

DAKOTA ARMS: Rifles To Dream On From The High Plains

® FEBRUARY 2002

\$3.95
\$4.95
IN CANADA &
OUTSIDE U.S.

SHOTS
MAGAZINE

GUNS

MAGAZINE

FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD

KIMBER'S STUNNING
**CUSTOM
ECLIPSE II**

**LOADING THE
7MM ULTRA MAG**

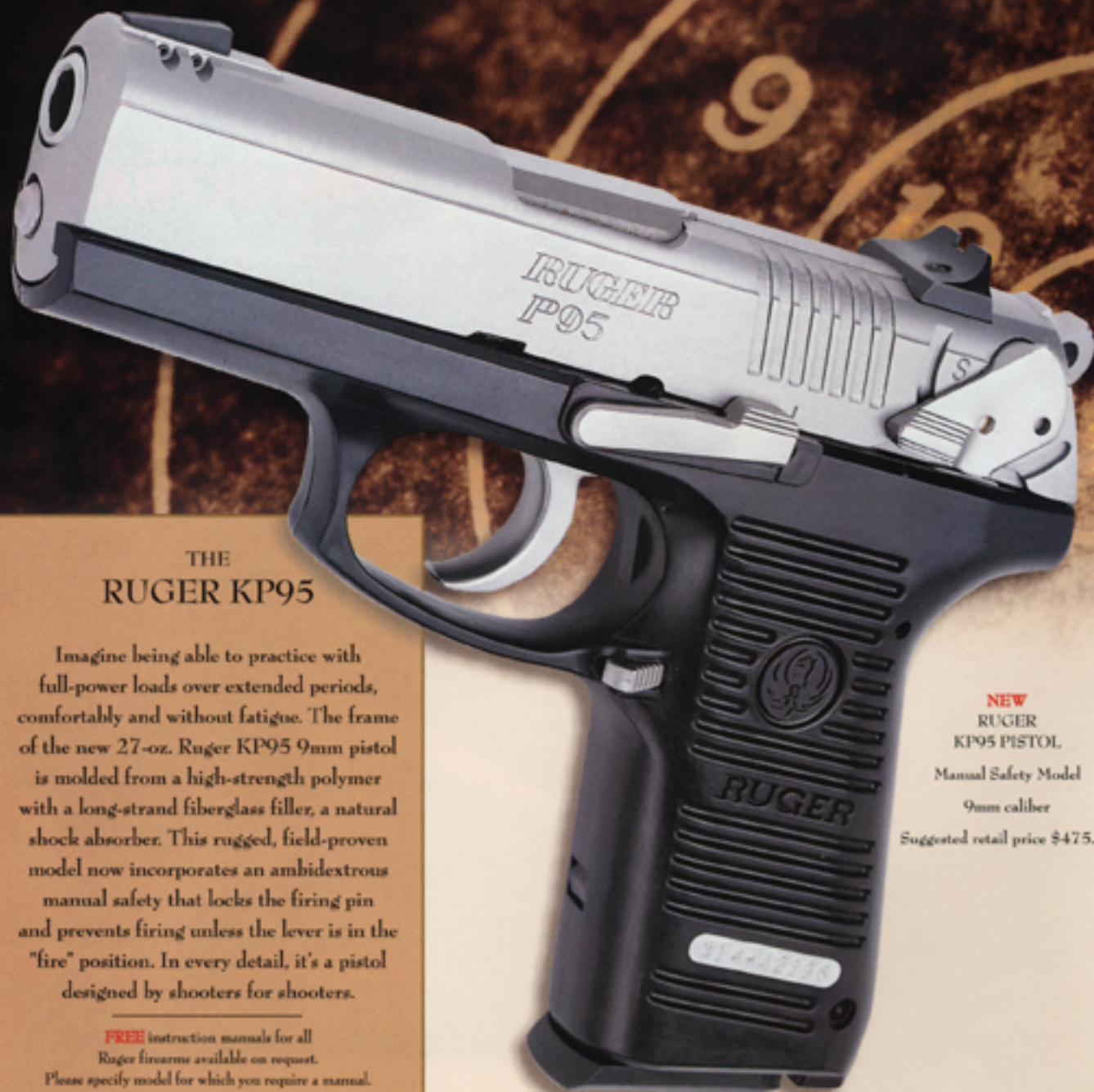
**WIN A
SPRINGFIELD ARMORY
MICRO COMPACT**

**Special Focus on
Leather:**

Taffin — Favorite Field Holsters
Ayoub — Concealed Carry Holsters
Tillman — Old West Reproductions



LIGHTER WEIGHT AND
LOWER RECOIL...
THE NEW RUGER KP95.



THE
RUGER KP95

Imagine being able to practice with full-power loads over extended periods, comfortably and without fatigue. The frame of the new 27-oz. Ruger KP95 9mm pistol is molded from a high-strength polymer with a long-strand fiberglass filler, a natural shock absorber. This rugged, field-proven model now incorporates an ambidextrous manual safety that locks the firing pin and prevents firing unless the lever is in the "fire" position. In every detail, it's a pistol designed by shooters for shooters.

FREE instruction manuals for all Ruger firearms available on request. Please specify model for which you require a manual.

NEW
RUGER
KP95 PISTOL
Manual Safety Model

9mm caliber

Suggested retail price \$475.00



STURM, RUGER and Company, Inc.

Southport, CT 06490, U.S.A. • www.ruger.com

All RUGER firearms are designed and manufactured in our own factories in the United States of America

— Arms Makers for Responsible Citizens —





A WEAPON OF WAR

The new CQD® Mark V ATAC (Advanced Tactical) Fighting Knife is a Weapon of War designed for the active duty Special Operations warrior. Every feature is designed with specific functions and capabilities in mind. This latest collaboration between special operations trainer Duane Dieter and Knife authority Jim Ray is the Blade 2001 Overall Knife Of The Year!

The recurved leading edge combines maximum cutting potential with extra forward weight for hacking in the field. The razor sharp top edge adds to the already devastating penetration capability. The forward thrust of the Striker Hilt can guard or trap and can be used for limited penetration techniques or impact strikes. The beveled tips of these hilts can be used to pry or penetrate cans or bladders (saving the main blade tip from potential damage). A steel buttcap and unique hidden tang

allow for hammering. A non-conductive handle and Kydex sheath for protected carry complete the package!



THE CQD®
DAMASCUS!

NEW!!

THE CQD LE

Now available! The actual Military Issue sterile CQD LE! Featuring a waffled plunge lock, ribbed thumb stud and sharpened top edged. Limited Edition! Small quantities also now available in striking DamaSteel! See the Web!

CALL NOW TOLL - FREE
FOR OUR FREE CATALOGS!

1-888-832-4158

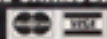
MASTERS OF DEFENSE, LLC.

1941 CAMP BRANCH RD. WAYNESVILLE, NC 28786

(828) 452-4158 (828) 452-7327 FAX

SEE OVER 40 KNIVES IN OUR ON-LINE CATALOG!

WWW.MASTERSOFDEFENSE.COM



NEW DEALERSHIPS AVAILABLE!



NEW!!

THE CQD®
LIMITED EDITION



© Pyramont MA for MOD 2001 Photography © Jim Bonis 2001



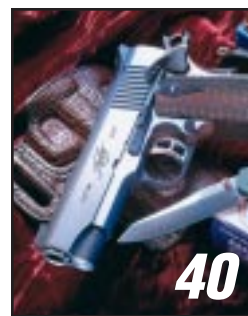
GUNS

MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2002 Vol. 48, Number 02-566

On The Cover:
Kimber Custom Eclipse
By Massad Ayoob

Photo by Ichiro Nagata



DEPARTMENTS

- 10 Crossfire Letters to GUNS**
- 12 Handguns** Massad Ayoob
- 14 Quartermaster** Jim Gardner
- 18 Handloader** Charles E. Petty
- 20 Rifleman** Dave Anderson
- 27 Shotgunner** Holt Bodinson
- 76 New Products**
- 78 Guns Classifieds**
- 80 Advertiser Index**
- 82 Campfire Tales** John Taffin **NEW DEPARTMENT**

FEATURES

- 21 Eagle Eyes**
BY CHARLES E. PETTY Are these the ultimate binoculars?
- 23 New Products From Weatherby**
BY DAVE ANDERSON The latest from Weatherby.
- 26 Springfield Armory's Newest**
BY JIM GARDNER The latest from Springfield includes an exotic new pistol design.
- 28 Savage M10ML-II**
BY SAM FADALA A modern muzzle loader tough enough for smokeless powder.
- 32 Favorite Field Holsters**
BY JOHN TAFFIN How to carry that hogleg in the hunting field.
- 36 The Rifles Of Dakota Arms**
BY DAVE ANDERSON One company's pursuit of making rifles the right way.
- 40 Observing The Eclipse**
BY MASSAD AYOOB Kimber's Custom Eclipse is just too good for limited production.
- 46 Old West Reproductions**
BY BARRETT TILLMAN A look at the very finest in cowboy leather goods.
- 50 Loading The 7mm Ultra Mag.**
BY CHARLES E. PETTY Testing Hodgdon's load data for this potent long-range cartridge.
- 52 Today's Concealment Holsters**
BY MASSAD AYOOB A look at carry leather that works — from someone who knows.
- 56 Return Of The Single Shots**
BY HOLT BODINSON Compact, versatile and elegant — there are many reasons to consider a single shot.

The New XD™ Pistol

From SPRINGFIELD

ARMORY



SETS THE STANDARD
FOR SAFETY, RELIABILITY
AND EASE-OF-USE.

From the oldest name in American firearms comes the last word in a safe, easy-to-use, modern polymer pistol. The XD™ pistol, in 9mm, .40s&w and .357sig calibers, takes safety to the next level. Unique XD features enable the user to know—at a touch or a glance—if the chamber is loaded or the firing striker is cocked. The XD pistol is the ideal choice for law enforcement and personal self-defense.

Additional XD features include an ambidextrous magazine release, captive dual recoil spring system, integral accessory light/laser frame rails, and the best out-of-the-box double action trigger in the world.

You can also trust that like all Springfield Armory pistols, rifles, optics and accessories, the XD pistol is backed by our exclusive lifetime warranty.

Check out all the new features of the Springfield XD pistol at your local retailer, or visit www.springfieldarmory.com.

The Oldest Name In American Firearms
SPRINGFIELD ARMORY®

www.springfieldarmory.com

1-800-680-6866

And now for a few
words about the
pros and cons
of SureFire
WeaponsLights®
and tactical lasers.

Here are the pros...



Projecting a visceral wave of dominance before you, you enter the inky darkness. You move fluidly, penetrating the black unknown with a searing beam of white light from your SureFire WeaponsLight®. Light-and-move. You work the corners, you pie the rooms. You systematically take control of the environment.

You use the powerful "force option" of your SureFire WeaponsLight® to disorient and unbalance whatever unknown threat may be lurking in the blackness.

There! In the doorway! You trigger your SureFire tactical WeaponsLight®, flooding the suspect with blinding white light. *A gun!* You keep the dazzling light in his eyeballs, frying his retinas. He recoils in fear and alarm. Your tactical laser center-punches his forehead, a red dot hovering on his underpowered cranium.

He's five pounds of trigger pressure away from melon salad. Blinded and disoriented, the suspect capitulates. Another non-lethal takedown, thanks to SureFire's "force option."

...here are the cons.

Order factory-direct online!
www.surefire.com



M900A Vertical Grip
with shock-isolated
Millennium bezel,
high-pressure Xenon
white light,
ambidextrous
pressure switch,
separate LED
navigation lights,
lockout tailcap

SUREFIRE®
The Power of Light *The Power of SUREFIRE*

18300 Mt. Baldy Circle, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

surefire.com 800.828.8809

WALTHER P99

A Family of Quality



Walther P99-Military

Walther P99

Walther P99QPQ

Whether you want your P99 with a military green, traditional black, or two-tone finish, Walther has you covered. All three pistols come with removable backstraps for ease of shooting.

WALTHER
USA

2100 Roosevelt Avenue • Springfield, MA 01102
1-800-372-6454 • Fax: 1-413-747-3682 • www.waltherusa.com

GUNS

MAGAZINE
THE FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD SINCE 1955

FOUNDING PUBLISHER

George E. von Rosen (1915-2000)

PUBLISHER

Thomas von Rosen

EDITOR Jim Gardner
ed@gunsmagazine.com

ART DIRECTOR Joseph R. Novelozo

ART ASSISTANT Richard Stahlhut

ASSISTANT EDITOR Edward Carlson

COPY EDITOR Jesse Jones

ADVERTISING PRODUCTION Linda Peterson
production@gunsmagazine.com

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR Ichiro Nagata

SENIOR FIELD EDITOR Cameron Hopkins

SHOOTING EDITOR Dave Anderson

HANDGUN EDITOR Massad Ayoob

SHOTGUN & HUNTING EDITOR Holt Bodinson

AIRGUNS EDITOR J.I. Galan

HANDLOADING EDITOR Charles E. Petty

FIELD EDITORS Sam Fadala, Roy Huntington

SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR Tom Turpin

CUSTOMER SERVICE

SUBSCRIPTION subs@gunsmagazine.com [619] 819-4537

PRODUCTION production@gunsmagazine.com [619] 297-8520

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING class@gunsmagazine.com [619] 297-6655

EDITORIAL ed@gunsmagazine.com [619] 819-4535

INTERNET www.gunsmagazine.com

(INDICATE MAGAZINE AND DEPARTMENT)

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Denny Fallon

National Adv. Offices:

591 Camino de la Reina, Suite 200

San Diego, Calif. 92108

[619] 297-8520 FAX: [619] 297-5353

email: denny@gunsmagazine.com

East Coast Adv. Reps.: Buchmayr Associates

Sig Buchmayr

137 Rowayton Ave. #410

Rowayton, Conn. 06853 [203] 855-8834



Why pay 3-4 times more...FOR LESS?

Looking for a match grade or custom .45 caliber 1911? Prices giving you and your bank account fits? Not sure if you will get what you paid for? Take a deep breath...relax...think about revolutionary out-of-the-box accuracy like 0.7" groups @ 25 yards from a Ransom Rest, stainless or carbon steel frame and slide (we even use metal mainspring housings, not plastic), all the top quality name match grade components you need to win tactical type matches, and quality beyond even the Dan Wesson legend. All that...only \$799! Perhaps you and your dealer have something to talk about?



DAN WESSON FIREARMS

INCORPORATED

119 Kemper Lane Norwich, NY 13815

607-336-1174

danwessonfirearms@citlink.net

www.danwessonfirearms.com



PRINTING SERVICES: Quebecor World

FILM PRODUCTION: Web-Tech, Inc.

GENERAL COUNSEL: Steele N. Gillaspie

PRODUCED IN THE U.S.A.

WARNING: Firearms are dangerous and if used improperly may cause serious injury or death. Due to the inherent variables in the reloading of ammunition, be sure to verify any published loads with manufacturer's data. Products mentioned or advertised may not be legal in all states or jurisdictions. Obey all firearms laws. Always consult a professional gunsmith when modifying any firearm. Be a safe shooter!



NORTH AMERICAN ARMS

GUARDIAN .380

Convenient, Reliable, Effective!



Actual Size
Shown

Call Now!
Toll Free
1-800-821-5783

Developed and manufactured
in partnership with



- .380 ACP 6+1 DAO
- Highest Quality rust resistant stainless steel.
- Call or write for Free catalog
- LIFE TIME WARRANTY

Custom design your personal firearm from our many choices of finishes, carry package, grips, holsters, sights, shop options and accessories.



Many of our custom shop options
and items are designed for the
Guardian .380/.32 line of firearms.

NORTH AMERICAN ARMS, INC.
2150 S. 950 E. • Provo, UT 84606
www.naaminis.com

LETTER OF THE MONTH



GUNS MAGAZINE DECEMBER 2001

Too Much Fun?

OK, that settles it! I want to be Ichiro Nagata. Now I already know that he is respected far and wide for the stunning quality and clarity of his photographs in *GUNS* and *American Handgunner*, but the photo on page 44 of the December issue shows that he is just having way too much fun at it as well! Gee whiz, what a tough job!

All kidding aside, it is nice to know that Mr. Nagata is "one of us" and that he enjoys getting out and shooting an interesting firearm as much as he enjoys shooting film.

Great job guys, you keep it interesting, and I will be certain to keep reading.

Richard Chavez
Simi Valley, Calif.

What's Wrong With The 1911?

In regards to a letter in your December 2001 issue by Vernon Bang, he states, as so many in the past have, that your magazine has too many articles about the venerable 1911. I have always wanted to write these people personally and ask them why they subscribe to such a magazine. Did he not make a decision to subscribe to a magazine that prints articles about guns? And isn't the .45 a gun? Or did he just subscribe to a magazine that he had no idea what the content was?

It should come as no surprise that your magazine might feature a custom 1911 on the

cover, or have an article inside about one. It seems to me that as the editors of your magazine, you can decide cover and content, and that as the consumer, we decide on whether or not we buy what you print. Maybe Bang (great name by the way!) would rather not see any more articles about guns in *GUNS*.

Jeff Namhie
Portland, Ore.

While I must confess to being a dyed-in-the-wool fan of the 1911, I don't dismiss the sentiment in Bang's letter. You will continue to see features about the 1911 in its many variations; however, GUNS will make every effort to include good coverage of other interesting and proven designs. Editor

Not Like The Old Days

I just finished reading the article on the new FN HP-DA. Was this by any chance a pre-production gun? I can't believe the gun in your article was born at the Herstal Factory, and released for sale.

The finish was horrible. The pits, and other marks on the gun, give it the look of a casting, rather than a machined part. Also, what is with the hooked trigger guard? I thought that had gone out of style years ago.

I recently bought one of the last 1000 High-Powers built by FN at the Herstal factory, and the finish on it is like glass, like you would expect on any gun made by FN.

Please tell me that this is not an example of a production gun!

Earl Hawkes
Three Forks, Mont.

Another Country Heard From

With regard to Phillip Howard's problem with his .44 Special load of 13.0 grains of HS7 behind a 240-grain SWC bullet (Crossfire *GUNS*, September 2001). Recoil, noise and muzzle blast are to a great extent subjective, but the primer flattening almost certainly points to cylinder or yoke end-play, which results in increased headspace. When this occurs the primer is unsupported on ignition and is allowed to back out of the case, which is later forced down over the primer. The final result is a totally flattened primer with barely a demarcation line between primer and primer-pocket; in other words, all the signs of horrendously high pressure. Howard should take his S&W Model 29 to a good gunsmith who will fit stainless-steel yoke bearing washers to restore headspace to normal; this will at least correct the primer problem.

On page 31 of the same issue — *Loading*

The .45 S&W — Charles Petty states that a .45 Colt shell holder cannot be used when loading the .45 Smith & Wesson/Schofield. Present .45 Colt rim diameter is .512 inch while most references give the .45 S&W as .520 inch. However, bearing in mind that there always exists minor dimensional variations in shell holders of different makes, and also of factory cases, it is quite likely that most .45 Colt shell holders will accept the .45 S&W rim quite easily. I believe that until now only Starline has made .45 S&W brass, but no doubt the big battalions will soon produce it. If they do, it would make sense to use the same rim diameter as the .45 Colt. I don't see a top-break Schofield extractor star tearing through the .512-inch rim of a .45 S&W case made of modern brass, black-powder fouling or not.

Petty also states that a .45 Colt seater will not place a crimp on the 1.109-inch .45 S&W shell. True, but I was able to correctly seat a 230-grain cast bullet and place a perfect roll crimp on my .45 S&W cases — shortened W-W .45 Colt — with the aid of a .45 ACP seating die. Much cheaper than buying a complete .45 S&W/Schofield three-die set. My handloads worked perfectly in an Uberti Schofield replica and extracted without difficulty.

It is interesting to note that in 1908 Smith & Wesson had plans to offer the New Century Hand Ejector chambered for an improved version of the .45 S&W called the .45 Special. It's rather a pity that they didn't; being more smokeless powder efficient than the .45 Colt, it would have made a superb cartridge.

Keith R. Dyer
Handgun Editor
Magnum Magazine
Durban, South Africa

No Guns Allowed

I was quite disturbed to find the following sign posted at the entrance to the Mt. Sterling, Ky., Wal-Mart store today.

"Attention Shoppers, no firearms, concealed or otherwise, are permitted inside the building."

This is something entirely new at Wal-Mart. In the past they have always been very supportive of the shooting public. I have even presented free firearm safety seminars in the store prior to deer season in past years as I am a certified Hunter Education Instructor Trainer.

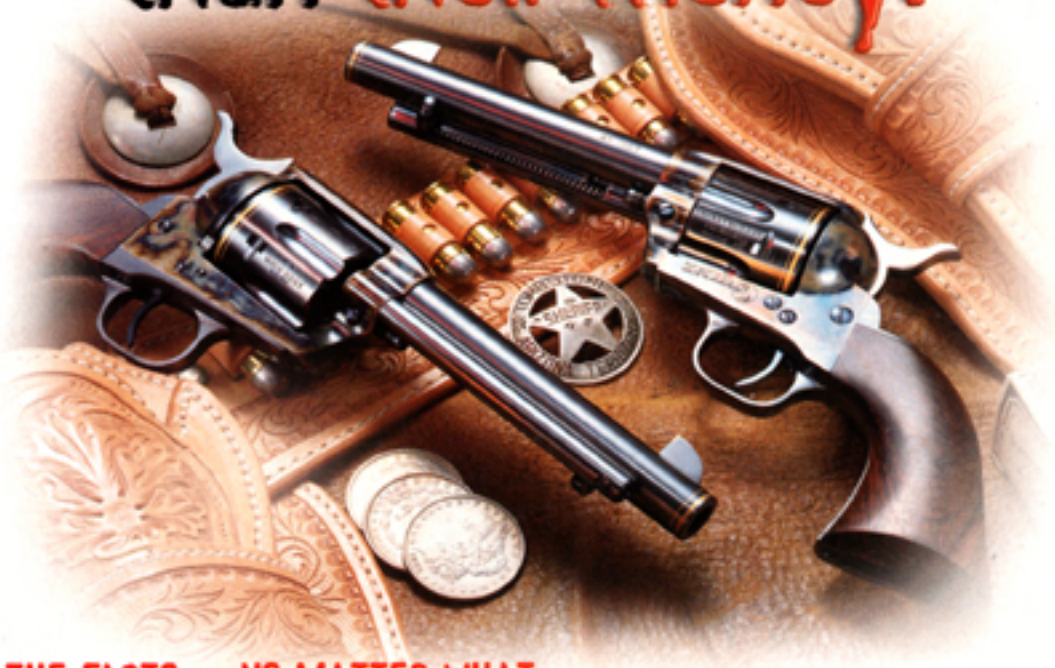
I called the local Wal-Mart manager in reference to this new policy and was informed that this was a nationwide Wal-Mart decision.

I encourage all readers of *GUNS Magazine* to contact the Wal-Mart company and voice your dissatisfaction with its decision and to cease doing business with the company until they rescind this policy.

W. Tandy Chenault
Mt. Sterling, Ky.

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

Your trust is more important than their money.



YOU GET THE FACTS — NO MATTER WHAT.

Everything you read in *American Handgunner* is fact, not fiction. Manufacturers can't buy glowing product reviews with big advertising contracts here. Good press is earned by good products.

If it's not a good value, you'll get the truth in a tell-it-like-it-is-style you won't find in other handgun magazines.

THE ONE MAGAZINE YOU NEED FOR EVERYTHING YOU WANT.

American Handgunner has a way of turning casual shooters into serious handgunners. Each issue is loaded with news on the latest guns and accessories. But there's also much more.

Want to be a top gun at the local range? Expert tips and advice in each issue from the world's best shooters will give you the edge in most any competition or dangerous situation.

TIPS, TECHNIQUES AND ADVICE IN EVERY ISSUE.

In addition to top-notch features on the latest guns and custom stand-outs, *American Handgunner* includes these regular columns:

- Cop Talk
- Tactical Advantage
- Handgun Leather
- Combat Shooting
- Handloading
- Handgun Hunting
- Gun Rights
- Pistolsmithing
- The 10-Ring
- Gunny Sack

**Get what you want.
Get *American Handgunner*.**

NO waiting period

Why wait? The very next issue may have just what you're looking for. You can start your subscription right away. Simply send \$16.95 for a one year subscription to *American Handgunner*.
P.O. Box 16439, San Diego, CA 92176



**SUBSCRIBE
TODAY!**

Gun Health Hazards Can Be Dealt With

As the director of what is sometimes called a “shooting school,” I’ve frequently been asked about the advisability of pregnant women shooting. I’ve heard mixed advice on this from the medical community, with one MD essentially saying “no problem,” and another rigidly prohibiting it. I’m not a doctor, but caution and common sense always put me in the latter camp. This stance has been validated by recent research undertaken by Dr. Fabrice Czarnecki. Dr. C. is the consulting physician for the American Society of Law Enforcement Trainers and has also been consulted by the NYPD.

The two big problems are lead exposure and sound trauma, to which a fetus is much more vulnerable than its adult human host.

“Noise is usually considered as detrimental during the pregnancy,” notes Czarnecki. “In most European countries, health regulations forbid pregnant women to work in an environment with a level over 80 dB continuous noise, and rapid impulse noise changes of 40 dB, which is much less than the noise of a firearm.

“The sound levels of firearms are about 125 to 140 dB for rimfire rifles, 140 to 150 dB for rimfire pistols... and 150 to 160 dB for centerfire rifles, pistols and shotguns. Intrauterine measurements showed that the fetus was not significantly protected against loud noises. One study, in human volunteers, found a maximal noise attenuation of 10 dB at 4,000 Hz. In ewes, the noise attenuation was 20 dB at 4,000 Hz, but the noise inside the uterus was actually 2 to 5 dB greater at 250 Hz. As a comparison, foam plugs offer a protection of 12 to 20 dB and are considered as the least effective hearing protection.”

Exposure to this type of noise during pregnancy, the doctor reports, can lead to miscarriage, retardation of fetal growth and reduced birth weight, premature delivery, and hearing loss by the child, including other complications.

Lead toxicity is also an extremely important health factor to be aware of. “Lead is transferred from the mother to the fetus,” Czarnecki states flatly. “Lead is known to be toxic to the fetus, and exposure during pregnancy is associated with the following disorders: decreased birth weight and head circumference, even at very low exposure levels; miscarriage, premature delivery and pre-eclampsia (a severe complication of pregnancy); and behavioral effects in infants and children.”

Finally, the doctor comments, “a combined exposure to noise and lead seems to have an increased toxicity, causing heart

lesions, which are not observed for either of those agents in isolation.” He advises that pregnant mothers not shoot firearms “except in self-defense,” and that those with jobs which require firearms qualification explore use of Beam-Hit, FATS, or similar low-noise technology to achieve that goal until after delivery.

Duty Belts

Depending on how much equipment the officer carries, a cop or security guard’s duty belt typically weighs 12 to 18 pounds. This is a major reason why lumbar spine problems are an occupational hazard for these personnel. Lightweight belts, holsters and gear pouches — ranging from nylon to plastic to the synthetic leather Michael’s of Oregon calls Mirage — have gone far toward mitigating this problem. “Duty suspenders” available from Michaels and Magnum Software likewise help relieve this health hazard and are catching on around the country, particularly in the Northwest.

Safariland has now gone a step further with the Levitation system developed by Bill Rogers. The lightweight belt has soft tubes inside at the top and bottom edges. Rogers designed an ingenious clamp system so that holster and equipment pouch clamp to the outside of the belt so securely that adult males can hang from them in midair without pulling them loose. This means that the belt slides of the holster and pouches don’t bear against hips and nerve centers like conventional designs. Velcro-lined and securing to a Velcro under-belt, this new duty belt all but holds the equipment away from the body, which relieves pressure and discomfort. The one I’m testing is almost sinfully comfortable. Look for this technology to find its way to hunters, hikers, construction workers and others. Thanks, Bill.

Holster Pressure

A friend of mine in Pennsylvania had carried an Airweight S&W .38 daily in an ankle holster for most of his adult life. He had to find another holster location recently. His physician told him that the ankle rig was slightly restricting circulation and aggravating an early case of phlebitis.

A cop who had carried his backup in an ankle holster for most of his adult life recently switched his second gun to the side trouser pocket, again on medical advice. He was having increasing problems with arthritis in his left ankle, and his doctor suspected a correlation with the leg holster.



Safariland’s Tom Campbell hangs off a Raptor holster attached to a Levitation belt to show how securely the new system holds the equipment together.

Numerous officers, particularly females, have had hip problems and nerve problems resulting from holsters that dug into their sides at the attachment point. This is why most of the better holster makers put an orthopedic curve in the belt shank of duty scabbards. I suspect that one reason so many concealed carriers find paddle holsters the most comfortable for wear on the hip is that the best ones have a similar orthopedic curve on the side that meets the body, distributing the weight of the gun evenly and comfortably.

Gun-banners have lately resorted to extremely exaggerated statements that paint guns as a health-hazard. We must vigorously fight this misinformation. At the same time, when we have evidence of genuine health hazards, it is nothing less than unethical not to warn our brothers and sisters who own, shoot and carry guns. All the above concerns can be addressed without giving up guns or shooting.

Check out Ayooob’s article, *Today’s Concealment Holster: Better Than Ever*, in this month’s issue for a complete listing of holster vendors.




CATCH

EAA'S

WAVE

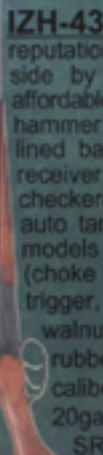
EUROPEAN AMERICAN ARMORY CORP.




MP-153 is like no other 12ga semi-auto shotgun. With its patent pending self regulating, adjustable gas exit valve, you can go from light loads to heavy loads without a conversion kit. The **MP-153** consumes 12ga (2 3/4", 3" and 3 1/2") in one magazine tube, mixed or matched. Features: hammer forged hard chrome lined barrel, walnut stock and forend, extended steel shot choke tubes, rubber butt pad, full vent rib and our unique bolt lock that holds the bolt open when the chamber is empty. The **MP-153** includes all of the above and has a SRP under \$539.00.



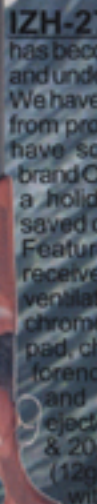
IZH-18MAX looks and feels like guns costing many times more. The **18 MAX** includes: chokes tubes (12ga and 20ga), walnut stock and forend, full vent rib, polished nickel receiver, selectable ejector / extractor, rubber butt pad, hammer forged hard chromed lined barrel and unique decocking system. The **18 MAX** is available in 12ga or 20ga or 410ga with a SRP under \$199.00.




IZH-43 has gained a world reputation for being a quality side by side shotgun at an affordable price. The **43** features: hammer forged hard chrome lined barrels, machined steel receiver and mono block, checkered stock and forend, auto tang safety, and many models come standard with (choke tubes, single selective trigger, ejectors, checkered walnut stock & forend and rubber butt pad). Available calibers include 12ga, 16ga, 20ga, 28ga, & 410ga with a SRP under \$439.



MP-133 is the only production pump action shotgun with our patent pending empty chamber bolt lock. With the empty chamber bolt lock there are no missed shots due to an empty chamber and you know when your gun is empty. Standard Features: Dual actions bars, hammer forged hard chromed lined barrel, walnut stock and forend, rubber butt pad, screw extended steel shot choke tubes, full vent rib, empty chamber bolt lock and dual extractors. With the **MP-133** you can mix or match 12ga (3 1/2", 3" and 2 3/4") shells in one magazine tube and the SRP is under \$299.



IZH-27 In just three years the **27** has become the fastest selling over and under shotgun in the US market. We have received letters and e-mail from proud **27** owners saying they have sold their expensive name brand O/U, bought a **27** and went on a holiday with the money they saved on their EAA O/U. The **27**'s Features include: engraved receiver, automatic tang safety, ventilated rib, hammer forged hard chromed lined barrels, rubber butt pad, checkered walnut stock and forend, machined steel receiver and mono block, selectable ejectors and chokes tubes (12ga & 20ga). The **27** is available in (12ga, 16ga, 20ga, 28ga, 410ga) with a SRP of under \$569.



IZH-94 combo rifle / shotgun is the perfect hunting tool. The **94** allows you to hunt small and big game, near or far with one firearm. The **94** is found in 12ga 3" / (223, 30-06, 308, 222, 7.62x39, 6.5x55) or 20ga 3" / (22mag, 22lr) and soon 410ga 3" / (22mag, 22lr). The **94** is equipped with 2 triggers, hammer forged barrels, rubber butt pads, choke tubes (12ga and 20ga), walnut stock & forend, 11mm scope rail and has a SRP under \$569.

Send \$3 for current catalog. Dealers send FFL, retail tax certificate and phone number.
P.O. Box 1299, Sharpes, FL 32959 Phone: (321) 639-4842—Fax: (321) 639-7006
Web Site: WWW.EAACORP.COM—E-Mail: EAACORP@BV.NET

Imperial Sizing Die Wax

Like most reloaders, when I first set up my loading equipment I used a lube pad to apply resizing lubricant to my cartridge cases. Originally, I used both Lyman and RCBS resizing lube. They did the job, but the lube pad soon assumed a particularly revolting appearance as it picked up dirt and carbon from the fired cases. Lubing prior to resizing quickly became the most loathsome part of the reloading process.

Some years later, I "discovered" Imperial Sizing Die Wax. Produced by Le Clear Industries, this lube is infinitely neater and easier to use, and I've found that it does a significantly better job as well.

No lube pad is required. Merely tap the tip of your index finger and thumb against the semi-hard lube, and you will have picked up the proper amount of material to lubricate one rifle case. Run your fingertips along the case, and the lube is applied in the proper amount and just where it's needed. No more lube dents in your newly sized cases, as it is easy to keep the neck and shoulder free of excess lubricant. The process may sound

slow, but in actuality, it is much faster than using a lube pad. The stuff lasts forever — I'm still trying to use up my first tin.

