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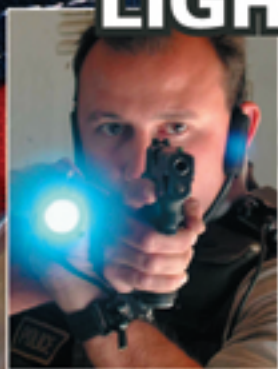
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WARNING: Firearms are dangerous and if used improperly may cause serious injury or death. Due to the inherent variables in the reloading of ammunition, be sure to verify any published loads with manufacturer's data. Products mentioned or advertised 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!**

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You Don't Live by Tactics Alone

Roy Huntington, Editor
Ed Carlson, Managing Editor
Rich Stahlhut, Art Director

★ ★ ★ ★

Bear with us here. Whether you're an aficionado of Star Trek or not, every now and then they come out with an enlightened, verbal gem. When confronted with a series of complicated decisions to make, Captain Piccard, of the Next Generation series, would give a bold order and then was promptly confronted by a crewmember.

"But Captain," said the breathless officer. "This is an exceptional situation."

"Ah," said Piccard, "But life itself is an exercise in exceptions."

And so is this Annual. Being the *American Handgunner Tactical Annual*, you're likely to see things here you might not see in *Handgunner* — and that could be a good thing. We have a tendency to stretch our collective wings here, to broaden the knowledge base and generally raise Cain with political correctness.

We figure you should be able to read what's here and actually learn something. And even if you don't, we promise you'll have a back-slapping, foot-stomping good time anyway. From bashing concrete blocks with a Cold Steel mace to clearing a dark and scary hallway with a duty pistol, we've got it here. It even makes sense. Mostly.

Who says handguns can't be fun, can't protect your bacon and can't simply be handy to have around sometimes? Not us. We shoot 'em, bend 'em, file on 'em, fix sights, break sights and generally see what happens when you use them in the real world.

And that's us — real world. If you're familiar with *American Handgunner* you'll know we're not afraid to speak our peace. If something's a piece of turd pie, we'll tell you. After all, it's only your life you're putting on the line. We have a responsibility and we know it — and we're determined to live up to it.

From 150 years of fighting handguns, classic tests, tactics and more, to goodies you can't live without, you've found the spot. Read. Enjoy. Laugh, and tell your friends about those loons at *American Handgunner*. Then share your book with them. This is a serious look at serious stuff — except when it's not. And that's what makes us different.

Very different.

Enjoy.

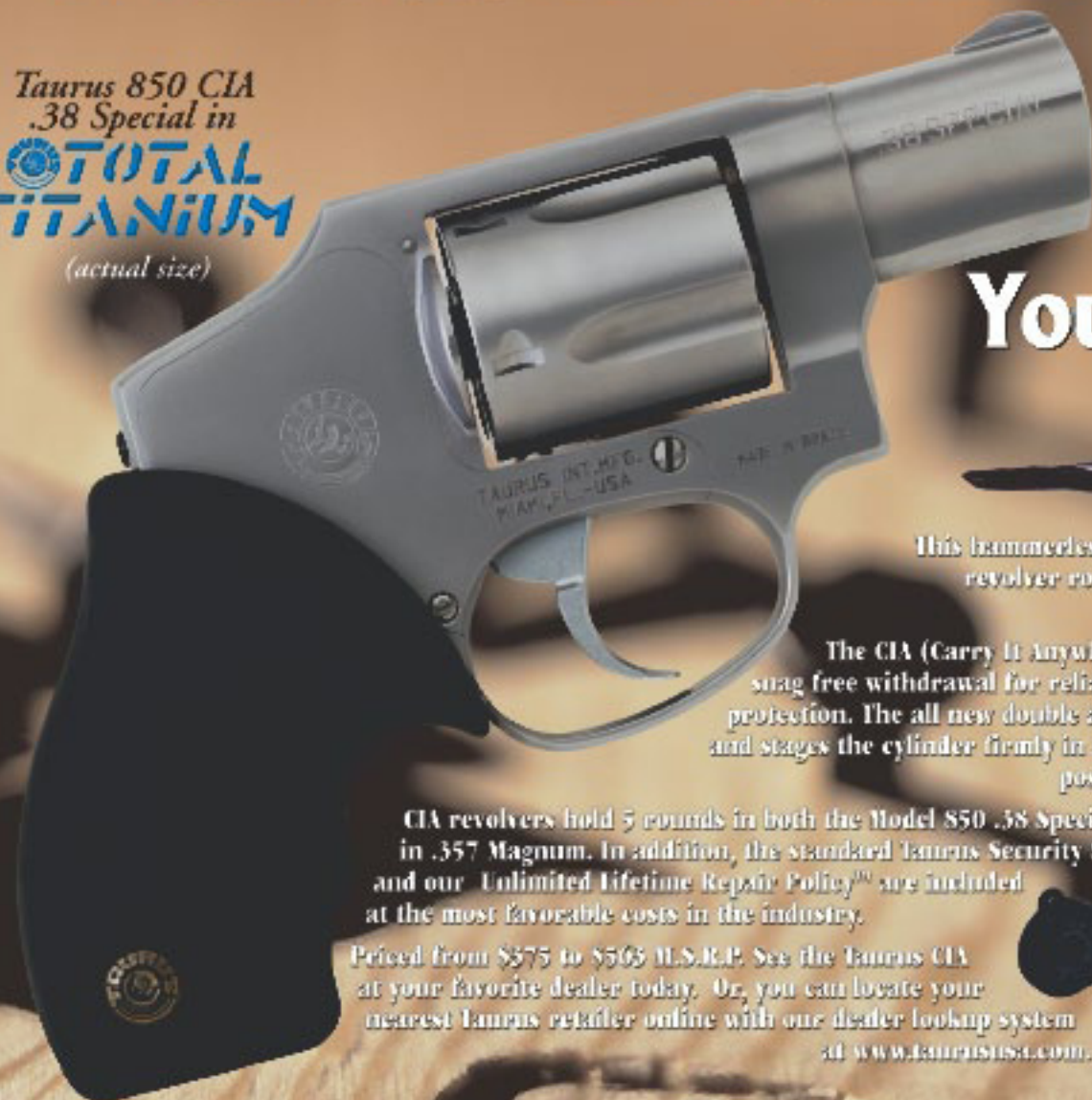


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Steel Vs. Steel



Knife Vs. Gun... A History Lesson

Jim Gardner

They don't call them "Stop and Robs" for nothing. In the middle of the night, a convenience store is a good place to stumble into trouble. But the new police officer of a large Southwestern U.S. city wasn't thinking about that. All he wanted was a cup of coffee.

He was off duty and wearing his civies. He was also very tired and had a long drive ahead of him. But his fatigue didn't keep him from noticing the scroungy biker stepping out of the convenience store. Dressed in the usual uniform of greasy blue jeans, T-shirt and jacket emblazoned with his colors, the biker also wore a large sheath knife. The two men passed closely as they stepped through the door heading opposite directions.

"Pardon me," the cop said.

"Hey man, F... you."

The cop felt his blood rise. But the last thing he wanted was trouble, and he fought to keep an even expression on his face.

"Uh, okay," he replied.

Since apparently the biker had no other entertainment planned for the evening, he decided to seize this opportunity to screw his face into

a well-practiced mask of rage and hate.

"No man. I said, F... you."

From the corner of his eye the cop spotted the knife at the biker's side. It wasn't a hunting knife. It had a D-guard and looked like a trench knife, a killing tool. The cop didn't feel tired anymore. He wanted a cup of Joe and to get home. But again he managed to muster a slight smile.

"Okay. You win," the cop said. "Look, how 'bout I just go on in and get a cup of coffee?"

The biker had played this game a hundred times. Usually he was gratified to see shock and fear on his victim's face. One time, some pasty-skinned tourist just trembled and handed him his wallet. That was pretty cool. But this citizen didn't seem to know how the game was played. He was going to have to step it up a notch. His hand moved towards the knife.

After a thousand repetitions on the range, the cop's hand flashed under his jacket and onto the gun's butt by rote. He rocked the big S&W M29 out of the shoulder holster and swung it in line with his target.

He'd been shooting the big .44 magnum a lot that summer. He knew he could pinwheel this jasper from 100 yards if he needed to. At arm's length, marksmanship wasn't the problem. Speed was.

Frontier Favorite

Flippant comments about the wisdom of bringing a knife to a gunfight aside, an edged weapon, even at close range, is always a threat. Officer Dennis Tueller, a former lieutenant







New and old hand tools: The Hawk on the left and the Paterson on the right sometimes faced-off — with predictable results.

with the Salt Lake City police department, performed infamous reaction-time experiments showing an edged weapon is a lethal threat even at surprisingly long distances.

At the dawn of pistol development, during close-in skirmishes, the edged weapon was generally the equal if not the superior of a single-shot handgun, especially against an edged weapon extending the reach of an attacker beyond arm's length. The gunstock club of the woodlands Indians, the Mexican lance, and the tomahawk all proved this bitter lesson in the years before Samuel Colt's revolving pistol became widely distributed.

The tomahawk was a particular favorite. This small, light belt-axe was one of the most prized trade goods offered to Native Americans by Europeans. The name itself is said to be a derivation of an Algonquian word for a stone axe. Backwoods riflemen who fought the Revolutionary War frequently carried the tomahawk because their rifles were unsuited for mounting a bayonet. The value of the tomahawk as a fighting implement and camp tool made it common equipment on the frontier well into the 1860s.

Contrary to what you may remember watching Fess Parker play Daniel Boone, throwing the tomahawk is not the way to make best use of it. Throwing the tomahawk is great fun, and a great diversion in hunting camp. Throwing away your weapon, on the other hand, is a good way to remove yourself from the gene pool.

Only as the pistol gradually evolved did the balance of power begin to swing to the perfected repeating pistol. In the

wilds of Texas, a group of "Rangers" charged with halting Indian depredations along the northern frontier were among the first fighting men to trust their lives to this newfangled repeating pistol.

Hays & The Texas Rangers

Perhaps the best known figure of this group is John Coffey Hays. Jack Hays entered Texas in 1837 and three years later was appointed as Captain of a Ranger company. He was known to carry several Colt Paterson revolvers, and was instrumental in securing more of the same to arm his Ranger company. With these pistols he confounded the normal tactics of the Comanche warriors his forces frequently engaged.

On one occasion, his troops caught dismounted by a superior force of hostile Comanches, Hays ordered his men to discharge their single-shot, muzzle-loading rifles. They did, with great effect. Then the Comanches presumed their foe to be disarmed and swirled in for the kill.

At once Hays ordered his men to mount and ride straight into the oncoming hostiles, closing the range to where Ranger's Colt revolvers would be most effective. The Comanches, armed with lance, bow and tomahawk, found not a disarmed enemy, but a foe who's guns seemingly never required reloading.

"Powder-burn 'em," was Hays' cry as they charged repeatedly through the confused Comanches. In the melee, over half



of the Indians fell, and the survivors fled nearly 100 miles even after the Rangers ceased to give chase.

The face of warfare on the plains had changed.

Of Blood And Bravery

In the Texas of the mid-1840s, a fighting man found ample opportunity to put his skills to the test. Hays' Rangers battled repeatedly in those years. In one of the most legendary and oft told examples of individual combat on the frontier, Hays survived a group of Comanches at a peak called Enchanted Rock.

Scouting while separate from his men, Hays was surprised by a group of hostiles. Trying to fight in the open against these numbers would have been futile. Hays managed to secret himself into a tiny cleft in the rock, robbing the Indians of their ability to charge him en masse.

Hays picked his shots. At each bark of his Colts, one of the enemy would fall or be greatly wounded. The sudden change of fortune broke the resolve of the Comanches. They sought repeatedly to overwhelm the solitary Ranger, but for several hours, each attempt to storm his position was met with witheringly accurate fire.

When Hays' men eventually reached him, the site of his desperate fight was littered with slain Comanches. Hays had survived because of good tactics, good Colt revolvers, and a healthy dose of good luck.

100 Years Today

Given the rapid pace of firearms development in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, it might seem encounters on the battlefield between bullet and blade would become a relic of history. This was not the case.

A century after Hays' exploits, Americans of the same adventurous stripe found themselves fighting halfway around the world. Their foe, although armed with modern weapons, nevertheless held a national reverence for the sword, and equipped all of its combatants with edged weapons.

Jeff Cooper, the dean of American handgunners, rightly observed only two nations have a cultural history of the handgun — the United States of America and Mexico. While people of all nations have employed the handgun, only in these two countries does there exist a period of history where the handgun was considered the normal accompaniment of the free man.

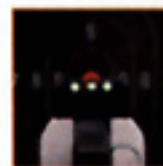
Both countries share a birth or rebirth by means of armed rebellion, as well as a period of expansion in which the government was ill enabled to protect the common citizen, and during which the citizen was empowered and expected to be the protector of himself



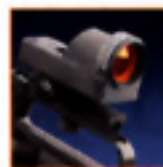
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and those in his charge.

In contrast, the earlier development of Japan made the sword the traditional individual weapon. "The sword is the soul of the Samurai." This philosophy, a remnant from the days of feudal Japan, was resurrected during Japan's rise to militarism at the close of the 19th century.

The wearing of the sword had been banned by the Meiji restoration of 1867, when the Emperor was restored to power and the regional warlords unseated. The production of swords, an honored profession, ceased in the Japan of the late 1800s.

The turn of the century saw Japan rise as a world power. Greater Asia fell under the influence of European nations, especially the Dutch and English. This rankled the military leaders of Japan, who saw Asia and the Pacific as their rightful inheritance.

Japan focused upon an unprecedented military buildup. After decades of introspection and pacifism, the Japanese people were artfully directed into a belief their national destiny was to free Asia for Asians, and that they must stand ready to sacrifice for their nation and their Emperor.

One of many coordinated efforts to ready the people for the coming struggle was the reinstitution of traditional sword making. The Japanese sword is not made in a factory. It is crafted by a lone *Kaji*, a swordsmith, who's family may have been involved in the making of swords for many generations. He is aided by an apprentice/helper. The process is long and arduous and is conducted with prayers and great solemnity.

The traditionally-made Japanese

sword was not regarded as a mere weapon. It was held to be the physical embodiment of the honor of its possessor — a symbol of his duty to family, country and Emperor. And it was viewed not solely as a talisman of the fighting spirit but as an effective weapon. Japanese officers engaged in lengthy and rigorous training for the use of the sword in combat. And the sword was used not only against armed combatants, but against helpless civilians or prisoners. Many especially hideous examples occurred during the Japanese conquest of China.

Richard Fuller and Ron Gregory, in their excellent work *Japanese Military and Civil Swords and Dirks*, relate a contest between two sub-lieutenants to see who would be the first to slay 100 Chinese by sword. Quoting the Japanese *Asahi* newspaper of December 5th, 1937, the authors wrote:

"The score... was Sub-lieutenant Mukai 89, and Sub-lieutenant Noda 78. This (the contest) was later extended to 150 because referees had not been able to determine which contestant had reached 100 (kills) first."

On the Pacific islands, against the American forces, the Japanese found an adversary not so easily taken by the sword.

American troops were indoctrinated not to be intimidated by the flash of Japanese steel. In a booklet *The Jap Soldier*, published in 1943 by the *Infantry Journal*, the new soldier was cautioned:

"Japanese officers still favor the old-fashioned sword. You will see them leading troops with swords waving... Shoot these officers as quickly as you can, for those swords can slice a man from collar-bone to

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waist in a single, clean slash.”

Combat Action

Col. J.B. George, in his outstanding book *Shots Fired In Anger*, describes a sword led attack in the Pacific.

“These steel blades, it seemed, did not merely reflect the dull light of morning, but radiated light of their own, flashing, infernal. ...The leading and farthest left of the three Japs was an officer, brandishing at shoulder height a gleaming Samurai blade... The rifleman’s bullet caught him just above the belt buckle... He halted, straightened upright from the crouched position in which he had been charging, staggered backward for a pace or two. Then he fell over on his back, raising his arms above his head and casting the gleaming blade from his right hand as he fell.”

While that particular charge was stopped by rifle-fire from the M1 Garand, George also described the value of the 1911 pistol in the Pacific fighting.

“Through the night, as we exchanged sentry responsibilities between ourselves, we passed my .45 back and forth. I would put a round in the chamber and let the hammer down to half-cock, holding the weapon in my hands so that my left thumb was ready on the hammer spur. It was comforting to have that gun with us — as it is *always* comforting at night to



Although many swords were engraved with patriotic slogans, such as: “Conviction of Certain Victory” — all too many were left rusting in the jungles after a meeting with American steel.

have a handgun around.”

Some pistol fights were testified to by mute witness, by bodies strewn in the jungle. And Army Sergeant Thomas A. Baker was posthumously awarded the Medal Of Honor for actions that concluded July 7, 1944. During desperate

close range and hand-to-hand fighting, Baker was seriously wounded. Carried approximately 50 yards to the rear, Baker forbade any further effort at evacuation, not wanting to subject others to further risk. The official citation of what transpired reads as follows:



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“Sgt. Baker refused, insisting that he be left alone and be given a soldier’s pistol with its remaining eight rounds of ammunition. When last seen alive, Sgt. Baker was propped against the tree, pistol in hand, waiting for the enemy. Later Sgt. Baker’s body was found in the same position, gun empty, with eight enemy dead lying before him. His deeds were in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Army.”

Witnesses do not remark whether any of those eight Japanese casualties were armed with the sword. Regardless, in the determined hands of the American fighting man, the M-1911 .45 pistol was a formidable force in this type of brutal, close-in fighting.

Recent History

Oh, and our young southwestern cop who just wanted to get home after a long day, what happened to him? He beat that biker to the drop, catching him with his blade still in the sheath.

When he told this story, the cop was a bit sheepish.

“Thinking back on it now, I’m a bit embarrassed to admit I was carrying that huge Smith Model 29. Those were darn hard to come by back then, and it was one of my favorites. I was shooting it all the time at the range, and so I had started carrying it off duty as well. Hey, what can I say, I was a kid.

“But what really surprised me was the look on that biker’s face when I lined that big S&W up on his wishbone. He didn’t even look surprised. He stared right into that muzzle that must have looked as big as a 16-inch gun, and then he said just two words before he turned on his heel and walked away:

“That’s cool.”

“I could have shot him. I could have arrested him. But I didn’t do either. After all, I just wanted a cup of coffee.”



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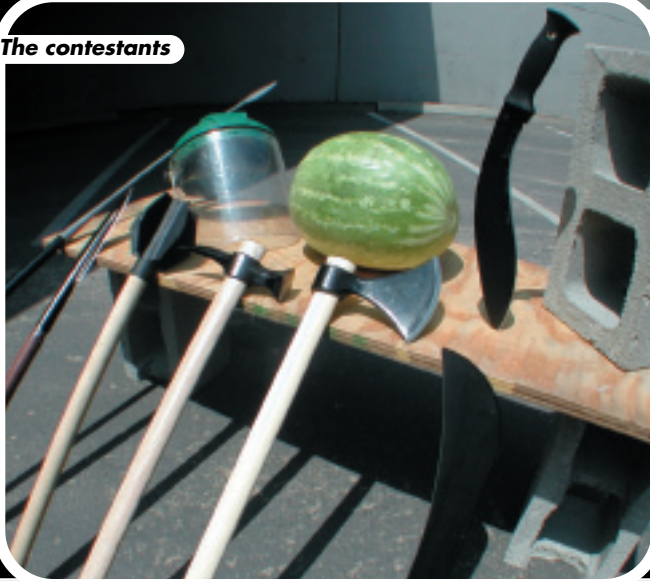
HEAVY METAL

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The contestants



Should we have assumed the drunken slovenliness of an English commoner dragging home from battle his armor-crushing mace? Or screamed bloody murder like the Burmese Gurkha sprinting to challenge Her Majesty's Redcoats? How about the patient repose of the Samburu warrior lying in-wait ready to slay a lion with spear? Would these have worked best for us?

At first, none of us were enamored enough by Arthurian legends or knife fighting to take Cold Steel's esoteric "Special Projects" weapon division too seriously. For our purposes, they were what they were — steel fashioned into tools. And we were just four guys happy to spend a Wednesday afternoon outside the office underneath a highway overpass smashing watermelons with a war hammer.

But something happened clutching those old tools. Though we weren't looking to become knights or Zulus or

**Mace crush block, mace
crush block... ugh.**



handful of modern-manufactured weapons on a handful of blocks and watermelons. Just to see what would happen. And here is what we found out.

Battle Mace

The Lord cursed a man unfortunate enough to get clobbered with a mace. And though the one Cold Steel offers is only slightly more ornate than the bricks we were crushing with it, crushed them to dust it did. With a solid wooden handle and a black orb fashioned from steel, the mace pulverized the bricks. Our recommendation, if you see someone coming after you with one of these — run. Get out of the way. Otherwise the only thing distinguishing you from 180 pounds of carne asada will be a healthy sprinkling of spices and meat tenderizer.

War Hammer

Variety, some say, is the spice of life. And this chunk of steel at the end of a handle can do one of two things. It can smash, or it can puncture. With nary a flinch it smashed right through the cinder block. And with nary a blink it deep-punctured the watermelon. At the risk of filling you with unnecessarily graphic images — we'll allow you to fill yourself with unnecessarily graphic images — if this battle hammer is capable of doing this with one softish blow to the watermelon, imagine what it could do to something a little more personable. So far Lynn Thompson's strange objects of punishment are two for two. If someone chases

Gurkhas, we gained an appreciation for the lethality of their historic weapons. In a world where everything is "blowupable," we found the weird stuff Cold Steel offers for about \$50 at the back of their catalog works. And in wanting to know if they break, malfunction, smash or cut, we learned if you see someone coming after you with one of these things, you should run away... fast.

Now no one is saying a watermelon is a human head, or a cinder block is a femur. We've all read plenty about adrenaline dumps and facing danger to know whacking inanimate objects while wearing safety equipment differs significantly from engaging human beings in an alley. But though a cinder block may not have a brain, and a watermelon may not carry a concealed firearm, we tested a



Smooth form of kung fu student mean juicy treat for all.

Samburu spear punctures watermelon in three easy steps.



you with a battle hammer, run away. Unless you have a 15-foot lance nearby.

Kukri

Blessed Kukri of the Burmese Gurkhas, few edged weapons have acquired your infamy. As the edged-weapon of choice of the fierce and famous Gurkha, once-upon-a-time slaughterers of Englishmen and Japanese, the Kukri's very design looks lethal. With an edged belly that pulls the rest of the blade through whatever it chooses to cut, the Kukri could remove your forearm if you looked at it wrong. So serious did the Gurkha take their weapon, they purposefully sliced themselves with it every time they removed it from its sheath, just to remind themselves of its lethality. The model we used, the Gurkha Light Kukri, also smashed the cinder blocks with ease. As if we needed to tell you again, should a midnight marauder come after you with a Kukri, run away.

Assegai & Samburu Spear

The cut across my finger attests to the sharpness of Cold Steel's Assegai, the fighting weapon of South African Zulus invented by King Shaka in the early 1800s. Just as Cold Steel's Assegai had no problem slicing through my humble flesh, it had no problem moving through the watermelon, even when not thrust at full speed. Rather than knock the watermelon off the table it pierced the gourd like the proverbial hot knife through melted butter.

The Samburu Spear comes in three parts, requiring only the simplest of assembly. With a bouncy balance and strong point, the spear had no problems challenging the watermelon from a safe distance, moving right through its tough rind while keeping its attacker at a safe

distance. But the spear is suited more for tossing than close combat. With its small head and length it is more conducive to taking flight, or perhaps stabbing a crocodile. And yet holding it, Joe mentioned he felt a sudden wind to his back and a desire to hunt. With that he ran off towards what remains of the San Diego River, spear in hand, to stalk game.

So there you have it. Not one of the Special Projects weapons we acquired from Cold Steel failed to do what they were supposed to do. Convinced they'd snap in two on the bricks, or fail to penetrate the watermelons, we found they all cut like hell. So if you're standing at

some historical theme park, munching on strudel, and one of the costumed heathens starts swinging his mace in rage, don't stand around and wait for the knight in shining armor to take care of business — get out of the way.

And, finally, this goes for all the weapons tested. Just because they're cheap replicas don't mean they're for fun and games.



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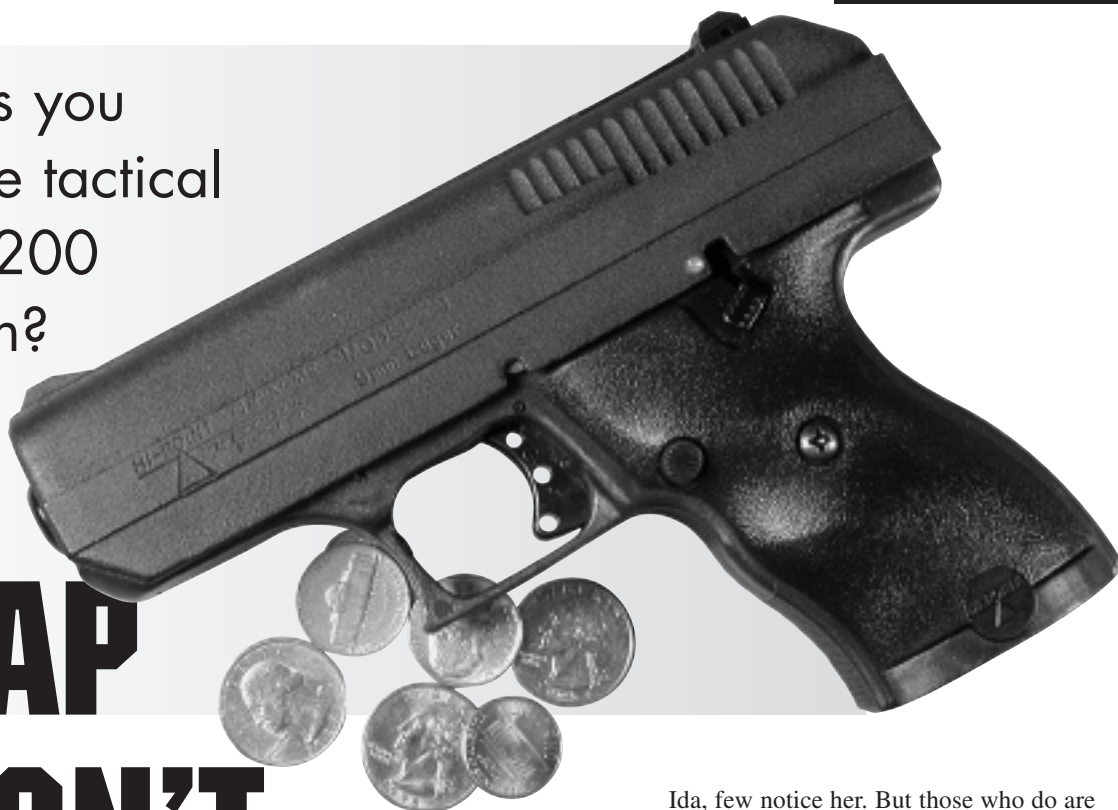
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Who says you
can't be tactical
with a \$200
handgun?



CHEAP DOESN'T ALWAYS MEAN CHINTZY

Roy Huntington (Editor, *American Handgunner*)

We went here with no small amount of trepidation. Being somewhat gun-snobby, we were hesitant to actually be seen in public with certain, shall we say, plebian models of handguns. But we put our pride in our collective desk drawers and ordered-up a cross-section of affordable iron to see what happens in the real world. Most magazines are afraid to tell the truth, but having been sired by our mother publication, *American Handgunner*, we're not afraid to simply let the cards fall. And in this case, we were very surprised to find that not many cards fell.

The line-up ran the gamut from the eminently affordable (cheap?) Hi-Points at about \$135, to a

resounding \$575 for the Taurus PT92. All of which means that affordable may be in the eyes of the beholder. Perhaps a better way to describe these fellows is the fact they all performed out of context to their respective costs. Like your Aunt



The Hi-Points showed-off fully adjustable sights with orange inserts and were surprisingly effective.

Ida, few notice her. But those who do are always surprised when they look behind that unassuming face that's just a bit shy, and doesn't mind eating at McDonald's on a first-date.

For the novice, or even the experienced shooter, these models offer to fill niches we might have. Need a cheap tackle-box kind of a gun, or maybe you're on a tight budget and want something to protect the bacon? Hi-Point gets our vote, hands-down. City cop on a shoestring? Taurus PT92 is the easy winner. Beginner? Rossi's .38 Special revolver handles the chores admirably. For concealed carry, the Taurus PT111 gets the nod. Competition and versatility without breaking the bank? The EAA Witness (with its compensated .45 barrel and 9mm interchangeability) is lots of handgun for the money.

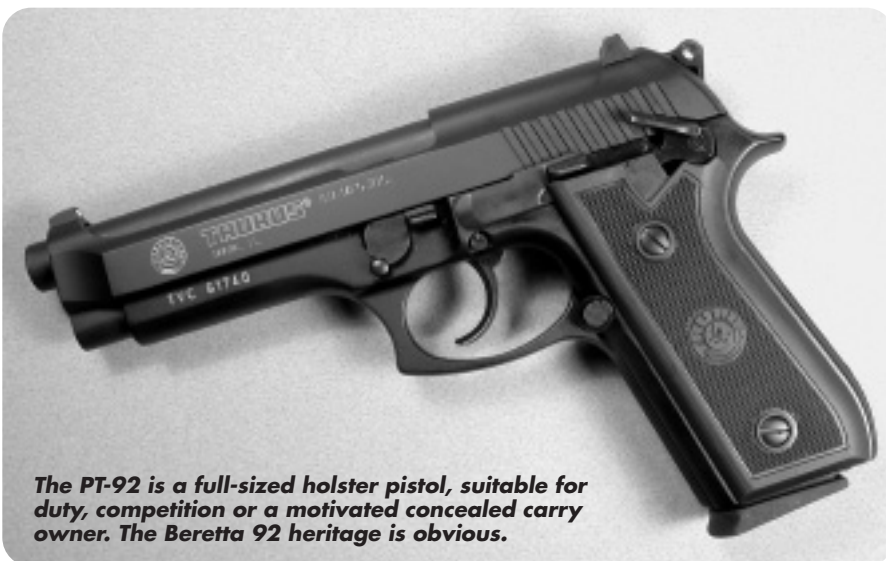
So, in no particular order of importance, cool or cool-quotient, here are the facts.

Handy Hi-Points

At the bottom of the pile — in cost only — are the Hi-Point handguns. We received the 9mm compact and the .380 versions to wring out. The .380 had a semi-nifty two-tone look to the slide while the nine was all flat black. "Genuine black paint" was the finish, we'd imagine, and the grips were black plastic with the Hi-Point logo at the bottom.

The guns are strictly blow-back so the slides are very heavy and while they don't display the svelte lines of a Hi-Power, they do get the job done. Speaking of Hi-Powers, the general grip profile reminded us of the feel of the Browning, which isn't a bad thing.

The Taurus PT-92 offered that ability to carry it in "cocked and locked" mode or standard double action, safety on or off.



The PT-92 is a full-sized holster pistol, suitable for duty, competition or a motivated concealed carry owner. The Beretta 92 heritage is obvious.

Sights were first-rate, with bright orange inserts and fully adjustable and a bit of a surprise on this level of handgun. Molded-in serrations in the polymer grip frames, a safety lever (which doubled as the slide stop) on the left side, and a magazine release in the proper place rounded-out the package.

Okay, so they look like \$135 guns, and while we weren't inclined to put ivory grips or have 'em engraved, they nonetheless had some good traits. But

would they shoot? Doubting fellows we are, once at the range with the whole gang of test guns, we wiped them down, and loaded-up.

Right off the bat, the .380 failed to feed into the chamber. The round took a nose-dive into the feed ramp and we all went, "See, we told you so." Then we realized the round was a truncated-cone FMJ so we fussed a bit and it chambered. "Yeah," we said in unison, "But will it feed?"

It fed. And fed. And fed. Until we

were very, very tired of loading the magazines. That first one up the tube wasn't the norm, and from hollow-points to various other shapes and sizes, both the 9mm and the .380 fed like a hungry hog at the slop bucket. The mag lips were a bit on the sharp side and bit us some, but since we doubted we'd be taking a Thunder Ranch five-day handgun class with either one, we leaned toward forgiveness in that department.

The surprise of the day was the fact each one turned in consistent 3" and 4" groups at 25 yards. Yes, that would be a bit more than 2" and less than 5" again and again. We didn't want it to happen that way. We wanted them very badly to shoot poorly so we could point our fingers and say, "Ah Ha! You get what you pay for, eh?" But it simply didn't work out that way and our collective know-it-all egos remained semi-bruised by the experience.

Would we buy a Hi-Point and take it to display proudly at the range? Nope. Would we pass them to our children with great reverence and honor? Nope again. But, if we were outfitting our bass fishing boat, recommending a reliable inexpensive semiauto for home defense, plinking, or learning about shooting on a budget, we'd grit our teeth and grunt out, "Get a Hi-Point, until you can afford a Browning Hi-Power or something." If the bump in the night happened and all we had was our Hi-

Point nine in our hand, we wouldn't feel 'askeered. No foolin'. Just one thing — and don't say we didn't warn you — if you take it apart you're on your own.

Wiley Witness

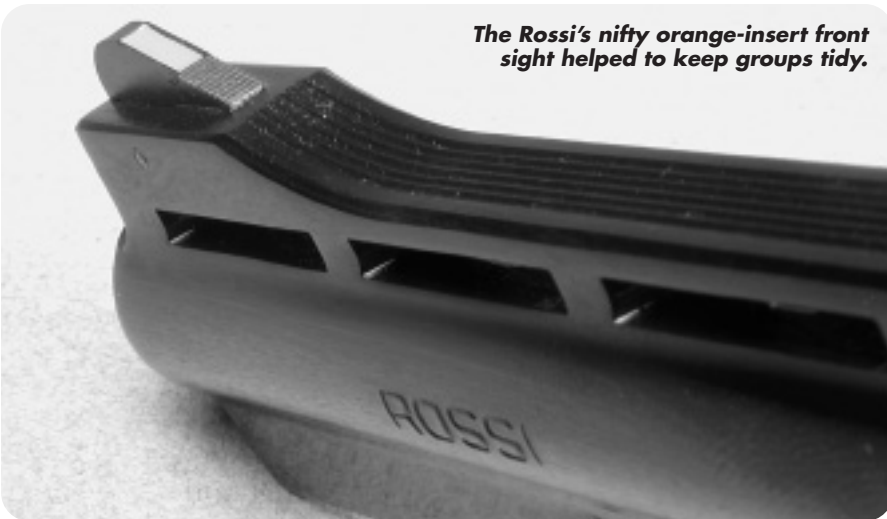
EAA has built a name for affordable handguns and long guns. From double rifles and coach guns to a smattering of handguns, they continue to break new sales records. And for a reason. Like the previous pair, we wondered about the quality of a semiauto that sold for a very reasonable \$350 or so. Our first impressions revealed a workman-like execution of the CZ 75 basic design with all the bells and whistles in place.

Not bad at all.

Blued-steel, compensator in place on the .45 slide assembly, and a matching non-compensated 9mm slide that slid right on the same frame got our attention. The tidy way the slide rides within the frame makes the gun attractive and sleek looking and frankly, with the Hi-Pow-erish grip frame, everyone liked it lots. With the CZ design, you can carry the gun in double-action mode, cocked and locked, or double action with the safety on. Decisions, decisions, decisions.

The trigger pull was long and stacked at the end, but wasn't overly-hard or rough. Sights were big, bold and fixed and appeared to be zeroed for most of the loads we tried — give or take an inch or two. In about 200 rounds fired, the 9mm conversion ran 100 percent and was very accurate (one-hole clusters off-hand at 15 yards) but the .45 gave us some fits. In the first magazine, we had four failures to fully chamber, but it would close with a quick bump of the heel of the hand. A check by a competent gunsmith (no one in our group...) revealed the extractor may have been tensioned too hard and it seemed to work itself in after a bit. It also

The Rossi's nifty orange-insert front sight helped to keep groups tidy.



A supplied key quickly renders the Rossi .38 Special safe from prying fingers by blocking hammer movement.

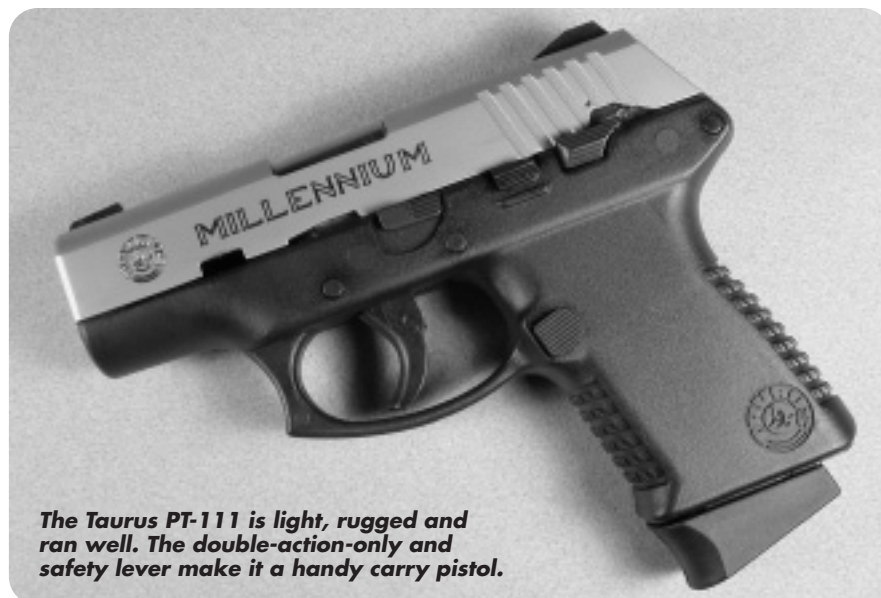


With the ribbed barrel and adjustable sights, the Rossi reminded us of a Colt Diamondback with a S&W fame. A cool, little gun.



SPEC SHEET

MAKE	PRICE	CALIBER	ROUND COUNT	BARREL LENGTH	WEIGHT
ROSSI					
851	\$298	.38 SPL.	6 ROUNDS	4 INCHES	27.5 OUNCES
TAURUS					
PT111	\$500	9MM	10 ROUNDS	3.25 INCHES	18.75 OUNCES
PT92	\$575	9MM	10+1 ROUNDS	5 INCHES	34 OUNCES
EAA					
WITNESS	\$350	.45 ACP	10 ROUNDS	4.5 INCHES	35 OUNCES
HI-POINTS					
CF380	\$135	.380 ACP	8 ROUNDS	3.5 INCHES	30.55 OUNCES
CF9		9MM			



The Taurus PT-111 is light, rugged and ran well. The double-action-only and safety lever make it a handy carry pistol.

dawned on us the gun was essentially "dry" and some oil might have helped things along. We oiled it and the problem went away. Imagine that.

The conversion unit was quick and easy to install and consisted of simply taking one slide assembly off and putting

the other on. Change the magazine and presto, new gun. There's also a .22 conversion unit which we didn't have on-hand for the test. All in all, that's a pretty neat trio, all in one package. We liked this gun a great deal and for informal local IPSC or IDPA competition, informal tar-

geting and .22 plinking, it would be hard to beat. Basically you get three guns for the price of about two (when you factor-in the cost of the extra slide assemblies) and that ain't a bad deal in anybody's book.

Millennium Madness

With the CCW craze sweeping the nation, tiny semiautos are selling almost as fast as dealers put them out. With some brands of tiny autos selling for upwards of \$1,000, an affordably priced, reliable 9mm, .40 or .45 ACP is a hot-ticket item.

