across, which is certainly ample for taking a wide variety of small game at ranges of 30 yards or more, particularly with head shots.

The Hunter 1250, given its size and gargantuan cocking effort, will not be everyone's cup of tea, but adults looking for a truly potent full-sized air rifle should definitely put this model on their short list of candidates. For its part, the Stutzen should appeal to the magnum air rifle buff who can also appreciate uncompromising refinement at an affordable price.



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Hodgdon's L'il Gun

By John Taffin

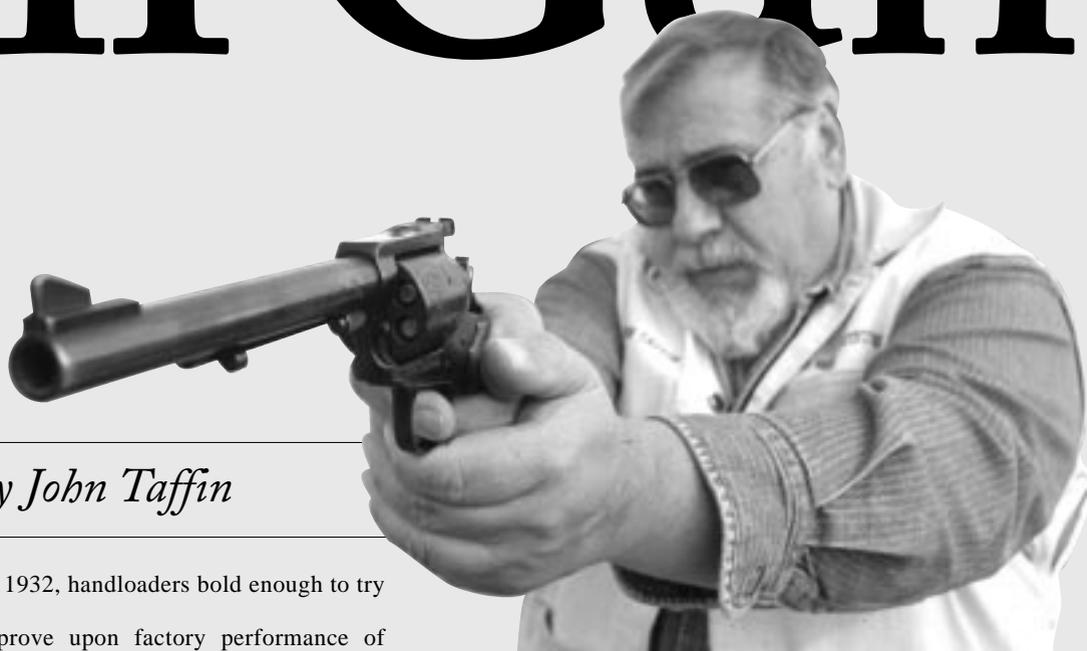
Back in 1932, handloaders bold enough to try to improve upon factory performance of their .38 Special, .44 Special and .45 Colt loads often used DuPont's Sporting Powder #80. They found that this powder, made for rifles, gave them increased velocities that exceeded the factory standards of the time.

What wasn't apparent to these bold experimenters were the pressures which were generated in this process. Phil Sharpe, one of the developers of the .357 Mag., reported that Elmer Keith wrecked several sixguns firing loads assembled with #80 powder.

In 1932, Hercules (now known as Alliant) introduced a product called #2400. It was intended for use in .22 Hornet loads, but reloaders soon found that this powder gave them magnum performance when used in the .44

continued on page 66

Left: Sixgunners who want to get the most out of their big-bore sixguns will appreciate the performance boost L'il Gun gives to heavy bullets in .44 Mags., .45 Colts, .454 Casulls and .475 Linebaughs. Above: Originally developed for use in .410 shotgun loads, handloaders quickly discovered that L'il Gun also works darned well in high-powered revolver loads as well as in .22 Hornet cases.