Imperial Sizing Die Wax also works far better than anything I have tried when doing heavy case-forming work. I recently formed a large lot of .40-65 cases out of .45-70s, and using the Imperial Wax, the job was a snap.

Like most good things of interest to handloaders, Imperial Sizing Die Wax can be obtained from Sinclair International. Its new catalog consists of 108 pages of great gear for the loading bench. Order a tin of Imperial for \$4.50, and odds are that Sinclair will toss in a catalog for free.

Do yourself a favor. Order a tin of Imperial Sizing Die Wax and toss that grungy old lube pad.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Sinclair International
2330 Wayne Haven St.
Fort Wayne, Ind. 46803
[219] 493-1858
www.sinclairintl.com



800-243-3220

GOTCHA COVERED!









From bullets to bench rests, from Ruark to Hemingway, from alloy to molds, from barrels to triggers, call or visit our web site to get our latest **free catalogs**. No extra charge for great prices and service.

Source Code 427

Lyman/A-Zoom Snap Caps

A set of snap caps is one of the most important accessories that any shooter can have. By far the best use for snap caps is to train yourself to avoid flinching (see Dave Anderson's Rifleman column). If, like myself, you are often alone at the range, a good set of snap caps will allow you to perform a "ball and dummy drill." Load three live rounds and two snap caps into your magazine or cylinder in random order. With the semiauto, you will need to look away as you load the magazine and not pay attention to the order in which the live and dummy rounds are loaded. With a revolver, simply give the cylinder a spin so that you do not know whether to expect a live or a dummy round.

Now, align the sights, focus on the front sight, and apply careful trigger pressure. If the gun fires, then you really don't learn anything. If, however, you get a *click* rather than a *bang*, take notice of what your front sight did at the moment the hammer fell. Did it remain steady on the target? Good job! Odds are, though, that you saw it dip slightly. This is clear evidence that you anticipated the shot. Now relax and try it again. This sort of constant reinforcement is the best way to beat a bad case of flinching.

All snap caps are not created alike. A-Zoom's aluminum snap caps are by far the best I've ever used. They are hard anodized to resist wear, and in place of a primer is an extremely tough material that cushions the firing pin and is said to be good for 3,000



impacts. These will cycle through an action much better than the common plastic snap caps, and will last longer as well. Price varies by caliber, but as an example, a set of six .44-40s like those pictured retails for \$18.98.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Lyman Products

475 Smith Street
Middletown, Conn. 06457
[800] 423-9704
www.lymanproducts.com

Because you're gauged by the company you keep.

Don't just walk among friends... strut! Handmade, hand-fitted and hand-engraved by the legendary gunmakers of Merkel. From its cold-hammer forged steel barrels to its artistically flawless engraving to its impeccable standards of strength and durability, your Merkel shotgun will provide a lifetime of pleasure and performance. With Greener cross-bolt and double under barrel locking lugs, side clips, cocking indicators, your choice of boxlocks



or sidelocks. Available in 12, 16, 20, 28 and 410 gauges. The Merkel of your dreams is out there waiting. So then, what exactly are you waiting for?

For more information on all Merkel shotguns call (205) 655-8299 or write GSI Inc., Dept. GM, 7661 Commerce Lane, P.O. Box 129, Trussville, AL 35173 or send \$3.00 to the address above to receive a new Merkel catalog and Merkel armpatch. Visit us at www.GSIfirearms.com

Wilson Chamber Brush

Improvise all you like, but some jobs just can't be done well without the correct tool.

Until a couple of years ago, I never owned a proper chamber cleaning brush for the .45 ACP. Why would I? I could just use my bore brush, right? Well, yes, it was quite a bit undersized to do a good job of scrubbing stubborn carbon deposits out of a heavily fouled chamber, but if I wallowed it around and worked at it for long enough, it eventually got the chamber sufficiently clean. Sort of.

Then one of my shooting partners gave me a Wilson chamber-cleaning brush. What a difference! Just insert the properly dimensioned brush into the chamber, give it a couple of quick twists, and you're done.

The bristles are not only properly dimensioned, they are made of tough stainless steel to last for a very long time. The handle is a polymer, resistant to all common cleaning solvents and is nicely knurled for a good grip.

A clean chamber can make a vital difference in the reliability of your favorite .45, so quit fooling around, and get the right tool for the job. The Wilson .45 chamber brush retails for a mere \$9.95.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Wilson Combat

2234 CR 719

Berryville, Ark. 72616

[800] 955-4856

www.wilsoncombat.com

• SINCLAIR INTERNATIONAL • SINCLAIR INTERNATIONAL • SINCLAIR INTERNATIONAL •

Get The Best From Your Rifle!

Sinclair Extra Thick Loading Blocks

Tired of spilling powder when loading cases that sit in a generic or poorly fitting loading block? That's what inspired us to make these extra deep loading blocks. These blocks are machined from 1" thick solid white polyethylene to produce a durable, stable and easy to clean loading block. The deeper holes better control your cases so there is less tipping and rocking while you are loading. Larger and taller cases are much easier to work with when using these thicker blocks. Each block has 50 holes and finger grooves machined into the sides so they are easier to handle. Available for most rifle and handgun cartridges.



Trigger Connection

Make Sinclair International the place to shop for your replacement trigger needs. We inventory Jewell, Timney, Rifle Basix, and Shilen triggers for Remington, Savage, Mauser, Rugers, Springfields, Winchester, AR-15's, and custom actions. The Rifle Basix line of triggers is our latest addition, and we are quite pleased with the aftermarket Savage triggers they make. Our line of triggers covers a wide range of pull weights - from 1.5 ozs. to 4 lbs.



Call for more information on what triggers are available for your rifle.

**Call, Write, Fax, or E-mail Us
For A FREE 112 Page Full
Color Catalog!**

We Accept   



**Sinclair
International**

2330 Wayne Haven Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46803

**(260) 493-1858
Fax (260) 493-2530**

Check Out Our Website At: www.sinclairintl.com E-Mail Us At: sinclair@ctlnet.com

• SINCLAIR INTERNATIONAL • SINCLAIR INTERNATIONAL • SINCLAIR INTERNATIONAL •

The Wayne family officially authorizes the first work of its kind.

John Wayne



JOHN WAYNE

Hand-painted
Sculpture
LIMITED EDITION

174

Individually
numbered by hand.

Sculpture shown actual size of approximately 5 1/2" in height.

Authorized Limited Edition Sculpture. Showcased within a sparkling dome.

He began as a movie star and became a legend. John Wayne. Beloved by his fans, respected by his peers, cherished as a symbol of America's finest ideals...truth, courage, honor and justice. Now his memory is honored in the first work of its kind authorized by the Wayne family.

Every dramatic detail is captured in Tesori® porcelain, a blend of powdered porcelain and resins selected to hold every nuance of the sculptor's art. Each is hand-painted in authentic detail and encased beneath a radiant dome. Individually hand-numbered and set on a matching sculptured base with a brass nameplate.

Priced at just \$37.50, this specially imported Limited Edition will close forever after just 95 casting days. Available exclusively from The Franklin Mint.

Sharing Your Passion For Collecting



Please mail by February 28, 2002.

The Franklin Mint
Franklin Center, PA 19091-0001

Please enter my order for John Wayne, a fine art sculpture officially authorized by the Wayne family. I need SEND NO MONEY NOW. I will be billed \$37.50* when my sculpture is ready to be sent. Limit: one sculpture per collector.

*Plus my state sales tax and \$4.95 for shipping and handling.

SIGNATURE _____ ALL ORDERS ARE SUBJECT TO ACCEPTANCE

MR/MRS/MISS _____ PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

ADDRESS _____ APT. # _____

CITY/STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE # (_____) _____

Quick Order #18063-256-001

www.franklinmint.com

AOL Keyword: Franklin Mint

THE .25-20

New Adventures in Loading

Long before I wrote about guns, I collected them. Before that, I was a serious competitive pistol shooter. So it's logical that my circle of friends has quite a few folks who share those interests. At a gun show not long ago, one of my buddies who knows of my fondness for the old "dash" cartridges, came up and said, "Come with me Charlie, you need to see this gun." It was a Winchester Model 92 SRC that I had already seen — and dismissed — since it was chambered for the .25-20 WCF.

"The last thing I need is *another* cartridge to load," I said.

But during the course of the day he nagged and kept saying, "Charlie, you *need* that rifle."

I went to visit it a couple of times and, after some serious consideration and negotiation, it tagged along with me on the way home — with a detour by the gun shop for a box of ammo. Then came the necessary ordering of materials: dies, brass and bullets, all of which are readily available.

Unlike most of the other old dash cartridges like the .44-40 or .32-20, the .25-20 was never available in a handgun. It is really nothing more than the .32-20 case necked down — just as the .38-40 is a necked down .44-40. You might call it the first varmint

cartridge — for it was something of a hotrod, pushing an 86-grain bullet at over 1,400 fps. There was also a 60-grain load at over 2,000 fps.

My order was for dies, brass and bullets: the 75-grain Speer softpoint and some bulk Remington 86-grain JSPs that are used in the factory ammo. While waiting for all the loading stuff to get here, I shot a little factory ammo and quickly concluded that this was going to be another really fun gun.

We are often told that these old bottleneck cartridges are hard to load because of the thin case mouths. I guess that's true if you're careless, but the .25-20 is treated like a rifle cartridge in loading, so two die sets are offered. Since we don't have to bell the case mouth, that helps a bunch, although we do need to lightly chamfer and deburr the case mouth.

Loading data is plentiful. And even though the case is small, we'll still be using rifle powders. Older data shows 2400 as being used, but it seemed to me that powders commonly used in the small PPC and BR cases would work. Sure enough, the Speer Manual listed a load using Accurate 2015 BR for their 75-grain bullet, and Hodgdon had one for H-322 with the 86-grain Remington. Both are powders that have


worked well for me.

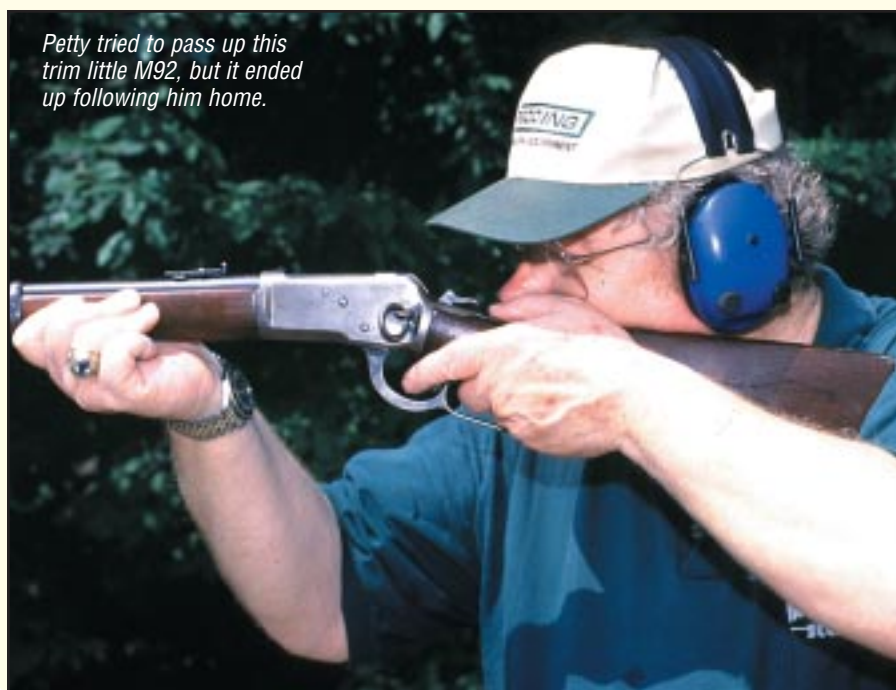
Sometimes we get lucky with initial load choices. Speer's data showed a starting load 13.5 grains of Accurate 2015 BR for the 75-grain JSP. Hodgdon shows 11.3 grains of H-322 as the starting point with the 86-grain Remington. Just because I like to keep things simple, I began with 11.5. With a few rounds of each charge, it was off to the range.

My litmus test for this sort of fun plinking is a 6-inch diameter steel plate that is 70 yards from the firing line. My very first shot with a factory load had resulted in a satisfying *clang*. Now the same thing happened with the H-322 handload — and with the Speer bullet as well. There simply was no need to change the load. Both met my needs without adjustment and have become standard. I never even bothered to chronograph them and probably wouldn't have done so had I not decided to write about this pleasant little cartridge.

The H-322 load delivers 1,450 fps, the Accurate 2015 BR charge gives 1,412 fps from the Winchester's 20-inch barrel. Since those are comfortably close to the published factory speed of 1,460 fps, they did what I almost always want them to do: duplicate a factory load. But the next time I went to the range, I picked up a box of factory ammo by mistake. And after shooting the handloads, it felt kinda puny. The chronograph showed only 1,180 fps for the Remington factory 86-grain JSP. We have to remember that the standard test barrel length for the .25-20 is 24 inches so the saddling carbine's 20-inch barrel accounts for some of the difference, but we also need to keep in mind the simple truth that factory ballistics come from something other than real-world guns. The numbers are nice clues, but don't hang your hat or bet money on them.

And, in this case, while it would have been possible to reduce things to get to the actual speed of the factory ammo, there just isn't any need to change the handloads. They were doing what I wanted anyhow, and since they are the *starting* loads, it's best to shrug and go on.

The beauty of the .25-20 is negligible recoil and outstanding accuracy. References describe it as a small game and varmint cartridge and another speculates that it might just be, "the ideal turkey cartridge." While there is no current production rifle chambered for the .25-20, it isn't hard to find older Winchester, Savage and Marlin rifles. Everything else is readily available. I probably won't take it turkey hunting, but that gong better learn to duck. 



Petty tried to pass up this trim little M92, but it ended up following him home.

Catalog
\$5.00(Sent Free With Any Order
Upon Request)

Website:

www.knifemaking.com

JANTZ SUPPLY

P.O. Box 584 GN Davis, OK 73030

Your 'source' for knifemaking supplies

ALL AT THE BEST PRICE! Add \$8.95 per order for shipping.

ORDER TOLL FREE

1-800-351-8900

24 Hour FAX

1-580-369-3082

**TOOLS * BLADES * STEEL * RIVETS * MACHINERY * FINISHING SUPPLIES * WE HAVE IT ALL!****OpenVISOR****MAGNIFIERS**

Best magnifiers available. adjustable headband fits all. Easily worn over glasses. Lenses are ground & polished prismatic type. Made in USA.

New light available \$17.95

Order #	Power	Wk. Dist.	Price
OVD42	1-1/2"	20"	\$26.95
OVD43	1-3/4"	14"	\$26.95
OVD44	2"	10"	\$26.95
OVD45	2-1/2"	8"	\$26.95
OVD47	2-3/4"	6"	\$28.95

FOREDOM
THE FOREDOM ELECTRIC CO.

Flex shaft machine has ball bearing 1/8 hp motor. Kit includes electronic foot control, heavy duty handpiece, and 35 accessories.

FT230 \$229.95

LOCKBACK FOLDER KITS

440-C Stainless blades, kits contain all necessary pins, nickel silver bolsters are pre-welded to liners. Order handle material separately.

WHITETAIL
6 5/8" Overall 2 1/2" blade
SS776 Whitetail \$29.35**GRIZZLY**
7 5/8" Overall 3" blade
SS774 Grizzly \$34.95**LYNX**
2 3/4" Overall 7 1/8" blade
SS771 Lynx \$23.50**WEEKEND PROJECT KITS**

Include 440C Stainless blade, handle material, pins and instructions.

RENAISSANCE DAGGER KIT
Overall length is 6 1/4"

SS167K Renaissance Kit \$10.95

COBRA KIT
Overall length is 7 3/8"

SS166K Cobra Kit \$9.95

SPORTSMAN KIT
Overall length is 7 5/8"

SS164K Sportsman Kit \$9.95

LETTER OPENER KIT
Overall length is 8 1/2"

SS201K Letter Opener Kit \$9.95

FISHERMAN'S FILLET KIT
Overall length is 12"

SS199K Fisherman Kit \$8.95

RAZOR EDGE KITS

Beautifully satin finished, 440-C Stainless Blades are 8 1/2" overall, blade is 3 1/2" kits include: blade, brass corby rivets, brass guard, tubing and Dymondwood handle material.

CHICKASAW SKINNER

SS443 Chickasaw Blade only \$15.95

SS443K Complete Kit \$23.95

CHOCTAW DROP POINT

SS441 Choctaw Blade only \$15.95

SS441K Complete Kit \$23.95

CHEROKEE CLIP POINT

SS442 Cherokee Blade only \$15.95

SS442K Complete Kit \$23.95

DAGGER BOOT BLADE

SS444 Boot Blade only \$16.95

SS444K Complete Kit \$18.95

CUSTOM KITS

The kits below include stainless steel pre-shaped blade, brass rivets, tubing, guard and handle material and step-by-step instructions.

WASHITA HUNTER

SS463 Washita Blade only \$19.95

SS463K Washita Kit \$27.95

SIOUX HUNTER

7 5/8" overall with 3" blade

SS458 Sioux Blade only \$17.50

SS458K Complete Kit \$25.95

CHEYENNE HUNTER

9 1/8" overall with 4 1/2" blade

SS496 Cheyenne Blade only \$18.75

SS496K Complete Kit \$27.90

KAW SKINNER

7 1/2" overall with 3" blade

SS782 Kaw Blade only \$15.82

SS782K Complete Kit \$24.90

NAVAJO SKINNER

8 7/8" overall with 4 1/4" blade

SS783 Navajo Blade only \$24.72

SS783K Complete Kit \$22.20

PANAVISE

Standard Panavise with 360° rotation and 180° tilt. Perfect angle for any job 2 1/2" nylon jaws withstand heat to 200°F.

PV301 Standard Panavise \$32.25

HOW TO MAKE KNIVES

By Richard W. Barney and Robert W. Loveless

BOK101 \$11.95

HOW TO MAKE FOLDING KNIVES

A Step-by-Step How-To by Ron Lake, Frank Corvante and Wayne Clay

BOK102 \$11.95

CUSTOM KNIFEMAKING

By Tim McCright

BOSCK \$13.95

THE COMPLETE BLADESMITH

Forging Your Way to Perfection

By Jim Hrisoulas

BOP301 \$9.95

KNIFE TALK

The Art & Science of Knifemaking

By Ed Fowler

BOK111 \$11.96

THE WONDER OF KNIFEMAKING

By Wayne Goddard

BOK114 \$15.95

STEP-BY-STEP KNIFEMAKING

The complete guide to making knives.

By David Boye

BORSCK \$17.95

KNIVES 2001

All new!

By Joe Kertzman

BOK107 \$17.50

BALDOR**BUFFERS**

CAT.#	H.P.	RPM	SHAFT DIA.
BL114	1/4	1800	1/2"
BL111	1/3	1600	1/2"
BL332B	3/4	1800	3/4"
BL333B	3/4	1600	3/4"

Call for current pricing!

KNIFE SHARPENING KIT

Used by professionals for razor clean edges on cutlery. One wheel for sharpening, another for cleaning and polishing, all compounds and instructions included. Includes bushings to fit 5/8" - or 1/2" arbor.

WKS800 8" set \$19.95

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

Specify Arbor Size (1/2", 5/8", 3/4")

6" Kit \$9.95

8" Kit \$9.95

10" Kit \$9.95

TRADITIONAL CUTLERY KIT

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

SS801 11 pc. Traditional Set \$49.95

SS807 ★ Carving Set \$19.50

SS803 ★★ Steak Set \$25.95

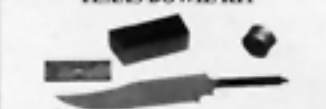
ELECTRO-CHEM ETCHING

Etch your blades with the easy to use Personalizer Plus etching machine. Type name or draw a personal design on the special stencil material provided, then follow the easy to use instructions for professional results in seconds. Complete Kit contains everything you need to etch stainless, carbon steel and more.

EC302 Personalizer Plus \$179.95

HIDDEN TANG KITS

440-C Stainless blades are about 10 1/4" overall, blades are 5 1/2". Kits supplied with blade, brass guard, threaded pommel and block of Dymondwood handle material.

TEXAS BOWIE KIT

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

SS494 Blade only \$27.95

SS494B Kit complete \$39.95

FRONTIER BOWIE

SS914 Frontier Blade only \$13.95

SS914K Frontier Kit \$27.95

CAPE SKINNER

SS911 Cape Blade only \$18.95

SS911K Cape Kit \$32.95

JANTZ**SPECIALTY BLADES**
Made from 440C Stainless Steel**MONARCH**

Overall length 7", blade 4 1/8"

SS262 Gut Hook Blade \$8.70

TUNDRA

Overall length 7", blade 2 3/4"

SS260 Tundra Blade \$8.70

KODIAK

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

SS261 Kodiak Blade \$8.10

THE SHARK

Overall length 5 1/2", blade length 2 7/8", 2 3/4"

SS176 Shark Blade \$8.95

STAINLESS DINNERWARE

440-C Stainless Kit includes:

4 forks, 4 knives and

4 spoons, rivets and handle

material. Great gift

SS500 \$64.96

CORBY TYPE RIVETS AND DRILLS

Precision machined of solid brass 5/16" heads slotted for easy installation. Use RD3 Rivet drill for perfect countersinking and alignment.

CP601 Pkg 12 Rivets \$12.12

RD3 Rivet Drill \$19.95

ORDER TOLL FREE 1-800-351-8900

FLINCHING What And Why

Flinching is any involuntary movement that occurs as the gun is being fired. The slightest movement during the time between the trigger releasing and the bullet exiting the barrel can seriously reduce accuracy.

Every shooter flinches some of the time, and some of us flinch all of the time. We flinch because at a subconscious level we are apprehensive about what will happen. A blow, a loud noise or sudden movement near our eyes is enough to cause a reaction. When a gun is fired we get all three, and we are often subconsciously concerned about the results of the shot. It's natural to fear failure. And interestingly, some sports psychologists have found that some people have a subconscious fear of success.

Flinching may also be situational. Shooters who are comfortable shooting at targets on their own might have a tendency to flinch if they have to shoot in front of an audience, in a match, or at a trophy big-game animal that's about to disappear. Others who can shoot a .270- or .30-'06-class rifle with ease might flinch when firing a .416 for the first time. Someone taking up shooting after a long layoff or illness might also tend to flinch at first.

Satisfying The Subconscious

I shoot a lot of new rifles. Intellectually, I know that a rifle from a reputable manufacturer using quality ammunition is perfectly safe, especially since I clean the bore and inspect it before shooting. The subconscious, though, doesn't operate that way. It needs to be shown. Often instead of trying for maximum precision with the first shot, I'll just let a couple of rounds go into the backstop. This both fouls the bore and reassures the subconscious. It doesn't hurt a bit, and you are sure that the gun is safe. Maybe I'm just being superstitious, but I believe in being nice to the subconscious. If you aren't, it will get even one way or another.

The amount of body movement caused by flinches varies from mild to wild. The mildest form is blinking — closing your eyes just as the gun fires. Some very good shots blink all the time, and even world champions blink occasionally. Because blinking doesn't impart movement to the gun, it does not affect accuracy. The problem with blinking is that it makes improvement very difficult. In order to reach the highest



Here is what should happen at the moment of ignition or when the striker clicks upon a dummy cartridge: eyes wide open, no movement of rifle or body.

level of shooting skill, it's necessary to be able to call the shot — to keep the eyes open and see the sight picture as the cartridge fires and the gun lifts in recoil.

At the other end of the scale, a real all-out flinch can be a wondrous thing to behold. Many years ago I was at a range shortly before deer season, with every shooting point occupied. A shooter at the other end of the line stood up to get in some practice offhand. He must have had a misfire or failure to chamber a round because as he pressed the trigger, he shoved the rifle violently down, yanked his face away from the stock, and actually stumbled forward half a step. When he recovered, he looked around furtively to see if anyone had noticed, and I managed to look away in time. Never laugh in such circumstances or feel anything but sympathy, or the flinch gods will get you.

Diagnosing a flinch

The first step in curing a flinch is determining if you have the malady, and if so, how severe it is. To do this, take the most powerful rifle you regularly shoot to the range, along with a camcorder and tripod. For this test it's all right to use a shooting bench. Set the camcorder up a few feet downrange and off to one side with the camera focused on your face as you shoot. If possible, set the camcorder at a fast shutter speed so you can replay it frame by frame. Wear clear shooting glasses so your eyes can be seen. Fire 10 or 12 rounds and concentrate on shooting the best group you can. Group size should be comparable to what you normally expect from the rifle.

Back home, play the video and watch your eyes. Ideally, they should remain open as each shot is fired. A couple of blinks in a 10-shot string is still pretty good. If you blink at every shot, but group size is good, you're probably a good shot but could likely be even better by learning to keep your eyes open and call the shot.

The next test is the classic ball and dummy exercise. If you're on your own and a reloader, you can make up a couple of dummy rounds by leaving the spent primer in a fired case, resizing and seating a bullet without adding a new primer or powder. At the range, mix these with a few live rounds so you don't know at each shot whether the chamber contains a live round or a dummy.

I really don't like this method since I have a horror of one of the dummy rounds getting mixed up with my hunting ammunition. It's better to have a friend hand you the rifle at the firing line with safety on, sometimes with a round chambered and sometimes empty. That way there are no dummy rounds to make up or get mixed up. There's also the added pressure of a witness. Your friend will be actively trying to fool you, and you'll be able to switch roles later and get even.

Shoot from the standing position so the benchrest can't cover for you. You won't learn anything when the gun fires — but you certainly will when the firing-pin clicks on an empty chamber. If the sight picture remains steady as the gun clicks, you don't have a serious problem with flinching. If it moves, check back next month and we'll start working on some remedies.



SPECIALIZED OPTICS

FOR SPECIAL USES

By Charles E. Petty

*Phil Bloomer
putting the Eagle
Eyes through
their paces.*

There aren't many things more tiring than staring for a couple of hours through a pair of binoculars or a spotting scope. But that is exactly what varmint hunters do. So do special law-enforcement and military units that must keep a distant suspect or target under surveillance. Binoculars are commonly used for this type of work, but their weight limits useful magnification. It's just simply too hard to hold them steady.

Early Experiments

Quite a few years ago, serious varmint hunters began to rig up two spotting scopes to form a pair of more powerful binoculars. There's a lot more to that than just gluing two parts together — but when it was done right, the result was definitely worth the work.

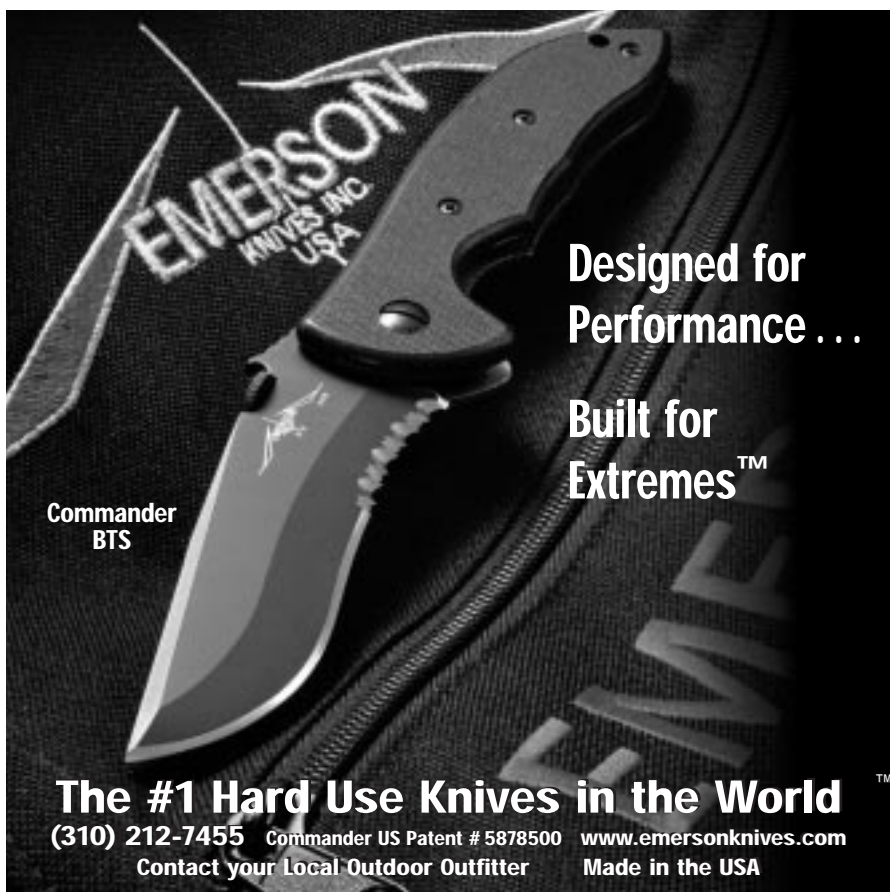
On a recent groundhog hunt in the Virginia mountains, I had a chance to use a set of Eagle Eyes from Grandeur Manufacturing. The company is a high-tech manufacturer of such diverse products as sophisticated industrial control and conveyor systems and custom motorcycles. There is a surprising degree of precision needed to make the Eagle Eyes work right.

I'm sure you've noticed how you have to adjust the spacing between a pair of binoculars so that it appears as if you're looking through a single lens. The same applies to the Eagle Eyes, but it can't be done with a simple hinge. Instead there's a spring-loaded adjustment that slides on a precision-ground rod, which is fitted to a tolerance of .001 inch. Turning a knurled adjustment wheel moves the right side scope for individual adjustment.

Grandeur looked at a number of different spotting scopes for its Eagle Eyes and decided on the Bushnell Spacemaster. One of the critical design elements is that the lenses of both scopes be on the same plane. The prismatic design of the Spacemaster allows a rotation of 180 degrees of one scope without distortion. Another factor was the location of the focusing knob on the scope. The Spacemaster's is accessible from the rear, so even though the knob is on top on one side and the bottom on the other, they are easily focused. The scopes are mounted on a very solid cradle machined from aircraft-quality aluminum.

One of the curses of binoculars and many field spotting scope arrangements is that the glass won't hold still. It is both tiring and annoying to look at a field of view that is in constant motion. The Eagle Eyes come with a sturdy Bogen tripod with both pan and tilt functions. In use, you just keep one hand on each to pan and tilt the scopes as needed. If

*Ocular lenses of the
Eagle Eyes. Note the
threaded spacing adjust-
ment system.*



EMERSON
KNIVES INC.
USA

**Commander
BTS**

**Designed for
Performance ...**

**Built for
Extremes™**

The #1 Hard Use Knives in the World™

(310) 212-7455 Commander US Patent # 5878500 www.emersonknives.com
Contact your Local Outdoor Outfitter **Made in the USA**

you wish to have them remain fixed in one position, it only takes a twist of the appropriate handle to lock it down.

Eagle Eyes are only sold as a complete unit that includes the scopes, cradle, tripod and carrying cases. A considerable amount of field testing went into the development of these, and one of the things Grandeur learned along the way was that the best glass in the world was nearly useless without a good tripod. The logic is flawless. If customers mount the unit on a poor tripod, they're *still* going to complain about the scope. Because of this, Grandeur adopted a hassle-solving measure. The tripod it chose is heavy-duty, easily adjusted, and comes with its own canvas carrying case. The Eagle Eyes also come with an airline-approved, virtually bulletproof, carrying and storage case. It has a molded insert of granulated polypropylene to hold everything in place.

Field Of View

One of the real assets of the Eagle Eyes was the considerable field of view, which is roughly 160 feet at 1,000 yards. To do this, it uses a special 22X wide angle eyepiece that is made to order. The wide angle increases the field of view by roughly 20 percent over a standard eyepiece of the same magnification. A 60X eyepiece is also available should special circumstances require that much power.

All field tests should be this much fun. Phil Bloomer and I went groundhog hunting in the Virginia mountains. We set up on top of a hill overlooking a recently mown hay field. On one side there was a gentle uphill slope that permitted shots out to about 250 yards. But on the other side, the rangefinder told us that a utility pole was 1,165 yards away. The crow on top of that pole was safe, but through the Eagle Eyes I had a great view as he surveyed the landscape and preened itself.

Dotted around the field of view were several spots of bare dirt that indicated the presence of a groundhog burrow. The wide field of view made it possible to keep several burrows under observation at one time without moving the glass, but it was also easy to do a slow pan and periodically check them all. The only flaw in our afternoon was that somebody forgot to invite the groundhogs. One, unshootable next to a barn, scoffed at us I'm sure. But that's why they call it hunting. And that didn't matter at all. What can be wrong with spending an afternoon looking at great scenery and having a long conversation with a friend? And I wasn't worn out from staring through wobbly glasses either.

Eagle Eyes have a suggested retail price of \$2,495.




The NEW
360° FOBUS ROTO-HOLSTER SYSTEM™

Unique Fobus Roto-Holster System rotates 360 degrees and adjusts easily for cross draw, bodyguard/driver, small of the back, or strong side carry. Our patented locking adjustment allows the firearm either a forward or reverse cant with total gun retention. The Fobus Roto-Holsters are ultra lightweight, with flexible two-piece design for maximum strength and all day wear comfort. Your choice of an easily interchangeable paddle or belt loop attachment is included, and extra attachments are sold separately.

The Fobus Roto-Holster System is available in all current holster models and are IDPA approved.

Original Tactical Series from \$19.99 for belt, \$22.99 for paddle and \$27.99 for Roto-Holster System; extra belt or paddle attachments \$8.95. Mag pouches and various accessories available.