Taurus knows that and it's the reason they introduced the PT111-sized handguns. Tiny, tough and reliable (according to our experiences with our test gun), this lightweight version of a fighting pistol costs around \$425, at full retail. What you get is a small package that's double-action-only, has a manual safety, mag release where all proper mag releases belong, finger-grip mag bottom, decent three-dot sights and a surprisingly manageable trigger. Factor in the factory lock on the slide (keyed) and it's lots of features for not-a-lot of money.

So, we shot the snot out of it at the range to see what would happen. Being on the tiny side, the more inexperienced shooters had trouble controlling it and group sizes drifted to the big side. The experienced shooters (*Guns Magazine* Editor, Jim Gardner, for one) were easily able to keep a magazine-full in about a 4" circle at 15 yards. It was controllable (our test gun was a 9mm version), ran just fine and fed everything we tried, from aggressive hollow-points to ball. The molded-in checkering on the polymer grip-frame helped in the controllability department and the bold sights made targeting easy.

One complaint we had was take-down and assembly. It's gently warned about in the owner's manual, so pay attention. After

taking out the slide release lever, you have to sort of “milk” the slide off forward, sometimes pulling the trigger as you do it. Ditto for replacement. Fuss with it a bit and you’ll get the drift but don’t pound it with a hammer or force anything. You don’t have to. The PT111 proved itself to be a reliable, powerful pocket pistol with no sharp bits to bite you. It simply worked just fine, and we’re not surprised. Plus, Taurus has their lifetime guarantee, so you can’t go wrong. Don’t let it run without lube, though. It gets cranky.

Robust Rossi

We old revolver guys just couldn’t leave it alone so we politely asked Rossi for one of their basic, blued sixguns. At about \$298 (full-boat retail) we had our hopes up but were prepared for the worse.

Think back to that handy little Colt Diamondback .38 Special that Colt used to make, and you’ll have a good idea of what the Rossi reminded us of. Smallish, lightweight, but all-steel and that sexy sight rib riding on top of the barrel made it downright irresistible to us old revolver shooters. Sights are fully adjustable and the over-all function of the cylinder locking latch, etc. reminds us of Smith & Wesson. Custom pistolsmiths used to make a “Smolt” using a Smith action and frame and a Python barrel. The Rossi is a tiny Smolt.

The action staged like a Smith, with those two distinct clicks as you pull it through. The trigger was smooth-faced and the grips were a rubber-like type that felt good. We were hard-pressed to find faults and if we had to point fingers, we’d say the action was a bit rough, but hey, have you felt a new Smith lately? So no fault, no foul there. Finish was a black and “blue” finish and polishing was even with no noticeable tool-marks present. Even the side-plate (exactly like a S&W) fit closely and evenly.

It has a built-in hammer block locking device that uses a key to turn a screw-head out, blocking the hammer from moving back to fire the gun — twist-on and twist-off. Lock it when unattended, unlock it when it comes out onto the bedside table at night. Little Johnny can’t get into trouble that way.

Revolver-shooter extraordinaire Jim Gardner took the Rossi, loaded it with Federal .38 Special wadcutters, and took to shooting it off-hand at 25 yards. The results were groups hovering around the 2¾" size. The Rossi proved to be reliable, very accurate and not hard to look at. All for less than \$300, much to our surprise.

Taurus-Tough

About a hundred years ago I owned a Taurus PT92 and confess, I shot the thing in local IPSC matches and it never failed me. Today’s version seems to be made with more attention to detail, better mate-

Continued on page 76

The EAA’s ramped barrel made feeding an easy proposition. It was well-finished for the affordable \$350 price tag.



The EAA Witness was supplied with a spare 9mm slide that slipped right on. The compensated .45 ACP slide turns it into a good IPSC gun for local or regional matches, as-is.



The bold, white front sight insert and threaded compensator are nice touches.

Mr. Smith shows us how to de-fang these potentially troublesome beasts





Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh My Stairways Hallways Doorways Corners

Clint Smith

Simply defined, tactics is the science of organization and maneuver. So one assumes it would behoove one to plan one's self-defense prior to the fact. And in its simplest form, tactics might be looked upon as architecture, or perhaps the game of pool.

In architecture, imagining a building, then creating the framework that enables the structure to become reality, is the transference of known methodology (in this case, engineering) into the reality of brick and stone. So too we use the concept of sound tactics to build a framework, a foundation if you will, of solid procedures that work in the real (brick and stone) world. In other words, we use tactics to solve problems, just as an architect uses engineering to build.

Pool is a complicated game demanding placement, anticipation and skill — in short, a game of tactics. It demands finding the “best angle,” or maneuver, to place the ball in pocket. If you translate the reality of commonly encountered threats, such as stairs,



ABOVE and RIGHT: Clearing a stairwell is no different than a hallway — it just runs up and down and adds unsure footing into the equation. The arrows indicate potential danger points.

“This concept of angles is easily translated into the need to clear a building’s stairs, halls, corners and doorways without being injured. All the while out-thinking your opponent.”

hallways and doorways, into a friendly game of pool, suddenly the angles and strategies become obvious. This concept of angles is easily translated into the need to “clear” a building’s stairs, halls, corners and doorways without being injured.

All the while out-thinking your opponent.

Keeping in mind the ability to build upon this foundation, plus the need to search for the right angle, can be powerful beginnings to rock-solid responses against close-quarter threats. Let’s examine some specifics and take a hard look at the four most common problems encountered during an indoor deadly-force encounter.

Stairways

People psyche themselves out when approaching a stairwell. When questioned they confess, “This looks dangerous,” or, “I could get killed.” This possibility exists, and you have the rest of your life to solve the problem. But how long your life lasts depends upon how well you use it.

A stairway is nothing more than a



hallway going up or down with vertical and horizontal corners and overhangs. It is dangerous, but it can be — and may have to be — overcome. The stairway is a funnel restricting movement flow, and one person clearing stairs is in for some extremely dangerous work. But then again, you could always fall-down.

Teams get hit, stopped, held and punished by incoming fire. Their survival depends on their supporting fire suppressing the threat, and a practice, organized withdrawal. The graveyard is full of people who failed to back up, or practice backing up. Ask Custer.

Basic guidelines apply. Keep the muzzle between you and what you feel is the threat. In overhangs or corners, don't lead with the muzzle. Keep the muzzle down in tight areas. Don't put the muzzle near or around your face and head. If a retention fight for your weapon begins and your muzzle is down, you will have better leverage to raise the muzzle than attempting to lower it from a raised position. If someone attempts to take the weapon, step back, use the leverage of the low position, and if appropriate shoot to get your opponent off the end of your gun.

Your physical presence on the stairway projects three target indicators: sound, movement and outline. Contrast and reflection can come quickly in the form of dark clothes in a white stairwell or reflection off of glasses, guns, face or hands.

Going Up

Watch your footing. For balance, check the depth of the step with your foot to confirm your footing. Be aware of overhangs and corners at the top of stairs or landings. As you go up, keep your back to a solid wall, if there is one. Don't drag or rub the wall since sound created by rubbing the wall is one target indicator.

As you go up the stairs, the top of your head will show before your eyes see the floor, especially if you have a hat or helmet on. If your opponent simply lies on the floor, he can see your head before your eyes and gun can be in the clear to see or shoot. If working a stairwell with a flat floor at the top of the landing, mentally project when your head will be a target. Squat lower as you progress up the stairs so you can keep your head from becoming a target any sooner than necessary. Stage yourself a step or two above where your head will show.

With the weapon at ready, look up while you keep the weapon muzzle in support just enough to see the floor area. Your head is still a target, but you have the ability to see and fight, compared to the slow motion, jack-in-the-box movement of climbing step by step.



As you move up the stairs, try for the best angle possible to clear the overhead area (shown by dark arrow).

Clearing overheads or overhangs is accomplished by staging yourself on the stair below the point of exposing yourself. Don't expose your muzzle, elbows, knees or shoes. Bracing against a solid wall helps, if available. It could — and probably will — be uncomfortable, but roll out

see the most amount of the threat.

Going Down

Several problems exist here and they're all dangerous. Is there an opening under the stairs setting up the potential for your foot to be grabbed as you go down?

What are the stairs made of? Clangy metal? Thudding wood? Solid concrete? As you descend the stairs, will they shoot you in your feet, legs, or groin? Think and look first.

Depending upon room design, you may expose your feet and legs to a threat across the room. Ever back-up stairs quickly? If the stairs allow, you can try to lay flat and look into the back part of the room showing as little of yourself as possible. If you don't know the stairway, I would put my back to the solid wall and start down using the toe of my shoe to feel if the stairway is freestanding and the back of the steps are open.

Use cover and/or concealment and understand the difference between the two. Concealment only hides you, cover can protect you from hostile fire. Wallboard is concealment. A rock is cover. They can both be helpful.

the least amount necessary with the head and muzzle to visually clear the area. As always in tactics, the simple equation is to show the least amount of me in order to



Continuing up, shift your focus to the next problem area (shown by the light arrow) and any threats that may show themselves. It's not easy and it's not fun, but at times, it may have to be done.

You could attempt to peek under the stairs before going down. The step design can sometimes create a visual baffle that makes it impossible to see what is underneath. Be prepared to back up while under fire. Although it wouldn't be one of my personal responses, you may have to shoot back through the stairs to suppress the threat underneath the stairs. In the heat of the moment don't, as they say, shoot yourself in the foot.

Threats Coming Up

First re-read the part of this article about going up stairs. Everything that was a threat to climbing stairs now becomes your friend. If there is preparation time, clutter the stairs with any obstructions you can fling down to slow or delay the stair climbers. If time permits, obstruct the stairs with furniture of any kind, an armful of dirty clothes, anything that could make the threat's footing unsure.

Look and listen for the threat on the

Learn and own the ground you live or work on. You have all the time in the world now to make the plans that may help to solve future deadly threats on your own stomping grounds. You have the luxury of time. Time to train, time to plan, time to think. If and when you find yourself in a deadly force encounter, you have the rest of your life to solve your problem — how long your life lasts may depend on how well you solve that problem.

stairs and be prepared to attack at an appropriate time to cause the most grief. An aggressive act of marksmanship supported by magazine capacity and volume of fire should stall and stop threats on the stairs. Watch for their head or muzzle to precede them up the stairs. Use protective cover or lay as flat as you can on the floor in prone. Wait for a good clear shot. The better you pound them on the stairs the first time the fewer there will be the second time they come up, and the less enthusiastic they may be about the entire affair. Nobody likes getting shot at, let alone getting hit. By the way, be prepared to receive rounds through the floor from the level below.

Threats Coming Down

Again, re-read the portion of this article describing going down stairs. Everything that was a threat to you is now a threat to your opponent. Try to obstruct the stairs. Stay as far back in the room as you can. Use cover and watch for the feet and muzzle of your threat. Shoot into the lower torso as soon as it becomes available. Even though they are probably effective wounds that would incapacitate the threat eventually, I wouldn't specifically shoot at the legs and feet. I prefer to put hits on the lower torso.

When they are hit there is a strong possibility they will fall down the stairs. Just because you struck doesn't mean the fight is over. They may wind up at the bottom of the stairs wounded and with a real attitude. Be prepared to fire additional rounds at what may be a very dangerous threat lying injured at the bottom of the stairs, seriously pissed-off about what happened.

Doorways

Doors and doorways are divided into two categories. The first is the locked door that branches into a locked exterior or interior. Amongst these, there may not appear to be much difference, with the exception of the jam type and/or doorway — for example, a hard or armored exterior door.

The second variations, and the ones addressed here, are open doors, doorways and interior doors closed but not locked. Doors, by nature and design, are man-made funnels designed to constrict movement and the flow of traffic. This restriction makes them a bullet magnet, and a potential lethal trap.

There are some basic fundamentals for doors to keep in mind at all times. Don't stand in front of the doorway any longer than necessary either when opening it or while it is open. The opening or possible backlight of the opening promotes you as a target. Do not lead with your weapon muzzle while

searching or entering the doorway. The muzzle is a dead giveaway concerning exactly where you are. To complicate matters, it can, at best, cause you to fight over possession of your gun with the threat and, at worst, set you up to have the weapon taken away, possibly to be used against you. So don't lead with the muzzle, okay?

Clearing the doorway can be divided into three parts:

Approach, Search, Entry

As you start the search, stay as far away from the doorway as possible. Work to one side of the door to position yourself to see into the room as far as possible. Keep as much distance as possible from the door, with your muzzle between you and the threat area as you visually slice the open doorway. Move as smoothly and as quickly as possible, but not necessarily fast. Your movement should be arc-shaped — similar to a rainbow curve — visually slicing the new area acquired with each lateral step until you reach the wall on the other side of the open door.

By working from side to side of the doorway you will see as far as possible



ABOVE: Open stairwells may conceal threats below your line of sight (as indicated by dark arrow). **LEFT:** As you move down an open stairwell, be aware of threats that may be lurking below the open staircase. There's no easy way here — take your time, use caution and make the right decisions.

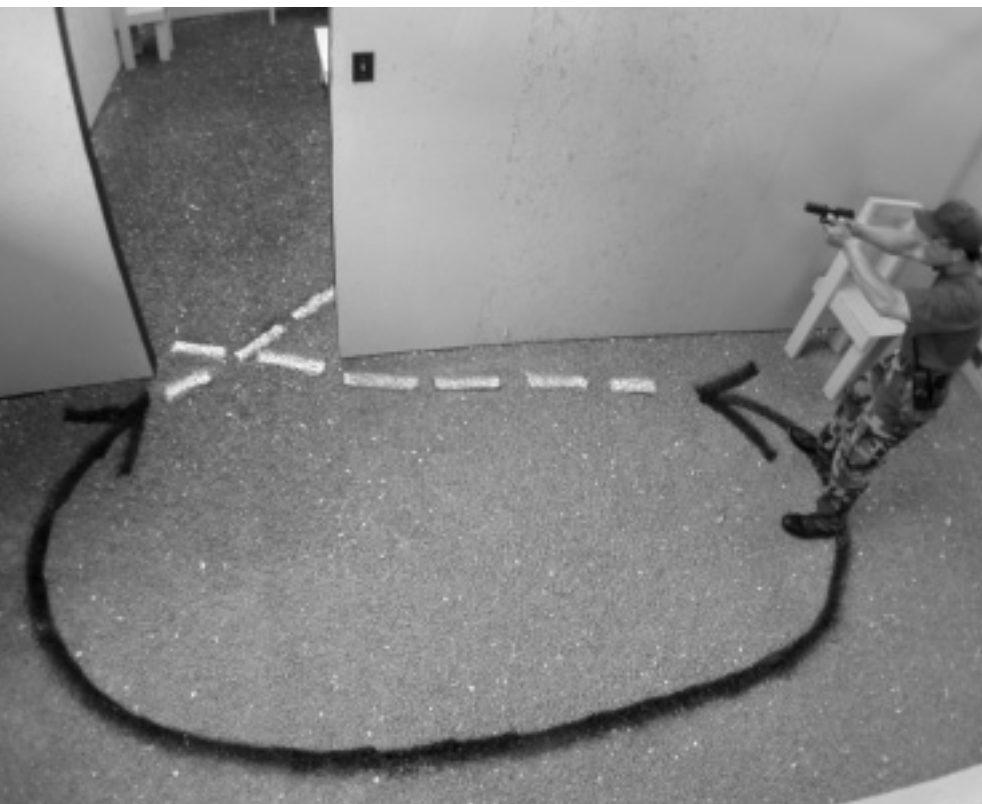


“Wait for a good clear shot. The better you pound them on the stairs the first time the fewer there will be the second time they come up, and the less enthusiastic they may be about the entire affair.”

“There will be a hallway that can't be cleared by going straight ahead, and you had better consider it now. You will either back up or be stuffed into a zippered bag.”



ABOVE: If confronted with an open doorway, you can start anywhere, but maximize the distance to the threat area by keeping your distance. The black curve shows direction of movement, light-colored lines show direction of view. **BELOW:** Moving in a curve to maximize the distance, the shooter rotates to the opposite side of the doorway.



into the room. At this point you may be concerned this movement allows your opponent to see you, and you may be away from cover. If you see the threat or they see you, the fight may, indeed, start. If so, simply step back in the direction you were coming from allowing the wall or door to provide what little cover or

concealment may be available. You're never more than a step or two from cover, even though you are away from the doorframe and seemingly standing in the open doorway. Think about it. If you can't see them, they can't see you.

In all candor, the wall and door between you and the threat are probably,

at best, concealment and not cover. The wall or door may not stop incoming fire, but you won't know if you don't use them. Move to whichever position provides potential protection.

The third and last part of the entry is going through the doorway. While conducting your search decide where you want to position yourself after you make entry. When entering, you can cross over by starting on the outside of the door on the right and then through the door to the left side of the doorway into the room.

Another option is a buttonhook entry that starts outside on the right or left of the door and hooks into the room so that when you are inside the room you are on the right or left of the door again. A key point is to pass through the doorway smoothly, quickly and quietly. Put your back against what you feel is a safe area, which may be the last place you looked before you came through the doorway.

Now is a good time to consider what you may have to do if you go into the room and find yourself an unwanted guest. You may have to withdraw to where you came from. Quickly. I always try to remember the last safe place I occupied just in case I need to return there. As you approach, consider where the last safe place is then decide how the door opens, conduct the search, take a breath — and enter.

The opening and clearing of a closed door is a little more complicated only in the sense that you have to factor in opening the door. Once the door comes open the search can be similar to the technique you used for the doorway. On the

approach check the hinges of the door. If the hinge pins face out it means the door opens toward you. No visible hinge pins means the door opens inward, or away from you. Easy. Be aware of pocket doors that have no hinges or doorknobs. To open this type of door you will need to slide the door into the wall.

Let's take an example of a common entry problem. The door you are about to open has the knob on the right and the hinges on the left. This door is going to open from your right to the left. If possible set up on the right side using your left hand to open the door knob, keep your muzzle between you and the threat area, open the door and step back smoothly while going back to a two-hand firing grip. Try not to fling the door too hard so it opens, whacks the wall and goes back shut. That may be embarrassing, to say the least. Yet, at the same time, don't open the door so slowly as to expose a large portion of your arm and torso to shoot at or so that someone inside has lots of time to get ready to whack you.

If you had to open the same door, but in a hallway, take a moment to get a position of control. Check the doorknob and hinges as you approach and place your left foot in a position so if the door were suddenly opened it would strike your foot and not your important parts like head and gun. Keeping the muzzle between yourself and the threat area (and out of the arc of the door's opening swing), grasp the doorknob with your left hand and step back as far as possible as you open the door.

Many students are concerned the threat may shoot through the door as they stand in front of it in the doorway. This is a legitimate concern and very hard to defend against. Understandably one would think that if they are shooting at me through the door you could just shoot back, which is a good concept but a poor application. That is one of the dilemmas of life. The people you are fighting are probably not worried about bystanders or hostages, but just let you shoot one round and hit the wrong guy and it's get a lawyer time. Unknown hostages may be involved and you do not have the luxury of "collateral damage," if it is at all avoidable.

Once the door is open you can conduct the visual search and entry options as discussed before. Spring-loaded doors require you open and hold the door by hand, foot or body positioning. With this type of door you will be stuck closer to the threat and unable to search unless you can block or obstruct the door by using a piece of furniture or by wedging or shoving a carpet or rug into the door's path. This is why many police officers and SWAT teams carry multiple cheap rubber door stops.

The techniques discussed so far are covert and slow to implement. If, in fact, the threat is shooting hostages and tossing



Going down a hall may present multiple threats. Light colored arrows indicate potential problem/danger areas. Unless indicators dictate otherwise, simply clear the closest threat first. Can you look in three directions at once?

Commonalities of Tactics

Three things determine the outcome of all conflict:

Communications
Movement
Shooting

the bodies out of the window, you may be required to move quickly on the approach, sizing up the door as you come to it. As the door opens you simply flow into the room keeping your back as close to the wall as

possible. Search, clear, or engage and move on as needed. The clearing of doors and doorways can be difficult and demanding, but it can be done.

Hallways

Hallways are corridors or passages in buildings. Corridors are, by definition, passageways into which compartments or rooms open, or a restricted lane as in an air traffic corridor. These hallways, corridors, or passageways restrict flow movement

and are generally found in conjunction with doors, corners and stairs. Oh joy.

In applying defense strategies, there are positive points to engaging your opponent in doorways, at corners, and definitely in



Approaching the door, the arrows indicate areas to be checked. Look at the hinges for direction of opening, the doorknob location and even underneath, for possible target signs. Once open, it may be tactically sound to prevent its closure with a doorstop or other device.

hallways. Their movement is restricted and their exposure is maximized while their available cover is negligible. Of course, the same applies to you when you are in their position.

The length of your hallway or corridor dictates the potential exposure time that you will have to engage the threat. Anything that could be added to slow the forward momentum of your opponent is helpful. Just as in the stairway problem, furniture, debris, gunfire or even bright lights all serve to retard forward movement. Once movement is slowed or

stopped, the only deciding criteria in the hallway is who can provide the best base of fire to stop and hold the forward movement. In this situation, as in most others,

Maximize and minimize: Maximize the distance to the threat. Distance creates time for decision making and better marksmanship. Space equals time, time equals accuracy.

Minimize your exposure to incoming — or the possibility of — incoming fire. People shoot at you because they see you and they see you because you let them.

“The techniques discussed so far are covert and slow to implement. If, in fact, the threat is shooting hostages and tossing the bodies out of the window, you may be required to move quickly on the approach, sizing up the door as you come to it.”

shoot good, not fast.

When moving down the hall you have two choices. Number one, stay close to the wall to minimize yourself as a target. Two, move down the middle of the hall to reduce the potential of being hit by ricochets and, more importantly, flying debris. If you're required to move through a hallway, approach open doors or corners with caution. Kick in your program as discussed earlier on doors and doorways. Visually slice the opening with your eyes, keeping the muzzle of your weapon in support. Don't lead into the opening with your elbow, foot, brim of your hat, or the end of the weapons muzzle.

Work from the right side of the hall to clear the left corner, then back up, cross over and work from the left side of the hall to clear the right corner visually. Look as far into the area you are clearing as possible. Use fixtures inside of the room to help you clear it. Be creative. Look at mirrors, windows or anything that would reflect or show the movements or location of possible threats.

This brings us to a point of interest. You should never have a tactical problem in your own home. Clear it now and practice often so you get it right. Set mirrors and furniture to your advantage to help you clear areas without entering. Proper placement of a mirror can help you look down a hallway before you stick your head in. There is the thought your opponent could look back and see you, but you would rather they see you in the mirror than shoot you in the head as you

attempt to clear an area.

As before, when you start down a hallway remember the last safe place you cleared, in case the hallway becomes untenable and you need to make a hasty retreat. There will be a hallway that can't be cleared by going straight ahead, and you had better consider it now. You will either back up or be stuffed into a zippered bag. Don't be a hero and think, "Well, they may get me, but I will take them with me." The bottom line is the same and you'll still be in the bag. A good moral might be this: Movement in a hallway that restricts your movement and flow is very dangerous. Minimize exposure time in the hallways by avoiding them altogether, or by moving through them as quickly as possible.

Continued on page 77

RIGHT: When approaching a corner, scan from top to bottom as indicated by the arrows. You're searching for any threat indicators around the corner — an elbow, knee, foot, shadow or the good fairy. **BELOW:** Footprints mark the direction of movement and the light-colored lines indicate how your visual acquisition of the room to be cleared should go. Note how the student has maximized their distance from the threat area. Distance equals time, and time equals accuracy.





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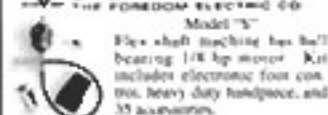
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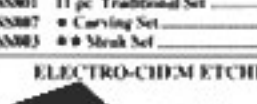
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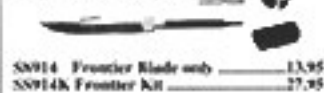


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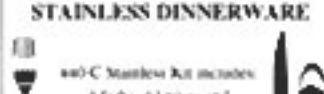
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SECRETS OF A PROFESSIONAL SHOOTER

SECRETS OF A PROFESSIONAL SHOOTER: PART 1

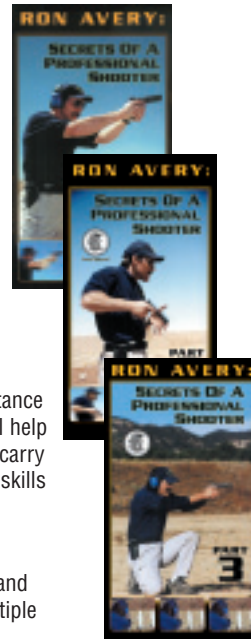
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*Like the original,
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Dave Anderson

Photos: Ichiro Nagata

A respected player in the tough 1911 autopistol market, well-known for high capacity frames developed for competition—it's safe to say STI is an innovative company. Their double-stack technology has been applied to produce a compact 10-shot defensive pistol called the VIP. And now with their fine Trojan model leading the way, the company is moving into the market of the traditional single-stack.

For a company in existence for not much longer than a decade, STI's progress has been, for lack of a better word, amazing. Its conception harks back to Chip McCormick, who throughout the 1980s roamed the Earth as one of practical shooting's elite. Twice he won the world speedshooting (Steel Challenge) championship, and placed second at an



IPSC world shoot. In 1990 he retired from competition, and is now fully occupied making and distributing high quality parts and accessories for 1911-style pistols bearing his "CMC" trademark.

McCormick enlisted the Tripp brothers, Virgil and Fred, to design and make parts. Both brothers were (are) engineers, and especially knowledgeable of computer-assisted design and computer-assisted manufacturing. Tripp Research handled development and production while CMC promoted and marketed the product.

It Began With A Game

As practical shooting grew in popularity in the '80s, competitors demanded matches with higher round-counts. A common complaint heard was: "I don't want to travel 2,000 miles for a 3-day match and shoot just 150 rounds."

Touché. Course designers responded with elaborate field stages for 25, 30, even 40 rounds.

Most 1911-style autopistols in major calibers (.38 Super and .45ACP) hold between 8 and

eleven rounds. Most high-cap pistols of the time were 9mm, and relegated to score minor. At the time, most shooters felt as long as you could make a running reload, high-caps weren't a significant advantage.

Then some enterprising shooters began adapting clones of the European CZ-75, notably the Springfield P-9, to 9x21 caliber. With handloads the cartridge made major, while the pistols held 16 rounds, even more if the magazines were modified. It quickly became clear that even if the shooter reloaded on the move, not having to reload beat the fastest reload every time. In a sport where stages are won and lost by fractions of a second, high magazine capacity was a decisive advantage.

At the 1990 USPSA nationals, Chip McCormick came to understand this. By early 1991, he and the design team of Virgil and Fred Tripp, manufacturing engineers Sandy Strayer and Ed Minshew, and master pistolsmith Steve Nastoff set out to design a high-cap, 1911-compatible frame.

The team developed a modular concept, a steel upper section fitted to a syn-

“In the harsh arena of competition, the correctness of the design and the quality of its workmanship proved itself beyond any shadow of a doubt.”

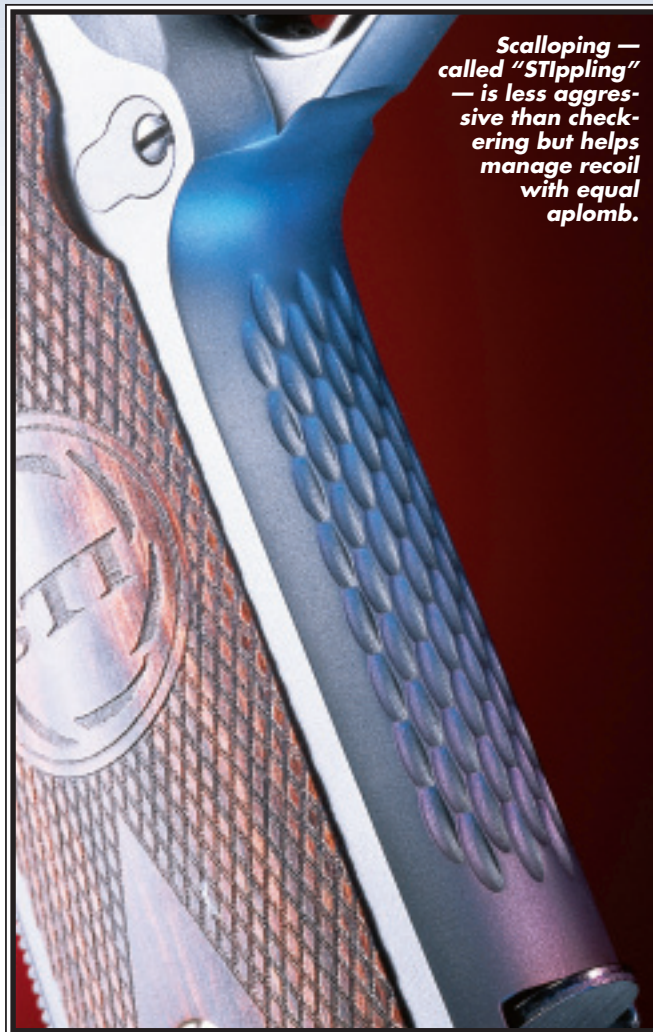
thetic grip assembly. By the 1992 SHOT Show they had working models to display, and among IPSC shooters the new frame created a sensation. Here were all the advantages of the 1911 — legendary reliability and durability, ideally located operating controls, superb trigger, familiar grip angle and handling characteristics — combined with high capacity in the .38 Super.

Wilson Combat was one of the first to put a race gun on the new frame, and they put it in the hands of shooting great Jerry Barnhart. In fall 1992, Barnhart used it to win the USPSA nationals. The modular design has dominated practical shooting competition ever since.

By 2001, 41 percent of USPSA limited-class competitors and 57 percent of open-class competitors were shooting STI pistols or frames. In the harsh arena of competition, the correctness of the design and the quality of its workmanship proved itself beyond any shadow of a doubt. Top







competitors require the highest level of performance, reliability, and durability. If there were weaknesses in design, materials, or quality of workmanship, competition would have found them.

Birthing Trends

During the years ownership of design and manufacturing rights changed. In 1994 Sandy Strayer and Virgil Tripp went separate ways. Virgil Tripp retained the STI trademark. Using the "SV" trademark, Sandy Strayer was, for a time, in partnership with pistolsmith and competitor Mike Voigt.

Then Dave Skinner came into the picture.

Like Virgil Tripp, Skinner is a shooter and a Texan. He is also a knowledgeable businessman. He and his wife Shirley had started a successful electronics business, which they sold to retire young enough to enjoy the rewards of their work.

Skinner and Tripp met at local USPSA matches and became good friends. The timing was ideal. Tripp had a great product, considerable engineering talent, and a need for capital. Skinner had the business skills. Though not often as appreciated, growing and operating a successful business takes considerable talent and skill, just as it does to become a top pistolsmith or competitor. After a few years of retirement Skinner was eager to take on another challenge. He purchased STI and the partnership proved successful.

Then came a body blow — the 1994 Crime Bill limiting new magazines for autopistols to 10 rounds. Many in the industry didn't see how the company whose only product was a high-capacity autopistol could survive. Which is when those often unrecognized entrepreneurial skills became evident.

Dave Skinner realized compact, 10-shot pistols could be built using the same concepts that resulted in the 18-shot full-size pistols. Demand for compact, light, reliable and powerful personal defense pistols was expanding dramatically as state after state passed "shall issue" concealed-carry laws. Others might have given up and moved on, no doubt pleasing the anti-gun crowd. STI chose to survive and prosper. Its product line expanded, as did its reputation for quality.

Among the new products is a line of 1911s built around the traditional single-stack magazine. One would think the appetite for 1911s would be sated, but this never seems to happen. The market hasn't diminished (if anything it has grown), but it has changed. Twenty years ago it was buy a 1911 from a reputable maker, then send it to the pistolsmith to have parts changed and the action tuned and fitted. There were some true master pistolsmiths around, and plenty of "parts changers." Some of the latter did an ade-

quate job for a fair price. Some didn't.

Today's masters still have all the work they can handle, and a custom 1911 from one of them is still the epitome of functional art. However the parts changers have largely disappeared. The modern 1911 incorporates features proven in competition: good sights, extended triggers, slotted hammers, high-ride beaver-tail grip safeties, extended thumb safeties. They also include less obvious features, such as polished frame and barrel feed-ramps, properly made and tuned extractors, extended ejectors, and much more reliable magazines.

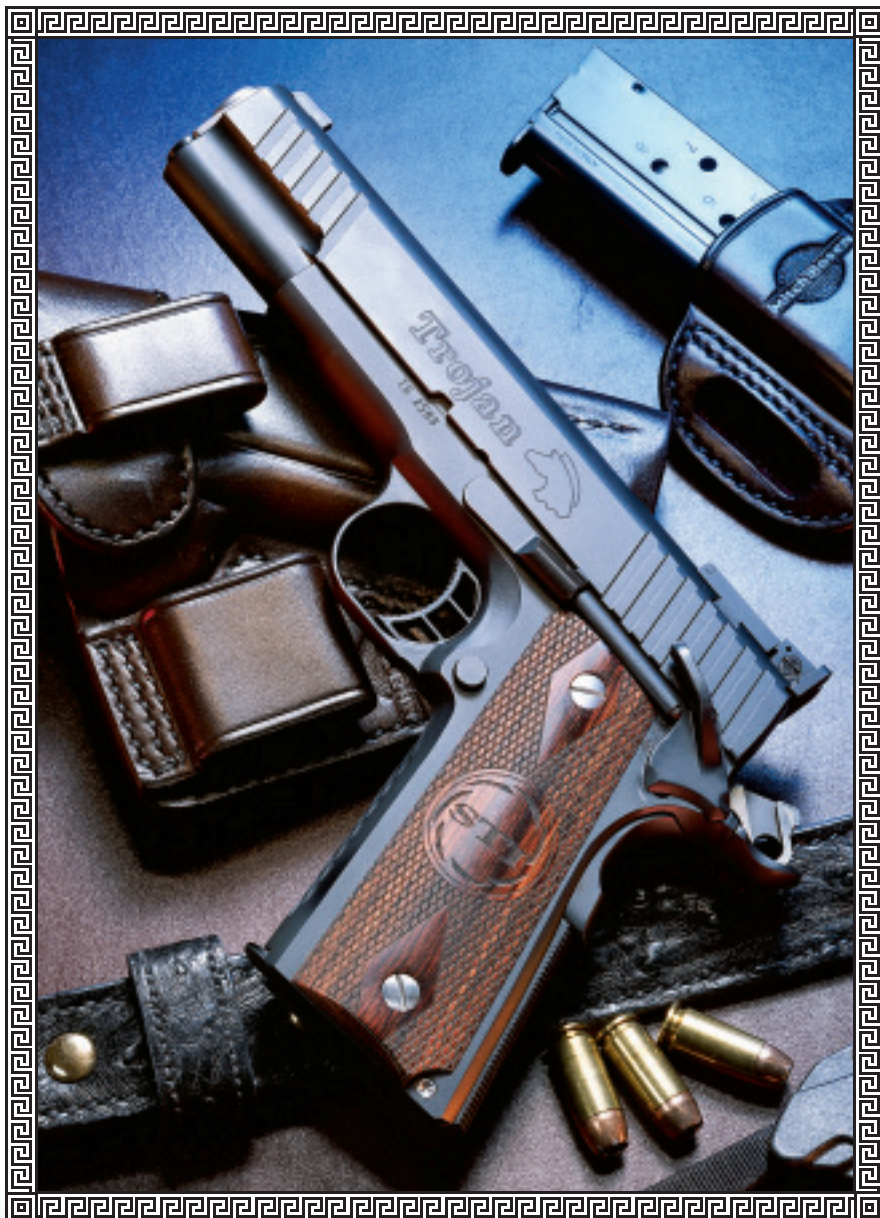
In the old days it was taken for granted that if you wanted a 1911 to be reliable with anything other than jacketed ball ammunition (and sometimes even with that), a tune-up by a skilled gunsmith was essential. No more. Successful manufacturers of 1911s understand that

today's buyers expect, demand, reliability out of the box.

The Trojan is STI's basic, full-size 1911. Current caliber offerings include 9mm, .40 S&W, .40 Super and .45 ACP. And it comes standard with the features current 1911 enthusiasts now expect: good sights, an extended thumb safety, beavertail grip safety (built up at the bottom to ensure it is depressed in a normal shooting grip), slotted hammer, lightweight extended trigger, checkered magazine release button. It is a fine example of the "modern" 1911, which to many of us is still the best looking and most useful handgun available.

Plump Offerings

STI offers the choice of a fully supported and ramped barrel or a standard unsupported barrel. Both use a conventional barrel bushing, making the Trojan







The slim rosewood grip panels make a tidy package but some shooters still prefer standard-sized grips.

legal for IDPA competition as well as IPSC production class. A one-piece steel guide rod is used. I'll avoid the debate over the utility of guide rods except to say I have 1911s both with and without and don't worry much about either. With conventional barrel and barrel bushing it would be easy and inexpensive to use a regular short recoil spring guide and plug, if this is what the shooter wants.

Sights are a post front and the excellent STI adjustable rear. In appearance and function it resembles the famous Bo-Mar. Sight adjustments proved to be reliable and repeatable. Other sight options are available, including a ramped front sight, a Dawson fiber-optic front sight, and tritium night-sight inserts.

The sample pistol is in .40 S&W. Overall fit and finish is excellent. There is very little play in the fit of slide to frame, yet the slide cycles smoothly and consistently. Barrel fit at both barrel hood and bushing is likewise very good. There are

no visible toolmarks. Blue finish is smooth and even. All markings are neatly and evenly stamped and the brand name and model logos well done. Overall it is a handsome, very well made, quality piece of equipment. A hard-chrome finish is available at additional cost.

Functional reliability proved perfect. Approximately 400 rounds were fired, including several makes and styles of ammunition. All fed and functioned. Magazines dropped free whether the slide was forward or locked back. Five-shot groups, hand-held over sandbags at 25 yards, were in the 2.5 to 3 inch range. Operating controls — thumb safety, grip safety, magazine release, slide stop — all worked smoothly and properly. Thumb safety is on the left side only.

Beauty Marks

Grip panels are made of thin rosewood, making for a flatter profile and slimmer grip, which is preferred for some



hands. The grip frontstraps have a unique, attractive, scalloping — which the company calls “STIpling.” Checkering frontstraps has long been a favorite custom feature, though some shooters feel checkering has faults. It can be painful on the hand during long practice sessions, and snag on clothes. Well done it can be quite expensive, and badly done it looks terrible. The “STIpling” looks good, doesn't snag, and provides a secure grip.

Although the thin grip panels look nice and do make for a more slender grip, I personally prefer standard 1911 grips. I fitted a set of synthetic Pearce grip panels, which required the use of longer grip screws that I had to remove from another 1911.

We're currently seeing a shift in practical shooting competition back to single stack 1911s and factory pistols. IDPA is flourishing, as are the new “Limited 10” and factory stock divisions of IPSC. Once again, STI is well positioned with the right product at the right time.

At the current list price of \$970, the Trojan is fairly priced, and it is truly a fine 1911. Options include hard chrome finish, fiber optic or tritium sights, and a drilled/tapped and extended magazine release button. Complete guns and some options are available for immediate delivery, while some options require a one to six-week wait. STI opened a custom shop, so if there's something you want not listed as an option, they may be able to help.



MORE INFORMATION:

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REAL WORLD STEEL

Pat Covert



**Because hype can't cut a
hysterical crash victim
from a melting car seat.**



Columbia River Knife and Tool builds tank-tough folders for the real world.

Like a decent segment of the population, I carry a knife. As a matter of fact, every time I put my pants on I pack two knives. For small chores I carry a Victorinox Swiss Classic mixed in with pocket change. A tactical folder clipped to my left pocket is there for medium-duty utilitarian chores—handy just in case somebody decides they'd like my wallet. And I consider myself pretty normal.

But have you ever wondered what working people carry, working people whose jobs put them smack in the middle of danger? For police officers, S.W.A.T. team members, firefighters and rescue crews, when it comes to carrying a knife, you'd think these public safety personnel could certify what works best.