QUICK REFERENCE CHART

L'IL GUN POWDER HANDLOADS

BULLET	POWDER	VELOCITY
.44 MAGNUM		
BRP 255 gr. KTGC	24.0 grs. L'il Gun	1,443 fps
BRP 295 gr. KTGC	20.0 grs. L'il Gun	1335 fps
Cast Perf. 300 gr. LBT	20.0 grs. L'il Gun	1,330 fps
.45 COLT		
Swift 265 gr. JHP	25.0 grs. L'il Gun	1,400 fps
Beartooth 265 gr. Keith	25.0 grs. L'il Gun	1,453 fps
Nosler 250 gr. JHP	20.0 grs. L'il Gun	1,238 fps
BRP 305 gr. GC	20.0 grs. L'il Gun	1,242 fps
.454 CASULL		
BRP 305 gr. GC	31.0 grs. L'il Gun	1,730 fps
Cast Perf. 360 gr. LBT	25.0 grs. L'il Gun	1,455 fps
.475 LINEBAUGH		
BRP 435 gr.	25.0 grs. L'il Gun	1,375 fps
LBT 370 gr.	26.0 grs. L'il Gun	1,460 fps
LBT 420 gr.	23.0 grs. L'il Gun	1,360 fps
LBT 440 gr.	22.0 grs. L'il Gun	1,315 fps

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HODGDON'S L'IL GUN

continued from page <None>

Special. In 1935, this was the powder used in the first true magnum, the .357. For the next 50 years, #2400 would reign as the powder of choice for sixgunners for everything from heavily loaded .38 Special and .45 Colt cartridges, to .357, .41 and .44 Mag. loads.

Nearly 70 years later, #2400 is still a great powder. For most magnum applications with standard weight bullets, it simply can't be beat. It falls a little short, however, when using heavyweight bullets. Until recently, such loading applications were served by WW296 and H110, but a new powder has recently been introduced which raises the bar. That powder is called L'il Gun from Hodgdon.

L'il Gun was developed, according to Hodgdon engineers, for use in .410 shotgun loads. According to the developers, "(The .410) has long been difficult to load due to shortcomings in powder fit (and) metering, along with poor burning characteristics. Not any more. L'il Gun was designed to fit, meter and perform flawlessly in the .410 bore. No more spilled shot or bulged cases. In addition, L'il Gun has many pistol applications and is superb in the .22 Hornet." Although Hodgdon seems to be downplaying L'il Gun's pistol applications, this powder has proven superb in both .22 Hornet and magnum sixguns.

Shooters are just beginning to tap into the many possibilities for L'il Gun. We've used it in developing handloads for the .44 Mag., .45 Colt, .454 Casull and .475 Linebaugh. As always, use these loads with caution, but we think you'll find them quite enjoyable.

.44 Magnum

All of these loads were tested in a Ruger 7.5" Bisley Blackhawk. BRP's 255 gr. KTGC (Keith Gas Check) over 24.0 grs. of L'il Gun produces 1,443 fps and is capable of putting five shots into 1.125" at 25 yards. Switching to BRP's heavier .44 bullet, the 295 gr. KTGC and 20.0 grs. of L'il Gun yields 1,335 fps and is capable of 1" groups at 25 yards.

Cast Performance Bullet Co.'s 300 gr. LBT performs almost identically, with 20.0 grs. of L'il Gun yielding 1,330 fps and a group of 1.25". This load will penetrate deep and is an outstanding choice for the sixgun hunter in search of big game.

.45 Colt

As you might expect, these loads are for use only in large-framed, modern sixguns such as the Ruger Blackhawk. These loads were all tested in a Ruger 7.5" Bisley model, and in this handgun, L'il Gun really delivers.

Loading a Swift 265 gr. JHP over 25.0 grs. of L'il Gun produced 1,400 fps and a 1" group at 25 yards. Beartooth's 265 gr. Keith

bullet over a charge of 25.0 grs. of L'il Gun yields 1,453 fps and a 1.375" group. For a milder-shooting load that should be near-perfect for whitetails, try Nosler's 250 gr. JHP over 20.0 grs. of L'il Gun for an easy-shooting 1,238 fps which proves capable of .875" accuracy.

Our favorite heavy-bullet load is BRP's 305 gr. GC over 20.0 grs. of L'il Gun, which yields 1,242 fps and accuracy of .875". This isn't a maximum load by any means, but it does the job, and is a very easy-shooting load in the Ruger Bisley Blackhawk.