FOBUS USA
TEL: (215) 355-2621 24 hr FAX: (215) 322-9223
www.fobusholster.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Grandeur Manufacturing Inc.
[336] 526-2468
www.saltwaterlite.com

New Weatherby Firearms For 2001

More new offerings from one of
America's most innovative manufacturers.

By Dave Anderson

Great news for double-gun fans!

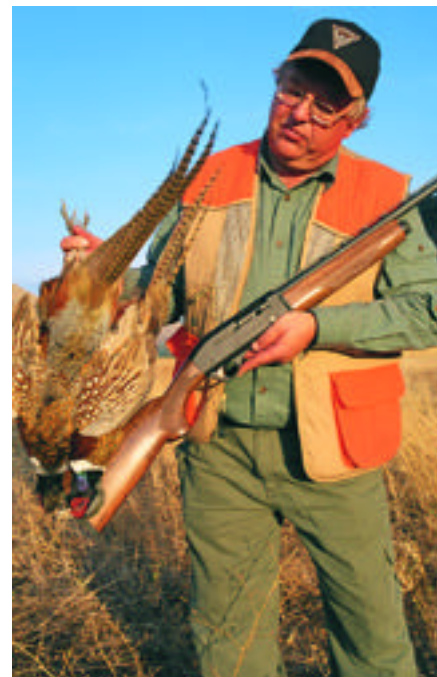
Weatherby is introducing a pair of side-by-side shotguns. Both are built on Anson & Deeley style boxlock actions and feature selective single triggers, automatic ejectors, and the Weatherby Integral Multi-Choke system. Barrel lengths of 26 and 28 inches will be available. Receivers are color case-hardened with tasteful scroll engraving.

The Orion model comes with a half-round pistol grip stock and semi-beavertail forearm in gauges 12, 20, 28 and .410. (The .410 model features fixed chokes of improved cylinder and modified.) The Athena model has a straight grip stock with splinter forearm and is currently offered in 12 and 20 gauges. It also has dummy side-plates. Both are made exclusively for Weatherby by a Spanish gunmaking firm.

The guns are stocked with a good grade of Turkish walnut and the barrel selector is on the tang safety, which incidentally is nonautomatic. Bores are hard-chromed for durability and easy maintenance.

I had the opportunity to hunt with these new doubles for pheasant and partridge at the beautiful Flying B ranch in Idaho. Both models performed very well. They balanced and handled nicely and functioned with complete reliability. The only criticism I had was that opening and closing the actions on these new guns was quite stiff at first. These are handsome, well-made shotguns, and at the suggested retail prices of \$1,099 for the Orion and \$1,549 for the Athena, they are exceptionally good values.

Top-Right: Three of Weatherby's newest rifle offerings (left to right): TRR Magnum Custom, TRR and SBGM. The acronyms may be comical, but the rifles are real performers. **Bottom-Right:** Anderson with Weatherby's new SAS autoloader, and the makings of a fine meal. **Below:** Weatherby Athena grade side-by-side. Imported from Spain, these hand built guns are a tremendous value.



Original

Yes, and it's over 50 years old!

A Mauser 98K, Model M48, the strongest and safest of bolt action rifles, made on German tooling set up by the Germans in occupied Yugoslavia during WWII.

The condition is **Military-New** with clean, **Bright Bores**, like-new bluing, and **teak wood stocks**.

Held in **military storage** for over 50 years, inspected, kept and maintained **combat-ready**.

Original Factory matching serial numbers on all rifle parts.

Preserved by an accident of history, this new supply will not last long.

All original accessories as issued at the time and shown here are also available.

This Mauser is ideal for collecting, target shooting, hunting, or customizing.

We guarantee it!

This Collector Grade Rifle is Yours for Only \$295.

The Rifle with All Accessories is only \$395.

Add \$12 for S & I in Continental US
Other Grades Also Available

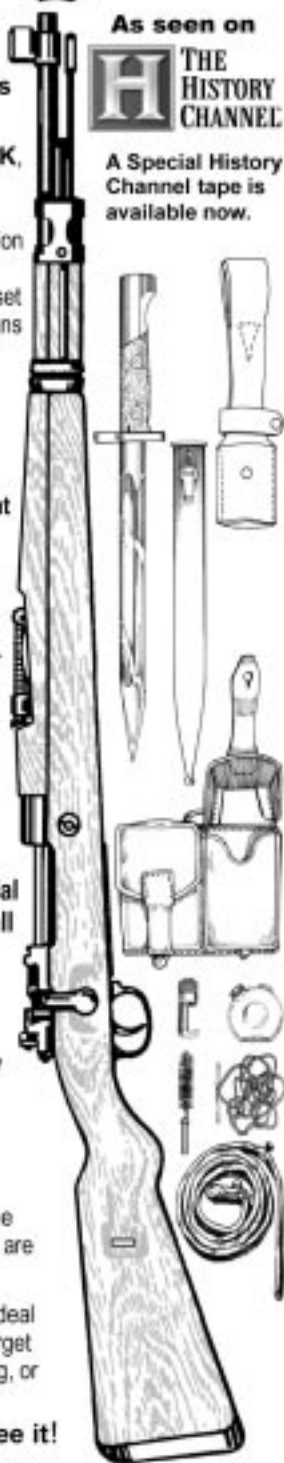
Mitchell's Mausers

P.O. Box 9295
Fountain Valley, CA 92728-9295
714-899-3660 FAX 714-899-8611
www.MitchellSales.com

Note to dealers: Call Us!

As seen on
THE HISTORY CHANNEL

A Special History Channel tape is available now.



The standard models are very attractive shotguns, but for the double-gun fan who wants a bit more choice, the Weatherby custom shop plans to offer several options. These include a 16-gauge version on the 20-gauge frame, extra sets of barrels, a coin-finished receiver, higher grades of wood and fitted cases. Custom-fitted stocks and even double triggers for the arch traditionalist will be available as well.

Weatherby SAS

Weatherby also has a new semiautomatic shotgun called the SAS. Previous Weatherby autos were made in Japan; the SAS is made in Italy utilizing a new simple and reliable gas system. Rounds from light 2½-inch loads to heavy 3-inch magnum loads can be used without adjustment. An alloy receiver is used, making the SAS fairly lightweight (7 to 7½ pounds). Barrels have ventilated ribs, hard-chromed bores, interchangeable choke tubes (three provided) and lengthened forcing cones to reduce recoil. In use, the SAS proved to be completely reliable, easy to carry and handle, and had very soft recoil. SAS stocks can be user-adjusted for cast and drop.

One interesting feature is what Weatherby calls a "smart" cartridge lifter. During normal firing, it operates like any semiauto shotgun. However, if you manually pull back the bolt to unload the gun, the lifter remains stationary rather than feeding the next round. It's necessary to press a small latch on the lifter to let it drop down, then manually cycle the bolt again to feed and extract the next round. The advantage is that it allows the shooter to quickly change the load in the chamber if desired.

Suggested retail of the Field SAS is \$799. An even better value is the synthetic SAS with black injection-molded stock and sling swivel studs at \$749. For the wildfowl or turkey hunter, two versions of Mossy Oak camouflage are offered. Both list at \$849.

Finally, the SAS Sporting Clays model features a ported barrel with two brass bead sights and a special recoil pad. A 30-inch barrel option is available for this model. All SAS models include a hard plastic take-down carrying case.

New Rifles Too

The new Weatherby Super Big Game Master (SBGM) is a lightweight hunting rifle that incorporates many of the accuracy-enhancing features of the very popular Super VarmintMaster and Super PredatorMaster models. These include a button-rifled, hand-lapped Kreiger Criterion barrel with parabolic target crown, and a high-quality, rigid synthetic composite stock with aluminum bedding block. The adjustable trigger is factory set at a crisp 4 pounds.

Barrel length is 24 inches in .240 Weatherby and the '06 cartridge family (.25-'06, .270, .280, .30-'06 and .338-'06), and 26 inches in magnum calibers from .257 to .300 Weatherby. Weight is 5½ pounds for standard

calibers, 6½ pounds in magnum calibers. The SBGM is similar in handling and appearance to the earlier Ultra Lightweight model. The main difference in appearance is that the Ultra Lightweight has a bright stainless barrel with black flutes, while the fluted barrel of the SBGM is black-finished stainless steel.

The Ultra Lightweight with its standard Weatherby barrel is to my mind one of the best rifles Weatherby has ever made, and the new SBGM with its match-grade Kreiger barrel should if anything be even better. Suggested retail prices for the SBGM are \$1,459 in standard calibers, \$1,517 in magnum calibers.

So-called "tactical" rifles for law enforcement and military use have been an interesting trend in recent years. They have become popular with shooters who are intrigued with the challenge of extreme accuracy. Weatherby rifles have long been noted for their accuracy, so the appearance of three tactical models from Weatherby is a logical move.

The "Threat Response Rifle" series are all built on the Mark V action and fitted with Kreiger Criterion match barrels. Barreled actions are bedded in a special hand-laminated composite stock in an aluminum bedding block.

The standard TRR model is fitted with a heavy (.850-inch muzzle diameter) 22-inch barrel, chambered in either .223 Rem. or .308 Win. The TRR Magnum is similar but with 26-inch barrel and is chambered in .300 Win., .300, .30-.378, and .338-.378 Weatherby Magnum calibers. (The last two calibers have the Weatherby Accu-Brake recoil-reduction system). Stocks on both these models have the usual Weatherby style Monte Carlo comb with cast-off for right-handed shooters. The beavertail forearm is flat-bottomed and tapered for stability when shooting from a rest.

The TRR Magnum Custom is similar to the TRR Magnum but with a fully-adjustable stock that can be custom fit to the individual shooter. Time only allowed me to fire a couple five-shot groups with each rifle over a jury-rigged rest, but it is clear these are accurate rifles. Actions are smooth and reliable, trigger pulls break cleanly at 4 pounds. With factory ammunition, sub-MOA groups were routine. A lighter trigger and match ammunition or good reloads should reduce group size even further.

Suggested retail prices range from \$1,517 (TRR) and \$1,569 (TRR Magnum) to \$2,499 for the TRR Magnum Custom. The .30-.378 and .338-.378 versions with Accu-Brake list about \$150 higher. The Weatherby name has long been synonymous with quality, and these new shotguns and rifles certainly continue that tradition.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Weatherby Inc.

[805] 466-1767

www.weatherby.com

22LR CONVERSIONS

.45 ACP to .22LR in 10 seconds!

Shoot more for less \$!

And They're FUN!

Allows use of inexpensive .22LR in your favorite firearm!

Conversions available for

Order	1911A1 BERETTA TAURUS GLOCK AR15/M16 MINI-14 AK-47 TSMG a more!	Required
-------	---	----------


JONATHAN ARTHUR CIENER
8700 Commerce St., Dept GM
Cape Canaveral, FL 32920
321 868 2200, FAX 2201

Send \$3.00 for Conversion Info,
www.22lrconversions.com
\$5.00 for Pull Line Catalog

AT A MOMENT LIKE THIS,
A MILLION THINGS ARE GOING
THROUGH YOUR HEAD.
YOU'LL ONLY
NEED ONE THING
IN YOUR HAND.

LASERGRIPS®
What to have on your side!™

New models. Lower prices. Free catalog.
CrimsonTrace.com 800-442-2406

A product of the **Crimson Trace Corporation** 

THE BULLET OF CHAMPIONS

Preferred by shooting champions worldwide, Sierra bullets are engineered to satisfy the performance demands of serious competitors. When you line up for your next shot, you'll be in championship company when you're shooting the right bullets...Sierra.

Michelle Gallagher
2001 Tompkins Trophy Match Champion
2001 Army Cup Match Champion
NRA High Power Rifle Championship

David Tubb
9 Time NRA High Power Rifle Champion
6 Time Sportsman's Team Challenge Champion
NRA Rifle Silhouette Champion

Doug Koenig
8 Time Masters International Champion
5 Time Bianchi Cup Champion
3 Time Steel Challenge Champion
6 Time Sportsman's Team Challenge Champion
1999 European Bianchi Cup Champion
1999 World Action Pistol Champion
1999 World All-Around Champion

Sierra INFINITY Exterior Ballistic Computer Software
CD-ROM
Only \$39.95

SIERRA
The Bulletsmiths®

1400 West Henry Street • Sedalia, MO 65301
Call TOLL-FREE 1-800-223-8799 for tech support.
For all other business 1-888-223-3008.
Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Central Time
660-827-6300 • FAX 660-827-4999 • e-mail: sierra@sierrabullets.com
Contact your dealer for the complete line of Sierra bullets or visit www.sierrabullets.com

New From Springfield Armory

By Jim Gardner

Fall is a splendid time of year. The weather freshens, hunting season is in the wings, and perhaps best of all, our favorite sporting arms makers show off what will be available for the coming new year.

I recently enjoyed the opportunity to see the just announced offerings from Springfield Armory, which has four newly available products: two are variations of its highly regarded 1911 pistol series, one is a reintroduction of a model it once offered, and one is a completely new product.

Let's examine the latter one first.

New from Springfield is the Extreme Duty series of pistols. Designed and produced in Croatia, the XD shares the general theme that has become common with modern service pistols — polymer frame, double-action-only lockwork, accessory rail under the dust cover, etc. What is different about this offering is the character of the trigger action.

Most of the modern DAO triggers offer all of the grace and sophistication of a staple gun — a long scratchy take-up, a heavy, creepy, roll-off release and then they culminate in a nauseating *sproinggg*. Lovely. By contrast, the trigger on the XD

is delightful. A long but light take-up, a very positive stop and then a crisp, clean release. Team Springfield representative Robbie Leatham hit it on the head when he compared the XD's trigger action to that of a good two-stage military rifle trigger.

The XD incorporates a bevy of worthwhile features: Loaded chamber indicator, trigger safety, grip safety, firing-pin status indicator, excellent sights, and a lifetime warranty. The XD is available in 9x19, .40 S&W and .357 Sig. If you've been looking for a new full-size semiauto, don't commit until you've had the chance to check out the XD. Yes, it's that good. Suggested retail is \$489.

Speaking of two-stage triggers, Springfield has announced that it will once again offer brand new M1 Garands. The original Springfield Armory Garands have an enviable reputation for quality, and I can attest that the new production will only further that. They were unavailable for a time but are once again in production, both in the original .30-'06 chambering as well as in 7.62x51 (.308 Win.). The latter is particularly nice given the abundance of good quality surplus ammunition in that caliber, inexpensive reloading components and factory match ammunition.

The sample that I inspected showed superb quality walnut stock and hand guards, first-class metal finish and flawless functioning. If you admire M1s, you won't be disappointed with Springfield's new production. Suggested retail has been pegged at \$954.

Springfield's new Micro Compact 1911 should find wide acceptance with citizens of states that authorize concealed carry. At only 5.7 inches OAL, it is quite compact. The alloy frame keeps the weight down to a very comfortable 24 ounces. Furnished with Novak tritium sights, ambi-safety, beavertail, hammer forged tapered cone barrel, slim-line stocks and carry bevel package, it is a dandy! Recoil

Springfield's new XD series pistols are built as tough as a tank. You should expect to hear a great deal about this one in the future.



was surprisingly mild, and the pistol grouped as good as it looked. Check out the new Micro Compact on page 68. MSRP is \$1,060.

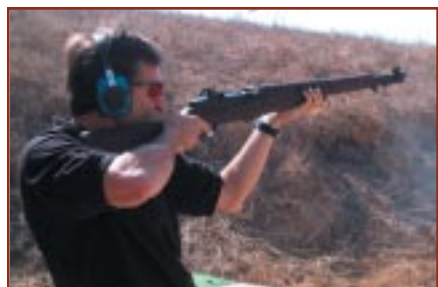
Last but not least is the new TRP Operator. An addition to Springfield's very popular TRP series, the Operator incorporates a heavy, full-profile slide along with a heavy, full length dust cover sporting a Picatinny rail. This pistol is going to be in high demand by SWAT teams and other special units that need to mount white lights, infrared or laser systems onto their entry guns. No more flimsy trigger guard attachments!

The heavier weight of the Operator makes it an extremely shootable 1911. Muzzle flip is reduced significantly and recoil is very moderate. Shot to shot times on a series of fast drills were very short. The TRP series guns incorporate all of the bells and whistles, but Springfield has also chosen to offer the heavy slide and accessory rail of the Operator in its value-priced Mil-Spec series. Retail for the TRP Operator is \$1,407, and for the Mil-Spec version a very reasonable \$756.

Look for a detailed review of the XD series pistols and the new M1 Garand to appear in *GUNS* in the very near future.



Above: The new TRP Operator offers every feature needed by the guys who play for keeps. **Below:** Dennis Reese, Springfield Armory's co-chairman of the board, shows how it's done with the new M1 Garand.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Springfield Armory

[800] 680-6866

www.springfieldarmory.com

Don't Overlook Variable Choked Guns

There are a lot of nice used guns sitting on dealers' shelves that feature those old variable chokes — and they're not selling well. Wandering up and down the aisles at Murphy's Gun Store in Tucson, I've noticed that 12-gauge Winchester Model 12s, Browning A-5s and Remington 870s, fitted with the once popular Poly-Chokes, Lyman's Cutts Compensators, Pachmayr's Power-Pacs and Weaver Chokes, just sit there. The same models fitted with fixed choke barrels or barrels with the newer screw-in choke tubes move out at a brisk pace.

Don't make the same mistake. For example, if your eye catches a nice Model 12 outfitted with a Cutts Compensator or Poly-Choke, give it a chance. Cutts Compensators and Pachmayr Power-Pacs not only offer a wide selection of degrees of choke, they also can reduce felt recoil by 30 to 40 percent. To a lesser extent, so will the commonly encountered ventilated Poly-Chokes, Weaver Chokes and Herter copies. Poly-Chokes also offer nine(!) degrees of choke settings — one or the other should produce the pattern you're looking for.

Many shooters find that the variable choke systems actually improve their sight picture. While concentrating on the target as they should, gunners have dis-

covered that the indistinct, bulbous shadow on the end of their muzzle improves barrel alignment.

So give the older variable choke systems their due. They work, and depending upon the model, they can dramatically reduce felt recoil.

Older variable chokes like the Poly-Choke can deliver excellent patterns.



Pachmayr And Kick-Eez Pads Take The Lead

Speaking about recoil, Pachmayr Decelerator and Kick-Eez pads for shotguns have emerged as the most popular aftermarket pads on the market. And the secret is in the materials.

Kick-Eez pads are made from Sorbothane and Pachmayr's from something fairly similar. The basic material in both pads is soft and springy. Available in a size and style for every shotgun sport, both brands really take the sting out of recoil. Combine either pad with Kick-Eez's "Buttstock Pitch Spacer," and

either positive or negative pitch can be adjusted to one's shooting style.

Pachmayr has recently expanded its unique line of "pre-fit" Decelerator pads that permit the shooter to replace the factory pads on Winchester 1300s; Remington 870s, 11-87s and 1100s; Ruger Red Labels; and Mossberg 500s and 835s. More offerings are in the wings.

If you're not into amateur gunsmithing, by all means turn the task of mounting and dressing down an aftermarket shotgun pad over to a professional who has the grinding jigs to do a proper and exacting job. Nothing looks worse or affects the value of a gun more than a poor pad job.



Pachmayr's Decelerator pads, like this Sporting Clays model, have revolutionized pad technology with materials that substantially reduce felt recoil.

LARGE HEAD SAFETIES

There is nothing more frustrating than trying to disengage a small diameter cross-safety while wearing gloves or with cold, numb fingers during the hunt. While manufacturers of pumps and semiautos have gradually increased the size and

ergonomics of trigger guard mounted cross-safeties, there are still a lot of used Remingtons on the market that could use a safety upgrade.

Williams Gun Sight Co., I believe, was the first company to offer large head, easy-to-push cross-safeties, but it has discon-

tinued the unit. An excellent replacement is now being offered by Scattergun Technologies. Called the "Jumbo Head Safety," it's a drop-in replacement for both Remington shotguns and rifles. At \$12 retail, it's a bargain.



Older Remingtons can be made safer and handier with the addition of a large head safety.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Brownells
[641] 623-4000
www.brownells.com

Kick-Eez
[270] 457-2825
www.gamaliel.com

Pachmayr (Now a Lyman brand)
[800] 423-9704
www.pachmayr.com

Scattergun Technologies
[800] 955-4856
www.wilsoncombat.com





The bolt of the .50-caliber 10ML-II is now devoid of locking lugs, similar in design to Remington's Model 700ML and Ruger's 77/50.



Turning out a single screw with an Allen wrench permits removal of the bolt for access to the breech plug.

savage arms **MODEL 10ML-II**

Savage's Modern Muzzleloader offers smokeless performance.



By Sam Fadala

A rifle of controversy, the Savage Model 10ML has been completely redesigned — not because of flaws, but to please government mandates and alleviate concern from game departments. The ATF did not know which pigeon-hole the Model 10ML belonged in, and game departments were not certain that the rifle belonged in “primitive” seasons.

Was it really a muzzleloader? The answer, of course, is yes. The rifle is a muzzleloader. Every powder charge and every bullet goes down front end first, not through the breech. But there is an interesting complication. Savage deems this bolt-action muzzleloader — which appears very much like its parent cartridge rifle — safe with smokeless powder. The heart of the original 10ML was retention of the bolt’s locking lugs, which secured a stainless steel module much as if it were a rimless cartridge. The module in turn secured a No. 209 shotgun primer. But Savage was faced with a problem: build a muzzleloader requiring a FFL for shipping as well a suspicious eye cast by game departments, or come up with changes. The decision favored changes.

New Design

Enter the .50-caliber Savage Model 10ML-II with bolt now serving as a striker (no locking lugs). Extensive proof tests by Savage pledged the new rifle smokeless-powder worthy, just like the original. In fact, the rifle functions more fluidly than the original, mainly because no module



Above: View of the open bolt shows the slot which accepts a No. 209 shotgun primer. **Left:** The new Savage Model 10ML-II is a handsome rifle built for rugged hunting conditions.

is required. A No. 209 shotgun primer slides into a recess in the bolt face as slick as glass. Since the bolt is now a striker, a breech plug is required that is screwed into the breech area with fine threads and which is removable for cleaning from the breech. This is good because it allows swabbing the bore free of fouling in no time when using either blackpowder or smokeless, yet it is not quite as handy as the first model that required no breech plug, the module taking its place.

Safety is the byword. Printed on the left-hand side of the barrel are the words, “USE ONLY FACTORY RECOMMENDED LOADINGS AND POWDER.” The right-hand side of the barrel warns, “UNDERSTAND OWNER’S MANUAL AVAILABLE FROM SAVAGE ARMS.” Savage’s Website also provides information: www.savagearms.com. The remainder of the safety story is written in high-grade workmanship.

• Target Practice • Protection •

REEL GUNS FOR SALE
Guns from the Movies

Complete with 100 rounds • Free Concealed Weapons Permit • No Red Tape No Background Check Required • No Permit Required

DSRT EAGLE '39.⁹⁵

Czech 9 '49.⁹⁵

M-92 '39.⁹⁵

UZI '59.⁹⁵

G-3 Assault Rifle '79.⁹⁵

M-16 Assault Rifle '99.⁹⁵

GLK 17 '39.⁹⁵

MP-5 '79.⁹⁵

AK47 '150.⁹⁵ **NEW**

SPAS12 '69.⁹⁵ Shotgun

Mini GLK '44.⁹⁵

US 45 '39.⁹⁵

HK USP '39.⁹⁵

FREE - 200 PRACTICE BULLETS FOR MAIL ORDERS

Load: \$10/200
Metallic Hellsnipers \$10 / 200
Blood Spot Bullets \$10 / 200

.22 cal **\$39⁹⁵**
Detective Special
All metal snub nose.
Chrome or black. Holds 6 /
.22 cal self defense
rounds.
Extra rounds \$10

Pocket .410/45 Pistols

- Solid Steel Double or Single Barrel Pistols
- Comes w/10 Bullets (Black Powder)

Single barrel '59.⁹⁵
Double barrel '99.⁹⁵ (shown)

AWESOME 12 Ga. Pistol
\$59.⁹⁵

- Break open type
- Hammer block Safety
- Comes w/ 3 self defense rounds

INSTANT FULL AUTO!

"So Easy to Use" • "Single, 3-Shot Burst, or Full" • "Awesome"
Have you ever wanted to shoot full auto but red tape always got in the way? Well forget all that! We have a custom system for your semi-auto that will empty a 30 round magazine in 3 seconds! Right out of the box you'll be able to shoot single shot, 3 shot bursts or full auto type fire accurately and legally! Get Yours Today!
Instant full auto - \$34.95

MC/VISA call: (970) 249-0302
SEND NAME, ADDRESS, CHECK or MO + \$5.⁰⁰ P&H TO:
FLASH DISTRIBUTING
28 S. Grand Ave. • Montrose, CO 81401
Send \$3.00 for catalog

No FFL Required • Sold to anyone 18 years or older • No License Required • .25 cal • Detachable Magazines • Accurate • Full Size

This rifle reflects all the best in modern materials. Along with stainless-steel barrel and action, the black composite stock — homely compared to a piece of nice wood — is Herculean strong. Checkering provides a slightly better hand grasp on pistol grip and forend, while the butt-stock is dressed with a recoil pad that may as well be made of granite. It is not a recoil pad, actually, but rather a slip-proof rubber platform that is very unlikely to slide off your shoulder.

Cosmetically, the Savage 10ML-II is a good-looking rifle. The stainless-steel trigger guard, barrel and action sharply contrast with the midnight-black stock. The only appointment that should be done away with is the little Savage Indian imprisoned in the grip cap. It is hardly recognizable and looks like it's made from the foil around a stick of chewing gum. The Savage name and Indian chief logo on the bolt, however, look good. The rifle balances perfectly, carries easily, and recoils straight back, rather than levering up into the cheekbone.

Staying with the outside of this front loader, the black synthetic ramrod is just what it should be — straight and essentially unbreakable. It rests in a stainless-steel thimble screwed to the bottom of the barrel. Another plus on the side of safety is the length of the ramrod, which matches the distance from base of breech to muzzle. In order to verify that the rifle has no charge or projectile in the breech, insert the rod. If it goes all the way home to the bottom of the breech (only the tip showing at the muzzle), then the bore is clear. If the rod protrudes above the muzzle, something is down there. The ramrod has a wasp-waist jag tapped and threaded for accessories. Likewise, the off-end brass tip is also threaded for accessories.

Typical of modern muzzleloaders, the new Savage wears sling swivel eyes for the easy addition of a carrying strap. The rifle is also drilled and tapped for a scope sight. Hooray for the open iron sights, which are sturdy, clean and easy to adjust. The rear sight moves for elevation via a front-mounted screw. A double-headed screw just beneath the leaf, which has a U-notch, handles windage. The front sight rides on a ramp with dovetail for gross windage, which should not be necessary considering the range of adjustment enjoyed by the rear sight. The serrated three-position sliding tang safety shows a red dot in the far forward fire position. The middle stop allows bolt movement for fitting a No. 209 primer or removing one, while preventing trigger function. The most rearward safety location locks the bolt entirely, also blocking the trigger. A cocking indicator shows a red dot when the rifle is in battery. The dot drops out of sight when the trigger is pulled.

How It Works

Functionally, the Model 10ML-II works very much like a Remington Model 700ML or Ruger Model 77/50. Both of these rifles

are based on their famous bolt-action cartridge rifles. The same thing goes for the Savage. Locking lugs on the bolt are removed, turning it into a striker, while the breech is sealed with a breech plug. The usual precautions pertain, such as total removal of grease or oil from the bore, breech plug and vent liner. Anti-seize lubricant applied to vent liner and breech plug threads is vital for easy removal later for cleaning. I have found Kleen Bore TW-25B a good choice. The next step is ensuring an unloaded firearm, which is accomplished with the ramrod as explained earlier. With bolt open and free of a primer, the loading procedure begins. It's time for the powder charge, and here is where the fly lands in the oatmeal. The manual states, "Your Savage Model 10ML-II rifle can be loaded with charges of black powder, Pyrodex or prescribed loads of certain smokeless powders." A maximum charge of 150 grains (volume, not weight) of blackpowder or Pyrodex is maximum, with smokeless loads by weight "on a smokeless powder scale," according to the manual. The Lee powder dipper set is also allowed.

Smokeless Concerns

The use of smokeless powder in the Savage muzzleloader has caused concern. The major worry is that less knowledgeable shooters may be led to use smokeless powder in their traditional muzzleloader, which is safe only with blackpowder or blackpowder substitutes, such as Pyrodex. Considering some of the lawsuits I have worked on as an expert witness, I find it within the realm of possibility that shooters will do just that — drop in a healthy charge of smokeless powder and, if they're lucky, blow up their gun and not themselves.

However, is this concern valid? Am I allowed to load my Model 1894 Winchester rifle with a 55,000 psi powder charge because my Weatherby bolt-action rifle handles that much pressure? Another analogy is a driver pushing his short wheel base, 4WD pickup around a corner at top speed because he saw it done at the Indy 500. Not being designed for that use, the truck will roll over. The Indy car was built to drive fast around corners. Should race cars then be illegal because people may drive their ordinary sedan at a high speed around corners?

Following the powder charge, the Savage accepts any of today's popular muzzleloader bullets. For the biggest game, I still tend toward heavy lead missiles, such as the Hyrda-Con; jacketed pistol-type projectiles in sabots have also proved reliable on big-game. The test rifle came with the latter, and they shot well. Scoped, the rifle is capable of achieving that baseline MOA goal, three to five shots printing inside an inch center-to-center of bullet holes. This is possible with any of the recommended powders, including smokeless. The remainder of the loading/shooting sequence follows the usual

track: ensuring that the bullet is securely retained in the breech with no air gap between it and the powder charge, keeping the rifle on safe until ready to shoot, and removing the ramrod after loading the rifle. The simple installation of a No. 209 shotgun primer in the bolt-face receptacle *after* powder and bullet are seated places the rifle in battery. No mysteries here in spite of the smokeless powder allowance.

Maintenance is likewise the same as other bolt-action muzzleloaders since the 10ML-II now has a removable breech plug. Tools are provided. There is the usual breech plug wrench. With bolt removed — which requires only freeing one screw on the underside of the rifle — the wrench is installed through the receiver where it locks onto the end of the breech plug. A good move is the addition of a handle, which fits through a hole in the end of the breech plug wrench. This feature allows sufficient torque to free the breech plug even after a number of shots have been fired. The wrench handle does not, however, eliminate the need for a good anti-seize lubricant, especially when firing blackpowder or black powder substitutes. The usual precautions pertain: Make certain that the rifle is unloaded before attempting to clean it, and remove the bolt, which guarantees that there can be no live primer in the rifle.

Part of the cleaning process deals with removing the breech-plug vent liner with a 1/8-inch Allen wrench. This step is not necessary after every shooting session. However, the small vent liner should be taken out, dropped into solvent, and cleaned up periodically. Savage recommends this procedure after 100 shots are fired in order to maintain peak ignition performance. As with the breech-plug threads, the threads of the breech-plug vent liner should also receive a light coating of anti-seize lubricant. Excessive lube can cause a misfire. On the other hand, failure to treat threads can lock both liner and plug so fiercely that the rifle must be taken to a gunsmith or sent back to the factory for unthreading. The usual methods of cleaning the bore prevail: I flushed with hot water, following with solvent on a bristle bore brush, then wet patches, ending with dry patches. Long-term storage calls for a touch of metal preservative in the bore, which must be wiped free before the next shooting session.

Smokeless-powder cleanup is accomplished with the same products normally used for modern cartridge guns. This pertains to breech-plug and liner as well as the bore and working parts of the rifle. As with more traditional muzzle loaders, if using black powder, you will need to clean after every shooting session and between strings of shots. Pyrodex will produce less fouling, and you may be able to wait until the day's end to swab out your bore. The size of the powder charge, with black-

continued on page 55

The Stealth



**Retail Price
\$28.00+ S&H**

The DeSantis Stealth holster holds your weapon comfortably out of sight until you need it.

- Inside-waistband clip • Padded-ballistic nylon
- Sturdy power-coated spring-clip for safety
- Spare magazine pouch, standard for autoloader models
- Available for most concealed firearms

DeSantis Gunhide
Dept. GM22
149 Denton Ave., New Hyde Park, NY 11040
800 GUNHIDE

Please visit your authorized
DeSantis dealer today
or send \$5.00 for
our full-color catalog.

www.desantisholster.com

Here are a couple of tips from the pros.



**Introducing the new
ProSmith™ Universal
Twin-Tip™ pistol
rod from Tetra® Gun.**

**Two tips, two accessories,
one-half the cleaning time.**

ProSmith™ rifle, shotgun and pistol
cleaning rods, including the
Universal Twin-Tip™ (shown),
feature stainless steel
construction, Corvel®
coating, Delrin® crown
protector, and a
free-spinning Delrin® handle.

**ProSmith™ by Tetra® Gun,
the most efficient and
effective gun cleaning
tools available.**

FTI, Inc. 8 Vreeland Road
Florham Park, NJ 07932-0955
Phone: 973.443.0004
www.tetraproducts.com



Delrin is a registered trademark of Dupont Corp. Corvel is a registered trademark of Morton, Inc.

For more than a decade, Taffin's favorite sixgun hunting rig has been a Freedom Arms scoped 7½-inch revolver carried in a Freedom Arms shoulder holster.



El Paso Saddlery's Tom Threepersons #1920 design is of even better quality than the vintage Lawrence #120 on the right.



The simple, neat "Slim Jim" is a period design that still works well today. This beautiful example is by Will Ghormley.

Favorite Field Holsters

For use in the field, a holster must be chosen with the same care that went into the selection of your handgun.

By John Taffin

Sometimes it pays to shop around, but there are definitely times when “cheap is too expensive.” I don’t know about you, but it would make me very nervous to consider buying bottom-line tires, brakes, parachutes, firearms or, yes, even holsters. My holster makers are as important as my doctors and my gunsmiths. An expensive firearm deserves the best care — care that can only be provided by a well-designed holster made of the best available materials. And one that is crafted by experts who understand what a holster should do and what it must not do.

