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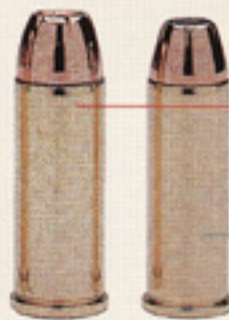
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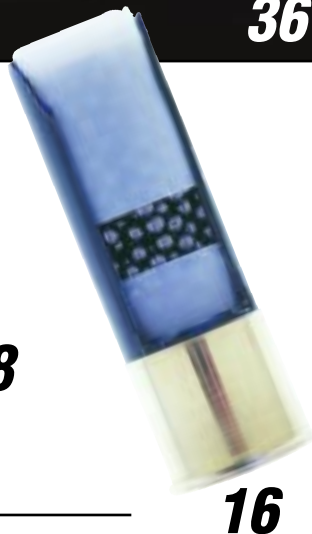
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Photo by Ichiro Nagata



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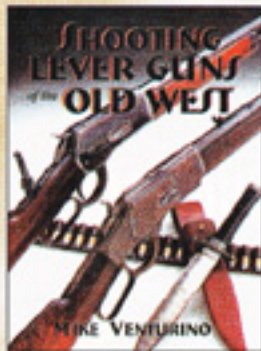


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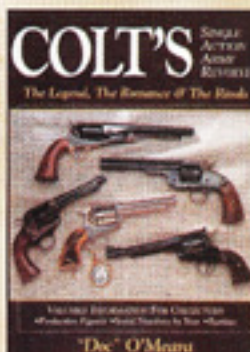


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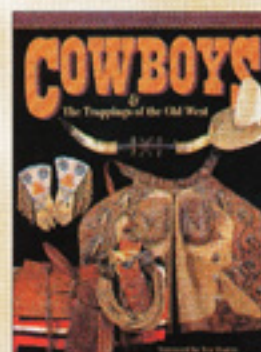


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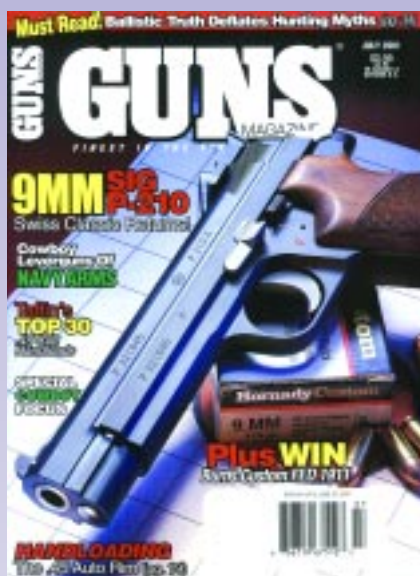
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### LETTER OF THE MONTH



GUNS MAGAZINE JULY 2001

### Crossfire

Your coverage of the Schofield ("The Schofield Model Of 2000" "GUNS" July 2001) was outstanding. This is a great old revolver that deserves the same kind of respect and reverence we afford the Colt Single Action Army.

Smith & Wesson has done a great thing by reintroducing the Schofield, and they deserve our thanks for doing so. Also, I think we owe "GUNS" a debt of thanks for cutting through the political chaos surrounding S&W and looking at the Schofield in an objective, forthright manner.

Thanks also to Black Hills, for providing ammo for this great gun. Sure, it's fun to shoot a Schofield chambered in .45 Colt, but it's really fun to shoot one chambered in the original .45 S&W — or .45 Schofield, as it is sometimes erroneously referred to.

I've long admired the Schofield, but I didn't really want to put down my money for a foreign-made knock-off in the wrong chambering. Now, with the Schofield once again in production in Springfield, Mass., it's on my wish list. I hope to be the proud owner of a Model 2000 soon!

Carl Rewer  
Riverside, Calif.

### Semantical Semantics

Regarding Massad Ayoob's "Combat Semantics 101" ("Handguns" "GUNS" June 2001) — his definition of "revolve" is as out-in-space as his use of the solar system as an example of the concept of "revolving vs. rotating."

I don't know what dictionary he is using, but my "Oxford Dictionary" defines "revolve" as: "(to) turn or cause to turn around, esp. on an axis; rotate."

Furthermore, "rotate" is defined as: "(to) move around an axis or center; revolve."

So, it would seem revolve and rotate can be used interchangeably, but few people, if any, refer to a revolving door as a "rotating door."

Additionally, regarding Ayoob's definition of "automatic" — wouldn't it be logical to differentiate semi and full-automatic by specifying "full automatic" where appropriate, and leave "automatic" as short-speak for "semi-automatic"?

Of course, any way you say it, Ayoob's column was all in good fun! I always enjoy his work.

Keith Johnson  
Reeds Springs, Mo.

### Big Boomers

In the December 2000 issue, you presented a story on .44 Special handloads. ("44 Special Handloads: Too Good To Be Forgotten") In the table of loads, you listed a load of 13.5 grs. of HS7 behind a 250 gr. #429421 Lyman bullet yielding a muzzle velocity of 1,145 fps from a 7 1/2" SAA. I reduced this to 13.0 grs. and loaded it behind a Lee C249 240 gr. SWC bullet sized to 0.429" with CCI standard primer in a once-fired, sized and trimmed R-P case.

When I test fired this load in a S&W 29-9 with a 6" barrel, the noise, recoil and muzzle blast was horrendous. Extraction was extremely sticky and the primer was flattened. After this experience, I did some further research. The jar of HS7 lists 13.0 grs. with a 240 gr. JHP bullet as a .44 Mag. load. The Hodgdon manual lists the same load, and 13.0 grs. of HS7 with a 250 gr. GC bullet for the .44 Magnum. The manual does not list any loads for the .44 Special using HS7.

The load of 13.5 grs. you listed is 0.5 grs. more than the (I assume) maximum load rec-

ommended for .44 Magnum. I am very thankful that I tested the load in a .44 Mag. rather than a .44 Special Colt SAA, and that I reduced the load by 0.5 grs. before testing it.

I've been reloading since the early '60s and follow the manuals religiously, always reducing the powder charges slightly before working with an unfamiliar load. This is the first time I have run into any difficulty.

Phillip Howard  
Harrison, Ohio

### The author replies:

We were most disturbed to read your letter, as the last thing we want to do is to publish dangerous loads for any cartridge or firearm. When we received your letter, we did two things. First, we checked our notebook of personally tested .44 Special loads to confirm that, in fact, the load listed in the article was correct. The load was recorded as a Lyman #429421 250 gr. Keith bullet sized to .428" over 13.5 grs. of HS7 fired from a 7 1/2" Colt SAA — no misprint.

Second, we loaded up some fresh rounds with 13.5 grs. of HS7, CCI #350 primers and 250 gr. Keith bullets, this time sized to .430". If there was a problem with pressure, as you indicated, the tighter bullets should have accentuated the problem.

We fired the rounds in two guns: a Ruger Flat-Top .44 Mag. Blackhawk and a Colt New Frontier .44 Special. In both guns cases extracted easily, and there was no indication of primer flattening — both signs of excessive chamber pressures. Recorded muzzle velocity for the Ruger was 1,189 fps, and 1,166 for the Colt. Both loads were relatively mild to shoot, and did not exhibit any horrendous noise, recoil or muzzle blast.

To be sure, the loads listed in the table you refer to in the article were heavy .44 Special loads, and not intended for use in anything but modern-manufactured sixguns. We can't verify that your loads are duplicates of the ones we published, but we can see that something isn't matching up in this instance. We'd recommend you start by confirming that you are, in fact, using HS7, and that your powder charge is correct.

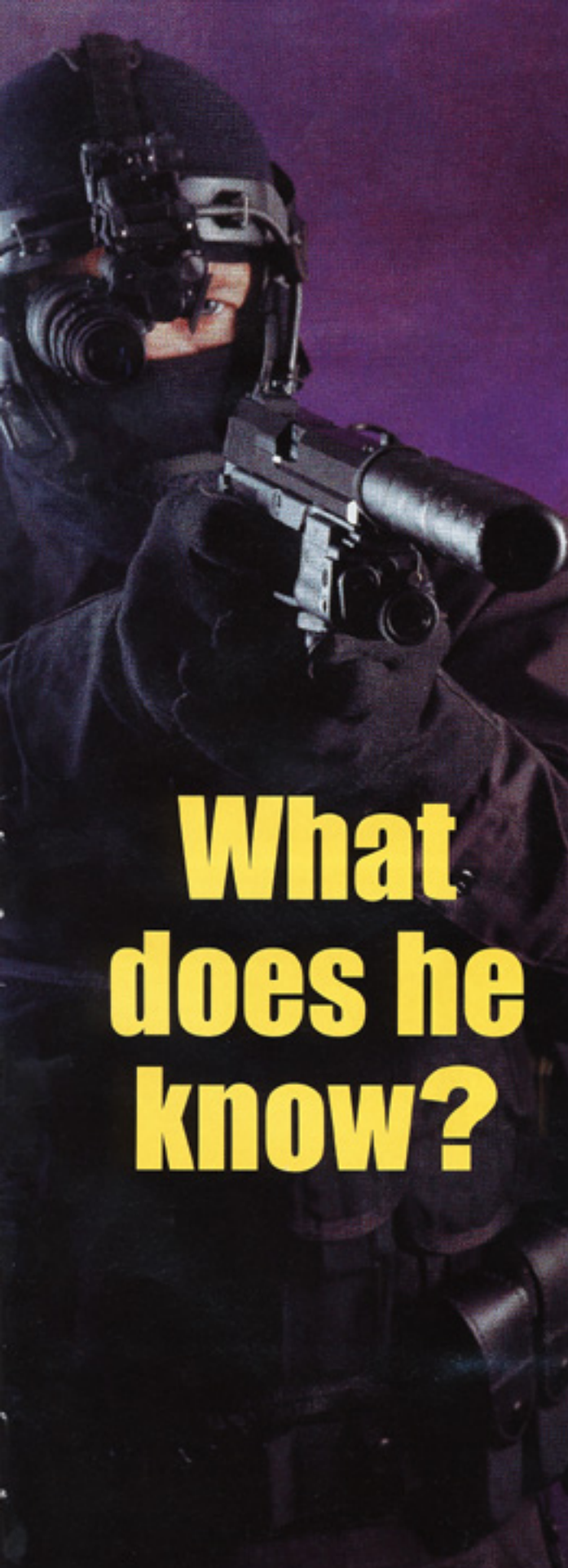
Wherever the discrepancy lies, your practice is a wise one — always refer to the manufacturers' published data (misprints do happen in gun magazines), always reduce published handloads by 10 percent, and, of course, immediately discontinue any loads which show signs of excessive pressure.

John Taffin  
GUNS staff



GUNS MAGAZINE™ welcomes letters to the editor for "Crossfire." Send your letters to: CROSSFIRE, GUNS Magazine, 591 Camino de la Reina, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92108. Email: ed@gunsmagazine.com





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USP .45 ACP  
shown with accessory  
UTL (also available in  
.40 S&W and 9mm)



## The Lowdown On LASERS

Expert shooters who question over-dependency on battery-powered sighting devices are seen by some as opponents of lasers on defensive firearms. This is a bit of an exaggeration. It's just that some vendors go overboard in promising that putting a red dot on your opponent's chest will turn him into a whimpering puddle of compliance.

This has been known to happen, but it's not guaranteed. Sometimes, folks with bad attitudes grab their guns and start shooting at the sight of the good guy's little red dot. But immediate compliance does happen, and if it's a possibility, why not have it on our side?

In fact lasers are very useful — but sometimes their best uses aren't listed in the sales brochures. When thinking about buying a laser for your gun, you should always consider the alternative uses for such a device.

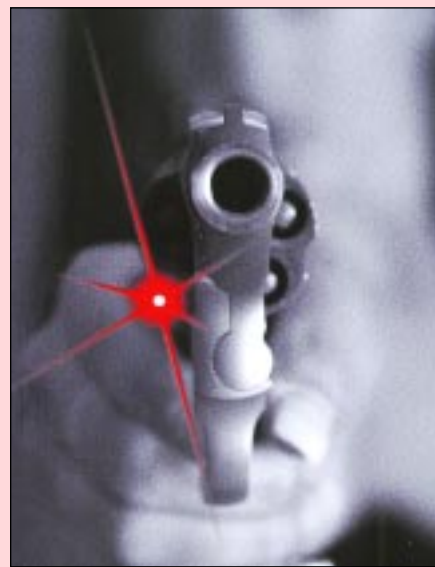
## RED-DOT TRAINING

Firearms instructors can make great use of a laser-sighted handgun in their lessons. With either live fire on the range, or the gun cleared and pointed in a safe direction in the classroom, the LaserGrip on a S&W Airweight allows quick demonstration of why we don't try to snatch off a hasty shot when the sights are on target. It just as readily shows why we instead press the trigger smoothly back while holding the gun in its natural "wobble zone." And it graphically illustrates recoil jump.

Is the student flinching, or jerking the trigger and denying that it's happening? Give him or her a few moments with the laser-sighted gun in dry fire on a target. When the laser dot dips steeply down in a

*The latest generation of compact, rugged laser sights, like this one from LaserGrips, can serve the shooter as both a training tool and a practical aiming device.*

red streak at the moment of hammer fall, the student quickly faces reality. Similarly, holding the red dot on target while smoothly stroking the trigger back can reinforce for the student what it feels like to unleash a perfect shot.



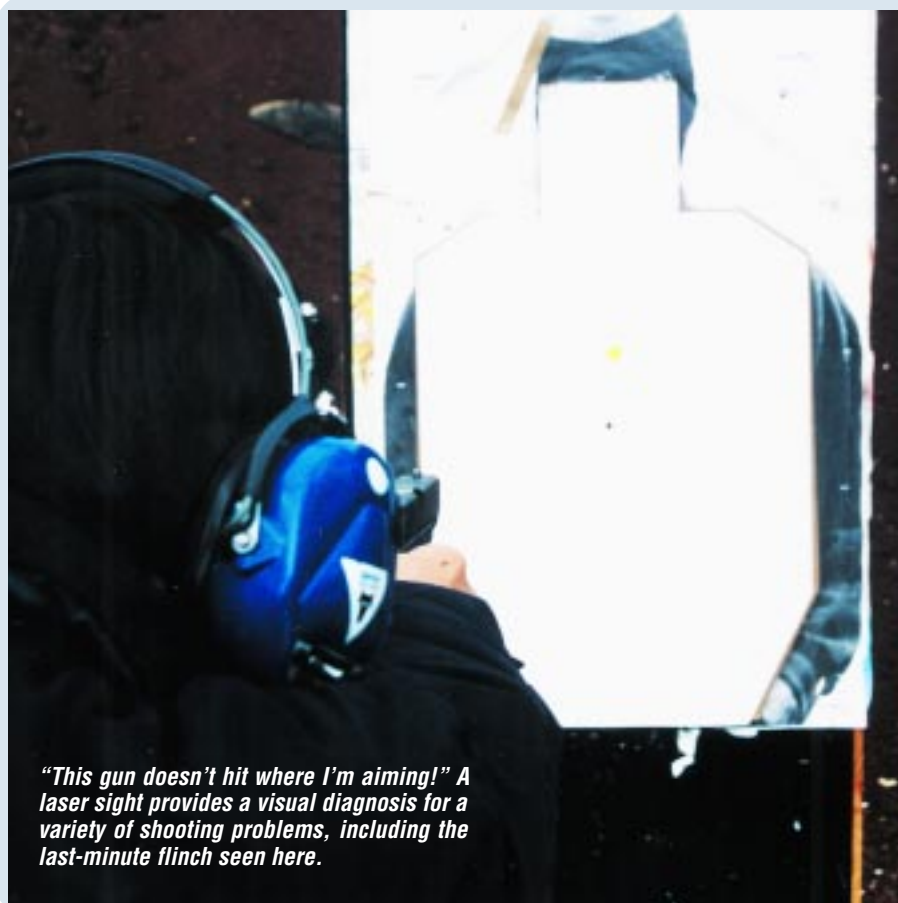
## Shooting Around THE BARRICADE

When you're in the middle of a gunfight, you get behind cover. From there, you can visually scan the danger without exposing much of your head, or any other body part. But in order to return aimed fire from a strong, two-handed hold, you'll have to expose your head — and a significant amount of your body — to the threat.

Enter the laser sight. With some practice, you can rotate the gun slightly and still aim from behind your barricade, exposing less of your head and torso to your opponent's gunfire.

Portable barricades, or "body bunkers," scream loudest for a laser. Officers can scan the danger scene and aim through the bullet-resistant Lexan viewing port. To position the gun where you can aim it, the shooter has to bend both hand and wrist into an awkward position to reach around the shield. This can weaken your grasp of the pistol and cause you to "limp-wrist" the gun, resulting in stovepipe ejection failures and other stoppages.

The officer with a body bunker can, with a laser-sighted service pistol, lock the wrist and even the elbow. No longer must the officer awkwardly bend his arm to bring the gun to line-of-sight — the laser dot facilitates indexing the handgun without seeing the firearm itself.



*"This gun doesn't hit where I'm aiming!" A laser sight provides a visual diagnosis for a variety of shooting problems, including the last-minute flinch seen here.*



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## Are You Comfortable?

It used to be said: "You can't take a bench rest hunting." This is no longer true. Today, hunters shoot from elevated stands complete with comfortable chairs and rifle rests. Some hunters haul portable rests into elk country and set up in areas over-looking promising habitat.

There is nothing unsporting about this. In fact, one should prefer taking a 300-yard shot from a solid position at a stationary, unwary animal to snapping an offhand shot at a running quarry at only half that distance. Still, a complete rifleman should learn to recognize and use improvised field rests, as well as learning to shoot from standard positions such as offhand, kneeling, sitting and prone.



*Here's the typical "sighting-in" position for a hunting rifle, but unless you put in some serious practice time with more practical techniques, you're likely to find yourself relying too much on that steady bench when it comes time to make a shot in the field.*

## Get Off The Bench!

Although indispensable for accuracy testing, bench shooting can hinder the shooter by replacing wobbling muscles and jittery nerves with solid stability.

The pursuit of accuracy is a satisfying goal in itself, and bench rest shooting teaches shooting's most critical aspect: proper trigger control. Yes, it is important to learn new physical skills one step at a time. Yes, learning to control the trigger is hard enough without having to learn how to hold the rifle. But for the shooter who aims to be an all-around rifleman, the bench is an impediment to advancing his skills.

Visit a rifle range and count how many people shoot exclusively from a bench. No doubt some shooters use this method to check sights or accuracy. But it makes one wonder when, or if, all those bench shooters ever practice field-shooting positions.

## Let's Get Practical

Maybe the reason people do not master the art of shooting from practical field positions is because we obsess over accuracy. We brag about a 0.5" group fired at 100 yards from a bench. A 5" group at 200 yards fired from the sitting position impresses no one, though it should.

Obsession with accuracy makes for slow shots. Although gaining steadiness when you can is sound principle, some shooters search

for a rest, then wait five minutes before firing a 50-yard shot at a moose. Shooters afflicted with this malady shoot well from a rest but could not fire fast to save their lives.

Because the bench rest compensates for a rifle's weaknesses we tolerate manufacturing flaws. Threats of litigation subject us to the ungodly 6 lb. and 7 lb. trigger pulls we struggle with on so many factory rifles. Why do we tolerate such heavy pulls? Because they do not affect practical accuracy when fired from a bench rest. Shoot offhand at 150 yards, or from sitting at 300, and you will know a few bucks spent on a better trigger is money well spent.