.454 Casull

These loads were developed in the 7.5" Freedom Arms revolver chambered for this cartridge. In this powerful cartridge, 31.0 grs. of L'il Gun sends a 305 gr. GC out at 1,730 fps and is capable of 1.25" accuracy. Moving up the scale, Performance Bullet Co.'s 360 gr. LBT over 25.0 grs. of L'il Gun produces a muzzle velocity of 1,455 fps and is capable of producing groups measuring just .875" at 25 yards.

.475 Linebaugh

For the sake of consistency, the test gun used for these loads was a 7.5" Model 83 from Freedom Arms — one of the most enjoyable working and hunting sixguns around. Loading a BRP 435 gr. bullet over 25.0 grs. of L'il Gun yields 1,375 fps. Putting an LBT 370 gr. bullet over 26.0 grs. of L'il Gun yields 1,460 fps. Using a 420 gr. bullet from LBT over 23.0 grs. of L'il Gun results in 1,360 fps. And a load assembled with a 440 gr. LBT bullet and 22.0 grs. of L'il Gun clocks out at 1,315 fps. Accuracy? Well, with these heavy-recoiling loads, accuracy is as good as any shooter can hold.

For the .475 Linebaugh, Hodgdon lists a recommended load of 29.0 grs. of L'il Gun with a 385 gr. bullet, which they claim will produce over 1,500 fps. Need we say that the recoil with this one is going to be a bit stout?

L'il Gun certainly raises our performance expectations a notch or two when using heavy bullets in our favorite big-bore sixguns. It may be designed for shotgunners and varmint hunters who favor the .22 Hornet, but from a sixgunner's perspective, L'il Gun is a real treat.



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Firelapping For Accuracy

By Charles E. Petty

Got a rifle that's giving you trouble? Before you spend money on gunsmithing, try this simple but effective accuracy-tuning procedure that's as easy as a trip to the range.



YOU BE THE JUDGE						
FIRELAPPING TEST RESULTS						
Rifle: Remington 700P-LTR						
Ammo: Black Hills 50 gr. V-Max						
BEFORE						
Velocity	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Accuracy*
3,266 fps	1.305"	1.119"	0.973"	1.141"	1.641"	1.237"
AFTER						
Velocity	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Accuracy*
3,278 fps	0.726"	0.873"	0.658"	0.637"	0.897"	0.758"

*Accuracy is the average of five five-shot groups fired at 100 yards from a benchrest.

Right: A finicky Remington 700 was the perfect candidate for the firelapping process, which can improve the accuracy of a precision rifle which is not living up to its potential.

The idea of using an abrasive compound to polish the inside of a rifle barrel is hardly new. The practice of lead lapping certainly dates to the early days of centerfire cartridges and perhaps even further back into the days of muzzleloaders. The concept is actually pretty simple. A steel rod is inserted from the breech end of an unchambered barrel and stopped an inch or two from the muzzle. Then, molten lead is poured into the bore to form a lead slug.

Once the lead sets up, the rod is pushed out of the muzzle and the lead slug is coated with a mix of oil and lapping compound. The slug is then pulled and pushed back and forth through the barrel.

When you do this, even with a very well made barrel, you can actually feel differences in resistance as the lap goes through. Spots that are tight may get a little more attention. It is a job that requires a certain skill.

Depending on the condition of the original barrel, the lapping process can be easy or difficult. The grit of the lapping compound is a matter of choice and there are differing opinions, but most use medium or fine grades. Sometimes a barrel will receive treatment with several different grades, ending with a very fine compound.

The entire process of lead lapping is accepted as beneficial and is often done to the more expensive custom barrels. For example, the rifles that come out of Remington's Custom Shop wear hand-lapped barrels. It is also possible to have it done by machine,

Firelapping is accomplished by firing a series of abrasive-coated bullets down the bore of your rifle, starting with, from left, coarse, medium, fine, and concluding the procedure with a polishing round.



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although this loses the feel that a skilled maker uses to know when a specific spot in the bore needs a little extra work.

Abrasive Talk

Most shooters view abrasive compounds with the thought that they should never be in close proximity to a firearm — and that is generally true. But lapping compounds can be wonder tools if used properly, and the new firelapping process offered by Neco is truly a wonder.

Back in the old days it was possible to get a wonderful slide-to-frame fit on a 1911 with the judicious use of fine valve-grinding compound bought at the auto parts store. Today there are a plethora of compounds in grits ranging down to micron size (1 micron=0.000001 meter). Neco uses laboratory grade aluminum oxide compounds because of their greater uniformity.