Quality Counts

If properly cared for, a firearm will last a lifetime... and then some. The same is true of holsters. My Ruger Flat-Top Blackhawk .44 Magnum was purchased new in 1957. To compliment it, I also ordered a George Lawrence #120 Keith holster. The Ruger’s 6½-inch barrel was soon cut to 4¾-inches, and the #120 Keith was altered accordingly. The Ruger currently wears another barrel, a 7½-inch tube. The #120 now carries Colt New Frontiers and various short-barreled Ruger Blackhawks, but it is still in excellent shape albeit with several scratches that show it’s use. The holster will definitely outlast me. Had I chosen to save a few bucks in 1957 and bought a cheaper holster, it would have fallen apart years



Uncle Mike’s full-flap shoulder holster offers maximum protection for this scoped 10-inch Freedom Arms .41 Magnum.



Idaho Leather’s #44 shoulder holster carries a Freedom Arms .44 Magnum and 24 rounds of ammunition very comfortably.

ago. One of my grandsons will inherit this one, and I have no doubt that some day he will be able to pass it on to one of his grandchildren.

Holsters are highly subjective items, perhaps even more so than sixguns and semiautomatics. And when it came time for me to choose my first holster, it was relatively simple. There were three big manufacturers back then: George Lawrence, S.D. Myres and H.H. Heiser. All represented the best quality that was possible to obtain at the time; however, my local dealer only handled George Lawrence. Today's shooters have a much more difficult time deciding. All three of the 1950's major purveyors of leather are gone, but there are dozens upon dozens of excellent leather craftsmen out there with everything from one-man shops, to mom-and-pop operations, to large companies.

What follows herein is not meant to be an exhaustive treatise of all the great field holsters available. That would take a book. Instead we will look at some of the leather that I have used successfully for these many years for traveling afield — be it for hunting, hiking, backpacking, camping, or just plain old fashioned woods bumming. All of these can take place not only in the woods, but in sagebrush deserts, rolling foothills, and lofty mountains — in short, anywhere it is prudent to pack a handgun.

Different forays will require different handguns and different holsters, but the essential elements remain the same. The holster must provide comfort, security and, most of the time, easy accessibility. Comfort will depend largely upon each individual. However, most of us can be equally at ease with any of the three basic styles of field holsters: *strongside hip holsters*, *cross-*

draw hip holsters or *shoulder holsters*. Our choice will largely depend upon how we are moving about — be it on foot, by horseback, or in a vehicle. A right-handed person might have difficulty driving with a long-barreled sixgun in a hip holster on the strong side but be fine with either a crossdraw or shoulder holster. A southpaw might be able to handle the shoulder holster or strong side hip holster but have trouble with the cross draw interfering with seating in the vehicle. Switch to the passenger side and just the opposite it true. If you are going to drive some of the time and be the copilot other times, this should be taken into consideration when selecting a holster.

Security Is Vital

All three styles of holsters normally require some sort of retaining device or, at the very least, a tight fitting holster. A pleasant trip in the field can be ruined as you watch a prized sixgun bouncing off the rocks. The subconscious mind seems to protect us from this. I was once climbing in the rocks while carrying my 4-inch Python, complete with a new pair of Herrett's Jordan Trooper stocks in a holster sans safety strap. (Yes... it was dumb, but I was much younger then!) As luck would have it I took a tumble. When I landed, I realized my hand was wrapped around the custom stocks holding the Python in its place. I was banged up and scratched, but the Python came through unscathed. Bodies heal, stocks and sixguns don't.

Perhaps the best retaining device is a simple safety strap — a sturdy piece of leather that goes over the



The #200AW by Milt Sparks was originally designed as a concealment rig; however, it makes an excellent high riding and secure field rig.

hammer and then fastens to the front of the holster with a heavy snap. It is easily unfastened and can be folded behind the belt when its use is not necessary. I also like the hammer thong, especially for single-action sixguns. However, it can be hard to release in cold weather with equally cold fingers. Not using the safety strap can ruin a hunting trip. When in Africa, I shot a Warthog early on and placed my scoped Freedom Arms in its shoulder holster, leaving it unstrapped. When I bent over to look for the bullet that had exited the Warthog, my sixgun slipped out of its holster and the scope hit the only large rock around. Fortunately I had both a backup scope and a second handgun, or my hunt might have ended there.

Let's look at some of the best examples available for these three classes of holsters.

Strongside Holsters

From the time of the Civil War until after World War I, the most common holster in use was what has become generically known as the Mexican loop. In this style of holster, the back flap is an integral part of the holster. It features one, two or three loops that accept the main body of the holster. When made of quality leather that is not overly bulky, the Mexican loop still serves well as a field holster. I carried a 6½-inch Smith & Wesson .44 Magnum in this type of holster for several hunting seasons.

Currently, both Rick Bachman of Old West Reproductions and Big Ed Douglas of San Pedro Saddlery offer traditionally crafted Mexican loop holsters, which hold single-action sixguns tightly without the use of a

safety strap or hammer thong. Not only is this design still usable as a field holster, there are still a whole lot of sixgunners who prefer to do it the old way. And that means leather of a design prior to the turn of the 20th century. G. Wm. Davis recently sent me a miniature rendition of the Mexican loop holster that I use to carry one of the neat little Cimarron .38 Lightnings. As an extra added bonus, I found this same holster works quite well with my custom L'il Ruger Single-Sixes from Andy Horvath. These little sixguns, which have 4-inch barrels and rounded butts, fit perfectly in the Davis leather.

This is as good a place as any to mention belts. A good quality heavy belt is necessary to make your hip holster ride correctly and comfortably. I prefer a 1½-inch belt; you can also wear suspenders to help distribute the weight. When it comes to cartridge belts, I prefer the folded over money-belt style made of soft leather that conforms to your body shape. For years I felt that the belt had to have a full row of cartridges. I have completely changed my mind on this. When out for a day's shooting, a full cartridge loop belt may be appropriate. However, for hunting I now go with 12 to 15 cartridge loops on the belt or a cartridge slide that holds 6 or 12 rounds. When going with a shoulder holster, I use the same suspenders. I also hope that the weather is at least cool enough to wear a heavy shirt to help pad the straps of the shoulder holster rig.

In 1920, Texas Ranger Lee Trimble and former NW Mounted Policeman Tom Threepersons met around a campfire and decided to design a new holster — one that would work much better than the Mexican loop style when

continued on page 72



Don't neglect the importance of a quality belt to complement your holster. The center belt is a soft money-belt pattern.

The Rifles Of DAKOTA ARMS

**Rifles to dream on
from the high plains**

By Dave Anderson

Sturgis, South Dakota, is best known to the public for its annual motorcycle rally that draws over half a million bikers to the normally quiet little town. To shooters, hunters and collectors of fine firearms, Sturgis is known as the home of Dakota Arms — maker of distinctive, elegant hunting rifles and shotguns of uncompromising quality.

The company was founded by Don and Norma Allen. Don Allen is a former pilot, and since 1972 he has been making custom rifle stocks in his spare time. Allen noticed that pre-'64 Winchester M70 actions — favorites with lovers of fine hunting rifles — were getting more scarce and expensive. He also felt the M70's action could be improved. So with typical American entrepreneurial spirit, he went ahead and built his own.

Dakota Model 76 in .375 H&H being prepared for delivery. Some Dakota customers order their rifles scoped and ready for use.



*Don Allen with the first
Dakota Model 10 single shot.
A beautiful rifle stocked with
a magnificent piece of
walnut.*



The Mechanics Of Safety

Allen and Pete Grisel designed the Dakota 76 action. It is similar in function and appearance to the pre-'64 Model M70 but with more Mauser 98 influence. In discussing these changes, a brief digression is in order. Rifle enthusiasts like to argue about which action is the strongest: In fact, all current commercial actions have a huge margin of strength. Bolt-actions are typically strong enough to handle pressures of 150,000 psi or more.

The brass cartridge case, however, will take pressures in the 80,000 psi range. Since commercial ammunition is usually loaded to maximum pressures of 55,000 to 65,000 psi, there is an ample margin of strength — but the cartridge case will fail long before the action does.

Why not use a stronger material such as steel for the cases? Because brass has an excellent combination of strength, pliability and elasticity. When the gun is fired, the pliability lets the case expand to tightly grip the chamber walls, which seals off the powder gases from coming back into the action. When the bullet exits and pressure drops, the elasticity of the case lets it spring back to near original dimensions, allowing the case to be extracted. Although strong, steel cases wouldn't seal off the chamber as well as brass, wouldn't extract as easily, and would be subject to rust.

When comparing actions, it's not a question of strength. As stated before, steel is much stronger than the brass cartridge case. The question is, in the event of a case failure, how well does the action protect the shooter from the escaping gases? Occasionally we hear accounts of how someone had a rifle "blow up" but miraculously wasn't injured. Actually the rifle didn't blow up (if it did, the shooter likely wouldn't be around to talk about it). What really happened? The case failed and the action controlled and vented the escaping gases away from the shooter, just as its designers intended.

A hundred years ago when technology was less advanced, case failures from poor brass were more of a concern. Today's manufactured cases are of such uniformly high quality that such failures are virtually unheard of. Now

when a case fails, it is almost always a result of shooter error: firing the rifle with the bore obstructed, loading the wrong caliber cartridge, or poor handloads with excessive headspace or the wrong powder.

The Mauser 98 action protects the shooter from failures as well as any, and better than most. It has a "flat" breech in which the cartridge case is enclosed by the steel chamber right up to the extractor groove. If the case does fail, escaping gases going down the firing-pin channel in the bolt are vented through two oblong slots in the bolt, down the left lug raceway in the receiver, and out to the left through the thumb slot (which facilitates magazine loading with stripper clips) in the left receiver wall. Gases going past the slot are deflected away from the shooter's face by a flange on the bolt sleeve.

The pre-'64 Model M70 has several Mauser features but also some differences. Like the 1903 Springfield, it has the breech end of the barrel coned to enhance cartridge feeding, which leaves a small portion of the case unsupported by the steel of the chamber. However, the unsupported section is the area just ahead of the extractor groove where the case is thickest and strongest. Pressures high enough to cause it to fail would likely result in case failure at the primer with other actions.

The pre-'64 action has a small hole in the right side of the receiver to vent escaping gases. The bolt has two holes that vent gases coming down the firing-pin channel into the left receiver raceway. Unlike military Mauser actions, the Model 70 does not have a thumb cut in the left receiver wall (which would allow a large volume of gas to escape) or a flange on the bolt sleeve. The bolt-stop partly blocks the raceway, but in the event of a case failure, gases coming through the left raceway would likely hit the shooter (one of the many reasons to always wear protective glasses when shooting any firearm).

Frank de Haas, in his fine book *Bolt Action Rifles*, phrased it rather delicately: "... several arms experts... said that in case of a cartridge failure... they would rather have been firing some other rifle when this happened than the M70."

Incidentally, the current Model 70 Winchester has a steel lug on the bolt (opposite the extractor), which blocks off the left raceway to deflect gases away from the shooter.



In this day and age, it's refreshing to see that not all parts are produced on CNC equipment. An engine lathe like this is needed to produce some of the Dakota components.



Cutaway sample shows the delightful simplicity of the Model 10 single shot.



Cutaway of the Dakota Model 76 shows flawless metalwork.

I own several pre-'64 M70s and shoot them regularly. I certainly wouldn't do this if I thought it was dangerous. With these or any rifles, I shoot either factory ammunition or carefully prepared handloads — and I treat the cartridge cases with tender loving care. Reloaders who do any of the following are likely to get into trouble with any cartridge: use brass of questionable or unknown origins; don't understand headspace; don't measure, trim, and anneal cases as needed; or try and get just a bit more velocity or one more reload. Designers and manufacturers do their best, but with any action there is the possibility of serious injury if a case fails.

Designed To Be Better

The Dakota 76 receiver is similar to that of the M70. It is a flat-bottomed receiver with a substantial, integral recoil lug. It has the slanted bolt handle of the M70, the same excellent three-position wing safety, and the same fine trigger. Like the M70 and the Mauser 98, it has a large external extractor, controlled round feeding, and mechanical ejection. The Dakota differs from the pre-'64 M70 in that it has the flat breech of the Mauser 98.

"The breeching system we use is very similar to the Mauser," says Allen. "The bolt face is squared off like the Mauser and we've pulled the barrel back further into the receiver... the bolt actually fits into the rear portion of the barrel, forming an inner ring around the bolt."

The Dakota action, like the M70, has a vent hole in the right side of the receiver ring. The bolt stop is a precise, finely fitted part that blocks the left raceway to deflect gases

and brass particles away from the shooter. Other changes include a redesigned firing-pin, beefier safety, and what Dakota calls "reverse round feeding." This means that the first round in the magazine is held by the left feed rail instead of the right. The advantage is that it is easier and faster if the shooter ever has to load a round in a hurry.

The quality of materials and workmanship is equally important. Actions can be made in various ways, all of which produce good actions if the work is done well. Dakota Arms receivers are machined from high-grade, heat-treated steel. The advantage of this method is that there is no concern about warping, which can happen if the steel is machined and then hardened. Parts can be machined to extremely close tolerances. The disadvantage to this is that it is much more time-consuming and costly to machine steel after it has been heat-treated. As Don Allen says, "We start with a 10-pound block of steel and we end up with a 2-pound receiver and 8 pounds of steel shavings on the floor."

Great pains are taken during manufacture to keep everything straight and concentric; bolts are matched to receivers and receiver threads are cut so that the barrel is properly centered and aligned. Currently there are a number of gunsmiths who cater to accuracy enthusiasts by specializing in "blueprinting" actions. They take standard actions of various makes, square and true them, fit barrels square to the action, and lap the locking lugs to bear evenly. Dakota Arms rifles are made with all these features right from the beginning and have always featured high-grade barrels, which are currently supplied by Lothar Walther.

continued on page 70



Used wisely, the Kimber Custom Eclipse, good defensive ammo, and a slick Benchmade model 940 will give you all the security you can hope for in a troubled world.



KIMBER HAS SET THE 1911 WORLD ON FIRE WITH ITS
GREAT SHOOTING, GOOD LOOKING PISTOLS.
THE NEW ECLIPSE ONLY FANS THE FLAMES HIGHER.

• STORY BY MASSAD AYOUB • PHOTOS BY ICHIRO NAGATA •

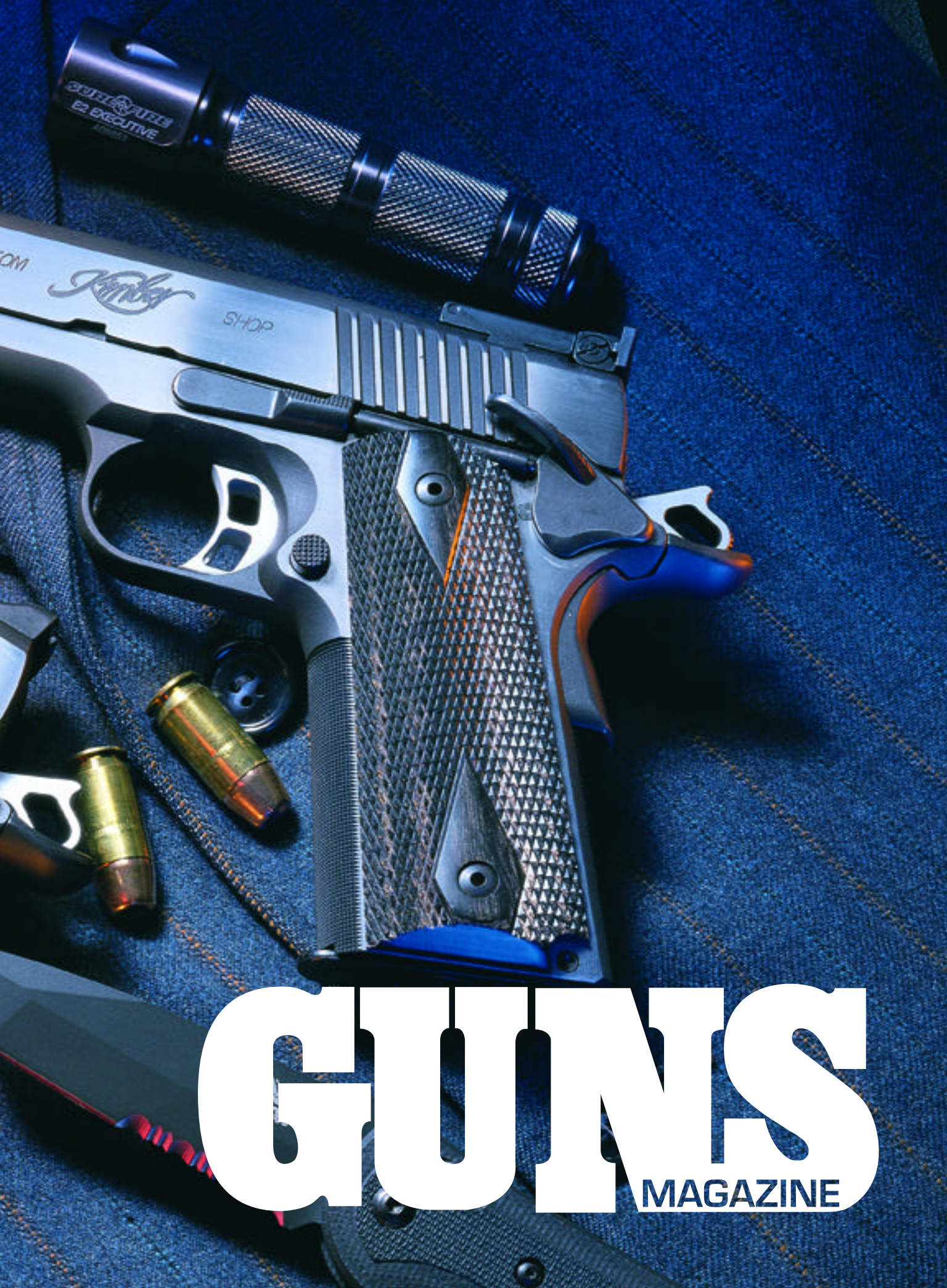
The first thing that strikes you about the Kimber Eclipse is its appearance. There's no way around it. The flats of the pistol are silver in color and brush/polished in texture. The rounded surfaces — the underside, the valleys of the slide grooves, the distinctive lettering — are a charcoal gray that's only a shade or two away from jet black. The result is a light and shadow effect that an artiste might call chiaroscuro. Kimber's laminated double-diamond-checked grips (sold separately for \$55.95) finish the eye candy element with a stunning earth-tone medley of subtle brown and green

shades. The overall result is a pistol that just reaches out and grabs you by the eyeballs.

The kid here ain't no artiste, but he knows a good lookin' gun when he sees one. The concept is traceable to Dennis Medonia and Winslow Potter, assigned to Kimber's Custom Shop operation, and Scott Gibbs from the sales side of the Kimber house. Dwight Van Brunt, the company's head of marketing, was the one who came up with the Eclipse designation. "All that light and shadow just reminded me of an eclipse of the sun," Van Brunt told me.

OBSERVING THE ECLIPSE





GUNS

MAGAZINE

The Pro Eclipse II test pistol shot as follows from 25 yards:

Manufacturer	Type	All 5 Shots	Best 3 Shots
Federal Hydra-Shok	230 gr. JHP	2.10"	1.35"
Winchester USA	185 gr. BEB	2.30"	0.90"
Remington Golden Saber	230 gr. JHP	2.35"	0.75"
Pro-Load Tactical +P	230 gr. JHP	2.45"	1.50"
CCI Blazer	200 gr. JHP	2.50"	1.30"
Black Hills	230 gr. LRN	2.55"	1.20"
Average		2.375"	1.16"

But beauty is as beauty does. The Eclipse is part of the Custom Shop series. Unlike other firms, Kimber doesn't put its custom shop in a separate place. Rather, Van Brunt explains, it exists as a series of hand-picked top craftsmen along the assembly line who are assigned to pay extra attention to the guns that will bear the Custom Shop logo. Each Eclipse's trigger system is individually worked to a crisp, clean 4- to 4.5-pound pull. The ambidextrous thumb safeties are installed for smooth, easy, but totally positive functioning right out of the box.

Two sizes of Eclipse are currently available, each all-stainless steel in construction and with full-length grip frame. The Government size pistol with 5-inch barrel uses a conventional bushing. The Pro series, one of which *GUNS* received for testing, has a 4-inch "cone" style barrel. This does away with the bushing and allows for a bull barrel configuration up front, which some believe adds just enough weight to help dampen muzzle jump. I personally can't tell the difference, but some swear they can. The spring guide rod that comes with the Pro model requires a tool Kimber supplies with the gun, which resembles a large, glorified paper clip, for take-down. It's an inconvenience, but probably a necessary safety precaution to prevent a careless gun cleaner from being nailed by a 22-pound recoil spring that could otherwise go flying.

Bottom-Left: Bushingless barrel of the Pro-Series Eclipse is simple and robust. **Bottom-Right:** Kimber's non-slag tritium sights make the most of the excellent accuracy potential of the Eclipse.



5-inch and 4-inch versions of the Eclipse. Note the difference in barrel format.

Accuracy

Half a dozen .45 ACP loads — 1/3 practice-type, 2/3 duty-type — were tested at 25 yards from a hand-held bench rest position. Five-shot groups were fired, and two different measurements were taken of each group to the nearest .05 inch. Each group was measured twice, with every measurement being center-to-center, farthest shot to farthest shot. The first measurement was of all five shots. This determines what the gun could do if you were braced and shooting over an auto hood or something similar.

The three-shot measurement was something I started doing several years ago to factor out human error.

continued on page 60



Yes, Virginia, even stainless-steel guns need a little cleaning and maintenance from time to time. The Tetra products do a fine job.





Old West

*If you want the very finest period-correct
holsters and accouterments, Rick
Bachman is the source.*



Reproductions

By Barrett Tillman

The monthly newspaper of the Single Action Shooting Society lists 36 Western leather makers, from Alfonso's of Hollywood to Wolf Ears Equipment. Of those 36 companies, at least 27 produce gunbelts or holsters. But standing tall among the providers of authentic cowboy leather of the frontier era is Old West Reproductions, ramrodded by Rick M. Bachman.

Fascinated From Youth

Born in Kalispell, Mont., in 1949, Bachman was exposed to vintage Winchesters as a youngster by the famous rifle-barrel maker Les Bauska. By age 13, he had a small but representative collection of vintage rifles, sights and other accessories.

A natural byproduct of Bachman's interest in antique guns include other accessories such as belts, holsters and catalogs. These catalogs were especially important because they offered a wide variety of original designs. Even more important were old saddle-shop catalogs that provided insight into those who made the old gear.

"There is a lot more to offering 'authentic' period leather gear than just saying you do," Bachman says. "You have to study the original pieces and the men who created them."

Bachman's collecting instinct assumed huge proportions, and he now holds some

3,000 items, including dozens of holsters, belts, scabbards and assorted western collectables, some of which can be seen in Richard Rattenbury's fine book, *Packing Iron: Gun Leather of the Frontier West* (Available from GUNS Books, \$45.).

Opposite: Rick Bachman's personal rig. The fully beaded, brain-tanned buckskin pouch is also available through OWR. **Right:** The Slim Jim type holster is characterized by clean simple lines. This example is beautifully hand carved, and is OWR's No. 45A "Prospector."

Below: Those who want something different from the common Mexican Loop design might consider the No. 43 Lawman. The original design was produced by J.S. Collins of Miles City, Montana Territory.





Bachman took the plunge in 1978 and entered the leather business full time. Deciding to concentrate on the era from 1849 to 1900, he established Old West Reproductions Inc.

"At that time, there were two other companies making old-time holsters," Bachman relates. "But I was the first to introduce authentic reproductions of the original leather gear made by such famous names as E.L. Gallatin, F.A. Meanea and the Moran Brothers. All of these patterns and others, including J.S. Collins, Main & Winchester, etc., come directly from the original pieces in my collection."

In 1990 he moved his family to the small town of Florence, Mont., which lies in the Bitterroot Valley, south of Missoula. In a

world that seems to move faster every day, Rick Bachman still operates his one-man shop and produces handmade, quality products as if the clock has been turned back to 1875.

On The Silver Screen

Apart from SASS competitors and western re-enactors, Old West Reproductions' clients include several TV and movie actors and production companies. Although Bachman didn't make any gear for the *Tombstone* producers, he did have a few items in the film, including a double holster rig worn by Peter Shirako as Texas Jack Vermillion.

"I've done work for Andy Cannon when he outfitted *Dances With Wolves* with guns

and leather," Bachman adds. "I've also done quite a bit of work for Hank Williams Jr. and Dwight Yoakam. Over the years there have been several movies and TV productions that have been supplied with my leather. I also made some of the rigs used in the TV series *Young Riders* a few years back."

Bachman gets his leather from Hermann Oak Leather Co., in St. Louis. "They have been my leather supplier almost from the start," he says. "Several special things are done to my leather at my request, before it is processed and shipped out. It costs more than average but makes for a much nicer finished product. At the same time, I can offer an outstanding product at a price that is extremely competitive. The authentic look of Bachman's leather gear has resulted in





Above: Holsters are not the only offering from OWR. Shown here is the No. 73 scabbard for your saddle carbine. **Right:** Another popular model, the No. 48 Gallatin. **Bottom-Left:** Perhaps OWR's most popular offering, the No. 32 Cheyenne shown with the very comfortable No. 24 money belt.



OWR creations appearing on the Hermann Oak Website and Ruger Vaquero ads."

In assessing the state of his market, Bachman sees little specialization, which fortunately means wider variety:

"Cowboy Action Shooting certainly set trends toward angled crossdraw holsters, shotshell belt slides, bandoleers, etc. I do make items such as these because they may be necessary in the sport, but they're not necessarily authentic pieces of Old West equipment. I attribute much of this gear to the movies we've all watched from the 1940s through the 1960s."

A Passion For Authenticity

Conceding that many classic Western films are marvelous entertainment, Bachman explains that, until recently, few of these films made any effort at authenticity of leather:

"As a veteran collector of period guns and equipment, I can say that crossdraw holsters cut to hang at an angle were not offered by saddle shops and never appeared in the early catalogs," he points out. "Holsters of this style didn't start to appear until around the turn of the century, after the cowboy era was coming to an end."

Bachman reckons that he was the first to reproduce a holster he calls the Cheyenne, a design made famous by a Wyoming saddle maker named Frank Meanea:

"I named this holster the Cheyenne and listed it as such on my first catalog almost 24 years ago. Now, everyone seems to offer a version of this holster."

Assessing his current product line, Bachman says, "The No. 43 Lawman and the No. 48 Gallatin are very popular holsters, and my No. 32 Cheyenne is still as popular as ever. The No. 24 money cartridge

belt sells 10 to 1 over any other belt I offer. I make this belt from the same type of leather as the originals. The money belt is not only handsome and authentic to the time period but extremely comfortable."

One authority who agrees with Bachman is western artist and historian Jerry Crandall, a fellow Montanan:

"I've known a lot of holster makers but Rick is absolutely the best," Crandall says. "He's a collector and highly knowledgeable; he's meticulous and a superb craftsman who uses top-quality leather. As far as I'm concerned, Rick at Old West Reproductions is the Cadillac of holster makers."

Crandall, a Cowboy Action Shooter and *Tombstone* extra, prefers the rich russet brown color of OWR and appreciates Rick's ability to carve leather using old traditional patterns."

OWR holsters range from the extreme simplicity of the early Slim Jim design to the later, and more ornate single- and double-loop variations.

The Slim Jim dates from the California Gold Rush (1849) and is adaptable to a variety of Colt revolvers from cap and ball Walkers and Dragoons, to later cartridge models. The design's classic simplicity lends itself to enhancement with elaborate tooling and even fringe.

OWR also makes slipper holsters, which were designed to accept Colt Single Action revolvers with barrel lengths from the 3-inch Storekeeper's model to the 12-inch

Buntline. The versatile open-toe design will accommodate all of these barrel lengths from a single holster:

"The slipper holster is a very unusual design," Bachman says. "Historically speaking, these holsters apparently originated in Mexico sometime in the 1870s. In my years of collecting I have only encountered four of these little holsters, all of which were identical except in color — and the original maker, from my observation, is unknown."

Based on an anonymous design, Rick's shoulder holster is available from \$130 to \$150 depending on the extent of tooling. Bachman's research indicates this particular style to be of the 1885 to 1920 period.

As with all of the holsters offered by Old West Reproductions, these, too, are available for a variety of early single- or double-action revolvers and their replicas.

Other Old West items include a variety of cartridge belts, rifle scabbards, pommel bags, saddle pockets, spur straps and wrist cuffs.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Old West Reproductions

[406] 273-2615

www.oldwestreproductions.com

GUNS Book Department

[800] 622-9818

www.gunsmagazine.com

LOADING REMINGTON'S 7MM ULTRA MAG

Petty tests Hodgdon's loading data for the hot new 7mm Ultra Magnum.

By Charles E. Petty

Ever think about launching a 7mm bullet at 4,000 fps? That isn't doable yet, but we sure can come close. In the new 7mm Remington Ultra Mag., Hodgdon's loading data shows 3,800 fps with a 100-grain Hornady hollowpoint. That's faster than the .22-250 with a bullet that's half the weight!

Any time a new cartridge is introduced, I get letters wanting handloading data. Although I can understand the undeniable rush for data, the fact is that *nobody* outside the factory has guns or brass yet. I guess the interest must be purely academic, or, who knows, maybe some people just collect data.

But there is no denying that as soon as the stuff is available, handloading will begin.

I've found that developing data on a cartridge which is simply a variant of one I'm familiar with isn't too hard. But when it's a brand-new cartridge, patience is required. And when you consider the popularity of lawsuits today, the last thing anybody wants to do is publish a handload that hasn't been tested by a laboratory with the proper testing equipment.

A couple of years ago, Remington introduced the .300 Remington Ultra Magnum. This is one big sucker and is based on a case that resembles the .404 Jeffrey. You should expect to buy your powder in bulk to feed this big boomer. Last year Remington introduced a variant of the .300: the 7mm Remington Ultra Mag. Powder sales will spike up again, but, as is so often the case, one half of the equation lags behind the other. In this case I had the test rifle a couple of months before the ammo was available.

This factory load features the excellent 140-grain Nosler Partition at 3,400 fps.



Then a fax came in from Hodgdon with loading data for the 7mm UM. Hodgdon must have a great relationship with Remington to have developed this data so early on. And it is noteworthy that no other data has appeared over the months that I've worked with this project, although it may well have by the time you read this. My compliments to Hodgdon for making this information available.

No Brass — No Problem

Of course I didn't have any brass, and shooting enough factory ammo to get some is an expensive and possibly painful proposition. So I did what any good boy scout would do — I improvised. The 7mm Remington Ultra Mag. is, after all, a necked down .300 UM, and I had plenty of those cases. And this is one of those circumstances where the only change between the two is bullet diameter. There also wouldn't be an effect on powder capacity because the



(left to right) 7mm-08 Remington, 7mm Remington Magnum, 7mm Remington Ultra Mag.

In true Tom Sawyer fashion, Petty enticed Bob Maddox to help with the test firing.

shoulder remains in the same location. So we were shooting long before we received any factory ammo.

The 7mm Ultra Mag is a *high* pressure cartridge with a maximum of 65,000 psi. This is not something to be trifled with, and I deliberately elected to limit work to Hodgdon powders because of the available pressure-tested data. It was also necessary to limit the bullets used in the test. To its credit, Hodgdon tried just about every known weight from 100-grain up to 175-grain. (The data is available from Hodgdon, or via its Website.)

I chose to follow the factory's lead here and avoid the heavier bullets. At the time of this writing there are two factory loads: one with a 140-grain Nosler Partition bullet and the other with Remington's 140-grain Core-Lokt. Velocity for both is advertised as 3,425 fps, and my chrono showed 3,405 fps. As a point of comparison, this is 100 fps faster than the 7mm STW with the same bullet weight.

Size Matters

The test rifle is a Remington Sendero SF with a 26-inch barrel. The barrel length is important only in that it complicates comparison of factory and handloaded ammunition. Remington's catalog doesn't state the length of its test barrel, but Hodgdon's is 24 inches. Because I overlooked this discrepancy, I wondered at first why I was getting higher velocities... duuh. Achieving higher than published velocities is something that just doesn't happen very often. Depending on the powder and other variables, my 2-inch longer barrel could account for velocity differences of 50 to 100 fps.

Depending on bullet weight, Hodgdon used five different powders in developing its data, which are all in the slow range: (in order of burning rate) H4831, H4350, H1000, H870 and 50BMG. To simplify things a little, I used three: H4831, H1000 and H870.

Hodgdon's *starting* load in this caliber is usually 6 grains below the maximum. So, again to simplify a bit, I loaded three charge weights in 2-grain increments with the heaviest being the maximum. This verifies that everything is progressing in a linear manner. I chose 120- and 140-grain Nosler Ballistic Tips and Speer's 110-grain TNT.

Any time you do these lengthy tests, shooter fatigue is an issue. And with something carrying substantial recoil, abuse is also a factor. This went a lot quicker thanks to Bob Maddox, who shared the shooting/chronographing chores. Since I didn't have access to pressure-tested data from any other source, I chose to work exclusively with Hodgdon powder. As others publish data, I will be able to do more testing — but I won't print loads that can't be traced to some verifiable pressure test data. Even so, Hodgdon has four or five powders that are quite suitable for the super-magnums.

continued on page 65



Ayoob draws Glock from a Safariland 0701 concealable security holster.

