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MARCH/APRIL 2020

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**FOCUS:**

**INSIDER: 'ANTIQUING' OLD WEST GUNS**  
**SIXGUNNER: SORTING OUT THE GLOCKS**  
**HANDLOADING: TOP REASONS TO START RELOADING**  
**TACTICS & TRAINING: TACTICS = COMMON SENSE?**



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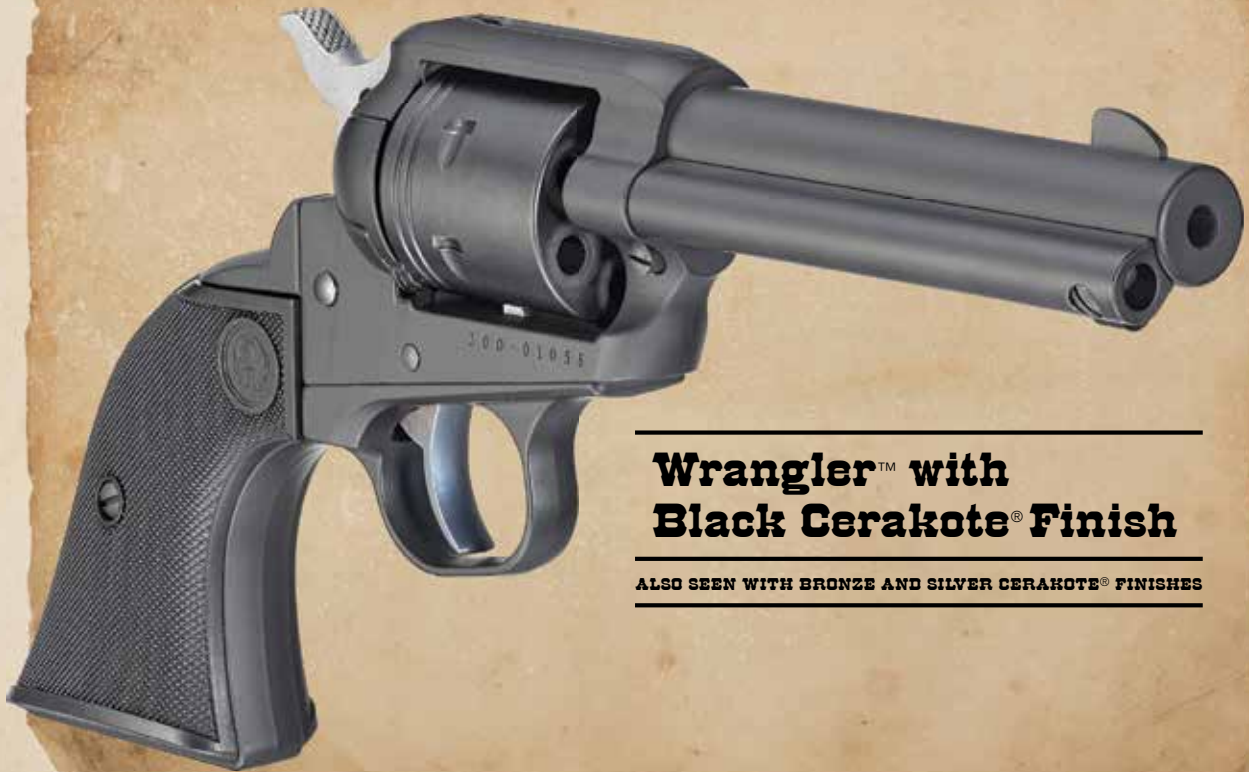
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# 2020

MARCH • APRIL

Volume 45 • Number 2 • Issue 262



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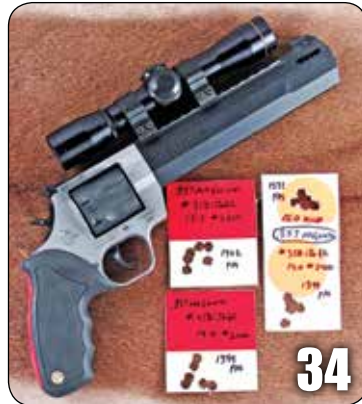
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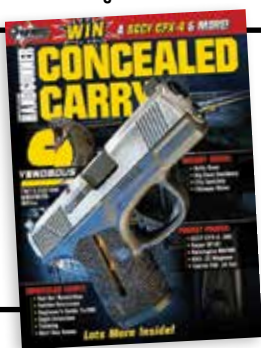


## ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

What do Pork Swords and Raging Hunters have in common? Jeff "Tank" Hoover recently wrote about both pistols for *American Handgunner* online exclusives. Finish reading this issue and then head online to catch up on his latest look at new guns, holsters, optics, ammo and more! New online exclusives are published weekly at [americanhandgunner.com](http://americanhandgunner.com).

## HANDGUNNERS UNITE

Whether you prefer wheelguns or autoloaders, 1911s or GLOCKS, pocket pistols or big bores, we all have one thing in common: a love of handguns. Share your passion, ask for recommendations and get access to content first when you join our new Facebook group, Handgunners United. Visit our page or search "Handgunners United" on Facebook to join today!



## CONCEALED CARRY

Deciding what gun to buy and how to prepare to carry can be overwhelming, but the *American Handgunner Concealed Carry 2020 Special Edition* is here to help! Inside its 148 pages are reviews of the latest pocket pistols and snubbies, a look at red dots and next-gen ammo — plus more! Get your physical copy or digital download at [fmgpubs.com/store](http://fmgpubs.com/store).

## LISTEN UP

If you love reading the wit, humor and knowledge of our writers, you'll love listening to them on the *GUNS Magazine Podcast*! Hosted by Editor Brent T. Wheat, episodes feature our own Roy Huntington and Will Dabbs, plus Clint Smith of Thunder Ranch, Ken Campbell of Gunsite Academy and others! Download and listen everywhere, including Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Soundcloud and [gunsmagazine.com/podcast](http://gunsmagazine.com/podcast).



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## WOEBEGONE NO MORE!

As usual I got my latest issue (Jan/Feb 2020) and flipped to the *Insider*. I swear, Mr. Huntington had been reading my mind. His article about getting his old Colt Woodsman going spoke directly to me as I had a sick one, having not fired it in decades. Taking his advice, I bought the new parts he recommended, installed them and the old gun now runs perfectly. It's been a delight to hear it bark! I trust *Handgunner* to tell me things I need to know — and this struck a bullseye! And thanks for the revolver coverage too!

Matt Spielen  
Via email

### More Woodsman ...

Having read your article on the old Colt Woodsman I reached out to editor Huntington for help. Mine is a first edition that has been in my family since new in 1921. I inherited it in 1976 with the passing of my father. Since I have owned it, it will fire one round and then fail to re-cock after chambering another round. Colt won't work on it, Turnbull said no thanks, and two local gunsmiths have worked on it without

success. The last one replaced the sear and pronounced it fixed. Unfortunately, the first time I tried firing it, the same problem was there.

I asked Roy what could be done. He pointed me to Numrich Arms and gave me a short list of parts to buy, especially the sear spring. I installed the new (used) sear spring from Numrich and test fired 50 rounds of CCI Mini-Mags with no malfunctions. Roy was spot-on

with that Woodsman and what a pleasure it is to get that beautiful old gun running again.

You have the best gun mag off the presses!

Al Johnson  
Via email

### Haka!

I really enjoyed the article on the Mag-na-port S&W model 69 ("Haka!")