We thought it would be interesting to take a look at which knives these public safety professionals carry. After all, it's a jungle out there. And never in the history of the edged weapon have such a variety of knives been commercially available. Maybe understanding cops' and firefighters' and EMTs' needs makes choosing a knife a little bit easier.

Or will it?

Read on. You might be surprised at the results of our research.

Cops' Top Cutters

You might be underwhelmed to find the average beat cop does not view his knife as a means of self-defense. Though virtually all beat and patrol officers carry a knife of some sort, they mainly do so for utility purposes. One officer told me if he were ever close enough to an aggressor for knife fighting, the two would, "most likely be involved in hand-to-hand combat instead of using knives."

But when asked whether he'd feel comfortable not carrying a knife, he replied, "I'd feel naked without it."

At first, this may seem strange. A cop is the first person you'd think would need a "hell of a good" knife. But it's not so unusual when you think about it. Most law enforcement officers receive basic training in

the use of pistols and nightsticks, not using a knife. Also, most cops are loaded down with gear they are required to carry, and a heavy knife only increases the load. So the knife a cop carries will be more "everyday" than combat.

One popular brand with beat and patrol officers is Spyderco. The first company to produce a specific "Police" model (way back in 1982), Spyderco has since captured a nice chunk of the law enforcement market. It is a simple fact that more cops carry Spyderco knives

"Every guy on our team carries a serious edged weapon. We use them for utility and backup. And, like the ads says, you don't leave home without it."



Emerson has built a reputation on steel for the streets and battlefields of the world. This trio has been tested by people who rely on steel for their lives.

than any other brand. Other companies have made inroads — due to the rising awareness and popularity of the tactical folder genre. Since everyday people want to carry what real cops carry, you can bet the competition is damn serious for a piece of the LE pie.

One way to gauge which knives cops buy is to ask the people who sell to them. Jay and Karen Sadow of Arizona Custom Knives, a successful Internet and direct mail dealer, have probably sold as many tactical knives as anyone else on the planet. And keeping in mind their customers are serious about their knife purchases, I asked them which brands and models sell to law enforcement officers.

"We sell a lot of automatics to local police officers," Jay Sadow said. "These are generally the smaller ones available and they tend to be base models in the \$150 to \$200 range."

When asked what brand sells the best to the local cop, the Sadows replied in unison, "Benchmade."

S.W.A.T. Haute

But the appreciation level for a knife increases alongside levels of training. S.W.A.T. members possess a greater affinity for knives than cops on the beat. S.W.A.T. members face more dire circumstances. And

consequently, the value of being able to face any combatant is at a premium. Every S.W.A.T. officer I talked with carried a tactical knife, and cost was no object.

According to the Sadows, "S.W.A.T. team personnel tend to go for a larger, sturdier, and a bit pricier knife. They want something they know they can depend on in case they have to use it."

Typically, the S.W.A.T. team guy carries a folder with a pocket clip for quick retrieval. When I asked one officer why he preferred a folder rather than a fixed blade, and he said it is simply a matter of space.


"I want something dependable that I can get to fast. But I don't want it in the way either," he said, after asking not to be identified.

I also asked if carrying a top quality knife is important to his fellow team members.


He responded, "Every guy on our team carries a serious edged weapon. We use them for utility and backup. And, like the ads says, you don't leave home without it."

Knives To Rescue

Because EMTs rescue victims trapped in mangled, burning automobiles, they must work fast while taking caution not to injure — ergo the blunt



Kershaw's partnership with Ken Onion means their "assisted-opening" folders forged new ground in field knives.



Kershaw's rough-water/diver's knife is a fixed-blade pry bar/cutting tool that can handle just about anything you throw at it.



Those sexy angles and curves on the Spyderco Gunting are for more than good looks — they are part of a comprehensive self-defense system.



From cutting to grabbing, SOG offers a solid line-up of parting tools. The "Switch Plier" folds neatly away but snaps open for work with the push of a button.



Meyerco's Rescue II is affordable function personified in a light-weight emergency folder.

tip. Most EMT knives are fully serrated and specifically made for cutting seat belt webbing in order to free an accident victim.

While EMTs overwhelmingly prefer a folding knife for their cutting chores, rescue divers prefer fixed blades. The reason is simple. When you're underwater there is no time for fumbling around trying to open a folder, especially if you're wearing gloves already making the task meddlesome.

One individual I interviewed has a unique perspective on knives. Ohio resident Rick Hinderer has worked 15 years as a custom knifemaker, but his "day job" is that of a multi-trained professional. He serves as a firefighter and EMT on the Wooster Township Fire Department, and as rescue diver for the Wayne County Search and Rescue Squad.

Being a custom knifemaker gives Rick added insight into what works and what doesn't — and some of his preferences aren't exactly what you'd expect. For instance, Rick prefers a knife with a pointed blade for his

EMT duties because it offers him the ability to do more.

"I use a knife for much more than cutting seat belt webbing. In fact, that's only a small part of my need for a knife," Hinderer said. "I've had to actually cut a car seat apart to free a victim, which meant cutting the upholstery out from under them. A blunt knife wouldn't have allowed me to work as fast and efficiently."

He added further, "Serrations are a good thing to have on an EMT knife. We also have to pry metal a lot, so the knife has to be strong."

Keep in mind Rick is more skilled with a knife than the average EMT, so most would probably feel more comfortable with a blunt-tipped blade. They must, because there are a flotilla of these knives offered by manufacturers. And manufacturers wouldn't be making them if they didn't sell a bunch.

Hinderer's approach to rescue diving reveals some interesting insights. Before he gets his feet wet, he straps on three knives. He wears one high on his shoulder, one on the belt, and another around his ankle. Why so many knives?

"In rescue diving I depend on a knife a lot more

than I do as a firefighter or EMT," Hinderer said. "When things go wrong underwater you have to react fast. If you get tangled up in anything underwater you need to be able to grab a knife instantaneously in order to free yourself or your victim."

Rick does use blunt-tip knives during his underwater operations and says the average blade length for a diving knife is around 4 inches, though the blade on his main knife is 6 inches.

Firefighters are a different breed altogether. I stopped in at a branch station of our local Birmingham Fire and Rescue department and talked with several firemen manning the big red machines. The first question I asked was, "What type of knife do you carry?"

All six responded they did not carry a knife at all. I have to admit I was a little bit shocked, and even more so when the captain volunteered that, "About the only time we use a knife around here is in the kitchen."

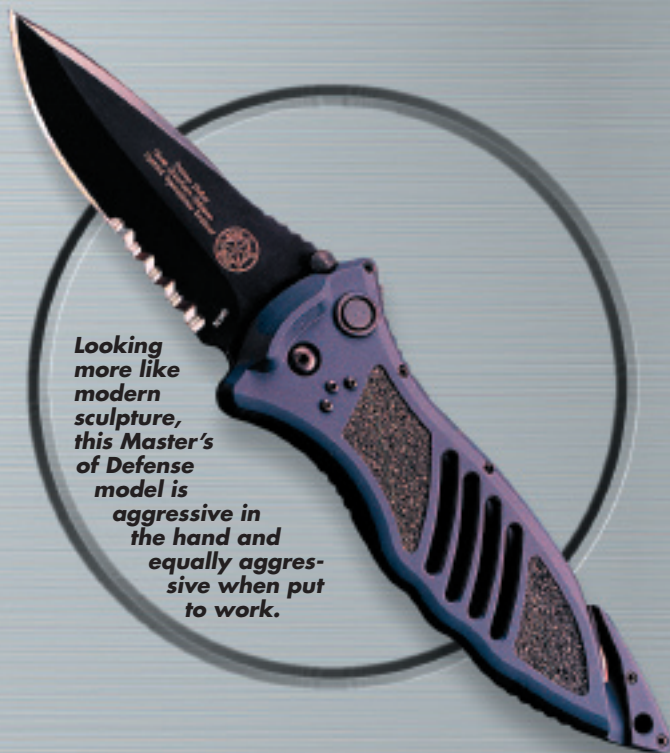
Even the EMT on duty said he never kept one on his person, but rather in the toolbox he carries to the trauma scene.

Firefighters do, however, depend on one edged

"I've had to actually cut a car seat apart to free a victim, which meant cutting the upholstery out from under them. A blunt knife wouldn't have allowed me to work as fast and efficiently."



Benchmade offers top quality and a "no-holds-barred" attitude about function in the field. It's either right — or it's not — and it's plenty right with Benchmade.



Looking more like modern sculpture, this Master's of Defense model is aggressive in the hand and equally aggressive when put to work.



The company that inarguably started the police folder craze, Spyderco is still in the game. The "Police" model on the left is the original "police folder" with one-handed opening. All others are copies...

implement, the axe. And every firefighter I talked with said — in holy reverence — that the skilled use of an axe can not only save the lives of fire victims but their own hides as well.

There are, as you might expect, some firefighters who do carry knives. The Sadows said when it comes to firefighters one brand stands out.

"We sell a lot of the M.O.D. (Masters of Defense) Duane Dieter Mark I and Mark II models to both firefighters and EMTs," the Sadows said. "They seem to like all the features of the knife, and most prefer the smaller Mark II model because it's easier to carry."

Action And Theory

In researching this article I spoke with a diverse group of police personnel from both big city and small town departments. If there was one pattern that rose above all, it's that most police officers believe they'll never be in a knife fight. Simply stated, they're either going to be shooting at a criminal or wrestling with them up close and personnel. This is not a knock at police at all; it just shows where the departments typically place emphasis in training their officers.

I saved one bit of research for last, just to illus-

"Before he gets his feet wet, he straps on three knives. He wears one high on his shoulder, one on the belt, and another around his ankle."

trate this point. One day I asked three different officers to show me their knives. The first carried a Benchmade automatic, the second a smaller version of the Buck 100, and the third carried no knife at all. The latter stated he had to worry enough about a perpetrator possibly taking his gun without carrying a knife his assailant could grab as well. This speaks volumes to the training issue, or lack of it, in police departments.

But this is changing. More and more departments are seeking training in tactical disarmament and the use of the knife as a counter defense, or "backup," weapon. Several manufacturers offer training similar to the type firearms manufacturers have offered for years. Emerson's staff has

begun training officers in the use of their edged weapons, to familiarize police officers with the use of edged weapons for their personal defense, and the defense of their departments should litigation arise.

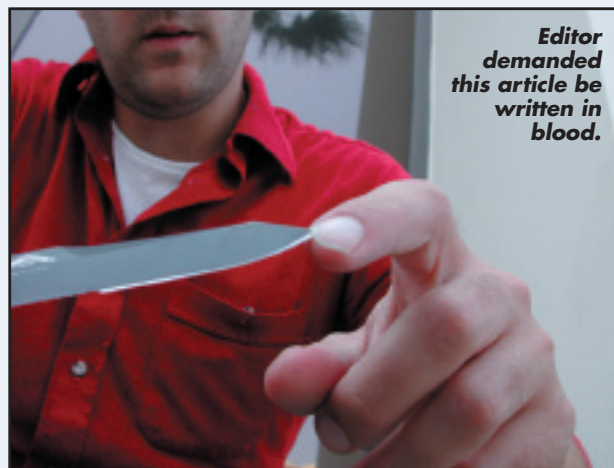
Both Benchmade and Spyderco hire skilled trainers to teach the use of their knives to police officers. But whereas Benchmade's trainers travel around the country conducting seminars, Spyderco's training is done on location at their facilities

Continued on page 93

Trimming Fat, Cutting Melons

Edward Carlson

Benchmade's
Osborne As Everyday
Tool Of The Human Trade



Woe be the gentleman who fails to carry in his pocket a cutting tool. For not only does a cutting tool perform a variety of household chores such as opening boxes and cutting tape, it also has the uncanny ability to make me feel prepared. Video games and chat rooms, I'll pass thank you. Give me a knife instead. Because nothing makes me feel American like a fine American-machined cutting tool.

Since your grandfather who fought Japanese swordsmen in Guadalcanal never left the house without slipping a knife into his overalls, don't you think it would behoove you to carry one as well? How quickly he'd snick open that blade when the situation demanded — whether helping Grandma open a freshly-shipped box of goodies from back East or pulling a carpenter nail out of Neighbor Jim's tire. Just like you called upon him to offer grandfatherly advice, or to untangle that fishing line with a frisky bass hanging on the end, his knife matched his personality of being someone you could turn to. His pocket knife was a tool machined to his psyche.

Times have changed, and in case you haven't noticed, we're not fighting the Japanese anymore. But just as there is no lack of tangled fishing line in life, there is no lack of human vermin walking around out there either. One of any knife-man's unmentions is that he keeps it in his pocket to fend off ghouls and goblins. Which is why it's fair to say not one upright two-legged creature would be worse for the wear carrying a knife in his or her pocket.

Me And My Barbecue

Bigger blades exude a knack for self-defense, as well as the comfort of knowing few bears are too big to take care of with one of these in your pocket. Slimmer blades match the pants pockets and martini glass. Thicker fixed-blades prepare the campsite, cutting branches and digging pits.

I chose Benchmade's Osborne, a slick wedge of a knife perfectly balanced and strong enough to take care of business. With a flick of the wrist and a pinch of the axis lock, its well-lubricated mechanism slips right on open, locking the blade in an upright position, the position of usefulness. Which makes

me very popular, because a knife is always useful.

So, let me slip this knife in your pocket, and then let's visit that seasonal passing of time — the summertime barbecue. Because perhaps no social occasion is more conducive to being the guy with a knife.

You never want to show up somewhere empty handed, so

pick up something along the way, a pie, or a six-pack. But you don't want to arrive empty pocketed either. Be the fella who's willing to go to work making sure everyone enjoys themselves. Rip open those bags of charcoal and mesquite. Yeah sure they got a string on them. But slice them open with your knife instead. Flip open your Benchmade with your practiced flip of the wrist and cut open those bags and dump their contents into the grill. But remain gracious, especially when receiving heartfelt thank-yous from your host.

Bags of ice defrosting in the corner need to be chopped up and opened with your Benchmade knife.

Onions and tomatoes for burgers need slicing.

Gum needs to be scraped off of shoes.

That pretty girl on the other side of the garden just took a thorn under her skin. Get over there and ask her if you and your knife can be of any assistance.

When she accepts her steak from the barbecue chef, you can offer to slice away the fat. Even the most red-blooded carnivore wants to keep her meat lean. And nothing cuts away the fat like a Benchmade. It cuts right through the sinews, leaving behind only lean, Grade A, American beef.

The same can be done with fruit. Who wants to chew on the sour rind of an otherwise delicious melon? Not this guy, and not the girl you dethorned either. When it's time for after-dinner treats, flip open your knife and cut away that sour rind wringing her melon. She'll thank you for it.

You see, it all comes down to being prepared. Smokers don't leave their house without their matches. Cops don't leave home without their badges. Journalists without their pens and a piece of paper. For the rest of us, we can at least take the initiative to be prepped for any meager task requiring a tool and opposable thumb. After all, it's what makes us human.



Worthy of a centerfold?



Guns, bullets, sunglasses and baseball caps we understand. But the question remains unanswered — are all these guys really photographers...?

Comedy, Steak and Bullets at this Photographers'-Vest affair

No French perfume has ever equaled the soft scented air of a Sonoran Desert morning late in March. Folks arrived in cars and trucks at the Ben Avery Shooting Range an hour north of Phoenix, exuberant desert in Spring. And they waited for the 2002 IDPA Arizona Championships knowing that anything scheduled for such a place on such a day was bound to be special.

The game's rules forbid awarding cash-value goods for individual scores. Valuable prizes, a goodly number of which are donated, are won by the luck of the draw. Nor is an overall match winner to be recognized, though such a designation is not difficult to discern. All scores are fed online within a couple of hours of the competition, posted on the handy dandy Cactus League's Website, cactusmatch.com.

Keeping score with the no-brainer *Vickers count* — which is times minus penalties — is admirably simple. This eliminates the need to have a mathematical prodigy on hand, as was the case with understanding the IPSC game's cumbersome Comstock scoring formula. From which, one might say, IDPA sprang completely grown.

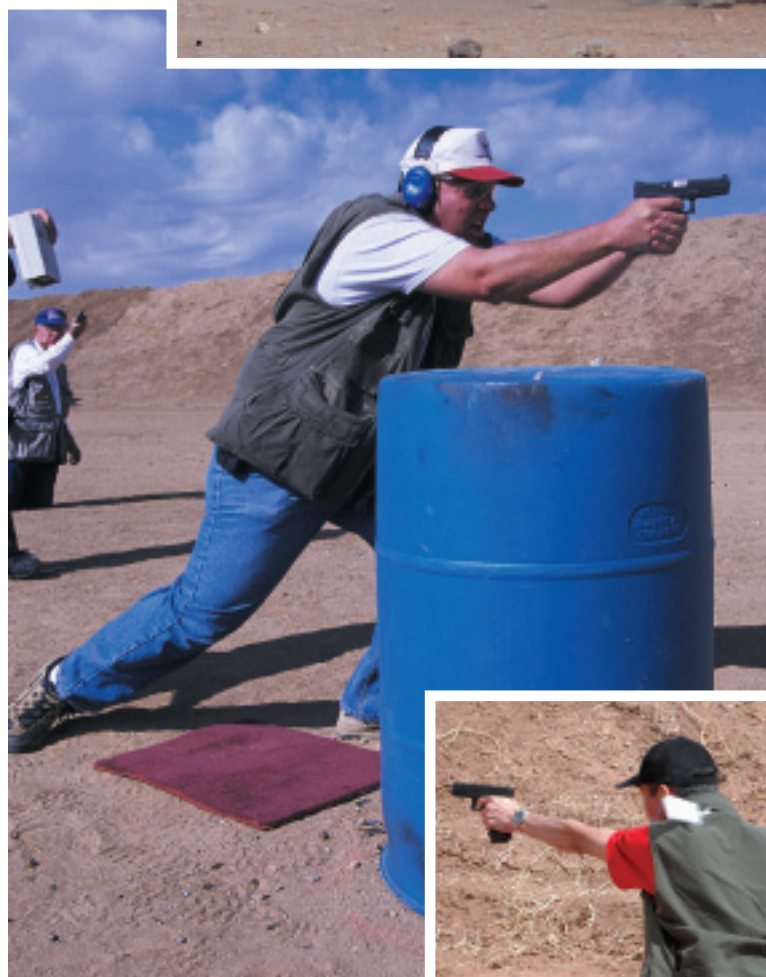
The Stage Is Set

IDPA is best understood by taking a look at the modest-sized regional match. With the disclaimer that yes, "it could have been anywhere" now securely placed in your mind (it could have been anywhere it could have been anywhere it could have been anywhere), I must say a word about Arizona's scenery and gun-friendliness, the latter of which is no small thing these days.

Nyle Leatham

IDPA Booms In The Arizona Desert





IDPA stresses practicality. Use of cover during both reloading and shooting is a must. Failure to do so results in penalties. Either way, in all likelihood you'll still be kneeling in the dirt.



“Have you ever seen so many wannabe photographers walking around?”

The 1,650-acre Ben Avery Shooting Facility comprises the largest public range in the country, and it is arguably one of the best in the world. It is run with a firm but fair hand by Arizona's Game and Fish Department rangers. Classified as “public park land” guards its future against Arizona's own classic Catch 22 — new houses devouring the freedom of the pristine desert that attracted people here in the first place.

The scene is mostly a broad expanse of gray green greasy desert flora collectively known as chapparel, and the pastel green of the low Palo Verde trees. Here and there, Arizona's unique trademark saguaro cactus stand like 40 foot tall exclamation marks against the skyline of a 500 foot high rocky escarpment stretching eastward to the Black Canyon Highway.

For nearly two miles this nameless mountain forms a natural landmark backstop for a variety of shooting ranges. To the west, shotguns and archery. A complete campground for shooters only lies toward the east. In between there is about anything you could ask for, at least when it comes to ranges and training facilities.



Read 'em and weep. In order to succeed, fast times require accurate hits on target... as the woman above knows. And don't think you need a \$1,000 custom jobber to compete. Beware the old gun-snake who wears a coat in the desert's midday sun.

Facilities are delineated by bulldozed berms, from 1000-yard rifle to the practical pistol bays where so many significant shooting matches have been hosted, including the 1994 and 1995 USPSA Nationals. Some spaces are reserved for state law enforcement training. And at the moment, the practical bays contain 20 stages of the Arizona Championship of the International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA), the same founded and operated by Bill Wilson and friends.

The Players Arrive

Energetic shooting chiropractic doctor Kurt Von Rice is the busy match director. Kurt is also the IDPA division president of the host organization, aptly titled The Cactus Combat Shooting League.

Yes, the old *Cactus League* — that pioneer founding organization of modern practical shooting; peer of the famous South West Combat Pistol League of California; and mainstay in the Movement Jeff Cooper led after the 1950s — is alive and well. Dating back to 1977, Cactus still steadfastly supports many types of shooting programs, including NRA,

USPSA, IPSC, and the Arizona Rifle and Pistol Association. And in recent years they've held weekly Thursday night IDPA matches. And monolithic Icon and Cactus' Chairman of the board Terry Allison is present at this IDPA.

It helps when the man in the hotseat, in this case Kurt Von Rice, is able to laugh now and again. And his joke-playing friends, buddies from North Carolina who traveled clear across country just to sample IDPA Arizona-style, gave Rice plenty to laugh at.

On Saturday, stages sequentially running in the large undivided bays took longer than expected. Part of the problem stemmed from the success of last year's match. Those 80 shooters were such blabbermouths about the fun of IDPA desert style that this year entries jumped to 124. Still not huge, but a 50% increase is an increase to be reckoned with.

Vitals and Horseplay

Steaks cooked for the sundown barbecue did not lessen waiting time.

Shooters straggled in. As the hour grew late, Kurt announced cancellation of night stages 18 through 20. Some, including the North Carolina shooters, were not particularly thrilled — as they let Kurt know next morning at the shooters' meeting. All windows of his shiny red Chevy Suburban were plastered with dozens of the unused score sheets from the lost night stages.

Hopefully the tape came off.

Once in progress, IDPA stages do not seem so different from IPSC and other would-be claimants to the Holy Grail of real world usefulness. Of course there are significant differences, including what some say are too-complicated rules about equipment and tactics. But the most obvious piece of equipment in attendance is worn on the back. Depending on stage requirements for concealed carry, almost everyone in sight wears a vest.

Have you ever seen so many wannabe photographers walking around? Camouflage that attracts attention for sure is an unintended consequence. The many-pock-

Continued on page 104

IDPA History

Ken Hackathorn

In 1995, pistolsmith and IPSC shooter extraordinaire Bill Wilson wanted to create a shooting sport that tested self-defense skills. So he asked Dick Thomas, John Sayle, Walt Rauch, Larry Vickers and myself to create a shooting organization. Together, we had enough experience. Dick Thomas and I had founded IPSC. Sayle and Rauch had served on USPSA's Board of Directors, the organization that oversees IPSC in the United States. And Vickers was both a top shooter and member of the US military's Special Operations community. So together, we sat down and tried to get it done.

First and foremost, we decided IDPA should be about local

people involved as possible. Though within each division there are separate classes such as Master, Expert, Sharpshooter and Marksman, to appeal to as many as possible we decided expensive prizes and money would not be awarded. Because neither would provide the results we wanted.

Tactic Fantastic

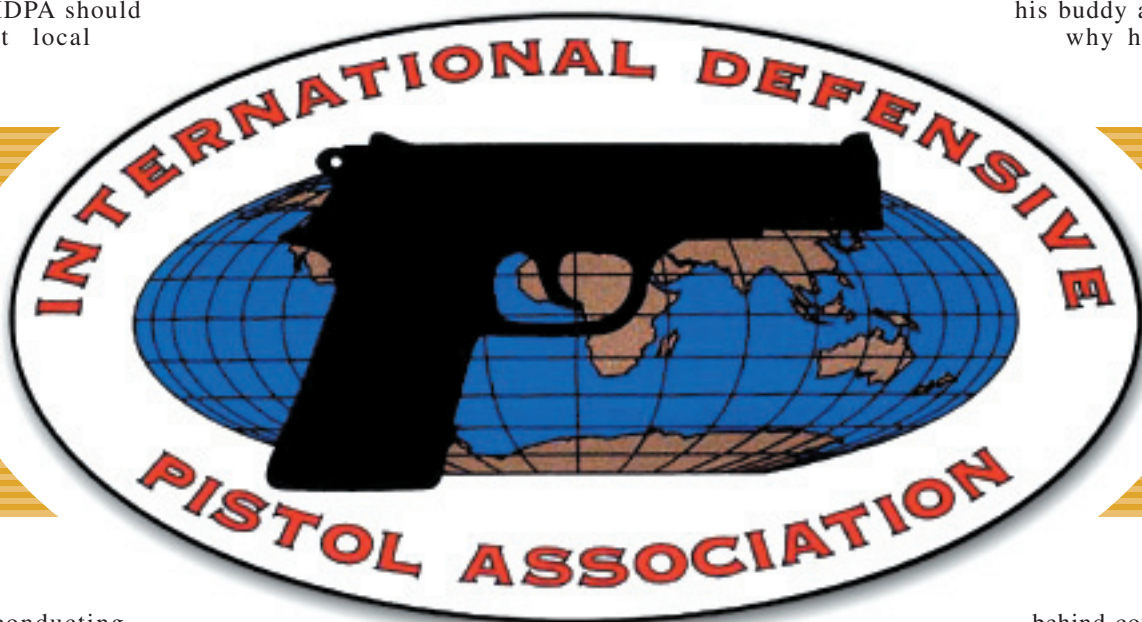
Cover is available, but you must use it for both engaging targets and reloading. Competitors engage targets in tactical order, from near to far or as they come into view. And scenarios are designed to reflect reality, with most targets no more than 15 yards away. IDPA is not a foot race, and one cannot

that race guns, with their dot sights, compensators and high-capacity magazines, are not allowed. Which means any competitor can do well in any IDPA match as long as he or she is a decent shot, follows the basic tactics such as using cover, and does not leave behind loaded rounds.

Utilitarian Utility

IDPA stages simple, cheap shooting events that require neither specialized gear nor fancy equipment. And our goal of getting people out to the range is coming to fruition. Recently, a friend told me about shooting another action-pistol event in which the contestant stands in a doorway and engages targets. This lad is an active IDPA shooter, and upon being signaled to start he jumped to the cover of the doorway and engaged his targets.

After he finished the stage his buddy asked him why he jumped



clubs conducting shooting events. From equipment to match formats, we wanted IDPA's logistics to facilitate, rather than stifle, involvement. Which is why we established four different divisions of guns for competition: stock service pistol; enhanced service pistol; custom defensive pistol; and stock service revolver.

Competitors could shoot a double action auto pistol, such as the Glock. They could shoot a Ruger P89, a Colt Super 38 M1911, or a short barreled .38 Special. And these divisions were designed for one purpose: to get as many

carry more than two spare magazines on the belt. Revolver shooters are allowed three speed loaders, but most IDPA stages require 12 or less rounds fired.

Many events require concealed carry, and police officers may compete wearing duty gear. Every effort is made to allow use of guns currently in use for self-protection. IDPA even has a BUG, or back-up gun, division for those who wish to use their 2 inch .38 or .380 pocket auto.

But one key point not to be missed is

behind cover before he started shooting?

His response, that he did not even remember doing so — he just did it. And for me, this is proof that IDPA has merit. You can have fun at the range, test your basic self-defense shooting skills, and maybe confirm or learn some good habits.

IDPA is about shooting, not winning. If the only reason you pay us a visit is to win, you may not have a great day. But if you like shooting with groups of like-minded people, and improving your skills with a sidearm, give IDPA a try. You just might like it. Which is, of course, what we hope.



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BRIGHT LIGHT,

A PRIMER ABOUT THOSE NEWFANGLED FLASHLIGHTS, AND WHAT THE HECK THEY'RE GOOD FOR

BRIAN PUCKETT

Unless you've lived in a log cabin in the woods for the last 15 years (which, come to think of it, sounds pretty good), you know flashlight technology has taken some strides into the future.

Standard flashlights once housed a couple of D cells in a metal or plastic body. If you were lucky enough that the bulb hadn't broken, the plastic lens hadn't cracked, the bulky switch still functioned, and acrid brown sludge hadn't corroded the insides, maybe your flashlight would produce a lopsided bulls-eye.

In the 1960s, Kel-Light introduced a breed of flashlights that were dependable, heavy duty, aluminum bodied, and police quality which produced bright beams. Today's Mag-



Lites, introduced in 1979, are prime examples of this breed. Policemen, security guards, and defense-minded citizens preferred these flashlights because aside from their powerful beam they legally serve as striking weapons. But this same length and heft makes them unwieldy to carry. In the 1970s Streamlight took flashlights another step forward by improving bulb and battery technology to produce more powerful beams.

In The Beginning

In 1987, Laser Products (now called SureFire) developed the 6P, a rugged, pocket sized, aluminum bodied flashlight powered by small lithium batteries that put out a strong, smooth flood of white light for up to an hour. Soon afterwards, Streamlight

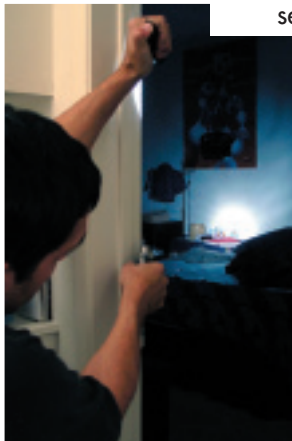
FIGHT LIGHT



NOTES ON TECHNIQUES

1. FBI TECHNIQUE

Arm held away from the body in any position. Hold forward of body to prevent self-illumination.



2. HARRIES TECHNIQUE

Wrists nest together, backs of hands press together to create stabilizing isometric tension.



3. HARRIES TECHNIQUE, AUTHOR'S VERSION

Gun wrist lies on flashlight wrist or forearm. Press together for stability.



4. ROGERS/SUREFIRE TECHNIQUE

Flashlight is held like a hypodermic syringe, base of thumb operates flashlight's tail switch. Lower fingers of flashlight hand wrap around gun hand fingers, and hands press together to provide supporting tension.



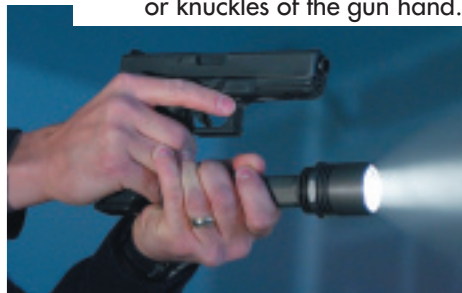
5. NECK-INDEX TECHNIQUE

Body of flashlight (or the fist holding it) is held indexed against the jaw/neck juncture below the ear, so light is steadied, moves with user's head, yet does not block peripheral vision.



7. HARGREAVES "LITE TOUCH" TECHNIQUE

Flashlight is held in "sword" grip with lens pointed forward. Lower fingers of flashlight hand wrap around gun hand with pressure applied for stability. Tailcap switch is pressed against fingers or knuckles of the gun hand.



6. OVER/UNDER (NEW YORK) TECHNIQUE

Flashlight held like hypodermic syringe. Gun hand presses down on flashlight hand to provide stability.



began producing similar flashlights. Both companies have since improved and expanded their product lines.

Flashlights such as the Streamlight Scorpion and the various 2 and 3 cell SureFire flashlights are not just scaled-down regular flashlights. They produce a disproportionate beam of white light that regular flashlights can only dream of. With one of these lights in your fist, a blast in an opponent's eyes can seriously impair his vision. Even being on the receiving end outdoors during daylight puts spots on the eyes. At night they light up someone a block away — or illuminate a man-sized target at 300 yards well enough to hit him with a scoped rifle.

Sting Like A Bee

Considering what we know about crime and police and self-defense, if you're serious about self-defense then you need a flashlight. Furthermore, your flashlight should be kept accessible when you're at home, and on your person when you go out at night — whether or not you're carrying a gun.

Why? Because criminals prefer the night. At night, it's easier for criminals to conceal themselves when approaching their target, lying in wait, or leaving the scene of a crime. Fewer people are around to witness, report or interfere. Buildings are either empty or their inhabitants are asleep.

There is a greater chance of confronting a criminal at night. A powerful, reliable flashlight gives you three life-saving advantages over that criminal. Your light can spot him in advance and either frighten him away or halt a crime in progress. You may temporarily blind him and lessen the chance he'll attack. And if you're forced to shoot the criminal, being able to see your target will increase the chance of hitting him and decrease the chance of a stray bullet.

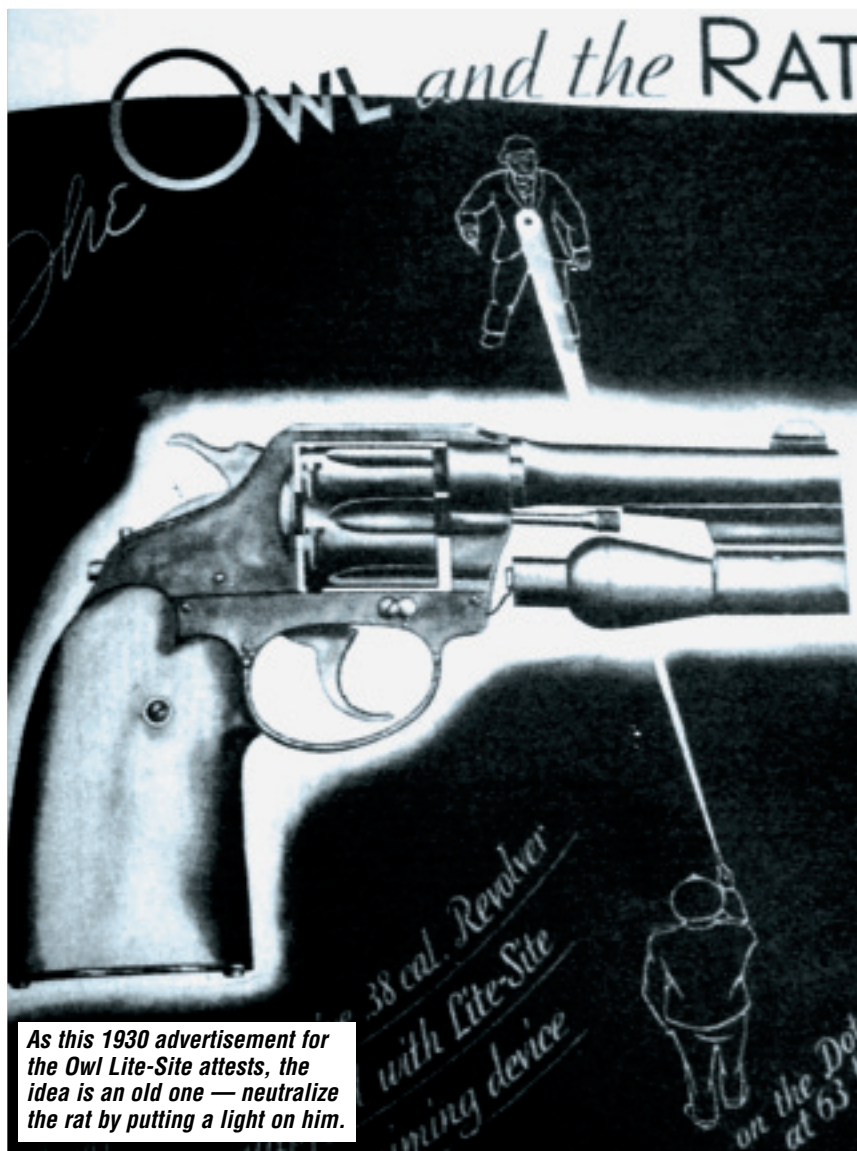
There's a further powerful reason to keep a dependable, powerful flashlight nearby. Everyone has heard of cases in which a "prowler" turned out to be a family member or a neighborhood kid. In many of these cases a flashlight could have prevented a terrible tragedy.

Compact high-intensity flashlights aren't cheap — about \$50 and up. Spare lamp units and batteries aren't cheap either. But so what? What is the cost of an accidental shooting? What is the cost of fighting a criminal who has full use of his vision? What is the cost of not hitting an attacker armed with a knife or gun or baseball bat? What about the value of halting or preventing a crime by simply pressing a button?

Considering the above, and the fact these lights last for decades, \$50 to \$100 is a stunning bargain. When you hold and operate one of these lights you'll recognize it's a serious piece of modern tech-



Not quite as old as the book of Genesis, but almost. These dinosaurs were once state-of-the-art: (left) a circa 1970's Streamlight, their first, and a cop flashlight from the '40s.



As this 1930 advertisement for the Owl Lite-Site attests, the idea is an old one — neutralize the rat by putting a light on him.



One very large hand, or three very small flashlights? Streamlight's Stinger still cracks a noggin. Notice the SureFire's (far right) shape and button, ideal for a grip similar to a hypodermic needle's.



How long before Milan's fashion empire takes notice? Until then, carry options vary from hands to clips to leather holsters.



nology — a necessary self-defense tool, not an afterthought.

Physiological Quirks

Beware. All flashlight techniques are susceptible to the dangers of sympathetic contraction and hand confusion. Both phenomena tend to occur under stress. Sympathetic contraction involves either inadvertently contracting all the fingers on one hand instead of a specific finger, or inadvertently performing an action with both hands (and/or their fingers) instead of with one specific hand. This latter form of sympathetic contraction is



Venerable SureFires for your perusal. So strong, some think these lights are actually better for you than guns.



ABOVE: Author's version of Harries Technique. We can't say it enough. Simultaneously aiming and illuminating requires mucho practice. Without mucho practice, pulling the trigger when meaning to push the button is entirely possible. This is a very bad thing. **LEFT:** "I'm Batman." Officer Friendly uses the FBI technique to illuminate things that go "thug" in the night. It's a good idea to keep finger off trigger when turning on light.

technically called "interlimb interaction."

Weaponlights pose a greater danger regarding these phenomena. For example, with a grip-mounted pressure switch on a handgun, a single hand turns on the light and fires the weapon. Therefore every effort must be made to "train away" sympathetic contraction and prevent accidental discharge.

Hand confusion refers to using the wrong hand to perform a task. It is more apt to occur when the hands are close together or reversed. In order to shoot around a corner, switching from a right-hand to left-hand grip on a shotgun with

a forearm-mounted pressure switch could result in an accidental discharge, unless there is sufficient training. But these same dangers hold true with hand-held flashlights; extreme stress can lead to firing your gun rather than just switching on the flashlight.

The above information emphasizes two things: practicing flashlight and gun techniques is essential, as is obeying the basic safety rule: "Don't touch the trigger until ready to shoot."

The Meat Of The Matter

While some of the flashlight/gun tech-

niques shown have a "large flashlight" version, this article — and thus the accompanying photos — focuses only on techniques for small flashlights. Furthermore, all flashlights shown have tail-cap switches, which I believe are best for these small lights, as they allow quick deployment from a holster, easy transition to the techniques, easy aiming of the beam, and sure control of the switch.

Ideally you should be familiar with all flashlight/gun techniques, whether you know the correct names or not, because during a confrontation or gunfight your circumstances may change significantly.

One can choose either a hands-together or hands-apart technique. The author prefers the hands-apart technique for the following reasons.

While holding a flashlight you can never duplicate your normal two-hand gun grip. A flashlight/gun technique that produces a less stable approximation may actually reduce accuracy.

When room-clearing or shooting around barriers, two-hand techniques require more exposure of hands and face. Worse, these exposed parts will be near or directly behind your flashlight. An assailant who shoots at your light has a good chance of hitting you.

For some hands-together flashlight/gun techniques, hasty or poor execution due to stress or fatigue can lead to shooting your own flashlight.

When a flashlight is activated in low-light conditions there's an almost irresistible urge to shift the bright center of the beam onto the perceived point of danger, or into a potential assailant's face. In hands-together techniques, adjusting your flashlight's aim can change your gun's aim. With the hands-apart technique, changing the aim of your flashlight has no effect on the aim of your gun.