By Massad Ayoob

More than 30 states now have “shall issue” concealed-carry permit laws. Only six states remain where no such option exists at law (Kansas, Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio and Wisconsin). The remainder are “discretionary” states where it’s up to the discretion of the local authorities as to whether a permit is issued or not. Some are strict (New York, for example). Some are extremely strict (New Jersey comes to mind). And at least one is hopeless (Hawaii, where history shows us the privilege is reserved for governor or lieutenant governor, a police chief’s sister-in-law, or the civilian armorer for a police department). Some of the rest aren’t too bad for the most part (Iowa, Indiana).

So what does all of this mean? More law-abiding citizens are now carrying guns than anyone living can remember.

Fashion Factor

Clothing fashion — men’s fashion, anyway — has brought us another fortunate confluence of the stars. It’s almost as if closet pistol-packers have become the arbiters of clothing trends.

Remember the bell-bottoms of the ’60s and ’70s? They’re back, as “flares,” and they are ideal for discreetly concealing (and quickly reaching) guns in ankle holsters.

A decade ago, the Fashion Police would have issued me a citation for being the only guy on the street with an untucked tee or polo shirt. I wore them to conceal the full-size handgun in my waistband. Today, roughly half of the adult males you see out and about wear such shirts tails out. Does it help to hide our aging male paunches? I dunno, but it helps to hide our hand-



S&W 442 Airweight with LaserGrips disappears when placed into the specially reinforced pocket of the Blackie Collins Toters.

Today's Concealment Holsters BETTER THAN EVER!

CONCEALED-CARRY FOR LAW-ABIDING
CITIZENS IS NOW AN OPTION IN MORE
STATES THAN AT ANY TIME IN THE
LAST 100 YEARS. WITH IT COMES
THE BEST SELECTION OF
CONCEALMENT HOLSTERS EVER.

guns. The slightly large-sized shirt is also “in” because it’s more comfortable with better air circulation. (Younger males started this trend. Don’t say they never gave us anything.)

Consider Dockers and “relaxed fit jeans.” The skin-tight pants of yesteryear are gone. They have been replaced by billowy trousers that perfectly hide baby-Glock-size guns in side pocket holsters. They also lend themselves to “groin holsters” such as Thunderwear and its assorted imitators. This roomy style better conceals holsters in belly bands and has helped make possible the new generation of Workman holsters; more about those later. Knife designer Blackie Collins has come out with his own jeans, relaxed fit of course and with four pockets especially cut and reinforced for carrying guns. He calls them Toters. They work.

Once the mark of either a yuppie or a gun-wearer, the photographer’s vest has come universally fashionable. Its many pockets provide space for Daytimers, cell phones, pagers, and other accoutrements of modern life... and, of course, they do a great job of hiding full-size defensive handguns in hip holsters. Similarly, the fanny pack no longer signals “gun.” It can’t when everyone is wearing them. Another happy turn of events: Joggers seem to be going to the black nylon variety that once were the province of gun-

toters, even as the pistol-packers started going to bright colored ones and sewing on “Adidas” and “Nikon” labels.

The Holsters Themselves

Quality of both construction and workmanship is, for the most part, going up in the gunleather world. Only a few years ago, if you wanted a truly Rolls-Royce-class holster, you had to look hard, wait long, and pay big. At the moment, three beautifully made and identically styled holsters for the Government Model pistol sit on my desk. One is the Mitch Rosen 5G, one is by relative newcomer Josh Bulman, and one is the top of the line Galco that



Top-right: Quality inside-the-waistband holsters are often the preferred choice of experienced shooters. Rearward flange of leather aids concealability, comfort of this DeSantis IWB, carrying Kahr K9. **Bottom-right:** Michaels of Oregon has been fabulously successful with this \$19.95 Kydex holster, shown here with Pachmayr-gripped Kimber Custom Match. **Below:** Kramer’s pocket holsters have revolutionized the concept. (top) S&W Model 38 Bodyguard Airweight in left handed model; (bottom), Glock G27 in right handed version.





Above: State of the art Kydex (left to right) IWB Blade-tech with Beretta 96D; S&S Enterprises No. 2 scabbard with Glock G29; Ky-Tac speed rig with Ruger P97. **Below:** Concealing under tucked-in shirt on strong hand side, Workman holster by Rosen hides baby Glock with only key strap visible on belt.



comes in a velvet bag like a bottle of fancy whiskey. Only the cognoscenti can tell one from the other without examining the maker's mark. They aren't cheap, but all are worth the price.

Bruce Lee said that his art, *Jeet Kune Do*, was the style of no style. Many feel that the state of holster art today is the gunleather of no leather. We are in the time of synthetic pistol scabbards.

Nylon came first. It's still a sales leader for low-priced plinking and outdoorsman use, where a holster needs to do little more than keep the gun from falling on the ground. Though some very nice police duty rigs have been offered in this format by Bianchi, Strong, Uncle Mike's, Magnum Software, and more, little design work has been spent on the concealment models. Most nylon hideout holsters are floppy things that make it difficult to reinsert the pistol in a tactical situation or during a day of training. Exceptions include the excellent Strongcore series from Strong and the deservedly popular inside-the-waistband rigs from Magnum Software (formerly known as Orca).

"Plastic holsters" have been around since the '70s, but quantum leaps have been made in their technology. Safariland led the way in Kydex, which has become the medium of choice for most of today's plastic holster artists. The company is now getting away from Kydex and into a synthetic it considers more modern with its Raptor series of police security rigs.

Glock's own polymer belt-slide holster proved remarkably efficient in hiding its pistols and helped popularize "plastic" holsters. However, Kydex currently rules the roost in the concealment market. I recently made reference in *Shooting Industry* to "holster wars" for dominance in the lower-priced market. One manufacturer took exception and insisted that no such thing was happening. This was doubtless news to the popular Kydex holster-maker who recently went out of business.

continued on page 66

MODEL 10ML-II

continued from page 31

powder, Pyrodex, and similar powders, makes a big difference in cleaning frequency. Obviously, squib loads in the 50-grain (volume) domain will not foul the bore as quickly as maximum charges of three times that volume. Smokeless-powder cleaning is recommended at 50- to 60-shot intervals.

High Power Performance

Savage lists only three suitable smokeless powders in the owner's manual for its .50-caliber Model 10ML-II. These are IMR-4227, Accurate Arms XMP-5744 and Vihtavouri N110. Hornady 250- and 300-grain XTP sabot bullets are listed at velocities ranging from around 2,100 fps to nearly 2,400 fps. Sabots with smokeless powder must be the magnum type as sold through Magnum Muzzleloading Products (870-741-5019). Other sabots may fail. A typical maximum powder charge with Hornady's 250-grain bullet is 48.0 grains of IMR-4227 for a muzzle velocity of 2,254 fps with 2,821 ft.lb. of energy. A typical maximum powder charge with the 300-grain Hornady bullet is 44.5 grains of Vihtavouri N110 for a muzzle velocity of 2,244 fps and an energy rating of 3,355 ft.lb. At closer ranges, the rifle has 30-'06 power, but Savage has not, so far, touted the 10ML-II as "most powerful muzzle-loader," which it is not. For example, October Country offers a muzzleloader capable of pushing a 1,400-grain round ball with 6,000 ft.lb. of muzzle energy.

The strength of the Savage Model 10ML-II is its sound construction and top-flight materials. That it shoots smokeless powder is unique, and it is, of course, the flag waved at the head of the parade for Savage. On general hunts — where the muzzleloader fan shares the field with other outdoorsmen who pack scoped, long-range cartridge rifles — the use of smokeless in the 10ML-II is certainly sporting. Rules for special blackpowder-only "primitive" seasons are another matter. A cursory investigation of game laws shows "blackpowder or substitute only" as common. No smokeless powder allowed. Meanwhile, smokeless powder makes after-shooting cleanup easy, and this is where the Savage 10ML-II shines — lots of practice at the range with very little fuss afterward. The marksman who says, "I sure would like to shoot today, but I don't have time for cleanup," has no excuse with the Model 10ML-II.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Savage Arms

[413] 568-7001

www.savagearms.com

Get Ahead Of The Pack With New CUSTOM INNOVATIONS FROM CLARK!

CLARK CUSTOM LIMITED STI CONVERSION

Traditional Clark Custom Accuracy, Reliability and Trigger work PLUS...THR Technologies Grip Modification, Clark's Exclusive Big Bashing, EGV Reverse Flap, Durable Powder Coated Slide / Brushed Hard Chrome Lower, STI Magazine Well, EGV Fiber Optic Front sight and MMC Low mount adjustable rear sight.

- \$2,550 Complete Gun
- \$1,850 Conversion on Customer Supplied STI Frame Kit

POWDER COATING

Slide is pictured with Silver Vein Powder Coating over hard chrome base. Powder Coating is available in a variety of other colors including Basic Black, Vermillion, Bright Red, Lime Green, Chevy Orange, Grape Flake, Translucent Teal, etc. • \$250 as pictured.

THR TECHNOLOGIES GRIP MODIFICATION

as pictured in 25th Anniversary *American Handgunner* (performed on your grip plastic - 2 week turnaround)

- STI / SV Plastic \$75 black / \$85 colors • Ruger 22/45, P-95 & P-97 \$95.00 black / \$100.00 colors (purple, blue or red) • Glock \$125.00



(one of the toughest non-metallic finishes available anywhere)

Long Slide
Also Available...
Call For Quote

CLARK
CUSTOM GUNS, INC.

MEMBER AMERICAN PISTOLSMITH GUILD
Dept. GM • 336 Shootout Ln. • Princeton, Louisiana 71067
1-318-949-9884 • Fax 1-318-949-9829 •
Toll Free Ordering: 888-458-4126
Shop Online <http://www.clarkcustomguns.com>

PROFESSIONAL SOLID BRONZE \$7.95 each BADGES



Now available — the same professional badges used by investigators and detectives all over the world. Not toys, gags — but the real thing to display with pride!

#450 Regulation
Badge Case
Flash your badge in an official manner; Vinyl I.D. window.
Black strap.
\$7.95 + \$1.05 Postage & Handling



PLEASE PRINT PLAINLY

Send payment with order; please add postage.
INTERNATIONAL POLICE EQUIP. CO.
1270 Markham St., Perris, CA 92571-9747

FREE with orders ONLY... Catalog of Police & Detective Equipment

INTERNATIONAL POLICE EQUIP. CO. PLEASE PRINT PLAINLY
1270 Markham Street, Dept. G102, Perris, CA 92571-9747
Send payment with order. No C.O.D.'s.

Send Style # _____ @ \$7.95 + \$1.05 Postage & Handling

Send Style # _____ @ \$7.95 + \$1.05 Postage & Handling

Send Style #450 Case @ \$7.95 + \$1.05 Postage & Handling

I enclose \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



Return Of The Single Shots

*The single-shot rifle has a romance and
appeal that is unique among firearms.*

By Holt Bodinson

Only a few decades ago, single-shot centerfires were considered as dead as the Dodo by most hunters. Instead, finer American single-shots such as the Sharps, Winchester, Remington, Stevens and Ballard had gravitated into the collections of connoisseurs. A few Winchester High and Low Walls, Remington-Hepburns, Ballards, Stevens 44½ and Sharps-Borchardts had been rebarreled and converted into varmint rifles. Model 1902 smokeless Remington Rolling Blocks in 7x57 and svelte BSA Martinis from Australia in .310 Cadet were being remaindered off at \$9.95 each. Springfield Trapdoors in .45-70 were abundant and cheap, but most were relegated to casual plinking or the walls of National Guard armories. Savage continued to fill a mar-

ginal market with its Model 219 in .22 Hornet and .30-30. Small custom builders like Hauck, Clerke and, yes, even Colt, with its Colt-Sharps rifle, filled a small niche market. But by 1950, it was clear that the general market in the United States for a centerfire single-shot hunting rifle was nonexistent.

That all changed in 1966 when the impresario of nostalgic firearms marketing, William B. Ruger, launched the Ruger No. 1 single-shot. Modeled somewhat after the Scottish Farquharson, stocked by Leonard Brownell, and priced so that everybody could afford one, the No. 1 became an overnight hit with the U.S. shooting community. Seven years later, Ruger introduced his No.3 with its American style lever, carbine stock and lower price.



Today we have a virtual outpouring of traditional and strikingly modern single-shots in every caliber imaginable, with new models appearing yearly. Our variety of choice is remarkable: Ruger No. 1s; Browning's High and Low Walls; Remington's No. 1 Rolling Block; Thompson/Center's switch barrel Contender and Encore carbines; H&R and New England models; Mossberg's SSi-ONE; Ballards; Blaslers; Dakotas; a plethora of domestic and foreign-made Sharps; and even newly manufactured Springfield Trapdoors.

The popularity of the single-shot has grown so much that there's even an *American Single-Shot Rifle Association*. There are a variety of single-shot rifle competitions, which culminate with that grand Schuetzenfest, the annual *Coors Match*.

With all the advantages of repeating rifles, what is it that makes the single-shot rifle so appealing to the sporting public?

Esthetics

There is something racey, clean and uncluttered about most single-shots. They're elegant, streamlined guns, and I suspect that many owners simply like the way they look and handle.

Top-Left: One of the most attractive reproduction single-shots is this Officer's Model trapdoor by H&R. The Italian firm of Pedersoli is currently importing excellent quality trapdoor replicas. **Below:** One of Holt's favorites is this Ruger No. 3 chambered in .30-40 Krag. **Right:** Single-shots are wonderfully compact. Both of these .22-250s sport 26-inch barrels, but the Ruger No. 1 is a full 4 inches shorter overall.



The Bad Guys Hate Us!

We make the strongest safe door in the industry and we put them Out of Business!



You buy a safe for only one reason—to protect your valuables and keep the bad guys out. We studied the weakness of the other security products on the market and what the bad guys did with them. Then we built a safe with a **strong, solid, built-like-a-vault door!** A safe door so strong that the bad guys don't even try. The bad guys hate us but our customers love us!

Call us toll-free at 1-800-242-1055 for your free color catalog and the name of a Cannon dealer near you. Call right now! You'll sleep a lot better tonight.

✓ Super Door: 1" edge composite construction. The industry's strongest—18 times stronger than 3/4" door. ✓ Strongest internal hinge in the industry—tested to support a 5000 lb. door never any door sag and impossible to pry. ✓ Heavy Steel Body: Solidly formed for extra strength. ✓ Super drill resistant triple horizontal. ✓ Six sides of 10 Rockwell Plus. ✓ 1" solid steel locking bolts. ✓ Door activated door seal. ✓ Independent laboratory fire tested 1500° F for 30 minutes. ✓ 10,000 spring 30 manipulation-resistant tests. ✓ 10 burglary tested security safe.

CANNON SAFE, INC.
216 SOUTH 2ND AVENUE
BUILDING NUMBER 932
SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408
WWW.CANNONSAFE.COM

LOADED with...

- information
- opinions
- sweepstakes

... and a whole lot more!

SHOOTERS.com

40' x 60' x 12'
\$6,995

Build It Yourself And Save! 10,000 Sizes, Bolt-Together All Steel Buildings & Homes. Call Today For A Price Quote And Brochure.

HERITAGE BUILDING SYSTEMS
800-643-5555
heritagebuildings.com

Nostalgia

No question about it, single-shot rifles stir up images of a romantic past. They're the buffalo gun, the long-range Creedmoor match rifle, and the big-bore Farquharson on safari in some distant land.

Challenge

Many hunters are attracted to the single-shot rifle for the same reasons some hunters take up muzzleloading or archery. It's the challenge of being limited to one shot. It's the thought of taking the time to execute a carefully planned stalk and insuring that the first shot gets the job done. Some feel the single-shot rifle brings out the best in a hunter; or, who knows, maybe only the best hunters choose a single-shot.

Versatility

No rifle is more versatile than a single-shot. Switch barrel rifles like the T/C Contenders and Encores, the H&Rs, and the Mossberg SSI-Ones allow shooters to change calibers for only the cost of a new barrel. And there is an overwhelming selection of calibers from which to choose, particularly for the T/C Contender which is available in anything from the .17 K-Hornet offered by T/C's custom shop to SSK's massive .50/70. Ruger No. 1s and 3s are readily rebarreled to any cartridge they can safely hold and that includes SSK's chambering of the .577 Nitro and .600 JDJ. In fact, rebarreled Ruger No. 1s are the least expensive method of obtaining a rifle chambered for exotic cartridges like Lazzeroni's big .300 Warbird. There are no feeding problems to contend with or issues of action length. One just chambers or rechambers a barrel and alters the extractor. In the memorable words of the late Maj. George Nonte, single-shot actions function like "nailing a board over a rat hole." It is that very simplicity that makes the single-shots so versatile.

Mechanical Variations

The design differences in single-shots are legendary when compared to other action types. Consider the differences among the following single-shot actions: the Springfield Trapdoor, the British Snyder, the Martini, the Remington Rolling Block, the H&R break-open, the T/C Encore, the Heeren, the Ruger No. 1, the Blaser, the numerous Sharps' models, and the Browning High and Low Walls — and that's just touching the tip of the iceberg. One could spend a lifetime collecting mechanical variations alone!

Performance

With their short, compact actions, single-shots can be built with longer barrels to extract maximum velocities out of any

given caliber while still maintaining a overall length less than an equivalent bolt-action. Typical of this are my two .220 Swifts: a Model 70 and a Ruger No. 1. Both sport 26-inch barrels yet the Ruger is 4 inches shorter in overall length than the Winchester. Pound for pound, a single-shot such as the T/C Contender carbine — with a 21-inch barrel in a caliber like the 6.5 JDJ, 7-30 Waters or .30/30, a synthetic stock, compact scope and a total weight of only 5.3 pounds — is a marvel of firearms efficiency and portability.

Available in any caliber to match any game on the face of the earth, the single-shot is a joy to carry afield.

It's best use is quite possibly for varmint hunting. Here, any reasonable hit will at least anchor the prey without the need for an immediate follow-up shot. And typically when hunting small-game like woodchucks, prairie dogs or coyotes, you are in a fixed position with an adequate rest so that shot placement is very controlled. I've owned two Ruger No. 3s in .22 Hornet and .223 Rem. and still treasure a Ruger No.1 in .220 Swift — all three Rugers have been exceptionally accurate. In spite of what one may have read about the difficulty of tuning single-shots, the varmint caliber Rugers will do less than MOA with nothing more than some careful load development.

I've used single-shots a good deal for stand-hunting big-game where I had time to wait for a perfect setup before pressing the trigger. For many years, my favorite rifle has been a Ruger #3 in .30/40 Krag. It's handy, can be loaded much hotter than the old Springfield Krag, and, alas, it's discontinued. Frankly, the No. 3 action with it's short American-type lever is really more functional and cleaner looking than the No.1, and I hope Ruger brings it back.

The most elegant little single shots I've ever hunted with have been the break-open Germanic Kipplaufs: a Blaser in 7mm Rem. Magnum, while pursuing red deer; and a Sauer in 6.5x57R, loaded with RWS 93-grain softpoints that performed like the hammer of Thor on whitetails.

Using a single-shot for big-game is disciplined hunting in the extreme. You will definitely have to pass up shots that are less than ideal. The problem we all face in big-game hunting is the unexpected — when the shot is slightly off, or the animal doesn't react the way you expected. In this situation it's very comforting to have a repeater in your hands with three or four shells in the magazine. I can think of several occasions when I ripped through a full magazine to put game down. That's not to say I haven't seen some fast shooting with single-shots, especially if the experienced hunter is carrying extra shells in a wrist ammo carrier, but that kind of shooting takes a lot of practice. On the other hand, that's the essence of responsible sportsmanship.

And if you never ever take a single-shot hunting, they're still a joy to own and to shoot at the range. My local range master

and I both own Trapdoor Officer's Models in .45-70, which were once produced by H&R. And we have a Trapdoor grudge match from time to time. Nothing is more fun than a leisurely afternoon spent plinking away with those old pumpkin rollers.

Elegant, trim, compact, simple, strong, versatile and handy, there's a single-shot centerfire rifle for every taste, every purpose and every pocketbook.

Try one.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

American Single Shot Rifle Assoc.
[906] 227-1828
www.assra.com

Ballard Rifle and Cartridge LLC
[307] 584-4914
www.ballardrifles.com

Browning
www.browning.com

C. Sharps Arms Co.
[406] 932-4353
www.csharpsarms.com

Dakota Arms, Inc.
[605] 347-4686
www.dakotaarms.com

Dixie Gun Works
[770] 962-6433
www.dixieguns.com

Lone Star Rifle Co.
[936] 856-3363
www.lonestarrifle.com

O.F. Mossberg & Sons and H&R
[203] 230-5300
www.mossberg.com

Pedersoli & Co.
www.davide-pedersoli.com

SSK Industries
[740] 264-0176
www.sskindustries.com

Sturm, Ruger & Co.
www.ruger-firearms.com

The 1877 Sharps Co.
[406] 842-5814
www.1877sharps.com


Thompson/Center Arms
[603] 332-2333
www.tcarms.com

Thompson/Center Custom Shop
www.foxridgeoutfitters.com


Uberti USA
[860] 435-8068
www.uberti.com

NILL-GRIPS
www.nill-grips.com

NOW AVAILABLE IN THE USA
We escort you to the center of the target. For 30+ years we're simply the best at the European Market. With more than 500 different revolver and pistol grips, we are proud to deliver high grade quality and excellent craftsmanship to you. Call or write for a catalog. P.O. Box 1916 • Bandera TX 78003 • Tel.: 830 634 3131 • Fax: 830 634 2555 • info@nillgrips.com



Firearms Engravers & Gunmakers ExhibitionSM



Featuring members of the American Bladesmith Society

ACGG #17
The.404 African


Stephen E Nelson
Metalsmith
Charles Worthing
Stockmaker
Robert Hughes
Engraver

Feb. 8-9-10 2002

SILVER LEGACY
Reno, NV

Admission \$20/day
Fri. 12 PM - 6 PM
Sat. 12 PM - 5 PM
Sun. 10 AM - 4 PM

This set will be raffled Feb. 10th. Tickets limited to 4,000



To request show brochure or send \$20 per raffle ticket: Jan Billeb, Dept. GMI 22 Vista View Dr, Cody, WY 82414. (307) 587-4297



Symbol of honest, competent, quality workmanship

"LOOK FOR IT!"

Member list \$2.00
1449 Blue Crest Ln.
San Antonio, TX 78232

PALADIN PRESS

Looking for practical information and real solutions for today's world? **PALADIN PRESS** publishes books and videotapes on subjects such as: **firearms, combat shooting, sniping, military and police tactics, personal/financial freedom, survival,** and other subjects on the outer fringes of the First Amendment not found in mall bookstores. **FREE CATALOG.**

<http://www.paladin-press.com>
1-800-392-2400. Response code: 1GUN

Lee Die advantages

- ✓ Best price
- ✓ Guaranteed accuracy
- ✓ Closest tolerances
- ✓ Finger adjustable bullet seater
- ✓ Built-in stuck case remover & collet held decapper
- ✓ Elevated easy extract expander
- ✓ Free shell holder
- ✓ Powder measure
- ✓ Charge table
data is priceless on odd or obsolete calibers

the "other brand" advantages



Our competition is behind us 100%



With powerful benefits like these, it's a wonder there even is an "other brand." Experience the advantages of reloading dies from Lee—the innovative leader. Priced from \$27.98

Send \$1 today for your 32-pg. Lee catalog,
jammed full of reloading bargains.
www.leeprecision.com

LEE

LEE PRECISION, INC. DEPT. 402 4275 HWY. U HARTFORD CT 06107

GLOCK® Model 36 Plus One Extension

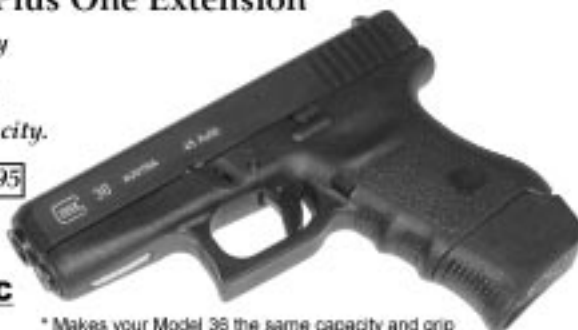
*Convert Your Factory
Six Round Glock®
Model 36 Magazine
To A Seven Round Capacity.*

Suggested Retail \$9.95

See Your Local Dealer
Or Contact

PEARCE GRIP, INC

P.O. Box 40367
Fort Worth, Texas 76140
(800) 350-9420 (817) 568-9707 fax
<http://www.pearcegrip.com>



* Makes your Model 36 the same capacity and grip length as a model 1911.
* Unique locking device securely holds the extension to magazine.
* Assembly completes the rear contour of grip for full hand support.

Observation had shown me that the best three hand-held shots from the same gun would roughly equal all five out of a Ransom machine rest with the same gun. Senior Field Editor Cameron Hopkins recently assigned Charles Petty and me to test this hypothesis, with each of us firing four guns, comparing my "best three" hand-held, to Charlie's "all five" from the Ransom Rest. One pistol we both tested was Charlie's Kimber Custom Shop Super Match .45, enhanced by Charlie and equipped with a Kart barrel. We averaged .37-inch difference, which is similar to the difference between one and another test of the same gun and ammo in a machine rest on two different days.

The load with which we differed the most, less than .5 inch, was Federal's famously accurate and effective 230-grain Hydra-Shok. Charlie's five-shot measurements averaged 1.09 inches at 25 yards with the Kimber Super Match .45, while my "best three" measurements averaged 1.57 inches. The difference was .48 inch. It showed two things: The "best three" concept worked for giving a rough idea of the gun's pure mechanical accuracy, and the Federal Hydra-Shok and the Kimber Super Match made one hell of an accurate combination.

With the Kimber Custom Shop Pro Eclipse II, I took some ammo from the same lot of 230-grain Hydra-Shok Charlie and I had used and ran it from the bench at 25 yards. The results: 2.10-inch group for all five shots, and 1.35-inch group for best three.

Now, I'm not gonna play the statistics game with you and say the Kimber Custom Shop Pro Eclipse II concealment pistol is more accurate than the same custom shop's famous Super Match. But I am gonna tell you this: The carry gun shot better for me with the same ammo than the top-flight tournament target pistol.

As you scan the above figures, notice the extraordinary consistency. Half a dozen different loads, delivering five-shot groups less than .5 inch different from one another. In a world where you can't always find your first choice in ammunition, that consistency means a lot.

None of the above rounds caused a single malfunction. More than 500 assorted .45 ACP cartridges were tested in multiple hands. The only "malf" that occurred was a human error. The shooter was firing with a very relaxed hold, his left thumb was extended forward in an IPSC target-shooter's position, and his thumb hit the slide lock lever as the pistol recoiled while firing some hot Pro-Load +P. The slide, not surprisingly, locked open. A touch of the thumb downward on the slide release lever chambered the next round and put the gun back into action. This could not be construed as a failure of the gun or the ammunition. Professionals know that a .45 automatic needs to be held firmly to ensure 100-percent functioning with full power ammunition.

Attention Gun Enthusiast

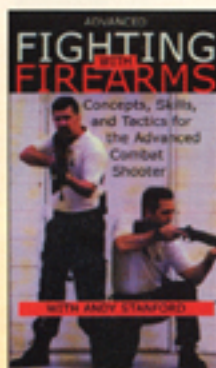
Learn Tactical And Self Defense
From These Top Sellers



FIGHTING WITH FIREARMS

Andy Stanford

In this video, noted firearms instructor Andy Stanford teaches real-world skills needed to defend yourself with a firearm. Stanford has spent years analyzing combat shooting methods. Learn instruction in the best combat shooting techniques and tactics for the handgun, rifle and shotgun as well as how to integrate gunfighting with unarmed and edged weapon skills to create a total closequarters package. Color, 90 min.



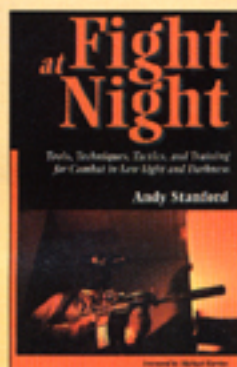
ADVANCED FIGHTING WITH FIREARMS

Andy Stanford

In this sequel to *Fighting with Firearms*, you learn the skills and tactics that define today's state of the art in combat shooting. Learn to shoot on the move, weapon transitions, low-light tactics, handgun and shoulder weapon retention, use of the shotgun as an urban rifle, vehicle defense, and the use of firearms as impact weapons. This video is a must for anyone who owns a firearm. Color, 75 min.

\$29.95 Item #X1815
VHS (U.S. format only)

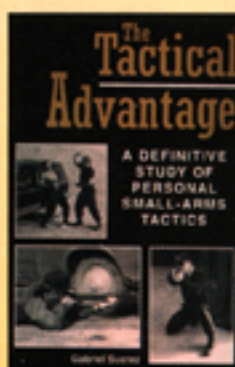
\$39.95 Item #X1845
VHS (U.S. format only)



FIGHT AT NIGHT

Andy Stanford

This book covers a wide spectrum of high- and low-tech approaches to reduced lighted scenarios. From simple flashlights and light mounts to laser aimers and tritium sights. Learn how to employ these implements effectively in the dark - including an in-depth treatment of cutting-edge low-light tactics. The hand to hand combat methods discussed here provide maximum advantage over any assailant. Softcover, 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, photos, illus., 224 pgs.



THE TACTICAL ADVANTAGE

Gabriel Suarez

Learn how the author and other big-city police officers maintain the tactical advantage when the bullets start flying, including how to search corners, doors and hallways; the proper use of cover and concealment; weapon retention and combative countermeasures; distance intervals and close-quarters moves; and much more. This book is for anyone with an interest in personal defense, from the homeowner to the cop. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, softcover, photos, illus., 216 pgs.

\$20.00 Item #W5712

\$22.00 Item #W5339

Add These Popular Titles To Your Collection!

Payment must be in U.S. dollars, drawn from a U.S. bank, or on credit cards list below. Make checks/money orders payable to Publishers Development Corp. CA residents add 7.5% sales tax to total. Allow 3-6 weeks for delivery in U.S. Orders outside the U.S. allow up to 60 days for delivery.

Please send me the following:

Item X1815 _____ Qty. (\$29.95 ea.) Item X1845 _____ Qty. (\$39.95 ea.)

Item W5712 _____ Qty. (\$20.00 ea.) Item W5339 _____ Qty. (\$22.00 ea.)

Total order \$ _____ ☐ Check/MO ☐ Visa/MC/Discover/AmEx

No. _____

Exp. Date _____ Initial _____

Shipping charges:

Books: In U.S. \$6 surface shipping. Outside U.S. \$16 shipping.

Videos: In U.S. \$6 surface shipping. Outside U.S. \$16 shipping.

Fax for shipping quotes if ordering several items: 619-297-5353.

Mail to: Books Dept. HC2-GE166, 591 Camino de la Reina #200, San Diego, CA 92108 City/State/Zip _____

Name _____

Address _____

Order HOT LINE phone (800) 628-9818 or Fax (619) 297-5353

BUY FOUR SAVE MORE!

Get all four of these Special Editions and Save \$7.85! Individually they'd cost you \$39.80.
You can get them all through this offer for only \$31.95!



A LOOK INSIDE:

- The Perilous Price Of Open Carry.
- Surgical Speed Shooting.
- Mastering The Mini-Glocks.
- Steyr Models S.
- Defensive Tactics.
- 2002 Catalog of Currently Manufactured Handguns.

STRIDER KNIVES! Darryl Bolke



Custom blade makers Duane Dwyer and Mick Strider produce the toughest fighting

knives on the planet

The Heckler & Koch USP Charles Cutshaw

Specifically designed for the U.S. market, USP is one of the most advanced pistols.



\$9.95 (outside U.S. \$15.95)



A LOOK INSIDE:

- Today's Pocket Rockets.
- Glock G29 10mm Power!
- Knife - vs- Gun!
- A Fistful Of Serious Self-Defense
- Stop Gun Snatches!
- 2001 Catalog of Currently Manufactured Handguns.

TAURUS TITANIUM MILLENNIUM Andy Stanford

This high-tech, award-winning semi-auto reflects the new Taurus and the shape of things to come.



COLT SINGLE ACTION ARMY John Taffin



With a heritage dating back to the mid-1800s, this grand old sixgun still stirs the heart, soul and spirit.

\$9.95 (outside U.S. \$15.95)



A LOOK INSIDE:

- Ruger .44 Deerfield.
- Modern Bolt Actions.
- Para Goes Single Stack.
- Excellence In Leather.
- Winchester's Lever Actions.
- Taming The Brutal 12.
- 2002 Catalog of Currently Manufactured Firearms.

POTENT POCKET GLOCKS Charles W. Karwan



Concealable with blistering ballistics, these popular sub-compacts score high.

COWBOY ACTION SHOTGUNS John Taffin

Never the star firearm, these scatterguns still play an important and fun role for today's cowboys!



\$9.95 (outside U.S. \$15.95)



A LOOK INSIDE:

- Bullets And Blades: Ten tips from the masters.
- Navy Seal Weapons In Vietnam.
- Combat Handgun Retention.
- Virtue Of The Sword.
- 2001 Catalog of Currently Manufactured Firearms.

THE STONER AGE Robert Bruce

The Seals relied on the Stoner light machine-gun more than any other weapon in 'Nam.



COUNTERSNIPER TECHNOLOGY Charles E. Petty



Tactical rifles are better today than ever for the demanding combat marksman.

\$9.95 (outside U.S. \$15.95)

YES! I want to order the following Special Editions while supplies last.

- ☐ Handgunner \$9.95 ☐ Handgunner \$9.95 ☐ GUNS \$9.95 ☐ GUNS \$9.95 ☐ ALL FOUR ONLY \$31.95
2002 Tactical Annual 2001 Annual 2002 Annual 2001 Combat Annual You Save \$7.85 (outside U.S. \$51.95)

HC2-GA011

☐ Check/MO Enclosed \$ ☐ Visa/MC/Discover

No. _____

Exp. Date _____ Initial _____

Make checks payable: Publishers' Development Corp.