But when we talk about shooting something through the barrel of a rifle, the auto parts store is not the place to go. Just a drop of oil on a bullet can raise pressures substantially.

Neco's bullet coating process has no such concern because the lapping material is imbedded into the bullet and is completely dry. Even so, shooters should use reduced loads to provide an extra margin of safety.

You have several choices in how to firelap a barrel. Neco sells a kit with everything needed to coat your own bullets, you can purchase pre-coated bullets or purchase specially loaded ammo ready to shoot. The latter was the approach here, even though it is the most expensive option. It is also the quickest.

The box of cartridges contained 30 with bullets embedded with coarse (220 grit), medium (400 grit) and fine (800 grit) lapping compounds. There are also 20 "polishing" rounds coated with 1200-grit compound. This is enough to treat at least two rifles.

The test began with a thoroughly cleaned bore, which was then examined carefully using a bore scope. There were definite tool marks and several inclusions where chips left over from the reaming operation remained in the bore during hammer forging. This left crevices that looked something like the Grand Canyon with the bore scope's magnification, although they were actually quite small. The most important thing was to get a subjective impression of the smoothness, which really wasn't bad.

For the test to be valid it required getting a good baseline accuracy result before treatment. We used Black Hills ammo loaded with a 50 gr. Hornady V-Max bullet, since our experience with this ammo has been very good. Five, five-shot groups were fired at 100 yards with the rifle carefully bench rested. A Bausch & Lomb 6-24x scope was used, set on the highest magnification.

The test plan required firing two fouling shots through a cold, clean bore followed by three groups. The bore was then thoroughly cleaned, fouling shots fired, and two more groups were fired for a total of five. The average of those groups was 1.237".



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The Lapping And The Slugging

After test firing, the bore was cleaned using an Outers Foul Out and inspected with the scope to determine that it really was spotless. Neco recommends pushing a lead slug through the bore at each step to subjectively evaluate smoothness, the amount of work required to push the slug through and to feel for obviously tight or loose areas. Before the lapping began, slugging revealed tight areas just forward of the chamber and again near the muzzle.

Firelapping was started by firing the first five bullets with coarse coatings. The bore was cleaned and inspected for changes. We found a little visible polishing. The passage of the lead slug was a bit easier.

This procedure was repeated with five each of the medium and fine bullets with cleaning and inspection in between. After the medium rounds there was a noticeable polishing improvement, and again after the fine rounds.

With each increment there was also obvious improvement in the effort required with the slug. By the time the medium rounds were fired there was no noticeable difference in effort from one end to the other. The "canyons" were still visible, but seemed much improved. The sharp edges had been smoothed and they didn't seem to be as deep.

We have to be careful here not to give the impression that significant amounts of metal are removed in the firelapping process. That's not the case at all. Informed estimates suggest that less than 0.0001" change would be measurable.

The final phase was to shoot 10 polishing rounds. These produced a considerable improvement in the brightness of the bore and finished the smoothing process.

With the firelapping process complete, the bore was cleaned with the Foul Out and inspected yet again. The bore looked much better than it had just 25 rounds earlier.

Off to the range again and the "after" test was done in the same manner as before. This time the average was 0.758". That calculates to a 39 percent reduction in group size. This result is far better than mere chance.

We are converts, but it's worth noting that not all rifles are candidates for this process. Many shooters are not overly concerned with achieving such precise accuracy, but varmint hunters and long-range shooters might want to look into firelapping if a particular rifle isn't living up to expectations.



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.30-30 TODAY

continued from page 37

loaded in lever guns as long as utmost care and safety precautions are observed to assure that such ammo is not mixed with traditional loads, or improperly loaded. Simply load one in the chamber and one in the magazine, making the rifle a two-shot. The Remington factory 55 gr. .224 spitzer Accelerator is the only exception. Because the load does not develop any meaningful recoil, it is considered entirely safe for tubular magazine use.

We've experimented with a lot of two-shot spitzer loads for lever guns. Frankly, they're difficult to assemble properly because the maximum overall length of the .30-30 cartridge, set at 2.55", is critical if the second cartridge is to cycle from the magazine through the action.