Shooting from a bench can also give a shooter an unrealistic impression of his own ability. Keeping your shots into 1 MOA from the bench may give you the idea that you can take a shot at a whitetail out at 800 yards or so — but obviously, under field conditions, that's just not realistic.

Use the bench when necessary but don't let it become a crutch. Sight your rifle, shoot it accurately, and then walk away from the bench. Only then can you begin working on truly practical shooting skills.



*A hunter who can shoot a 5" group at 200 yards from a practical position like this will have a distinct advantage over one who can shoot 1" groups off the bench.*





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## Double IMPACT

The black, 12-gauge, 2 3/4" shells read "Doppio Impatto". That's exactly what these 2 oz. loads are designed to do — deliver one pattern at flushing distances, and another out to ranges as far as 100 meters. The concept is to deliver a killing pattern from 30 through 100 yards — talk about a forgiving load.

Double Impact shells are currently being imported by Galazan, along with a variety of fine shotguns and accessories. Double Impact loadings are currently offered as lead shot in #0, #1, #2, #4, #5, #6 and #8. What a great waterfowl load this could be in the larger shot sizes, but alas, North American waterfowl hunters live in a "lead free" environment, so we opted to test #5s — a versatile load for big, upland game birds.

Cutting the Double Impact shell open exposes two very tough encapsulating wads, placed mouth-to-mouth. The front wad faces forward and forms the roll-crimped face of the shell. The front wad creates a "draft", or air pocket, and the shot that follows meets less air resistance, thus extending the range.

To test these loads, we set up HunterJohn patterning targets at 30 and 80

*The 2 oz. Double Impact load is assembled with two solid wads seated mouth-to-mouth.*

yards, and selected a gun with a modified choke. At 30 yards, the patterns were well-distributed. In the center of the patterns was a perfectly round 12 ga. hole formed by the front wad still carrying it's shot load. At 80 yards, which is the maximum range indicated for modified chokes, the patterns were so thin with #5s that it would be unsporting to reach out that far on game, even with the "Doppio Impatto."

With #5 shot, — a relatively light load — this wasn't much of a surprise. With the larger, heavier shot sizes, we believe the inventor has something, but again, optimum use of the "Double Impact" concept would be for waterfowling. When the maker begins to offer non-toxic shot, we'll have to revisit the "Doppio Impatto" and give it a better test with heavy shot.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**Galazan**

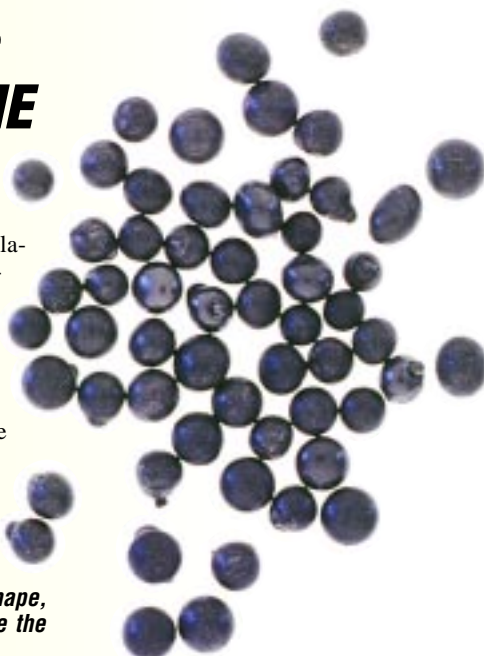
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## CELEBRATING THE SHELL GAME

Exotic new shotgun loads help make the shotgunning game more interesting every year. Often these loads are created by relatively new and rather small, specialized firms. While the introduction of new model shotguns each year is interesting, there's nothing quite so capable of increasing shooter performance than advances in ammunition. This is a shell game — so if you're looking for a way to improve your shotgunning, give some of these innovative loads a try.

*HeviShot is relatively irregular in shape, especially in the larger shot sizes like the #2s pictured here.*



## HeviShot For TURKEY

The alternative shot race just got a little bit faster with HeviShot's outstanding performance at the National Wild Turkey Federation's "Still Target World Championships." The winner, shooting a 2 3/4", maximum velocity load consisting of 1 1/2 oz. of #6s, placed 42 pellets in a 3" circle at 40 yards.

HeviShot is an alloy of tungsten, nickel and iron, produced by a new company called Eviron-Metal in Sweet Home, Ore. It's approximately 10 percent heavier than lead, about as hard as steel, irregular in shape, corrosion resistant, and approved for the 2001 waterfowling season. The irregular shape of the pellets leads us to believe the shot is made through the water atomization process used to produce steel peening shot.

We tested the same 1 1/2 oz. load of #6s used to win the Still Target World Championship. This is a buffered load inside a one-piece, four-petal Gualandi wad. At 40 yards, a modified choke produced a better and more evenly distributed pattern than did a full choke. The modified pattern exhibited a rather dense central core with evidence of a number of shot in the far, outer fringe areas, due to the greater irregularity of some pellets.

When shot against Birchwood Casey's highly visible Shoot N.C. turkey targets, the best HeviShot performance was 23 pellets in a 3" circle and eight in the lethal cranium/spine area. This would make an excellent turkey and upland game load.

The real advantage of HeviShot is in its weight and retained pellet energy when compared to lead and normal non-toxic offerings. It's capable of delivering a lot of energy on target and excellent penetration.

Available directly from the manufacturer over the web or by phone, the HeviShot 12 gauge shells are offered in a variety of shot sizes, including 3" turkey loads in #4 and #6. Suggested retail price is \$17.50 per box of 10.



**For More Information Contact:**

**HeviShot**

(541)367-3522

[www.heviShot.com](http://www.heviShot.com)



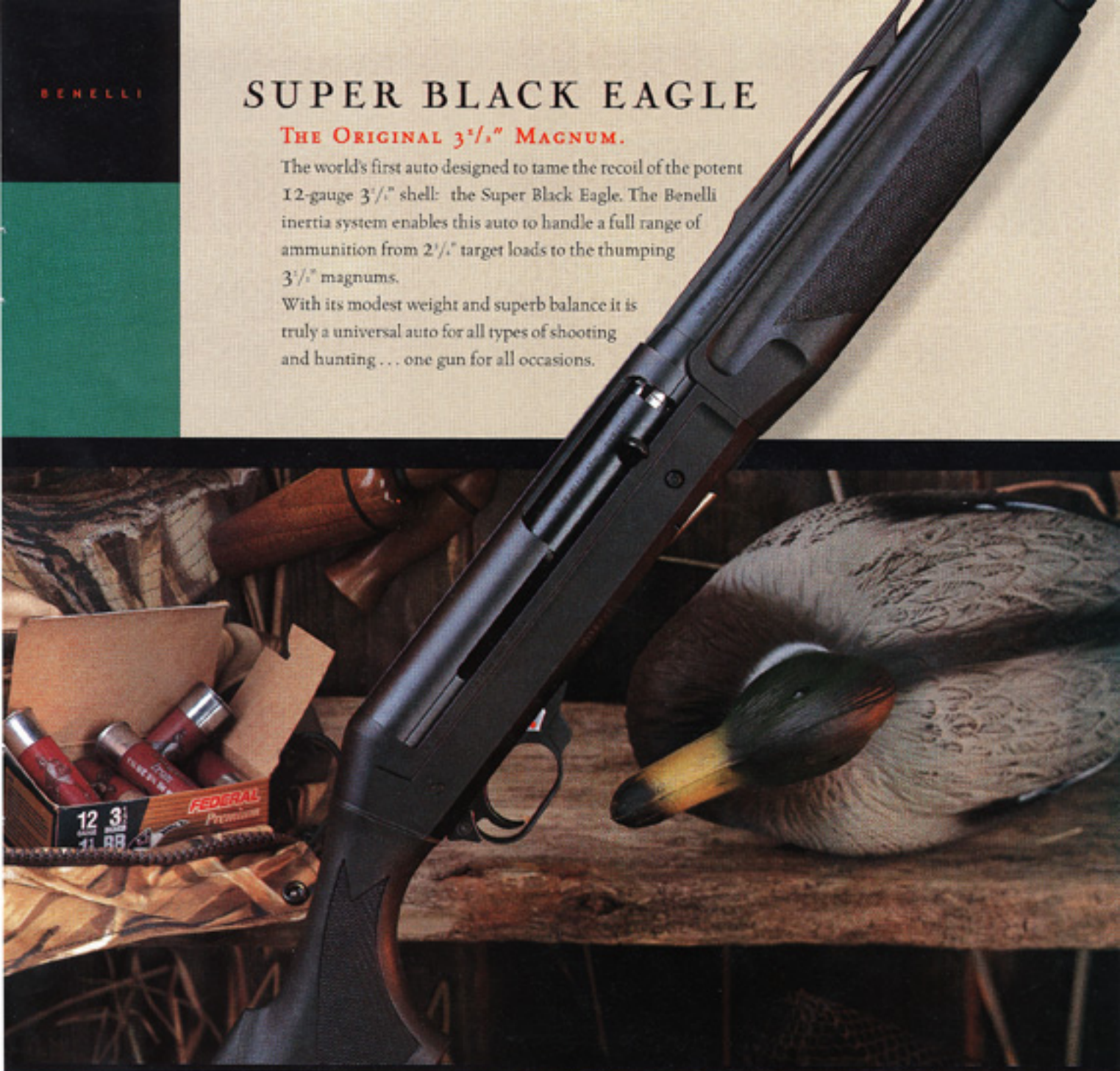
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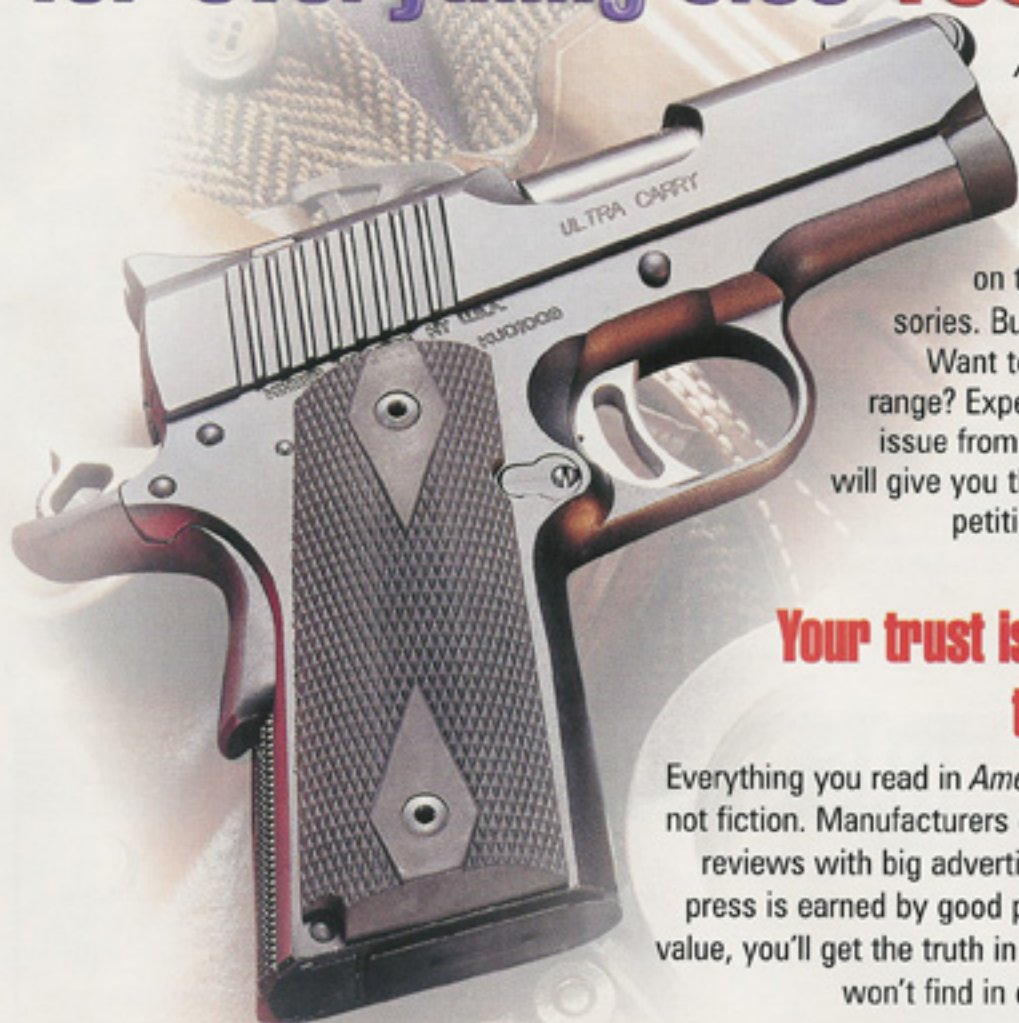


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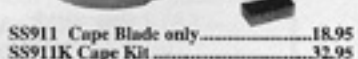
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**W**ithin the last 10 to 15 years modern handloaders have witnessed an explosion of a new generation of component powders. Where once handloaders' choices were limited, they are now practically limitless. Powders available to the handloader now number in the hundreds.

One of the most interesting powders available today is made in Miles City, Mont., by Roundup Powder Co. Formed in 1954, Roundup made explosives for the mining industry and the distribution system they developed for those products was also perfectly suitable for gunpowder.

In 1968 Roundup acquired the rights to distribute IMR powders and Western Powder was spun off. Today they are master distributors for all the major brands. This includes the canister powders used by reloaders and commercial grades sold in bulk quantities to ammunition manufacturers.

Beginning in 1996, Western began to market their own brand of powders, now known as Ramshot. In addition to the nine canister powders available to handloaders, there are over 50 commercial Ramshot powders that are sold in bulk quantities to the industry.

The arrival of any new powder is a great excuse to load and shoot more. The plan for this review was to load for two rifles and two handguns using data from the Ramshot loading manual and some updated

*continued on page 22*

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Brass: Federal Primers: CCI Benchrest			
Charge	Extreme Spread	Velocity	Accuracy
HORNADY 50 GR. V-MAX/OAL 1.909"			
24.5 grs.	161 fps	2,955 fps	1.14"
25.0 grs.	50 fps	3,097 fps	0.668"
25.5 grs.	33 fps	3,164 fps	0.702"
SIERRA 52 GR. MATCH/OAL 1.925"			
25.5 grs.	138 fps	3,094 fps	0.689"
26.0 grs.	93 fps	3,188 fps	0.778"
26.5 grs.	36 fps	3,211 fps	0.636"
NOSLER BALLISTIC SILVERTIP/OAL 1.915"			
24.5 grs.	56 fps	2,959 fps	0.601"
25.0 grs.	50 fps	3,013 fps	0.582"
25.5 grs.	97 fps	3,087 fps	0.552"

.300 WIN. MAG. & RAMSHOT BIG BOY			
Test Firearm: Custom Remington 700, 27" Hart barrel			
Components: Winchester brass Primer WLRM			
Charge	Extreme Spread	Velocity	Accuracy
Bullet: 178 GR. HORNADY A-MAX			
78 grs.	1 fps	3,014 fps	0.942"
80 grs.	25 fps	3,080 fps	0.522"
82 grs.	31 fps	3,108 fps	0.872"
168 GR. SIERRA MATCH KING			
80 grs.	31 fps	3,057 fps	0.493"
82 grs.	28 fps	3,128 fps	0.735"
84 grs.	22 fps	3,278 fps	0.446"
180 GR. NOSLER BALLISTIC TIP			
77.5 grs.	43 fps	2,986 fps	0.448"
79.5 grs.	42 fps	3,036 fps	0.813"
81.5 grs.	74 fps	3,133 fps	0.584"
180 GR. SWIFT A-FRAME			
78 grs.	21 fps	2,982 fps	1.00"
80 grs.	18 fps	3,043 fps	0.973"
82 grs.	40 fps	3,147 fps	0.925"





## RAMSHOT POWDERS

*continued from page 20*

information downloaded from their website. Of course we *could* have chosen almost any cartridge since their offerings cover most bases, but we decided to try TAC powder in the .223. The other rifle caliber chosen for evaluation was a .300 Win. Magnum. The handgun calibers selected were .38 Special and .44 Magnum.

The plan was to pick a middle-of-the-road load to start, and then work up to a safe maximum in reasonable increments. We like to make these increments in even units — usually 0.5, 1.0 and 2.0 grs. so we can see if the linear relationship between charge and velocity is maintained. A lack of proportional increase in velocity with the higher charge may indicate that a real maximum has been reached or exceeded. We also tried to include a range of bullet types and weights that are most popular.

### .223

Handloading usually brings out the best in this cartridge, for with the exception of a few match loads, most factory ammo is good but not great in the terms of accuracy. The bullets chosen were known to be intrinsically accurate, and were of a weight that had proven to be optimal for the test rifle. This gun usually throws groups of about 1" or larger with factory ammo, and my best handload cuts that to a bit over 0.5". With the test

Ramshot loads, almost everything *started* under an inch and some were much better. Obviously this is but a first step and these can be refined even further, however, the potential is clearly there.

### .300 Win. Mag.

The .300 Win. Mag. is one of the most popular hunting calibers around, so it was a natural to select for this test. Bullets were chosen to represent both target and hunting purposes, and powder charge increments were 2.0 grs. The first thing you'll notice in the data is that the extreme velocity spread is positively tiny.

That tells us that Ramshot Big Boy is really working well in the .300 Win. Magnum. We cannot draw too many general accuracy conclusions here because of the exotic nature of

the test rifle — a superb custom varmint rifle capable of outstanding accuracy — however, the indication is that these loads should perform well in any accurate .300 Win. Mag. rifle.

### .38 Special

The .38 Special is high on the list of the most commonly reloaded handgun cartridges, so it was almost a mandatory choice. True Blue was the chosen propellant. JHP bullets in 110, 125 and 158 gr. weights were used. Ramshot's data includes only one +P load — for the 125 gr. JHP — so more data may be forthcoming from them, but the maximum loads listed here are very close to +P levels. Loading and shooting the .38 Special with True Blue was uneventful and entirely satisfactory.

<b>.44 MAG. &amp; RAMSHOT ENFORCER</b>	
<i>Test Firearm Ruger Super Redhawk 7 1/2" barrel</i>	
<b>Components: Winchester brass and primers</b>	
CHARGE	VELOCITY
<b>200 gr. JHP</b>	
21.5 grs. ....	1,293 fps
22.5 grs. ....	1,290 fps
23.8 grs. ....	1,376 fps
<b>240 gr. JHP</b>	
19.9 grs. ....	1,191 fps
21.2 grs. ....	1,274 fps
<b>300 gr. JSP</b>	
15.6 grs. ....	.930 fps
16.1 grs. ....	.931 fps

<b>.38 SPECIAL &amp; RAMSHOT TRUE BLUE</b>	
<i>Test Firearm S&amp;W Model 686 4" barrel</i>	
<b>Components: Federal brass, CCI primers</b>	
CHARGE	VELOCITY
<b>110 gr. JHP</b>	
6.5 grs. ....	.904 fps
6.8 grs. ....	.921 fps
7.1 grs. ....	.972 fps
<b>125 gr. JHP</b>	
6.0 grs. ....	.794 fps
6.5 grs. ....	.863 fps
6.7 grs. (+P) ..	.895 fps
<b>158 gr JHP</b>	
5.4 grs. ....	.707 fps
5.6 grs. ....	.730 fps

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## .44 Magnum

Ramshot's Enforcer is a relatively slow-burning magnum powder suitable for the .44 Mag. and other big bore wallpapers. But here our results deviated quite a bit from theirs. Ramshot's maximum listed load for a 240 gr. jacketed bullet is 21.2 grs. of Enforcer. This load out of a 7½" barreled Ruger chronographed at 1,274 fps, while their manual shows 1,551 fps. This discrepancy may be due to nothing more than a difference in test equipment. Their test barrel was 8.275" long and may have been a solid tube instead of one that allows for the revolver's barrel/cylinder gap.