Mail to: PDC • P.O. Box 639033 • San Diego, CA 92163-9033

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

COMPLETE YOUR
GET ALL FOUR
ONLY \$31.95
COLLECTION

Reliability

Let's stay on the topic for a minute here. Reliability is the single most important attribute of a defensive firearm. It must work all the time, every time with the ammunition you'll be firing from it at the moment when the difference between life and death hinges on the performance of the gun/ammo combination.

Somewhere between 500 and 600 rounds were fired from the gun in question in the testing for this article. The only malfunction was traceable directly to human error. That equals a 100-percent reliability quotient for the test itself. The gun was still in action when deadline for this article came up.

I had put it out among the students in an Lethal Force Institute class. I am a part-time gunwriter, part-time cop, and part-time expert witness in deadly force cases. What I do full-time is teach use of force, with an emphasis on judicious use of deadly force. This gives me ample opportunity to do the "Tom Sawyer whitewashing the fence thing" and let other folks do my job for me. Many of my students have 1911 .45 autos that they bring to class. When I offer them the opportunity to shoot the one I'm testing at the moment, they usually take me up on it. This lets me get lots of other folks' ammo through the test gun in lots of other folks' hands, which makes my gun testing job a whole lot easier.

One student who used this gun shot it with his own ammo, lead semiwadcutter commercial reloads that were 10 years old. There were feeding problems. The same ammo caused feeding problems in his own gun, a customized ParaOrdinance. We came together to the logical conclusion: ammo at fault, gun not at fault.

I later tried the Eclipse with some lead semiwadcutter .45 ACP loads of my own. It didn't like to feed those, either. In did, however, work perfectly with lead round nose (LRN) Black Hills .45 ACP ammo, which it also put to center pretty damn well. Bottom line: Know thy gun, know thy ammo, know what works together and what doesn't.

The Eclipse fed every jacketed hollow-point defense load/police load I put through it without a hitch. It worked 100 percent with the old wide-mouth 200-grain CCI hollow-point that my friend Dean Grennell dubbed "the flying ashtray." That load is a litmus test of .45 ACP feeding reliability. The Kimber Pro Eclipse II passed the test 100 percent.

Let us put it this way: The biggest compliment that firearms professionals can give to a gun is to trust their life to it. During much of the test, I carried the Eclipse cocked-and-locked behind my right hip as my first line of defense. As the phrase goes in one of my part-time jobs, "further, the affiant sayeth not."

The Feel of the Gun

The interface that the Eclipse presents to its user is excellent. I prefer the flat housing on a full-length 1911, and the Eclipse came so equipped. The semi-long trigger allows the average-or-longer finger of an adult male

The Largest Source in the World for New & Obsolete Firearms Parts & Accessories

Suppliers of Fine Products & Parts from • Colt • Mossberg • Marlin • S&W • Remington • Winchester H&R • Savage/Stevens • U.S. Military and many other manufacturers



NEW FOR 2002!

Catalog #24 contains 1152 pages featuring 180,000 individual items, over 400 schematic drawings, and our store brand firearms cross-reference list.

The only source you'll ever need for current, obsolete, military parts, gunsmith supplies, military surplus and shooting accessories.

ITEM#PJ-24 \$12.95

U.S. Orders: (Bulk Mail) Shipping charges included.

Foreign Orders: Air Mail 30 day delivery or surface-90 day delivery. Shipping charges additional.



226 Williams Lane P.O. Box 299 • W. Hurley, NY 12491 • 845-679-2417

Toll-Free Fax 877- GUNPART • E-mail: info@gunpartscorp.com • e-GunParts.com

PURE ELEGANCE MEETS SOLID PERFORMANCE



**CARBON FIBER GRIPS FOR
MODEL 1911S & COMPACTS
CUSTOM-FITTED AND
HAND FINISHED**

Carbon Creations has crafted a stunningly beautiful line of carbon fiber pistol grips designed to maximize performance and transform your pistol into a work of art. Each set of grips is manufactured from aerospace quality carbon fiber and carbon/kevlar blends to deliver a precision fit with a flawless finish. Lifetime Guarantee.

\$79.95



**Call, write or fax
to receive our free
color brochure.**

CARBON CREATIONS
P.O. BOX 1434
VALLEY CENTER, CA
92082

TOLL FREE:

888.757.4747

FAX:

760.749.4490

Double Diamond Pattern
patent # 5797207

WWW.CARBONCREATIONS.COM



Hunter's Pal (Item# PU- 116397)



8" overall - 4" stainless multi-purpose utility blade - Full tang - Genuine stag handle with lanyard hole and brass finger guard - Brown leather belt sheath.

Suggested Retail \$139.95.....Your Cost.....\$98.95.....SPECIAL \$89.50 + S&H!

Free Normark Pocket Sharpener for First Time Buyers



GROVES EDGE, INC.

3760 E. 350 S. BRINGHURST, IN 46913

1-800-248-2181



to reach in and contact it with the distal joint, which is the technique this writer has found to work the best. If you prefer the older paradigms of the fingertip or the pad of the farthest index finger joint contacting the trigger, the Eclipse works just fine that way, too.

The ambidextrous safety levers were just the right size: big enough to be fast and positive to release, small enough that they weren't accidentally released in routine carry. The checking on the front and backstraps was just right: rough enough to stay in place in the hand during extreme rapid fire of heavy defensive loads, but not so rough that it chewed up the hand during extended firearms training sessions. Nor was it so rough that it kept the hand from sliding into its preferred grasping position during the draw stroke.

The grip safety is standard issue M-1 high-tech, which fortunately is the current paradigm of the upswept beavertail that guides the drawing hand into the proper position. It flares out at the bottom to guarantee that if you use the old-fashioned high-thumb position, you will still activate the grip safety when you need the gun to work. This is a good thing. With the standard 1911/1911A1 pistol, the high-thumb grasp often moves the web of the hand so far back that the pistol may not fire when you desperately need it to.

Carrying and Shooting the Eclipse

I wore the 4-inch Eclipse in the same kind of holsters I'd have used with my 4-inch Colt Commanders and 5-inch

Government Models. There were no surprises. The pistol was flat, it had no sharp edges, and it was comfortable to wear. If I'd been wearing a tailored suit, I'd have worn something smaller. I wasn't, so I didn't.

Nothing snagged the covering garment to make it ride up. Nothing slowed the draw. I tried an Alessi CQCS designed by veteran narc Dave Spaulding and a Josh Bulman belt scabbard when carrying outside the waistband and used a Ted Blocker LFI Concealment Rig, a Milt Sparks Versa-Max, and a Mitch Rosen Ayoob Rear Guard for inside-the-belt carry.

Shooting the gun? Accuracy testing is one thing. Combat shooting is another. I like to run any gun I'm testing through some sort of a stress-producing competitive environment. The schedule didn't allow an open match, so I shot the Eclipse out of the Sparks IWB (inside-the-waistband) holster when I ran the pace-setter drill for an LFI-I class.

The pace-setter is what we call the instructional staff demonstrating the qualification course of fire for the students. We've found over the years that when you ask people to perform a physical skill set, they do it better if their instructors have shown them immediately before the test what is expected of them. This particular course was a close-combat run done under time, with the whole class watching (in case you didn't have enough stress already), with the maximum 5-point target ring being the center of an International Defensive Pistol Association silhouette. Now, the center zone of an IDPA

target measures 50 square inches according to firearms instructor Dennis Luosey, who crunched the numbers. By contrast, the International Practical Shooting Association target has a center zone for the maximum five points that measures 66 square inches, not counting the head of the silhouette in either case. Most police silhouette qualification targets are vastly larger than either in their volume of maximum-point target zone.

Firing Federal's low-priced generic American Eagle .45 ACP 230-grain hardball, the test Eclipse gave me a 300 out of 300 score. All 60 bullet holes measured a little over 4 inches, center to center of the farthest-spaced bullet holes. The slow-paced firing from the 25-yard bench had shown that the Kimber Eclipse was accurate; the fast-paced firing in the pace-setter run showed that it was user-friendly.

Any self-defense pistol can end up going to the ground in a fight or other strenuous activity. You want one that won't go off when dropped. The II designation in this gun's name denotes the presence of the Schwartz-type firing-pin block, resurrected by famed handgun designer Nehemiah Sirkis, who has been with Kimber for a few years now. It renders the gun "drop-safe," and working off the grip safety instead of the trigger mechanism, it does not in any way interfere with the quality or reliability of the pistol's trigger pull.

Conclusion

Kimber promised dealers that the original Eclipse pistols would be limited to a few thousand each, and production runs were completed in September of 2001. However, the guns were such a hit that Kimber will be doing a subtle refinement of the concept and adding the Eclipse series as a standard item in 2002. Look for the addition of an Ultra Eclipse with short grip frame and 3-inch coned barrel. This will be the first of these smallest Kimbers to be offered with a steel frame instead of the usual aluminum.

The Eclipse lives up to its name in more than just its striking appearance. Even when the pistol was filthy, it ran 100 percent with factory jacketed ammo. We had to get it filthy and then run lead bullet reloads through it to induce malfunctions. The gun combines duty reliability with target pistol accuracy in a concealable handgun whose classic 1911 styling appeals to so many performance-minded handgunners.

By eclipsing most other Commander-style 1911s in accuracy and so very many other guns in styling, the Kimber Pro Eclipse II has lived up to its name. At a suggested retail of \$1,065, it is an excellent value.



**Everybody's favorite
Blackpowder catalog—
Dixie Gun Works**

Dixie Gun Works' 2002 catalog, with more than 10,000 items, is positively the most comprehensive source of blackpowder firearms and period accessories available.

Since 1954, DIXIE has loaded its catalog with the best in blackpowder, Civil War, and cowboy action shooting supplies, antique gun parts, and accouterments.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE and EXPERTISE is guaranteed!

ORDER YOUR CATALOG TODAY
(800) 238-6785
CATALOG \$5
SHIPPED C.O.D. \$6.50

INFO: (731) 885-8700 FAX: (731) 885-0440
www.dixiegunworks.com info@dixiegunworks.com
Gunpowder Lane, Dept. 2 P.O. Box 130, Union City, TN 38218

KIRKPATRICK
LEATHER COMPANY
Manufacturing Quality Leather Since 1968

"Marshall"
\$340.00
plus \$8.00s&h

**NOW ON THE
INTERNET**

"Santa Fe"
\$245.00
plus \$8.00s&h

For catalog
send \$5.00 to:
P.O. Box 677GM
Laredo, TX 78042
or call us at 1(800) 451-9394

www.KIRKPATRICKLEATHER.com

PRESLIK'S GUNSTOCKS
California Claro & English,
Imported French, Bastogne,
Turkish Circassian & Maple.

Jim Preslik
4245 Keith Ln., Chico, CA 95973
(530) 891-8236

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Kimber Manufacturing Inc.
[888] 243-4522
www.kimberamerica.com

Speer 110-Grain TNT

The first powder I tried is H-4831. H-4831 began life as a surplus powder left over from World War II and Korea. In my early days when every penny was precious, I used it for many loads because it only cost \$1 a pound. It's one of the most versatile powders around, but it is also close to the fastest burning rate you'd want to try in the Ultra Mag.

Loading was done in 2-grain increments, the heaviest being the maximum listed in Hodgdon's data, which shows a max of 93.5 grains with the 110-grain Speer. My rifle showed signs of pressure I didn't like at that level so I reduced it to 93.0 grains, which pushed the Speer at 3,553 fps.

Next was H-1000, and once more my rifle didn't like the maximum Hodgdon data, which show a compressed maximum charge of 104 grains with a velocity of 3,750 fps. My rifle did 3,748 fps with a charge of 102 grains; bolt lift got stiff at anything heavier.



Nosler 120-grain Ballistic Tip

Hodgdon shows H-4350 data for this weight, too, but I chose to use only H-4831 and H-1000. The gun was perfectly happy with its maximum charge of 90.0 grains with the 120 at 3,388 fps. The maximum charge of H-1000 is 99.5 grains, and my rifle liked that load at 3,585 fps, which is right where Hodgdon's data said it would be.

Nosler 140-grain Ballistic Tip

For a bullet in the 140-grain range, Hodgdon's data used the 140-grain Barnes X-bullet, which I didn't have. There was data, however, for a 145-grain Speer Grand Slam, and that was used with due care. Moving up to the 140-grain Nosler brought two new powders into play: H-870 and H-50BMG. I chose not to use H-50BMG simply because it seemed to duplicate charge weights of H-870 but not give quite as much velocity. I'm sure it would shine with bullets heavier than 140-grain should you need to use them.

Cautiously working up with H-870s brought me to a point where I wanted to stop just short of their listed maximum. Bolt lift was heavy and there was a distinct ejector rub on the case head. A charge of 104.0 grains of H-870 with the 140 Nosler gave 3,450 fps, which certainly duplicates the factory velocity. This bullet weight is getting a

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM

"The World's First"

DIGITAL ELECTRONIC TRIGGER PULL GAUGE

Advanced strain gauge technology
Accurate to 1/10 of an ounce
Reads up to 12 pounds
10 pull averaging function
Converts ounces to grams

Lyman's new **Electronic Trigger Pull Gauge** is the fastest, most accurate trigger pull gauge ever made. It is the perfect tool for competitive shooters, gunsmiths, hunters or anyone who wants to measure their trigger pull weight with complete accuracy.





Deluxe carry case included

20 TIMES MORE ACCURATE!

"Patent Applied For"

Lyman

Lyman Products, 475 Smith Street, Middletown CT 06457
Phone: 800-22-LYMAN Fax: (860) 632-1699
www.lymanproducts.com

Dept. 984

"EXPERTS IN RECOIL REDUCTION SERVICES FOR OVER 25 YEARS"



Pro-Port Shotgun Service Division

We are the original inventors of barrel porting...all others are imitators!

Our EDM process helps reduce recoil and muzzle lift on all gauges. Pro-Porting has proven effective on shotguns of all types, single, over/under, side-by-side, rifled and slug barrels.

'MAG-NA-BRAKE'

"We set out to design a better muzzle brake ...and designed the best muzzle brake!"

Reduces felt recoil in rifles up to 40%.



Magna-port International, Inc.

(586) 469-6727 • FAX: (586) 469-0425
41302 Executive Dr., Harrison Twp., MI 48045-1306

Visit our web site at <http://www.magnaport.com>

little heavy for H-4831 and velocities with it will not be quite as fast as the slower propellants, but a charge of 87.0 grains pushed the 140-grain Nosler to 3,240 fps.

H-1000 is one propellant with which I don't have a lot of experience, but you can bet I'll learn more about it. A charge of 93.0 grains at 3,267 fps delivered groups that were well under an inch from the standard rifle. The data shows a maximum of 95.0 grains, which gave 3,345 fps but groups were not the equal of the lighter charge.

We are rightly warned to not switch components, and yet you've just seen me do it. My rationale is that the solid construction of the X-bullet almost always results in charges being a bit lighter than they would be with conventional jacketed bullets. The data for the 145-grain Speer Grand Slam were

indeed a little heavier, but since we were using a slightly lighter bullet, those *starting* loads would be safe for a lighter bullet of conventional construction. This is one of those cases where working up a load takes on an even more serious tone, but in this case it was uneventful.

I'm sure that other data will come along in due time, but with all the present interest in short magnum cartridges from both Remington and Winchester, it will be very interesting to see if they can duplicate — or come close — to the performance of the full-size versions.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Hodgdon Powder Co.

[800] 622-4366

www.hodgdon.com

Kydex deeply penetrated the holster market because it dramatically undersold the leather equivalents. Fobus International drove the market in a different direction when it introduced a series of holsters with an average price of \$24.74, the basic model only \$19.99. The firm also used a different material.

"Fobus holsters are made from a much more durable polymer than Kydex," says Craig Fisher, president of Fobus USA. "Fobus' proprietary RX-18 polymer will retain its shape under extreme temperatures, unlike Kydex, which loses its shape under warm temperatures."

This company's latest product, still well under \$30, is called the Roto Holster. This design, explains Fisher, "allows the holster to rotate 360 degrees and maintains the weapon in a secure position, allowing the user his choice of draws — for example, cross-draw, SOB (small of back), body-guard/driver (almost horizontal cross-draw) or strong side carry — without having to purchase multiple holsters."

The low-price plastic holster market created by Fobus is now shared by Michaels of Oregon, which advertises its Kydex scabbard with heavy emphasis on the \$19.95 price of its basic model.

Blade-Tech remains the most popular of the Kydex holsters and offers the widest such line I've seen. Quality Kydex are really a hair faster than the leather rigs they have all but replaced in IDPA competition. Another excellent choice is the Ky-Tac, manufactured by IDPA master shooter Dave Elderton. Ky-Tac's latest ultra-thin, inside-the-waistband rig may be the most concealable Kydex belt holster yet, and it's still very fast.

The only complaints I routinely get about "plastic holsters" is that they can tear off the belt during full-power weapon-retention drills with dummy guns; and the scraping sound they emit when the gun is withdrawn can prevent a surreptitious draw. The first problem can be solved with a strongly secured inside-the-waistband design like the snap-on version from Blade-Tech. The latter can be cured with suede lining, one option in the popular line from Hellweg Ltd.

While belt holsters comprise the overwhelming majority of Kydex offerings right now, that could change. It would be interesting to see what kind of pocket holster could be made out of this material. Blade-Tech already has a "deep down in the pants" hideout model for smaller guns, and Fobus introduced an ankle holster at the 2001 SHOT Show.

Design Concepts

Some new to concealed-carry are afraid of being disarmed when in a struggle. Thumb-breaks are widely available and make a lot of sense. A few true security holsters have emerged that are reasonably concealable. In synthetic, there is the Safariland 0701, a high-rise hip holster with some of

the features that have made its Rogers-designed SS-III security holster a million-unit seller to the police and private-guard sectors. In leather, there is the Strong Piece-Keeper: a pancake-style with an ingenious "double-locked" thumb-break safety strap.

One increasingly popular design feature is quick on-and-off capability. Paddle holsters are a good example. They go back to the mid-20th century with a Bucheimer design that used leather loops to snap over the belt. Today's models are more likely to secure with a plastic hook and work with beltless pants. They are also more likely to be orthopedically curved for greater comfort.

Originally developed for detectives who tended to keep guns in their desk drawers and only don them when they had to, this concept finds favor today among armed citizens who, due to their jurisdictions, are limited as to where they can carry. A day of shopping in, say, North Carolina may see you take your gun off and put it back on multiple times as you stop at the post office to pick up your mail, at the courthouse for a copy of a document, and at a cocktail lounge to meet a client.

The paddle is not the only approach to quick-on/quick-off holster capability. The LFI Concealment Rig I designed along with Ted Blocker in the mid-'80s remains one of the Blocker company's most popular lines. This inside-the-waistband holster, available with or without thumb-break safety strap, has a tab of Velcro that secures inside a mated, Velcro-lined dress gunbelt. It has recently been copied by a couple of other makers.

Alessi now offers a design inspired by police weapons expert Dave Spaulding. Reminiscent of an earlier model by the late, great Bruce Nelson, this CQCS (Close Quarter Covert with Snaps) scabbard has leather tabs with snap fasteners that go over the belt to save unbuckling when the gun must go on or come off the person. Derry Gallagher makes an inside-the-waistband holster that secures in a similar fashion but uses Velcro to secure the belt loops instead of metal snaps.

Snap-on belt loops have been with us for decades on IWB holsters like the Summer Special, designed by Bruce Nelson and popularized by the late Milt Sparks. A gun inside-the-waistband needs help to fit comfortably. Years ago, Lou Alessi pioneered a design that was "squared out" to spread the pressure against the body that such a holster could exert. More recently, Elmer MacEvoy (at Leather Arsenal in Idaho) and Gene DeSantis have taken this concept a step further with slightly more ergonomic designs.

Even the simplest gun concealment designs have improved in recent years. Circa 1963, a photo appeared in a gun magazine of John Bianchi with a prototype belly-band holster. He didn't produce it during those years, but a firm in New York called MMGR did. It was a simple 4-inch-wide band of elastic with a holster pocket or two sewn in and designed to be worn between a tucked-

in shirt and underwear. When I started carrying one in the late '60s, perspiration went right through the fabric and rusted my blue Chief Special brown in a single day. Bianchi International finally jumped in with an improved version that doubled as a money belt and had a pocket for a spare magazine or Speed Strip — and even for handcuffs.

Today there are too many belly bands on the market to count. Brauer has one that resembles the old MMGR. Gould & Goodrich, Guardian Leather and Uncle Mike's all offer versions with padding or film to protect the gun against salty sweat.

Before we leave fabric holsters, we must look at the first practical and popular groin holster, Thunderwear. Widely copied, it can carry a compact handgun below the belt in the front of the pants, accessible through the top front of the waistband. Some find it uncomfortable. Others, when they see where the muzzle points, find it disconcerting. But for many, it's a concept that works. We also can't forget Greg Kramer's special undershirt with a holster pocket sewn in to ride under each armpit. Introduced as the Confidant, it has allowed a number of people with tucked-in shirts to keep their small handguns completely hidden in gun-unfriendly work environments.

The pocket holster is another old and simple concept that has been recently updated. In addition to the previously mentioned TOTERS, we have Kramer's defining design with a Kydex square outside the holster's leather body. It breaks up the outline of the gun and makes it look as if you have a wallet in your pocket. However, unlike the original gimmicky "wallet holster," it stays in your pocket while the gun clears.

The latest Pocket Softy design by Mitch Rosen is one of the best pocket rigs ever. It uses a plastic tab at the upper front to catch on pocket fabric. This guarantees the necessary separation of gun and holster at the moment of truth. Bill Rogers' design for Safariland, new this year, is another advance in pocket holsters. It is synthetic on the inside for smooth draw and suede on the outside to catch on fabric pocket lining, ensuring that your holster stays in when you want your gun to come out.

The most meaningful new design may also be the most widely copied. Gun-rights activist Dave Workman showed me a hand-made system he had designed to hide a small handgun under a tucked-in dress shirt. I introduced him to Mitch Rosen who produced it. Several companies now have copies of the Workman holster, but I still like the original. The baby Glock is about its upper size limit for real-world functionality.

Synergy

We've never had such a good selection of gun-concealment options. It has been a long time since American men's fashions were so amenable to hiding handguns as they are today. The guns themselves have evolved in a positive way, too.

The current .380 and .32 pistols by Seecamp and Guardian are the size of many popular .25 autos. Titanium and Scandium have made the already compact snubnose .38 Special revolver unimaginably light and have convinced many to carry .357 Magnum and .44 Special revolvers that heretofore were considered too heavy for all-day concealed wear. Once the province of only the most privileged general officers in the U.S. Army, the ultra-compact 1911 .45 auto is now available to the gun-buying public in numerous forms.

The Kahr MK9 and MK40 put full power 9mm and .40 S&W potency levels in packages once reserved for marginally powerful .380s. Colt's short-lived Pocket Nine was exactly the size of a Walther PPK .380, and lighter — but it delivered 2-inch, 25-yard groups with full-duty 9mm ammunition. There is hope of it becoming available again, whether or not it carries the Colt logo next time around.

SIG marketed its P-239 in 9mm, .40 S&W, and .357 SIG as an ideal concealed-carry size

pistol. I won't argue the point. The same was true of the gun the P-239 primarily competes with, S&W's 3913 series, which is currently only available in 9mm. A few years ago I spent several weeks in Florida carrying a 3913 in an LFI Concealment Rig under untucked tees and polos, never once needing an outer garment.

Such is the nature of the good times we live in: the right holsters, the right clothes, the right guns, and, in more and more states, the right laws to allow good people to protect themselves and their loved ones in public.

The situation for concealed-carry is the best it has been in modern times. And having the best concealment holsters available is no small part of the reason why.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Alessi

[716] 691-5615
www.alessileather.com

Bianchi

[909] 676-5621
www.bianchi-intl.com

Blade-Tech

[253] 581-4347
blade-tech.com

Blackie Collins

[803] 568-2448
www.blackies_toters.com

Derry Gallagher

[956] 686-5109
www.dgallagherholsters.com

DeSantis

[516] 354-8000
www.desantisholster.com

Fobus International

[215] 355-2621
www.fobusholster.com

Galco

[800] 874-2526
www.usgalco.com

Gould & Goodrich

[800] 277-0732
www.gouldusa.com

Guardian Leather

[781] 286-9576

Josh Bulman

[814] 696-8615
www.bulmangunleather.com

Kramer

[253] 564-6652
www.kramerleather.com

Ky-Tac

www.members.aol.com
KYTAC/Ky-Tac-1.html

Leather Arsenal

[208] 344-2602

Magnum Software

[360] 748-4557

Michaels of Oregon

[800] 845-2444
www.unclemikes.com

Milt Sparks

[208] 377-5577
www.miltsparks.com

Mitch Rosen

[603] 647-2971
www.mitchrosen.com

Safariland

[800] 347-2100
www.safariland.com

Strong Holster Co.

[800] 225-0724
www.strongholster.com

Ted Blocker

[503] 670-7972
www.tedblocker.com

Thunderwear

[800] 830-3057
www.thunderwear.com



Tech Force

Air Guns





After Christmas Specials!



New! Tech Force 99 Magnum

Excellent trigger and accuracy • C-T-C 0.13
• 1100 FPS in .177 Cal/900 FPS in .22 Cal

**Includes 2-7X32 air gun scope
just \$236.40**



Tech Force 97

Best bang for your buck! • Excellent
trigger and accuracy • C-T-C 0.25 • 900 FPS
in .177 Cal/700 FPS in .22 Cal

**Includes w/2-7X32 air gun scope
just \$166.40**



Plus...

**Buy either of the above
packages and receive a
FREE air pistol (\$49.95 value).**

Request a FREE catalog!

Great bargains on Beeman, RWS, Gamo,
Walther, Webley, Talon, Crosman and more!
Shipped within 24 hours • 30-day money back
guarantee. • Add \$17 S/H; KY, IN & OH residents
add sales tax. • Adult air rifles cannot be sold to
minors under 18.

COMPASSECO

151-G Atkinson Hill | Bardstown, KY 40004
Phone: 1-800-726-1696 | www.compasseco.com
Offers expire Jan. 31, 2002

Career Training in

GUNSMITHING

**Earn an Associate (Occupational)
Degree in 14 Months**

- 1500 Hands-on Shop Hours •
- Financial Aid to those who qualify •
- Approved for Veterans Education •

"Not a Home-Study course."

Colorado School of Trades

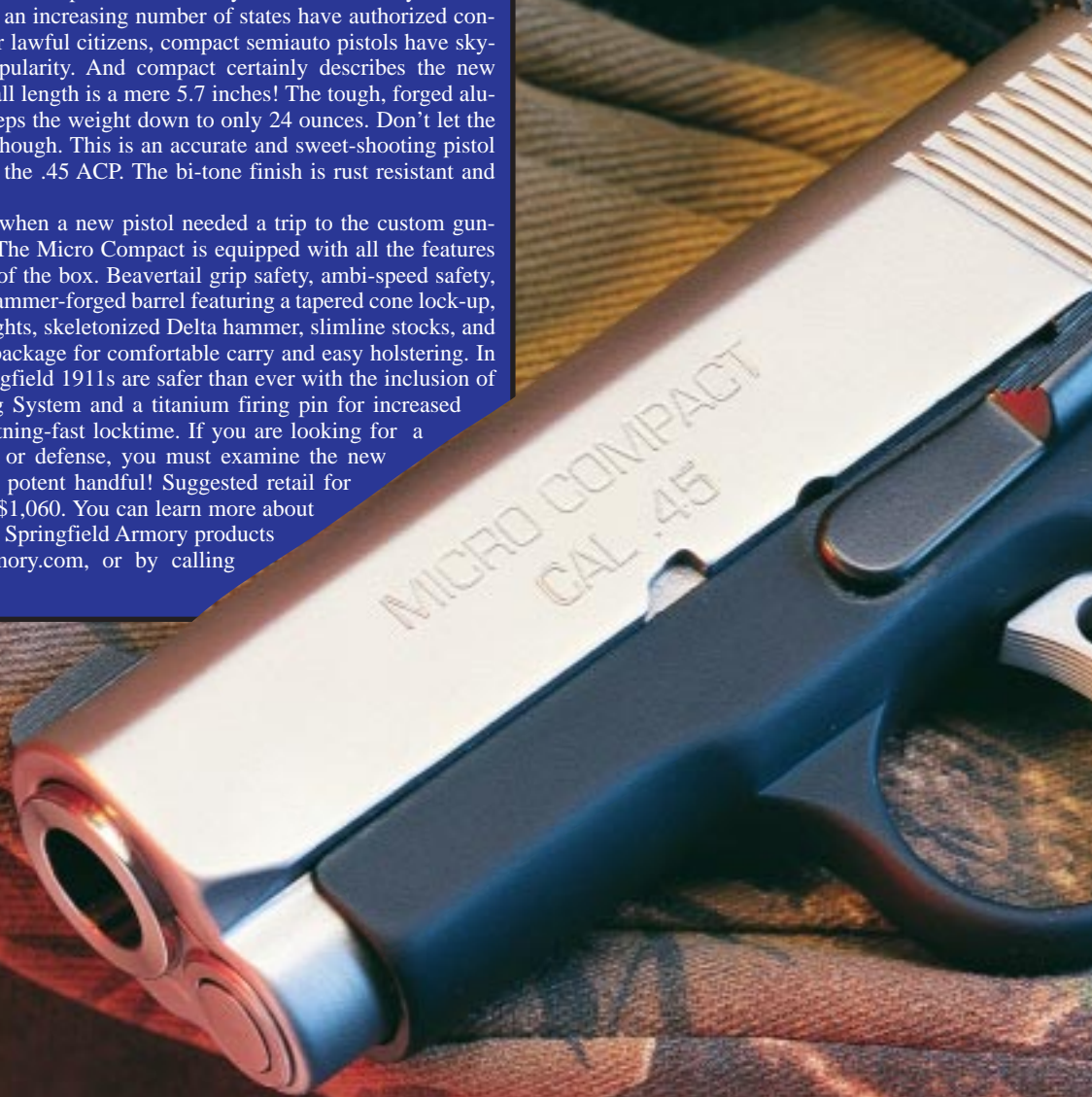
1575 Hoyt St. GM, Lakewood, CO 80215
1-800-234-4594 In Colorado 303-233-4697
www.gunsmith-school.com

★
Training Gunsmiths Since 1947
Farrier Courses available

You Can Win This **SPRINGFIELD ARMORY** **MICRO COMPACT 1911**

Just announced by Springfield Armory is the new Micro Compact 1911 — which we are proud to offer to you as the February Gun Of The Month. As an increasing number of states have authorized concealed-carry for lawful citizens, compact semiauto pistols have skyrocketed in popularity. And compact certainly describes the new Micro Compact. Overall length is a mere 5.7 inches! The tough, forged aluminum alloy frame keeps the weight down to only 24 ounces. Don't let the light weight fool you though. This is an accurate and sweet-shooting pistol with the full power of the .45 ACP. The bi-tone finish is rust resistant and extremely handsome.

Gone are the days when a new pistol needed a trip to the custom gunsmith to be tuned up. The Micro Compact is equipped with all the features you demand right out of the box. Beavertail grip safety, ambi-speed safety, long match trigger, a hammer-forged barrel featuring a tapered cone lock-up, Novak tritium night sights, skeletonized Delta hammer, slimline stocks, and a tasteful carry bevel package for comfortable carry and easy holstering. In addition, all new Springfield 1911s are safer than ever with the inclusion of the Integrated Locking System and a titanium firing pin for increased drop safety and a lightning-fast locktime. If you are looking for a compact .45 for sport or defense, you must examine the new Micro Compact. It's a potent handful! Suggested retail for the Micro Compact is \$1,060. You can learn more about this and the full line of Springfield Armory products at www.springfieldarmory.com, or by calling [309] 944-5631.





TO ENTER CONTEST: Use attached card on page 75 or any postcard (no envelopes, please) and follow sample. Send to GUNS Magazine, GOM FEBRUARY, P.O. BOX 639033, San Diego, CA 92163-9033. Entries must be received before MARCH 1, 2002.
Limit one entry per household.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

How many times do you visit your local gun shop?

- (A) Monthly
(B) Seasonally
(C) Occasionally
(D) Never

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____

CIRCLE ANSWERS TO QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

(A) (B) (C) (D)

IF I WIN, SHIP MY GUN THROUGH:

FFL Dealer _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone # () _____
Store Hours: _____ a.m. thru _____ p.m.

QUESTION FOR INFORMATION ONLY: ANSWERS HAVE NO BEARING ON YOUR CHANCE OF WINNING. WINNERS CHOSEN BY RANDOM DRAWING.

To protect the privacy and security of winners, their names will NOT be made public.
Contest void where prohibited by law. Winners must undergo a background check and comply with all other federal, state and local laws.
Contest open to U.S. residents only. Employees and agents of Publishers' Development Corp. not eligible. No purchase necessary.
Winners will be notified by CERTIFIED MAIL on official letterhead.

Knife Outlet

**Cool Blades!
Hot Prices!**



**The knives you want at
internet prices!**

Knife Outlet
Div. of Specialty Web Marketing, Inc.
66400 Oak Road
Lakeville, IN 46536

**www.knifeoutlet.com
(800) 607-9948**

SAFE HEADQUARTERS FORT KNOX



**AMERICAN
Security**
BROWNING
GoldenRod
Handgun Safes
Lowest Price!
Call us before you buy!
1-800-222-7233

A.G. ENGLISH, INC. www.agenglish.com
708 S. 12th St./Broken Arrow, OK 74012(918) 251-3399

LEGENDARY ARMS, INC.