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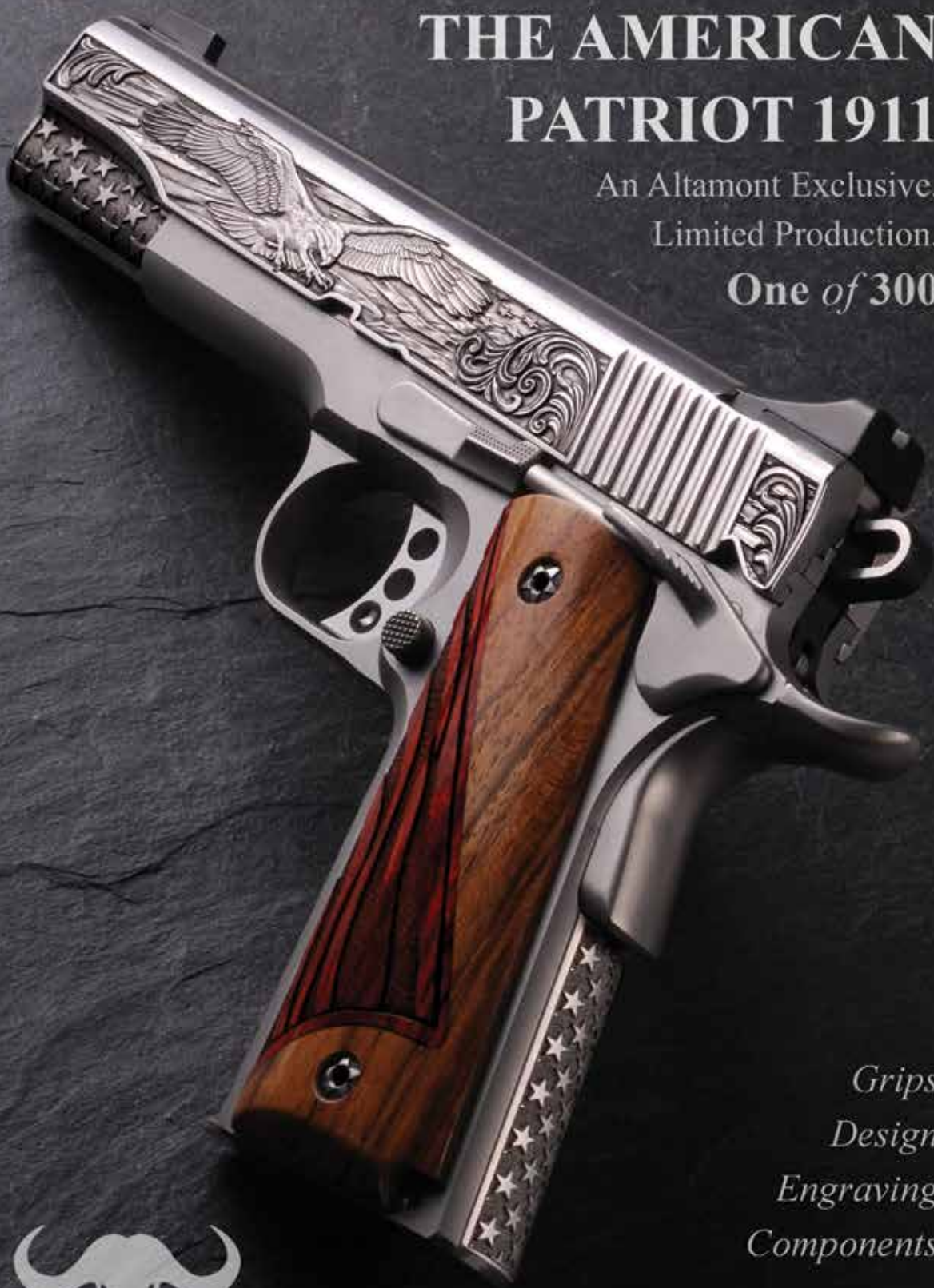
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## SPEAK OUT

Nov/Dec 2019). You really nailed it on the recoil issue. I also have a 69 in stock form. The first time I fired it was with a 240-grain SJSP. I soiled my Fruit of the Looms. Now I'm not a sissy used to a .22, having just fired a .44 for the first time. I've been shooting for 65 years and own two .454's too. I was still surprised by the stout recoil of that 69. After getting a pair of shooting gloves and going down to 180-grain SJFP ammo I found my happy place. A great article on the Haka. Keep up the excellent work.