With hands-together techniques, gun recoil can cause two problems. One is jostling the flashlight beam off-target, requiring you to re-aim your flashlight. The other is disruption of your flashlight/gun hold, forcing you to "reset" it.

Practicing hands-apart techniques automatically forces you to practice shooting one-handed and with your non-dominant hand. Because combat or self-defense situations often require shooting around corners and may involve shooting with an injured hand or arm, both skills are potential life-savers.



An injured hand, fatigue, severe shaking, loss of fine motor skills, or shooting around a corner (even all five together) could make one technique workable and others impossible.

A "static test" of these techniques can be useful, but will not really tell you if that technique is viable for you in actual use. The best way to grasp their good and bad points is to try them at night or in dark conditions while shooting live ammunition. This will enable you to assess the effects of stress, fatigue, corners, obstacles, and the features of a particular flashlight.

Finally, the proper tactics for moving through buildings, clearing rooms, using cover, avoiding self-illumination, and of confusing, disabling, and dominating opponents with light are beyond the scope of this article. They are best understood and retained through hands-on, live instruction.

Carry Light

Quick access to your flashlight in low-light self-defense situations is absolutely essential. So the best way to carry it is in a dedicated holster that fits on your regular belt, gun belt, or duty belt. Some flashlights have clips on them, which is acceptable for casual use, as is carrying them in a pocket. But holsters are generally better for quick access, loss prevention, and flashlight protection.

So when you buy your flashlight, buy a holster for it. StreamLight sells a soft nylon holster for the Scorpion and a firm leather holster for the Stinger. By the way, the latter is not a true compact flashlight, but I've included it because it's very close in size and is available with a tail-cap switch. SureFire sells an extensive collection of leather, nylon and plastic flashlight holsters for its various flashlights.

If you don't like the holsters made by the flashlight manufacturer, or can't find one for your particular needs, you can try belt holsters designed for magazines, knives, tear gas, or batons. I use a couple of these myself.



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1852

New England town

Standing in the orchard behind his house on a warm summer day, a young husband and father proud of both roles tamps the final .36 caliber lead ball into the cylinder of his gleaming revolver. Charge in place, he returns the ramrod to its position. With a firing hold he grasps the sleek Colt Navy Model.

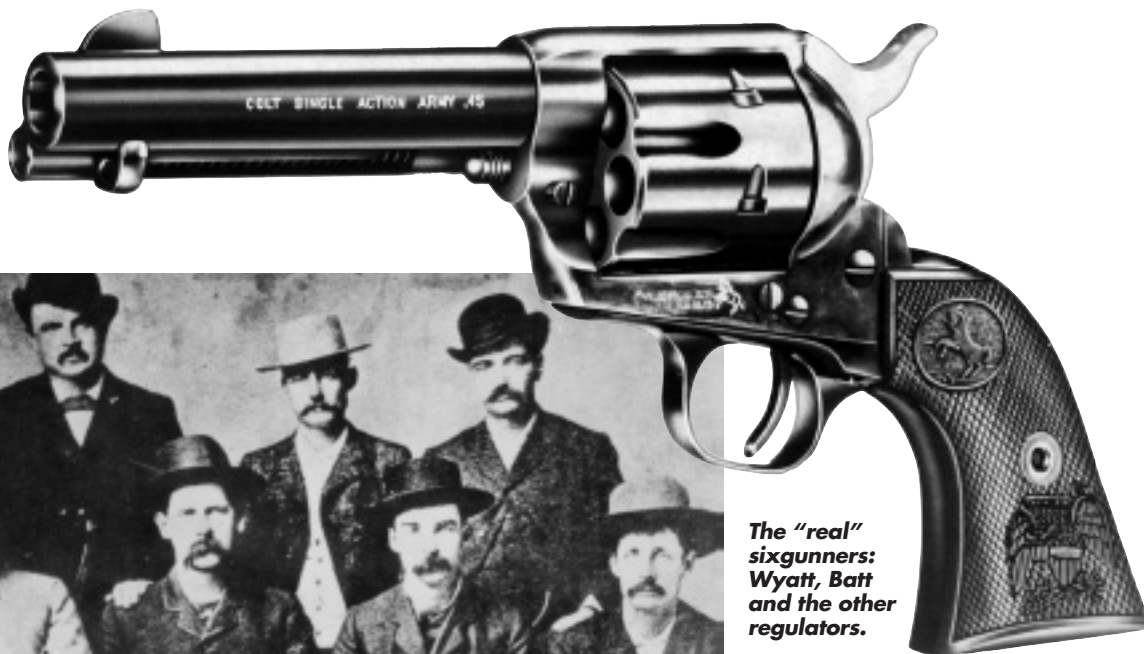
Gun hand extended, free hand on hip, he cocks the hammer with his thumb and aligns the brass bead at the front of the barrel with the crude notch now visible at the tip of the cocked hammer. Squinting, he takes aim at a knothole in an older tree and squeezes the trigger.

He winces slightly at the sharp report as the sight picture disappears with the gun's discharge, everything replaced by a white-gray cloud. Recoil is not bad. Peering through the haze of black gunpowder smoke, he sees he hit two inches beneath his mark. He smiles. When he takes his family to their new home in the West, his skill with this gun will protect them. It is, after all, the latest and best pistol made.

Ebenezer, who has owned the hardware store and sold guns to the townsfolk for more than 20 years, would not have lied about that. He too owns a modern handgun to keep his family safe. It is easy to hit with, and holds more shots than any opponent he faces is likely to have at his command.

Having it makes the man feel good.





The "real" sixgunners: Wyatt, Batt and the other regulators.



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reasons, Virgil Earp owns a Smith & Wesson .44 American model. Like his brothers, the marshal is a tall man with big hands that probably reach thumb to stubby hammer easily.

But the Colt is the standby. The gun dealer has sold a lot of them in .44-40 because they take the same cartridges as his best-selling rifle, Winchester's fast-shooting Model 1873 lever action. His most recent sale was to those fancy dressing dirty mouthed cowboys the McLaury brothers. And their friends the Clantons. He heard that Ike stepped into a fracas with the Earps, and judging by the bandage he saw on Ike's forehead, Ike came out on the short end. Between them, the cowboys bought enough .44-40 ammo for a shooting match.

But the .45 Colt is the handgun cartridge his customers prefer. Seems to have a bit more starch. The marshal's younger brother Wyatt, who works for Virgil part time when he isn't riding security on a stagecoach, packs a pair of long barreled Colts in that caliber. Cheap sonofabitch wouldn't part with the price of a new one. Says he always buys them second hand because they're broken in with good smooth actions.

Sure.

There go those Earps now, all three including that mean-eyed youngest Morgan. That crazy Doc Holliday's with 'em too, heading in the direction of Fly's Photo Studio and the OK Corral. Say that's where those last customers said they were going, to pick up their horses and head out of town.

Hope there isn't any trouble...

October 26, 1881

Arizona

George F. Spangenberg proudly stands in front of his glass-top display case, centerpiece of the best little gun shop in Tombstone. The handgun display has been arranged to please the eye. Town marshal Virgil Earp may have banned carrying firearms within city limits, but business at his shop on 212 Fourth St. has been brisk.

The shop owner stocks second-hand percussion revolvers, cheap as dirt now that everyone considers them obsolete. His best selling new firearm is the Colt Model P. Some prefer the top-break Smith & Wesson for faster reloads, but he doesn't like the long reach to its short hammer spur. No accounting for taste, he



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1900

New York City

On foot on a cold February night, police officer Seamus O'Flaherty makes his way down the block. He rung off from the corner callbox and the sergeant told him to stop by Clancy's Bar. Some fishy-looking strangers were giving Clancy the bad eye, and Clancey's afraid of being robbed.

"By no means an unwelcome task," thinks the burly patrolman. Even in the greatcoat the department calls "the Choker," February's wind knifes right through and chills. The sooner he gets there the warmer he'll be. Maybe Clancy will pour him a dash of whiskey for warmth against this cold midnight.

O'Flaherty slips off his right glove and slides his hand through the slit of the coat and feels the reassuring hard rubber grip of the Colt New Police .32 that Commissioner Theodore Roosevelt issued all N.Y. police. Though small and handy and not in the way, there are times when a man wants more gun.

Not that he dislikes it. During those rare practice days the department can afford, he found he shoots it well. It neither kicks nor hurts his ears. Pulling back on the flat latch and swinging out the cylinder and punching loose all six empty shells at once is convenient. No more modern handgun exists, unless you count those ugly, ungainly European automatics everyone says will jam. Those ridiculous contraptions will never catch on.

Doors away from Clancy's warm sanctuary Seamus hears shouting, quickens his pace. Crack, crack.

"Gunshots."

He claws the little New Police from under his coat and runs towards the danger.

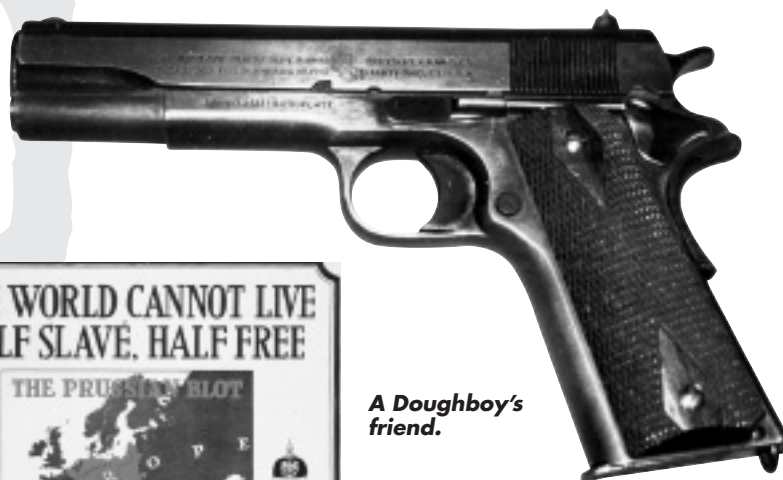
"Holy Mary mother of God pray for us sinners..."



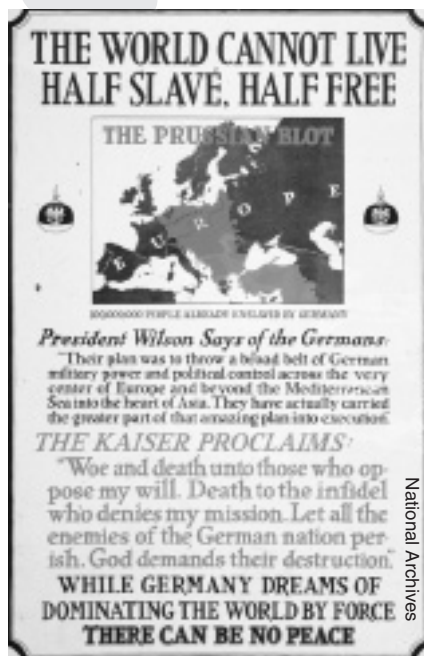
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A Doughboy's friend.



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1917

Western Front

Before full dawn Lt. Harry Morse looks at orange streaks breaking free across the sky and wonders how he ever resented getting up early on that Iowa farm. For the third or fourth or fifth time he checks his Colt 1911 .45 automatic. Eighth cartridge in the chamber — against regs, but something everyone

does when attack is imminent. Rather than lower the hammer Morse pushes the safety catch into locked.

A few feet away Red from Arkansas does the same but with a new Smith & Wesson revolver that holds .45 automatic cartridges three apiece in half-moon clips. Red closes the cylinder and sticks the gun in his waistband so he can reach it better.

"To each his own," Morse thinks. He'll keep his service pistol holstered where he's used to reaching for it and where it'll still be if he slips in the mud.

It's happened before. And all have learned that when Huns breach the trenches '03 Springfields or Enfield '17s with their bayonets and bolt actions are slow and unwieldy. At close quarters a .45 slug in the wishbone is a more effective choice.

Morse's .45 automatic has never jammed and it's at least a mile beyond the revolver his father used during the Spanish-American war. His rifle seems no more efficient than last century's Krag.

"It's a shame that revolver was all they issued Red," thinks Morse.

"Here they come," a soldier he can't see yells.



The .38 has the final word on 1930's mean streets.



**August 23, 1934
St. Paul, Minn.**

The St. Paul detective waits for the stakeout to end. His hand slips under his coat and touches his Smith & Wesson .38 Special Heavy Duty. Should this turn ugly there won't be time to reload, and he

wonders if six rounds of .38 Special high velocity ammunition will be enough to finish the job.

Dillinger's gang carries automatics, .45s and those .38 Supers that puncture bulletproof vests. The detective must wait for Dillinger henchman Homer Van Meter to step out of the approaching car and then away from the Thompson submachinegun he expects is stashed nearby. Those automatic pistols have given him

enough to worry about. He doesn't need to think about the Thompson as well.

The car pulls up, stops, and a man wearing a suit steps out. The detective recognizes Van Meter from his mug shots and slides his hand under his jacket, perspiration pooling between his palm and the checkered walnut grip.

"Police," someone shouts and Van Meter is running, his hand under his jacket emerging with a big bluesteel automatic as everyone shoots, everyone runs. The detective fights to keep his sights on wiry Van Meter lunging down the alley flames lashing from his hand.

Fighting to settle his pounding heart, the detective rolls back his trigger, Van Meter staggers, everyone is shooting, and down the alley Detective Tom Brown aims his shotgun. With the sound of its blast Van Meter lifts and goes down.

Four officers standing at his side, the detective stands over the fallen gangster. Two officers hold Thompsons, two hold shotguns.

Someone points at the dead man's automatic.

"45," he asks?

"No," says another. "Says on the slide '38 Super.'"

The detective flips open his cylinder, sees that all six of his rounds are spent, and shudders.



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June 6, 1944 Utah Beach

D-Day, and the only Allied general who will storm the beach is General Theodore Roosevelt Jr. Alongside his

aide, Captain George Mabry, General Roosevelt prepares to climb aboard a landing craft.

"You armed?" Mabry asks Roosevelt.

"I've got my pistol, one ammunition clip with six rounds in it, and my walking cane," the 57-year-old general

replies while patting his holstered pistol, a Colt Model 1911A1. "That's all I expect to need."

His father, the beloved TR, carried a .38 caliber Colt revolver up San Juan Hill, the manufacturer he preferred his entire life. Colt will do for Junior as well. He knows how this weapon can symbolize heroism, as it did for his idolized father. Or despair, as it did for his brother Kermit. The year before Kermit took his own life after placing under his chin the muzzle of a Colt .45 automatic identical to the one now in General Roosevelt's holster.

In the forthcoming hours, the fearless Roosevelt will inspire thousands of GIs. Wearing a knit cap instead of a helmet, with his cane in one hand and his Colt .45 automatic in the other, he'll lead his men forward against the withering fire of the well-entrenched Nazis until they establish a beachhead on the shores of Fortress Europe.

Amazingly, Roosevelt will survive unscathed, though he will soon die of a heart attack. For his inspirational performance on D-Day he will be posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.



A chopper pilot's friend — Colt's .357 Magnum Python.

The 1960s

Southern California

After several stopping failures with .38 Special revolvers, the young cop thinks how glad he is that his department finally issued him a large caliber semiautomatic — especially now as he and his partner chase a felony suspect on foot. They both see his hand plunge into clothing as if for a weapon, and their own hands reflex to their Government Models, popping them free of their Safariland duty holsters.

The suspect whirls, his gun rising in his hands, and the cops' fingers tighten on their triggers. He continues to raise his hands, tossing aside his gun. The cops release their fingers.

"No fair," the suspect whines, feeling genuinely wronged. "You bastards got 45s."





June, 1969

Vietnam

Chopper pilot Hugh Mills landed his “loach” to retrieve wounded Americans from their downed Cobra gunship. Mills prepares to lift off while enemy soldiers charge the LZ firing at him and his light observation helicopter.

Like many combat veterans, Mills learned that carrying a personal weapon is worth the hassle. He sees one NVA regular aiming his rifle, locked on, dead nuts certain to kill. Gunner Jim Parker normally runs the M-60 machinegun, but his hands are full pulling a wounded Cobra pilot into the tiny ship. And only Mills can shoot back.

With one hand operating the controls, the other draws his Colt Python .357 Magnum revolver loaded with Super Vel hollowpoints. He aims, rolls the smooth trigger back double action, and sees the fireball as the enemy trooper falls dead.

The LOH is up and away, and Mills

hears the dull chong sound of 7.62X39 bullets ripping into the fuselage. But danger is behind them.

December 24, 2000

New York City

The young cop moonlights at the family-owned convenience store surrounded by loved ones when two armed robbers enter threatening to kill, one with a gun and the other with a knife. They take one loved-one hostage. And the moonlighting officer can see where this is going. And he’s not going to let it happen.

From concealment he clears his Glock 19, the pistol he carries on duty. He indexes the weapon and fires. The bad guys don’t go down easy. But he keeps shooting until they do.

The echo from the last gunshot dies, and so too have the criminals. None of

his family is harmed. 9mm brass is everywhere. Five or six shots wouldn’t have been enough. He is relieved the department went to 16-shot 9mm semiautomatics and that they traded in their old ball ammo for +P Gold Dot hollowpoints. The combination has delivered the best Christmas present of all.

Summer, 2002

New England

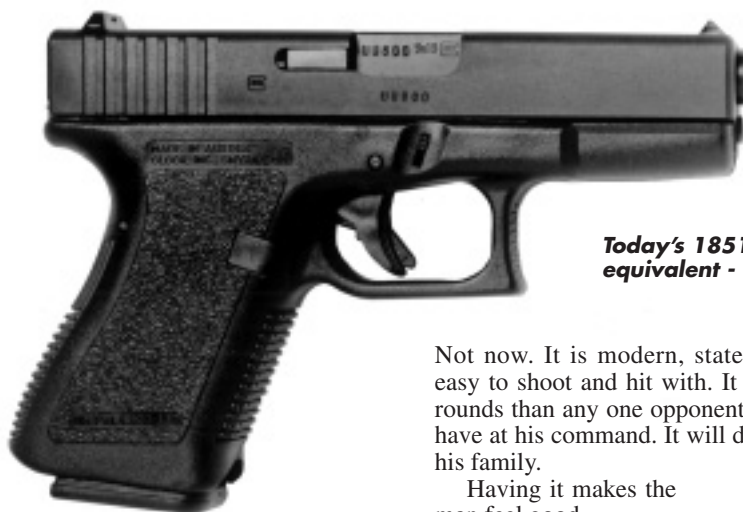
It is a warm summer day at a shooting range in New England and a husband and father, proud of both roles, sets up a cardboard silhouette target and walks uprange to the firing line. He unzips his Waller shooting bag and pulls out Gentex active hearing protectors, Oakley shooting glasses, two boxes of Federal 125 grain JHP .357 SIG ammo, and a black plastic box containing a Glock 31 pistol.

His safety gear in place, he slips a magazine of 15 rounds into the butt and racks the slide of the sleek black pistol. It cost him \$65 to get a full capacity pre-ban magazine that was grandfathered under the current law, but it’s worth it. The magazine says .40, but it works interchangeably with the .357 SIG cartridges.

He raises the gun, aims at the target, the three circles of the Meprolight night sights align easily on the mark. He presses the trigger back, hears a soft bumf sound through the active hearing protectors. There is no smoke, nor in the daylight a flicker of muzzle flash.

Locked into a powerful two-handed stance, he empties the magazine. Each 125 grain jacketed hollowpoint rips through the center of the target at the velocity of a .357 Magnum revolver bullet, but with little more recoil than, say, a .36 caliber Navy Colt from 150 years earlier.

The slide locks back. The shooting string is done. Ralph at the gun shop told him this was an ideal defensive handgun, and he sees no reason to disbelieve him.



Today's 1851 Navy equivalent - Glock.

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CHEAP

Continued from page 23

rials, enhanced sights and simply an all-around up-scaling in quality. Our version was in 9mm and looked like a Beretta, but that's where the sameness wore off.

The big "thing" we liked is the fact you can carry the PT92 in a "cocked and locked" mode, which made all those 1911 nimrods in-house all smiley and stuff. You can also carry it double action with the safety on, or DA with the safety off. There's a firing pin safety too. The mag release is in the right spot and the slide release works just fine. Take-down is via a pivoting lever on the frame. Give it a twist and the upper-end comes right off. Frankly, this gun is very well made, wonderfully engineered and the general consensus is it's every bit as good as (and even better in some respects) than the Beretta it calls a parent.

Shooting revealed absolutely no surprises. Recoil was soft due to the size and accuracy was reliable — in the 2" to 3" range at 15 yards and even some 3" groups at 25 — and it made it look easy. It shot everything we put through it and begged for more. When all was said and done, we realized it was the "most shot" gun of the test group. Everyone seemed to gravitate toward it and kept shooting it. At around \$575, it's at the high end of affordable and that may account for its fine workmanship and performance. You simply couldn't go wrong with the PT92 if you want a full-sized holster gun.

In The End?

You pays your money and you gets what you pays for, we say. On a tight budget? Don't be shy about the Hi-Points. They work fine, are as accurate as the rest of the lot and while not exactly blued-steel, they aren't too awful to look at. Like a \$10 socket set, they are there when you need them.

All the rest — while costing more than the Hi-Points — also delivered a higher level of sophistication in looks and features. From the mundane to the pretty cool, we learned a few things, and one of those is be wary about judging a gun by its cover. Or something like that...



MORE INFORMATION:

E.A.A.

eaacorp.com

Hi-Point

hipointfirearms.com

Rossi

rossiusa.com

Taurus

taurususa.com

Continued from page 33

There are two choices — fast or slow — but regardless of the speed you're moving, your muzzle should always be between you and the threat. If you can move with someone to give you supporting fire, do so. Last, but not least, the wise and prudent person would plan a method of organized withdrawal to cope with the worst-case scenario. Remember Custer.

Basic construction of doors, halls and stairs creates corners, and as a result these corners restrict flow or movement. To clear or work around corners compresses the potential threats closer to us.

Corners come singly or in pairs, in the form of a 90-degree turn or as 180-degree hallways entering rooms. Corners are most often found in a vertical plane, but can be horizontal, such as a stairwell overhang. The same rules apply so maximize the distance to the corner and expose the least amount of you — while trying to see the most amount of the area being cleared.

Use your eyes, with the weapon muzzle in support, as you clear the corner. In unknown buildings, fixtures inside the room can assist in clearing. Things such as reflections from windows, mirrors and light fixtures that help “see” potential threats should be used. Look for shoe tips, hat brims, elbows, even weapon muzzles that could confirm potential threats before rounding the corner.

A good practice exercise is to have a family member hide a full-length dressing mirror any place inside the house a human could hide. Now, go hunting. When you find it, remember what you see in the mirror is the same thing the real threat sees of you. Did you expose your entire body or just a muzzle with a set of eyes behind the sights?

We should use communications with your friends to setup and implement effective strategies and communications with the threat that ask for, and obtain, physical compliance. We use movement to close the ground with, or attack the threat, or for movement away from a threat that may have some advantage over us, such as location or equipment. We apply shooting in the sense of marksmanship. Only good hits count and only good hits will stop the threat from accomplishing their goal, whatever it might be. They may also save your hide.

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...The amazing ability of walls, doors, overturned tables, car doors, bars, and the like to stop bullets and supply cover

HOLLYWOOD SHOOTING

Charles W. Karwan



From "Half Past Dead"
Photo: Joachim Pfeiffer
©2002 Screen Gems

Can Get You Killed

If you're like me, when you watch a television show or movie with shots of poor gun handling, bad tactics, and just plain impossible stuff being done with guns, you can't help but make a comment. My long-suffering wife and all my children generally say something such as, "Keep it to yourself." Or even worse, "We don't care. Stop ruining the movie!"

The simple fact is most of us spend more time watching television or movies than we do training with firearms. And

we're the gun people. The people not interested or knowledgeable about guns are in a situation where most of what they know about guns stems from the entertainment media. A double-edged sword, to the say the least.

The good news is lots of real-life bad guys copy what they see on television. And should they copy television's poor shooting techniques, fantastic. The best example is the sideways bent-wrist shooting position that looks cool but makes it especially easy to miss the target. I am happy they



The spinning of a Glock around the index finger actually makes Karwan's blood boil.

It bothers me when a movie character such as James Bond, who is supposed to be an expert on many weapons, comes across like he doesn't know squat.



Let the entertainment media keep teaching gangbangers to shoot sideways. Advantage: American Handgunner Tactical Annual-reading pistolero.

use such poor techniques; it increases my chances of winning a shootout. Likewise for the shoot-from-the-hip, spray and pray techniques that actors use when firing automatic weapons.

Sadly, another downside of this Hollywood firearm debacle is idiot politicians passing laws such as the anti-assault weapon law. And believe it or not, they base their decisions on television programs, believing every criminal uses such guns. Though hard to believe, legislation is commonly based on television and movie fictions.

Affecting The Cops

The way things are done on television and in the movies has become so pervasive they even affect people who should know better. A simple example of the latter is the police verbal challenge with weapon in hand. Every police academy I know of teaches to use a verbal challenge along the lines of, "Police! Don't Move!" You first identify yourself as a law enforcement officer, then you order the person to cease whatever activity he or she is doing in simple terms not easily misunderstood.

I don't know when or where or how it started, but somewhere, sometime, some writer had the cops bark the more dramatic, "Freeze!" often followed by an expletive. In TV Land, it is now universal, so pervasive, that a high percentage of real cops use it even though it is legally incorrect and unprofessional to do so.

Though this illustrates the power of entertainment media, it probably won't get you killed. But plenty of other techniques utilized for dramatic effect can.

Isn't it fun to watch our intrepid hero stomp around with an uncocked single-action auto. The amazing thing is that when he goes to shoot, the gun always goes bang. Do this in real life and pay a dear price. Similarly, in the movies I've seen an auto-pistol fired till the slide locked back, and still keep going bang every time our hero jerked the trigger. This one won't work for you either.

Rewriting The Rules

And the movies constantly break the basics of safe gun handling: Moving with your finger on the trigger of your weapon; pointing your pistol at friends; cocking a revolver or double action auto for dramatic effect particularly during interrogation; moving with a single action auto with the hammer down; moving with a single action auto with the hammer cocked but the manual safety off and finger on the trigger. The list is endless. And the one that really makes me cringe is when a leader of a unit uses his pistol as a pointer and says something like, "You, you and you, go

on the roof," while pointing his pistol at each person as he says it.

If I ever had a leader do that in my presence he would need a proctologist to remove his pistol from where the sun don't shine.

Pointing guns at each other shows up so often in the movies... it's simply amazing. In one military picture, the title of which I've long forgotten, a U.S. Army patrol sets up an ambush on both sides of a jungle trail waiting for a Japanese patrol to slip between them — where they subsequently shoot at each other while shooting at the Japanese.

The single worse example of such idiocy is the horrible movie "The Gauntlet," starring Clint Eastwood. In the crowning dramatic scene, Eastwood and his heroine drive a bus down a road with hundreds of cops on both sides of the road shooting at him, and obviously at each other. The scene is... stupid.

Another that makes me wince is when our hero spins his pistol for flare and dramatic effect. This dates back to the old B Westerns with some amazing gun-twirling by movie cowboys such as Johnny Mac Brown. But this is strictly a stunt to be done with unloaded guns. I have even seen guys in the movies spin cocked single-action autos and Glocks, which seems an incredibly efficient way to unintentionally shoot yourself, or someone else.

Teaching Bad Habits

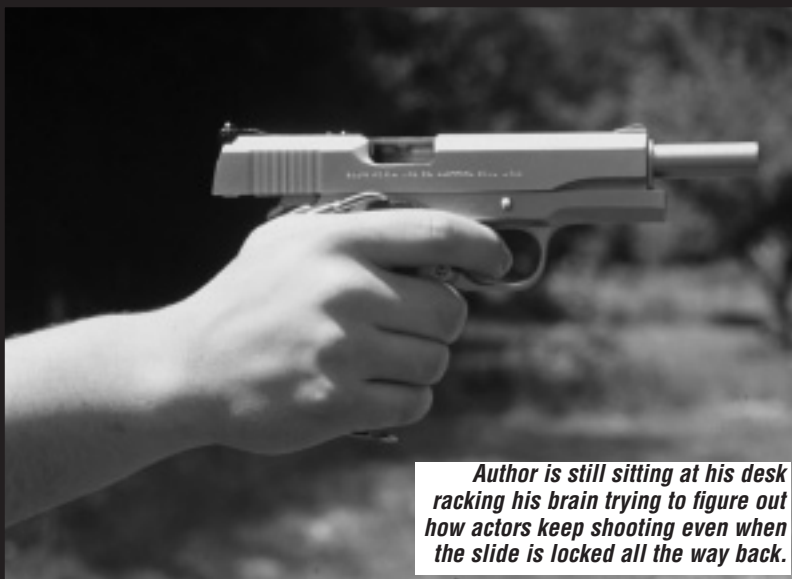
The movies and television are also full of extremely poor tactics and procedures that could get you killed. A pervasive example has the pistol pointed vertically right next to the person's face as he investigates or pursues a bad guy. It is done to allow the camera a tight, simultaneous shot of the actor's face. However, in a real combat situation, you want the pistol pointed in the same direction you are looking so you can react immediately to any threat you see.

Another favorite has our hero moving around a corner where a bad guy may lurk. He comes right up to the edge of the corner, pistol vertical of course, and quickly looks around the corner. Were he to do that against an aggressive and knowledgeable fighter he would probably get shot or be disarmed before he could react. This brings up something else that pops up in many movies — the amazing ability of walls, doors, overturned tables, car doors, bars, and the like to stop bullets and supply cover. In the real world they usually do not stop bullets.

If you are up against a bad guy peaking around the corner in a typical dwelling, just shoot him through the corner. The plaster board and framing



Cocking a revolver for dramatic affect is not the most combat-savvy maneuver.



Author is still sitting at his desk racking his brain trying to figure out how actors keep shooting even when the slide is locked all the way back.



Few things make it more difficult to conquer one's adversary than pointing one's pistol up to the sky.

will barely slow your bullet. The same goes for overturned tables, car doors, and most furniture. Those things work in the movies against blanks but not in the real world against real bullets.

Impossible Feats

It's extremely popular to have one character clutch a pistol in each hand. This in itself is probably okay. However, when he starts shooting both at the same time, that's when things deteriorate into dramatic movie BS.

Shooting both movie guns at the same time causes you to miss a lot with both guns. Even if one gun achieves hits the other one invariably will waste its shots completely. I know this to be true because some of the best combat pistol shots in the world have tried and never achieved good hits firing both guns at the same time. If you are ever in a combat situation with a pistol in each hand, shoot one at a

time. I should also point out that accomplishing a speed reload with a pistol in each hand is virtually impossible.

It also bothers me that handguns are all too often the preferred fighting weapon. Time after time our intrepid hero charges into known dangerous situations taking nothing but a handgun, even though other options are available. This is just plain stupid. I know the title of this magazine and I love handguns dearly, but if a suitable rifle or shotgun is available, use it.

I hate to admit this, but one time a rural neighbor called for help because of a suspected home invasion. I armed myself and drove off to deal with the situation that luckily turned out to be nothing but an unexpected visit by a kid away at college. Not until I got home did I realize I took only a handgun and left a perfectly good rifle sitting in the corner. No matter how much training you have, it is all too easy to be effected by the boob-tube and the movies.

Guilty Cowboys

Back in the B western days, good guys didn't shoot to kill. They shot to wound. Or, even better, to shoot the gun out of a bad guy's hand. Every once in a while this nonsense rears itself again in the entertainment media. There are only two situations I am aware of when you shoot to wound. The first is when faced by an attacker with a contact weapon such as a knife or club and you want to immobilize him to keep him from getting within contact range. The other is when the only target showing will result in just a wound. Save the shooting of a gun out of someone's hand for the movies.

Another almost universal problem stemming from the entertainment media



is the perception that if you point a loaded gun at someone they will do what you tell them to do. In the real world, it just does not work this way. First, many of the bad guys are either mentally unstable, on drugs, or both. It is irrational to expect them to do the sensible or logical thing. Too many cops and civilians have held bag guys at gun-point and expected them to act like they do on television. Unfortunately, too often they do not, and instead attack, run, or do some other totally unexpected thing. When you have someone at gun-point, stay well away from them. Don't assume anything.

One of the most often-repeated sub-plots in the movies and television is when the bad guy has a hostage at gun or knife-point. Usually the good guy is just a few feet away gun in hand. The bad guy says put your gun down or he will kill the hostage. In 99 percent of these situations the good guy does put his gun down, thereby making himself relatively powerless and supplying yet another hostage.

In real life, in 99-plus percent of such situations, the good guy should never relinquish his weapon. In the vast majority of such situations, if verbal negotiation breaks down, the correct thing to do is simply shoot the bad guy between the eyes — an easy thing to do at the short ranges involved. If he does not offer such a shot, things get more complicated. There are hostage-negotiating techniques beyond the scope of this article. But none involve giving up your gun.

The Good And The Bad

There are a number of actors and actresses who usually handle firearms well, either because of good technical advisors on the set or from having solid previous training and experience. Some of these include Don Johnson, Steven Segal, Tom Selleck, David James Elliot (JAG), and Katherine Bell (JAG). There are many more who handle firearms poorly — Pierce Brosnan of current James Bond fame being a prominent example.

It does not bother me too much to see cops handling guns poorly on television because, sadly, this is all too realistic. I speak with a little authority, having been involved in the training of hundreds of law enforcement officers over the years. It bothers me when a movie character such as James Bond, who is supposed to be an expert on many weapons, comes across like he doesn't know squat.

Just remember, television and movies are entertainment. Do not let the way they portray gun use effect how you use guns, particularly in a life and death situation. Get some good training, read good books on the subject, and practice what you learn from them. Not what you see on television.



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First glance at Smith & Wesson's new Schofield does not create the impression of a combat handgun. Take away the bright blue finish and beautifully grained walnut grips and the 7-inch barreled handgun still appears too elegant to be a combat weapon. There's an element of historical truth to this, since 150 years ago the army selected a competitor's more robustly designed revolver for issue to U.S. troops.

But back then the Schofield sported design features year's ahead of its time, thus setting the basic standards for the next 100 plus years of revolver design. Which is why the firearm still matters. It is history in your grip.

A top-break, single-action revolver evolved from original Smith & Wesson Model 3 revolvers of the mid 19th century, like the cap and ball revolvers that came before, the Schofield is a six-shot revolver — with a strap over the top of the cylinder. Unlike other cartridge revolvers of the period that required empty cases be removed from the gun one at a time, the Smith & Wesson Schofield ejected six at once.

When empties were spent, all six chambers of the cylinder exposed themselves so the shooter could reload one or more fresh cartridges at a time. As was the case with the Colt Peacemaker introduced in 1873, one did not have to rotate the cylinder one-position-click to insert new rounds.

Rotate Your Barrel Downward

The reloading procedure worked like this. The hammer pulled back one click to the half-cock position allows the cylinder to freely turn in either direction. Then the frame mounted rear sight, also the latch that holds the barrel and cylinder in position, is pulled toward the rear releasing the top strap... gently allowing the barrel to rotate downward.

As the barrel moves downward, a lip attached to the extractor engages a spring-loaded lever mounted on the frame. The extractor pushes the empty cases up and out of the cylinder. The empty cases clear the cylinder chambers when the barrel nears the end of its downward movement. At this time a wedge built into the bottom of the barrel slides under the spring-loaded lever releasing its engagement with the extractor lip and allowing the extractor to snap back into place inside the cylinder.

New rounds are loaded and the barrel is rotated up until the rear sight latch snaps into place over the top strap. If all six rounds had not been fired but the shooter wanted to reload the expended

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“It just means that unlike Clint Eastwood in “The Unforgiven” I will never use a Schofield to cleanse a bar of evil doers.”



The Schofield's top-break mechanism enabled simultaneous ejection of all six spent rounds — lightning-fast compared to the lethargic single-cartridge ejection of its old nemesis, the Colt Peacemaker.



Okay, class. Though a historical piece, step back in time and appreciate the Schofield's very pretty simultaneous ejection.

The Schofield's shorter cylinder required cartridges shorter than .45 Colt. Could this have been the real start of the Colt vs. S&W rivalry?



rounds, rotate the barrel downward just enough to partially extract all six cartridges from the cylinder. When the barrel rotates back up, the fired rounds remain exposed for removal while the unfired rounds drop back into the chamber.

Given the residue of 19th century black powder rounds, I suspect this procedure worked reliably when the gun was clean but not necessarily after all cylinders had been fired. The extractor rod stroke is a bit short, so even with smokeless powder the empty cases did not reliably fall clear unless the gun was turned sideways and the barrel rotated downward in a brisk motion. Still, the reloading process was much faster than other handguns of the era.

On page 52 of his book *Action Shooting Cowboy Style*, John Taffin tells of an 1873 test in which the Schofield and the Colt Peacemaker were pitted against each other in a reloading exercise.

"While mounted on a moving horse, the horseman had to empty the sixgun, remove six cartridges from his belt pouch, and reload. It took 26 seconds to unload the Colt and it was loaded in 60 seconds. The improved Smith & Wesson Schofield took 2 seconds to unload and it was loaded in 26 seconds."

I'm going with John's report. Because if I tried to duplicate this test, the result would be a violently dismounted horseman.

Me!

Twice!

Tell Us More, Dick

The Schofield's aforementioned elegance is worth a few more words. The barrel appears to have started life as a large slab. A slender rib running from the muzzle to the rear face of the cylinder has been left on top of the barrel. Although the rib is fairly narrow, some metal between the rib and barrel has been machined out, giving a nice contour to the top of the barrel. There is a shallow trough running the length of the rib into which is pinned a half-moon shaped blade front sight. On top of the rib over the cylinder, twin screws hold the barrel mounted portion of the latch mechanism engaged by the rear sight.

On the bottom of the barrel just in front of the cylinder a semicircular cut has been made in the slab to house the round portion at the front of the frame. A pin connects the barrel assembly and frame, and it is around this pin the barrel rotates to handle the loading and unloading process. As your eyes follow the underside of the barrel toward the muzzle, you see where the flattened slab has had metal removed in two steps until the bottom of the barrel becomes round about halfway to the muzzle.

Very Attractive

The frame is equally well done. The round, smooth top strap is uncluttered with none of the humps and bumps seen on other Smith & Wesson revolvers then and now. The .45 Schofield does not generate enough recoil to dictate some kind of anti-rotating device. The thumb's reach to cock the hammer is unobstructed although a bit long for stumpy fingers like mine. In a shooting position, my thumb can reach and touch the hammer, but it can't quite get far enough over the top of the hammer to re-cock the gun unless I shift my grip.

Because of this, I could not shoot the Schofield as quickly as I could a Colt single action using one hand. If I gripped the gun so that I could operate the hammer, the gun points quite high. When gripped so the gun points directly at the intended target, my thumb doesn't quite reach far enough to work the hammer. The solution is simple: shoot two-handed and work the hammer with the thumb of the supporting hand. Or just shoot one handed!

Both walnut grip panels have beautiful matching grains and taper nicely from their wider bottom into the slender metal of the frame. Fit and finish of all metal parts is excellent. There was some endplay of the cylinder, but that was it. There was no wobble around either the rotating pin or at the barrel lock-up point behind the cylinder. The rear sight latched on to the matching plate at the rear of the top strap like a Moray eel grabs lunch.

Staring At The Rear

The Schofield's rear sight is quite interesting. Hmm. It looks almost too beefy for the slender lines of the revolver, but that should be an asset in keeping the gun tight over years of use. It presents a "two-stage" sight picture to the shooter almost like buckhorn rifle sights. There is a wide, shallow, round trough in the top of the sight and a skinny "V" notch in the bottom. The trough makes initial acquisition of a sight picture quick and simple, much easier than with the small notch in the top strap of the older Colts.