P.O. Box 479- Three Bridges, NJ 08887-0479
Fax: (908) 788-8522 Phone: (800) 528-2767



Send \$5.00 for our 24-page
color catalog of the finest
reproductions of swords,
knives, uniforms, leather
equipment, canteens,
insignias, etc. We specialize
in the American Civil War.
We accept Visa/MC, Discover,
AmEx, Checks, Money Orders.
No C.O.D.s
Visit our website at:
<http://www.legendaryarms.com/>
U.S. Light Cavalry Saber
Item# 5006, \$129.00 + \$8.00 SH
Tempered Carbon Steel Blade. Made in India.
(Free leather scabbard with order.)



GOLDEN AGE ARMS CO.
Musicians. Supplies & More

Please send
\$5.00
for Catalog #21

Golden Age's new 240 page fully illustrated catalog number 21
offers thousands of muzzle loading gun parts for the shooter and
builder. Also available are custom knife kits, books on Americana
and leather goods.

115 E. HIGH ST. • BOX 366 • ASHLEY, OHIO 43003
(740) 747-2488

DAKOTA ARMS

continued from page 39

Made To Order

The Dakota 76 action is made in four lengths and in either right- or left-handed versions at no extra cost. It is possible to purchase actions, barreled actions or complete rifles. The Classic Grade Model 76 is handsomely stocked in a good grade of English walnut, hand checkered and complete with sling swivel studs and recoil pad. It's an attractive, reliable and distinctive rifle. The majority of Dakota rifles are made to order, with additional features selected from a long list of options. These include upgraded wood, fancier checkering patterns, skeleton grip caps and butt-plates, special stock and barrel lengths, sight options such as quarter ribs and banded/hooded front sights. Many customers fly in from around the country or around the world to discuss options and to select a stock blank from the extensive supply on hand.

Touring the Dakota facility is a fascinating experience. The melding of technology and tradition can be disconcerting. At one point you can watch the most modern, computer numeric controlled machine tool at work, which fabricates components to precise tolerances. Step around a corner and it's as though you've stepped back in time back to the world of hand craftsmanship of a century ago. Here, a worker — more accurately, an artist — is unhurriedly hand fitting and assembling components to make an action.

The Hand Fitted Difference

Take the Model 10 single-shot rifle, for example. The receiver, breechblock, lever and linkage components come from the machine tools precise enough that any set of parts can be assembled and the action will function. Except that's not how it's done. Craftsman Ward Dobler assembles each action at his workbench — selecting parts, trying for fit, honing, polishing and fitting. Each action takes an average of 6½ hours to assemble before Dobler is satisfied. But when he's done, the action functions with such precision and smoothness it brings joy to a rifleman's heart.

Fine walnut is an increasingly scarce commodity, and keeping a good supply of blanks on hand is an ongoing job. Recently Dakota was able to purchase a huge Bastogne walnut tree. By careful cutting, Dakota was able to get nearly 5,000 stock blanks, many of them with spectacular grain and color.

There's that melding of old and new again; stock blanks are carefully kiln dried in an environmentally controlled atmosphere. Blanks are cut to profile and allowed to stabilize for several months. They are then shaped to near final dimensions by automated machinery. Walk through

another door and its back in time again. Skilled workers do the final bedding, shaping, sanding and finishing by hand. Some big factories have machinery that cuts quite nice checkering patterns. At Dakota Arms, the checkering is done by another artist, Karen Dufek, with the stock fixed in a checkering cradle, just as great stockmakers from Alvin Linden to Monty Kennedy have done for generations.

Dakota produces only about a thousand firearms annually, fewer than some manufacturers make in a day. There's really no "standard" model — almost every rifle has some special feature. The people at Dakota take a proprietary interest in each one. For example, after a barreled action is assembled, chambered and proof tested, a standard round is fired into the bullet trap. The cartridge case is then marked with the rifle serial number and stored. Let's say I have a Dakota rifle you're interested in purchasing. By checking its records, the factory can immediately determine if a rifle has been altered. Comparing a fired case will indicate if the rifle's chamber has been altered or damaged in any way. This helps protect subsequent buyers and maintains the value of used rifles.

The Model 97

Currently the Classic Grade lists at \$3,595 and getting frisky with the option list can push that up fast. Don Allen recognized that there are many hunters who appreciate fine accuracy and workmanship but don't want to invest that kind of money. The lower-priced Hunter series is built on the Model 97 action. The main difference is in the receiver. The Model 76 flat-bottomed receiver with integral recoil lug is time consuming to machine while maintaining concentricity. The Model 97 receiver is cylindrical, with a separate recoil lug sandwiched between receiver and barrel. Because it can be turned on centers, it is much easier to produce.

It's important to note that the 97 is not an economy or lower-grade version of the 76. Like the 76 it features controlled-round feeding with a Mauser-type extractor and mechanical ejection, the three-position safety and Dakota-style bolt-stop. It is built to the same standards from the same grade of heat-treated steel, with the same quality Lothar Walther barrels. The trigger is an adjustable, self-contained unit and the Hunter is supplied with a synthetic stock with blind (i.e., without floorplate) magazine.

Production time savings and the use of synthetics instead of wood keep the price down, currently \$1,995 in either Long Range Hunter or Lightweight Hunter versions. Stocked in semi-fancy wood with steel floorplate and hand checkering the price is \$2,995.

Air travel with firearms is a pain, especially long guns. The cases are bulky and heavy to transport, they get tossed around,

and their unmistakable shape makes them the target of thieves. Many Dakota customers hunt worldwide and spend a lot of time travelling. Recently Dakota began to offer the Traveler, a takedown version of the wood-stocked Model 76. Instead of using a threaded system that would eventually wear and loosen, Dakota uses a bushing on the rear of the barrel which slips into the receiver. Since the bolt lugs lock into this bushing the fit remains tight and headspace constant no matter how often the barrel is removed.

The Traveler takes down into two short sections that can be easily packed in a compact, discreet carrying case. The rifle lists at \$4,495 in Classic grade; extra barrel/caliber units are \$1,650. Units will interchange on the same receiver assembly provided the cartridges are from the same family. Examples would be .270 Win. and .35 Whelen; 7mm. Rem. Mag. and .458 Win. Mag.; .300 H&H and .375 H&H Mag.; and .300 Dakota and .404 Dakota. Many other combinations are possible as well.

Not Just Turnbolts

Recently Dakota has begun producing other classic hunting firearms. One is a high grade side-by-side double shotgun, in a joint venture with Ferlib of Italy. Offered in two grades, the American Legend and the Premier Grade, the Dakota shotguns are built and stocked to the customer's specifications. Options include select grades of wood, checkering and engraving patterns, choke, barrel length, and extra barrel combinations. Current prices are \$13,950 for the Premier Grade and \$18,000 for the American Legend.

The second arm is the Dakota Double Rifle, introduced at the 2001 Safari Club convention. Serial number DR001 was chambered in .500 Nitro Express. The Double Rifles will be built to order in virtually any standard caliber. Double triggers and selective automatic ejectors are standard. No one has found a way to make a quality double rifle inexpensively, but the Dakota double at \$25,000 is certainly in line with other rifles of comparable quality.

Quality doesn't come cheap, and clearly Dakota Arms rifles and shotguns aren't for everyone. Some customers are wealthy business and professional people with more money than time who want their Dakota rifle built, scoped, sighted in and ready to go. One can certainly feel pity for people who are so busy that they miss half the fun of owning a rifle: sighting in, accuracy testing, and working up the best handloads.

There are also many customers who aren't particularly wealthy but whose tastes have matured. They reach a stage in life where instead of a whole rack of standard rifles they want one or two high-grade rifles. Don Allen knows of customers who trade in three or four seldom-used standard rifles for one custom Dakota.

Saving The Best For Last

Truth to tell, I've been recently spending time in front of the gun safe, studying the back row of rifles that I haven't shot in some years. Like many enthusiasts, I want one of every new rifle and new caliber that comes along. And though it's been hard to keep up in recent years, I keep trying. Right now I'm trying to convince myself that I don't really need them all. The reason is the Dakota Arms Model 10 single shot rifle.

Photographs of the Model 10 show an exceptionally handsome rifle, but nothing compares to actually handling one. The Model 10 for standard calibers weighs just 5½ pounds and is so perfectly balanced it feels like less. Visually, the rifle is one elegant sweep of polished steel and fine walnut, without a single visible pin or screw. There isn't an extra ounce of weight or a fraction of extra material. The Model 10 is a slim, lean classic in its most basic form: lock, stock and barrel. It may be the single most handsome, classic hunting rifle ever produced in America.

If this sounds a bit overwrought, be warned. If you admire and appreciate fine rifles, don't pick up a Model 10 or you may not be able to put it down. I want one desperately and I'm not even a big fan of single shots.

The Model 10 is also available in a magnum version weighing 6½ pounds and in calibers from .338 Win. Mag. to .416 Dakota. Standard barrel length is 23 inches, but as with the other models, a wide range of options are available (barrels, checkering and engraving patterns, upgraded wood, sights). Prices for both versions start at \$3,595 with good quality walnut, checkering, barrel band swivel stud, and recoil pad.

Dakota's line of proprietary cartridges, based on the .404 case, are popular in all the Dakota models. Brass is made by Norma of Sweden, meaning quality is second to none. Dakota provides loaded ammunition for all its calibers with an excellent selection of premium bullets such as Winchester Fail Safe, Swift A-Frame, Barnes and Woodleigh solids.

Dakota Arms is a remarkable company. Its annual production likely doesn't cause executives at Remington, Ruger, or Winchester to lose sleep. However, it has found success in appealing to a niche that has not been well served. Sales are limited not by demand but by the number of rifles they are able to produce. Whether you ever own one of these rifles or not, for those who love fine rifles and fine workmanship, it's good to know that a company like Dakota Arms exists.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Dakota Arms

[605] 347-4686

www.dakotaarms.com

HOGUE
www.getgrip.com

Handgun Grips
Rifle & Shotgun
Stocks Holsters
Accessories

Soft Rubber

Exotic Hardwoods

HandAll® Grip Sleeves

Stocks to fit Remington Winchester Mossberg Ruger Rifles & Shotguns NEW! Mini 14/30

Free Catalog 1-800-GETGRIP

HOGUE INC

Call for location of your nearest dealer
800-438-4747 or 805-239-1440 fax 805-239-2553
P.O. BOX 1138
PASO ROBLES, CA 93447
www.hoguesgrips.com

presenting the new...
Every Day Carry
FRAME LOCK

We are so confident you will love the latest Darrel Ralph frame lock design, we are calling it the EDC, "Every Day Carry". It has all the features of more expensive knives and then some. The contoured stainless steel frame has similar cutouts as the ARCLITE neck knife for weight reduction and for positive grip under adverse conditions. Hair-splitting, recurved edge for cutting efficiency with the strongest lock in its class. The look of the future, now.

 PROUDLY MADE IN THE U.S.A.

Specifications:
 Blade: 2.95" Flat Ground 420HC (1.100" stock). Finish: Satin
 OAL: 6.85". Scales: CUDA Silk Matte, Skeletonized Heat Treated 420 Stainless Steel. Carry Method: CUDA Silk Matte Stainless Steel Pocket Clip. Made in USA
Suggested Retail:
 CU220 (plain edge) - \$69.95
 CU221 (partially serrated) - \$69.95

CUDA™ U.S.A.



Camillus Cutlery Company
 54 Main Street, Camillus, NY 13031
 Phone: 800.344.0456 • Fax: 315.672.8832
www.camillusknives.com

FIELD HOLSTERS

continued from page 35

riding in the newfangled automobiles. Threepersons removed all excess leather, which included the back flap and the part that encloses the trigger guard; raised the gun as high as possible by having the exposed trigger guard riding on a heavy welt at the back of the holster; and folded over enough leather to sew a very tight belt loop on the back of the holster. The sixgun now rode very high on the belt so the holster was slanted with the muzzle to the rear, which allowed the sixgun to be drawn quickly. Trimble was apparently a little more traditional than Threepersons. And although he used the same basic design, his holster maintained an abbreviated back flap and rode about one-inch lower than Threeperson's design while maintaining the same angle.

Threepersons took his design to S.D. Myres in El Paso. Trimble went to A. W. Brill in Austin. Both companies are long gone, but the designs remain. The basic Tom Threepersons has been made by virtually every holster maker, with George Lawrence offering it as the #120 Keith. Today the original designs are available from El Paso Saddlery, and they make dandy field holsters. Available in plain, basket stamped, border stamped and floral carved, the #1920 Threepersons and the #1930 Austin are both fully lined and equipped with a safety strap or hammer thong. They are made for virtually every single-action or double-action sixgun as well as most semiautomatics. They are superb examples of leather crafting, and the artist who does the floral carving is without equal.

Somewhere in-between the old traditional Mexican Loop holster and the Tom Threepersons is the Duke Rig, made famous by John Wayne. The Duke wore his too low for field use, but the El Paso version rides high and comfortable on a money belt.

Bianchi also has its rendition of the Tom Threepersons, the #1L Lawman. Unlike the others, Bianchi's version has an open toe. Crafted of high-quality leather and fully lined with a safety strap, over one million of these holsters have been sold. That should give some idea of what sixgunners think of this field holster. For double-action sixguns, Bianchi's #5B is a high-riding, very secure thumb-snap design for concealment and duty-use that also doubles as an excellent field holster.

Von Ringler's Tom Threepersons design is the Linebaugh, which can be used to carry the big custom sixguns of John Linebaugh as well as such other offerings by Freedom Arms. This is a very sturdy holster: It's lined; it features a safety strap; and the main seam, unlike the Threepersons design, features a curve as it travels downward from the trigger guard to the end of the mainframe and then into the barrel profile. Ringler also offers an excellent Pancake design for the big single-action and double-action sixguns

as well as trim cartridge slides. The Ringler is designed with the handgun hunter in mind. El Paso's excellent version of the Pancake design is the #77, appropriately labeled the Tortilla.

As I have mentioned, many of the peace officer designs also turn out to be excellent field holsters. Both applications require comfort and security when wearing the holster all day long, and then some. Special Agent Hank Sloan of the FBI, with some input from Elmer Keith, designed the #200AW for Milt Sparks. This is basically a Tom Threepersons holster with two changes: The leather comes up to cover the hammer, preventing excess wearing of coat linings, and the safety strap has been replaced by a tension screw at the welt. The result is an excellent field holster.

Crossdraw Holsters

The most prevalent holster in the middle of the 19th century was the Slim Jim. Originally designed to carry such sixguns as the long-barreled 1851 Navy Colt, it also made the transition quite easily to Colt Single Actions, Remington 1875s and Smith & Wesson Model 3s. All of these sixguns had long barrels, and the Slim Jim design was a high-riding crossdraw, actually a butt-forward design that rode high on the hip with the sixgun normally being accessed by the cavalry twist draw. This is also a workable field design, especially for those who want to stay in the 19th century. El Paso Saddlery, Will Ghormley and San Pedro Saddlery all offer working Slim Jim field holsters.

The design of Tom Threepersons #1920 allows it to not only work as a strong-side hip holster for single-action and double-action sixguns and semiautomatics, but also make a very trim crossdraw holster. It is very difficult to carry an 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch Smith & Wesson sixgun on the strong side; however, it becomes very easy by using a crossdraw such as the #1920.

Thad Rybka learned long ago that crossdraw holsters were very suitable for hunting use. Most of his designs are offered in crossdraw persuasion; the favorite among hunters and woodsbummers is the Tomahawk. Originally designed for a Mag-Na-Port Custom Predator .44 Magnum with a 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch barrel, I use Tomahawks for a Ruger as well as a short-barreled Freedom Arms .454. The 2/3 flap holds the sixgun safely and securely while at the same time allowing for easy accessibility.

One of the toughest sixguns to pack without going to a shoulder holster is the 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch Ruger Super Redhawk. This is a big, bulky sixgun. C. Rusty Sherrick has come up with a very trim crossdraw holster that rides on the belt and features a contrasting half flap made of light-weight sharkskin-leather. This excellent holster is notable for what it does not have, namely excess bulk and excess weight.

Shoulder Holsters

I am not a great fan of nylon holsters until we come to the shoulder holster category. Scoped pistols are very hard to carry, but Unce Mike's solves much of the problem. I especially like Michaels of Oregon's shoulder rig — actually more of a bandolier style — for packing 10-inch scoped revolvers and scoped Thompson/Center Contenders. As an extra added bonus, I also use these holsters for safe shipping while flying. The guns are placed in their respective holsters, then wrapped in my hunting clothes, and finally placed in a hard locking case. Packed this way, they have always arrived at my hunting destination in perfect shape with the scoped still zeroed.

When the weather is really crummy or the going is tough, I reach for the nylon shoulder holster offered by Idaho Leather. This is a true shoulder holster in that it rides under the armpit. Unlike other nylon holsters, this one is lined with suede leather. It accepts a 6-inch Freedom Arms sixgun; this is the rig and revolver I used when making my way up a mountain in waist-deep snow to get my mountain lion. Idaho Leather also offers an excellent leather shoulder holster closer to the spring-clip style that still fully covers the revolver. Made of the best leather obtainable, this rig helps distribute the weight by the use of a cartridge holder on the off-side strap. This wide, flat piece of leather holds two vertical rows of 12 cartridge loops each.

We have mentioned how difficult it is to holster an 8½-inch Smith & Wesson. For many years now I have used a shoulder holster from DeSantis that does much to solve the problem. There is no spring clip, and you don't have to try to pull that long barrel up and out of the top of a shoulder holster. Instead, the sixgun is carried straight up and down under the armpit, and the whole portion of the holster body pivots forward to allow the sixgun to be pulled straight out. Excellent design. The same basic idea is now also being offered by Wesson Firearms for its Dan Wesson revolvers.

Ringler Custom Leather offers a most ingenious design; it isn't a strong-side holster, a crossdraw holster, or even a shoulder holster — it's actually all three. Known as the Wyoming Combination, this rig consists of a fully adjustable lightweight belt and a holster pouch. The belt's adjustment level allows it to be worn as a waist belt or a shoulder strap. You can tighten up the belt and wear it around your waist or lengthen it and wear the rig over your shoulder. I've found it most handy for carrying a 5½-inch Super Blackhawk; I use a second one to carry the extremely hard-to-holster Thompson/Center Super 14 Contender.

Finally, we come to my most used hunting holster. Three of my favorite hunting handguns are all scoped 7½-inch Freedom Arms Model 83s in .357 Magnum,

Wilson Combat/Scattergun Technologies Tactical Gear Headquarters

Announcing **NEW Wilson Combat® Tactical gear** ^A
for 2002. Famous for innovative, **QUALITY**
custom handguns for over 24 years,
Wilson Combat® is proud to
announce the availability of their
NEW tactical rifles and shotguns.

^A
The CQB (Close Quarters
Battle) Starting at **\$1,795.00**
It's the pistol for you!

^B
The custom built Urban Tactical Carbine
Starting at **\$1599.00**
It's not the least expensive just the best!

^C
ScattergunTechnologies™ Standard Model
Starting at only **\$895.00**
A real Tactical Response/Self-Defense bargain!

Wilson Combat®/ScattergunTechnologies™
2234 CR 719-159 • Berryville, AR 72616-4573
info@wilsoncombat.com
www.wilsoncombat.com

30 other Firearms available
call 1-800-955-4856
for details



Just Compare... Nothing Even Comes Close!

FORT KNOX

SECURITY PRODUCTS

"Go With America's Best!"
General Chuck Taylor

- U.S. Listed
- Certified Fire Protection
- Lifetime Warranty
- Competitive Prices
- Over 20 Models
- Sargent & Greenleaf Locks

Free Brochure! 1-800-821-5216
1031 North Industrial Park Road, Green, UT 84037 www.fknox.com

S & K SCOPE MOUNTS • S & K SCOPE MOUNTS • S & K SCOPE MOUNTS

Home of the Insta-Mounts (for Military Types)

Presents: **SKulptured Bases**
Smooth Kontoured Rings
PROJECTIONLESS MOUNTS RING PATENT #5,533,267

Send For Brochure:
S & K SCOPE MOUNTS
RD 2 BOX 72E
SUGAR GROVE, PA 16350
Tel: 800-578-9862 or
814-489-3091
Fax: 814-489-5466
Website:
www.scope mounts.com

Easy Installation
the lightest
the strongest
The Best!
Guaranteed

**TRY THEM!
WEIGH THEM!
USE THEM!**

All Steel, Fully Machined, Windage Mounts

.44 Magnum and .454 Casull. Which caliber I choose depends on what I'm after. In either case I grab the shoulder holster that Freedom Arms offers for its scoped revolvers. Perhaps it is not correct to call this a shoulder holster because it really rides across the front of your body. Whether walking, standing, sitting or riding, this holster works! I wear it so my belt enters the loop on the back of the holster, which takes much of the weight off the shoulder straps.

This works out very comfortably, and when I don't forget to fasten the safety strap, it is perfectly secure.

When you realize how important the holster is, price becomes secondary. When it comes to sixgunn', a good holster is actually one leg of a three-legged stool; the other two are custom stocks and the sixgun itself. Your selections in all three of these areas will dictate the comfort and effectiveness of your handgun system. Choosing the right

holster allows the sixgun to be readily accessible when needed. Choosing the wrong holster could mean just the opposite. A quality holster will last a lifetime... and then some — and it will also help to build many pleasant memories afield.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Bianchi Intl
100 Calle Cortez,
Temecula CA 92590
[800] 477-8545

Davis Leather Co.
[520] 636-4111
www.davisleather.com

DeSantis Holster Co.
[516] 354-8000
www.desantisholster.com

El Paso Saddlery
[915] 544-2233
www.epsaddlery.com

Freedom Arms
www.freedomarms.com

Will Ghormley
1050 25th St. #2
Des Moines, IA 50311

Idaho Leather
18 S. Orchard
Boise, ID 83705
[208] 344-2602

Ringler Custom Leather
31 Shining Mt. Road
Powell, WY 82435
[307] 645-3255

Rybka Custom Leather
134 Havilah Hill St.
Odenville, AL 35120

San Pedro Saddlery
www.sanpedrosaddlery.com

C. Rusty Sherrick
www.c-rusty.com

Milt Sparks
[208] 377-5577

Michael's Of Oregon
[503] 655-7964
www.uncle-mikes.com

Set Your Sights On Site-In-Clean

MTM CASE-GARD
QUALITY SHOOTING SPORTS ACCESSORIES

Only \$349⁹⁵
Sugg. Retail

Also available as a Rest & Range Case Combo

Carry rest and shooting equipment in one handy, range-ready container. Just \$56⁹⁵
Sugg. Retail

See your local sporting goods retailer for MTM Case-Gard's complete line of practical shooting products or send \$2 for a full size catalog.

www.mtmcasgard.com
MTM Molded Products Company - PO Box 13117 - Dept. GN-SNC - Dayton OH 45413
(937) 890-7461 - Fax (937) 890-1747

Tactical Reality

Louis Awerbuch is one of America's premier firearms trainers and educators. Learn creative target systems, firearms marksmanship under stress and defensive survival tactics. This book is for everyone interested in finding out how to turn the tactical odds in a gunfight in your favor.

Yes! Send _____ copies of *Tactical Reality* at \$30.00 ea. Orders inside the U.S. add \$6 per book for shipping. Outside the U.S. add \$16 per book for shipping. Payments must be in U.S. dollars, drawn from a U.S. bank, or on cards below. Make checks and M/O payable to Publishers Development Corp. CA residents add 7.5% sales tax to total. HC2-GB186

☐ Check/MO Enc. \$ _____ ☐ VISA/MC/Dis/AmEx
Exp. Date _____ Initial _____

Card No. _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Mail to PDC Books • 591 Camino de la Reina, Suite 200 • San Diego, CA 92108

ORDER HOT LINE
1-800-628-9818
FAX 619-297-5353

Pictures and details so real you'll swear you pulled the trigger.

From the moment you turn the first page and dive into one shooting adventure after the other, you'll discover a difference that makes *GUNS Magazine* one-of-a-kind.

For you it may be the detailed full-color photo spreads that make it seem like you've held and examined each gun featured. Or maybe it'll be the expertly written articles that pull no punches when it comes to delivering the facts.

One thing is certain - each issue will make you feel that you really got your money's worth.

It's like having your own gun store that gets re-stocked with new stuff every month.

Imagine your private store packed from floor to ceiling with all the latest shooting gear, and each month it's all different. That's *GUNS Magazine*.

What's more, in this store you discover everything about a product before it ever costs you a dime. That makes it easy to make smart and informed decisions when you're ready to buy.

If it has to do with shooting, you'll find it here.

Besides features on the latest guns, gear and shooting trends, regular *GUNS Magazine* columns include:

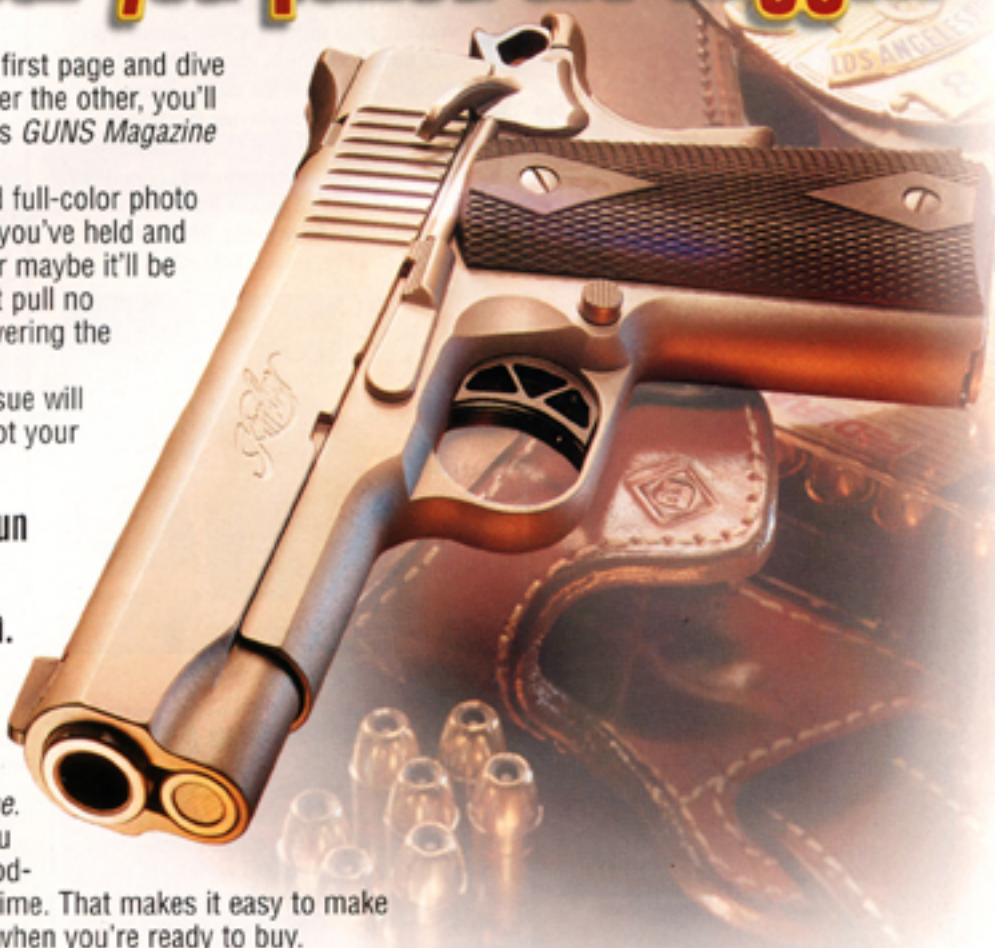
- **Defense** - lessons in armed defense for the civilian.
- **Handloader** - tips, loading and performance data.
- **Quartermaster** - a first look at new items for every kind of shooter.
- **Rifleman** - accessories, ammo and tools for today's rifle shooter.
- **Rimfires** - for hunting, target shooting and just plain fun.
- **Shotgunner** - the latest in scatterguns and technology.

**Get New *GUNS* Every Month.
Start Your Subscription Today!**

GUNS Magazine includes timely and accurate features for a variety of skill and interest levels. The very next issue may have just what you're looking for. *GUNS Magazine* is designed to fit easily and affordably into your mail box year-round. You can get the next 12 issues for only \$19.95 saving you \$27.45 off the newsstand price.

**Out Of The Box And Into The Field With Sportsmen
For More Than 40 Years.**

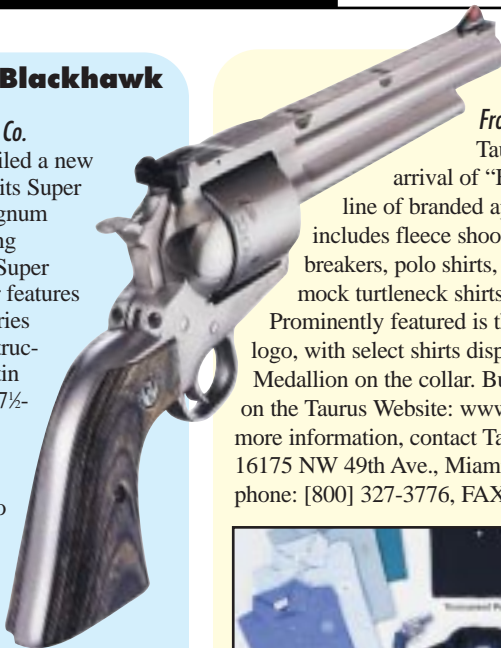
Send \$19.95 (or \$34.95 outside the U.S.) for a one year subscription to
GUNS Magazine, P.O. Box 85201, San Diego, CA 92186



New Super Blackhawk Hunter

From Sturm, Ruger & Co.

Ruger has unveiled a new updated version of its Super Blackhawk .44 magnum single-action hunting revolver. The new Super Blackhawk Hunter features heat-treated 440-series stainless steel construction with buffed satin finish and a heavy 7½-inch barrel with an integral full-length solid rib, which is factory machined to accept standard Ruger stainless-steel scope rings supplied with each revolver. Other features include fully adjustable sights, six-shot capacity cylinder and smooth black laminated wood grips. Contact Sturm, Ruger & Co., 200 Ruger Rd., Prescott, Ariz. 863021, telephone: [928] 541-8901, FAX: [928] 541-8850, Website: www.ruger-firearms.com



Bull Gear

From Taurus

Taurus announces the arrival of "Bull Gear," its new line of branded apparel. The line includes fleece shooting vests, wind-breakers, polo shirts, T-shirts, denim shirts, mock turtleneck shirts, range bags and hats. Prominently featured is the classic Taurus logo, with select shirts displaying the Taurus Medallion on the collar. Bull Gear is available on the Taurus Website: www.taurususa.com. For more information, contact Taurus International, 16175 NW 49th Ave., Miami, Fla. 33014, telephone: [800] 327-3776, FAX: [305] 623-7506.