The other problem is that spitzer bullets either do not feature a cannelure or carry a cannelure at the wrong point for a proper crimp in the .30-30 case. When all is said and done, it's a waste of time. A 200-yard rifle doesn't need a spitzer bullet — the actual improvement in downrange ballistics is inconsequential.

The Perfect .30-30

When it comes to .30-30 firearms, we love the utility of the little 20" barreled carbines, but favor the 24" barreled Marlin or Winchester rifles for accuracy and velocity. Last whitetail season, we carried Winchester's "Legacy" model in .30-30 equipped with a 24" barrel, full-length magazine, and two carbine-style barrel bands. The "Legacy" design is an angle eject so it was mounted with a Kahles 4x36 scope.

The rig is nicely balanced, a delight to carry and performed like a good .30-30 should. One shot at 125 yards, using Winchester's hot, new, 150 gr. Power-Point Plus, was all it took to put some top-grade venison in the freezer.

In short, the .30-30 is a wonderfully flexible and effective 200-yard big game cartridge. Its modest recoil makes it easy to shoot in light, handy firearms. Even though it's 106 years old, it's still a modern classic and holding its own into the new millennium. Don't overlook it — it's not your grandpappy's .30-30.



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FACTORY AMMO

continued from page 35

speaking to a club member, he pleaded, "Will you give this a try? I must be doing something wrong."

The reply: "Sure, where is your ammo." The hunter pointed to a canvas bag.

Rummaging therein, we found at least seven distinct loadings, including those from three different manufacturers and with bullets of every shape and almost certainly several different weights.

Rather than try to explain the problem, we selected six rounds that we believed were the same load. We then fired one fouler shot into the berm and fired a quick five-shot group, which measured well under 2".

Upon examining this, the shooter asked, "What am I doing wrong? I was sure I wasn't flinching...."

The Effects Of Bullet Weight

In another instance, a shooter showed up with a lever-action .30-30 and three boxes of ammunition. While all were the same brand, two were loaded with 170 gr. bullets, the other with 150 gr. bullets. The shooter had always used 150 gr. loads for deer hunting, but his son was going to use the rifle during an upcoming elk hunt, so he had (wisely) selected 170 gr. bullets.

He sat down at the bench, loaded the gun with 150 gr. cartridges, carefully rested the rifle and fired a group through the open sights. His three shots formed an acceptable 3" group, nearly centered about 2" above the target bullseye — good enough, in his opinion.

He then fired three of the 170 gr. loads. He was perplexed because he never even hit the target. He asked for help.

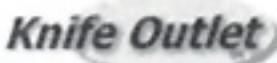
He sat down, lowered the rear sight elevator several notches, loaded three 170 gr. loads in the gun and proceeded to fire a perfectly acceptable group, reasonably centered on the target. The shooter had not taken into account the effect of the heavier bullets on his point-of-impact.

Diagnosis: Accuracy

So, what caused these shooters such grief? In both instances — and myriad similar examples which occur prior to hunting season at ranges all around the country — the problem was ammunition choice.

Experienced shooters know that, in general, any rifle will produce better accuracy with loads that happen to work well with the particular gun. This fact results from many factors, including chamber and barrel characteristics, as well as barrel contour (vibrational harmonics). Other factors enter into the equation, but the fact of the matter is, different loads do not perform equally in any particular gun; different bullet weights often shoot to dramatically different points-of-impact.

More advanced shooters find pitfalls too. For example, the first few shots from a freshly cleaned bore often hit several inches



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away from those fired after fouling the bore. Also, bullet weight can profoundly influence zero. Changing from 150 gr. bullets to 170 gr. bullets in the classic lever-action .30-30 commonly results in a 12" to 18" shift in vertical impact at 100 yards.

Another little-known fact is that changing powder types without cleaning and refoiling the barrel usually results in dramatic point-of-impact shifts for the first few subsequent shots. In addition, different bullet shapes (round nose, pointed, etc.) in otherwise similar loads can account for a significant impact shift.

Get The Most From Factory Loads

Just because you're shooting factory ammo doesn't mean you have to suffer second-rate accuracy. Any shooter should expect above-average accuracy from a rifle even when using factory ammunition. Let's look at a procedure that will help most shooters find an adequately accurate load.