For close range work with the Schofield, putting the front blade just about anywhere in the trough and on an assailant's chest would probably handle one's immediate defensive requirements. But the skimpy "V" notch doesn't look like it would work for any kind of precise shooting. Although the front sight blade is fairly thin, it is too wide for the skinny "V." I was certain it couldn't shoot small groups.

Wrong again, gun guru! With the front blade just barely poking above what I thought was the "V" notch, the Schofield

Continued on page 109

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WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ONE
ANGRY MAN ATTACKS TWO VETERAN COPS?

GOPS AMBUSHED

SCOTT REITZ



ABOVE: Impact zone. Officers Wilson and Jackson's squad car after the storm. **RIGHT:** Officer Wilson took a .357 to the head and shards of glass to the eye.

This deconstruction of an officer-involved shooting in Los Angeles involving members of an elite police unit illustrates the volatile nature of shootings. The officers involved, Wilson and Jackson (not their real names), and the suspect Harley (also not his real name) clashed in the mid-'90s at 10 p.m. after Harley exited a grocery store.

Using the ruse of being offended by an uninvolved female patron, Harley distracted an armed guard, took him in a chokehold, and snatched his firearm. He now had possession of a stainless steel 4-inch Colt .357 magnum revolver fully loaded. He then left the store.

Police were notified and Harley's description was broadcast over radios along with his assumed route of travel. Officers Wilson and Jackson, well-tenured and seasoned, rode in a unmarked police vehicle wearing uniforms. Wilson, the senior of the two officers, drove. Both were members of an elite unit tasked with high-risk crime suppression, V.I.P. dignitary protection, high-risk warrant service, bank stakeouts, and major crimes.



Monitoring a citywide, tactical frequency providing the suspect's description, Officers Wilson and Jackson responded to the location and saw the suspect on foot, approaching their car. Their observation of the suspect and the suspect's observation of the officers was simultaneous. Incongruent with the temperature, the suspect was sweating.

Struck Behind The Wheel

Wilson slows his vehicle to initiate a felony stop as Harley walks slowly and purposefully on the sidewalk, perpendicular to the officer's vehicle on the passenger side. Harley reveals a pistol in his left hand just before hidden from sight alongside his left leg and assaults the officers' position. He fires one round as he rapidly closes the distance. It hits the passenger door and then hits Jackson's right forearm. Wilson already stopped the vehicle and placed it in park when the shot is fired.

Jackson leans to his left, draws his firearm with his injured right arm and fires two rounds from his Berretta. His partner

Wilson was armed with a Smith & Wesson 5906, and issued Remington ammunition.

The suspect fires the second round striking the doorframe of the passenger side again and then again as Officer Jackson rolls from the vehicle sustaining a second gunshot wound to the middle of his back vest-panel directly over his spine. Jackson falls onto his head, neck and shoulder area and regains his footing and hears Officer Wilson shout, "I'm hit."

Harley fires one round, his fourth, at Officer Wilson over the trunk area of the vehicle without results, and Wilson returns fire with unknown results as the suspect drops from view. Wilson moves to the driver's rear window when he is subsequently struck by Harley's fifth round.

Wilson sustains a gunshot wound just forward of the left temple area and the round lodges between his scalp and skull. The suspect's round shatters glass, fragments of which remain embedded in Wilson's eye today. Wilson later stated he, "suddenly found himself in a seated position and did not feel any pain

although he was bleeding profusely from the head wound."

He does not remember calling out that he had been hit.

Shooting Back

Jackson now moves to the rear of the vehicle and sees the suspect aiming at Wilson over the rear portion of the vehicle. He fires multiple rounds at the suspect, who then drops from sight again and moves to the front of the vehicle as Wilson recovers.

Jackson moves around the front of the vehicle to the passenger side and sees the suspect aiming in Wilson's direction. Jackson fires multiple rounds and the sus-



ABOVE: Officer Jackson never knew Harley's .357 struck the rear panel of his bulletproof vest until arriving at the hospital. **BELOW:** The bullet that buried itself in Wilson's head. Notice its shape. **RIGHT:** Harley's stolen .357 rests on the floorboard of the officers' car.



BELOW: Wilson and Jackson's car in a Los Angeles street surrounded by empty shell casings — testimonies to their gunfight.



LEFT: The seat where Jackson was hit, and where Harley met his demise. BELOW: All the debris and upheaval that resulted from the shootout attested to its ferocity.



pect falls to the ground. Out of battery to slide lock, Jackson performs a speed reload on the move and repositions himself behind a tree 20 feet away. The officers have an L configuration relative to the suspect. Wilson, now at the front of the vehicle, bleeding profusely and wiping blood from his left eye, cannot find the suspect. He moves to another tree 15 feet from the side of the vehicle to the passenger side, moving backwards, attempting to maintain a visual of the suspect's probable position while conducting a speed reload. He is fired upon again by the suspect, but Harley misses.

The suspect has been continually moving up and down, and in and out, from the rear of the trunk area during this time, an animated, partial target. The sus-

pect re-emerges at the open door and aims at Officer Wilson, whereupon Officer Jackson fires additional rounds at the suspect. The suspect gets into the police car and grinds the starter of the vehicle unaware the vehicle is still running. The vehicle pulls away at a low speed as both officers fire on the move at the suspect through the vehicle's rear window area.

The car travels approximately one block and comes to a rest in the street. Responding officers control the scene and find the suspect is dead.

I attended the autopsy and noted the suspect sustained wounds to the legs, arms, hands, abdomen and chest area. The fatal wound was positioned high in the chest at a downward angle traversing through the heart. Most probably this wound, obviously fatal in nature, was

incurred at the end of the confrontation. The suspect's right leg was 4 inches shorter than the left. A wound to the right thigh resulted in a complete shearing of the femur and a lateral displacement of the same, resulting in the inability of the suspect to depress the vehicle's accelerator.

The suspect is a known associate of the Black Guerilla Family and the Eight-Trey Crips. The BGF actively practices and condones the aggressive assault of officers. The suspect had an extensive criminal record.

Lucky Lessons

Two weeks prior to the event I conducted training with Officers Wilson and Jackson concerning offside vehicle deployment in response to an ambush. Its timeliness was uncanny. I have often stated a gunfight at 10 feet can be every bit as difficult to resolve as one at 50 yards. The suspect presented a fleeting, partial target in which an intermediate barrier, the vehicle, posed a considerable problem.

Practicing on stationary targets is interesting, but does not reflect actual gunfights. The suspect deliberately used the vehicle to his advantage (there are suspects who are tactically-oriented out there). The officers were remarkable in their response



ABOVE: The bullet that struck Jackson in the arm traveled through this passenger door, leaving a visible hole marked by the letter U. **BELOW:** Two real-life gunfighters. Wilson (left) and Jackson fully recovered from the wounds they sustained, and each received a Medal of Honor.



given the consideration both sustained debilitating wounds. The suspect fired a total of six rounds from an unfamiliar weapon and incurred three hits on two separate officers. No day at the range, indeed.

Due to the ineffectiveness of the light 9mm load, this shooting led to the beginning of the adoption of the .45 caliber pistol. In a perfect world we may teach officers to fire single shots or pairs, but in many actual confrontations intermediate obstacles must be overcome. I continually design and build target systems replicating actual gunfight conditions and constantly strive to think “out of the box,” not only in methodologies but in practical training as well.

Both officers remember seeing their sights at various points in time during the fight and many of the manipulations and reactions, as they stated, “Happened just as you trained us.” Both officers received the medal of valor. One is now retired, the other a Sergeant.

Shootings often require a response from an unconventional firing position, as evidenced in this incident. Under properly skilled supervision with real world experience, live-fire training in and around vehicles can be conducted.

Moving targets that briefly present themselves should be examined after each series of shots are fired. Additionally, penetration of vehicle bodies is not an exact science. Repetition of sight acquisition, speed reloads and one hand shooting as well as movement should be emphasized. Moving targets should be used as much as possible.

Civilian car and home robberies would necessitate this training for those not involved in law enforcement. Under skilled supervision during “cold drills,” wherein a shooter is placed into a problem-solving scenario, a moment’s notice will bring to the forefront deficiencies and strengths — arguably the top benchmarks of an individual’s ability.

There is play shooting and there is gun fighting. And they have little in common. In the last 18 months, 16 officers I’ve trained have been in seven separate shootings. All of these were clean shootings with the hit rate over 80 percent. And their success is attributable to the study, dissemination, and training that arose from previous encounters which pushed them —



Scott Reitz is head firearms instructor at International Tactical Training Seminars in Los Angeles. Their website is www.internationaltactical.com.

REAL STEEL

Continued from page 52

in Colorado. Both target law enforcement officers, rather than the knife-zealous pedestrian.

Public Announcement

The knife you carry depends on what best suits your needs. Since most of us aren't authorized to carry a handgun during our daily routine, some type of knife is not such a bad thing to have during the worst of circumstances. Like cops, I use my knife for utility — and I never intend to get into a knife fight. But should I have to, it's right there in my left pocket.



MORE INFORMATION:

Benchmade

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HERE THEY SAVE THE

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Small enough that you won't leave it at home because it's too heavy, or toss it in the glove compartment because it's digging into your hip, the .32 ACP guar-

antees you'll always obey gunfighting's first commandment: have a gun.

Ask the experts. John Nixon advises cops, soldiers, lawyers and private eyes on firearms, ballistics, forensics and weapons systems. John Nixon testified as an expert witness, consulted NATO, and spent time with the U.K. Ministry of Defense before moving to the United States from London. And John Nixon carries a .32.

Ask Washington State biker, hiker, runner, swimmer and snowshoer Frances Smith. This retired U.S. Army first sergeant, an expert in explosive ordnance disposal, knows exactly what weapon she needs to return home safe from her long solo workouts — a .32.

And the aforementioned pair are just two among the thousands who ignore "mousegun" derisions and arm themselves with Kel-Tecs, Guardians, Tomcats, Seecamps and Walthers. They know the .32 isn't

a cannon. But they also know it will still stop an attacking goblin far more effectively than harsh words and a shaking fist. And unlike nines and .45s, .32s pull it off in a package that won't bulge in your pants.

"I wanted a gun small enough to carry completely concealed in a dress pants pocket," Nixon said. "A Glock butt sticking out of your waistband at a business meeting could prove upsetting to the uninitiated."

When dressed for it Nixon carries a larger caliber handgun, with Glock's 23, Sig's 229 and Ruger's SP101 being his particular favorites. But he always dons a .32, which by itself makes him feel perfectly safe. As it does for Smith.

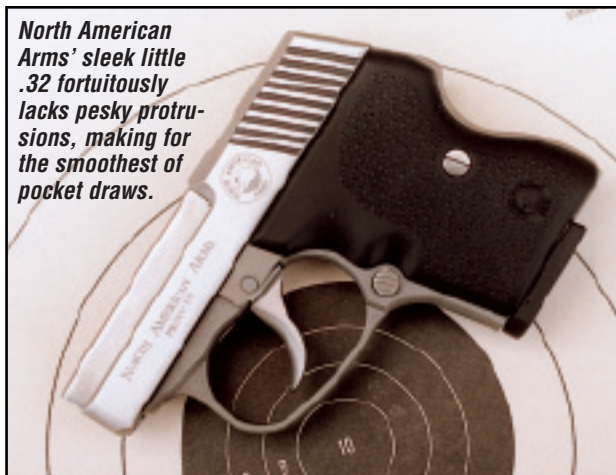
"I purchased a Kel-Tec specifically because it was small enough to carry while bicycling and running," she said. "It gives me peace of mind to have something to protect myself when traveling alone."

Disbelieving Uninitiated

For those who disbelieve the .32 runs alongside the big dogs, actual results from real-life shootings reveal best-of-breed Winchester's 60-grain Silvertip JHP provides one-shot stops about 65 percent of the time. Close behind is Federal's 65-grain Hydra-Shok JHP at about 60 percent.

Is that as decisive as a Colt .45 launching a 230-grain Hydra-Shok, the highest rated of all handgun loads? Certainly not, and nobody seriously argues

North American Arms' sleek little .32 fortuitously lacks pesky protrusions, making for the smoothest of pocket draws.



SHANE GERICKE

COME TO DAY

otherwise. But it rivals the cop-fave .38 snubby, and actually bests the decidedly non-mousy 230-grain FMJ in .45 ACP. And everyone knows you can't stick a 1911 in your pocket without the whole world noticing.

All of which supports my contention the .32 ACP is the best available combination of size and stopping power. Teenier guns exist, such as the .22 and .25, but I wouldn't trust my life to them. Especially if being attacked by a really big, really mean, really ugly bad guy.

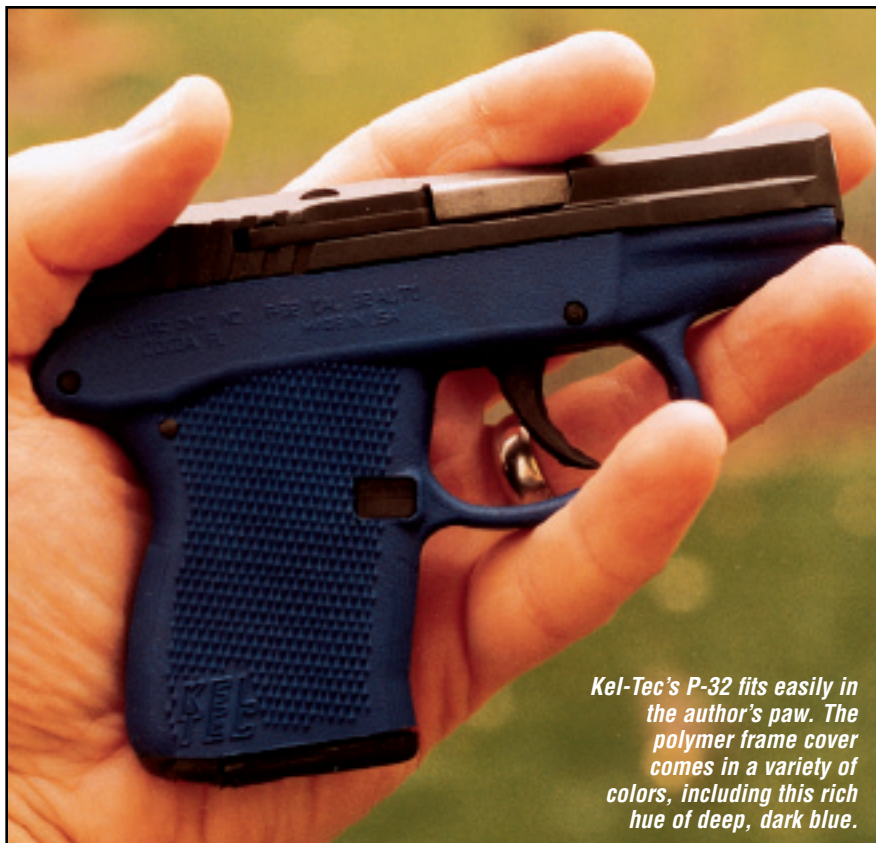
However, like the experts quoted above, I have no such reservations about carrying a mighty little .32.

Gander At The Animals **Kel-Tec P-32**

If small is beautiful, the P-32 is drop-dead gorgeous. Weighing a scant 6.6 ounces unloaded, at 3/4-inch wide it can hide almost anywhere without bulging. Its standard flush magazine holds 7+1 rounds — 8+1 with one-round magazine extension and 10+1 with fully extended magazine. The DAO trigger breaks at 5 pounds, allowing fast, accurate shooting. No external levers keep the exterior flat and snag-free. That it fires from locked breech minimizes felt recoil by spreading the “bang” over a longer period of time.

Metal to polymer fit is excellent, and finish and polish are workmanlike rather than pretty. All metal parts are milled from ordnance steel (barrel and slide) or aluminum (frame). A nicely stippled polymer grip-block covers the frame, and for the traditionalist it comes in black. Gray, light blue, dark blue, olive green or ivory are available for the more chroma-





Kel-Tec's P-32 fits easily in the author's paw. The polymer frame cover comes in a variety of colors, including this rich hue of deep, dark blue.

ically adventurous. Slide is available blued, parkerized, or chromed.

With a suggested list price of \$300, the Kel-Tec is an incredible bargain. Equally unsurpassed is Kel-Tec's customer service. A couple of years ago I sprung the guide rod into one of my basement's Black Holes, where it lost itself forever. I called Kel-Tec to order a new

one and, because the replacement cost less than a buck, the rep sent it gratis.

But two downsides exist. The gun's chief virtue, its Ally McBeal skinniness, is a detriment for those with meaty hands. And its sights suck. They consist of two vertical mills in the slide — one front, one rear — striped with white paint. They're certainly snag-free, but

You should have seen the dealer. Five-shot accuracy tests proved not one "a joker be."



nearly impossible to pick up and align during rapid draw.

NAA Guardian

Fashioned entirely of stainless steel, North American Arms' .32 is incredibly ergonomic. It resembles the Seecamp, but it's cheaper, easier to find, and whereas the Seecamp digests only Silvertips, the NAA shoots them all.

The differences continue. Unlike the Seecamp's heel clip, the NAA has a grip magazine release. And it measures a shade shorter, shallower and wider than the P-32. Weighing 13.5 ounces unloaded, it is also much heavier. Its 13-pound DAO trigger is equally heavy. And its blowback design makes recoil sharper than the locked-breech P-32's. But we're talking relative here. All .32s kick softly.

Suggested list is \$408, not bad for beautifully finished stainless. NAA offers a ton of options: name-maker sights, lasers, exotic grips, and custom leather that can be factory-installed when ordering, and save you the bother of after-market 'smithing. One sight option in particular called the Guttersnipe draws my applause. NAA milled a groove in the rear half of the slide and stuck a big, bright sighting dot on the front wall. While precision aim suffers from the lack of a front-end reference, in rapid draw this setup provides an outstanding sight picture.

Beretta Tomcat

Despite its sumo-wrestler heaviness (16.9 ounces unloaded) that results from its all-metal construction, the Tomcat is a terrific .32: well-designed, ergonomic and sporting a unique tip-up barrel for easy loading and chamber inspection.

This last feature I admire, for it avoids the elbow-busting slide rack common to heavy-spring blowback designs. Just tip up the barrel, drop in a round, close and fire.

It's ideal for shooters with arthritis or other painful disabilities.

The Tomcat comes in a variety of metals and finishes, including the new titanium frame with stainless slide. It has the exceptional fit and polish of all Berettas, and the cutaway slide of its military and police siblings. The miniature front-blade back-notch sights allow surprisingly precise aim. Like the Guardian and unlike the Kel-Tec, there's no extractor; the last spent shell jams the action open. Unlike both, the Tomcat is DA on the first shot (9 pounds), SA thereafter (4 pounds), and has an external safety. It lists for \$330.

What To Feed 'Em

Don't let its name fool you. The 60-grain Silvertip is the gold-standard of .32 ACP ammunition, and feeds reliably in



Seniors agree. The Tomcat's tip-up barrel lets the shooter pull the trigger without racking a too-heavy slide, a common complaint about small automatics.

all three guns. But I found the 65-grain Hydra-Shok works equally well — at feeding reliably, of course.

To break-in the guns I shoved 100 rounds of ball ammo through each of them. Then I followed with 100 rounds of both Silvertips and Hydra-Shoks. No stoppages. No failures to feed. Just bang-bang-bang.

Gauging accuracy, I fired 50 rounds through each one-handed and as fast as I humanly could. All 150 hit a 9-inch plate. Finally, I put 5-shot groups into playing cards, shooting slow and two-handed. No group exceeded 1.5 inches, and one three-hole cloverleaf shot out the joker's grin. Served him right.

A new gold standard may arrive later this year when North American unveils its "Cor-Bon .25 NAA," a .32 cartridge necked down to fire a .25 bullet from a

re-chambered .32 Guardian. It's still in development, so NAA President Sandy Chisholm couldn't provide ballistic information or a timetable for dealers' shelves. But he did say:

"We're hoping to stuff a few stockings with them this year."

Look for something year-end.

The .32 NAA, the line's first offering, fires a .32 bullet from a .380 cartridge at 1,122 fps from the short-barrel .380 Guardian. And, it blisters 1,453 fps from a 4-inch test barrel.

Pocket Methodolgy

Scores of methods to carry your mighty mite exist, but I like pockets best. In an instant the gun is accessible, and if you sense an attack coming and can't run away you can slip your hand in your pocket and grip the weapon while looking

like you're merely warming your fingers. Or something.

Use a good holster. Without one, these little blasters will twist and flip like a hooked fish, coming to rest grip-down — just like bread always hits the floor butter-side down. And I hate it when that happens. And I hate it when a gun barrel points at my head. A holster also keeps pocket lint and dust out of the weapon.

I ordered a selection from manufacturers big and small, then spent a month walking, running, gardening, driving, grocery shopping, washing the car, and mowing the lawn with them in place. In other words, the very things we do every day in the very places we most likely need to be armed. Like the front

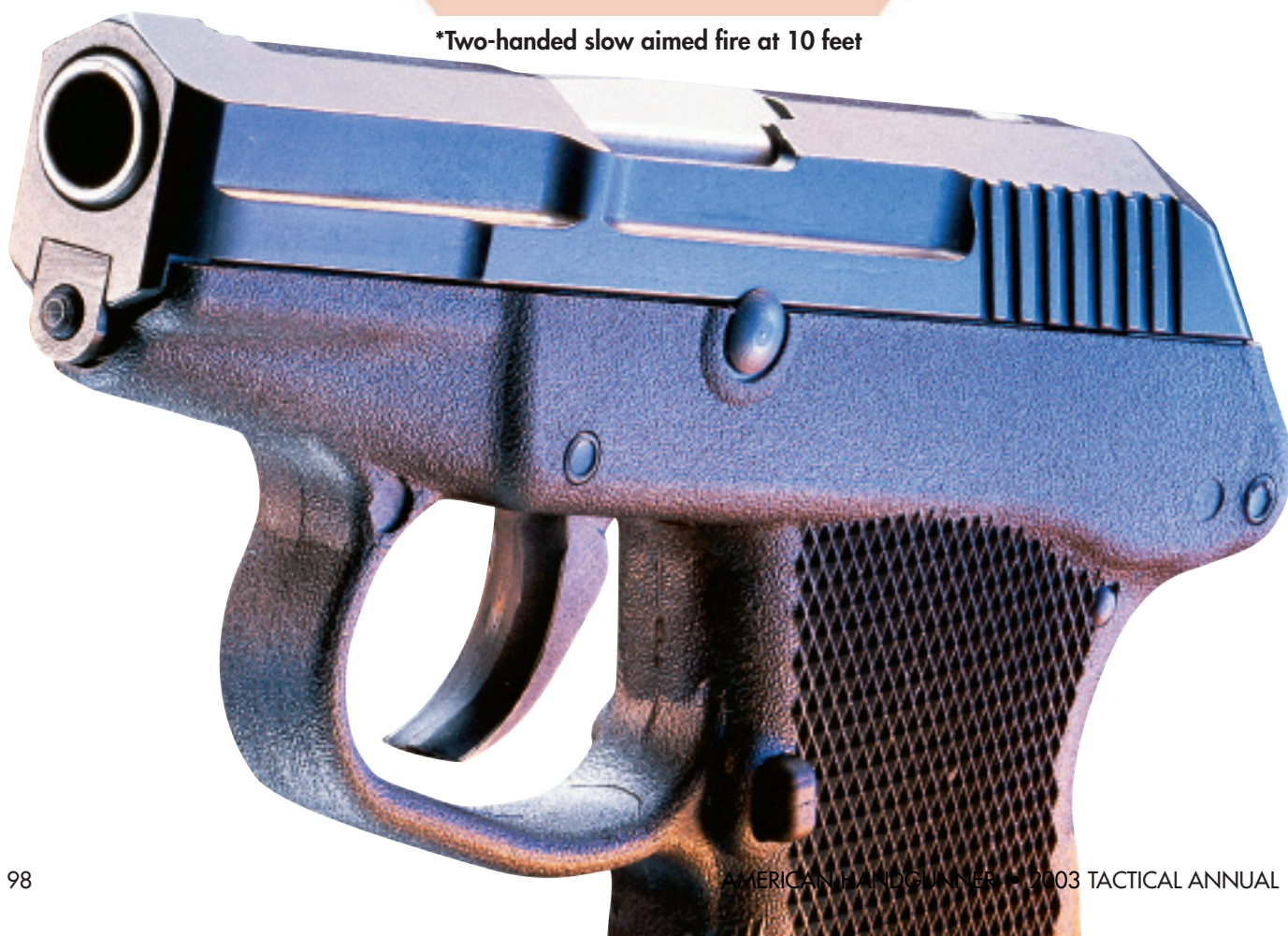


The blessed Kel-Tec, complete with semi-confusing sights.



	NAA Guardian	Beretta Tomcat	Kel-Tec P-32
Weight (oz., unloaded)	13.5	16.9	6.6
Length (in.)	4.4	4.9	5.1
Height (in.)	3.3	3.7	3.5
Width (in.)	0.9	1.1	0.8
Barrel (in.)	2.2	2.4	2.7
Capacity	6+1	7+1	7/8/10+1
Operation	Blowback	Blowback	Locked breech
Trigger	DAO	DA/SA	DAO
Trigger pull (pounds)	13	9/4	5
Ejector	No	No	Yes
External safety	No	Yes	No
Materials	Stainless	Blue steel, stainless, aluminum, titanium	Aluminum, polymer, blue steel
Finish	Polished metal	Blue, black, polished metal	Blue, black, hard chrome
Suggested retail	\$408	\$330	\$300
Best handheld 5-shot group*	1.1 inch	1.25 inch	1.0 inch
Best handheld 3-shot group*	0.5 inch	0.25 inch	0.4 inch

*Two-handed slow aimed fire at 10 feet





Shopping for groceries, mowing the lawn, washing the car... any time is a good time for leather. And Haugen's Boxster (above) is designed for those who don't like to carry things in their pockets.

yard. Or the drive-thru.

Here's what I recommend.

Don Hume

Though he calls the color saddle brown, Hume's leather is so deep and lustrous it looks like a pool of rubies. The premium cowhide also comes in black and natural, and its smooth-out, rough-in, boned leather holds the tiny P-32 like a magnet. During the draw its hooked corners keep it in your pants.

Galco

Its front-pocket holster is made from horsehide, an attractive light brown called natural. The leather is rough outside, smooth inside, lightly boned to the weapon, and features fore and aft pocket hooks. It holds the Guardian, securely.

Haugen Handgun Leather

Jerry and GERALYN Evans run a small holster operation in Bismarck, N.D. And small does not mean inferior. The two products I evaluated are cleverly designed and exceptionally well made.

The first, for the pocket, has a wrap-around front so perfectly boned I could practically read the weapon's lettering. It holds the Guardian like a glove holds fingers, yet releases easily. The backside is a slab of leather that keeps body sweat and oil away from the piece. Bigger and thicker than the Galco or Hume, this is the perfect choice for "cargo" pockets — should you be foolish enough to wear such pants.

Haugen's second model is the Boxster,

a clever "hide in plain sight" design. Evans believes fanny packs tell the whole world you're armed, so he crafted a leather box that clips onto your belt. Rather than shout "gun," it whispers "Palm Pilot," or "CD player." The leather is so attractive it could be used on furniture.

Uncle Mike's

Michaels of Oregon's Sidekick division makes ballistic nylon holsters for practically any pistol on the market, makes them well, and sells them inexpensively. I tested two Sidekicks: Size 1 for the Kel-Tec and Size 4 for both Guardian and Tomcat. They're basic black and work exactly as intended.

Survival Sheath Systems

I detest shoulder holsters. But there are exceptions to every rule. This, fair reader, is one of them. Robert Humelbaugh of Anderson Island, Wash., designed a featherweight holster that wraps around your back and clips in the middle of your chest, pinning the holster to your breastbone. It's a thoughtful design, secure as a safe deposit box, and makes it easy to reach your gun while running, backpacking, or pushing a stroller around the mall.

"I wanted to come up with a way to wear a gun so you could be armed while doing active things," Humelbaugh explained. "There are so many sporting pursuits that demand specialized things like packs or fishing waders and leave only one area on the body free that the hand can reach with speed."

And that one area which the hand can

reach with speed is the chest.

Englishmen Agree

Still not convinced of the .32's virtues? Then think Bond.

James Bond.

"Ian Fleming's 'Q' described the .32 as hitting like a brick through a plate-glass window," said Andy Kemp on the English spies armament. "Hardly, but he was comparing it to the .25 that Bond first carried, which he felt was more suited for a woman."

Fleming finally upgraded Bond's .25 to a .32 Walther PPK. The rest is history.

And really, what stronger endorsement do you need?



MORE INFORMATION:

Beretta

301-283-2191, berettausa.com

Don Hume Leathergoods

1-800-331-2686, donhume.com

Haugen Handgun Leather

701-255-0723,

haugenhandgunleather.com

Kel-Tec

321-631-0068, kel-tec.com

North American Arms

801-374-9990, naaminis.com

Survival Sheath Systems

253-884-9178, survivalsheath.com

Uncle Mike's: Michaels of Oregon

503-655-7964, uncle-mikes.com

TRACE RINALDI CUSTOM BLADES

The TTKK is made from Devon Thomas' serpentine ladder damascus. Handle scales are carbon fiber trimmed from F-18 wings with mosaic pins. Overall length is 9.5", with a 4.5" blade. Other materials available include CPM S30 and Talonite. A multi-carry carbon fiber Concealex sheath is standard. The damascus knives are very limited in number, and priced on request. www.thrblades.com



NITEMAX

Infrared Imaging has just introduced the NiteMax Digital Night-Vision Viewing System. With solid-state circuitry, the NiteMax provides 24-hour operation in any lighting condition. The high-resolution picture is displayed on a standard 2.5" LCD Screen. The

NiteMax also features an RCA video output jack for easy recording or transmitting of the digital night vision images. The system is powered by rechargeable camcorder batteries or the 12-volt power port. The most attractive feature is the price. At \$499 suggested retail, the NiteMax offers comparable performance to image intensified night-vision equipment costing well over \$1,000. For more information, visit their Website: www.digitalnightvision.com.



SCHRADE AVATAR KNIVES

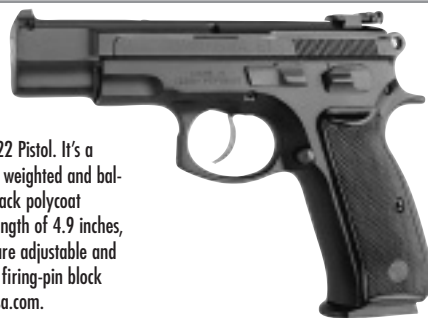
The new Schrade Avatars symbolize precision engineering, quality and function. The 3 3/4" AV2 is a dual-bladed knife, perfect for the pocket. Both stainless steel

blades lock for safe operation and feature easy one-hand use. The high tech AV22 is another version of the AV2 but features midnight black accents in the Thermo-plastic rubber gripping strips and stainless steel blades. Finally, the AV77 features the same black accents but is larger with a partially-serrated blade edged to perfection. For more information visit, www.schradeknives.com.



CZ 75 KADET .22

CZ-USA makes shooting fun with the Kadet .22 Pistol. It's a perfect tool for training or plinking since it is weighted and balanced just like the CZ 75. The Kadet has a black polycarbonate finish, 10-round magazine capacity, barrel length of 4.9 inches, and weighs just 2.4 pounds. The rear sights are adjustable and the pistol features both a manual safety and firing-pin block safety. For more information, visit www.cz-usa.com.



PEARCE GRIP

Pearce Grip acquired Farrar Grips and is re-introducing their popular rubber grips for Smith & Wesson revolvers. Fashioned from metal-reinforced nitrile rubber construction and impervious to all solvents, the grips ergonomic design provides superior comfort and control. Pearce Grips can be reached at 1-800-390-9420.



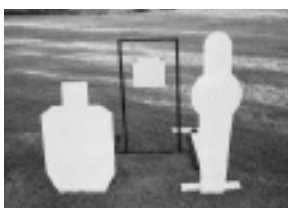
KG-3 CLEANING SOLVENT

KG Industries, Inc. introduces the reformulated KG-3 Cleaning Solvent and Degreaser. KG-3 is now specially formulated to cut the grease and grime that can build up in firearms. A good dose of KG-3 can easily dissolve grease and oils, leaving surfaces clean and looking new with or without a patch. It's made with non-chlorinated, fast-drying, water-displacing solvents that cut through grease without leaving any residue. Conveniently packaged in a 19 ounce spray can, the KG-3 Cleaning Solvent and Degreaser is an efficient and effective product for cleaning any firearms. For more information, visit www.kgproducts.net.



EVANS TARGETS

Evans Targets is a family-owned operation that manufactures reactive steel rifle and pistol targets. All targets are plasma cut from 500 Brinnell steel and built for a lifetime of hard use. The company offers a variety of standard targets as well as custom design work. To see more samples of the Evans Targets, visit www.evanstarget.com.



SUREFIRE/STRIDER

SureFire has teamed with Strider Knives to produce a matched serial number, limited edition (1,000 sets) flashlight/knife combination. The flashlight is a customized version of the Millennium M2 from SureFire's Operations Series and is engraved with the Strider Knives logo. The knife is the Strider Model SF, a clip-point design crafted from high-tech steel S30V. Each knife will be serial numbered and hand stamped with the SureFire Logo. The flashlight will have a matching serial number from 0001 to 1000. The combo sets are available exclusively through SureFire dealers, or online at www.surefire.com



Pardon Me Officer While I Reach For My Gun



CCW-Owners
and Police
Officers
Must
Realize
They're
On The
Same Team

Kyle Lohmeier

With shall-issue CCW laws on most states' books, police officers must adapt to the fact more people stopped for traffic violations will be armed. For many cops,

police officers overreact when stopping CCW licensees. And, as encounters between CCW licensees and police officers proliferate, both sides should take steps to ease the stress.

"Do you have any firearms in the car, sir?" an officer asked.

"Yes sir, two of them." I replied.

"They're in my center console and my CCW is in my wallet."

dealing with armed citizens is akin to culture shock. Recent academy graduates and sometimes seasoned veteran

able, regardless of how non-threatening and compliant we appear, there always exists the occasional police officer who

Police officers should recognize that, in most cases, concealed pistol licensees have subjected themselves to intense background checks certifying they are verifiable good guys. Though licensees should empathize with the police officer's position, and do simple things to make him or her more comfortable,

mishandles a traffic stop. And it's time some understanding developed between the two camps.

Officer Friendly?

Zooming home after covering a city council meeting that had extended late into the night, I approached an intersection marking the boundary between city and township. My failure to slow from 55 to 35 miles per hour caught the attention of a police car, which promptly pulled up behind me.

The officers approached from both sides, and I kept my hands atop the steering wheel. I purposefully kept them in the beam of their car's mounted spotlight.

"Do you have any firearms in the car, sir?" an officer asked.

"Yes sir, two of them." I replied.

"They're in my center console and my CCW is in my wallet."

The officers removed me from my truck. I was handcuffed and seated in the back of the patrol car, from where I watched the officers ransack my vehicle. Another officer arrived and joined the search. Then the K-9 handler arrived. Another police car pulled up, lights flashing, but was waved off by the officers already up-ending my truck. I spent 20 minutes atop a hard, plastic rear seat watching four officers turn my truck upside down, in search of something more interesting than empty fast food bags.

Most licensees stopped for something simple can expect far better treatment than I received. I suspect the officers were looking for drugs, or open bottles of liquor, or some other contraband.

Try A Little Tenderness

Are there CCW permit-holders who probably shouldn't have been issued one? Yes.

But statistics indicate most CCW licensees are law-abiding people who pose no threat to police officers. Since most crimes aren't committed with registered or legally owned handguns, it stands to reason that criminals lacking permits to legally own a handgun aren't going to jump through the hoops most

states require applicants to jump through to obtain a CCW license.

After overcoming my initial indignation, I told myself even these over-reacting and seemingly unreasonable policemen are humans, too. Empathizing with a police officer approaching a vehicle will go a long way toward helping CCW licensees do what they can to make traffic stops as pleasant an experience as they're ever likely to be — if such a thing is possible.

Regardless of how well you drive, odds are you're going to get stopped for something, someday. But though you know you're probably the least of the approaching officer's worries, the police officer doesn't know this. In fact, the officer knows nothing about you.

"There's a lot of uncertainty. You don't know what you're approaching," said Clay Township's (Mich.) chief of police Tom Eder. Eder spent 22 years as a Detroit Police Officer. "You don't know if they've got a record, or if a stolen car is involved. They could have just had an argument with their wife and are hot or upset. They may be drunk, on drugs, any of those situations."

Police officers look for clues as they approach a vehicle. Bumper stickers, the condition of the car, things hanging from the rearview mirror, the appearance of the driver, and certainly any movements the driver makes, are all observed as the officer gets ready to make contact with the vehicle's occupants.

"There's more potential for a person to be up to no good if they're driving a 'beater' and wearing a bandanna on their head versus someone in a new Lincoln wearing their Sunday best," said Ed Silver, a sergeant with the Algonac, Mich., police department. "I'm not talking about racial profiling at all ... As far as I'm concerned profiling is a tool to my job just as anything else. Your radio is a tool to your job to find someone or see if they're wanted. In my opinion, profiling

is the same thing."

Pro-gunners own some of the greatest bumper stickers on the road. We've all seen them: some are poignant,

"I spent 20 minutes atop a hard, plastic rear seat watching four officers turn my truck upside down, in search of something more interesting than empty fast food bags."

others funny, and some obnoxious. They all say an awful lot about the driver, and some of them get taken the wrong way.

"That bumper sticker is a good indication as to what kind of person you're dealing with, and pro-gun stickers would lead you to assume the person has a CCW," Sgt. Silver said.

Somebody's Watching

The best thing a driver can do during a traffic stop is convince the officer he is not a threat. One way to do this is to convey this information before bringing the vehicle to a stop. From the moment they pull over a driver, police officers watch what goes on inside the vehicle, looking for actions that may pose a threat to their safety.

The thing they look for most is movement, particularly bending down as though to reach something under the seat. Once those lights come on, it's best to keep those hands on the wheel, and leave them there until the officer arrives. Most importantly, stay in the vehicle.

"Getting out of the car right away is a major thing. You don't want the individual to exit the car because you don't know what they're going to do," Chief Eder said.

Some states require a CCW licensee to disclose being armed as early as possible. In some jurisdictions, the licensee must disclose their having a permit whether or not they're actually armed. Whereas in others, there's no onus on the licensee to disclose they're armed unless specifically asked by the officer. In states that mandate disclosure of that information, you're generally required to get this information out as early as possible.

"I think it needs to be immediately disclosed, either by me asking or them telling me," Sgt Silver said. "There's going to be those people who are proud and will tell you right away, but there'll be a small number who neglect to tell you or they forget to tell you. Whether they have the



gun or not it should become second nature for them to say, "I've got a permit to carry and at this time I am or I am not armed."

Obviously, don't blurt, "I've got a gun" when the officer approaches. When a natural break early in the conversation presents itself, simply state you have a concealed pistol license, and indicate whether or not the gun is present. And if so, where. If you are armed and have to get the paperwork requested by the officer, tell him or her what you're doing before you do it. For instance, if you've just told the officer your pistol is on your hip and you have to get your license from your back pocket, tell the officer where you're reaching.

Feeling Better Already

Once you've disclosed you're armed and that the gun is on your person, you may be removed from the vehicle and your pistol secured by the officer as a precaution. Is the officer's taking possession of your pistol really necessary? Probably not. But, if it makes the officer feel better, let it happen without protest. Your gun will be returned.

Given that police officers spend most of their time dealing with society's lowest common denominator, I figure when they do run into us good guys, the

"Far be it for me to preach, but if you're out partying, it's best to leave the pistol locked up at home."

least we can do is put them at ease quickly by simply stating we've got a CCW-permit and a pistol in the vehicle. We can also make our own lives easier and diffuse the criticisms of the anti-self-preservation camp by taking the responsibility of being armed in public seriously.