The 300 gr. bullets suffered a similar fate and were quite a bit slower than the published speed. On the positive side the handloads were great fun to shoot and quite accurate.

Please realize that this is very much a work in progress. In due time data will be found in other manuals and folks like me will work with it too. There's a lot to look forward to.



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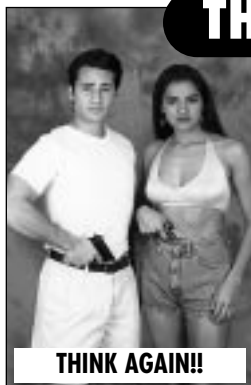


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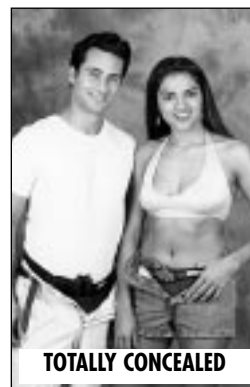


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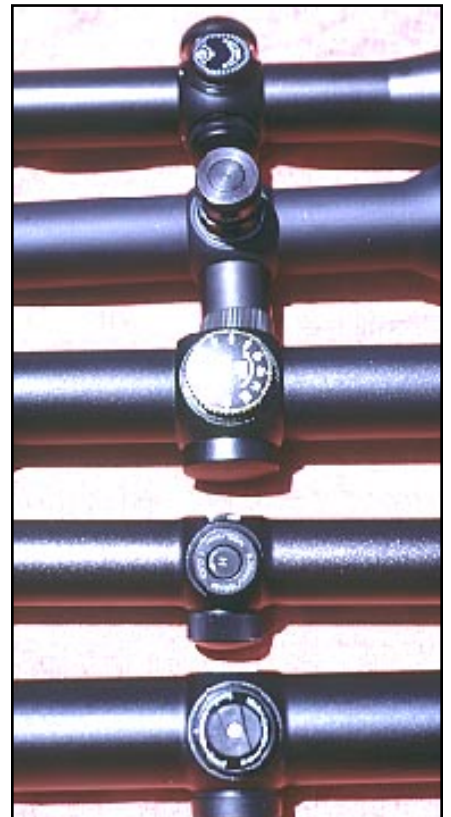
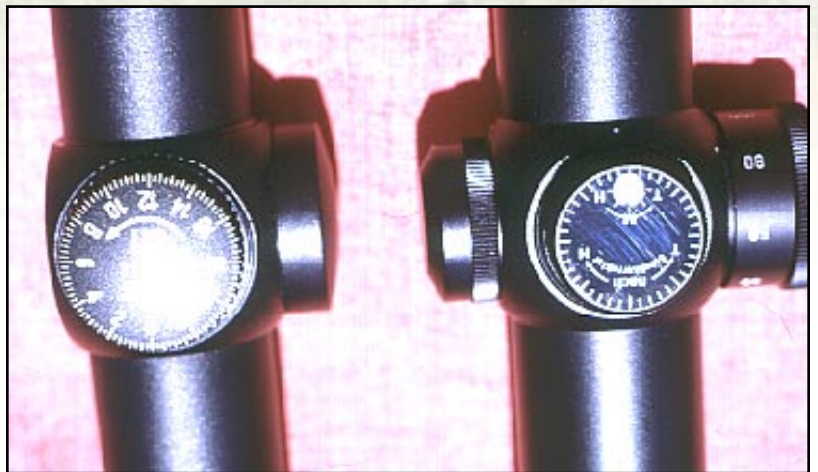
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# SUPREME HUNTING

**Right:** Adjustment values should be clearly visible on windage and elevation dials — the Leupold LPS scope, left, gets good marks in this regard, the Schmidt & Bender, not so much. **Bottom:** Bargain scopes are fine for casual shooters, but knowledgeable hunters know the value of a top-quality piece of glass, such as, from left, those from Schmidt & Bender, Burris, Swarovski, Leupold and Zeiss. **Bottom, right:** Even top-dollar scopes are a bundle of compromises, so be sure the one you choose has the features you want in a configuration which agrees with the way you use your scope on the range and in the field.





# SCOPES

BY HOLT BODINSON

*Is there any reason to buy a scope that costs more than your rifle? Read on — there's more to high-end optics than meets the eye.*

## TOP FIVE SUPER-SCOPE FEATURES

**A CONSUMER'S GUIDE to the benefits you should enjoy after paying \$1,000 or more for high-end hunting optics.**

- Resolution — Images should be crystal clear with no hint of fuzziness or distortion.
- High-Tech Coatings — Modern coatings should allow your scope to transmit so much light that it should appear to actually enhance images at dusk and dawn.
- Durability — Drop your rifle down the mountain? A scope like this should be able to take the abuse. (Okay, a 500-foot free fall may affect your zero, but you shouldn't have to abandon a hunt just because you fumbled your Model 70 while climbing to the tree stand.)
- Adjustability — The scope dials should feature logical, accurate repeatable adjustments which are easy to read and easy to adjust by hand.
- Eye Relief — One shot from your .458 Win. Mag. topped with a \$99 bargain scope that allows about 3/4" of clearance between the tube and your face, and you'll never again complain about the price of good glass. Get the picture?

American shooters have finally come to accept the fact that a rifle scope may cost more than the rifle it's mounted on. Proportionally, optic prices have risen faster than the price of firearms. Today there is a large selection of scopes costing over \$1,000, and comparison shopping for these items is difficult without access to an optical laboratory. If scope X costs \$500 and scope Y costs \$1,000 and the view through both seems to be crisp and clear when you're standing inside the local sporting goods store, what is the difference? What are we paying for?

We recently selected three European scopes and two upper-end American scopes in order to compare and evaluate them as a typical shooter might. While the five scopes all performed superbly, there were enough design differences among them to leave us with the feeling that when buying a scope, optics aren't the only consideration.

So, what does, or should, money buy you in quality optics?

### Clear Choices

First and foremost, supreme hunting scopes provide superior resolution — the optical capacity of the scope to distinguish fine detail. Here's where the selection of the optical glass and the design and manufacturing of the complete lens system is focused on controlling aberrations in the optical image. As shooters, we typically express resolution in terms of a "sharp" or "crisp" image.

Second, these scopes offer lenses which are treated with anti-reflective multi-coatings. The development of lens coatings by the Germans in the late 1930s is probably the most significant optical advance of our day.

Ever notice when its dark outside, light inside, and you're looking out a window that your image is reflected in the glass? That's lost light. The same problem existed at every glass surface within the lens system of a scope until coatings were invented. Today's durable multilayer coatings eliminate flare and ghost images, provide superior light transmission, and, by reducing the intensity of reflected light, improve definition and contrast. When we talk about

*continued on page 26*



## HUNTING SCOPES

continued from page 25

a "bright" scope at dawn or dusk, we can thank those coatings.

Third, these supreme scopes deliver a greater degree of ruggedness and durability. The best of today's scopes are tough, weatherproof, optical instruments that can handle the abuse they receive in the field as well as the stress incurred every time the trigger is pulled.

Fourth, high-dollar optics feature accurate, repeatable, graduated elevation and windage adjustments with dials that can be turned by hand and reset to zero once they're adjusted.

Fifth, these scopes are designed with generous eye relief to ensure one doesn't end up with an eyepiece in the forehead regardless of the recoil level of the rifle or the angle of the shot.

Sixth, these scopes are made with strict, quality control procedures that minimize problems, and long-term manufacturer guarantees to back them up.

Seventh, supreme scopes include a wide selection of user options including various reticles, parallax adjustments, target knobs, magnification ranges, tube diameters and objective sizes. And that, in a short form, is what the consumer should be getting for his money — and in optics, you usually get what you pay for.

### The Super Scope Line-Up

We recently put five scopes to the test to determine if these premium optics are really worth the extra money. Our scope choices for this test were a Burris 3-12x50mm Black Diamond with target knobs, a Leupold 2.5-10x45mm LPS, a Schmidt & Bender 4-16x50mm Varmint, a Swarovski AV 3-10x42mm, and a Zeiss 2.5-10x48mm Diavari Z.

All the scopes had 30mm, hard-anodized tubes, except the Swarovski, which we purposely chose with the lightweight American 1" tube to compare its performance to the larger tubes. The 30mm tube has made significant in-roads in all scope lines, providing both additional space for the mechanical systems, greater latitude of elevation and windage adjustments, and additional light transmission.

All featured a fast-adjusting diopter system at the end of the eyepiece; the Burris and Schmidt & Bender scopes also incorporated parallax adjustments. They were approximately of the same power range. Suggested retail prices ranged from the Burris at \$550 to the Schmidt & Bender at \$1,200.

There was quite a size and weight difference among the scopes in the 2.5-10x range. The Zeiss was 14.5" long and weighed 24 ozs., the Leupold measured 11" and weighed 17.2 ozs., and the Swarovski came in at 12.4" and 12.7 ozs.

The elevation and windage adjustment systems revealed some distinct differences. The Swarovski, Leupold, and Burris dials clearly stated that each click equaled 1/4" at

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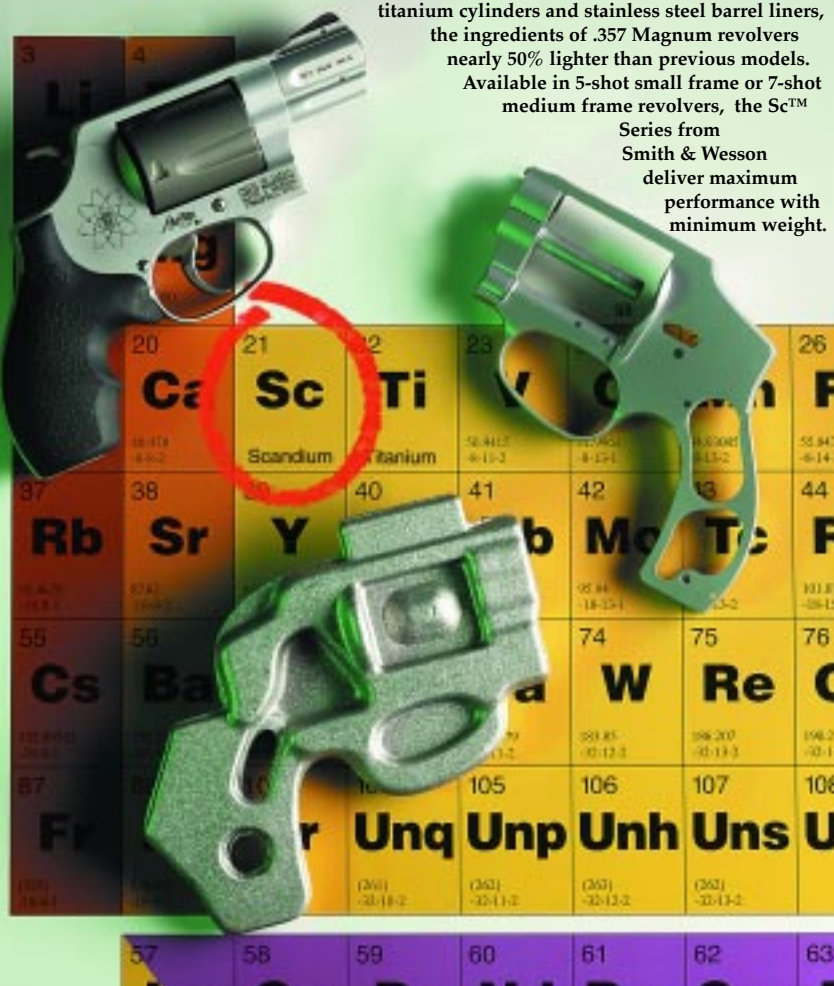
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100 yards. The Zeiss dial indicated each click was equal to 1 cm at 100m. Surprisingly, the most expensive scope, the Schmidt & Bender, carried no information on the scope as to the value of the graduations, although both the windage and elevation knobs did carry a neat dial indicator showing the position of the reticle and how much adjustment had been used up.

The dials on all brands, except for the Zeiss, were easy to adjust with the fingers and easy to read. The finger knobs on the Zeiss dials were so low and small as to be almost unusable. The Leupold, Zeiss and Swarovski dials could be reset to zero after sighting-in. Schmidt & Bender made no such provision. We accepted the maximum elevation and windage range for each scope as stated in their specifications and assumed the adjustments were accurate.

The turrets of the Leupold, Zeiss and Swarovski scopes were well centered in the middle of the straight tube section so that, once mounted, the scopes could readily be shifted fore and aft in the rings. The turrets of the Burris and the Schmidt & Bender were located forward of center, providing less leeway for positioning the scope in normal rings.

Operation of the power rings on all the scopes was smooth. The Swarovski was the lightest and the Schmidt & Bender was the tightest. Both the Leupold and the Burris scopes featured magnification readings on the slanting rear surface of the power ring so magnification could be easily read from any shooting position.

Taking the scopes outside, we lined them up on sandbags, focused them, turned the power rings up to 10x, and targeted them at a group of brick buildings and parked cars 230 yards away. It was a perfectly clear summer day and we studied the scopes at dawn, during the middle of the day, and from dusk to dark.

Looking through the scopes, we measured the distance from the eyebrow to the rear of the eyepiece to check eye relief at maximum power.

The Leupold LPS was the winner with 3" of eye relief. The Swarovski scope offered 2.25" of eye clearance. The Zeiss model brought the eye 2.125" away. And both the Schmidt & Bender and Burris scopes offered only 2" of clearance between the tube and the shooter's eye.

### On A Clear Day...

Checking resolution in broad daylight, we focused the scopes on the lettering of the distant license plates, the tiny spines of a columnar cactus, and on the troweled texture of masonry walls — all at a range of 215 to 230 yards. We rated the Schmidt & Bender best, followed, with no discernable difference, by the Zeiss, Swarovski, and Leupold models. The Burris was slightly soft but not far behind. The image quality of the scopes from edge-to-edge was flat and excellent with only the Swarovski showing a slight falling-off at the very edges of the field.

Checking for color fidelity and contrast, we could perceive no superiority of



one scope over another. Nor were there any signs of chromatic aberrations, such as colored halos and borders around tree trunks or roof edges.

Focusing the scopes on the distant brick wall with its very distinct vertical and horizontal lines, we checked for pincushion distortion (lines bowing in) and barrel distortion (lines bowing out). None of the scopes exhibited such distortion.

Aligning one edge of the image of each scope with the corner of a distant roof line, we visually measured the field of view of each scope along the roof line. The Schmidt & Bender and Zeiss scopes offered the greatest field of view at 230 yards followed closely by the Burris and Swarovski. The Leupold's field registered several feet smaller, due to the design compromise Leupold has made to achieve the greatest possible eye relief.

Focusing on objects and masonry textures in the deep shadows of the building 230 yards away, the 30mm tubes exhibited a slight superiority over the 1" tube. This became even more obvious at dawn and dusk when the 30mm tube and slightly larger objective scopes sucked in every bit of available light until it was simply too dark to even attempt a humane shot.

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remains in constant proportion to the image. Yes, it "grows" as the power is increased, but if you are using a system of mil-dots or other special reticles such as Sammut's Horus reticle installed on the Schmidt & Bender, the values of the reticle remain constant. Once the elevation and windage values expressed by the reticle are "shot-in," you can shoot at any power without having to recalculate.

Under the dim light conditions of dawn and dusk when game is highly active, you can crank up the power and the reticle just jumps out rather than fading off. Americans don't like reticles that seem to get larger as the power is increased, and not understanding the principle involved, have forced scope makers to place the reticle in the second focal plane. 'Tis a pity.

What did these simple tests prove? Foremost, they revealed that all scopes, even the most expensive, are a bundle of compromises, and that no scope incorporates all of the best of design features. You simply have to weigh all of the various features and qualities in the balance and make a choice. And this choice becomes very personal. But no matter what qualities or criteria you value in your scope, there's no doubt that topping your favorite rifle with a supreme, high-end scope is an investment which will pay off every time you bring your gun to your shoulder this hunting season.



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## LOADING THE .45 S&W

An examination of the .45 S&W cartridge shows it to be 0.18" shorter than the .45 Colt, so while you can fire .45 S&W ammo in a .45 Colt chamber, the opposite is not possible. It also has a slightly different rim, so the Colt shell holder can't be used.

Nor can you use .45 Colt dies because the crimp ring in the seater die is too high to crimp the shorter case. You could use .45 Colt sizing and expander dies and grind 1/4" off the bottom of the seat die, but it might just be easier to buy a set of RCBS Cowboy dies that come ready-made for both .45 S&W and Colt cartridges.

With those problems solved, loading is routine, as the cartridge can be loaded with almost any .45 lead bullet. Original black-powder factory loads used a 250 gr. lead bullet loaded to a velocity of 710 fps, or a 230 gr. bullet at 730 fps. As you might expect, however, smokeless powder loading data is not exactly plentiful. The Speer #13 manual has some loads for RCBS 225 gr. and 230 gr. cast bullets. The Oregon Trail Reloading Manual has data with their 200 gr. LRNFP, which was where our loading began. As a curiosity, we also included the 185 gr. LSWC, which is one of our favorites in the .45 ACP.

Since there was no data at all for the 250 gr. bullets, those were not tested, but when you reduce bullet weight, it's almost always safe to use starting data for a slightly heavier bullet and work up a bit from there. To simplify this, target velocities that related to the factory data were established. Black Hills factory ammo with a 230 gr. LRNFP clocked 705 fps from the S&W's 7" barrel. For the 230 gr. bullet, desired velocity was set at 730 fps., 750 fps for the 200 gr. bullet, and 800 fps for the 185 gr. bullet.

The original plan was to use Alliant Unique, Winchester 231 and Hodgdon Titegroup. W-W 231 was eliminated when maximum loads delivered dramatically lower velocities than those published in the manuals. It is also important to note that both data sources used .45 Colt revolvers for load development. That really shouldn't matter, but this is one of those cases where caution should be used.

Given the similarities between the two cartridges, somebody might assume that .45 Colt data could be

used. Not so. The .45 S&W case has 15 percent less internal volume, so a Colt load in the S&W case will produce significantly higher pressure.

We used three lead bullets — a 230 gr. Speer Idaho Territory coated lead, a 200 gr. LRNFP and a 185 gr. LSWC from Bull-X. Powders were Unique and Titegroup. Starline brass and CCI primers completed the recipe.

As there were no load workups for the 185 gr., we began with loads in the middle of the range listed for the 200 gr. and worked up to the velocity target.

Each of the loads shot well at the target velocities, but the 185 gr. was quite a surprise in the accuracy department. The 185 gr. has always been a great choice for the .45 ACP, and even though we did not do formal accuracy tests, the target shot while chronographing was very good. Recoil, of course was light, and the only thing wrong with this load is that it doesn't look like a cowboy load.

Due to the scarcity of pressure-tested data we've kept these loads conservative because the lovely new Schofield is built on an old design. The hot loads that are so popular these days simply are not advisable in a top-break revolver — regardless of age. We are also cautioned to not shoot smokeless powder loads in guns that were built in the blackpowder days, so these loads should not be fired in original revolvers.

The .45 S&W is a historic cartridge that we never expected to load and shoot, but there are no difficulties in doing so — with the exception of needing a different seating die. New brass is available from Starline, loaded ammo from Black Hills, dies from RCBS and lead bullets from dozens of sources. Jacketed bullets have no place here because of the modest velocities. For those of us swept up in the nostalgia of the old days, this cartridge is a great addition for fun shooting.