Dan Spears  
Via email

### Reunited

Loved Duke's "Reunited" article (*Shooting Iron*, Jan/Feb 2020). It made me want to pick up my old semi-retired Super Blackhawk when I get home, just to feel the memories. Maybe take it to the range too on the next trip. It's articles like Duke's that make your magazine special. I confess I did wonder though — do you reckon anyone will ever write such an article about their GLOCKs?

David Smith  
Via email

### Walmart Killer

I have a few magazine subscriptions but *American Handgunner* is my favorite! I can't wait to get it, and I read it cover to cover. The Jan/Feb 2020 issue really surprised me. The *Ayoob Files* column on the Tumwater Walmart incident is really special to me. You see, the woman in the car with Rick Fievez, the one who got out of the car and hid behind it — is my niece! David George, the pastor and EMT saved not only my niece but also Rick's and her son! I thank God for the quick thinking of this man. This incident sparked a fire in my soul. I started to carry every day so maybe I can be that one man, in the right place at the right time to save someone's family member.

John Schaaf, Jr.  
Via email

### Oh-Jive?

Did Dave Anderson ever start an interesting discussion with "This — Not That" (*Winning Edge*, Jan/Feb 2020), and the mispronunciation of common words in shooting. I found at least three different pronunciations of meplat and four more of ogive that doesn't also

*Continued on page 84*

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# REASONS TO RELOAD

**M**y first serious venture into reloading came out of necessity. It was the early years of the Obama administration and between the hoarders and the numbers of new shooters joining our ranks, ammunition had become scarce. I was running a training business heavily dependent upon ammo. I had lots of brass and bullets and powder and primers were still available if you knew where to look. So I turned to reloading to keep my business open.

When the crisis was over and ammunition was freely available, I turned my time and attention to other things. Now, some years later, having recently retired from a full-time, downtown office job, I'm shooting a lot again, and pulling up a stool to the reloading bench.

Right off the bat, I was curious to see if reloading actually saves money. I did a little calculating using 9mm practice and 9mm defensive ammo for comparison. Full metal jacket practice ammo typically comes in boxes of 50. I can buy



Above: Getting this kind of group — from ammo you created yourself — can be very rewarding. Left: Here's David's modest loading bench at home — proof you don't need much space. "A pleasant afternoon or evening spent here sure beats a lot of alternatives I'd rather not be doing anyway!" says David with a laugh.

boxes of various brands for \$10 plus a little tax, rounding out to roughly 22 cents per round. Defensive ammo is typically sold in 20- or 25-round boxes. I know some types sell for as

much as \$1.29 per round, but it just so happens two I like sell for 72 cents per round. These prices are for Hornady 115-gr. XTP and Inceptor 65-gr. ARX.

You should also amortize the cost of loading equipment if you're buying new gear. I have a single-stage Lee press with accessories resulting in an investment of \$185 to load 9mm. Assuming I amortize that over 500 rounds, it will add 37 cents to each of my first 500 rounds. For more expensive gear you might amortize it over more rounds. My comparisons assume the equipment is already "paid for."

## THE NITTY GRITTY

**P**rimers cost 3 cents each. I'm using Hodgdon TiteGroup powder for my calculations and a pound cost me \$21. A pound equals 7,000 grains and reloading data for 115-gr. FMJ rounds calls for 4.5 grains per cartridge. Dividing 7,000 by 4.5 lets me know I get 1,555 cartridges from that pound of powder. That's going to round off to about 1.3 cents per cartridge.

You can buy 1,000 115-gr. FMJ bullets by Berry's Mfg. for \$88 or 8.8 cents apiece. I use the same primers and powder for the defensive ammo but obviously the cost of bullets will be different. It just so happens the Hornady XTP and the ARX bullets I like to load cost 20 cents apiece.

If you add the cost up you get 13 cents for your practice rounds, compared to 22 cents if you buy them. The savings for defensive rounds is even greater, with a cost of 24 cents compared to 72 cents

(that's chasing a buck!). These numbers depend on using your existing brass. Should you need to buy brass, that's going to add approximately 20 cents a round, at first. This takes your cost over bought ammunition for practice rounds, but you're still going to save significantly on defensive style loads. Pretty decent, and you can do better by buying your powder in 5-lb. containers and your bullets in larger quantities. Partner with a fellow shooter and combine orders.