Far be it for me to preach, but if you're out partying, it's best to leave the pistol locked up at home. In addition to being the right thing to do and helping preserve your rights, being responsible will also give you no reason to become too upset if you've been stopped by the police for whatever reason. After all, if you're not intoxicated and there's nothing in the vehicle that shouldn't be there, you have nothing to worry about. If there's nothing for you to worry about, then there'll be no reason for the police to handcuff you, put you in the back of a police car, and search your vehicle.

Well, most of the time, anyway.



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PHOTO BY: ICHIRO NAGATA

IDPA

Continued from page 57

eted loose fitting open weave garments are often of the authentic Domke brand, the popular choice of real newsmen. Do you suppose Milwaukee Journal photographer Bob Domke ever dreamed his nifty vest would become the unofficial uniform of IDPA. Functionality for concealed carry is the reason these vests are so popular. Many IDPA courses of fire mandate concealed carry. Cynics call the popular

Sunday Afternoon, winners were announced in the three categories and four classification levels:

Stock Service Pistol

Master — Angus Hobdel
Expert — Matt Kartoian
Sharpshooter — Matt Haught
Marksman — Chuck Owens

Enhanced Service Pistol

Master — Rob Leatham
Expert — Jeff McClure
Sharpshooter — Brian J. Hill
Marksman — Takeo Ishii

Custom Defensive Pistol

Master — Tim Milkovitch
Expert — Steve Horseman
Sharpshooter — Curt Nichols
Marksman — Robert F. Ryan

Stock Service Revolver

Master — Marc McCord
Expert — George Bagley
Sharpshooter — Oscar W. Dean
Marksman — Robert Townsend

garments "shoot-me-first vests," a consequence an unknowing wearer could possibly encounter. Consider the working newsman approaching danger with those bulging pockets concealing only his notebooks and extra lenses.

A Word About Rules

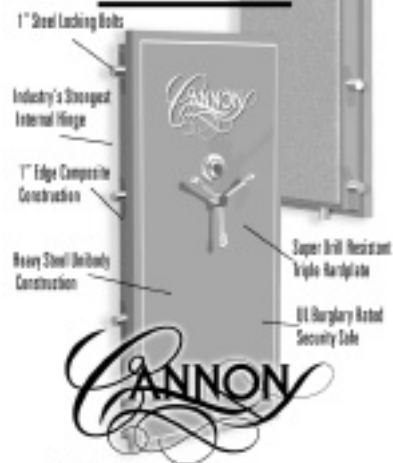
IDPA rules on guns, holsters, magazines, how they are to be carried and used, might be a bit over complex. Such is manifest in the never-ending discussions at every match between shooters and safety officers. If the difference between a "reload with retention" and a "tactical reload" is not crystal clear, one has no choice but to ask. And one never knows how exactly each individual RO is going to judge compliance with requirements for shooting or reloading from cover.

Somehow, in Phoenix once again, it all went together with few glitches. Few would go away less than happy, as both IDPA and the Arizona desert lived up to all reasonable expectations.



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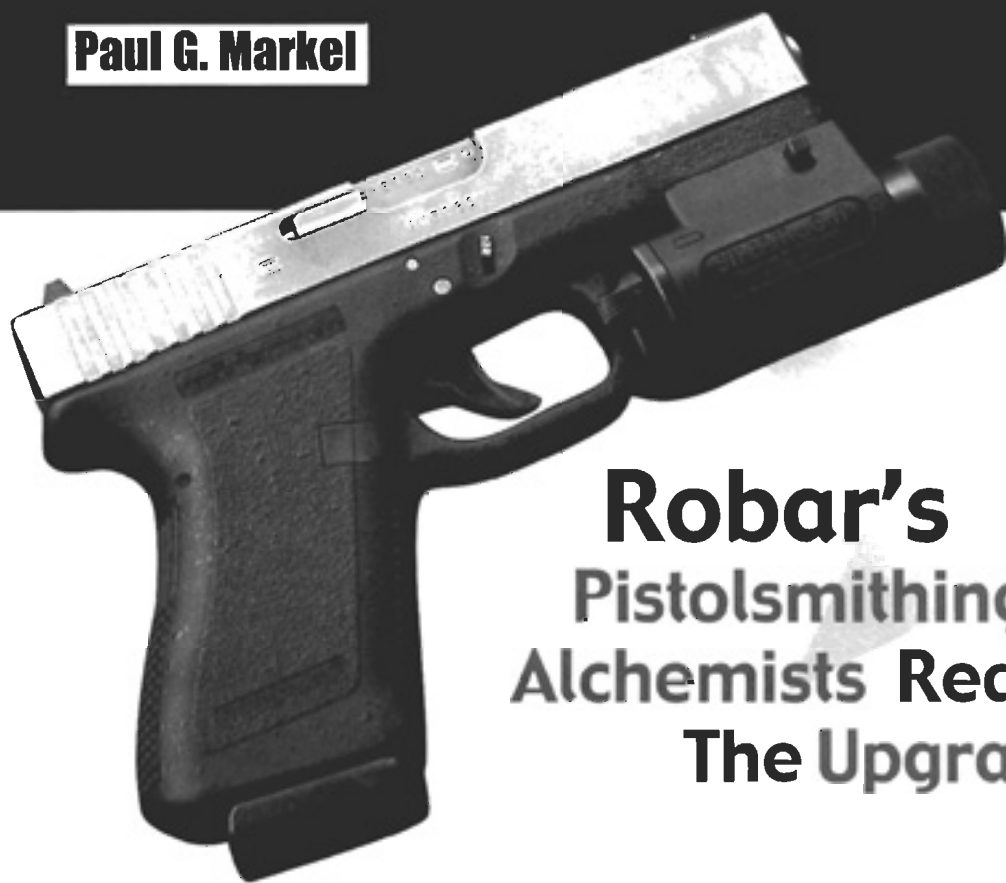
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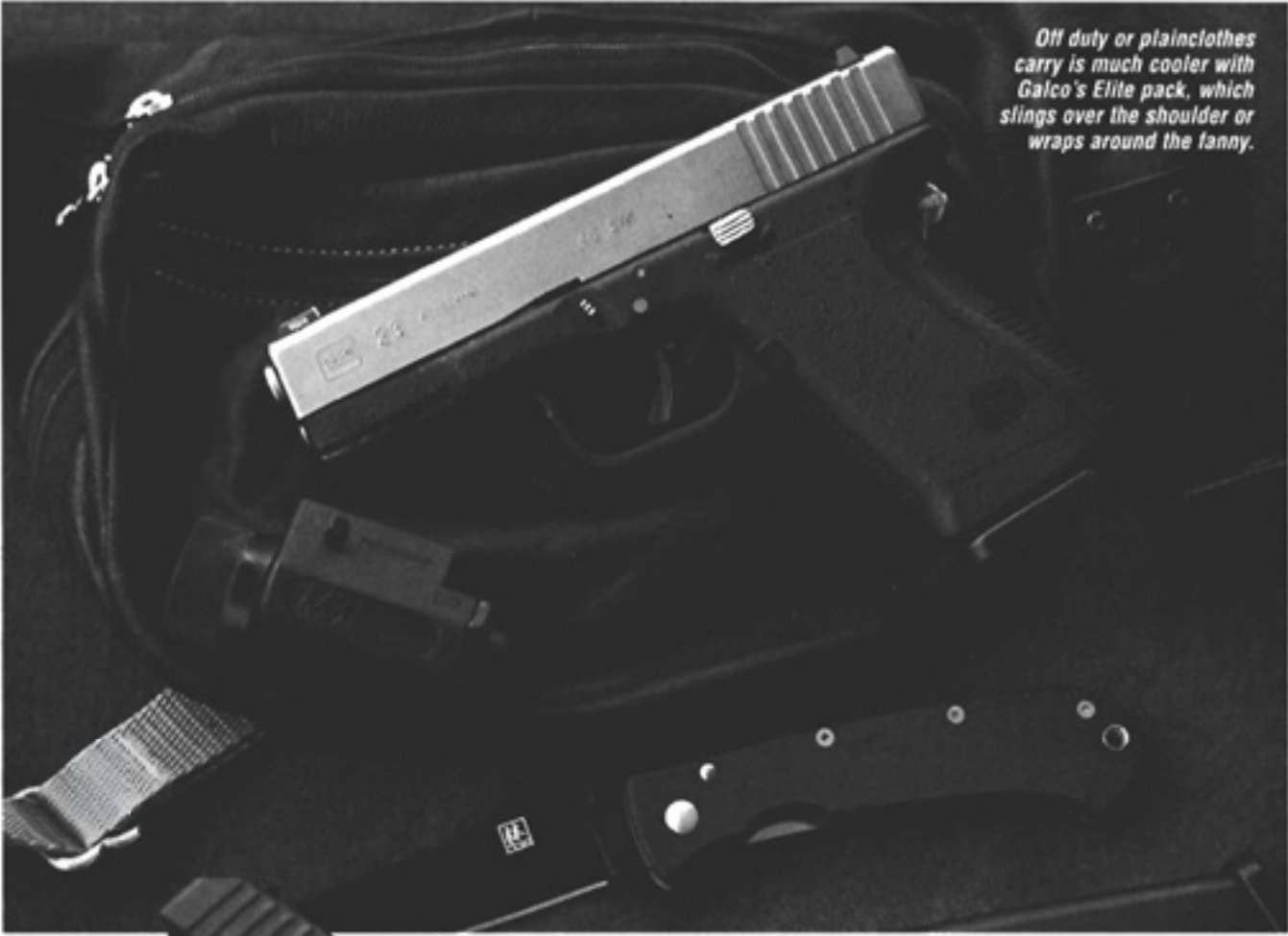
Robar's Pistolsmithing Alchemists Redefine The Upgrade

First Glock raised the bar by introducing factory-built pistols with light and accessory rails. Then other law-enforcement manufacturers who neglected light rails hurried to put railed versions of their guns on the market. And though Glock's introduction of a refined frame once again rendered all of the old frames obsolete for night fighting — that was before Robbie Barrkman laid his hands on it.


The first year they were available, I purchased the Glock

Model 23 .40 S&W pistol. Since then, with my G23 in my hand, I have qualified, carried and done a tremendous amount of shooting. It is comfortable. It is totally reliable. But after testing several of the new Glocks adorned with tactical lights, I found myself wishing my old favorite had the same capability.

But trading it in was out of the question. When you find something that works this well you stick with it. So the questions began to take shape, then loom. Why not have a competent gun-



Off duty or plainclothes carry is much cooler with Galco's Elite pack, which slings over the shoulder or wraps around the fanny.



One of these kids is not like the other. Robarized Glock, bottom, stands out from the crowd... in a good way.

smith install rails on my old frame?

But more importantly, could it be done?

Ladies And Gentleman, The Companies

Robar

From the shortlist of Glock mechanics, I chose Robbie Barrkman of Robar Companies. Barrkman and his team have worked on Glocks for years, and turn out some unique combat handguns.

Robbie and I discussed what it takes to fasten light rails onto an old Glock, and after a few weeks of carving on disposable old frames, Robbie determined it was a practical idea.

I also explained that in addition to the rails I wanted to send my old friend in for a "50,000 mile check-up."

While in shop, the Robar people would inspect all moving parts — springs and pins included — for any signs of wear.

Express Sight Systems

While the G23's old fixed sights served me well over these many years, on two of my other pistols, a 1911 Spring-



Robarized light rails are different than stock Glock light rails. They're also stippled.

"Feeling like a kid at Christmas, I tear open the FedEx package that transported my transformed Glock. It is all I had hoped for."

field and a Browning Hi-Power, I have used Express Sight Systems Big Dot Tritiums. In the interest of commonality, and to simply add a better tactical sight, I decided Express Sight System's 24/7 Pro Express should grace the Glock as well.

Unlike previous versions a few years ago, the new 24/7 sights incorporate both a Big Dot Tritium front sight and a redesigned rear sight. The rear sight includes a Tritium insert bracketed by white bars. The idea behind this system is to give the shooter a useful sight picture in daylight, half light, and low-light situations — pretty much covering any situation you're bound to stumble in.

Random Upgrades

Years of duty carry began to wear the finish on the G23's slide, so I decided to rejuvenate the pistol's slide, barrel and metal parts with Robar's NP3 finish. For those unfamiliar with NP3, it is a tough, corrosion-resistant metal finish flat duct-tape gray in color. While bestowing my frame with its new rails, Robar's technicians also trimmed the trigger-guard hook and added their grip enhancing texture.

That Yuletide Feeling

Feeling like a kid at Christmas, I tear open the FedEx package that transported my transformed Glock. It is all I had hoped for. NP3 gray contrasts well with the black frame, making the gun pleasing to the eye. Light rails, though in place, are

hardly noticeable. Attaching the M3 Tactical Illuminator from Insight Technologies to the frame, I find to my delight the light fits perfectly. Zero play in the attachment. The light slides on and locks firmly in place. Removal is simple as well.

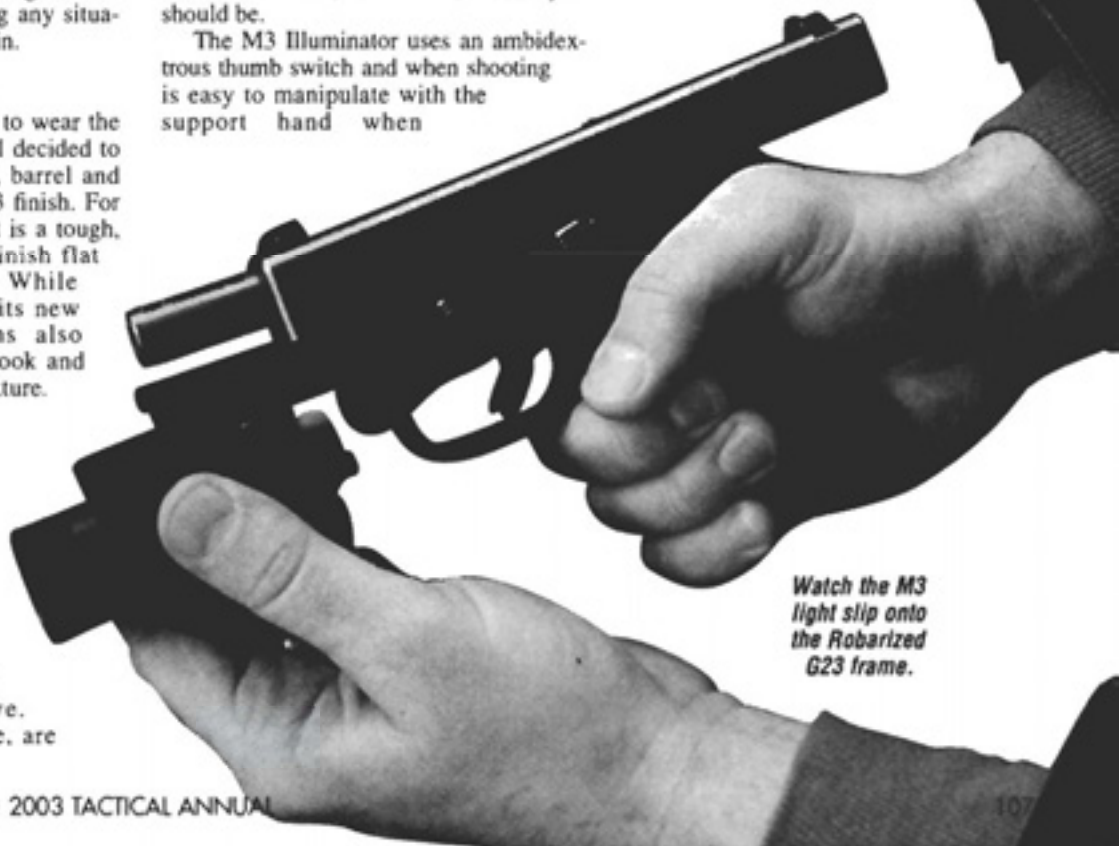
I step into a darkened room and find the Express Sight System 24/7 sights index just as they should. By altering the light in the room I am able to get a good feel of tritium's capabilities. Using the Insights tac light, I find at 20 feet the light beam strikes directly where the Big Dot aims. Which is, of course, the way it should be.

The M3 Illuminator uses an ambidextrous thumb switch and when shooting is easy to manipulate with the support hand when

shooting. The switch operates in both temporary and continuous modes. Two lithium batteries provide the compact unit power.

To carry the tac light when not mounted on the pistol I discovered a neat little belt clip from a company called Holsters Plus. I found the light clip holds the unit securely and conveniently. The tac light and belt clip are both polymer, making them so light I hardly notice them on my hip.

While some would



Watch the M3 light slip onto the Robarized G23 frame.

suggest purchasing a specially designed holster in which to carry the gun with the mounted light, I would rather not. Carrying the light separate of the gun allows one to use the light for utility matters, and prevents the shooter from developing the tendency to use the pistol as a flashlight with a gun attached.

A Trip To The Range

But the truest tests take place at the range. My faithful Glock has given me years of steadfast service. I expect more of the same. The biggest reason to wring it out is to test the new sights and work low-light conditions with the tactical illuminator. In order to gain control over the lighting I drove to a local indoor range, where I could alter the light between normal indoor illumination and near-complete darkness.

I arrive at the range and two other shooters are practicing so I run out a silhouette target and warm up with deliberately-aimed slow fire. Using the new sights I find at 15 meters I am able to reliably place rounds both into the center mass of the silhouette and the head area.

After a short while I am alone on the range, and able to get down to business. I cut the lights down to what we'll call half-light, the kind of conditions you expect under street lamps or in a poorly lit building. I have worked Big Dots before, but new to me are their bracketed tritium rear sights. For close in work I simply put the white dot on the target and press the trigger. At 10 and 15 meters I slow down enough to put the "lollipop on

the stick." In the half-light I pick up the white brackets of the rear sight.

Turning off all the switches I have access to, I find I still have more light than I want. I ask the gentleman running the range if I can have the range a bit darker and he gives me a strange look, wondering if I lost my marbles. He turns off all the lights save one floodlight on the far side. Perfect. My shooting station is now near complete darkness and my targets are bathed in heavy shadow.

Mounting the tac light on my G23 I alternate between flash target recognition and night sights alone. The Glock never misses a beat and consumes more than 200 rounds of Black Hills 180g. JHP and FMC, as well as Remington's 165g. Golden Saber. The M3 light performs just as it should and holds tightly in place.

The session ends and I sweep up the brass and I feel a renewed confidence in both the pistol itself and the new accessories I have to work with. I am ready once again to head out into the night.



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SCHOFIELD

Continued from page 87

produced 2.5 inch groups at 25 yards with Black Hills 230-grain ammo. My target was a white picnic plate 9 inches in diameter to maximize the contrast of sights against background. The group was about 3.5 inches low, but the group size was incontrovertible. In this case, low is good, since one has the option of pushing a little more front sight up into the half moon cutout, or filing down the front sight. Either will raise the point of impact.

If you load your own ammo, you might try some different weight bullets and vary the velocity. And since the front sight is the same width top to bottom, you might consider tapering the blade a little toward the top so that it is more visible in the tiny notch. But for cowboy shooting using Black Hills 230-grain lead bullet factory load or equivalent, I suggest no corrections are needed.


Average velocity for five rounds of the Black Hills load in the S&W Schofield was 689 fps with an extreme spread of 55 fps. The slowest shot gave 669 fps and the fastest was 724 fps. Clearly we're not dealing with magnum performance here, which is good, because neither the gun nor the cartridge was designed for it.

For the reloader, Accurate Arms loading manual offers three powders and three lead bullets from 200 grains to 255 grains for the .45 Schofield. Their data does not exceed 14,000 CUP, which is the SAAMI limit for the .44 Special. Their starting loads with the 230-grain LSWC bullet gives 750 to 765 fps from a HS Precision barrel. I suspect you'll get less from the Schofield, probably right around 690 fps, like Black Hills. Starline makes brass for the .45 Schofield, and you should be able to use your .45 ACP carbide dies. If you have .45 Colt dies with a carbide sizer, I suspect you could use them except for seating and crimping on the shorter Schofield case. Also, the larger rim on the Schofield may necessitate a new shell holder. Check your stuff first since you may have different brands of gear than I do.

Shooting Drunks?

After spending some quality time with the S&W Schofield, I still don't personally see it as a combat weapon. Perhaps if it wasn't so beautiful we might have formed a different relationship. However I thoroughly enjoyed our trips to the desert together and blazing away one handed at villainous paper plates and filthy dirt clods.

So what if my thumb couldn't quite work the hammer! It just means that unlike Clint Eastwood in "The Unforgiven" I will never use a Schofield to cleanse a bar of evil doers.

But that's not why I go to bars. 

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MISCELLANEOUS

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TACTICAL

2003 ANNUAL

CATALOG OF CURRENTLY MANUFACTURED HANDGUNS

Prices shown are for comparison purposes only. Actual retail prices may vary.



AUTOMATICS

Semiautomatic or self-loading are the correct terms. You'll find a wide variety of this extremely popular class of handgun presented for your inspection. The wise buyer will select first by action type, then by desired caliber. After that, examine the available offerings to compare price and features.



REVOLVERS

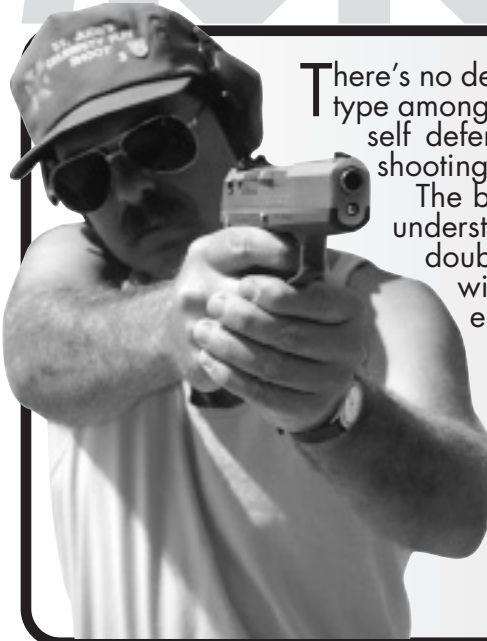
Revolvers may not be as fashionable as semiauto pistols, but they are the very best choice for many uses. Choose from single action or double action and a wide variety of calibers, finishes and barrel lengths. The available selection has never been greater!



VARIOUS

This intriguing category includes replicas of 19th century derringers as well as highly specialized competition and hunting pistols. Extremely versatile, several of these designs accept interchangeable barrels in a staggering variety of calibers and lengths.

AUTOMATICS



There's no denying that the semiautomatic pistol has become the most popular type among modern shooters. While usually thought of as a good design for self defense, many autopistols are extremely well suited to competitive shooting and hunting as well as informal recreational use.

The biggest factor to choosing the best semiauto pistol for your use is understanding the three main action types — single-action, traditional double-action, and double-action only. Your local firearms pro shop will help you answer any questions you have regarding the differences between these options.

Bear in mind that semiauto pistols require a slightly greater investment of effort on your part to learn their correct safe operation and necessary maintenance.

The *American Handgunner* selection guide will show you the most common uses for each type of firearm. Self defense (SD), recreation (R), competitive shooting (C), or hunting (H). While most firearms can be used for all of these purposes with greater or lesser success, the selection guide will show you the most common uses for each model.

TYPE SD R C H

E.A.A. IZH35

Caliber: 22LR
Capacity: 5 rounds
Barrel Length: 6"
Weight: 2.3 pounds
Grips: Walnut target style
Sights: Fully adjustable target sights
Misc: Integral grip safety; manual trigger bar disconnect safety; detachable scope mount; made in Russia
Price: \$539



TYPE C

ED BROWN CLASSIC CUSTOM

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 7 rounds
Barrel Length: 5"
Finish: Low gloss, glass bead frame; polished slide
Grips: Hogue exotic checkered wood
Sights: Bo-Mar adjustable rear, fixed front
Misc: Ambidextrous safety, commander style slotted hammer
Price: \$2,895



TYPE SD R C

ED BROWN KOBRA

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 7 rounds
Barrel Length: 5"
Finish: Non-glare matte finish
Grips: Hogue exotic checkered wood
Sights: Novak night sights, LMC low mount rear, dovetail front
Misc: Grip safety, extra dehorning, commander style slotted hammer
Price: \$1,795



TYPE SD R C

ED BROWN KOBRA CARRY

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 7 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.25"
Finish: Non-glare matte finish
Grips: Hogue exotic checkered wood
Sights: Novak night sights, LMC low mount rear, dovetail front
Misc: Grip safety, extra dehorning, round-butt modification
Price: \$1,995



TYPE SD R C

ACCU-TEK MODEL AT-32 & AT-380

Caliber: 32 or 380
Capacity: 5 rounds
Barrel Length: 3"
Weight: 20 to 26 ounces
Grips: Black combat
Sights: Windage adjustable
Misc: External hammer; manual thumb safety; firing pin and trigger disconnect
Price: \$221



TYPE SD R

ACCU-TEK MODEL HC-380

Caliber: 380
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 2.75"
Weight: 26 ounces
Grips: Black checkered
Sights: Windage adjustable, blade front
Misc: External hammer; manual thumb safety; firing pin and trigger disconnect; satin stainless
Price: \$231



TYPE SD R

ACCU-TEK MODEL BL-9 & XL-9

Caliber: 9mm Parabellum
Capacity: 5 rounds
Barrel Length: 3"
Weight: 22 ounces (Model BL-9) to 24 ounces (Model XL-9)
Grips: Black pebble
Sights: Fixed (Model BL-9) or 3-dot windage adjustable (Model XL-9)
Misc: Double Action Only (BL-9 and XL-9)
Price: \$232 to \$248



TYPE SD R

AUTO-ORDNANCE 1911A1

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 7 rounds
Barrel Length: 5"
Weight: 39 ounces
Grips: Checkered plastic with medallion
Sights: Adjustable rear, blade front
Misc: Available in blue or Parkerized finish, Deluxe model has 3-dot sights and textured rubber wraparound grips
Price: \$447 to \$462



TYPE SD R C

BAER 1911 CUSTOM CARRY AUTO PISTOL

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 7 or 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 5"
Weight: 37 ounces
Grips: Checkered Cocobolo
Sights: Baer improved ramp-style dovetailed front; Novak low-mount rear
Misc: Available in Standard or Comanche length, in blued or stainless; double serrated slide (full size only)
Price: \$1,640 to \$1,995 (Comanche, stainless, aluminum frame)



TYPE SD R C

BAER 1911 CONCEPT I, II, III, IV AUTO PISTOL

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 7 rounds
Barrel Length: 5"
Weight: 37 ounces
Grips: Checkered rosewood
Sights: Dovetail front; Bo-Mar deluxe low-mount rear
Misc: Baer beavertail grip safety; checkered slide stop; tuned extractor; extended ejector; deluxe hammer and sear; Concept III has forged stainless steel frame with blued steel slide
Price: \$1,390 (Concept I);
\$1,390 (Concept II with Baer adjustable sight);
\$1,520 (Concept III);
\$1,499 (Concept IV with Baer adjustable rear sight)



TYPE SD R C

BAER 1911 CONCEPT S.R.P. PISTOL

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 8 rounds
Barrel Length: 5"
Weight: 37 ounces
Grips: Checkered Cocobolo
Sights: Tritium night sights, front and rear
Misc: Similar to FBI contract gun but uses Baer-forged steel frame; all parts Mag-na-fluxed
Price: \$2,240 (Government or Comanche length)



TYPE SD R C

BAER 1911 NATIONAL MATCH HARDBALL PISTOL

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 7 rounds
Barrel Length: 5"
Weight: 37 ounces
Grips: Checkered Cocobolo
Sights: Baer dovetail front with undercut post; low-mount Bo-Mar rear with hidden leaf
Misc: Forged steel frame, double serrated slide and barrel with stainless brushing; lowered, flared ejection port; polished feed ramp, throated barrel
Price: \$1,335



TYPE SD R C

BAER 1911 PREMIER II AUTO PISTOL

Caliber: 9x23, 38 Super, 400 Cor-Bon, 45 ACP
Capacity: 7 or 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 5"
Weight: 37 ounces
Grips: Checkered rosewood, double diamond pattern
Sights: Baer dovetailed front; low-mount Bo-Mar rear
Misc: Deluxe Commander hammer and sear; aluminum speed trigger with 4 pound pull; extended ambidextrous safety
Price: \$1,428 (blued) to \$1,558 (stainless); \$1,595 (6" model, blued)



TYPE SD R C

BAER ULTIMATE MASTER COMBAT PISTOL

Caliber: 9x23, 38 Super, 400 Cor-Bon, 45 ACP (others available)
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 5", 6"
Weight: 37 ounces
Grips: Checkered rosewood
Sights: Baer dovetail front; low-mount Bo-Mar rear with hidden leaf
Misc: Full-house competition gun; Baer triple port tapered cone compensator
Price: \$2,440 to \$2,690 (Compensated with Baer optics mount)



TYPE SD R C

BERETTA U22 NEOS

Caliber: 22 LR
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.5" and 6"
Weight: 31.7 ounces and 36.2 ounces
Grips: Plastic
Sights: Fully adjustable target rear sight
Misc: Integral accessory rail; vertical grip configuration
Price: \$256 to \$299



TYPE R

BERETTA 92/96 VERTEC

Caliber: 9mm, 40 S&W
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.7"
Weight: 32.2 ounces
Grips: Plastic
Sights: Adjustable rear, removable front sight
Misc: Integral accessory rail; vertical grip configuration
Price: \$712 to \$762



TYPE SD R C

BERETTA 9000 SERIES

Caliber: 40 S&W, 9mm
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 3.5"
Weight: 25.7, 26.8 or 27.5 ounces
Grips: Plastic
Sights: 3-dot
Misc: Type F models are available in double and single action and have a hammer decocking feature. Type D models are DAO
Price: \$551



TYPE SD R

BERETTA BRIGADIER 92FS, 96

Caliber: 9mm (92FS) or 40 S&W (96)
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.9"
Weight: 34 ounces (92FS) to 36 ounces (96)
Grips: Rubber, checkered
Sights: 3-dot dovetailed to slide, adjustable for windage
Price: \$731 to \$771



TYPE SD R C

BERETTA COUGAR MODEL 8000/8040/8045/8357

Caliber: 9mm (8000), 40 S&W (8040), 45 ACP (8045), .357 SIG (8357)
Capacity: 8 rounds (8045) or 10 rounds (8000/8040/8357)
Barrel Length: 3.5"
Weight: 27.6 ounces (Mini Cougar 8000/8040) to 33.5 ounces
Grips: Checkered plastic, walnut optional
Sights: Blade front, rear adjustable for windage (3-dot system)
Misc: Slide-mounted safety; exposed hammer; matte black finish
Price: \$709 to \$764



TYPE SD R C

BERETTA BOBCAT MODEL 21

Caliber: 22 LR or 25 ACP
Capacity: 7 rounds (22 LR) or 8 rounds (25 ACP)
Barrel Length: 2.5"
Weight: 11.8 ounces (22LR) or 11.5 ounces (25 ACP)
Grips: Plastic or walnut
Sights: Fixed
Misc: Blue, matte, or stainless finish
Price: \$252 to \$307



TYPE SD R

BERETTA TOMCAT MODEL 3032

Caliber: 32 ACP
Capacity: 7 rounds
Barrel Length: 2.4"
Weight: 14.5 ounces to 16.9 ounces (Titanium model)
Grips: Black plastic, checkered
Sights: Fixed blade front, drift adjustable rear
Misc: Tip-up barrel for direct chamber loading/unloading; Polished, matte, blue or Titanium finish
Price: \$340 (matte), \$370 (blue), \$418 (stainless) and \$572 (Titanium)



TYPE SD R

BERETTA CHEETAH MODEL 80 SERIES

Caliber: 22 LR or 380 ACP
Capacity: 22 LR: 7 rounds; 380 ACP: 8 rounds or 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 3.8" (84 and 87 Cheetah), 4.4" (86 Cheetah), 5.9" (87 Target)
Weight: 20.1 oz. (87), 21.9 oz. (85), 23.3 oz. (84 and 86), 40.9 oz. (87 Target)
Grips: Black plastic or optional wood
Sights: Drift adjustable rear, fixed front
Misc: Various models (84, 85, 87) with slightly varied features available
Price: \$589 to \$669



TYPE SD R

BERETTA CHEETAH MODEL 86

Caliber: 380 ACP
Capacity: 8 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.4"
Weight: 23.3 ounces
Grips: Walnut
Sights: Adjustable rear, fixed front sights
Misc: Features a tip-up barrel for first-round loading, Bruniton finish
Price: \$591



TYPE SD R

BERETTA MODEL 92FS

Caliber: 9mm
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.9"
Weight: 34.4 ounces
Grips: Checkered plastic or rubber (wood optional)
Sights: Adjustable rear, blade front sights
Misc: Squared trigger guard, matte or stainless finish
Price: \$676 to \$2,082 (470th Anniversary Edition)



TYPE SD R C

BERETTA MODEL 96

Caliber: 40 S&W
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.9"
Weight: 34 ounces
Grips: Checkered plastic
Sights: Fixed or 3-dot sights
Misc: Similar to Model 92
Price: \$676 to \$734



TYPE SD R C

BERETTA MODEL 950 JETFIRE

Caliber: 25 ACP
Capacity: 8 rounds
Barrel Length: 2.4"
Weight: 9.9 ounces
Grips: Checkered plastic or walnut
Sights: Fixed
Misc: Tip-up barrel (similar to Model 21), matte or stainless finish
Price: \$226 to \$267



TYPE SD R

BERSA THUNDER 380, 380 DELUXE

Caliber: 380 ACP
Capacity: 7 or 9 rounds (Thunder 380 Deluxe)
Barrel Length: 3.5"
Weight: 22 to 25.75 ounces (Thunderer)
Grips: Black polymer
Sights: Drift adjustable rear, fixed front
Misc: Double action; blue or nickel finish
Price: \$249 to \$292 (Thunder 380 Deluxe blue)



TYPE SD R

BROWNING BDA-380 DA

Caliber: 380 ACP
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 3.2"
Weight: 32 ounces
Grips: Walnut with medallion
Sights: Adjustable rear, blade front sights
Price: \$564 (blue) to \$607 (nickel)



TYPE S D R

BROWNING BUCK MARK 22

Caliber: 22 LR
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 5.5"
Weight: 32 ounces
Grips: Black molded plastic (Plus laminated wood grips)
Sights: Adjustable rear, ramp front
Price: \$265 (blue), \$312 (nickel), \$324 (Buck Mark Plus)



TYPE R C H

BROWNING BUCK MARK SILHOUETTE

Caliber: 22 LR
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 9.875" or 9.9"
Weight: 53 ounces
Grips: Walnut
Sights: Pro Target Cup rear, hooded adjustable blade front
Price: \$448



TYPE R C H

BROWNING BUCK MARK TARGET 5.5

Caliber: 22 LR
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 5.5"
Weight: 35.5 ounces
Grips: Walnut with thumbrest
Sights: Adjustable front and rear
Price: \$425 to \$477 (Gold and Nickel models)



TYPE R C H

BROWNING BUCK MARK VARMINT

Caliber: 22 LR
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 9.875" or 9.9"
Weight: 48 ounces
Grips: Walnut
Sights: No open sights, full-length scope base
Price: \$403



TYPE R C H

BROWNING HI-POWER

Caliber: 9mm or 40 S&W
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.75"
Weight: 32 ounces
Grips: Hand checkered walnut or black Polyamide
Sights: Fixed or adjustable rear, fixed front
Misc: Magazine safety, fixed rear sights available
Price: \$579 (Mark III, fixed sights, ambidextrous safety);
\$615 (Fixed sights, walnut grips);
\$668 (Adjustable sights, walnut grips);
\$684 (Silver chrome finish, adj. sights, Pachmayr grips)



TYPE SD R C

CALICO M-110

Caliber: 22 LR
Capacity: 100 round rotary magazine
Barrel Length: 6"
Weight: 3.7 pounds (loaded)
Grips: Molded plastic
Sights: Fixed rear notch, adjustable post front sight
Misc: Aluminum alloy frame; flash suppressor; ambi safety; helical feed magazine
Price: \$432



TYPE R

COLT DEFENDER

Caliber: 45
Capacity: 7 rounds
Barrel Length: 3"
Grips: Wraparound rubber finger groove grips
Sights: Fixed
Finish: Brushed stainless
Misc: Extended thumb safety and upswept beavertail with palm swell
Price: \$773



TYPE SD R

COLT GOLD CUP

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 8 rounds
Barrel Length: 5"
Weight: 39 ounces
Grips: Black wraparound
Sights: Dovetail front, Bomar-style rear
Misc: Stainless frame and round top slide
Price: \$1,116



TYPE SD R C

COLT 1991 SERIES

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 7 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.25" (Commander) or 5" (Gov't 1991)
Grips: Checkered rubber composite
Sights: Fixed
Finish: Matte black or matte stainless
Price: \$645 (blue), \$800 (stainless)



TYPE SD R C

COLT XSE SERIES

Caliber: 45
Capacity: 8 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.25" (Commander and lightweight Commander) or 5" (Gov't)
Grips: Checkered, double diamond, rosewood
Sights: Fixed
Finish: Stainless brushed
Misc: Adjustable 2-cut aluminum trigger
Price: \$950



TYPE SD R C

COONAN 357 MAGNUM & 41 MAGNUM PISTOLS

Caliber: 357 Mag. or 41 Mag.
Capacity: 7 rounds
Barrel Length: 5"
Weight: 42 ounces
Grips: Smooth walnut
Sights: Interchangeable ramp front, rear adjustable
Price: \$735 to \$1,014 (6" compensated barrel)



TYPE SD R

CZ 75 B, 75 BD & 85

Caliber: 9mm Para., 40 S&W
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 3.9" (75 B Compact), 4.7"
Weight: 32 to 35 ounces
Grips: Checkered plastic
Sights: Square post front, rear adjustable; 3-dot system
Price: \$419 to \$526



TYPE SD R C

CZ 83 B

Caliber: 32 ACP, 380 ACP or 9mm Makarov
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 3.8"
Weight: 26 ounces
Grips: Checkered plastic
Sights: Removable square post front, rear adjustable; 3-dot system
Price: \$378



TYPE SD R

CZ 100

Caliber: 9mm Para. or 40 S&W
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 3.7"
Weight: 24 ounces
Grips: Grooved polymer
Sights: Blade front with dot, white outline rear drift adjustable
Price: \$432



TYPE SD R C

DAVIS P-32 & P-380

Caliber: 32 ACP and 380 ACP
Capacity: 6 rounds (P-32) and 5 rounds (P-380)
Barrel Length: 2.8"
Weight: 22 ounces
Grips: Laminated wood (P-32) or black composition (P-380)
Sights: Fixed
Misc: Black Teflon or chrome finish
Price: \$88 (P-32) and \$98 (P-380)



TYPE SD R

E.A.A. WITNESS DA

Caliber: 38 Super, 9mm, 40 S&W or 45 ACP
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.5"
Weight: 35 ounces
Grips: Checkered rubber
Sights: Adjustable rear, undercut blade front
Misc: Compact models available; blue or chrome finishes available
Price: \$449 to \$489



TYPE SD R C

ENTREPRISE ELITE SERIES

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 3.25", 4.25", 5"
Weight: 36-40 ounces
Grips: Checkered rosewood, double diamond pattern
Sights: Tactical
Misc: Flared ejection port, flat mainspring housing
Price: \$740



TYPE SD R C

ENTREPRISE TACTICAL SERIES

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 3.25", 4.25", 5"
Weight: 36-40 ounces
Grips: Checkered rosewood, double diamond pattern
Sights: Low profile Novak or ghost ring
Misc: Dehorned slide and frame, matte black oxide finish
Price: \$979-\$1,049