LOADING DATA: .45 S&W	
Powder	Velocity
<b>BULLET: 230 GR. SPEER IDAHO TERRITORY</b>	
<b>Unique</b>	
6.5 grs. ....	685 fps
6.7 grs. ....	718 fps
6.8 grs. ....	733 fps
<b>Titegroup</b>	
5.1 grs. ....	685 fps
5.3 grs. ....	718 fps
5.4 grs. ....	733 fps
<b>BULLET: 200 GR. BULL-X LRNFP</b>	
<b>Unique</b>	
6.7 grs. ....	685 fps
7.0 grs. ....	718 fps
7.3 grs. ....	751 fps
<b>Titegroup</b>	
5.5 grs. ....	685 fps
5.6 grs. ....	718 fps
5.7 grs. ....	751 fps
<b>BULLET: 185 GR. BULL-X LSWC</b>	
<b>Unique</b>	
5.6 grs. ....	785 fps
6.2 grs. ....	795 fps
6.8 grs. ....	805 fps
<b>Titegroup</b>	
4.6 grs. ....	735 fps
4.9 grs. ....	768 fps
5.2 grs. ....	801 fps

## .45 S&W: The Cartridge & The Gun

Nostalgia, inspired by Cowboy shooting, is giving us the opportunity to revisit some of the older cartridges that were nearing obsolescence. As a result, one that was truly obsolete has returned. The .45 S&W, developed for the Schofield revolver of the late 1800s. Other than seeing some cartridges in collections, most shooters have never been exposed to the .45 S&W, much less had the opportunity to shoot it.

Then, out of the blue, came a couple of boxes of Black Hills Cowboy ammo marked .45 Schofield. Technically, it is a misnomer to call the cartridge "Schofield," for the proper name is .45 S&W. It was loaded in shiny new Starline brass with a 230 gr. LRN bullet. A year or so later the gun to shoot it arrived — the S&W Schofield Model of 2000.



*The .45 S&W is a surprisingly versatile cartridge when loaded with, from left, a 185 gr. LSWC, a 200 gr. LRN, and a 230 gr. LRN. The .45 Colt, right, is shown only for comparison.*



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What we really appreciate about this spray, however, is its staying power. Most other sprays rely on oil to protect the metal beneath. We all know what happens to oil when left in the open air — it dries out. That means that, after a few weeks, your gun is left sitting in your gun safe totally unprotected from ambient moisture in the air.

Rust Prevent gives you the added benefit of a protective coating that remains when the oil dries away — a thin waxy film, if you

will. We've left bare metal parts treated with Rust Prevent exposed to extreme conditions for several days — rain, fog, sea air, dirt, hot sun. Rust Prevent has never failed to perform as advertised.

With Rust Prevent we've always found that "a little dab'll do ya," as the saying goes. Spray a bit on a shop cloth, then use that to wipe down any metal surfaces in need of "rust preventing."

A 6 oz. can of Rust Prevent retails for around \$6 — you can even order on-line for your convenience. Check out the full line of gun cleaning and care products offered by Shooter's Choice while you're visiting their web site. Free samples are available there too!



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## Wilson Adjustable Sights

Low-mounted, snag-free fixed sights are preferred on carry guns and service pistols, but there is still much to recommend the well-made adjustable sight. Wilson Combat offers an extremely high quality adjustable sight for the 1911 pistol for those who like to shoot different loads and bullet weights without worrying about Kentucky windage. There is also a version for the Gold Cup.

Machined from solid bar stock, the Wilson adjustable sight features positive clicks that you can both hear and feel as adjustments are made. Each click represents 3/16" at 25 yards. The sight is black Parkerized for a non-glare, sharp sight picture.

The rear blade is interchangeable. Wilson Combat offers five different blades, including one with tritium dots for low light situations. The others are the standard blade with a .128" notch, a narrow-notch target version with a .110" notch, "combat pyramid" version with the cor-

ners radically angled and a plain, uncut "gunsmiths" version with no notch at all.

Once installed, the Wilson sight looks as if it had been "melted" onto the slide. Herein lies both the good and the bad news — yes, it looks fantastic and is rugged as the Rockies, but the sight requires gunsmith installation. While we know someone who once installed a similar sight with only a set of files, we don't recommend it. Take the sight to a qualified gunsmith for installation or, better yet, send your slide to Wilson's for professional installation.

The sight is held onto the slide with a beefy 8-32 screw. It won't come out,



even with a steady diet of hardball. Like everything from Wilson Combat we have used over the years, the adjustable sight is well designed and well made. The sight retails for \$89.95 (\$134.95 for the tritium version).



### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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## Model 123 Pouch

Bill Rogers may well possess the most inventive mind to ever focus on a holster. He patented the thermolaminate process for manufacturing holsters, a sandwich of leather and plastic, when he owned Rogers Holster Co., but he subsequently sold the patent to Safariland. Rogers remained as a consultant and new product developer for Safariland, coming up with brilliant idea after brilliant idea, including a slew of snatch-proof police rigs and lightning-quick competition holsters.



Against such an impressive resume, it seems almost a let-down to present one of Rogers' least exciting ideas — a lowly magazine pouch. Neither high-tech nor complicated, the Model 123 mag pouch is nonetheless vintage Rogers with its clever design and elegantly simple construction.

What sets the pouch apart is that it is made to attach horizontally to a dress belt. Designed for concealed carry applications, the pouch has a flap of Velcro that wraps around a belt, securing the pouch. We find it perfect for carrying a Leatherman or other multi-purpose tool.

Rogers does too. He always carries a multi-purpose tool in his horizontal pouch, and we stole the idea. It is unobtrusive to carry this way and doesn't scuff leather car seats or otherwise hang up or snag. You can, of course, carry a magazine in it too.

Safariland manufacturers and markets all of Rogers designs, so you can pick one up at your local Safariland dealer or order off the web. The price is \$26.75 and the pouch accommodates most magazines, or Leathermans.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**Safariland**

(800) 347-1200

[www.holsters.com](http://www.holsters.com)

## KEL-TEC SUB-2000



The SUB 2000 is a self-loading semiautomatic for pistol cartridges. Different versions of the SUB 2000 will accept most common handgun magazines, e.g. S&W, Glock or Beretta. By rotating the barrel upwards and back, the SUB 2000 can be reloaded in a second 180° turn to facilitate covert reloading. 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"	400 mm
Barrel length	18.7"	478 mm
Practical range	150 yd	150 m
Caliber:	Automatic push-back Lock-back operating handle Keyed deployment lock	

### OTHER KEL-TEC PRODUCTS



P 40



P 32



P 11

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## Shot To Death Video

Ever since the release of *Black Death* nearly 10 years ago, Professional Hunter Mark Sullivan has made a charging Cape buffalo his film-making signature and his latest production, *Shot To Death*, captures the heart-pounding excitement of hunting Africa's wary and grim. This film has the finest lion and leopard hunting of any of Sullivan's videos. There is also good buffalo hunting, although Sullivan did not spark a charge in this film.

Running for 100 minutes, *Shot To Death* gives a fascinating look at how Africa's dangerous game is hunted. Sullivan's clients take lion, leopard and several Cape buffalo in this genre-defining film. Like all of Sullivan's films, *Shot To Death* offers superb production, camera work and dialog. Unlike most "hunting videos," Sullivan's professional cameraman gives us a steady, unshaking look over the shoulders of the trackers and hunters as they pursue the game.

We get an interesting look at how to build a leopard blind and what it feels like

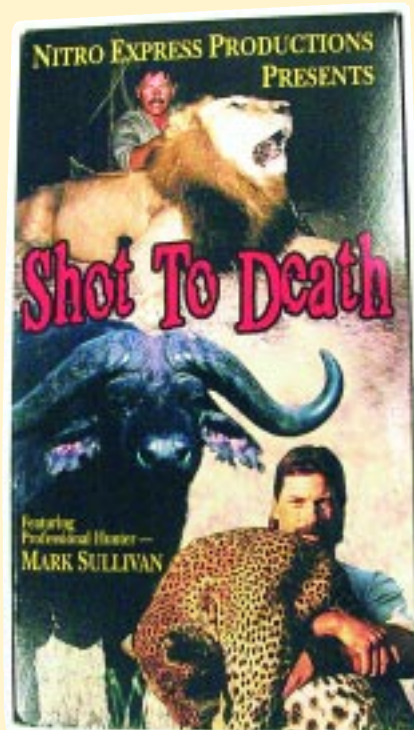
to finally see *chui* slither up the bait tree like dappled molasses. We see what it's like to take a magnificent black maned lion. Watching Sullivan hunt with a beautiful double rifle is worth the price of admission alone.

The off-camera narration is excellent with Sullivan keeping a lively pace as the hunting action unfolds. Sullivan's *Shot To Death* is available directly from the producer for \$49.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. All seven of Sullivan's African hunting films, including *Black Death*, can be had for \$230 plus \$5 shipping and handling. (Note: adrenalin not included.)



### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

**Mark Sullivan**  
P.O. Box 15092  
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SEPTEMBER 2001 35



# Weatherby



***By Dave Anderson***

*From design to performance, few have influenced the shooting world like the man from California and the company that bears his name.*

## **TIMELINE: WEATHERBY CARTRIDGES**

**.220 Wthby. Rocket**  
1940

**.270 Wthby. Mag.**  
1943

**.257 Wthby. Mag.  
7mm Wthby. Mag.  
.300 Wthby. Mag.**  
1944

**.375 Wthby. Mag.**  
1945

**.338/.378 Wthby. Mag.**  
1946

**.224 Wthby. Mag.**  
1950

**.378 Wthby. Mag.**  
1953





Rifle enthusiasts born after 1960 may not have the historical perspective necessary to appreciate Roy Weatherby's impact on firearms. In the post-war boom of the late '40s, purchasing power and consumer demands shot to unprecedented heights. Americans wanted to spend their new cash on things they never could have afforded before the war — cars, houses, toasters, televisions — and even firearms.

The big firearms manufacturers of the era, Marlin, Remington, Savage, and Winchester, sought to meet demand by producing the same oil-finished, iron-sighted models they had offered before the war. Remington introduced modern manufacturing techniques to speed production, but in function and appearance the new guns still looked old. The prevailing cartridges were proven old-timers like the .30-30, .300 Savage and .30-'06. If you mounted a scope atop a bolt-action .270 you were considered to be on the cutting edge.

***Top-bottom: Weatherby's stylish designs and flamboyant style captured the attention of many Hollywood celebrities throughout the '50s and '60s, including John Wayne, seen here with Weatherby. With a mutual love of hunting and the rugged, outdoor lifestyle, Roy Rogers took a fancy to Weatherby's innovative rifles. Never one to shy away from an effective new gun or cartridge, Elmer Keith used Weatherby rifles on several hunts. Opposite: Weatherby's first store was located in South Gate, Calif., right in the back yard of Hollywood.***

.460 Wthby. Mag.  
1958

.338-'06  
1959

.30/.378 Wthby. Mag.  
1960

.340 Wthby. Mag.  
1962

.240 Wthby. Mag.  
1968

.416 Wthby. Mag.  
1989





# ROY WEATHERBY — The Man Behind The Name

**By: Dave Anderson**

In the fall of 1942 a 32-year-old hunter on his first deer hunt in Utah wounded and lost a fine buck. Remorseful at having caused an animal unnecessary pain, he wondered if cartridges providing higher velocities than his .30-'06 might prove more effective. The hunter was Roy Weatherby, and his influence would profoundly affect the evolution of modern hunting cartridges and rifles.

Following World War II there were many experimenters improving various cases such as the popular .30-'06 and the .300 H&H Magnum. Weatherby at the time was just one of many. In addition to Powell, Miller and Ackley, well-known cartridge designers included Gibbs, Juenke, Pfeifer, Mashburn and Sharpe. Ballistically their designs were as good as those of Weatherby. Yet today they are remembered mostly by a few old-timers, while the Weatherby name ranks in the firearms industry with such greats as Colt, Remington, Winchester, Browning and Ruger.

Mention is often made of Weatherby's

genius for promotion, and certainly he had an exceptional ability to keep his products in the public eye. There is no doubt he was a man of considerable intelligence. He was a capable writer, articulate and persuasive, but he also had a rare gift, one that is often overlooked or unappreciated. He had tremendous energy. After he quit his day job in 1945 to establish his own business, the sheer energy and tenacity with which Weatherby worked and overcame obstacles was amazing.

The premise on which Weatherby based his cartridges and his business is that bullet velocity is the most important factor in producing fast, humane kills on game. Some of his claims seem rather extravagant. In the beginning at least he seemed to have been convinced that if velocity was high enough, where the animal was hit didn't matter.

The diary of his first African trip includes comments such as this one about a hyena: "I shot him with my .257 Magnum, hitting in the front leg only, high toward the shoulder ... nothing can withstand the

*continued on page 64*



**Hunter, innovator, outdoorsman, writer and gentleman, Roy Weatherby's radical ideas and innovations set trends in the shooting world which are still being explored today.**





# THE CARTRIDGES OF WEATHERBY

*By: Dave Anderson*

## **.228 Weatherby**

Based on the belted Holland & Holland case, this cartridge fired the 70 gr., 0.228" bullet used in the .22 Savage Hi-Power. Only a few were ever built, and the cartridge was never part of the commercial line.

## **.224 Weatherby**

A high-speed .22 with a case featuring the distinctive double-radius shoulder and belt, it was offered in a special version of the Weatherby rifle called the Varmintmaster. As currently loaded, it fires a 55 gr. bullet at 3,650 fps.

## **.240 Weatherby**

The .240 was introduced in 1968, though Weatherby experimented with it several years earlier. The .240 remains the hottest commercial 6mm.

## **.257 Weatherby**

The .257, .270, and 7mm. Weatherby magnums are similar in size and capacity, and are all based on the .300 H&H case shortened to 2.545". Today, more than 50 years after its introduction, the .257 Weatherby remains king of the factory .25s.

## **.270 Weatherby**

The .270 was the first of the belted Weatherby cartridges. Current factory ammunition is loaded by Weatherby in weights from 100 to 150 gr., including two 140 gr. loads.

## **7mm Weatherby**

The 7mm is another early development. Factories offer ammunition in weights from 139 to 175 gr. If you're of the "one gun-one load" persuasion, the 160 gr. Nosler Partition at 3,200 fps is hard to beat.

## **.300 Weatherby**

The superstar, the most popular by far of all Weatherby rounds, and one of the world's great cartridges. Current ammunition is loaded in weights from 150 to 220 gr. and includes fine bullets such as the Nosler Ballistic Tip, Nosler Partition and Barnes X bullets.

## **.30/.378 Weatherby**

The powerhouse of Weatherby's .30 caliber line. Current factory loads yield 3,450 fps with 180 gr. Barnes bullets.

*continued on page 65*

Enter Roy Weatherby and his rifles. They stuck out like new Thunderbirds and Corvettes in a parking-lot packed with four-door Oldsmobile sedans. While standard rifles featured conventional-shaped stocks and subdued oil finishes, Weatherby designed his stocks with exaggerated Monte Carlo combs, flared pistol grips, squared forearms, fancy checkering patterns, rose-wood grip caps and forearm tips, and finished them in a blindingly bright high-gloss. At a time when .30-'06 was considered a potent round, Weatherby boasted velocities for his new .300 Wthby. Mag. some 600 fps quicker than his competitor's rifles.

Most firearms experts viewed Weatherby's creations as abominations of gun design, comparable to taking a Rolls-Royce, dropping a 426 Hemi under the hood, and painting it with six coats of candy-apple red lacquer complete with flaming decals.

But Weatherby, an articulate writer as well as a brilliant designer, presented his own side of the story.

Weatherby wrote influential articles about the effectiveness of high-velocity bullets. He made friends easily. His choice of locale, South Gate, Calif., afforded him the

opportunity to meet many Hollywood celebrities. Although many critics decried the evil "California influence" of the Weatherby designs, the contemporary gun magazines featured pictures of Gary Cooper and John Wayne holding gleaming, glittering Weatherby rifles that made a Remington or Winchester look simply dull.



***Weatherby was one of the pioneers of high-performance cartridges, which were developed for and tested in Africa.***

Weatherby had personality. In a small, fraternal industry, he maintained a monolithic reputation for honesty and integrity. Read old gun and outdoor magazines and tally the multitudes that disdained Weatherby's cartridges and rifles. Then try to find someone discredit Roy Weatherby the man. You never will.

## **Rags To Riches**

Weatherby conceived his business in his garage. Customers shipped him their .270 or .30-'06 rifles, and Weatherby would rechamber them by opening the bolt face and adjusting the feed rails to accept his .270 and .300 Wthby. Magnums. He began offering complete rifles built on salvaged actions, such as Winchester 70s and military or commercial Mausers.

In the early 1950s he exerted considerable effort looking for a reliable source of actions big and strong enough to house his new .378 cartridge. When he couldn't find what he wanted, he designed his own action. It took five revisions to get it right. Weatherby wanted to call the final version the Model 5. Elgin Gates, a hunter and close

*continued on page 62*







# TAURUS PT 145

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By Charles Cutshaw

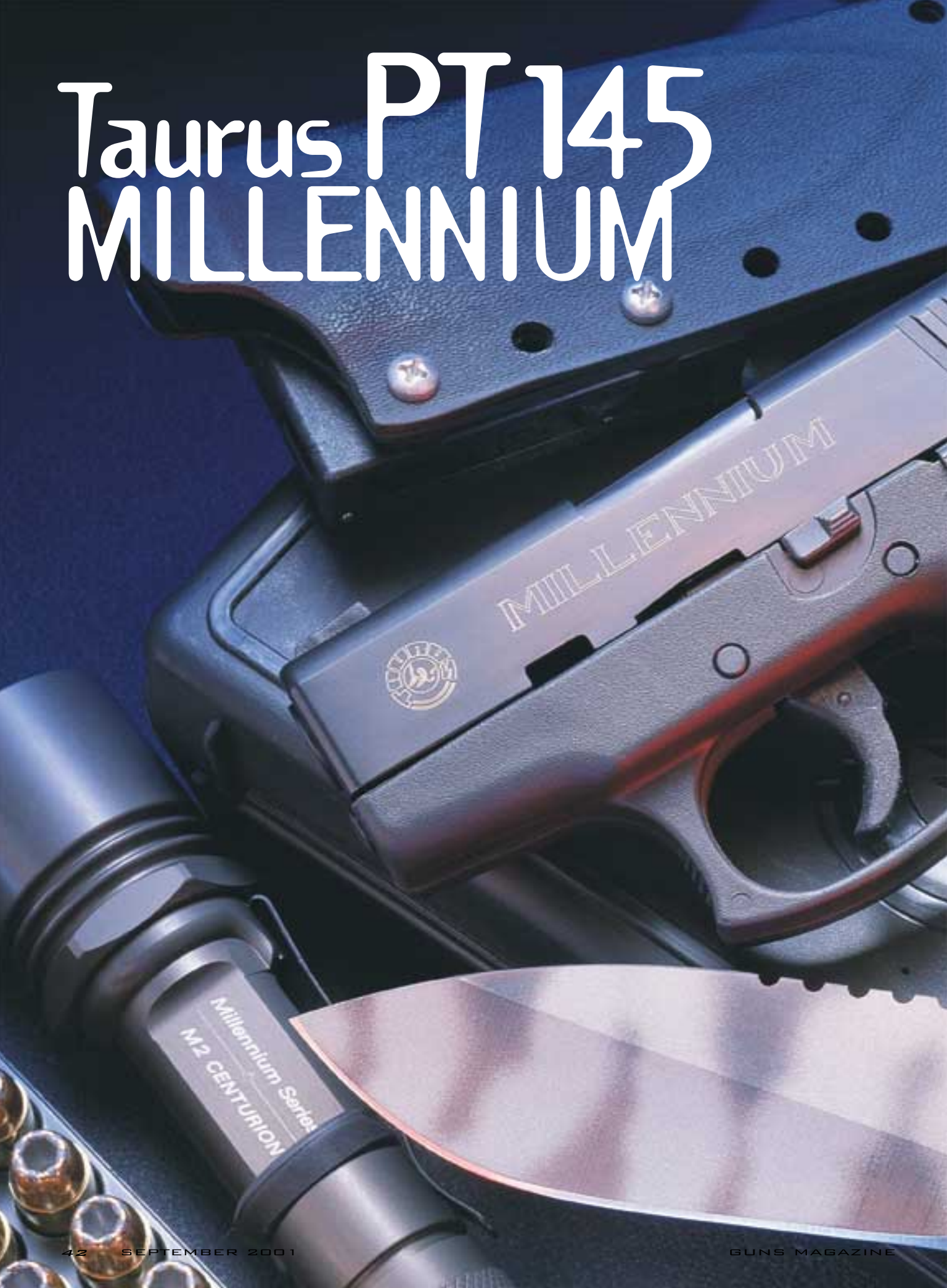
**T**aurus has come into its own in recent years with innovative, original designs that challenge or surpass the best products of both American and European firearms companies. Moreover, Taurus products have established a reputation for high quality and reliability. The latter is backed up by Taurus' transferable lifetime warranty. If a Taurus firearm ever breaks due to a defect or wear, the company will repair or replace it. Period.