## PERFORMANCE AND FUN

**O**nce you get into reloading seriously, you can try different bullet, powder and load combinations for your favorite gun to find something it really likes, improving accuracy. Always stay within published specs, though, and beware of what you find on the net unless it's from a reliable source.

Plus, reloading is just plain fun! This is a way to put more of you and your efforts into your shooting. Personalizing anything makes it more fun for most of us.

It will take a lot of time, though, and if you're already being stretched thin you may have some decisions to make. Also, almost everyone who's involved in defending someone who has used their gun for self-defense advises against using reloads in your carry gun. The main reason is the ballistics can't be replicated easily. If a prosecuting attorney goes off on a tangent about those "dum-dum killer rounds" you had in your gun, there isn't a good way to defend against it when you loaded

the ammo yourself. However, I much prefer *practicing* with actual defensive ammo and since I can do it for at least 30 cents less per round using reloads, I do it more.

Keep in mind, too, you can't reload for your friends. That puts you in the bracket of being a manufacturer. If you do it for free, I think BATF may find it hard to fine you, but if you charge them, even for materials, you technically need a manufacturer's license. So if you're thinking about buying a Rockchucker 6000 and churning out hundreds of rounds a week to supply your entire sporting club with ammo, you'd better think through the legal ramifications. But, hey, if you shoot a lot — you'll save a lot reloading with the Rockchucker!



The price of ammo in the store is a big motivator toward making your own.



## SPECS

- | CALIBER: 9mm
- | HEIGHT: 5.06"
- | LENGTH: 6.01"
- | WIDTH: 1.0"
- | WEIGHT: 15.5oz
- | TRIGGER PULL: 5.51bs
- | CAPACITY: 10+1

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# BIPODS, TRIPODS = SHOT PLACEMENT

**E**xperienced handgun hunters are often a creative bunch. Those with an abundance of experience under their belts can be most innovative when it comes to finding a steady rest for shooting game. Getting a good, solid rest will increase your odds for accurate shot placement, every time. Sure, if the intended target is close — and for me, I mean close — an off-hand shot is doable. However, when any distance is involved it just makes good sense for the ethical, conscientious hunter to place a bullet exactly where it belongs. And if a solid rest enhances your odds of making a quick, clean, humane kill, by all means we should do everything possible to make it happen.

Everything from a backpack, stump, fence post, tree limb, your knees when sitting, you name it, can be used to steady a shot. Recently I've been testing Warne's new Skyline Precision Bipod. Now here is a great option if you find yourself shooting from the prone position. This well-designed bipod attaches quickly and easily to any Picatinny-type rail. I've mounted Warne's sling swivel accessory rail to the bottom of the forend on a Nosler NCH single shot handgun. The bipod is attached to the rail and you're ready to go hunting.

This sturdy, well-built bipod can be adjusted with one hand and the Rapid Deploy legs lock at 0, 45 and 90 degrees. Minimum height for leg extension is 6.9" with a maximum height of 9.1". Legs can be retracted one position at a time and the pan and cant tension is adjustable. Panning movement can be disabled, allowing only cant if the situation warrants. This bipod is extremely functional and built like a tank — super strong. The Skyline bipod is made from aircraft-grade aluminum with steel components. This bipod is a great option if you're able to shoot from prone.



BOG's new DeathGrip tripod shooting rest in the field. Mark says it's amazingly versatile and solid — and also assures me he's smiling in the picture. "No, really!" he says. I remain doubtful (RH).

the field. But I can tell you there may be times you wish you had a tripod handy. Last year I had the opportunity to hunt a ranch in Utah really big mule deer called home. It was thick, sagebrush country. When glassing from a vantage point, the sagebrush doesn't appear to be very tall. That is, until you find yourself walking through it. We spotted a dandy buck from afar and worked our way into position after several hours.