TYPE SD R C

ENTREPRISE MEDALIST SERIES

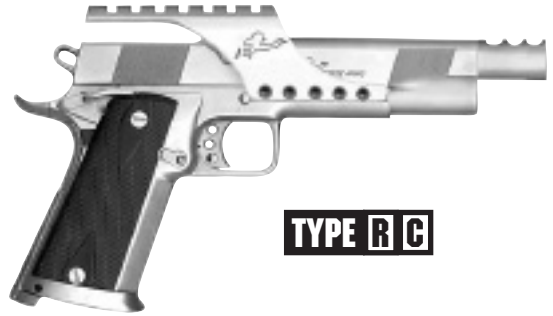
Caliber: 45 ACP, 40 S&W
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 5"
Weight: 40 ounces
Grips: Checkered rosewood, double diamond pattern
Sights: Bo-Mar low mount rear adjustable
Misc: Tighter tolerances and numerous custom features
Price: \$979 add \$120 for .40 S&W caliber



TYPE SD R C

ENTREPRISE TOURNAMENT SHOOTER MODEL (I,II,III)

Caliber: 40 S&W, 45 ACP
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 5", 5.5"(TSM III only), 6" (.45 ACP only)
Weight: 40-44 ounces
Grips: Checkered rosewood and rubber
Sights: Bo-Mar low mount rear adjustable
Misc: Designed for ISPC competition
Price: \$2,000, add \$300 for TSM I, add \$700 for TSM III



TYPE R C

GLOCK 17, 20, 21 & 22

Caliber: 9mm (17), 10mm (20), 45 ACP (21) or 40 S&W (22)
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.5"
Weight: 22 ounces (17 and 22), 26 ounces (20), 25 ounces (21)
Grips: Black polymer
Sights: Fixed or adjustable rear; fixed front
Misc: Double action trigger; mechanical firing pin safety
Price: \$616 to \$800



TYPE SD R C

GLOCK 19 & 23

Caliber: 9mm (19) or 40 S&W (23)
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 4"
Weight: 21 ounces
Grips: Synthetic
Sights: Fixed or adjustable rear
Misc: Compact versions of the Glock 17 and 22 also available with ported barrels
Price: \$616 to \$646



TYPE SD R C

GLOCK 26, 27 & 31

Caliber: 9mm, 40 S&W or 357 SIG
Capacity: 9 rounds (40 S&W) or 10 rounds (9mm)
Barrel Length: 3.5"
Weight: 21.8 ounces
Grips: Integral; stippled polymer
Sights: Dot on front blade, fixed or fully adjustable white outline rear
Misc: Mini-Glocks will accept magazines (including high capacity) from the larger, similar caliber Glock models
Price: \$616 to \$644



TYPE SD R

GLOCK 29 & 30

Caliber: 10mm (29) or 45 ACP (30)
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 3.75"
Weight: 24 ounces
Grips: Integral; stippled polymer
Sights: Dot on front, fixed or fully adjustable white outline rear
Misc: Subcompact Glockes will accept magazines (including high capacity) from the larger, similar caliber Glock models
Price: \$668 to \$697



TYPE SD R

HAMMERLI MODEL 208S

Caliber: 22 LR
Capacity: 8 rounds
Barrel Length: 5.9"
Weight: 36.7 ounces
Grips: Walnut with adjustable palm rest
Sights: Blade front, open fully adjustable rear
Misc: Adjustable trigger; imported by SIG Arms, Inc.
Price: \$2,201



HAMMERLI MODEL 280 TARGET PISTOL

Caliber: 22 LR, 32 S&W Long WC
Capacity: 6 rounds (22 LR) or 5 rounds (32 S&W)
Barrel Length: 4.5"
Weight: 34.6 ounces (22LR) or 41.8 ounces (32 S&W)
Grips: Match style walnut with stippling, adjustable palm shelf
Sights: Interchangeable match, micrometer adjustable
Misc: Interchangeable trigger is adjustable for pull weight, take-up weight, let-off, and length; comes with interchangeable metal or carbon fiber counterweights; imported by SIG Arms, Inc.
Price: \$1,643 (22 LR) to \$1,853 (32 S&W)



HECKLER & KOCH MARK 23

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 5.9"
Weight: 42.5 ounces
Grips: Stippled and checkered black polymer
Sights: 3-dot system; optional laser aimer
Misc: Threaded barrel; polygonal bore; single or double action; mechanical recoil reduction system
Price: \$2,444



HECKLER & KOCH P7M8

Caliber: 9mm
Capacity: 8 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.13"
Weight: 29 ounces
Grips: Stippled black plastic
Sights: Adjustable rear, fixed front; 3-dot system
Misc: Unique squeeze cocking system; gas-retarded action; blue finish
Price: \$1,472



HECKLER & KOCH USP COMPACT

Caliber: 45 ACP, .357 SIG, 40 S&W or 9mm
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 3.5" to 3.8" (45 ACP)
Weight: 27.5 ounces (40 S&W) to 26.5 ounces (9mm)
Grips: Stippled black plastic
Sights: Fixed Patridge style, adjustable for windage and elevation; 3-dot system or optional tritium
Misc: Universal mounting grooves for installing accessories
Price: \$786 to \$909



HECKLER & KOCH USP45 & USP45 TACTICAL

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.92"
Weight: 2.24 pounds
Grips: Non-slip stippled polymer
Sights: Blade front, rear adjustable
Price: \$1,124



TYPE SD R C

HECKLER & KOCH USP EXPERT

Caliber: 45 ACP or .40 S&W
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 5.20"
Weight: 2.3 pounds
Grips: Synthetic
Sights: Adjustable target
Misc: Has patented recoil reduction system
Price: USP expert \$1,533 USP expert \$1,499



TYPE SD R C

HIGH STANDARD SUPERMATIC CITATION

Caliber: 22 LR
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 5.5"
Weight: 44 ounces
Grips: Checkered hardwood with thumbrest
Sights: Undercut ramp front, rear adjustable
Misc: Push-button barrel takedown system, blue or Parkerized finish, 22 Short conversion kit available (for \$309)
Price: \$468



TYPE R C H

HIGH STANDARD SUPERMATIC CITATION MS

Caliber: 22 LR
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 10"
Weight: 54 ounces
Grips: Checkered walnut with right-hand thumbrest
Sights: RPM sights, fully click-adjustable for windage and elevation
Misc: Comes in a matte blue finish with nickel accents; features push-button barrel takedown system; barrel is drilled and tapped for mounting scopes or optics
Price: \$632



TYPE R C H

HIGH STANDARD SUPERMATIC TROPHY

Caliber: 22 LR
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 5.5" to 7.25"
Weight: 44 ounces
Grips: Checkered hardwood with thumbrest
Sights: Undercut ramp front, rear adjustable
Misc: Push-button barrel takedown system, adjustable trigger pull, blue finish and gold-plated accents; a 22 Short conversion kit is available
Price: \$510 (5.5") to \$650 (7.25")



TYPE R C H

HIGH STANDARD VICTOR

Caliber: 22 LR
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.5" to 5.5"
Weight: 46 ounces
Grips: Checkered hardwood with thumbrest
Sights: Undercut ramp front, rear adjustable
Misc: Comes in either a blue or Parkerized finish with gold accents; features a push-button barrel takedown system, adjustable trigger, and drilled and tapped receiver; 22 Short conversion kit available; 4.5" is scope base model only
Price: \$532 to \$591



TYPE R C H

KAHR ARMS K9/40

Caliber: 9mm Para or 40 S&W
Capacity: 7 rounds (9mm) or 6 rounds (40 S&W)
Barrel Length: 3.5"
Weight: 25 ounces
Grips: Wraparound, textured soft polymer
Sights: Blade front, rear drift adjustable; bar-dot combat style
Misc: Double action only; matte black finish; all steel; also available in nickel with wood grips
Price: \$538 to \$836 (Duo-Tone with tritium night sights)



TYPE SD R

KIMBER PRO CARRY

Caliber: 45 ACP or 40 S&W
Capacity: 7 (45 ACP) or 8 rounds (S&W)
Barrel Length: 4"
Weight: 28.3 ounces
Grips: Black synthetic, high beavertail grip safety
Sights: Low profile blended combat sights; dovetail mounted
Misc: Match grade trigger group; beveled magazine well and slide serrations; lowered and flared ejection port; tactical ejector; bushingless bull barrel, aluminum frame
Price: \$773 to \$808 (matte blue); \$845 to \$881 (stainless steel slide); \$1,142 (CDP Series)



TYPE SD R C

KIMBER CUSTOM 1911 PISTOLS

Caliber: 45 ACP or 40 S&W
Capacity: 7 to 10 rounds (depending on caliber and frame)
Barrel Length: 3", 4" and 5"
Weight: 24 to 38 ounces
Grips: Black synthetic; hand-checked rosewood; hand-checked walnut
Sights: Dovetail mounted fixed; adjustable or Tritium 3-dot night sights
Misc: 40 different models available; standard features include match grade barrels and chambers and match grade trigger groups; high beavertail grip safety; Commander-style hammer
Price: \$730 and up; many custom options available



TYPE SD R C

KIMBER POLYMER MODELS

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 10 round magazine; (14 round available where legal)
Barrel Length: 3", 4" and 5"
Weight: 24 to 34 ounces
Grips: Polymer frame with stainless steel or 7075-T7 aluminum frame insert; impressed positive checkering
Sights: Dovetail mounted, fixed or adjustable
Misc: Stainless steel beavertail grip safety
Price: \$745 to \$1,177



TYPE SD R C

KIMBER ULTRA CARRY

Caliber: 45 ACP or 40 S&W
Capacity: 7 round magazine
Barrel Length: 3"
Weight: 24 ounces (Ultra Ten II) to 25 ounces (single stack)
Grips: Black synthetic
Sights: Dovetail mounted fixed with low profile combat
Misc: Dual captured low-effort spring design for easy operation; accepts all quality Officer's-type magazines
Price: \$808 to \$847 (matte blue); \$886 to \$931 (stainless); \$1,142 (CDP series); \$896 (Ultra Ten II)



TYPE SD R

LLAMA MAX SERIES, MICROMAX, MINIMAX, MINIMAX SUBCOMPACT

Caliber: 9mm, 45, 40 S&W, 32 or 380, Micromax in 380
Capacity: 6, 7 or 8 rounds
Barrel Length: 3.5"
Weight: 23 to 36 ounces
Grips: Checkered rubber or high impact polymer
Sights: 3-dot combat
Misc: Minimax, Micromax, Max models available in matte, chrome or duo-tone finish; extended slide release; distributed by Import Sports Inc.
Price: \$282 to \$350



TYPE SD R

MAGNUM RESEARCH DESERT EAGLE

Caliber: 357 Mag., 44 Mag. or 50 AE
Capacity: 9 rounds (357), 8 rounds (41 and 44) or 7 rounds (50)
Barrel Length: 6" or 10"
Weight: 4 pounds, 6.5 ounces (6"), 4 pounds, 15 ounces (10")
Grips: Plastic, Hogue rubber/wood (optional)
Sights: Fixed combat, Millett adjustable (optional)
Misc: Also available: Custom finishes, chrome, nickel, gold and titanium gold
Price: \$1,199 (6"), \$1,699 (10")



TYPE R C H

MAGNUM RESEARCH BABY EAGLE

Caliber: 9mm, .40 S&W or .45 ACP
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.72", 3.7", 3.5"
Weight: Steel- 2 pounds, 6.5 ounces (4.72"), 2 pounds, 4.4 ounces (3.7"), 2 pounds, 1.9 ounces (3.5") Polymer 1 pound, 13.1 ounces (3.7"), 1 pound, 11 ounces (3.5")
Grips: Plastic
Sights: Fixed compact
Misc: Steel frame also available in chrome or titanium gold finishes
Price: \$499 (standard), \$724 (chrome), \$999 (gold)



TYPE SD R C

PARA-ORDNANCE P10

Caliber: 9mm, 40 S&W or 45 ACP
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 3"
Weight: 24 ounces (alloy) or 31 ounces (stainless steel)
Grips: Textured composition
Sights: 3-dot system
Misc: Black or stainless finish available
Price: \$740 to \$799



PARA-ORDNANCE P12

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 3.5"
Weight: 26 ounces (alloy) or 34 ounces (stainless steel)
Grips: Black plastic
Sights: Low mount rear, dovetailed front
Misc: Stainless or black finishes available; steel or alloy frames; high capacity magazines available
Price: \$740 to \$799



PARA-ORDNANCE P13

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.25"
Weight: 28 ounces (alloy) or 36 ounces (stainless steel)
Grips: Black plastic
Sights: Fixed rear, blade front (3-dot system)
Misc: Alloy, steel or stainless frame; black or stainless finish; high capacity magazines available
Price: \$740 to \$799



PARA-ORDNANCE P14

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 5"
Weight: 31 ounces (alloy) or 40 ounces (stainless steel)
Grips: Black plastic
Sights: Adjustable rear, dovetailed front
Misc: Alloy, stainless or steel frame; black, duotone or stainless finish; high capacity magazines available
Price: \$740 to \$799



PARA-ORDNANCE P16

Caliber: 40 S&W
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 5"
Weight: 40 ounces
Grips: Black plastic
Sights: Adjustable rear, dovetailed front
Misc: Steel or stainless frame; high capacity magazines available; black or stainless finish
Price: \$750 (black) to \$799 (stainless)



PARA-ORDNANCE 7.45 LDA

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 7 rounds
Barrel Length: 5"
Weight: 39 ounces
Grips: Checkered rosewood standard, black optional
Sights: Adjustable rear
Misc: Available with black carbon steel or stainless frame
Price: \$775



TYPE S D R C

PARA-ORDNANCE 14 LDA, 16 LDA & 18 LDA

Caliber: 45 ACP (14 LDA), 40 S&W (16 LDA) or 9mm (18 LDA)
Capacity: 10 rounds (18 rounds in 18 LDA)
Barrel Length: 5"
Weight: 40 ounces
Grips: Black plastic
Sights: Fixed
Misc: Double action, steel frame and stainless or black finish; Model 18 LDA for law enforcement or military only; high capacity magazines available
Price: \$775 to \$824



TYPE S D R C

PARDINI ARMS MOD SP STANDARD PISTOL & MOD HP CENTERFIRE PISTOL

Caliber: 22 LR (SP) or 32 WC (HP)
Capacity: 5 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.75"
Weight: 38.9 ounces
Grips: Adjustable; stippled walnut match type
Sights: Fully adjustable rear, interchangeable blade front
Misc: Adjustable match trigger; imported by Nygord Precision Products
Price: \$950 (SP) to \$1,050 (FHP)



TYPE R C

PHOENIX ARMS HP 22/25

Caliber: 22 LR (HP 22) or 25 ACP (HP 25)
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 3"
Weight: 20 ounces
Grips: Checkered composition
Sights: Adjustable rear, blade front
Misc: Available in satin nickel or polished blue finish
Price: \$116



TYPE S D R

RUGER 22/45

Caliber: 22 LR
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 4", 4.75" or 5.5" (bull bbl.)
Weight: 28 to 35 ounces
Grips: Synthetic
Sights: Adjustable or fixed rear, blade front
Misc: All blue or stainless steel with fixed or adjustable sights
Price: \$275 to \$359



TYPE R C H

RUGER MARK II STANDARD

Caliber: 22 LR
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.75" or 6"
Weight: 35 to 37 ounces
Grips: Checkered composition grip panels
Sights: Fixed, wide blade front, fixed rear
Price: \$289 (blue) to \$379 (stainless)



TYPE RCH

RUGER MARK II TARGET

Caliber: 22 LR
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 5.5", 6.9", 10"
Weight: 42 ounces
Grips: Checkered composition grip panels
Sights: Blade front, micro-click rear
Price: \$349 (blue) to \$445 (stainless)



TYPE RCH

RUGER MARK II GOVERNMENT TARGET

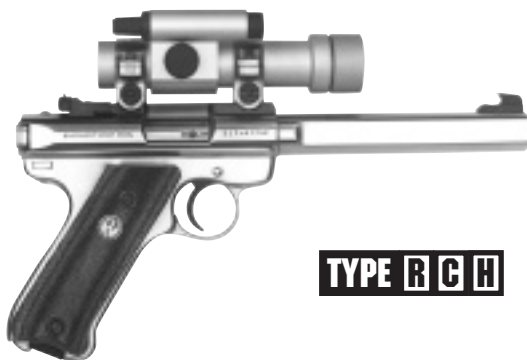
Caliber: 22 LR
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 6.9"
Weight: 46 ounces
Grips: Checkered composition grip panels
Sights: High profile adjustable rear, fixed front sights
Price: \$405 (blue) to \$485 (stainless)



TYPE RCH

RUGER STAINLESS GOVERNMENT TARGET SLAB SIDE

Caliber: 22 LR
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 6.9"
Weight: 45 ounces
Grips: Checkered laminated thumbrest grip panels
Sights: Open sight; drilled and tapped for scope mounts
Price: \$529



TYPE RCH

RUGER P-89

Caliber: 9mm
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.5"
Weight: 32 ounces
Grips: Grooved black resin grip panels
Sights: Square post front, square notch rear adjustable
Misc: Alloy frame, black matte finish; DAO, decocker and safety models available in blued or stainless steel
Price: \$475 (blue) to \$525 (stainless)



TYPE SD RCH

RUGER P-90

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 8 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.5"
Weight: 33.5 ounces
Grips: Grooved black resin grip panels
Sights: Square post front, square notch rear adjustable
Misc: Stainless steel, decocking or manual safety, Blued model available in manual safety only
Price: \$425 (blue) to \$565 (stainless)



TYPE SD R C

RUGER P-93

Caliber: 9mm
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 3.9"
Weight: 31 ounces
Grips: Synthetic, grooved
Sights: Post front, adjustable rear
Misc: Available in decock-only or DAO models
Price: \$495 (blue) to \$565 (stainless)



TYPE SD R C

RUGER P-94/P-944

Caliber: 9mm or .40 auto
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.25"
Weight: 33 to 34 ounces
Grips: Synthetic, grooved
Sights: Post front, adjustable rear
Misc: Available in decock-only, DAO or manual safety models
Blued model available in manual safety only
Price: \$495 (blue) to \$ 575 (stainless)



TYPE SD R C

RUGER P-95

Caliber: 9mm
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 3.9"
Weight: 27 ounces
Grips: Synthetic, grooved
Sights: Post front, adjustable rear
Misc: Available in decock, DAO models and safety models
Price: \$425 (blue) to \$475 (stainless)



TYPE SD R C

RUGER P-97

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 8 rounds
Barrel Length: 3.9"
Weight: 30.5 ounces
Grips: Synthetic grooved
Sights: Post front adjustable rear
Misc: Available in decock-only and DAO models
Price: \$495 (stainless)



TYPE SD R C

SEECAMP LWS 32

Caliber: 32 ACP
Capacity: 6 round magazine
Barrel Length: 2"
Weight: 11.5 ounces
Grips: Glass-filled nylon
Sights: Smooth, no-snag, contoured slide and barrel
Price: \$425



TYPE SD R

SEECAMP LWS 32 "CALIFORNIA EDITION"

Caliber: 32 ACP
Capacity: 6 round magazine
Barrel Length: 2"
Weight: 11.5 ounces
Grips: Glass-filled nylon
Sights: Smooth, no-snag, contoured slide and barrel
Misc: Has manual trigger mounted safety
Price: \$525



TYPE SD R

SEECAMP LWS 380

Caliber: 380 ACP
Capacity: 6 round magazine
Barrel Length: 2"
Weight: 11.5 ounces
Grips: Glass-filled nylon
Sights: Smooth, no-snag, contoured slide and barrel
Price: \$850



TYPE SD R

SIG SAUER P-210

Caliber: 9mm
Capacity: 8 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.8", 5.9"
Weight: 32, 33.9 and 37 ounces
Grips: Wood
Sights: Target
Misc: Blued finish
Price: N/A



TYPE SD R C

SIG SAUER P-220, P-220ST

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 7 rounds or 8 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.4"
Weight: 27.8 ounces
Grips: Checkered black plastic
Sights: Drift adjustable rear, blade front
Misc: Blue finish or ILAFLON finish and night sights available; imported by SIG Arms Inc.
Price: \$810 (blue) to \$969 (stainless and night sights)



TYPE SD R C

SIG SAUER P-226 & P-229

Caliber: 9mm, 40 S&W or 357 SIG
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.4" (226); 3.9" (229)
Weight: 28.3 or 30.6 ounces (226); 28.1 or 29.5 ounces (229)
Grips: Plastic
Sights: Adjustable rear, blade front
Misc: Double action only model available; blue, two-tone or Nitron finish available; imported by SIG Arms Inc.
Price: \$851 to \$994 (Nickel/Nitron, DAO and night sights)



TYPE SD R C

SIG SAUER P-232

Caliber: 380 ACP
Capacity: 7 rounds (380)
Barrel Length: 3.6"
Weight: 16.2 ounces (20.8 ounces in stainless steel)
Grips: Plastic (Hogue on selected models)
Sights: Adjustable rear, blade front
Misc: Blue, stainless, two-tone finish available; imported by SIG Arms Inc.
Price: \$518 (blue) to \$579 (two-tone, night sights)



TYPE SD R

SMITH & WESSON MODEL 22A/22S

Caliber: 22 LR
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 5.5" Bull
Weight: 38.5 ounces
Grips: Dymondwood or rubber
Sights: Patridge front, adjustable rear
Misc: Matte black finish, 22S has aluminum frame
Price: \$320 (22A) to \$379 (22S)



TYPE R C H

SMITH & WESSON CS9, CS40 & CS45

Caliber: 9mm (CS9), 40 S&W (CS40) or 45 ACP (CS45)
Capacity: 6 rounds (CS45) or 7 rounds (CS9 & CS40)
Barrel Length: 3" or 3.25"
Weight: 20.75 to 24 ounces
Grips: Hogue wraparound rubber
Sights: 2-dot white rear, post with white dot front
Price: \$648 (CS9) to \$683 (CS40 & CS45)



TYPE SD R C

SMITH & WESSON MODEL 41

Caliber: 22 LR
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 5.5" or 7"
Weight: 44 ounces
Grips: Checkered walnut with modified thumbrest
Sights: Adjustable rear, Patridge front
Price: \$801



TYPE R C H

SMITH & WESSON MODEL 410

Caliber: 40 S&W
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 4"
Weight: 28.5 ounces
Grips: One-piece Xenoy wraparound with straight backstrap
Sights: Post front, fixed 2-dot rear
Misc: Blue carbon steel slide and alloy frame
Price: \$563



SMITH & WESSON MODEL 457

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 7 rounds
Barrel Length: 3.75"
Weight: 29 ounces
Grips: One-piece Xenoy wraparound with straight backstrap
Sights: Post front, fixed 3-dot rear
Misc: Matte blue carbon steel slide and alloy frame in blue finish
Price: \$563



SMITH & WESSON MODEL 908

Caliber: 9mm
Capacity: 8 rounds
Barrel Length: 3.5"
Weight: 26 ounces
Grips: One-piece Xenoy wraparound with straight backstrap
Sights: Post front, fixed 3-dot rear
Price: \$509



SMITH & WESSON MODEL 910

Caliber: 9mm
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 4"
Weight: 28 ounces
Grips: One-piece Xenoy wraparound with straight backstrap
Sights: Post front with white dot, fixed 2-dot rear
Price: \$509



SMITH & WESSON MODEL 3913

Caliber: 9mm
Capacity: 8 rounds
Barrel Length: 3.5"
Weight: 26 ounces
Grips: One-piece Delrin wraparound with straight backstrap; textured surface
Sights: Post white dot front, Novak Lo Mount Carry 2-dot rear
Misc: Stainless finish and ambidextrous safety, extra magazine included
Price: \$662 to \$724



SMITH & WESSON MODEL 3913LS LADYSMITH

Caliber: 9mm
Capacity: 8 rounds
Barrel Length: 3.5"
Weight: 26 ounces
Grips: Straight backstrap gray; ergonomically correct for a woman's hand
Sights: Novak Lo Mount Carry 2-dot rear, white dot front
Misc: Stainless finish and single side safety; extra magazine included
Price: \$744



TYPE SD R C

SMITH & WESSON MODEL 4006

Caliber: 40 S&W
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 4"
Weight: 38.5 ounces
Grips: Xenoy wraparound with checkered panels and straight backstrap
Sights: Adjustable 2-dot rear, white dot front
Misc: Stainless slide and alloy frame; ambidextrous safety; tritium night sights and 11
Price: \$864 to \$991



TYPE SD R C

SMITH & WESSON MODEL 4046 DAO

Caliber: 40 S&W
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 4"
Weight: 39.5 ounces
Grips: Straight backstrap
Sights: White dot front, Novak Lo Mount Carry 2-dot
Misc: Stainless steel slide, slightly bobbed hammer and double-action only
Price: \$864 to \$991



TYPE SD R C

SMITH & WESSON MODEL 5906 TSW

Caliber: 9mm
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 4"
Weight: 37.5 ounces
Grips: Curved backstrap
Sights: Post white dot front, Novak Lo Mount Carry or adjustable 2-dot rear
Misc: Stainless slide and frame; ambidextrous safety; traditional DA
Price: \$861



TYPE SD R C

SMITH & WESSON MODEL 5946

Caliber: 9mm
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 4"
Weight: 37.5 ounces
Grips: Curved backstrap
Sights: Novak Lo Mount Carry or adjustable 2-dot rear, post white dot front
Misc: Stainless slide and frame and .260" serrated hammer; DAO
Price: \$822



TYPE SD R C

SMITH & WESSON ENHANCED SIGMA SERIES

Caliber: 9mm or 40 S&W
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 4"
Weight: 24.5 to 24.75 ounces
Grips: Integral black polymer
Sights: White or tritium dot front, fixed or tritium 2-dot rear
Misc: High capacity magazines available for law enforcement or export orders; unique, recontoured angle grip; integral accessory grooves, melonite or stainless finish
Price: \$447 to \$657



TYPE SD R C

SPRINGFIELD CHAMPION 1911-A1

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 7 rounds
Barrel Length: 4"
Weight: 28 to 34 ounces
Grips: Checkered walnut
Sights: Novak night sights
Misc: Pistol comes "loaded" with value added features; available in a Parkerized, stainless or matte finish and also in a light weight
Price: \$817 (Parkerized); \$867 (lightweight matte); \$870 (stainless)



TYPE SD R C

SPRINGFIELD COMPACT LIGHTWEIGHT 1911-A1

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 4"
Weight: 26 ounces
Grips: Checkered walnut
Sights: Novak night sights
Misc: Pistol comes "loaded" with value added features; available in a stainless or matte finish
Price: \$826 to \$900



TYPE SD R C

SPRINGFIELD FULL-SIZE 1911-A1

Caliber: 9mm, 45 ACP, 40 S&W
Capacity: 9 rounds (9 mm), 7 rounds (45 ACP) or 8 rounds (40 S&W)
Barrel Length: 5"
Weight: 38 ounces
Grips: Checkered walnut
Sights: Novak patented low mount or fully adjustable rear
Misc: Pistol comes "loaded" with value added features; available in stainless, blue, Parkerized or matte finish and in a V-12 or light weight model
Price: \$770 to \$878



TYPE SD R C

SPRINGFIELD LONG SLIDE 1911-A1

Caliber: 45 ACP or 45 ACP Super/45 ACP
Capacity: 7 rounds
Barrel Length: 6"
Weight: 41 ounces
Grips: Checkered walnut
Sights: Fully adjustable target
Misc: Pistol comes "loaded" with value added features; comes with a stainless finish and is available in a Trophy Match or V-16 model
Price: \$1,002 to \$1,399 (Trophy Match)



TYPE SD R C

SPRINGFIELD MIL-SPEC 1911-A1

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 7 rounds
Barrel Length: 3.5" (Ultra Compact), 5"
Weight: 32 ounces (Ultra Compact) to 35.6 ounces
Grips: Checkered black plastic
Sights: 3-dot Hi-Viz Fixed Combat
Misc: Pistol comes "loaded" with value added features; available in a Parkerized finish
Price: \$559 to \$682



TYPE S D R C

SPRINGFIELD TROPHY MATCH 1911-A1

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 7 rounds (8 rounds in Armory Kote model)
Barrel Length: 5"
Weight: 38 ounces
Grips: Checkered walnut
Sights: Fully adjustable target
Misc: Pistol comes "loaded" with value added features; available in blued or stainless finish and in a high capacity or long slide model
Price: \$1,115 to \$1,225



TYPE S D R C

SPRINGFIELD ULTRA-COMPACT 1911-A1

Caliber: 9mm or 45 ACP
Capacity: 6 rounds (8 rounds in 9mm model)
Barrel Length: 3.5"
Weight: 25 to 32 ounces
Grips: Plastic
Sights: Novak patented low mount or Novak night sights
Misc: Pistol comes "loaded" with value added features; available in Parkerized, stainless, bi-tone or matte finish and in V-10, bi-tone or stainless steel models
Price: \$817 to \$884



TYPE S D R C

SPRINGFIELD FULL-SIZE HIGH CAPACITY

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 10 rounds (13 rounds available to law enforcement)
Barrel Length: 5"
Weight: 38 ounces
Grips: Checkered black plastic
Sights: Novak patented low mount
Misc: Pistol comes Parkerized
Price: \$807



TYPE S D R C

SPRINGFIELD TACTICAL RESPONSE PISTOL TRP FULL-SIZE & TRP OPERATOR MODEL

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 7 rounds
Barrel Length: 5"
Weight: 37 ounces
Grips: Checkered walnut
Sights: Novak night sights
Misc: Pistol comes "loaded" with value added features; available in Armory Kote, or stainless finish; TRP-PRO MODEL is the FBI's pistol for their SWAT Hostage Rescue Team
Price: \$1,265 to \$1,395



TYPE S D R C

SPRINGFIELD ULTRA COMPACT HIGH CAPACITY

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 10 rounds (12 rounds available to law enforcement)
Barrel Length: 3.5"
Weight: 33 ounces
Grips: Checkered black plastic
Sights: Novak patented low mount
Misc: Pistol comes Parkerized
Price: \$870



STEYR M-SERIES

Caliber: 40 S&W, 9X19 or 357 SIG
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 4"
Weight: 28 ounces
Grips: Advanced ultra-rigid synthetic
Sights: Triangle/trapezoid sighting system
Misc: Three user selectable safety conditions, integrated limited access lock with key, reset-action trigger system and true direct loaded chamber indicator
Price: \$610



STEYR S-SERIES

Caliber: 40 S&W; 9x19
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 3.58"
Weight: 22.5 ounces
Grips: Advanced ultra-rigid synthetic
Sights: Triangle/trapezoid sighting system
Misc: Three user selectable safety conditions; visual/felt indicator
Price: \$610



TAURUS PT-22 & PT-25

Caliber: 22 LR (PT-22) or 25 ACP (PT-25)
Capacity: 8 rounds (PT-22) or 9 rounds (PT-25)
Barrel Length: 2.75"
Weight: 12 ounces
Grips: Rosewood, wood or mother of pearl
Sights: Fixed
Misc: Features exclusive tip-up barrel; available in blue with gold trim, nickel or duo-tone finish.
Price: \$190



TAURUS PT92

Caliber: 9mm
Capacity: 10+1 rounds
Barrel Length: 5"
Weight: 34 ounces
Grips: Checkered rubber, rosewood or mother of pearl
Sights: 3-dot fixed
Misc: Ambidextrous 3-position safety
Price: \$575 (blue) to \$670 (polished stainless steel)



TAURUS PT99

Caliber: 9mm
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 5"
Weight: 34 ounces
Grips: Checkered rubber, rosewood or mother of pearl
Sights: 3-dot adjustable
Misc: Ambidextrous 3-position safety
Price: \$575 (blue) to \$670 (polished stainless)



TYPE SD R C

TAURUS PT111 & PT138

Caliber: 9mm (PT111) or 380 (PT138)
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 3.25"
Weight: 18.75 ounces
Grips: Checkered
Sights: 3-dot fixed
Price: \$425 (blue) to \$500 (matte stainless)



TYPE SD R

TAURUS PT957, PT911, PT938 & PT940

Caliber: 357 Sig (PT957) or 9mm (PT911),
380 ACP (PT938) or 40 (PT940)
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 3.75" (PT938), 3.6" (PT957 and PT940) or 4" (PT911)
Weight: 26.75 to 28 ounces
Grips: Checkered rubber, rosewood or mother of pearl
Sights: 3-dot fixed, night sights available (911, 940)
Misc: 3-position ambidextrous safety; PT957 is ported
Price: \$505 to \$600



TYPE SD R C

TAURUS PT945

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 8 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.25"
Weight: 29.5 ounces
Grips: Checkered rubber, rosewood or mother of pearl
Sights: 3-dot fixed
Misc: 3-position ambidextrous safety
Price: \$525 (blue) to \$655 (polished stainless)



TYPE SD R C

WALTHER P-5

Caliber: 9mm Para.
Capacity: 8 rounds
Barrel Length: 3.5"
Weight: 28 ounces
Grips: Checkered plastic
Sights: Blade front, adjustable rear
Price: \$900



TYPE SD R C

WALTHER P-88 COMPACT

Caliber: 9mm Para
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 3.93"
Weight: 28 ounces
Grips: Checkered black polymer
Sights: Blade front, drift adjustable rear
Price: \$900



TYPE SD R C

WALTHER P-99 & P-990

Caliber: 9mm Para., 40 S&W or 9mm x 21
Capacity: 10 rounds (12 and 16 available to law enforcement)
Barrel Length: 4"
Weight: 25 ounces
Grips: Polymer
Sights: Blade front, micrometer rear adjustable
Price: \$749 (990) to \$799 (P99)



TYPE SD R C

WALTHER PP

Caliber: 380 ACP
Capacity: 7 rounds
Barrel Length: 3.8"
Weight: 23.5 ounces
Grips: Checkered plastic
Sights: Fixed; white markings
Price: \$999



TYPE SD R

WALTHER PPK

Caliber: 380 ACP or 32 ACP
Capacity: 6 rounds (380 ACP) or 7 rounds (32 ACP)
Barrel Length: 3.27"
Weight: 21 ounces
Grips: Checkered plastic
Sights: Fixed; white markings
Misc: Blue or stainless finish; made in USA, distributed by Walther USA
Price: \$540



TYPE SD R

WALTHER PPK/S

Caliber: 380 ACP or 32 ACP
Capacity: 7 rounds (380 ACP) or 8 rounds (32 ACP)
Barrel Length: 3.27"
Weight: 23.5 ounces
Grips: Checkered plastic
Sights: Fixed; white markings
Misc: Blue or stainless finish; made in USA, distributed by Walther USA.
Price: \$540



TYPE SD R

WALTHER TPH

Caliber: 22 LR or 25 ACP
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 2.25"
Weight: 14 ounces
Grips: Checkered black composition
Sights: Adjustable rear, blade front
Misc: Stainless or blue finish; made in USA, distributed by Walther USA
Price: \$440



TYPE SD R

WILKINSON "SHERRY" AUTO

Caliber: 22 LR
Capacity: 8 rounds
Barrel Length: 2.125"
Weight: 9.25 ounces
Grips: Checkered black plastic
Sights: Fixed, groove
Misc: Blue finish or blue slide and trigger with gold frame available; Cross-bolt safety locks the sear into the hammer
Price: \$195



TYPE SD R

WILSON COMBAT KZ-45 TACTICAL CARRY PISTOL

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 9 rounds (compact), 10 rounds (full-size)
Barrel Length: 4.1" (compact), 5" (full-size)
Weight: 29 ounces (compact), 31 ounces (full-size)
Grips: Checkered plastic
Sights: Tritium Nite-Eyes
Misc: Includes an instructional video, nylon pistol rug and 2 extra magazines
Price: \$1,030 to \$1,130



TYPE SD R C

WILSON CUSTOM PISTOLS

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 8 rounds
Barrel Length: 5"
Weight: 26.5 to 48 ounces
Grips: Checkered wood
Sights: Lo-Mount adjustable, Tritium Nite-Eyes or Tactical Combat
Misc: Finish varies by version
Price: \$1,199 to \$3,495



TYPE SD R C

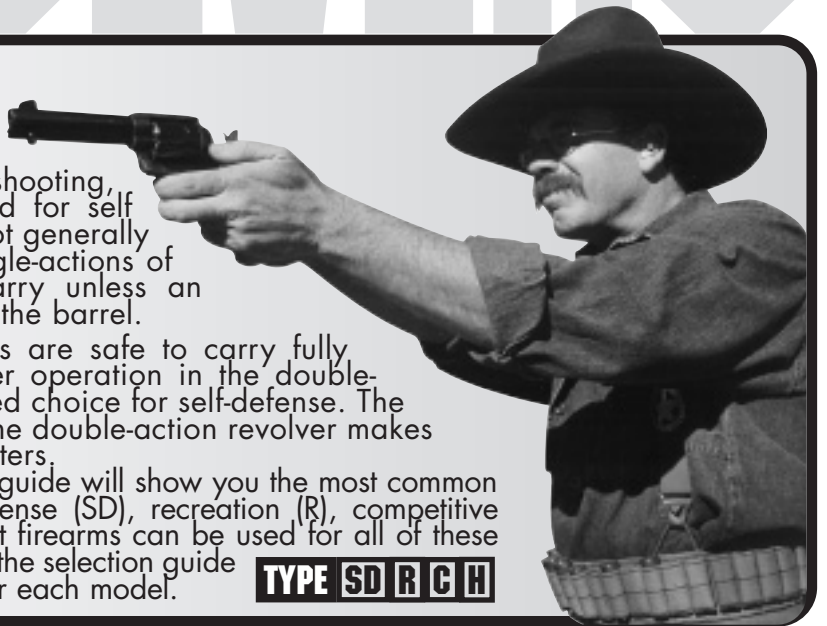
REVOLVERS

A good revolver, depending upon caliber, frame size, action type and barrel length, is the most versatile of all handguns. It can be used for recreational shooting, competitive shooting, hunting and self defense. Once used for self defense, single-action revolvers are not generally preferred for that purpose. Many single-actions of traditional design are unsafe to carry unless an empty chamber is placed in line with the barrel.

All modern double-action revolvers are safe to carry fully loaded. This factor, along with faster operation in the double-action mode, makes them the preferred choice for self-defense. The simple, safe method of operation of the double-action revolver makes it particularly well-suited to new shooters.

The American Handgunner selection guide will show you the most common uses for each type of firearm. Self-defense (SD), recreation (R), competitive shooting (C) or hunting (H). While most firearms can be used for all of these purposes with greater or lesser success, the selection guide will show you the most common uses for each model.