Taurus has created one success after another in recent years with new revolvers and pistols such as the Raging Bull, the Raging Hornet, the Millennium line of pistols and the company's Total Titanium revolvers. More recently, the designation of Taurus' Titanium Millennium pistol as "Handgun of the Year" and the company's selection as "Manufacturer of the Year" by the *Shooting Industry Academy of Excellence* has expanded Taurus' reputation for quality and innovation. Now Taurus has hit yet another home run with the PT 145 Millennium pistol.

***Opposite: What has two horns, holds 10 rounds of .45 ACP and fits in your pocket? While you come up with your own lame punchline, let us point out that the PT 145 Millennium fits all those requirements.***

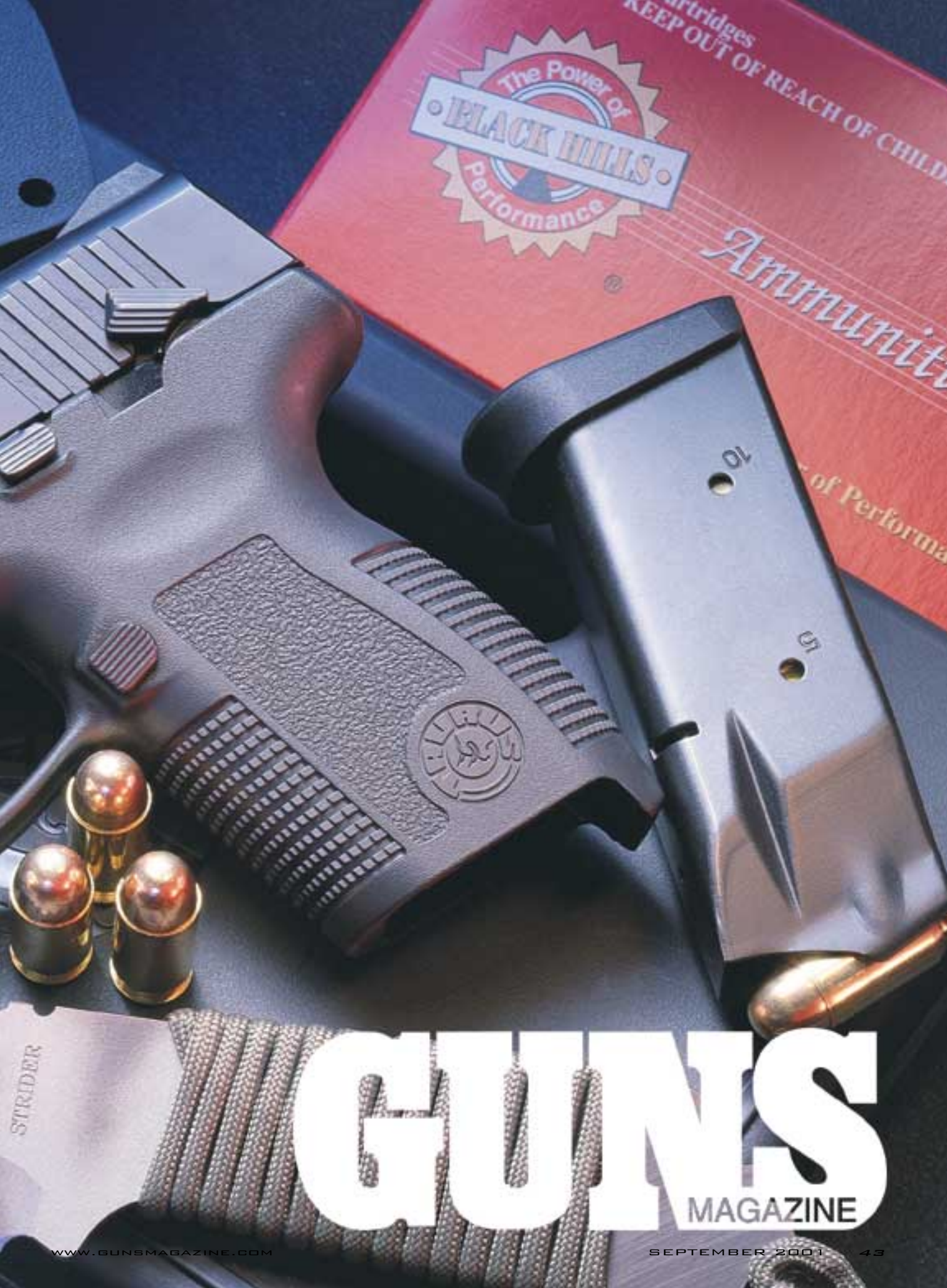


# Taurus PT145 MILLENNIUM



Millennium Series  
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# GUNS

MAGAZINE



*"Please to be retaining stopping pin previous to loosing slide in front position..." Huh? Actually, the PT 145 is so easy to disassemble and clean you probably won't even need that manual.*





## Good Things Come In Small Packages

The Taurus PT 145 is very similar to the company's successful PT 111 and PT 140 line of compact carry pistols, but with one major difference. Whereas the PT 111 is a 9mm and the PT 140 is .40 S&W caliber, the PT 145 is chambered for the potent .45 ACP cartridge. Adapting the PT 111/140 platform to .45 ACP was not a simple task. While the PT 145 may appear to be nearly identical to its earlier cousins, Taurus engineers essentially designed this pistol from the ground up.

Taurus has accomplished a real engineering feat by stuffing a 10-round, .45 caliber double stack magazine into a pistol that is essentially identical in size to its 9mm and .40 S&W predecessors!

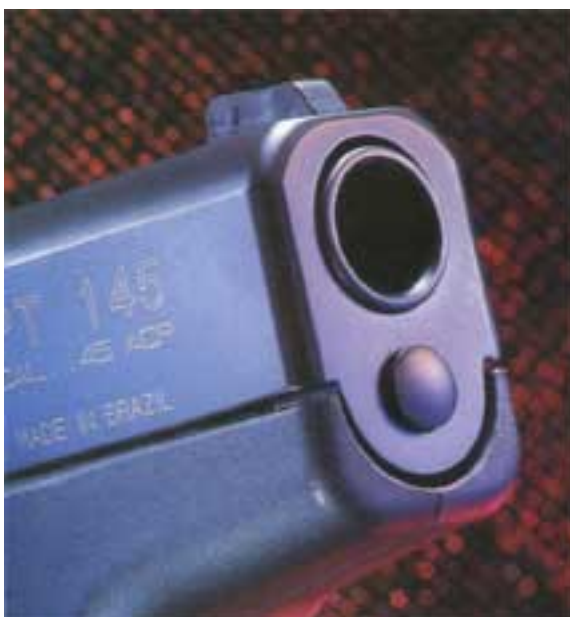
When the little .45 arrived, we were immediately impressed by its extremely compact size and the overall excellent fit and finish of every component. The slide is a smooth satin black, with almost all of its corners rounded.

The little PT 145 is clearly designed for concealed carry, with superb ergonomics. The polymer grip assembly has sharp checkering for a secure grip, with contours on both sides accommodating the thumb and trigger finger of the shooting hand. The grip angle is the classic 11 degrees of the M1911, but contoured so that the pistol rides extremely low in the hand in order to lessen felt recoil and reduce muzzle flip.

The PT 145 magazine well is a gaping hole virtually impossible to miss, even under the stress of a speed reload, especially given that the PT 145's steel magazine tapers into a single cartridge feed. This not only helps in quick reloading, but also enhances feeding reliability.

We also especially enjoyed the positioning of the PT 145's slide stop. This essential control is in exactly the right position. It protrudes from the frame sufficiently that the thumb can easily manipulate it. The

***Look at the PT 145 from any angle — front or back, inside or outside — you won't find anyplace where Taurus' attention to detail and innovative manufacturing techniques don't show, and that is no bull. (Forgive us. Federal law requires that at least one "bull" joke be included in every review of Taurus products.)***







**Above (top-bottom): The PT 145 is designed with an integral lock which gives you the option of putting your pistol into lockdown mode for peace of mind. Why is there a thumb safety on a DAO pistol? Well, ya got us on that one, but if you're going to have a redundant safety, at least this one works in the proper "up for safe, down to fire" manner that God and John Browning intended.**

HEAD-TO-HEAD COMPARISON TAURUS PT 145 vs. GLOCK vs. HK			
Pistol	PT 145	Glock 30	USP .45 Compact
Caliber	.45 ACP	.45 ACP	.45 ACP
Magazine capacity	10	10	8
Weight	23 oz	23.9 oz	25.6 oz
Length	6"	6.77"	7.09"
Barrel length	3.27"	3.78"	3.8"
Rifling	RH, 1:16	RH, 1:15.75	N/A
Height	4.87"	4.76"	5.06"
Grip width	1.125"	1.25"	1.14"

PT 145 is also equipped with a very cleverly designed loaded chamber indicator that protrudes when there is a cartridge in the chamber.

Sights are "combat type," with a large tapered blade front sight and tapered notch rear. Both sights are held in place by screws for easy replacement. Tritium sights are optional.

The phosphated steel slide rides on a unitary steel frame that is pinned into the polymer grip assembly. The grip frame not only provides full-length rails on which the slide reciprocates, but also houses the trigger mechanism, safety and sear. The slide contains the striker mechanism, firing pin safety, extractor, loaded chamber indicator and Taurus' proprietary security system that locks the gun via a small key. An optional stainless steel slide will soon be available at a small additional charge.

## Safe & Sound

The PT 145 has a frame mounted safety that is engaged when in the "up" position and disengaged when "down."

The fire control mechanism of the PT 145 follows the proven Taurus Millennium design in that it is double action only and striker fired. The trigger is a true DAO design that functions via a transfer bar with integral sear that rides in a channel between the frame and the grip assembly.

As the trigger is squeezed, the sear retracts the striker and as it reaches the end of its travel, the sear is cammed down via a small ramp, thus releasing the striker to fire the pistol. This system is smooth, reliable and consistent, but it does stack somewhat as it reaches the end of its travel. We found that this had little or no effect on accuracy, however.

The striker is physically blocked by a firing pin safety that is cammed out of the way by the striker as it is retracted. As the striker moves forward, the cam retains the safety out of the striker's path long enough for the striker to hit the cartridge primer under its own momentum. A return spring then forces the striker to rebound, where it is caught by the safety and locked in place until the trigger is pulled again. When the trigger is released, it is reset, whether the slide has cycled or not. This allows the trigger to be pulled again in case of a mis-fire without retracting the slide and before performing a "tap, rack, ready" drill.

The sear and striker mechanism relationship acts as a disconnecter. If the slide is not fully in battery, the sear cannot engage and retract the striker. All in all, Taurus' approach to fire control in this latest product is quite simple

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Opposite: Gun by Taurus (305 624-1115 or [www.taurususa.com](http://www.taurususa.com)) knife by Strider (760 471-8275 or [www.striderknives.com](http://www.striderknives.com)) light by Sure-Fire (714 545-9444) ammo by Black Hills (605 348-5150 or [www.black-hills.com](http://www.black-hills.com)). Did we miss anything?





# HUNTING THE SUPER-MAGNUMS

Do today's ultra-powerful cartridges make you a better hunter? You bet — if you know how to use them.



*Top, practice pays off, which the Lazzeroni .308 Warbird proved on a long-range mountain shot on this coues deer. Below, the super-magnums can't make you a better hunter without the right kind of practice — that is, under similar conditions and distances as your hunt.*

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By Holt Bodinson

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Among the recent developments in big game hunting, one of the most intriguing has been the advent of the high-performance “super-magnum” cartridges. Hunting with one of these new cartridges is like driving a Porsche instead of a “sport sedan.” These cartridges feature huge case capacity and heavy powder charges to push their premium bullets to previously unheard-of velocities.

The most familiar of these super-magnum are the Lazzeroni line of cartridges, Remington's Ultramag, the Weatherby magnums, and the .338 Lapua. And while the super-magnums are offered in 7mm, .30, .338, .375 and .416 calibers, it is the Big .30s that dominate the field.

Why do hunters prefer the .30s rather than some of the hot shot 7mms or .338s? Because the .30s have always been more flexible in terms of bullet selection. Because, given the greater frontal area and mass of the .30-caliber bullet, these cartridges are generally superior to the 7mms. And when loaded with premium 200 to 220 gr. bullets, they tread right on the heels of the .338s and are a lot easier on the shooter.

Some have criticized the designers of these super-magnums, saying hunters are increasingly substituting ballistics for stalking skill. Undoubtedly there are a few hunters who buy these specialized rigs, climb up to the top of the hill, gaze out across the landscape, and think that they command everything in sight. Of course, reality is quite different. Trajectories of these new cartridges may be flatter and energy levels higher, but it still takes an immense amount of skill and practice to make a lethal long-range shot on game.

## Why All The Fuss?

In reality, the motivation behind the development of the super magnums is a complex issue. Although opportunities to hunt the world's great game animals have never been greater, the cost of such hunts have never been higher. Big game hunters naturally have gravitated toward higher performance equipment that will give them that slight edge when the trophy of a lifetime is at stake, just like they did decades ago when they adopted Roy Weatherby's sensational .300 Wthby. Magnum.





*Today's super-magnum .308 Warbird, .300 Ultramag and .30-378 Withby. Mag. let you extend your reach beyond the normal realm of .30-caliber cartridges.*

Closely associated with better ballistics has been the introduction of scope sights with unparalleled optics, range-compensating reticles and precise elevation and windage adjustments. Add to this the ready availability of compact laser rangefinders, wind meters, chronographs, computerized ballistics programs, not to mention the most accurate hunting bullets, ammunition and loading dies ever produced, and all the pieces begin to fit together.

And, yes, there is also a bit of good old-fashioned, American marketing involved. New cartridges sell new guns.

The super-magnums fill a highly specialized niche in the field of sport hunting. For most purposes, old standards such as the .30-'06, .270, 7mm Rem. Mag., and .300 Win. Mag., with today's premium bullets chambered in easy-to-carry rifles with 24" barrels, will handle 90 percent of the average big game hunter's needs when pursuing light- to medium-size big game.

Yet, there are times when one simply runs out of available cover and covering terrain, and there is no physical way one is going to close the gap to a wary trophy. It can happen anywhere with any species, although the classic long-range situations occur more often when pursuing game that inhabits the mountains, open plains, tundra, and expansive agricultural fields. Those are the times when the super magnums really come into their own.

### Going The Distance

Anything over 300 yards should, realistically, be considered "long range." Most skilled hunters who currently shoot the super magnums are very consistent MOA marksmen out to 500 yards and will occasionally push that envelope if conditions are right. It's the wind rather than the range that typically becomes a challenge for shooters like this, and

THE REALM OF THE SUPER-MAGNUMS			
Ballistic Data: Factory Cartridges with 180 gr. Spitzer Bullets			
Cartridge	Range	Velocity	Energy
.308	50 yards	2,540 fps	2,580 ft./lbs.
30-'06	93 yards	2,540 fps	2,580 ft./lbs.
7.82 Warbird	450 yards	2,540 fps	2,580 ft./lbs.
.30-378	450 yards	2,540 fps	2,580 ft./lbs.

most experienced hunters will try to shorten the distance to the game as much as possible before pressing the trigger, no matter what caliber they're shooting. No ethical hunter would shoot further than necessary just to prove he can make a long-range shot.

So what do the cartridges like the new super-magnum .30s offer over traditional cartridges when the chips are down? Consider, as an example, the performance contrast between the Lazzeroni 7.82 Warbird and the .30-378 Withby. Magnum. At a range of 450 yards, the two cartridges are equivalent in velocity and energy to the .30-'06 at 93 yards or the .308 at 50 yards. Impressive indeed! When it comes to sheer ballistic performance, the Lazzeroni Warbird, .30-378 Withby. Mag., and .300 Ultramag are light years ahead of calibers we normally consider "adequate" for most big game.

But don't sell off your favorite .308 or .30-'06 quite yet. Regardless of the range, it is accurate placement and bullet penetration that produce humane kills. Bullets kill by causing a rapid loss of blood pressure, depriving the central nervous system of oxygen, or physically interfering with the nerve pathways. So, do the super .30s help a hunter to shoot better? It depends.

*continued on page 66*



# GEAR FOR **WARM-WEATHER HUNTING**

*Icy mornings and snowy hillsides may be romantic, but with the proper warm-weather gear you'll be ready to hunt in the spring, summer and even the sunny days of fall.*



***Not all hunts take place in knee-deep snow and winter weather. Some game, like turkey, is hunted in the warm spring and summer months — and even in the balmy days which sometimes linger into September and October.***

---

By Carolee Boyles

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**T**alk hunting, and everyone starts thinking about frosty mornings and clear, cold nights in hunting camp. But not all hunting seasons are held in the dead of winter. Some — particularly early archery season and late spring turkey season — take place during the warm months of the year. Add in hunting seasons in the deep South and the far West, and a significant number of hunters need clothing and gear for warm weather instead of parkas and insulated boots.

Although the temperatures are different, the basic principles of planning for warm-weather hunting are very similar to those for planning a cold-weather hunt. In the South, for instance, the temperature may range from 40 in the early morning to a sweaty 85 or so by early afternoon. So, just like you do in cold weather, you layer clothing so that you can take off layers to regulate your body temperature. The difference is in the kind of clothing you use for the layers.

There also are hazards associated with warmer weather that can be as deadly as hypothermia. The good news is, there's gear to help you prepare for them.