New Juno Lockback

From Buck Knives

The Juno is a new lightweight, compact lockback knife with a comfortable one-hand opening design. The Juno's gently curving handle is made of glass-filled thermoplastic. It has a 2½-inch hollow-ground, modified drop-point stainless steel blade, partially serrated for added cutting power. The Juno weighs only 2.5 ounces and folds to a handy four inches. Contact Buck Knives, P.O. Box 1267, El Cajon, Calif. 92022, telephone: [800] 326-2855, Website: www.buck-knives.com



New Muzzleloading Bullet

From Winchester

Winchester's new Supreme Partition Gold sabot bullet is designed for the muzzleloader rifle shooter and hunting enthusiast. It offers deep penetration, controlled expansion and excellent weight retention for maximum stopping power. The 260-grain, .45-caliber bullet is housed in a plastic sabot for use in .50-caliber muzzleloading rifles. Contact Winchester/Olin Corp., 427 North Shamrock St., East Alton, Ill. 62024-1197, telephone: [618] 258-2204, FAX: [618] 258-3609, Website: www.winchester.com



M6 Laser Illuminator

From Insight Technology

The M6 Tactical Laser Illuminator provides single-handed white light illumination for a wide variety of firearms, including pistols, rifles and shotguns. The M6 TLI is battery powered, weighs just 3.7 ounces, and attaches and detaches easily and quickly. A separate mode selection switch controls four modes of operation: safe, visible laser only, white light only and dual (light and laser). Contact Insight Technology, Inc., 3 Technology Dr., Londonderry, N.H. 03053, telephone: [603] 626-4800, FAX: [603] 647-7234, e-mail: service@insight-tek.com, Website: www.insightlights.com



Norma Expands Product Line

Norma Precision has expanded the importation to the U.S. of its line of ammunition and reloading components from Sweden. Among the new imports are high-performance match-grade cartridge cases for the serious hunter and target shooter, bonded core Oryx bullets, Diamond match bullets coated with molybdenum disulfide, and clean-burning rifle powders. Contact Norma Precision, P.O. Box 549, Tualatin, Ore. 97062, e-mail: support@norma.cc, Website: www.norma.cc

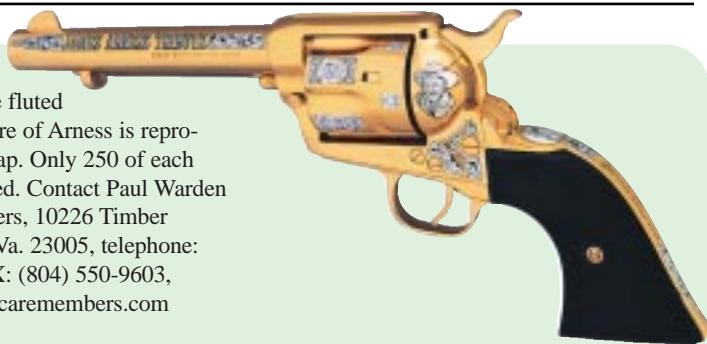


James Arness Tribute Guns

From America Remembers

America Remembers celebrates the life and career of famed Western cowboy actor James Arness with a handsomely decorated Model 94 Winchester .30-30 rifle and a Colt Cowboy Single Action .45 LC revolver. The rifle features a 24-karat gold and nickel-embellished receiver with a blackened patinaed finish and a handsome laser-carved walnut stock. The revolver has portraits of Arness

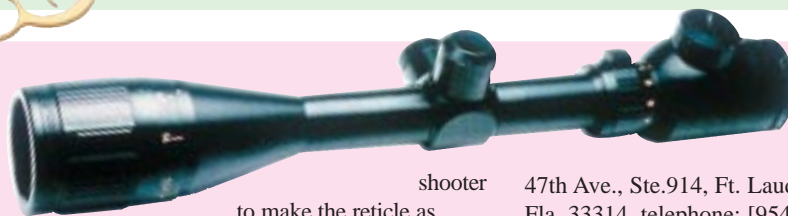
on the recoil shield and each panel of the fluted cylinder. The signature of Arness is reproduced on the backstrap. Only 250 of each firearm will be created. Contact Paul Warden at America Remembers, 10226 Timber Ridge Dr., Ashland, Va. 23005, telephone: [800] 682-2291, FAX: (804) 550-9603, Website: www.americaremembers.com



New Mil Dot Scope

From BSA Optics

BSA Optics introduces the new Mil Dot riflescope series for target shooters and varmint hunters. The five configurations are 4-16x40mm, 6-24x40mm and 8-32x40mm with the standard mil dot reticle and a 4-16x40mm and 6-24x40mm with illuminated reticle. An 11-position rheostat allows the



shooter to make the reticle as bright or dim as required. Other features include adjustable objective lenses, finger-adjustable "reset-to-zero" windage and elevation knobs, 1/8 MOA adjustments, multicoated lens system and a nonreflective black matte finish. Contact

BSA Optics,
3911 SW

47th Ave., Ste.914, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. 33314, telephone: [954] 581-2144, FAX: [954] 581-3165, e-mail: bsaoptics@bellsouth.net, Website: www.bsaoptics.com

Precision Sharpening Kit

From Smith Abrasives

Smith Abrasives new Precision Sharpening Kit accommodates all blades, including those with serrated edges. The kit includes a specially shaped triangular Medium Arkansas Stone for sharpening serrated edges, a Coarse Synthetic Stone for all other edges and a Fine Arkansas Stone for finishing. Each stone is mounted on its own individual color-coded stone bar, with its own guide rod. Also included are Multi-Angle "T" bars and Premium Honing Oil for proper lubrication. The kit comes in a hard plastic storage box with a sharpening guide booklet. Contact Smith Abrasives,



1700 Sleepy Valley Rd., Hot Springs, Ark. 71901-9017, telephone: [800] 221-4156, FAX: [501] 321-9232, Website: www.smithabrasives.com

TacLite Folder

From Buck Knives

The TacLite tactical folder from Buck Knives features a slim, compact design. The modified spear point carbon steel blade measures 3 1/2 inches long. The one-hand open/close lockblade has a modified locking liner system with patented button-release mechanism for added safety and security. The TacLite measures 4 1/4 inches closed and 8 1/4 inches open and it weighs only 3.44 ounces. Contact Buck Knives, P.O. Box 1267, El Cajon, Calif. 92022, telephone: [800] 326-2825, Website: www.buckknives.com



Patriotic 1911 Grips

From Eagle Grips

Owners of Model 1911 semiautomatic pistols can express their love of country with these new Patriot Grips from Eagle Grips. The great American eagle, symbol of freedom and courage, is etched dramatically in Ultra Ivory, Eagle Grips' finest grade elephant ivory substitute. Contact Eagle Grips, 460 Randy Rd., Carol Stream, Ill. 60188, telephone: [630] 260-0400, FAX: [630] 260-0486, Website: www.eaglegrips.com



for more
NEW PRODUCTS
visit our website

www.GUNSMAGAZINE.com

GUNSClassifieds

Classified ads \$1.00 per-word insertion. (\$.80 per-word insertion for 3 or more) including name, address and phone number (20 word minimum). Minimum charge \$20.00. **BOLD WORDS add \$.65 per word.** Copy and rerun orders must be accompanied by **PAYMENT IN ADVANCE.** **NO AGENCY OR CASH DISCOUNTS ON LISTING OR DISPLAY CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING.** All ads must be received with advance payment BY NO LATER THAN THE 1st OF each month. **EXAMPLE:** Closing for DEC. 2001 issue (on sale NOV. 5th) is SEPT 1st, 2001. Ads received after closing will appear in the following issue. Please type or print clearly. **NO**

FEBRUARY 2002

PROOFS WILL BE FURNISHED. Include name, address, post office, city, state and zip code as counted words. Abbreviations count as one word each. Mail to GUNS MAGAZINE CLASSIFIEDS, 591 Camino de la Reina, Suite 200, San Diego, California 92108. **NOTE: WE NOW HAVE DISPLAY CLASSIFIEDS IN BOTH GUNS MAGAZINE AND AMERICAN HAND-GUNNER. ASK FOR OUR NEW RATE CARD. (619) 297-6655.**

ACCESSORIES

OWN A MACHINE SHOP!

Do your own machining and shop work with a Smithy 3-in-1 Lathe•Mill•Drill

DO IT YOURSELF!

- **Easy to use-** Free training. You'll be doing quality work right away.
- **Affordable-** Six models to choose from starting at \$995
- **Versatile-** Work metal, wood or plastic.
- **CNC Adaptable**



CALL TODAY!
1-800-345-6342

FREE INFO PAK

Or Write **Smithy**
Dept. A PO BOX 1517
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1517

Visit us at www.smithy.com

pro mag We're taking over the magazine market the old fashioned way.

Making a higher quality product at a lower price. Over 150 different models available!



PROMAG INDUSTRIES

10654 S. Garfield Ave.,
South Gate, CA 90280
562-861-9554

www.promagindustries.com

SEND \$2.00 FOR CATALOG

Mernickle Custom Holsters

www.mernickleholsters.com
Email: sales@mernickleholsters.com

This unique concealment holster is designed for quickness and compactness. It is hand made, hand riveted and IDPA approved. The **PS6** is our most popular concealed carry holster to date. It is also one of the highest ride belt carry holsters on the market today. The **PS6** comes with a unique paddle device that goes behind the belt to stop the famous tip out associated with high ride holsters.

Starting at \$89.95



Mernickle Custom Holsters makes one of the largest varieties of western holsters in the market place including the **CAS-6** as shown. Each holster is custom measured to ensure a perfect fit to the user each and every time. Check out our full line of Western holsters including Shoulder rigs.

32552 Robert Drive
Mission, B.C.
Canada V2V 5L1
Tel: 604-826-8834
Fax: 604-826-0518

Starting at \$289.95

Sportsman Steel Safes

"They have the lowest prices in the world!"
Eric Bryan - Customer



- Life Time Warranty
 - 2300" Ceramic Fire Proofing
 - Sargent & Greenleaf Locks
 - Cut out Middleman - Factory Direct
- Special Forces III*
63x30x22
\$749.95
- Special Forces 38*
63x38x22
\$899.95

Call for a Free Brochure
1.800.266.7150

6311Paramount Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90805

www.sportsmansteelsafes.com

LITE MOUNT TECHNOLOGIES® (509) 758-7251

P.O. Box 399, Clarkston, WA 99403



Tactical Shotgun Mounts
Flashlight-laser combination
or Flashlight mounts.
Unique one piece design.
6061-T6 aluminum
Fits extended or large capacity
magazine tubes.
1" or 26mm diameters

Patent Pending

FIVE STAR ENTERPRISES

4220 Santa Ursula, Laredo, TX 79041 ph. 800 561-6044



"Pistolero" ONLY
139.95+\$6H

Made of only the finest leather. The "Pistolero" will fit most SA revolvers. Fully lined with eighteen loops. Black, brown or tan sizes 32-44.

Satisfaction Guaranteed Prompt Delivery

www.cheapholsters.com

THE RINGO

100% American made individually hand-crafted made from the finest vegetable tanned leather Black Hill Leather fashion their holsters after those worn in the late 1800's

MODEL BH225

ONLY \$209.95



Each rig is custom made, fully lined and available in Natural Russet, Dark Chestnut and Black

Send \$3 for color brochure

RUDY LOZANO
Black Hills Leather

410 West Aurora, Laredo, TX 78041
Tel: 956-712-9434 Fax: 956-712-8330
"Big Sugar" SASS #5589, Founder
Website: www.blackhillsleather.com

TEXAS GUNSLINGER
Quality Gun Leather
The "Vaquero" Rig
Hand tooled floral Tan

- Large stock to ship from
- Satisfaction Guaranteed
- Soft Suede Lined
- American Quality Saddle Cowhide

\$149.95 (Sgl. rig) • \$224.95 (Dbl. rig)

(800) 525-8811 (800) 528-8811

TO ORDER SPECIFY JEAN SIZE, MAKE/MODEL OF GUN, CALIBER, BARREL LENGTH. ADD \$6.50H. TEXAS RESIDENTS ADD 7.75%. \$2.00 FOR COLOR CATALOG. TEXAS GUNSLINGER 2627 S. COOPER, C-21, DEPT. GM, ARLINGTON, TX 76015 • 817-480-3840 • FAX 817-612-4440

HARD CHROMING
We Only Do Firearms • Specialists in Hard Chroming Blue, Nickel, Parkerizing, Anodizing
www.checkmatecustom.com
CHECKMATE™
Custom Gun Refinishing
370 Champion Dr. • Brooksville, FL 34602
(352) 799-5774

GUN PLATING & ANODIZING

Hard Chrome (Bright or Satin), Electroless Nickel, Parkerizing, Teflon, Black Hard Anodizing, Bluing (stainless). We Specialize in firearms. References Available.

FREE SERVICE BROCHURE 1-800-375-2846

TechPlate, Inc.

1571-H S. Sunkist St., Anaheim, CA 92806
(714) 634-9254 www.techplate.com FAX: (714) 634-9382

20th Anniversary!

Check out the Bargain Corner
and New Items on our Website
www.blueridgemachinery.com



SHERLINE
**BLUE RIDGE
MACHINERY & TOOLS**
PO Box 536-G, Hurricane, WV 25526
304-562-3538 or fax 304-562-5311
800-872-6500
**FREE CATALOG of Quality
Machines, Tools, Books, Videos,**

Concealment Products. Fanny packs, holsters, gun purses. Free catalog. 1-800-944-7717.
www.kgproducts.com

BLACK LEATHER JACKETS AT WHOLESALE PRICE. CALL OR WRITE FOR BROCHURE. THUNDERBOLT SALES, BOX 1222 GM, ANDREWS, TEXAS 79714. (915) 523-4389.

CLIPS, GRIPS, LASERS, HOLSTERS, BOOKS & VIDEOS. Two Great Websites:
www.gunaccessories.com & www.booktrail.com.

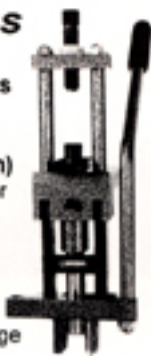
A FULL RANGE OF GUN ACCESSORIES, CLIPS, GRIPS, CLEANING SUPPLIES, STRIPPER CLIPS, LASER SIGHTS, MILITARY MANUALS, CHOKE TUBES. WWW.GUNSUPPLYDEPOT.COM

AMMUNITION

Series II Press

- * All steel, hand-built
- * Reload or swage bullets
- * Roller bearing links
- * Hardened steel ram
- * Dual Stroke (2 or 4 inch)

More than twice the power and up to five times the strength of cast presses. Bearing-guided precision ram alignment for benchrest quality. Uses world-famous Corbin swage dies from .14 to .458, or reloading dies. In stock now: \$269⁹⁵ +\$4H



CORBIN

Visa/MC
Welcome!

PO Box 2659, White City, OR 97503
Phone 541-826-5211 Fax 541-826-8669
www.swage.com swage@corbins.com

www.jamescalhoon.com

Varminting Articles!



17,22 & 19 cal. BULLETS
19 cal. Re-Barrel Kits!
PH: (406)395-4079

ROLL YOUR OWN! Sabot Shotgun Slugs Unique wad and 1 oz. HAMMERHEAD payload FREE roll crimping tool w/order. www.shotgunslugs.com or 877-704-HUNT.

BOOKS

www.gunbooksales.com

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

LET THE GOVERNMENT FINANCE your small business. Grants/loans to \$2,000,000.00. (www.usgovernmentinformation.com). Free recorded message: (707)448-0270. (JR4)

COLLECTORS

Free gun ads at curiosandrelics.com. Browse or list your curios, relics, parts, and bayonets for free.

FIREWORKS

FIREWORKS CHEMICALS !!! POTASSIUM PERCHLORATE, POTASSIUM CHLORATE, NITRATES, ALUMINUM, MAGNESIUM, TITANIUM POWDERS. COLOR PRODUCERS, 100's of chemicals, WATERPROOF FUSE, PAPER TUBING/MAKE ROCKETS, SMOKE GRENADES, NOISE MAKERS ETC./ HOW-TO BOOKS, VIDEOS, ROCKET MOTOR KITS! LAB ACIDS, SOLVENTS, GLASSWARE, "GREAT PRICES" BULK DISCOUNTS. CATALOG \$3.00: PYROTEK, P.O. BOX 300, SWEET VALLEY, PA 18656. (570)256-3087. WWW.PYROTEK.ORG

FOR SALE

WOLF CROSSBREDS Rare raven black. (Via-air shipping available.) Youngwolf. 51 Andy, Canton, NC 28716. Private kennel (since 1978). 828-648-7813. (www.youngwolf.com)

DISCOUNT CIGARETTES NATIONWIDE. Every brand. Plus cigars, snuff, roll tobacco, etc. Shipped to your door from Native Indian Territory. Pay no state or federal taxes. Toll-free order line: 888-388-1964. Send \$4.00 for price list, order form, dealer information package: TIC International, Box 218650-CA, Houston, Texas 77218. Order online: CigarettesAmerica.com

GUN PARTS

Para-Ordance Pro Shop

Complete Inventory of
Factory Original
Replacement Parts
Complete
10 Round Magazines
Fobus
Holsters

We Feature:

- Replacement High Capacity Mag Bodies
- Springs
- Bases
- Eze-Loaders

Original High Cap
Replacement
Magazine parts
United States Parts,
Para-Ordance Clothing, Tools,
T's, Shirts, Polo's and more

215-322-9227 Phone
215-322-9223 Fax
1300 Industrial Hwy B-3
Southampton, PA 18966
www.jrms.com
craig51454@aol.com

GUNS FOR SALE

NEW/USED FIREARMS, IMPERIAL SIZING DIE WAX, SEND \$1.00 FOR LIST OR SEE WEBSITE www.jcunard.com. J. CUNARD & COMPANY, P.O. BOX 755G, NEWARK, OH 43058-0755, EMAIL joe@jcunard.com. 740-345-6646.

ANTIQUE/COLLECTIBLE GUNS. "Dispatch" illustrated mail order catalog \$5, subscription \$35. We buy collections. Consignment, auction, appraisal. Old Town Station Ltd, POB 14040, Lenexa, KS 66285. Jim Supica, President. (913)492-3000.

Check our Website. Legal Machineguns for sale! www.thegunstorelasvegas.com - Class 3 guns.

GUNSMITHING



**If you answer YES
YOU CAN ENGRAVE**

----- YES NO

You like to work with your hands and tools. ☐ ☐

You can use a pen or pencil for ordinary writing. ☐ ☐

You enjoy the satisfaction of making things. ☐ ☐

Our easy-to-learn engraving techniques and tools are just a call away

1-800-835-3519

FAX: 316-343-9640 • e-mail: GRS@Grstools.com
GRS Tools • 900 Overlander Rd. • Emporia, KS 66801

Quality Handgun Porting. Auto Specialist. HyperPort. Call (877) EDM-PORT or edmport.com for free information packet.

INSTRUCTION

Be A... PRIVATE EYE

Have a life of intrigue, excitement, adventure!
Learn from the **REAL** experts:

Investigation • Surveillance • Skiptracing
Start Your Own Business
State Approved • Diploma Awarded

Free Brochure!
Call Or Write:

United States Academy
Of Private Investigation
P.O. Box 2133 (GM)
Beverly Hills, CA 90213

(310) 657-6333

VISIT OUR SPY SHOP

"On The World Wide Web"
www.spytechagency.com
"On The Sunset Strip"
8519-8521 W. Sunset Blvd.
West Hollywood, CA 90069
- Web Site Features -
PI Agency • PI Academy • Spy Shop
Online over 2500 investigation-surveillance countermeasures products, books & videos!!

Become a Machinist

The ONLY Complete
Professional Level, step-by-step
video training course available

Learn detailed lathe & mill set up: turning, threading, knurling, tools, cutters, precision measuring and more!
Very Comprehensive! Free Information Package!

Call Now! **1-800-797-0867** ext
AGI machineshopcourse.com

#GPC

Be A Gun Repair Professional

100% Guaranteed!
*Fast and Easy
At Home Video Instruction*
Learn to repair and customize
Pistols, Revolvers, Rifles and Shotguns.

For Free Information Call!

800-797-0867
AGI www.americangunsmith.com
American Gunsmithing Institute

ADVERTISER'S INDEX

ADVERTISER	PAGE
Ajax Custom Grips	81
American Custom Gunmakers Guild	59
American Sales & Mfg.	64
Bagmaster	81
Camillus	72
Cannon Safe	58
Carbon Creations	63
J.A. Ciener	25
Clark Custom Guns	55
Colorado School of Trade	67
Compassec	67
Crimson Trace Corp.	25
DeSantis Holsters	31
Dixie Gun Works	64
Emerson Knives	22
A.G. English	70
European American Armory	13

ADVERTISER	PAGE
Flash Dist.	30
Fobus USA	22
Fort Knox Security	73
Franklin Mint	17
FTI Inc.	31
Golden Age Arms	70
Groves Edge	63
GSI- Merkel	15
Heritage Building Systems	58
Hogue Grips	71
Int'l Police Equipment	55
Jantz Supply	19
Knife Outlet	70
Lee Precision	60
Legendary Arms	70
Lyman Products	65
Magnaport Int'l	65
Masters of Defense	3

ADVERTISER	PAGE
Midway USA	14
Mitchell's Mausers	24
MTM Molded Products	74
Nil Grips	59
North American Arms	9
Numrich Gun Parts Corp.	63
Paladin Press	59
Para Ordnance	C4
Pearce Grip	60
Preslik's Gunstock	64
Shooters Online	58
Sierra Bullets	25
Sinclair Int'l	16
S & K Scope Mounts	73
Springfield Inc.	5
Sturm, Ruger & Co.	C2
Surefire	6-7
Uselton Arms Inc.	C3
Walther USA	8
Dan Wesson Firearms	8
Wilson Combat	73

CLASSIFIEDS CONTINUED

Be a PRIVATE EYE
 You WILL learn, at home, secrets from a *World Famous P.I.*
 Best Course - Lowest Cost!
 FREE Call: **888-337-8839**
GLOBAL INVESTIGATION, Suite G
 535 N. Farms Rd., Northampton, MA 01062

LEATHERWORKING instructions, patterns, illustrations. Over 100 supply sources. Free 10th Anniversary double issue with subscription. The Leather Crafters & Saddlers Journal, 331 Annette Ct., GM, Rhinelander, WI 54501. 6 issues/year, \$29 US (\$33 Canada usd). Order toll free 1-888-289-6409.

MILITARIA

MILITARY SURPLUS

US Military Equipment & Camo!
 Discount Catalog. Lowest prices are place, over 130 items. Packs, Web gear, Helmets, Knives, Mag pouches, Boinie hats & more.
 \$2.00 for reliable catalog. OLCG, POB 1618, Alamogordo, NM 88311-1618 check out our on line catalog, www.olcset.com

MISCELLANEOUS

CONFIDENTIAL CATALOG of Police and Investigation Equipment \$2., IPEC Department G701, P.O. Box 7240, Moreno, California 92552.

W. Hock Hochheim's Hand, Stick, Knife, Gun Combat Training and CLOSE QUARTER COMBAT MAGAZINE. Also Seminars; Videos; Books; Manuals.
www.HocksCQC.com. 706-866-2656.

LET THE GOVERNMENT PAY for your new or existing home. Hundreds of programs available. (www.usgovernmentinformation.com). Free recorded message: (707)448-3210. (8JR4)

Espionage Unlimited: Your one stop shop for surveillance, privacy, new ID and identity, covert weapons, investigations and more!
www.espionage-store.com 802-864-0951.

INVENTORS: Do you have an idea for a new or improved product? Let us help you submit to industry. Patent services. Call toll free 1-888-439-IDEA.

CONCEALED WEAPONS License Identification Badge. Finest quality, made to order with your License Number; name optional. Catalog with or without CD Rom supplement - Free. Seven Seas, 824 Symphony Isles Blvd., Dept. 38, Apollo Beach, Florida 33572. Phone 813-645-2621, Fax 813-641-1721.
badge0@seven-seas-shields.com;
<http://www.seven-seas-shields.com>

FOR SALE over 1500 specimens for Taxidermy! Deer, bear, wolf, cougar, fisher, otter, etc. Also antlers, horns, bear rugs, moose heads, antler chandeliers, furs, etc. Wholesale Catalog \$1.00. North Country Taxidermy, Box 188G, Keene, NY 12942.
www.northcountrytaxidermy.com
www.adirondackreflections.com

OPTICS

RifleScopes.com
 (972)-223-0500 8-5 est
S.W.F.A., Inc.
 Thousands of Optics available to ship TODAY

US NIGHT VISION - High quality night vision at the most competitive pricing. Night Vision Goggles, Monoculars, Night Vision Weapon Sights, Camera Adaptable Night Vision. We carry all major brands and manufacturer our own exclusive line. **CALL FOR YOUR FREE CATALOG 1-800-500-4020.** Visit us on the web at www.usnightvision.com. US Night Vision Company, 5122 Bolsa Avenue, Suite #103, Huntington Beach, CA 92649. 714-901-2626. Fax 714-899-4485.

POLICE EQUIPMENT

LAW BADGES and patches. Send \$2.00 for list or \$8.00 for 12 monthly lists. BPEC Department G3000, BOX 7240, Sunnymead, California 92552-7240.

REAL ESTATE

GOVERNMENT LAND now available for claim (including agricultural). Up to 160 acres/person. (www.usgovernmentinformation.com). Free recorded message: (707) 448-1887. (4JR4)

CAMPFIRE TALES

continued from page 82

a much better choice than a .38 Special. Texas Ranger Captain Manuel Trazazas "Lone Wolf" Gonzualas carried a pair of ivory stocked, 4-inch .44 Special 1926 Models. Although he was often photographed with a pair of ivory stocked Colt Single Actions, A picture of him I've had since the 1950s shows him packin' his twin Smith .44 Specials, and the painting hanging in the Texas Ranger Museum also show his .44 Specials. The 1926 Model was also such a great sixgun that the basic pattern was used to build the .38/44 Heavy Duty in 1930 that would then become the .357 Magnum in 1935.

Now I have been a fan of a big-bore six-guns since my first center fire, an 1899 manufactured Colt Single Action Army .38-40. Shortly thereafter I discovered Elmer Keith, which of course meant .44 Special. I have had several Fourth Models: the 1950 Targets; even a first year production Triple-Lock; and last year, for my birthday, my wife presented me with a pair of unfired 4-inch Model 24 .44 Specials made in 1983. But I still did not have a 1926 Model. For the past 45 years, I have seen affordable dogs and unaffordable 1926s with four-figure price tags. It did not look like I would ever own an affordable Third Model Hand Ejector in excellent shape or even good shooting condition.

Enter a faithful and like-minded reader. He had been traveling in Oregon, spotted a like new .44 Special, and immediately notified me. I was put in contact with Gunners Central Oregon Traders in Redmond and also happened to be a reader of this magazine. He described the 4-inch Model 1926 .44 Special: blue with fixed sights and Magna stocks — exactly what I had been in search of for 40 years. The price was an extremely reasonable three figures. When it arrived, I was pleasantly surprised to find it in even better condition than described. I would call it 99 percent, and I certainly enjoy dealing with sellers that are 100-percent honest!

Now I know why those old Southwest peace officers had such a high regard for the 1926 Model. I hesitate to use the much over-worked phrase "silky smooth" to describe the double-action operation of this classic .44 Special; however, I don't know of a better fitting description. Once started, the double-action almost seems to operate itself; recoil with pre-War .44 Special type loads is very mild; and best of all, this grand sixgun was made the same year I was! It was certainly meant to be mine. When I shoot it, I feel as if I am holding history in my hand. I keep looking over my shoulder expecting to see The Lone Wolf.



AJAX® Quality Firearm Accessories

Send \$2.00 for your Color Catalog.

SHOP ONLINE: AJAXGRIPS.com AJAXSHOOTERSUPPLY.com GRIPS ANDCLIPS.COM



COLUMBIA
RIVER KNIFE
& TOOL

Pachmayr



BOKER
BAINBRIDGE KNOLGEN



TAC STAR™

SHOTGUN ACCESSORIES



GRIPS • MAGAZINES • FLASHLIGHTS • KNIVES • NIGHTVISION • SEAL TEAM WATCHES
RADIOS • SIGHTS • SAFETY DEVICES • PARTS • CLEANING EQUIPMENT
HEARING PROTECTION AND MUCH, MUCH MORE

AJAX • P.O. BOX 560129 • DALLAS, TEXAS 75356 • 800-527-7537 • FAX 214-630-4942

Rectangular Pistol Pouch - Size 9
\$28.95
Padded inside pockets will hold a full size Auto & 4 Magazines

Pre-Shooter's Bag Tournament Model 1 \$139.95

Mini Range Bag \$45.95
Padded inside pockets will hold two full size Auto's & 8 Magazines

Pre-Shooter's Bag Tournament Model 2 \$89.95
Bagmaster has 15 different styles of Bags in stock

Premium Weapons Case 42 \$79.95
(additional sizes available) Holds: ArmaLite AR-180 & AR 10 - Mini 14 - AR 15 Hi-Bar - H&K 91A2

Multiple Mag Pouch - D \$18.95 (four sizes available)
Designed to fit the inside pocket of the Premium Weapons Case. Pouch pictured will hold three 7.62x39 30 round mags.

Call for a FREE catalog 1-800-950-8181 or visit our web site www.bagmaster.com to get free Tips from the Pros!

DEPT GM, 2731 Sutton Ave. St. Louis, MO 63143
Shipping & Handling: Under \$50 add \$6, over \$50 add \$9, COD additional \$6. US Mail and UPS ground USA only

HANDGUN SAFETY

BASIC GUIDE TO HANDGUNS

Jeff Cooper, handgun expert, is right on target in this program for shooters of all ages and abilities. Perhaps most important is the lesson on the safe handling of a pistol, a must for anyone who owns or shoots one. Cooper covers safe handling, grip, stance, target shooting, rapid fire and gun care. 59 min. \$19.95

Please send me _____ copies of Handgun Safety for only \$19.95 each video. Please add \$6.00 shipping and handling per video. Outside the U.S. add \$16.00 shipping per video. CA residents add 7.5% sales tax. Payments must be in U.S. dollars, drawn from a U.S. bank. Make checks/money orders payable to Publishers Development Corp. Allow up to 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.

Check/MO Enc. \$ _____ Visa/MC No. _____ Exp. Date _____ Initial _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail To: PDC Video Dept. • 591 Camino de la Reina, #200 • San Diego, CA 92108

Order Hot Line 1-800-628-9818 Fax 619-297-5353

An Almost FORGOTTEN CLASSIC



It was Vince Lombardi who said, "Winning isn't the most important thing, it is the only thing!" — or words very closely to that effect. We might say the same thing about our readers. A magazine such as this can have the best writers, photographers, art department, editors and publisher — but without readers none of the rest makes any difference. Our readership as a whole is extremely important, and once in a great while a reader reaches out and touches me right where I live. That's what happened right before Christmas.

I admit to you the readers that I lust. I lust for blue steel and such inscribed words as "COLT FRONTIER SHOOTER," "SMITH & WESSON" and ".44 RUSSIAN AND S&W SPECIAL." A particular item of my long-term affection has been a Third Model Hand Ejector Smith & Wesson .44 Special — or as it is more commonly known, the 1926 Model. As you might surmise, this particular model was number three in the succession of .44 Specials from Smith & Wesson.

The .44 Special began in late 1907 with the Model of 1908, the .44 Hand Ejector First Model, the New Century, or, as it is lovingly known among .44 Special devotees, the Triple-Lock. This is one of the few big-bore sixguns ever made that truly deserves the phrase "Swiss watch." The first of what would eventually be called N-frames, the Triple-Lock gets its name because the cylinder locked in three places: at the rear, at the front of the ejector rod, and with a beautifully machined lock at the front of the frame. This was also the first Smith & Wesson to feature an enclosed ejector rod housing.

These magnificent sixguns sold for \$21, and after producing slightly more than 15,000 New Centuries, Smith & Wesson determined that they were too expensive. In 1915, S&W dropped both the third locking feature and the enclosed ejector rod and introduced the Second Model. This newer sixgun sold for only \$19. So for the grand sum of \$2, we lost what may well have been the finest double-action sixgun ever made! Two Dollars!!!

The Triple-Lock was very popular with peace officers, especially those in the Southwest and along our southern border. The pre-World War II Smith & Wessons are usually referred to as having "long actions," which were particularly good for shooting double-action style. As new peace officers came along, a demand arose for a return to the Triple-Lock or at least an enclosed ejector rod housing. Smith & Wesson did not feel the demand warranted such a return until Wolf & Klar of Fort Worth Texas placed an order for 3,500 .44 Specials with enclosed ejector rod housings. Only 1,000 of the new 1926 Models were ever shipped to Wolf & Klar. And from 1926 to 1940, as far as the Smith & Wesson catalog was concerned, the Third Model did not exist and could only be special-ordered. In spite of this, nearly 5,000 were made before the start of World War II.

These guns featured a blue or nickel finish; adjustable or fixed sights; barrel lengths of 4, 5 and 6 inches; and while mostly found in .44 Special, a few were also made in .44-40 and .45 Colt. Now realize that from 1926 to 1940, .44 Special ammunition offering was mostly a 246-grain round-nosed lead bullet with a muzzle velocity of 750 fps. Even so, it was looked upon in the early years as

continued on page 81

Useton

ARMS INC.

PRESENTS
THE NEW
CARRY
CLASSIC

FIRST IN A FIVE GUN SERIES

DESIGNED, MARKETING AND
SOLD EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH
RICK USELTON'S SPORTING
GOODS AND CUTLERY

Contact Rick Useton's Sporting
Goods and Cutlery to order the
Carry Classic or for further information.

Phone (615) 851-4919 or Fax (615) 851-8811

Visit our store at www.usetons.com



Rick Useton's vision was to build a classic style 1911 .45ACP, a .45 that came completely customized—right out of the box! He enlisted the help of master pistol smith Sam Hoster to help bring this vision to life. According to Rick, the majority of people purchase a .45 and immediately begin replacing the factory production parts with aftermarket parts—ultimately hoping for a customized, more personalized, version of the factory gun they started with. Rick asked, "Why buy a pistol then replace all the parts?" Working with Sam, the two have developed Five Classic Designs—you'll want to own them all.

First in the series is the CARRY CLASSIC.

Combining the compact officers model frame with the commander length slide for added accuracy, Sam incorporated a 416 stainless steel Useton slide, matted for non-glare and a 4140 Caspian steel frame also matted. Each slide has been hand lapped to the frame for a perfect slide to frame fit and has ball bearing smoothness when cycling. All the internal parts are quality machined aftermarket parts—eliminating your need to replace anything. Starting with a Storm Lake stainless steel barrel—the undisputed "best barrel in the country". Also featuring the Videki match trigger, metal mainspring housing, stainless steel beaver tail grip safety, stainless steel extended ejectors, combat hammer, and Novac style carry sights. The front grip has been checkered to provide a better grip. Each part has been hand fitted with the trigger pull set at 3-1/2 pounds. The setup is great for target shooting and perfect carry for personal protection. This two-tone gun is sure to become one of the most sought after handguns on the market.

NEXT IN THE SERIES...

- ULTRA MATCH COMPACT .45 and .40 with Damascus Slide
- GOVERNMENT MODEL .45
- COMBAT COMMANDER .45
- TARGET FULL SIZE MODEL WITH X COMPENSATOR

Specifications are subject to change without notice and are intended for informational purposes only. Rick Useton's Sporting Goods and Cutlery, in conjunction with Useton Arms, Inc., encourages firearm safety and recommends participation in a safety instructional course before the use of any firearm. Be a responsible gun owner. The sale and use of any firearm is subject to local, state and federal laws.

CARRY
CLASSIC



INNOVATION



...NOT IMITATION!

While some manufacturers' idea of a new product is to copy 19th Century designs, our mission is to continue to give you leading edge 21st Century handgun technology. We are constantly developing new ways to make you a better marksman. In our state-of-the-art design and manufacturing center, we have turned those ideas into the best trigger you ever pulled, and we put it in your favorite frame.

The new Para Companion is the latest in the award winning series of LDA pistols with the *sweet, smooth triggers*. The C7.45 LDA is chambered for the powerful .45 ACP cartridge and it is manufactured from tough, all-weather, stainless steel. The compact Para Companion has the capacity of many full-size pistols with seven rounds in the magazine.

The C7.45 LDA comes with custom features including a match-quality 3.5-inch barrel, low-mount rear sight, dovetail front sight, full-length guide rod, beavertail grip safety, flared ejection port and Para's Lifetime Service Policy. The slim Para Companion is the perfect balance between power, concealment and shootability.

Visit your Para Dealer today and compare the Para Companion's natural trigger stroke to that of any other pistol. See for yourself why a Para LDA will make you a better marksman. There has never been a better time to have the advantage of a sweet, smooth trigger.



Para

980 Tapscott Road • Toronto, ON M1X 1C3
(416) 297-7855 Fax (416) 297-1289

ONLY WE GIVE YOU THE EDGE

paraord.com