The buck was below me, a tad over 200 yards. There wasn't a tree nearby nor could I shoot from a backpack. At that distance, an offhand shot with a handgun was out of the question. The sagebrush was so high, it left few options. I couldn't get a rest on the sagebrush as it wasn't sturdy enough to rest the handgun solidly. It was in this circumstance I was most thankful for a tripod. I don't get to lay my eyes on a 186 B&C muley buck every day, and if it hadn't been for the Bog-Pod tripod attachment, that mule deer would have gotten a free pass.

## DEATHGRIP!

**N**ow, Bog has a new, better-designed tripod than I was using called the DeathGrip. I chose the carbon fiber model weighing 7.5 lbs. as it's a bit lighter than their aluminum version. This is a well-designed tripod with a 3-position leg angle, 20, 45 and 85 degrees. You can shoot from standing, sitting, kneeling or prone positions. The legs extend by releasing simple lever locks and the lock pressure can be adjusted with a set-screw. The feet are rubber covered but if you screw in the rubber foot, a steel spike is exposed. This makes the tripod very stable in a variety of conditions. The saddle mechanism holds the gun steadily with rubber cushions on both sides. The head pans 360 degrees with a tension adjustment included.



Warne's new Skyline Precision bipod on Mark's Nosler NCH hunting handgun — perfect for prone shooting.

## TRIPOD TIPS

**A**nother method I've used on recent hunts includes tripods. I've heard many hunters say they don't want to bother carrying anything extra around in

the field. But I can tell you there may be times you wish you had a tripod handy. Last year I had the opportunity to hunt a ranch in Utah really big mule deer called home. It was thick, sagebrush country. When glassing from a vantage point, the sagebrush doesn't appear to be very tall. That is, until you find yourself walking through it. We spotted a dandy buck from afar and worked our way into position after several hours.

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The DeathGrip is loaded with features, including a bubble level. A rubber strap attached to one leg allows you to secure all three legs with the strap, locking them into place. By securing all three legs it makes carrying the tripod a snap.

The tripod concept is versatile, allowing you to shoot from a variety of positions and is much more stable than a tall bipod or shooting stick. I can definitely see the advantage for varmint hunting. You can keep both hands free and have the handgun set-up and ready while calling or glassing. If you have to stand, the legs can be extended and you're still in business.

Bipods and tripods are not the answer to all of life's questions. But, if you hunt long enough, you'll undoubtedly find yourself in a circumstance where they'll be welcomed!



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# OFF DUTY CAPABILITY



AIWB carry conceals this full-size GLOCK in a Vedder holster.



Capacity, power and "shootability" should all be considered along with convenience for off-duty guns.



GLOCK 9mms are, from top, G17, G19 and G26.

**F**ueled by media hype, mass murders have led more of our guys and gals in blue to carry something more substantial than a vestigial micro-caliber while off-duty. They're aware it was reported it took over 50 shots from multiple officers to take down the mad dog killer at the Dayton bar. They're aware there might be a need for a precision head shot through a narrow lane of innocent bystanders. They are, in short, rediscovering Jeff Cooper's dictum of *Diligencia, Vis, Celeritas* — accuracy, power and speed. All three elements tend to be enhanced by more powerful weapons.

Ace instructor Clint Smith commented famously: "A pistol is supposed to be comforting, not concealable." Note, however, Clint never said the two had to be mutually exclusive. After a week of wearing an 18- to 20-lb. duty belt and sweaty body armor, no off-duty cop can be blamed for wanting to be comfortable on a hot weekend off. However, police academies and in-service instructors have little enough time to teach what a cop needs to know *on* the job, leaving little time to budget for off-duty carry advice.

First, consider carrying the duty pistol itself when on your own time instead of the department's. It's the one you're probably most trained and documentably qualified with, and unless the bosses force you to carry a gun you absolutely hate, it may well be the one with which an officer is most competent. Today we have lighter duty weapons, and the best-ever holsters to comfortably, discreetly conceal them.