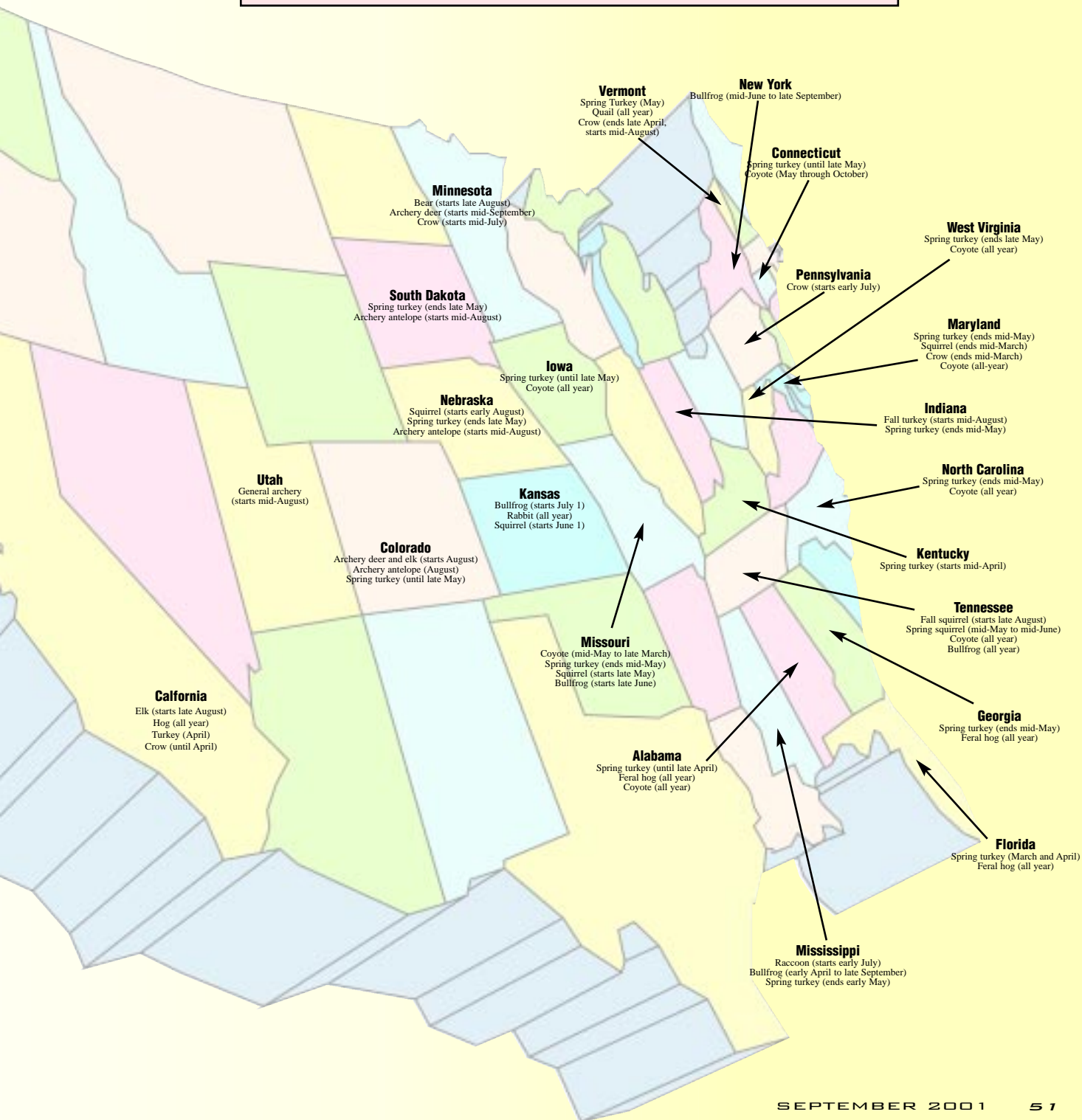
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# U.S. Hot-Weather Hunting Seasons

**By Carolee Boyles**

*Nothing is as unpredictable as the weather. Although any hunt can be hit with a warm snap, hunters going afield in the traditional fall hunting season probably know what to expect from the weather. However, owning (and knowing how to use) proper hot-weather hunting gear can allow you to explore some new hunting venues at different times of the year. Here is GUNS' guide to the hunting opportunities which occur in spring and summer, when clothing and gear made for keeping you cool may prove invaluable.*





# The Many Faces Of The BROWNING SUPERPOSED

By Nick Sisley

---

*Whether you like your guns plain or fancy, there's a version of this classic O/U that will appeal to you.*

---

**T**he Superposed was the world's first over and under shotgun — at least the first to be blessed with resounding success, if you can call a quarter million total production shotguns “resounding.” Remington 870 pump gun sales are up over 8 million in comparison, and the 870 is 20 years younger than the Superposed.

But virtually any knowledgeable shotgunner will still call the Superposed a resounding success. Despite the Superposed being designed before the start of the Great Depression, and production ending practically 30 years ago, this fine O/U is as highly thought of today as it has been at anytime during its long history. Even today, this is often the shotgun by which all others are judged.

The story has been repeated several times — the Superposed design was rejected by more than one American manufacturer. Perhaps disillusioned by American manufacturers' lack of vision, firearms inventor and innovator John Browning sold the Superposed to Fabrique Nationale in Belgium. It was not until 1931 that Superposed shotguns began trickling into America. By 1935, the asking price had actually been reduced — to \$69.75 — as a result of the Great Depression.

## Development Of A Classic

The most basic Superposed model is the Grade I, followed by the Pigeon, the Pointer, the Diana and the Midas. The Grade I comes with tasteful scroll engraving and a blued receiver. The Pigeon is the first step up from the Grade I, but it is significantly different. On each side of the receiver are two pigeons in flight. These pigeons are surrounded by light but intricate scroll. This scroll engraving wasn't cut deep, but it is nonetheless very well done. The bottom of the Pigeon Grade receivers are well covered with scroll and rosette engraving. There's no question that the Pigeon Grade Superposed is a great-looking gun.

But there's also no question that the Pointer Grade is a major step up. The Pointer Grade is typified by a pointer holding a pheasant on the right side of the receiver and a retriever on the left holding a duck. The game scene surrounding the dogs is most intricate, and is surrounded by delicate scroll and rosettes. Lots of coverage. There's also plenty of scroll-and-rosette work on the receiver top, opening lever and elsewhere.



**Top to bottom: With elaborate, full-coverage engraving, many collectors feel the artwork on a Superposed Diana rivals that of shotguns costing 10 times as much. Most spectacular of the Superposed family is the Midas, so named because of the gold inlay in its deep-relief engraving. Shooters looking for a first collectable shotgun can't go wrong with one of the most basic Superposed guns, the Pigeon grade. Elaborate game scenes distinguish the Pointer-grade Superposed, one of the most popular and accessible versions of Browning's superb O/U.**

On the bottom of the Pointer Grade's receiver there's a game bird scene, plus virtually full coverage of the metal in scroll and roses. Some shooters consider the Pigeon Grade Superposed the most pleasing to the eye, but in Pointer Grade, the engraving practically comes alive on the metal.

### The Magnificent Diana

The Diana Grade is truly stunning. Some shooters feel that the engraving on a Diana Grade rivals that on a Perazzi SCO Grade. Price on the latter might approach or exceed \$20,000. In contrast, the current *Gun Trader's Guide* suggests \$3,795 for a Diana Grade in 12 or 20 gauge.

Typically, the Diana Grades feature a duck scene on the right side of the receiver, and a pheasant scene on the left. A marked difference is the deep-relief engraving that surrounds the game scenes. This part of the Diana engraving is also much more elaborate than on the Pigeons or the Pointers. The bottom of the receiver is bedecked with a great deal of very ornate work, plus a small game bird scene. The gun features a lot of engraving scroll topside on the receiver, the top tang, the trigger guard and elsewhere. Further, the checkering pattern is different (meaning even better) and the wood is also an upgrade.

The Diana Grade incorporates some absolutely beautiful engraving. The higher grade Superposeds were done by craftsmen who are no doubt all gone now, but they produced a level of work that is becoming more appreciated today than when originally produced.

### The Golden Midas

Unlike the other Superposed O/Us, the Midas Grade features gold inlays used for the birds in the scenes. Like the Diana Grades, the gold birds are ducks on the right, pheasants on the left side of the receiver, but neither the birds nor the scenes are duplicates of those seen on the Diana Grades. Further, the blued Midas Grades guns feature deep-relief engraving that is most pleasing, plus there's a gold bird on the receiver bottom, as well as plenty of engraving coverage.

Browning, at various times during Superposed production, offered quite a

*continued on page 54*



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## BROWNING

continued from page 53

number of upgrades — in addition to the four covered here: Pigeon, Pointer, Diana and Midas. These four, however, accounted for the lion's share of the company's high-grade production.

### Shotgun Essentials

There are two overriding qualities a shotgun must have if it's to enjoy a long life and the respect of skilled shotguns. The Superposed possesses both of these qualities — in spades.

First, the shotgun has to work, and we don't mean "most of the time." It has to function flawlessly for literally hundreds of thousands of rounds. Of course, out of a thousand top-grade guns, a few of them might not perform perfectly over such a rigorous period of shooting, but the vast majority must.

Second, the shotgun has to feel right. When you pick the gun up, heft it, put it to your shoulder, swing it, shoot it — the entire experience has to be positive. This "feel" quality may be a bit subjective, but over time shotgun model after shotgun model has failed this critical test.

The average shotgunner isn't going to test the work tangibles of a Superposed all that much. Still, it's gratifying to know that if you want to put 20,000 or more rounds through your Superposed each year, you can do it. And you can do that for 10 to 20 years. Put even a fine English side-by-side through such 20,000-rounds-a-year abuse and you probably won't be as pleased with the Limey gun's work ethic.

### Your Finger Loves It

There were a few Superposed O/Us produced with double triggers — actually two types of double triggers. Standard double triggers were supplied with the very early guns, but then a new innovation came along, although, it, too, was short-lived. This was called the "twin double trigger."

Pull the front trigger once for the bottom barrel, pull again for the top barrel. Pull the rear trigger to fire the top barrel first, pull the rear trigger again to fire the bottom barrel.

Forend attachment is a little different than other O/U designs. The forend slides forward a bit before barrel removal from the receiver is permitted. Also, the forend stays with the barrels unless you break the gun down further for a more thorough cleaning and maintenance job.

The Superposed might have been the world's first successful O/U, and its legacy lives on, 70 years after its introduction. Many don't realize that the Superposed is still being produced in Belgium, and that they're sold worldwide. Browning USA just doesn't sell them in America. Incidentally, a new Superposed will now cost about \$8,000 in 12 gauge. That makes a top-condition, used Superposed 12 gauge, at say \$1,500, look awfully inviting.



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## TAURUS PT145

continued from page 47

and elegant. The DAO trigger pull is approximately 1/2" in length, and pull weight is some 9 lbs., though it feels lighter. We believe that the trigger pull probably lightens somewhat with use as the parts become broken in. As it is, the PT 145 DAO trigger pull is as fine as we have ever experienced, rivaling that of many high quality DA revolvers.

The PT145 operates on the tried-and-true modified Browning short recoil system that is used by many modern semiautomatic pistols. The chamber end of the barrel engages the ejection port, locking the barrel and slide together until the barrel is cammed down out of battery by the heavy disassembly latch pin that passes through both sides of the steel frame.

Operation during our test of some 200 rounds of all types of ammunition, including FMJ and JHP of various makes, was uneventful. The PT145 functioned with perfection regardless of the type of ammunition that we fed it.

### Tough And Tactical

We tested the PT 145 with ammunition from Black Hills, Remington and Wolf. We limited our shooting to 10 yards, a realistic test distance for a defensive pis-

tol. The PT 145 isn't designed to be a competition pistol, but its accuracy impressed us. We conducted our course of fire from the standing isosceles position and fired as quickly as we could squeeze the trigger and reacquire the center of the silhouette target.

The little Taurus seemed to prefer +P ammunition with one exception, delivering its best accuracy with Black Hills 230 gr. +P and Remington 185 gr. +P. These gave groups of slightly over 1", which is excellent for a compact large caliber pistol with a very short 3 1/4" barrel.

The exception was the Russian made Wolf 230 gr. FMJ ammunition, which gave accuracy on a par with the Black Hills and Remington +P. We do not recommend carrying ball ammo for self-defense, but the Wolf ammunition is very accurate and inexpensive and is thus a prime candidate for practice and IDPA competition. All shots fell in a group approximately 1/2" to the left of the point of aim.

We found the little PT 145 to be quite controllable due to its excellent ergonomics. Muzzle rise was easily manageable and the felt recoil was much less than we expected from such a light pistol. The PT 145's balance, trigger pull and grip configuration made rapid fire with quick recovery between shots easy to accomplish.

In sum, Taurus has not only another win-

ner on their hands, but has hit the proverbial "grand slam home run" with the PT 145. It is utterly reliable, easy to shoot, accurate and gives every indication that it will offer the prospective buyer a lifetime of shooting at a very reasonable price. One could argue that the PT 145 isn't fully ambidextrous because of the location of the thumb safety, but the fact is that very few users of this pistol are going to carry it with the safety in the "on" position. It simply isn't necessary in a DAO pistol.

Early versions of the PT 145 were offered with only one magazine, but the company decided in recent shipments to include two extras, for a total of three. This makes the pistol much more attractive to law enforcement buyers, as well as those interested in serious personal defense.

The PT 145 is the best concealed carry pistol seen since the Glock 30. H&K's .45 USP compact simply does not compete with the PT 145 due to the H&K's limited magazine capacity and larger size. The PT 145 is going to give Glock, H&K and others a serious run for their money. The PT 145 is a high quality compact pistol with superb ergonomics, is highly accurate, is chambered for what is arguably the best defense cartridge available, and has a 10-round magazine capacity.

What more can one ask?





YOU CAN WIN THIS

# CUSTOM .480 REDHAWK FROM MAG-NA-PORT

This month's Gun Of The Month prize is a hard-hitting custom .480 Ruger Redhawk from Mag-na-port International designed for big-game hunting. The gunsmiths at Mag-na-port have given this revolver a complete action and trigger job for ultimate reliability and accuracy in either double- or single-action shooting. The barrel has been shortened to 4.80" both as a tribute to Ruger's powerful new cartridge as well as to give the gun a fast-handling balance. The barrel has an inverted muzzle crown to protect its accuracy even in the most rugged conditions, and the trapezoidal barrel ports help tame the recoil of the potent .480 Ruger cartridge.

This custom Redhawk is topped off with a unique set of express-style sights reminiscent of a classic dangerous-game rifle. The brass bead front and V-notch rear give you the ability to pick up a running hog or a charging bear when seconds matter. Finally, the gun is finished with Mag-na-port's signature Velvet Hone finish to minimize glare and reflection. The jeweled hammer and trigger give the gun a touch of distinction without compromising its no-nonsense design.

This custom .480 Ruger Redhawk retails for \$1,250; the custom package can be performed on a customer-supplied gun for \$625. To order your own custom revolver, or to learn more about the wide range of custom services offered by Mag-na-port, contact the company at (810) 469-6727, or visit them on-line at [www.magnaport.com](http://www.magnaport.com).



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**QUESTION OF THE MONTH:**

**My primary hunting rifle is chambered in:**

- (A) .25 caliber
- (B) .270 caliber
- (C) 7mm
- (D) .30 caliber
- (E) Other

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(A) (B) (C)

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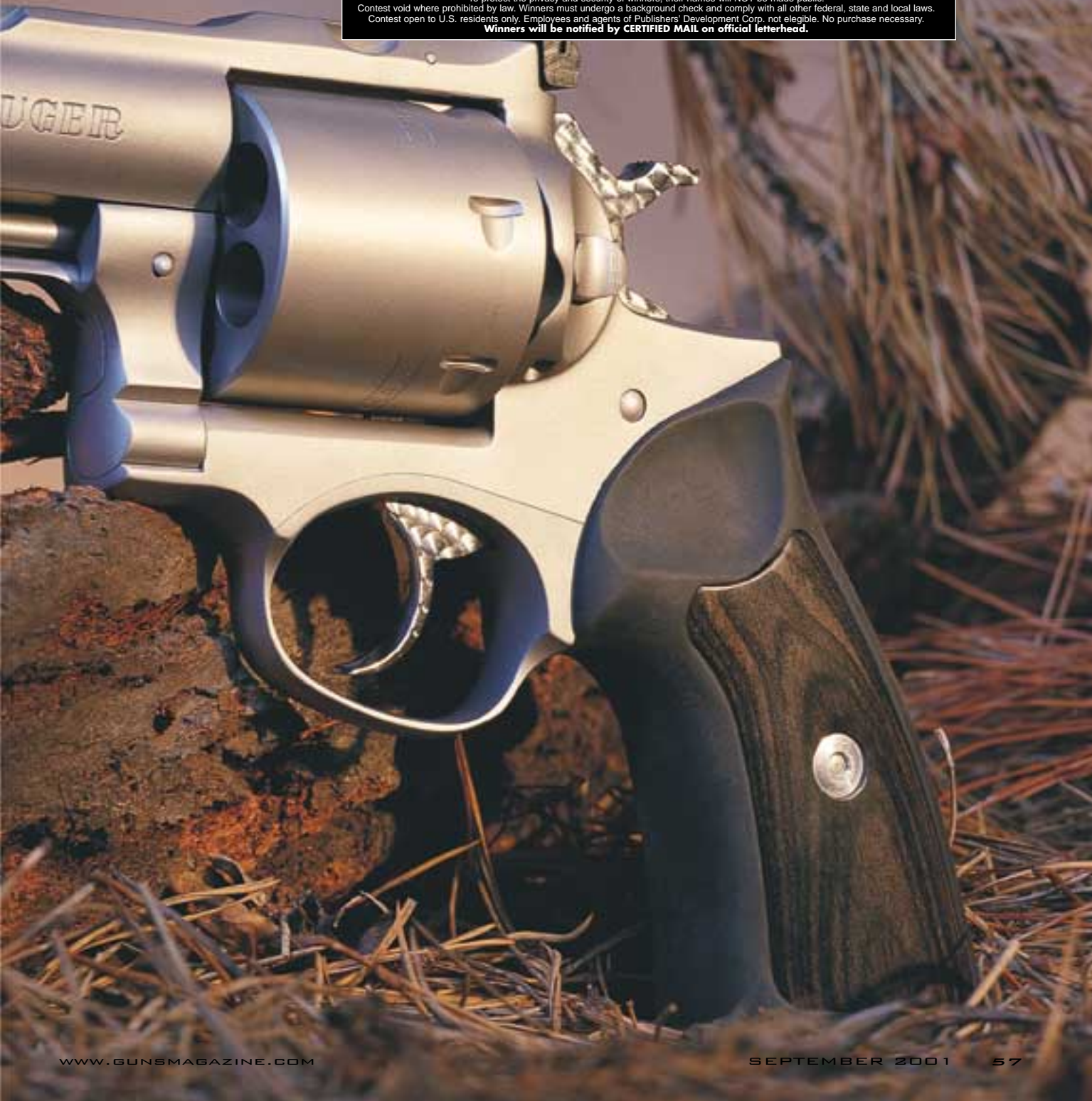
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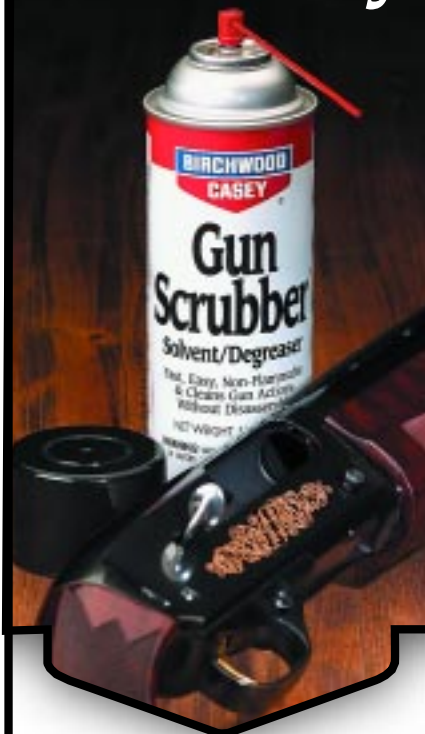
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## HOT-WEATHER

*continued from page 60*

In general, there are several main issues to consider when outfitting yourself for warm weather hunting. As you look around, you'll see that many products address two or even three of these issues at the same time. For instance, you may buy a camouflage "bug suit" that serves as outerwear while helping keep the bugs off you at the same time. Or you may choose a lightweight T-shirt with perspiration-wicking properties to keep you cool, but which also has carbon-impregnated fibers to reduce or eliminate body odor in the heat.