TYPE SD R C H



CENTURY MODEL 100

Caliber: 30-30, 375 Win., 444 Marlin, 45-70 or 50-70
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 6.5", 8" or 10"
Weight: 6 pounds (loaded)
Grips: Smooth walnut
Sights: Millett rear, ramp front
Misc: Manganese-bronze frame, blue cylinder and barrel
Price: \$1,250



TYPE R H

CIMARRON ARTILLERY MODEL

Caliber: 45 Colt
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 5.5"
Weight: 39 ounces
Grips: Walnut
Sights: Fixed
Misc: Case-hardened frame and hammer, Italian-made Colt reproduction
Price: \$499



TYPE R C H

CIMARRON U.S. CAVALRY MODEL

Caliber: 45 Colt
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 7.5"
Weight: 42 ounces
Grips: Walnut
Sights: Fixed
Misc: Color case-hardened frame and hammer, rest charcoal blue, Italian-made Colt reproduction
Price: \$499



TYPE R C H

COLT SINGLE ACTION ARMY

Caliber: 44-40 or 45 Colt
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.75", 5.5" or 7.5"
Weight: 40 ounces
Grips: Black composite Eagle stocks
Sights: Blade front, notch rear
Finish: Blue with color case-hardened frame or full nickel
Misc: Available with gold grip medallions, This is the original Colt Single Action Army.
Price: \$1,938 to \$2,125



TYPE R C H

DAN WESSON SUPER RAM SILHOUETTE

Caliber: 22 LR, 357 Mag., 357 SuperMag/Maxi, 41 Mag., 44 Mag., 414 SuperMag or 445 SuperMag
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 8"
Weight: 64 ounces
Grips: Hogue rubber fingergroove
Sights: Bo-Mar target sights with hooded front
Misc: Available in blue or stainless; SRS-1 laser engraving
Price: \$1,149 to \$1,295



TYPE R C H

DAN WESSON ALASKAN GUIDE

Caliber: 445 SuperMag
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 4"
Weight: 54 ounces
Grips: Hogue rubber fingergroove
Sights: Target sights
Misc: Ported barrel
Price: \$995



TYPE SD R H

DAN WESSON SMALL FRAME SERIES

Caliber: 22 LR, 22 mag., 32 H&R, 32-20, 357 Mag
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 2.5" to 10"
Weight: 32 ounces to 58 ounces
Grips: Hogue rubber fingergroove
Sights: Target sights
Misc: Available in blue or stainless; SRS-1 laser engraving
Price: \$599 to \$729



TYPE SD R H

E.A.A. WINDICATOR

Caliber: 357 Mag., 38 Special
Capacity: 5 rounds
Barrel Length: 2"-4"
Weight: Under 2 pounds
Grips: rubber
Sights: Fixed
Misc: Double/Single action, made in Germany
Price: \$259



TYPE SD R

E.A.A. BOUNTY HUNTER

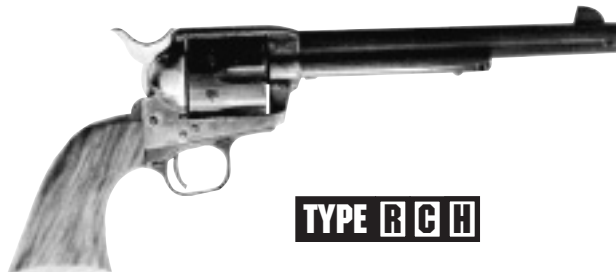
Caliber: 22 LR/22 WMR, 357 Mag., 44 Mag. or 45 Colt
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.5" to 7.5"
Weight: 38 ounces
Grips: Smooth walnut
Sights: Blade front, grooved topstrap rear
Misc: Blue or nickel finish; hammer-forged barrel
Price: \$269 to \$399



TYPE R C H

EMF DAKOTA 1875 SINGLE ACTION

Caliber: 357 Mag., 44-40 or 45 Colt
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 7.5"
Weight: 46 ounces
Grips: Smooth walnut
Sights: Blade front, fixed groove rear
Price: \$300



TYPE R C H

EMF 1890 POLICE SINGLE ACTION

Caliber: 357 Mag., 44-40 or 45 Colt
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 5.5"
Weight: 40 ounces
Grips: Walnut
Sights: Blade front, fixed groove rear
Price: \$600



TYPE R C H

EMF HARTFORD SINGLE ACTION

Caliber: 22 LR, 32-20, 357 Mag., 38-40, 44-40, 44 Special or 45 Colt
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.75", 5.5" or 7.5"
Weight: 45 ounces
Grips: Smooth walnut
Sights: Blade front, fixed rear
Misc: Bullseye ejector head and color case-hardening on frame and hammer
Price: \$375 to \$500



TYPE R C H

EMF 1875 OUTLAW SINGLE ACTION

Caliber: 357 Mag., 44-40 or 45 Colt
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 7.5"
Weight: 46 ounces
Grips: Smooth walnut
Sights: Blade front, fixed groove rear
Price: \$575 to \$590



TYPE R C H

FREEDOM ARMS MODEL 252

Caliber: 22 LR
Capacity: 5 rounds
Barrel Length: 7.5"
Weight: 59 ounces
Grips: Black and green laminated hardwood
Sights: Express sights, notched rear, brass bead front
Misc: Extra fitted 22 WMR cylinders available for an additional \$264; other custom options available
Price: \$1,527



TYPE R C H

FREEDOM ARMS MODEL 97

Caliber: 357 Mag. or 45 Long Colt
Capacity: 5 or 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 5.5" or 7.5"
Weight: 40 to 42 ounces
Grips: Hardwood or black micarta
Sights: Adjustable rear, ramp front
Misc: Available in fixed sight mode, stainless steel with brushed finish
Price: \$1,391 (fixed); \$1,492 (adjustable)



TYPE R C H

FREEDOM ARMS FIELD GRADES

Caliber: 454 Casull, 50 AE, 44 Mag., 357 Mag., 41 Mag. or 475 Linebaugh
Capacity: 5 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.75", 6", 7.5" or 10"
Weight: 50 to 52 ounces
Grips: Pachmayr
Sights: Fixed or adjustable rear; ramp front
Price: \$1,322 to \$1,400



TYPE R C H

FREEDOM ARMS PREMIER GRADES

Caliber: 454 Casull, 50 AE, 44 Mag., 357 Mag., 41 Mag. or 475 Linebaugh
Capacity: 5 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.75", 6", 7.5", 9" or 10"
Weight: 50 ounces
Grips: Hardwood
Sights: Adjustable rear; ramp front and fixed
Misc: Stainless steel; optional cylinders in 45 Colt, 45 ACP, and 45 Win. Mag. with 454 only available for \$264
Price: \$1,663 to \$1,820



TYPE R C H

HERITAGE ROUGH RIDER

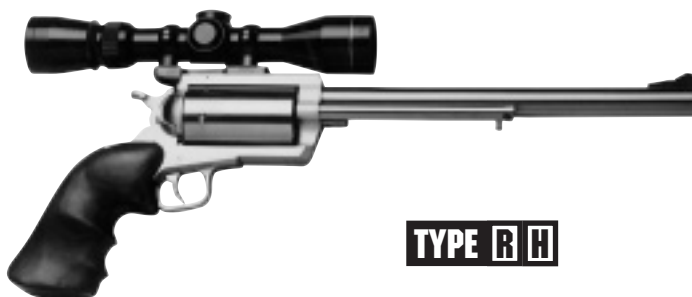
Caliber: 22 LR or 22 LR/22 WMR Combo
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 3.5", 4.75", 6.5", 9"
Weight: 31 to 38 ounces
Grips: Exotic hardwood
Sights: Blade front, adjustable sight or Red Dot Reflex versions available
Price: \$135 to \$239



TYPE R C H

MAGNUM RESEARCH BFR REVOLVER

Caliber: 22h, 444, 45LC/410, 450 Marlin, 454, 45/70 Government, 480 Ruger
Capacity: 5-shot
Barrel Length: .22h 7.5/10", .444 10", .45LC/410 10", .450 10", .454 6.5/7.5/10", .45/70 7.5/10", .480 7.5/10"
Weight: Long cylinder 4 pounds (7.5") and 4.36 pounds (10") Short cylinder 3.2 pounds (6.5"), 3.5 pounds (7.5"), 4.36 pounds (10")
Grips: Plastic
Sights: Factory, adjustable rear
Misc: (scope mount rings not included)
Price: \$999



TYPE RCH

NAVY ARMS 1873 COLT-STYLE SAA

Caliber: 44-40 or 45 Colt
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 3", 4.75", 5.5" or 7.5"
Weight: 36 ounces
Grips: Walnut
Sights: Blade front, groove in topstrap rear
Price: \$385



TYPE RCH

NAVY ARMS 1875 SCHOFIELD

Caliber: 44-40 or 45 Colt
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 3" (Hide Out Model), 5" (Wells Fargo Model), 7" (Cavalry Model)
Weight: 39 ounces
Grips: Walnut
Sights: Blade front, notch rear
Misc: Cavalry, Hide Out and Wells Fargo models available in either caliber
Price: \$695



TYPE RCH

NAVY ARMS "BISLEY MODEL" SAA

Caliber: 44-40 or 45 Colt
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.75", 5.5" or 7.5"
Weight: 40 ounces
Grips: Walnut
Sights: Blade front, notch rear
Price: \$405



TYPE RCH

NAVY ARMS FLAT TOP TARGET MODEL SAA

Caliber: 45 Colt
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 7.5"
Weight: 40 ounces
Grips: Walnut
Sights: Spring loaded front, adjustable rear
Price: \$425



TYPE RCH

NAVY ARMS NEW MODEL RUSSIAN

Caliber: 44 Russian
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 6.5"
Weight: 40 ounces
Grips: Walnut
Sights: Blade front, notch rear
Price: \$745



NORTH AMERICAN ARMS MINI-MASTER

Caliber: 22 LR or 22 WMR
Capacity: 5 rounds
Barrel Length: 4"
Weight: 10.75 ounces
Grips: Checkered hard black rubber
Sights: Blade front, white outline rear adjustable, or fixed
Misc: Heavy vent barrel, full-size grips, extra cylinders available
Price: \$286 (fixed) to \$304 (adjustable); \$324 to \$343 with extra cylinders



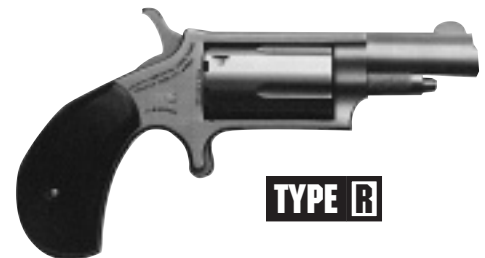
NORTH AMERICAN ARMS BLACK WIDOW

Caliber: 22 LR or 22 WMR
Capacity: 5 rounds
Barrel Length: 2"
Weight: 8.8 ounces
Grips: Black rubber
Sights: Millett fixed or adjustable rear, blade front
Misc: Extra cylinders available; heavy barrel, full grips, vent ribbed barrel
Price: \$256 (fixed) to \$274 (adjustable); \$294 (fixed) to \$312 (adjustable) with extra cylinders



NORTH AMERICAN ARMS MINI

Caliber: 22 Short, 22 LR or 22 WMR
Capacity: 5 rounds
Barrel Length: 1.125" or 1.625"
Weight: 4 to 6.5 ounces
Grips: Laminated wood
Sights: Blade front, notch fixed rear
Misc: Extra cylinders available
Price: \$186 to \$240



ROSSI MODEL 851

Caliber: 38 Special
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 4"
Weight: 38 ounces
Grips: Rubber
Sights: Adjustable
Misc: Double action, blue steel, and +P rated, integral key lock action
Price: \$298



ROSSI MODEL 971/972

Caliber: 357 Mag.
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 4" or 6", heavy
Weight: 40 ounces
Grips: Rubber
Sights: Adjustable
Misc: Double action, stainless or blue steel, +P rated, integral key lock action
Price: \$345 (Blue) to \$391 (Stainless)



TYPE SD R H

RUGER BISLEY

Caliber: 357 Mag., 44 Mag., 45 Colt
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 7.5"
Weight: 48 ounces
Grips: Rosewood with Ruger medallion
Sights: adjustable rear, fixed front
Misc: Unfluted cylinder and roll engraving
Price: \$535



TYPE R C H

RUGER BISLEY SMALL FRAME

Caliber: 22 LR
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 6.5"
Weight: 41 ounces
Grips: Rosewood with Ruger medallion
Sights: Adjustable rear, fixed front
Misc: Unfluted cylinder and roll engraving
Price: \$422



TYPE R C H

RUGER BISLEY-VAQUERO

Caliber: 44 Mag., 45 Long Colt, 357 Mag.
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 5.5" and 4.625"
Weight: 39 to 40 ounces
Grips: Smooth rosewood with Ruger medallion
Sights: Notch rear, blade front, fixed
Price: \$535 (blue) to \$555 (stainless)



TYPE R C H

RUGER BLACKHAWK

Caliber: 30 Carbine, 357 Mag., 41 Mag or 45 Colt
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.625", 6.5" or 7.5" & 5.5" (30 Carbine and 45 Colt only)
Weight: 38 ounces to 44 ounces
Grips: American walnut with Ruger medallion
Sights: Ramp front, micro-click adjustable rear
Price: \$435 to \$530 (depending on caliber and finish)



TYPE R C H

RUGER SUPER BLACKHAWK

Caliber: 44 Magnum
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.625", 5.5", 7.5", 10.5"
Weight: 45 to 51 ounces
Grips: American walnut
Sights: Ramp front, micro-click adjustable rear
Price: \$519-\$529 (blue) to \$535-\$540 (stainless)



TYPE RCH

RUGER SUPER BLACKHAWK HUNTER

Caliber: 44 Magnum
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 7.5"
Weight: 52 ounces
Grips: Smooth black laminated wood
Sights: Adjustable rear / replaceable front blade
Misc: includes set of 1" medium scope rings
Price: \$639



TYPE RCH

RUGER NEW BEARCAT

Caliber: 22 LR
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 4"
Weight: 24 ounces
Grips: Rosewood
Sights: Blade front, fixed notch rear
Price: \$379 to \$429 (stainless)



TYPE RCH

RUGER REDHAWK

Caliber: 44 Mag. and 45 Long Colt
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 5.5" or 7.5"
Weight: 49 to 54 ounces
Grips: Goncalo Alves, square butt
Sights: Adjustable rear, Patridge-type front
Price: \$585 (Blue) to \$645 (Stainless) also with 1" scope rings: \$625 (blue) to \$685 (stainless)



TYPE SD RCH

RUGER SUPER REDHAWK

Caliber: 44 Mag., 454 Casull, 480 Ruger
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 7.5" or 9.5"
Weight: 53 and 58 ounces
Grips: Patented Ruger cushioned grips with laminated grip panels
Sights: Adjustable rear, interchangeable front inserts
Misc: Heavy extended frame, stainless steel
Price: \$685 (Stainless) to \$775 (Stainless Target Gray)



TYPE RCH

RUGER SUPER SINGLE-SIX

Caliber: 22 LR or 22 WMR (available with extra cylinder)
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.625", 5.5", 6.5" or 9.5"
Weight: 32 to 35 ounces
Grips: Rosewood with Ruger medallion
Sights: Adjustable rear, ramp front
Price: \$389 (blue) to \$469 (High Gloss Stainless)



TYPE RCH

RUGER VAQUERO

Caliber: 357 Mag., 44-40, 44 Mag. or 45 Colt
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.625", 5.5" or 7.5"
Weight: 39 to 41 ounces
Grips: Smooth rosewood with Ruger medallion
Sights: Blade front, fixed rear
Price: \$535



TYPE RCH

RUGER BIRD'S HEAD VAQUERO

Caliber: 45 Long Colt
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 3.75"
Weight: 38 ounces
Grips: Black micarta
Sights: Blade front, notch rear fixed
Misc: Available in stainless steel or color case finish
Price: \$576



TYPE RCH

RUGER GP-100

Caliber: 357 Mag. or 38 Special
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 3", 4" or 6" (heavy barrels available)
Weight: 35 to 43 ounces
Grips: Patented Ruger cushioned grips with laminated grip panels
Sights: Fixed or adjustable
Price: \$489 to \$539



TYPE SDRCH

RUGER SP-101

Caliber: 22 LR, 32 Mag., 38 Special +P or 357 Mag.
Capacity: 5 rounds (38 Special, 357) or 6 rounds (22 LR & 32 Mag.)
Barrel Length: 2.25", 3.6" or 4"
Weight: 25 ounces to 34 ounces
Grips: Patented Ruger cushioned grips with laminated grip panels
Sights: Fixed; adjustable rear on 22 LR and 32 Mag.
Misc: Stainless steel small frame, DAO version, with one spurless model available
Price: \$482



TYPE SDR

SMITH & WESSON AIRLITE TI

Caliber: 32 H&R Mag. or 38 S&W Special
Capacity: 5 rounds (38 S&W) or 6 rounds (32 H&R)
Barrel Length: 1.9"
Weight: 11 to 12 ounces
Grips: Uncle Mike's Boot or Dymondwood Boot
Sights: Pinned black serrated ramp front, fixed notch rear
Misc: Titanium cylinder; aluminum alloy frame, barrel shroud and yoke; stainless steel barrel liner
Price: \$682 to \$699



TYPE S D R

SMITH & WESSON MODEL 10/64

Caliber: 38 Special
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 2", 3" or 4" (Model 10 in 4" only)
Weight: 30.5 to 36 ounces
Grips: Uncle Mike's Combat
Sights: Fixed
Misc: Finishes: Model 10 (blue); Model 64 (stainless)
Price: \$420 (Model 10) to \$454 (Model 64)



TYPE S D R C H

SMITH & WESSON MODEL 65LS

Caliber: 357 Mag.
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 3"
Weight: 31 ounces
Grips: Rosewood, round butt
Sights: Serrated ramp front, fixed notch rear
Misc: Stainless with frosted finish; smooth combat trigger; service hammer
Price: \$539



TYPE S D R C H

SMITH & WESSON MODEL 66

Caliber: 357 Mag. and 38 Special
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 2.5", 4" or 6"
Weight: 36 ounces
Grips: Soft rubber
Sights: Red ramp front, micro-click rear adjustable
Misc: Satin stainless finish
Price: \$545 (2.5") to \$551 (4", 6")



TYPE S D R C H

SMITH & WESSON MODEL 629

Caliber: 44 Mag. or 44 S&W Special
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 5", 6.5" or 8.4"
Weight: 47 to 51 ounces
Grips: Hogue rubber combat or wood combat
Sights: Adjustable rear, interchangeable front
Misc: Stainless finish
Price: \$670 to \$888 (Classic DX)



TYPE S D R C H

SMITH & WESSON MODEL 36/37/60

Caliber: 38 Special +P or 357 Mag. (Model 60 only)
Capacity: 5 rounds
Barrel Length: 1.9" (Model 36 & 37), 2.13" or 3" (Model 60)
Weight: 15 to 24 ounces
Grips: Soft rubber, rosewood or Uncle Mike's Combat
Sights: Serrated ramp, fixed notch
Misc: Finishes: Model 36 (blue steel); Model 37 (blue aluminum alloy) and Model 60 (stainless steel)
Price: \$406 to \$536



TYPE SD R

SMITH & WESSON MODEL 38/649

Caliber: 38 Special or 357 Mag.
Capacity: 5 rounds
Barrel Length: 1.9" to 2.13"
Weight: 14.5 (Model 38) to 20 (Model 649) ounces
Grips: Uncle Mike's Combat
Sights: Pinned black serrated ramp front, fixed notch rear
Misc: Finishes: Model 38 (blue) and Model 649 (stainless)
Price: \$462 to \$502



TYPE SD R

SMITH & WESSON MODEL 60LS LADYSMITH

Caliber: 38 Special or 357 Mag.
Capacity: 5 rounds
Barrel Length: 1.9"
Weight: 21.5 ounces
Grips: Rosewood
Sights: Fixed
Misc: Stainless finish
Price: \$539



TYPE SD R

SMITH & WESSON MODEL 317 AIRLITE

Caliber: 22 LR
Capacity: 8 rounds
Barrel Length: 1.9" to 3"
Weight: 10.5 (rubber grip) to 12 ounces
Grips: Dymondwood Boot or Uncle Mike's Boot
Sights: Front serrated ramp, rear fixed notch
Misc: Clear Cote Aluminum finish; Airlite Ladysmith also available
Price: \$508 to \$568



TYPE SD R

SMITH & WESSON MODEL 337 CHIEFS SPECIAL AIRLITE TI

Caliber: 38 S&W Special
Capacity: 5 rounds
Barrel Length: 1.875"
Weight: 11.2 ounces
Grips: Uncle Mike's Boot; Dymondwood Boot
Sights: Black serrated front; fixed notch rear
Misc: Aluminum alloy frame, barrel shroud and yoke; titanium cylinder; stainless steel barrel liner
Price: \$682



TYPE SD R

SMITH & WESSON MODEL 442/640/642

Caliber: 357 Mag. or 38 S&W Special +P (Model 442 & 642 in 38 Special +P only)
Capacity: 5 rounds
Barrel Length: 1.9" to 1.25"
Weight: 15 to 25 ounces
Grips: Uncle Mike's Boot or Uncle Mike's Combat
Sights: Serrated ramp, fixed notch
Misc: Finishes: Model 442 (blue); Model 640 & 642 (stainless); Concealed hammer; Full lug barrel on 357 Mag.; LadySmith version also available
Price: \$505



SMITH & WESSON MODEL 686

Caliber: 357 Mag.
Capacity: 7 rounds
Barrel Length: 4", 6" or 8.4" (Model 686 also comes in a 2.5" barrel)
Weight: 34.5 ounces
Grips: Hogue rubber
Sights: Adjustable rear, red ramp front
Price: \$534 to \$550



SMITH & WESSON MODEL 617

Caliber: 22 LR
Capacity: 6 to 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 4", 6" or 8.4"
Weight: 42 ounces
Grips: Hogue rubber
Sights: Adjustable/black rear, pinned Patridge front
Misc: Stainless steel with satin finish
Price: \$524 to \$578



SMITH & WESSON MODEL 625

Caliber: 45 ACP
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 5" or 4"
Weight: 46 ounces
Grips: Hogue rubber combat, wood optional
Sights: Adjustable/black rear, Patridge front
Price: \$636



SMITH & WESSON MODEL 629 CLASSIC & 629 CLASSIC DX

Caliber: 44 Mag. or 44 Special
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 4", 5", 6", 6.5" or 8.4"
Weight: 41.5 to 54.5 ounces
Grips: Hogue rubber combat or wood combat
Sights: Adjustable rear; interchangeable, red ramp or Patridge front
Misc: Stainless finish; chambered cylinder; full lug barrel and drilled and tapped for scope mount; Classic DX model features five interchangeable front sights
Price: \$670 (Model 629) to \$888 (Classic DX)



SMITH & WESSON MODEL 657

Caliber: 41 Mag.
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 6"
Weight: 48 ounces
Grips: Hogue rubber combat
Sights: Adjustable rear, pinned black ramp front
Misc: Stainless finish
Price: \$564



TYPE SD R C H

SMITH & WESSON MODEL 686

Caliber: 357 Mag.
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 2.5", 4", 6", 8.4"
Weight: 41 to 46 ounces
Grips: Hogue black rubber
Sights: Adjustable rear blade, pinned fixed front
Misc: Stainless steel with full lug ported barrel
Price: \$514 to \$564



TYPE SD R C H

TAURUS MODEL 44

Caliber: 44 Mag.
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 4", 6.5" or 8.4"
Weight: 45 to 57 ounces
Grips: Soft black rubber
Sights: Micro-click adjustable rear; serrated ramp front
Misc: Features include a compensated barrel; a heavy, solid rib on 4" or vent rib barrel on 6.5" and 8.4"
Price: \$500 to \$575



TYPE SD R C H

TAURUS MODEL 82 & 82SS4

Caliber: 38 Special
Capacity: 6 rounds (7 rounds in Model 827)
Barrel Length: 4"
Weight: 36.5 ounces
Grips: Soft black rubber
Sights: Fixed
Misc: Heavy, solid rib barrel and key lock
Price: \$325 (Model 82 blue) to \$375 (Model 82SS4 stainless)



TYPE SD R C H

TAURUS MODEL 85 & 731

Caliber: 38 Special and 32 Mag. (731)
Capacity: 5 rounds and 6 shots (731)
Barrel Length: 2"
Weight: 17 to 24.5 ounces
Grips: Soft rubber, rosewood, mother of pearl
Sights: Fixed
Misc: Matte, blue or stainless finish; key locks, concealed hammer and Ultra-Lite versions available;
Model 731: 32 H&R Mag., 6 rounds, 2" barrel, weighs 17 ounces with matte stainless steel finish
Price: \$345 to \$445



TYPE SD R

TAURUS MODEL 94 & 941

Caliber: 22 LR or 22 Mag.
Capacity: 8 or 9 rounds
Barrel Length: 2", 4" or 5"
Weight: 18 to 27.5 ounces
Grips: Soft rubber
Sights: Adjustable
Price: \$325



TYPE SD R H

TAURUS MODEL 445 & 617

Caliber: 44 Special (Model 445 only) or 357 Mag. (Model 617)
Capacity: 5 rounds (Model 445) or 7 rounds (Model 617)
Barrel Length: 2"
Weight: 20 to 28 ounces
Grips: Soft black rubber (617), Ribber (445)
Sights: Fixed
Misc: Options include key locks, ported barrel and concealed hammer; heavy, solid rib barrel on Model 445, also available in titanium
Price: \$345 to \$500



TYPE SD R

TAURUS MODEL 605 & 817

Caliber: 357 Mag. (Model 605) or 38 Special (Model 817)
Capacity: 5 rounds (Model 605) or 7 rounds (Model 817)
Barrel Length: 2"
Weight: 21 to 24 ounces
Grips: Soft rubber
Sights: Fixed
Misc: Available with ported barrel, concealed hammer, key lock and an Ultra-Lite version; comes in a blue, matte or stainless finish
Price: \$345 to \$440



TYPE SD R

TAURUS MODEL 608

Caliber: 357 Mag.
Capacity: 8 rounds
Barrel Length: 4", 6.5" or 8.4"
Weight: 44 to 56 ounces
Grips: Soft rubber
Sights: Adjustable
Misc: Available with ported barrel with solid or vented ribs; in a bright blue or matte stainless finish
Price: \$445 to \$525



TYPE SD R C H

TAURUS RAGING BULL SERIES

Caliber: 454 Casull, 44 Mag. or 45 long Colt
Capacity: 5 or 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 5", 6.5" or 8.4"
Weight: 51 to 63 ounces
Grips: Soft rubber
Sights: Adjustable
Misc: Features a key lock and ported barrel
Price: \$575 (blue) to \$855 (matte stainless)



TYPE SD R C H

UBERTI 1873 BUCKHORN

Caliber: 44 Mag. or 44 Mag./44-40
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.75", 5.5" or 7.5"
Weight: 38 ounces
Grips: One-piece smooth walnut
Sights: Blade front, groove rear; fully adjustable rear available
Price: \$410 (steel backstrap) to \$475 (convertible)



TYPE R C H

UBERTI 1873 CATTLEMAN

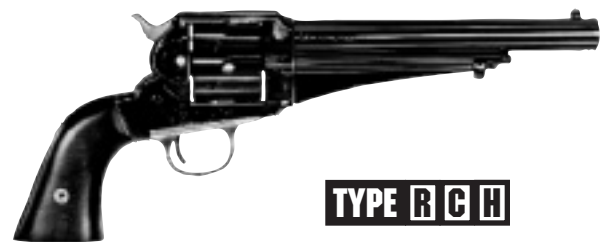
Caliber: 22 LR/22 WMR, 38 Special, 357 Mag., 44 Special, 44-40 or 45 Colt/45 ACP convertible
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.75", 5.5" or 7.5", 44-40, 45 Colt also with 3", 3.5" and 4"
Weight: 38 ounces
Grips: One-piece smooth walnut
Sights: Blade front, groove rear; fully adjustable rear available, Bisley model available
Price: \$365 (brass backstrap) to \$435 (steel backstrap)



TYPE R C H

UBERTI 1875 ARMY OUTLAW

Caliber: 357 Mag., 44-40, 45 Colt or 45 Colt/45 ACP convertible
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 5.5", 7.5"
Weight: 44 ounces
Grips: Smooth walnut
Sights: Blade front, notch rear
Price: \$435 (blue) to \$475 (convertible)



TYPE R C H

UBERTI 1890 ARMY OUTLAW

Caliber: 357 Mag., 44-40, 45 Colt or 45 Colt/45 ACP convertible
Capacity: 6 rounds
Barrel Length: 5.5" and 7.5"
Weight: 37 ounces
Grips: American walnut
Sights: Blade front, groove rear
Price: \$435 (blue) to \$475 (convertible)



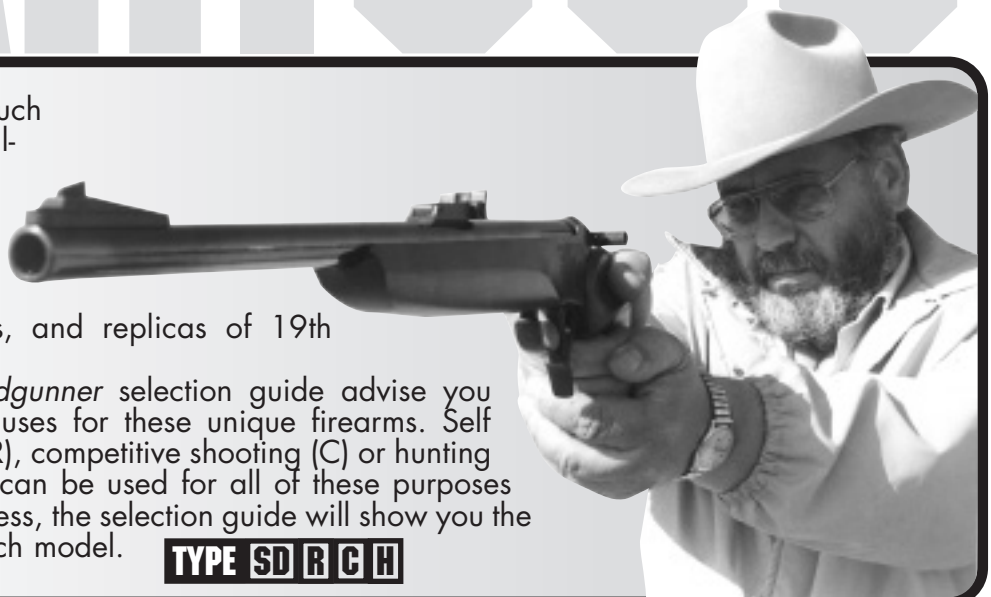
TYPE R C H

VARIOUS

This category includes such things as highly specialized, extremely powerful single-shot handguns designed for hunting or long-range competitive shooting. Versatile multi-caliber single-shot pistols, and replicas of 19th Century derringers.

Let the *American Handgunner* selection guide advise you about the most common uses for these unique firearms. Self defense (SD), recreation (R), competitive shooting (C) or hunting (H). While most firearms can be used for all of these purposes with greater or lesser success, the selection guide will show you the most common uses for each model.

TYPE SD R C H



AMERICAN DERRINGER MODEL 1, 7 & 10

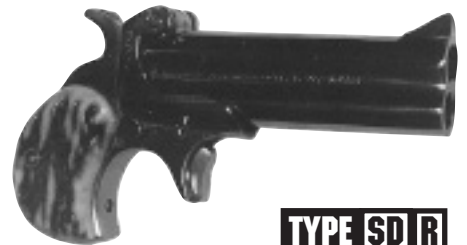
Caliber: Available in almost any pistol caliber from 22 LR to 45-70 Gov't.
Capacity: 2 rounds
Barrel Length: 3"
Weight: 7.5 (Model 7), 10 (Model 10 and 11) or 15.5 ounces (Model 1)
Grips: Zebra or rosewood
Sights: Blade front
Price: \$260 to \$400



TYPE SD R

AMERICAN DERRINGER MODEL 4

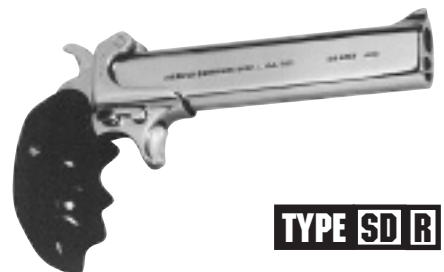
Caliber: 45 Colt/410 ga. (3" shells), 45-70, 44 Mag. or 357 Mag.
Capacity: 2 rounds
Barrel Length: 4.1"
Weight: 16.5 ounces
Grips: Rosewood
Sights: Blade front
Price: \$365 (45 Colt/410 ga.) to \$445 (44 Mag.)



TYPE SD R

AMERICAN DERRINGER MODEL 6

Caliber: 22 WRM, 357 Mag., 45 ACP or 45 Colt/410 ga. (3")
Capacity: 2 rounds
Barrel Length: 6"
Weight: 21 ounces
Grips: Rosewood
Sights: Blade front
Price: \$365 to \$375 (45 Colt/410 ga.)



TYPE SD R

AMERICAN DERRINGER LADY DERRINGER

Caliber: 32 H&R Mag., 357 Mag., 38 Special, 45 Colt or 45/410
Capacity: 2 rounds
Barrel Length: 3"
Weight: 15.5 ounces
Grips: Scrimshawed synthetic ivory
Sights: Blade front, Diamond ramp front on 14 kt. Engraved Model
Misc: Fitted French jewelry box included
Price: \$290 to \$365



TYPE SD R

AMERICAN DERRINGER DA 38

Caliber: 22 LR, 9mm Para., 38 Special, 357 Mag. or 40 S&W
Capacity: 2 rounds
Barrel Length: 3"
Weight: 14.5 ounces
Grips: Rosewood, walnut or other hardwoods
Sights: Fixed
Price: \$325 to \$365



TYPE SD R

BOND ARMS SUPER DEFENDER

Caliber: .450 Bond Super, .45 ACP, .45 Super
Capacity: 2 rounds with rapid reload
Barrel Length: 3" (interchangeable)
Weight: 20 ounces
Grips: Rosewood or black ash
Sights: Blade front
Misc: With removable trigger guard, additional interchangeable barrels from \$129
Price: \$359



TYPE SD R

BOND ARMS CENTURY 2000(C2K) DEFENDER

Caliber: .410 shotshell, .45 Colt, .45 Schofield
Capacity: 2 rounds with rapid reload
Barrel Length: 3.5" (interchangeable)
Weight: 21 ounces
Grips: Rosewood or black ash
Sights: Blade front
Misc: With removable trigger guard, additional interchangeable barrels from \$129
Price: \$379



TYPE SD R

BOND ARMS TEXAS DEFENDER

Caliber: 15 interchangeable calibers from 22LR to .410 shotshell
Capacity: 2 rounds with rapid reload
Barrel Length: 3" (interchangeable)
Weight: 20 ounces
Grips: Rosewood or black ash
Sights: Blade front
Misc: With removable trigger guard, additional interchangeable barrels from \$129
Price: \$359



TYPE SD R

BOND ARMS COWBOY DEFENDER

Caliber: 15 interchangeable calibers from 22LR to .410 shotshell
Capacity: 2 rounds with rapid reload
Barrel Length: 3" (interchangeable)
Weight: 19 ounces
Grips: Rosewood or black ash
Sights: Blade front
Misc: Additional interchangeable barrels from \$129
Price: \$359



TYPE SD R

BOND ARMS COWBOY CENTURY 2000(CCK) DEFENDER

Caliber: .410 shotshell, .45 colt, .45 schofield
Capacity: 2 rounds with rapid reload
Barrel Length: 3" (interchangeable)
Weight: 20 ounces
Grips: Rosewood or black ash
Sights: Blade front
Misc: Additional interchangeable barrels from \$129
Price: \$379



TYPE SD R

DAVIS DERRINGER

Caliber: 22 LR, 22 WMR, 25 ACP or 32 ACP
Capacity: 2 rounds
Barrel Length: 2.4"
Weight: 9.5 ounces
Grips: Laminated wood or pearl
Sights: Blade front, fixed notch rear
Price: \$100



TYPE SD R

Downsizer WSP

Caliber: 45 ACP or 357 Magnum (Also fires 38 special)
Capacity: Single shot
Barrel Length: 2.1"
Weight: 11 ounces
Grips: Textured polymer
Sights: None, smooth snag free top
Misc: Overall size is smaller than a playing card
Price: \$459



TYPE SD R

HAMMERLI 160/162 FREE PISTOLS

Caliber: 22 LR
Capacity: 1 round
Barrel Length: 11.3"
Weight: 47 ounces
Grips: Target style walnut
Sights: Fully adjustable match rear, changeable front blade
Misc: Model 160 has mechanical set trigger; Model 162 has electronic trigger; Precision target pistols for Free Pistol event of UIT competition; Imported by SIG Arms, Inc.
Price: \$2,085 to \$2,295



TYPE R C

M.O.A. MAXIMUM SINGLE SHOT

Caliber: Most calibers from 22 LR to 375 H&H
Capacity: 1 round
Barrel Length: 8.5", 10.5" or 14"
Weight: 3 pounds, 8 ounces (8.5"); 3 pounds, 13 ounces (10.5"); 4 pounds, 3 ounces (14")
Grips: Walnut
Sights: Adjustable rear, post front
Misc: Tapped and drilled for scope mount; extra barrels available
Price: \$799 (blue) to \$883 (stainless)



TYPE RCH

PARDINI ARMS MOD K22 FREE PISTOL

Caliber: 22 LR
Capacity: 1 round
Barrel Length: 9.75"
Weight: 34.6 ounces
Grips: Wraparound walnut; adjustable match type
Sights: Interchangeable post front, fully adjustable match open rear
Misc: Imported by Nygord Precision Products
Price: \$1,295



TYPE RCH

RPM XL SINGLE SHOT PISTOL

Caliber: Available in a wide variety of calibers from 22 LR to 45-70
Capacity: 1 round
Barrel Length: 8", 10.75", 12", 14" and 15"
Weight: 60 ounces
Grips: Smooth Goncalo Alves with thumb and heel rests
Sights: Hooded front with interchangeable post or Patridge; ISGW rear adjustable.
Price: \$1,600



TYPE RCH

SAVAGE STRIKER 516 SERIES

Caliber: 223 Rem., 22-250 Rem., 243 Win., 7mm-08 Rem., 308 Win.
Capacity: 2 rounds
Barrel Length: 12" barrel and 2" Adjustable muzzle brake
Weight: 5.5, 5.75 pounds
Grips: Synthetic or wood
Sights: Drilled and tapped for scope mounts
Misc: Stainless barreled action, left-hand bolt, right-side action
Price: N/A



TYPE RCH

THOMPSON/CENTER ENCORE

Caliber: 22-250, 223, 7mm-08, 243, 308, 270, 30-'06 or 44 Mag.
Capacity: 1 round
Barrel Length: 12" and 15", tapered round
Weight: 64 to 64.5 ounces
Grips: Walnut with finger grooves, walnut forend
Sights: Blade on ramp front, adjustable rear, or none
Price: \$555 (12") to \$562 (15")
\$611 (stainless) to \$619 (stainless)



TYPE RCH

UBERTI ROLLING BLOCK

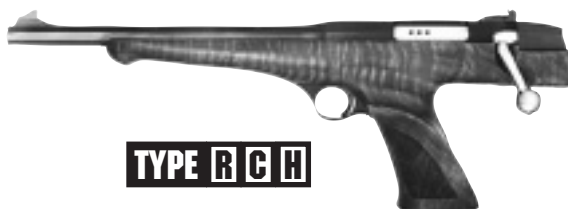
Caliber: 22 LR, 22 WMR, 22 Hornet, 357 Mag. or 45 Colt
Capacity: 1 round
Barrel Length: 9.9"
Weight: 44 ounces
Grips: Walnut grip and forend
Sights: Fully adjustable rear, blade front
Price: \$410



TYPE R C H

WICHITA CLASSIC SILHOUETTE

Caliber: All standard calibers with maximum overall length of 2.80"
Capacity: 1 round
Barrel Length: 11.25"
Weight: 3 pounds 15 ounces
Grips: AAA American walnut with oil finish, checkered
Sights: Adjustable rear, post front
Price: \$3,450



TYPE R C H

WICHITA INTERNATIONAL

Caliber: 22 LR, 22 WMR, 32 H&R Mag., 357 Mag., 357 Super Mag., 7R, 7mm Super Mag., 7-30 Waters or 30-30 Win.
Capacity: 1 round
Barrel Length: 10", 10.5" or 14"
Weight: 3.125 pounds
Grips: Walnut
Sights: Adjustable rear, fixed front
Misc: Stainless steel; extra barrels available
Price: \$775 to \$875



TYPE R C H

WICHITA SILHOUETTE BOLT ACTION

Caliber: All standard calibers with maximum overall length of .280"
Capacity: 1 round
Barrel Length: 14.94"
Weight: 4.5 pounds
Grips: Walnut with oil finish
Sights: Wichita Multi-Range sight system
Price: \$1,800



TYPE R C H

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