Before fiddling with ammo selection, however, understand that you will be wasting your time and money if you cannot practice consistent and proper bench technique — the gun should be supported by sandbags (at the same point on both forend and buttstock for each shot) and you must hold the rifle the same way for each shot. Equally important, you cannot accomplish anything valuable while flinching. Perfect your technique before worrying about the effect of your ammo choice.

Once you are confident of your own abilities, thoroughly clean the bore before shooting for accuracy, use an accepted product and use it according to instructions. (If you have neglected the bore, this may involve many hours of tedious work, but no badly fouled gun will shoot its best.)

After determining what basic type and weight of bullet you want to use, choose at least three brands with similar loadings, if possible; include "premium-grade" factory loads. If feasible, before you begin accuracy testing, temporarily replace your hunting scope with a high-magnification target scope.

Extensive testing suggests that about 30 percent of all scopes will not properly hold zero. This fact begs the question, "How does one know that the test scope is good?" We know no simple, perfect and complete answer, but if groups are consistently somewhat rounded, the scope is probably good. Conversely, if groups often contain subgroups of shots in smaller clusters (especially if those are consistently in the same quadrants) the scope may have a problem.

Verify proper and secure rifle scope attachment and proceed with your accuracy testing on a relatively windless day. Choose a particular loading and then fire at least three fouler shots through the clean bore. Use these to establish a 25 yard zero — adjusting your scope to bring impact close to point-of-aim at 25-yards will place zero "on paper" at 100 yards.

Then, fire at least three separate three-shot groups at 100 yards, note any called fliers

(resulting from known shooter error) and, if necessary, fire additional three-shot groups — do not unnecessarily dally while firing each group, but allow plenty of time for the gun to cool before firing each subsequent group.

When you retrieve your target, carefully mark it with sufficient information to ensure that you can identify the gun, load (including product number, bullet description and production lot number), distance tested, wind conditions, called fliers and other pertinent facts.

Now, if you have reason to believe the bore fouls badly, completely clean it before proceeding; if not, run a dry bronze bore brush, full-length through bore at least 10 times to remove gross powder fouling.

Repeat your fouling shot procedure and 25-yard zeroing, 100-yard testing and cleaning process for each load you want to test. Of course, when you're done, measure and record all groups and pertinent shooting information.

Doing The Data

Basic analysis of these groups is both objective and subjective. You will have to review your notes and consider how to properly judge the importance of each group. In general, consider the following factors.

Any aberrant results which were caused by a known shooter error should, of course, be disregarded. Consider fatigue factor, too — you might have been doing a better job early in the shooting session. Or, as your familiarity with the gun increased, you might have been doing a better job during later shooting. Any of these can mask the results of true ballistic performance if not evaluated properly. In addition, give more weight to targets where all groups are very similar.

After taking each of the above factors into consideration, select the load that seems to have produced the best results. After choosing the overall most accurate load, reinstall your hunting scope to establish zero and verify that it will properly hold its zero.

If none of the loads tested meets your minimum accuracy requirement, you might have to try a different bullet weight. Only if all of these factors fail to produce acceptable accuracy should you consider having a gunsmith work on the rifle.

After doing this expensive and time-consuming work, you might be inclined to hurry back to the sporting goods store and buy several boxes of the same ammunition that you just proved worked best in your rifle. Same production lot loads are apt to perform equally — different lots will probably shoot similarly, but “similar” is not “identical.”

This protocol entails a lot of effort, time and expense but it can be well worthwhile. It is reasonably common to find factory loads that will shoot very well in a particular rifle, but it takes a bit of effort to do so. Regardless, the associated practice will prove invaluable to any hunter. Very few hunters ever missed a shot because of too much quality practice.