### Outerwear

The insulated camo overalls you bought for your Christmas deer hunt last year aren't going to cut it for your August coyote hunt this year. In general, you're going to want lighter-weight outerwear for the cooler evening and morning hours, and very light-weight or mesh outerwear for the middle of the day and for really hot weather.

Manufacturers are using a wide variety of fabrics to create warm-weather gear. Several have taken old ideas and used them in new ways to produce ingenious hunting garments.

One of the pioneers in the field is Shannon Outdoors. Using a two-layer mesh fabric, Shannon Outdoors created

the Bug Tamer line. These mesh jackets and pants are cool in warm weather, dense enough to conceal even a white T-shirt, and keep insects off to boot. Although the original Bug Tamer has been around for several years, the company continues to license new camo designs and create more applications of the product. Most recently, they've come out with a 3-D version of the Bug Tamer.

Another mesh suit worth looking at is from DK Flatwoods. This company uses a single layer of tightly woven mesh rather than a double layer like the Bug Tamer, so it's cooler while still providing good protection from mosquitoes and other biting insects.

What makes it unique is the camo pattern. DKF uses a green palmetto-type pattern perfect for southern piney woods. The result is a pattern well suited to warm weather hunting because it blends in with growing vegetation better than fall-colored camo. DK Flatwoods makes a complete line of lightweight outerwear, including pants, jackets and shirts, as well as short and long-sleeved T-shirts.

Yet another company with mesh suits is Bug Out Outdoorwear. Besides regular bug suits, Bug Out is scheduled to release the Ab-Scent scent-control bug suit this fall.

Whitewater Outdoors offers a line of lightweight outerwear that includes a long-sleeved cotton shirt in Advantage, Realtree X-Tra Brown, Realtree Hardwoods and

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Advantage Timber. They also offer long and short-sleeved T-shirts, mesh jackets, pants and gloves in the same patterns.

## Speciality Gear

Several manufacturers use Saddlecloth to create insulated garments for cold weather hunting, but Pella goes the other way, using Saddlecloth alone to create lightweight hunting wear for warmer weather. Look for a bomber jacket, a hooded hunting jacket, and a bib overall in Realtree Hardwoods, Realtree X-tra Grey, Realtree X-tra Brown, Advantage Wetlands, and Advantage. The company also makes a line of brushed twill camo clothing, including a hooded hunting jacket, six-pocket pants, a bib overall, a bowman's jacket, and a long-sleeved shirt in Realtree Hardwoods and Advantage Timber.

One category of high-tech gear that has recently become available is clothing that protects you from the sun. Like sunscreen, these garments can provide protection up to SPF 30.

Solumbra, a proprietary line of clothing from Sun Precautions, offers protection that's woven into the fabric itself, providing SPF 30 protection. Innovative design and quality construction make Solumbra garments very useful for sun-sensitive hunters.

"Because our garments are registered as medical devices, they must meet very high Good Manufacturing Practices requirements," said Shaun Hughes, president of Sun Precautions. "Many cancer centers recommend our products to their sun-sensitive patients."

Besides protecting wearers from the sun, Solumbra garments are light, and feel like soft cotton. "We've put mesh-ventilated panels that aid in cooling in our active styles. The product wicks perspiration and other moisture away from your body to help keep you comfortable even in the summer heat." Solumbra clothing isn't available in camo, but is useful in situations where you may be exposed to the sun, but hidden from your quarry.

## Clothing For Layering

Layering is an important concept in warm weather hunting. After all, what you wear when it's 40 at daybreak is different from what you will want when it is 80 at noon. The principles are the same as they are in cold weather: layers trap warm air next to your body in the morning, and as the day warms, you can take off the layers you don't need.

Some of these garments are high-performance fabrics. Others are old standards that have been redesigned for warm-weather use.

From Ace Sportswear, look for Rynoskin pullovers, pants, hoods and gloves. "Rynoskin has no insulation to keep you warm at all," said Lynwood Stephenson, vice president of sales for Ace Sportswear, Inc. "It's sort of a heavyweight panty hose made of 86 percent nylon and 14 percent



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Lycra. It fits right around the skin, and is reinforced with elastic at all openings." Originally designed for the US military, Rynoskin keeps insects away from your skin, and prevents them from biting through it. Garments come in Mossy Oak Break-Up, Advantage Timber, and OD green. Ace Sportswear also makes camo T-shirts.

Although Soffe manufactures its high-tech Dri-Release Sportswear for general sports use such as jogging, tennis, and other individual and team sports, the shorts and T-shirts can also be used as an under-layer for hot weather hunting.

"The cotton in Dri-Release allows it to wick moisture away, which keeps you drier, and if it keeps you drier, it will keep you cooler in hot weather," said Steve Wheeler, vice president of sales and marketing for Soffe. "It's also treated internally in the yarn with Freshguard, which keeps the clothing from getting the odor that many predominantly polyester products can have." At this time the shirts and shorts come in a variety of colors, and may soon be offered in camo.

Even Woolrich is getting into the act with the development of TechnoWool, a series of high-performance wool fabrics. The two best suited to warm-weather are the Supersoft series and the Washable series. Both of these fabrics use the natural wicking ability of wool to pull moisture away from your body to keep you dry and comfortable.

## Insect Repellents

Keeping bugs off can certainly help you stay still while you are hunting. And insect bites and stings, in and of themselves, can make you truly miserable, especially when you're sweating.

Avoiding insect bites is more than just a convenience, it is one of the safety issues of hot weather hunting. Many serious diseases are carried by insects and other arthropods, including lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and even bubonic plague. The way to protect yourself from those diseases is to avoid being bitten in the first place.

Most commercial chemical repellents contain either Deet or Permethrin. Don't mix the two. Permethrin is strictly for the treatment of clothing — you spray it on your clothing and let it dry before you put them on.

Repellents containing Deet have been around for a long time, and come as sprays, lotions, and sticks. However, studies have shown that Deet can be toxic to small children, so use caution if you are taking your kids hunting with you.

One company that is creating innovative insect repellent products is CC Waterworks, which recently has introduced the Gone and Gone Plus insect repellent wristbands. Both Gone, which uses DEET, and Gone Plus with natural citronella, offer 120 hours of reusable insect protection.

Another Deet-free repellent is Natrapel, from the Tender Corporation. First released in 1986, Natrapel also uses cit-



ronella. The Tender Corporation has begun packaging Natrapel in what the company calls an "eco-spray" package, using nitrogen as a propellant and separating the propellant from the product to help protect the ozone layer. Also look for Bug Dots, little clear stickers impregnated with citronella that you can stick on anything where you want to repel insects.

### Other Cool Ideas

If you hunt during cold weather, you already know about chemical heat packs to keep your hands warm. But there also are products out there designed to do just the opposite-help you keep cool.

CC Waterworks, offers heat relief in its Blubandoo products. These hats and neckbands were originally designed for golfers, but also are available in Advantage and Realtree. They contain non-toxic polymer crystals that expand into a gel when soaked in water. As the water evaporates, the hats and neckbands help keep the wearer cool.

Another product originally intended for golfers is the (Little) Aussie Chiller, a hat for keeping your head cool. This import from Australia is made of a high-performance, synthetic chamois-like fabric that you soak before you wear it, and it provides evaporative cooling throughout the day. In a recent innovation, the company devised a mesh-like version using the same fabric that increases the cooling capability of the hat. This is marketed as the "Killer Chiller." Although there are no camo versions of the (Little) Aussie Chiller available yet, a company spokesman says they're working on acquiring rights to a camouflage pattern.

### Nose Camo

If scent control is important during cold-weather hunting seasons, it's crucial when the weather is warm. A number of companies make scent elimination products which are great for hot weather hunting.

Wildlife Research Center's Scent Killer line includes a spray for clothing and boots, deodorant, clothing wash and anti-bacterial bar soap. The company's Autumn Formula provides a cover scent that combines many natural odors.

From Robinson Laboratories, look for Scent Shield anti-bacterial spray, as well as two different clothing washes and a liquid body soap. Other products include a deodorant, an oral odor-control pill, and scent control wipes.

Hunter's Specialties puts out a wide variety of scent control products. The company has rolled them all together into a scent elimination kit called Scent-A-Way, which includes laundry detergent, Scent Safe storage bags, deodorant, and Fresh Earth Cover Scent Wafers.



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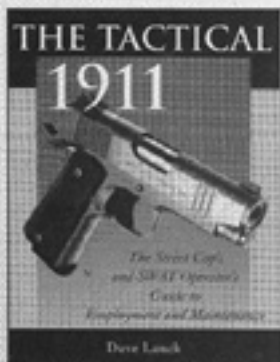
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## WEATHERBY

*continued from page 39*

friend, suggested he call it the Mark V.

The Mark V action featured nine locking lugs (three rows of three), a short bolt lift and recessed bolt face. Some critics slandered its push feed action, and its lack of a separate bolt stop. But few ever questioned the Mark Vs strength, smoothness or quality of construction.

Weatherby arranged for the highly respected German firm J.P. Sauer to manufacture his Mark V rifles outfitted with their German-made hammer-forged barrels. Shipping commenced in 1959. A left-hand version followed soon after.

The result was the classic Weatherby rifle. Its Mark V action and barrel were brightly blued, and it was stocked in that characteristic flashy style. High grade wood and a flawless lacquer finish completed the package.

The fact that this rifle cost considerably more than its competition only enhanced its appeal. In 1950, one top-line Weatherby cost as much as three Winchester 70s or four Remington 721s. By the early 1960s, the Mark V cost twice as much as the Remington and Winchester models. And hordes of buyers were willing to pay the difference for Weatherby's exotic product.

## A Legacy Of Success

Weatherby's influence on the industry is indisputable. The Winchester/Remington line of short (i.e., .30-'06 length) belted magnums in .264, 7mm, .300, .338 and .458 hinted at attempts to harness some of Weatherby's influence, as did the .308 and .358 Norma magnums. By the mid-1960s it was difficult to locate a factory stock that didn't incorporate Weatherby features such as Monte Carlo combs, squared forearms, grip caps and forearm tips — jumbled in contrasting colors and shapes.

Success breeds envy, and an inevitable backlash broke through the façades of congeniality. Weatherby was attacked. In the 1950s, professional African hunters vociferously disdained Weatherby's cartridges.

During those days the only requirement for hunting in Africa was wealth, not shooting ability or a love of hunting. Some who "hunted" in Africa weren't good shots, couldn't handle recoil, or depended solely on Weatherby's early claim that high-velocity gut shots were just as effective as less-powerful shots to vital areas. Such people would have wounded game with any gun, but by the mid-1950s most of them showed up in Africa slinging Weatherby rifles.

In the mid-'50s professional hunters successfully lobbied African game departments to prohibit calibers under .40 for the hunting of dangerous game. Since the biggest Weatherby cartridge at that time was the .378, the regulation effectively eliminated



Weatherby cartridges from African hunts.

No doubt the criticism rankled Weatherby, who responded with a .460 magnum that not only met the regulation, but produced over 8,000 ft./lbs. of muzzle energy — more than the old British .577 and .600 big bores.

### New And Different

German inflation escalated production costs, and by 1972 Howa of Japan had been given the production contract for Weatherby rifles at about the same time the "Vanguard" series was introduced. Built with more conventional twin-lug actions stocked Weatherby style, and chambered for standard calibers, the Vanguards were very good rifles and proved quite popular. Several variations survived for almost 25 years.

Mark V production moved to the United States in 1995, with rifles built under contract first by Saco and subsequently in a facility owned by S&W. Throughout the years, Weatherby has done a remarkable job of maintaining consistently high quality.

Weatherby fans have held an ongoing debate over the relative merits of each era's models. Many feel that the Howa-made rifles are slightly superior to the previous German-made models. Though overall quality standards were similar, the Howa rifles feature a somewhat redesigned and improved trigger. Collectors will pay a slight premium for the Sauer-made rifles, as fewer than 100,000 were made, compared to over 200,000 of the Howa models.

A few Weatherby enthusiasts felt that the first U.S. models contained some teething problems, but these were quickly sorted out. Current production is at least equal in quality to any ever made, and may be the best ever for a couple of reasons.

First, modern CNC design and machine tooling permit manufacturing to extremely tight tolerances. Trigger pulls on current Weatherbys are excellent.

Secondly, barrels are better and more precise. Several current models feature barrels made for Weatherby by Kreiger, recognized as a maker of premium quality barrels, and quality synthetic stocks from Bell & Carlson.

### A New Generation

In 1983 Ed Weatherby, Roy's son, assumed the presidency of the company. Though more reserved than his father, Ed stimulated strong growth and product diversification — suggesting that in many ways he is a more talented businessman than was his father. As an example, it was Ed's decision to introduce the Fibermark in 1983, the first factory-made synthetic-stocked rifle, over Roy's objections that it would never sell. The new model proved so popular that a two-year backlog of orders developed immediately.

Ed also introduced the Vanguard with a

more conventional, oil-finished stock at a reduced price, and to Roy's astonishment sales quadrupled. A hunter, shooter and outdoorsman himself, Ed seems to have an almost intuitive sense of what hunters want.

### Weatherby Today

The Weatherby legacy of pioneering development continues to this day. Not only do they offer a vast array of standard models, the Weatherby custom shop produces specialized rifles using the most advanced engineering features to the specific instructions of clients around the world. If you can dream it, Weatherby can build it. In their early years, the Weatherby rifles may not have appealed to everyone, however, there existed a special class of riflemen who could appreciate and make use of the performance that they offered. Some six decades later, the same manner of discriminating hunter will still be found with a Weatherby rifle in his hands.



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## ROY WEATHERBY

continued from page 38

shock of high velocity bullets, even when not hit in a vital spot."

When a Cape buffalo escaped after being hit once with a .375 Weatherby, twice with a .300, and once more with a .470, Weatherby wrote, "You must hit them right unless the bullet has sufficient velocity to disintegrate. Now, I am going to try the 87 gr. .25 caliber on them — this may have the shock we are after."

The diary of his 1948 hunt printed in his biography makes fascinating reading. After seeing poorly hit animals run off, Weatherby noted, "This shooting business is really something. I'm disproving all my own theories and everyone's else's ... the bullet must be travelling at a certain velocity when it hits the animal in order to kill by shock, no matter where it hits."

In an article in the 1951 *Gun Digest* Weatherby wrote, "It doesn't matter whether you shoot (a game animal) in the ham, the ribs, the paunch, or the shoulder; you do not have to hit the heart, the lungs, or the spine in order to kill when using a bullet that disintegrates inside his body. I recommend you try a .25-caliber bullet travelling at 4,000 fps to shoot your next game animal, whether it be deer, moose, or African buffalo."

The ultimate, though, was when Weatherby claimed that if velocity was high enough, you did not have to hit the animal at all in order to kill it. A near miss was enough. "Government experiments with projectiles travelling 10,000 fps show the devastating results that can someday be expected ... they shot over the backs of animals with these guns, missing by only a fraction of an inch. The animals jumped several times their normal ability to jump and fell dead. Autopsy revealed every blood vessel was ruptured in the area over which the bullet passed. It worked with shock waves in the air..."

Weatherby may not have convinced hunters that high velocity could make up for poor bullet placement, but he was instrumental in demonstrating that a faster bullet with its flatter trajectory makes range estimation less critical and makes it easier to place the bullet in a vital area.

Weatherby was an industry leader right up until his death in 1988. He wasn't the first to design high-velocity cartridges, but he was the first to promote them effectively with the hunting public. He was one of the first to realize that the scope would be the dominant sight of the future, and to stock his rifles for scope use.

His cartridges and stock design were widely imitated. His goals of high velocity led to the development of better bullets, tougher and higher-powered scopes, and continue to be pursued with the development of cartridges such as the .30-378 and .300 Remington Ultramag.

He achieved world-wide fame along with plenty of controversy. To this day you can go into a bar in Gillette, Wyo., or Anchorage, Alaska, or Johannesburg, South Africa and get into a spirited argument by promoting — or attacking — Weatherby rifles and cartridges.



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## .338-'06

This relatively mild load is somewhat of an anomaly among the Weatherby line. The one load currently offered is a good one, the 210 gr. Partition at 2,750 fps.

## .340 Weatherby

Announced in 1962, the .340 is based on the .300 case necked up to accept .338" bullets. Loaded with 225 to 230 gr. bullets, it shoots as flat as the famous .270 Winchester but with 100 gr. more bullet weight. Factory loads with weights from 200 to 250 gr. are available.

## .338/.378 Weatherby

The third .338-caliber cartridge in the line, this one is based on the big .378 case. It adds some 200 fps to the already high velocities achieved by the .340. It hits fast and hard at both ends.

## .375 Weatherby

This is an improved version of the famous .375 H&H cartridge blown out to straighter form for increased capacity and some 200 fps more velocity. It was dropped from the line after the introduction of the .378 in 1953. Recently it has been reintroduced, a good move since a 300 gr. bullet at 2,800 fps is about as much power as most hunters need or can use.

## .378 Weatherby

Shortly after beginning production of his cartridges based on the .300 H&H case, Weatherby started looking for an even bigger case. He found it in the .416 Rigby. Weatherby arranged to have a belted version of the .416 case made, necked it down to accept .375" bullets, and in 1953 announced the .378 Weatherby.

## .416 Weatherby

The .416 Weatherby, announced in 1989, has the same capacity as the Rigby case but is loaded to higher pressures. Where the Rigby fires 400 gr. bullets at 2,400 fps, the Weatherby version hits 2,700 fps with the same bullet weight.

## .460 Weatherby

If there was ever an "in your face" cartridge, the .460 is it. Weatherby took the .378 case, expanded it to take .458" bullets, and loaded 500 gr. bullets to 2,700 fps with a muzzle energy of over 8,000 ft./lbs. Current loads have backed down slightly, to 2,700 fps with 450 gr. Barnes X bullets and 2,600 fps with 500 gr. bullets. So far no one has complained about any lack of power.



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## SUPER MAGNUMS

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Their trajectories are incredibly flat. Taking the 180 gr., .30-caliber spitzer bullet, zeroed for 300 yards as an example, the .30-378 Wthby. Mag., Lazzeroni 7.82 Warbird and .300 Ultramag are all approximately 2.5" high at 100 yards, 3" high at 200 yards, point-of-aim at 300 yards, 7.5" low at 400 yards, and 20" low at 500 yards.

Shooting a normal duplex reticle, you can literally hold dead-on on game out to 300 yards. At 400 yards, holding the horizontal crosshair on the animal's backbone with the vertical crosshair aligned with the shoulder will usually work. At 500 yards, you will have to determine the correct point on the vertical crosshair to align for that range. Judging the distance to the game with a laser, figuring the elevation and wind, and getting off the shot just got a lot easier with these super .30s.