## SPENDING WISELY

**F**igure out the cost of the dedicated "concealment gun" you're thinking of buying, and add in the cost of holsters, magazines and other accessories you'll need. Then compute how many new pants and shorts a couple of inches larger in girth to conceal an inside the waistband holster — and the cost of that holster itself — to conceal your full-size duty gun. Add the cost of a few tee or polo shirts one size larger to conceal it when untucked. It's very likely it will be cheaper to hide the more capable full-size handgun, with surprisingly little sacrifice in comfort. And you'll be better armed.

The currently popular appendix-inside-waistband (AIWB) carry keeps the long "handle" of a full-size duty gun flat against the front of the abdomen, making it particularly concealable. Especially if you're one of the "new breed" whose duty weapon is equipped with carry optics. Hidden by a closed-front garment, this also puts the IWB spare magazine at the front of the belt where you are probably habituated to reach for it on your duty belt.

## CHOOSING WISELY

**Y**our life is yours — but so, of course, are your responsibilities. As convenient as it might be to carry an itty-bitty mouse gun, take it to the range and determine whether or not you could confidently make a brain shot with it from, say, 25 yards. Compare it with the handgun you carry on-duty or would choose for home defense. It will help you decide what's right for *you*. Shooting the same department qualification course with both your duty gun and your off-duty gun gives you another metric to realistically compare your abilities with.

Is your gun sufficiently accurate and "shootable" — in *your* hands — particularly under stress? Enough rounds on board and potent enough to get the job done?

It's your life, and the lives of your family, who are likely to be in your presence off-duty. Perhaps the lives of other innocent people you've sworn an oath to protect at the risk of your own life may be involved too? It's *your* choice.



IWB hybrid by Concealment Solutions and GLOCK mag pouch can comfortably hide a GLOCK 22, SureFire light and total 31 rounds of .40 S&W.



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## ONE MAN'S TRASH...

**G**o ahead, finish it. You know the rest of the line: "... is another man's treasure." A friend at work asked me to look at a couple of guns he had in his truck. As we walked out to look at them he explained a neighbor, an elderly widow, had piled a bunch of garbage out by the street for trash pickup. She happened to see Jim in his driveway and told him she was cleaning out some of her husband's old stuff and thought there might be some golf clubs in the trash he could have if he wanted them.

What he thought might have been golf clubs wrapped up in an old rug turned out to be a couple of firearms. He pulled

them out and showed them to his neighbor. "Oh, they're probably no good," she said. "My husband wasn't much of a gun guy." Then she said, "You can have them." Some people have all the luck.

It turns out Jim wasn't much of a gun guy either. He had no idea what they were. When we unwrapped them at his truck, we were looking at a Marlin 39A .22 rifle and a Remington 870 12 gauge, both covered in rust. At this point, I made a tactical mistake. I should have offered \$200 for them right there, but to be truthful, I didn't know then how well they would clean up. I did offer to clean them to see how much of the rust I could

remove and let him know what he had.

Back at my shop that evening, they cleaned up beyond my expectations. The stocks on both guns were in good shape too, and I found no rust on the interior parts. In the end, both guns cleaned up nicely and showed almost no wear.



Do people actually throw guns away? If so... then what?

## LEGALITIES

**W**hen I brought the now-clean guns back to my friend I offered him \$100 for the rifle and passed on the shotgun. My dad used to tell me, "Son, you've got it backwards. The idea is to buy low and sell high, but you always seem to go the other direction." That's because whenever I try to buy low, it always happens like it did this time. Jim turned down my offer. I wasn't particularly flush with cash then so didn't up the ante.

When I started to write this about the guns, I figured pictures of the actual guns would be nice. But, my friend told me he no longer had the guns — his wife had sold them. Jim's wife managed to sell the two guns at a fair price to her brother and father, and she gave the proceeds to their neighbor, the original owner. So, there's a nice ending to the guns-in-the-trash story.