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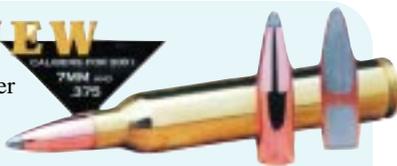
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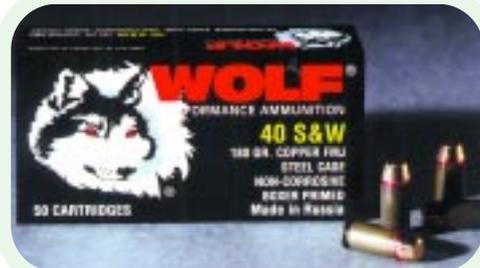
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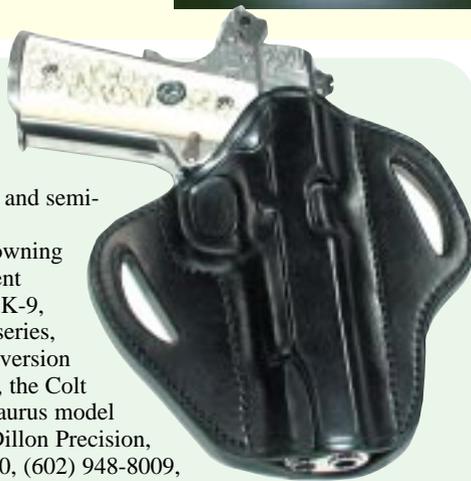
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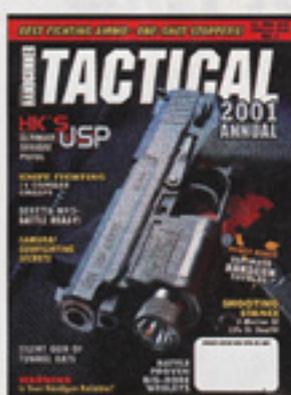
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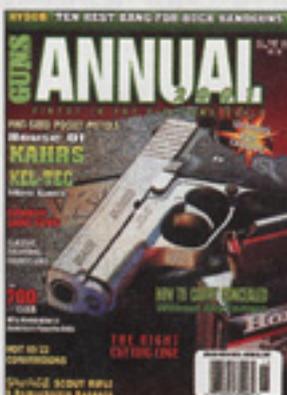
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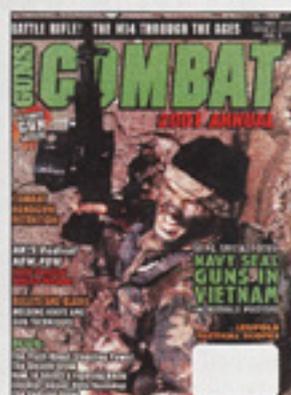
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Today's Top 10 List: **Crime & Guns**

Listen to anti-gun politicians and lobbyists, and if someone were to ask you to write a list of the "causes" of crime, you might be inclined to put guns right up there near the top. Interestingly, somebody in the FBI recently decided to do just that — devise a list of the factors which contribute to crime. Since the FBI knows a thing or two about crime and criminal behavior, you'd expect them to have a pretty good grasp of the causes. Here, then, are the top 10 causes of crime, according to America's number one law enforcement agency:

- Population density and degree of urbanization.
- Variations in composition of the population, particularly youth concentration.
- Stability of population with respect to residents' mobility, commuting patterns and transient factors.

- Modes of transportation and highway systems.
- Economic conditions, including median income, poverty level and job availability.
- Cultural factors and educational, recreational and religious characteristics.
- Family conditions with respect to divorce and family cohesiveness.
- Climate.
- Effective strength of law enforcement agencies.
- Administrative and investigative emphases of law enforcement.

You'll note that nowhere on that list — compiled right off of the Bureau's own "Uniform Crime Report" — is there any mention of "access to firearms." Maybe everyone who claims that gun-control laws will help solve the crime problem should take a cue from the people whose job it is to investigate real crime.

PRO-GUN Book Report

Editorial offices are usually flooded with books from small publishing houses sent in for review. Unfortunately, most of these books are more suited for doorstops and paperweights than for actual reading material. Needless to say, we were pleasantly surprised recently to find one that is the exception to the rule.

The book is called *Lever Action* — a title we don't entirely understand, considering it's a series of essays on politics and liberty. The book is written by L. Neil Smith, who claims to be a "renowned science fiction author," although we read a fair amount of science fiction, and we've never heard of him.



But no matter — if you get past the strange name (and the even stranger artwork on the cover) you'll find a batch of darned entertaining writings on everything from gun ownership (including a chapter explaining why any politician who supports a gun ban should be put in prison) to the politically correct crusade against smokers (don't miss the discussion regarding why every non-smoker should own — and carry — a pipe).

Lever Action retails for \$24.95, but, as you might expect, this book isn't exactly available at your local Borders store. To get a copy, call Mountain Media at (800) 244-2224, or visit them on the web at www.thespiritof76.com.