On the other hand, we're talking about big cases that burn 100 grs. of powder or more, and the laws of Newtonian physics have yet to be rescinded. The big boomers tend to push one back a bit, and you have to be honest enough with yourself to know when the recoil forces become distracting. Muzzle brakes may help to flatten the playing field slightly, but they're hard on the ears. If you need a brake, you'll probably shoot a lot better with a lesser cartridge, and you won't wind up with hearing loss.

In addition, super-magnum guns tend to be heavier than your typical sporting rifles. Barrels 26" or more, large scopes, and Harris bipods do not add up to snap-shooting, mountain-climbing rifles.

Maybe the most challenging aspect of owning and hunting with a super magnum is the responsibility it places on the hunter to put in a lot of practice at extended ranges. As a rule of thumb, the super magnums and the shooter behind them should be able to keep their shots into 1 MOA out to 500 to 600 yards under varying conditions. Most serious super-magnum hunters spend days at the range over the course of the year carefully "dialing in" their rifles, scopes and loads to continually maintain their proficiency and confidence as marksmen. The new super-magnums fill a highly specialized niche. They're the turbo-Porsches of the rifle world, and if you need optimum hunting performance, they offer it in spades.



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# The Custom Hunting Knives Of **BOB DOZIER**

*Story by Pat Covert*

*Photos by Jim Weyer*

*These beautiful knives are made for the hunter who wants a hard-working blade that won't put a gash in his wallet.*







Anyone who enjoys hunting or camping knows the number one tool they use is a good hunting knife. Aside from serving any number of utilitarian purposes — from cutting to skinning — a hunting knife is also a valuable instrument for defense.

Finding a quality hunting knife is not as easy as it used to be. In recent years, most of the manufacturers — along with many custom knifemakers — have forsaken this market to participate in the more lucrative and trendy tactical arena. While many tactical knives can serve utilitarian functions, most are not designed with blade styles that serve hunters best.

Meet Bob Dozier. This custom knifemaker from Springdale, Ark., not only builds rock-solid state-of-the-art hunting knives, but he makes them affordable.

Dozier grew up hunting and fishing in the swamps of Louisiana, a dangerous and unforgiving place where the cottonmouths don't candy to human presence — and they don't take Visa or American Express. His grandfather taught him to make knives when he was a kid, using forged files and truck springs for blade steel. By the early 1960s he had become quite adept at making hunting knives, and he was heat treating the steel to give his blades better edge retention and durability.

Then, sometime around 1965, Dozier noticed articles by guys like A.G. Russell and Ken Warner popping up in magazines featuring the works of makers like Bo Randall, Bill Moran and Harry Morseth. In 1971 A.G. Russell, a longtime purveyor of both custom and produc-

***Above: Dozier makes a hunting knife for every need, from his man-sized Elk Hunter to the small-but-effective Semi-Skinner model, at prices that won't break the bank. Opposite: Dozier's White River Skinner model, shown here with brown Micarta scales, is a medium size knife with ample blade curve for dressing game.***

tion knives, discovered Dozier's work and hired him on to help preserve the Morseth knife company from extinction. In the process Dozier gained valuable experience, and to this day his knives are featured in Russell's distinctive mail-order catalog.

### Blue-Collar Blades

Many custom knifemakers dream about making fancy "art knives" for wealthy patrons. Dozier played that game early on and can make high-end collector knives with the best of them, but his real passion is making top-quality,

***Below (top-bottom): Three of the more versatile Dozier hunters are, from top, the Professional Guide, Companion, and Personal Utility models. The knifemaker offers a variety of blade styles, such as this Personal Utility in drop point blade and Professional Guide in clip point style. Right: The Dozier Canoe Knife can be carried in a horizontal sheath, shown here, or worn as a neck knife.***













hard-use hunting knives for the average outdoorsman. This has become Dozier's niche, and he has carved it well. Very few knifemakers sell as many hunting knives annually, and each knife carries with it Dozier's reputation for bullet-proof quality.

Dozier knives are built for business — specifically to cut, cut and keep on cutting. Dozier keeps his prices in line by incorporating common-sense materials in his knives.

His fixed-blade knives are strong by design, using full tang construction and properly hardened steel. Dozier uses D2 steel in his knives due to its ability to hold an edge and its resistance to corrosion. While not a "stainless" steel, D2 has a high chromium content of 12 percent, which aids in the steel's resistance to rust. Heat-treating brings Dozier's blades up to 60-61 Rockwell C-scale, an admirable rating for any steel used for knifemaking. With a little light oil applied on a regular basis, D2 will last as long as any stainless steel on the market.

Dozier's hunters feature blade styles that are time-proven and effective. His catalog features drop point, clip point and skinner styles, all established as proficient and well-rounded for hunting purposes.

All blades are hand-ground with a concave "hollow grind" to enhance cutting ability and a satin finish. The range of models is extensive. Dozier's Elk Hunter model is his largest fixed blade at 10 1/2" overall, with a blade length of 5 1/2". This knife is meant for heavy-duty chores, and can cut, chop and skin with ease.

Many of Dozier's handle patterns feature finger grooves for the index finger near the top of the scales. This, along with a flared choil at the base of the blade eliminate the need for a bolster, which adds further cost to a knife.

To further enhance the grip on certain models, Dozier mills out a fingertip detent on the upper handle. All of the maker's base models feature linen Micarta handles, some with a bulls-eye pattern around one of the sturdy screws that hold

*continued on page 74*

***Left: A pair of Slim Outdoorsman knives, dressed up in two styles of Micarta, feature a lanyard hole on the tail end. Below: The Straight Personal model exemplifies Dozier's no-nonsense styling and construction.***



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## HUNTING KNIVES

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the scales in place. The handles are thick and well rounded, making for a comfortable grip with ample purchase.

Dozier's hunters are blue collar workers, but that doesn't mean you can't dress them up. You can order one of Dozier's knives with any variety of handle material you wish — from jigged bone to fossil ivory. The knifemaker can also accommodate you with any type of blade steel you wish, including a specially made ladder patterned Damascus with a D2 steel core. All fixed blades are delivered with a Kydex sheath custom made for each particular knife.

### Folders And More

In addition to his extensive line of fixed blades, Dozier also offers several hunters of the folding kind. His Trapper I model, a handful of folder at 8 1/2" overall, can handle a wide variety of heavy work around camp and skinning to boot. A smaller version of the knife, the Trapper II, checks in at 6 1/4" in open length.

Another Dozier design, the Folding Hunter, is available in a large and small models as well, 7" and 6 1/4" respectively. All of these can be had in a variety of handle materials, from plain Jane machined aluminum and Micarta to higher grade G-10 (a durable fiberglass layup) and jigged bone. Dozier's folders, delivered in nylon belt sheaths, are every bit as tough as his fixed blade knives and are built to endure years of hard use.

Rounding out the Dozier line are a group of tactical fixed blade knives with fighter style blades geared for combat and survival duty. These can be viewed on the knifemaker's web site.

### Knives Priced Right

One of the more gratifying aspects of Dozier's knives is the reasonable price. Dozier's hand-made knives are priced in the same neighborhood as most manufactured knives of the same ilk. Most fixed-blade hunters in his catalog range from \$145. for smaller knives to \$175. for most larger models. Folding models — more difficult to produce — command a higher price. These start at \$250., still a bargain for hand-made custom folders.



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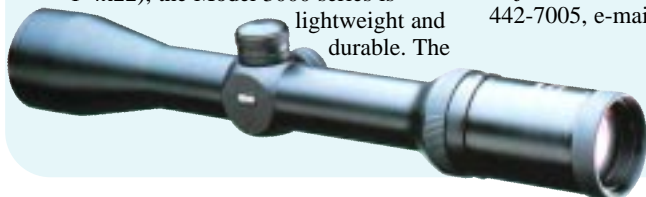


## Meopta Artemis Scopes

*From Euro-Imports*

Euro-Imports is offering the Meopta Artemis Model 3000 riflescope for hunters of big and dangerous game. Available in three magnifications (3-9x42, 1.5-5x20 and 1-4x22), the Model 3000 series is

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3000 series utilizes state-of-the-art design in conjunction with space age aluminum alloy one-piece body tube construction to deliver reliable images even in the most demanding low light and foul weather conditions. Euro-Imports, 905 W. Main St., El Cajon, CA 92020, telephone/FAX: (619) 442-7005, e-mail: mrbrno@yahoo.com.

## Hands-Free Rifle Holster

*From Gunslinger Corral*

The new Hands-Free compact rifle holster stabilizes your weapon, leaving your hands free for other activity in the field. The Hands-Free rifle holster increases the user's mobility, prevents shoulder fatigue and adjusts for a comfortable fit. An optional backpack attachment, with an adjustable sternum strap and detachable lanyard, is also available. Gunslinger Corral, P.O. Box 70087, Eugene, OR 97402, (800) 358-0637, FAX: (541) 744-7819, [www.gunslingercorral.com](http://www.gunslingercorral.com).



## New Diamondback

*From Buck Knives*

The Diamondback is a new fixed-blade multi-purpose knife from Buck. Available in 3 1/4" and 4 1/4" blade lengths, the Diamondback features a snake-like tactile texture Kraton rubber handle for maximum gripping ability. The modified drop point blade is crafted from high carbon stainless steel, heat-treated and tempered to a Rockwell hardness of Rc58/60 for added toughness and edge-retention. Comes with a thermo-plastic sheath with nylon webbing attached for a secure carry. Buck Knives, 1900 Weld Blvd., El Cajon, CA 92020, (800) 326-2925, [www.buckknives.com](http://www.buckknives.com).



## Glock Mag Extender

*From Pearce Grip*

The new M36 PlusOne from Pearce Grip converts the Model 36 Glock 45 pistol magazine from a six to seven-round capacity. It also provides an extra finger groove for additional comfort and control. The PlusOne replaces the original factory magazine floor plate. It is held securely to the mag body with an external locking device, which doubles as a contour blending feature to complement the rear of the grip. It is made of the same high impact polymer and incorporates the same texture and checkering pattern as produced by the factory. Pearce Grip, P.O. Box 40367, Ft. Worth, TX 76140, (817) 568-9704, FAX: (817) 568-9707, e-mail: [info@pearcegrip.com](mailto:info@pearcegrip.com), [www.pearcegrip.com](http://www.pearcegrip.com)



## Blue Book of Airguns

*Makes Debut*

The first edition of the Blue Book of Airguns, edited by renowned pneumatics expert Bob Beeman and Steve Fjestad, is now available. The 160-page reference book features current pricing information and detailed technical data on new and discontinued domestic, foreign, military, modern commemorative and major trademark antique airguns. A special index matches most currently man-



ufactured airguns with their importer/manufacturer. Also included is an extensive pictorial glossary. The price is \$9.95, plus \$2 domestic book rate postage.

The book may be downloaded for \$10. Blue Book Publications, 8009 34th Ave., South, Ste. 175, Minneapolis, MN 55425, (952) 854-5229, FAX: (952) 853-1486, e-mail: [bluebook@bluebookinc.com](mailto:bluebook@bluebookinc.com), [www.bluebookinc.com](http://www.bluebookinc.com).

## Soft Gun Cases

*From Hoppe's*

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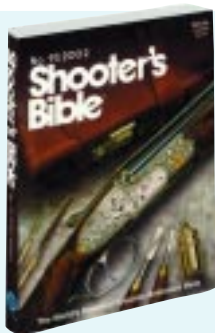




## 2002 Shooter's Bible

From Stoeger

Then 2002 edition of the Shooter's Bible is now on sale. The 576-page comprehensive reference includes specifications and updated retail prices for handguns, rifles, shotguns, black powder arms and scopes and sights. Also included are ballistic tables for all major



rifle cartridges and original features stories of interest to the firearms and shooting sports enthusiast. Suggested retail price is \$23.95. Stoeger Publishing Co., 17603 Indian Head Hwy, Ste.200, Accokeek, MD 20607-2501, (301) 283-6300, FAX: (301) 283-6986, [www.stoegerindustries.com](http://www.stoegerindustries.com)

## New "Secret Ninja"

From Katz Knives

The Kagemusha, or "Secret Ninja" is a new one-hand opening folder from Katz Knives. Crafted from XT80 stainless steel, the Kagemusha comes in two versions. The 3½" blade is available with either a plain or 60 percent serrated blade and comes with a pocket clip. The 3" style has a plain blade. Both models feature a sturdy Kraton synthetic handle and liner lock. Katz Knives, P.O. Box 730, Chandler, AZ 85224-0730, (480) 786-9334, FAX: (480) 786-9338, e-mail: [katzn@aol.com](mailto:katzn@aol.com), [www.katzknives.com](http://www.katzknives.com)



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From Magnum Research

Magnum Research has introduced the new "Biggest Finest Revolver." The BFR stainless steel revolver is available in .45-70, .45 Long Colt, .410, .454 Casull and .22 Hornet. Key design features include enlarged cylinder for added strength and integrity, barrel and cylinder alignment to exacting tolerances for greater accuracy, redesigned base pin for recoil reduction, "cut rifled" barrel for longer life and "free wheeling" cylinder that can be rotated either direction when loading and unloading. Magnum Research, 7100 University Ave., NE, Minneapolis, MN 55432, (763) 574-1868, FAX: (763) 574-0109, [www.magnumresearch.com](http://www.magnumresearch.com)



## New Recoil Pad

From Lyman

A new pre-fit Decelerator Recoil Pad for large caliber Marlin lever-action rifles is now available from Lyman Products. This 1" Decelerator Recoil Pad allows shooters to avoid the considerable kick from these powerful rifles. The pad may be installed quickly, without gunsmithing and comes with all mounting hardware. Lyman Products Corp., 475 Smith St., Middletown, CT 06457, (860) 632-2020, FAX: (860) 632-1699, e-mail: [lymansales@seashore.com](mailto:lymansales@seashore.com), [www.lyman-products.com](http://www.lyman-products.com)



## Recon 1 Knife

From Cold Steel

The Recon 1 is a new tactical folding knife from Cold Steel. The patent-pending Ultra Lock system becomes the strongest integral component on the knife when the blade is in the open position. Crafted from AUS 8 stainless steel, the Recon 1 is available in five blade configurations: clip point with plain edge or half serrated edge, Tanto point with plain edge or half serrated edge and spear point with half serrated edge. The checkered handle is made of hefty Zytel synthetic. Cold Steel, 3036-A Seaborg Ave., Ventura, CA 93003, (800) 255-4716, FAX: (805) 642-9727, [www.coldsteel.com](http://www.coldsteel.com)



## New Mini Bolt Youth.22 Rifle

From Henry Repeating Arms

Henry Repeating Arms has a new youth rifle, the Mini Bolt .22. Designed specifically for beginning shooters, the Mini Bolt .22 features a one-piece fiberglass reinforced synthetic stock with wrap-around checkering and beavertail forearm,

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## CAMPFIRE TALES

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came to the part where "the doctor told him he had heart trouble, that he must choose a profession with no violent exertion, that he must not even run vigorous exercise, that he must not take run upstairs."

So what did Roosevelt do? He went to Europe and climbed the Matterhorn! This was a man! For the rest of his time on earth, he stressed the strenuous life. While other boys in my high school class were reading "I The Jury," "Blackboard Jungle" and "Hot Rod magazine," I was reading Roosevelt's "African Game Trails" and "Hunting Trips of a Ranchman." At a time when I needed a real hero, Roosevelt filled the bill quite nicely. Even today I subscribe to the Theodore Roosevelt Classics Library, getting a new volume every month. They, too, will go to the grandsons some day.

Where are the Theodore Roosevelts today? I cannot think of anyone on the national scene who I consider a hero or role model. Yes there are many unknown local heroes that we may look to, but nationally?

Making millions of dollars for the ability to throw, pass, kick or shoot a ball does not make a "sports hero" — whatever that is — although there are sports figures who do a lot of good away from the playing field. I was relieved when my middle grandson reached the age of 10 and decided the celebrities of the WWF were not really heroes, role models, nor even worth watching anymore. "Celebrity" has become nearly synonymous with "hero" in the minds of millions of people who don't realize how far apart those two concepts really are.

I can't be John Wayne, or Elmer Keith, or Theodore Roosevelt. None of us can. But I can be a real hero where it really counts: with my kids and grandkids. So can you.

We have gone from the Greatest Generation to the Baby Boomers to what today could easily be labeled as the Fatherless Generation. Society is paying a large price for the lack of heroes today and the overabundance of poor role models. Somehow this must be changed.

If shooting and hunting are to survive — more importantly if society as we know it, what is left of it, is to survive — we desperately need role models for kids, and especially for boys. We need teachers that will be real role models for kids who have none. We need men who will serve as substitute fathers and grandfathers where there are none. A century from now the words I've written, where I lived, how much money I made, even the sixguns I shot and enjoyed, will not make one bit of difference. But the time I spend with kids may very well make a great deal of difference. The most important thing a man can do is to be a father and grandfather worthy of admiration. That is the job of a real hero.



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Once upon a time in this country, young men looked up to certain individuals with great admiration. These were not sports stars, Hollywood celebrities or musicians putting on a façade of respectability. These were people who had faced real danger or adversity and triumphed through the strength of their character and moral conviction. These people were called heroes.



I believe in heroes, role models, whatever you choose to call them. Who is your hero?

For me, that person is the father I never knew. My dad was killed before I was 1 year old, and I have always wondered why. Coincidentally, his own father had been killed just before he was born, so he never saw his father either. What might my life have been like if this had not happened? Would it have been the same or totally different? It would be wonderful to be able to talk to him. But that is only wishful thinking.

My dad would have been a hero — or at least I like to think so. At the time he was killed, he owned a deer rifle, a shotgun, a .22 rifle and several fishing poles, so he must have been an all-right guy. His older brothers and sisters always told me what a grand man he was. But I will never know.

My step-dad was a hero too, although I did not realize it until much later. Mom remarried in 1942 and my new dad was too old to be drafted so he enlisted, went off to war, was wounded in action and spent 18 months as a prisoner of war. He had no education, dropping out of school at the age of 10 to go to work with his father in the coal mines. In spite of his lack of skills, he always had a job and he always took good care of me.

He was not a hunter or shooter, but he took me fishing every chance he got. Most importantly, he taught me how to work. I did not really appreciate him until I was out on my own with a family to support. He was part of the "Greatest Generation." His last wish on this earth was to live out his remaining days in the Veterans' Home.

My older cousins were also my heroes. They did not have to worry about being drafted either. They were too young so they dropped out of school, lied about their ages and enlisted in the Navy. They, too, were part of the "Greatest Generation."

I've had various other heroes in my life. I was 8 years old when I first saw John Wayne as gunfighter Quirt Evans in "The Angel and the Badman." He became my hero then and remained so to me in one capacity or another for the rest of his life.

When I used silver dollars from my piggy bank to buy that first edition of "Sixguns by Keith," I discovered a new hero. He would have a profound effect on my life — he certainly had much to do with my life-long love of big-bore sixguns.

But between John Wayne and Elmer Keith, my all-time hero emerged. I was in grade school at the time, and fortunately had a teacher who forced us to read biographies. I went through all the easy-reading books on Kit Carson, Wild Bill Hickok, Buffalo Bill and Davy Crockett, but when I got to Theodore Roosevelt, I found my real hero reading "The Boys' Life of Theodore Roosevelt" by Hermann Hagedorn. The copy of this book which I now own was discarded by the local high school in 1970. Discarded! And it is in great shape. I guess no one reads it anymore. I'm saving it for my oldest grandson, and I keep hoping it will be reprinted so the other two boys can have a copy.

As I first read about Roosevelt's life I was not too impressed. After all, he came from New York, he was sickly as a boy, and the story seemed to be going nowhere. Then I

*continued on page 81*



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