It's For Your Own Good

Britain's struggle to control an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease has been forefront in the news for several months. What hasn't been heard is that this epidemic has also been the catalyst for the latest round of British gun confiscation.

According to a report in *The London Times*, police are keeping an eye on livestock ranchers for signs of "emotional distress" as they are ordered by their government to destroy thousands of head of valuable cattle, sheep and swine. Any ranchers who look as though they may be

despondent, the report states, will have their legally owned shotguns confiscated to prevent them from committing suicide.

Police say that, at the moment, most of the guns are being taken away "on an unofficial basis," although in one case the police entered a farmhouse and removed a weapon by force from a "distressed license holder" in Devon. Until the foot-and-mouth crisis passes, it seems that ranchers who want to keep their guns had better put on a happy face for the government.



DOIN' THE NUMBERS

660,000

Guns surrendered to the government of Australia by its citizens as a result of that country's five-year campaign to toughen its gun laws.

\$400 Million

Spent by the Australian government to compensate owners who surrender their guns — a sum that was paid for by a "one-time" hike in the income tax rate.

(Source: Handgun Control Inc. news report)

39, 26 & 19 Percent

Increases in the rates of armed robbery, armed assault and gun-related homicide, respectively, in Sydney, Australia since the new gun laws went into effect.

(Source: Sydney Morning Herald)

QUOTE of the MONTH:

"The hunter is the arch-type of freedom. His well-being rests in no man's hands save his own."

— Theodore Roosevelt

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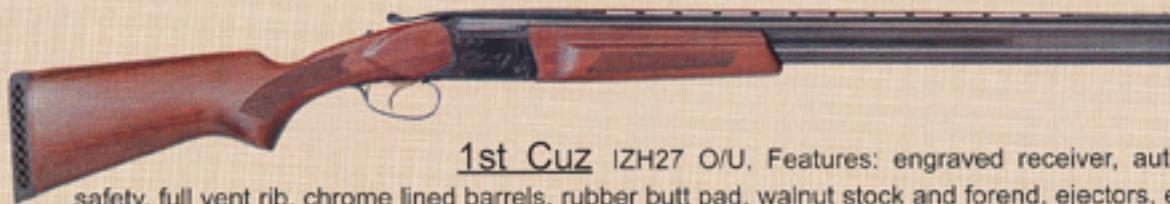
Compact, concealable, and packed with GLOCK features, the G29 and G30 can go where other 10's and .45's can't. Both come equipped with GLOCK's recoil-taming, light-weight polymer frame construction, finger gripped front strap and ambidextrous thumb rests to make these new compacts more ergonomic than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

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Big Sister IZH43 SxS, Features: hammer forged barrels, machined steel receiver and mono block, checkered stock and forend, chrome line barrels, auto tang safety and she is ready for SxS action with a SRP of \$439 and she is available in the following calibers of 12ga, 16ga, 20ga, 28ga, 410ga.



1st Cuz IZH27 O/U, Features: engraved receiver, automatic tang safety, full vent rib, chrome lined barrels, rubber butt pad, walnut stock and forend, ejectors, elegant lines and shape and she is over the competition in features and quality but under in price, SRP is under \$569. Calibers for 1st Cuz IZH27 (12ga, 16ga, 20ga, 28ga, 410ga).



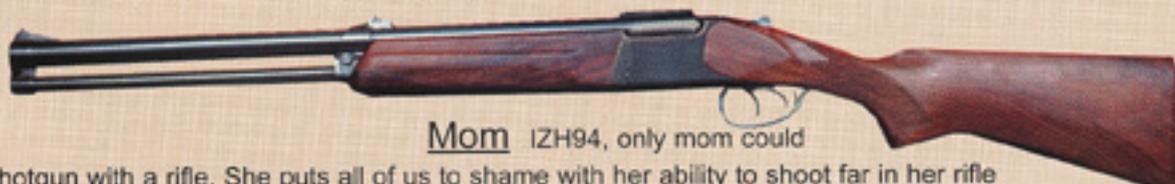
Little Brother MP133 Features: dual action bars, hammer forged hard chrome lined barrel, walnut stock and forend, rubber butt pad, 3 screw steel shot choke tubes, full vent rib, bolt locks open on the last round and little brother eats (12ga 3¹/₂", 12ga 3" and 12ga 2³/₄") with a SRP under \$299.00



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