But there's more to consider here. Is it legal being the "acquiring" party of something that normally would require a government form for transfer? In many states, individuals can transfer ownership of firearms without Federal paperwork. I know some of the "socialist" states — you know the ones I'm talking about — have laws against it,

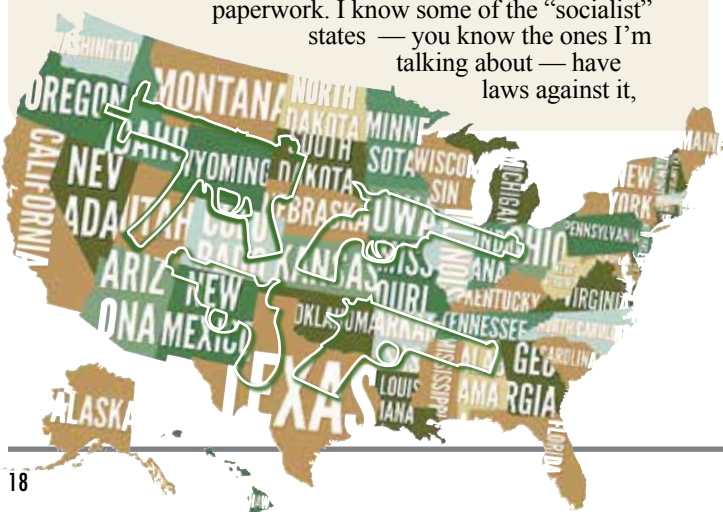
but this happened in Texas. Putting guns in the trash is certainly not making sure a criminal doesn't get his hands on them, but this lady apparently didn't know there were guns in what she was throwing away.

I've lost two firearms in my life. One was stolen — shoplifted actually — during a busy time in the store and a momentary distraction by our store personnel. It was recovered by police later. The other gun was one of my favorite little revolvers that unknowingly was knocked off the magnet under my desk where it normally hung, into the trash can. The can was emptied into a larger trash can and deposited on the curb on trash pickup day. The revolver's absence was not discovered until the trash had been picked up. The little gem was buried deep in the landfill by the end of the day, never to see the light of day again. Ouch.

## WHAT ABOUT YOU?

**W**hat if you just lose a firearm, like what happened with my little Taurus .327 revolver? Federal Firearms dealers are required to report the loss or theft of a firearm, but unless you live in those "socialist" states, there's no legal requirement for individuals to report loss or theft of a firearm. You should check your state's laws. If there's a chance the firearm will fall into someone else's hands, it's to your advantage to report the loss to your local police department for two reasons. If the gun is ever used in a crime and recovered, it won't come back to you, and if you didn't mean to lose it, you might someday get it back.

Make your collection's presence and their value known to your relatives so they can be passed down, or at least sold at a decent price when you're gone. Oh, and maybe record a *true* value for them somewhere so your wife won't sell them for what you told her you paid for them!



# STILL MAKING HISTORY.



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# SORTIN' OUT THE GLOCKS



Models 45 and 17 Gen 5. A lack of finger grips on the frame set them off.

## GENERATIONAL DIFFERENCES



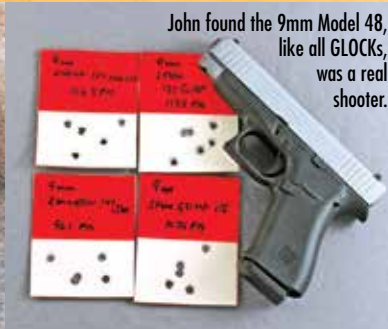
The slide and barrel of the Model 48 are longer than that of the Model 43X.

Life used to be so simple. When I started seriously shooting, sixguns had names like Outdoorsman, Combat Magnum, Heavy Duty, Triple-Lock and on and on. Colt had just started the 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation of Single Action Army sixguns. In 1957 the numbers started and the names were lost. Then it really got complicated when the GLOCKs arrived. If I recall correctly the first GLOCK was number 17 and now we are at number 48; perhaps even higher by the time you read this. It took nearly 150 years for Colt Single Actions to go through three generations. Now GLOCK is in its fifth generation in a little over three decades.

My friend Denis has been using GLOCKs ever since the first model arrived in the mid-1980s. He's a retired engineer, however he still looks at everything through an engineer's eyes and he says he appreciates the GLOCKs for their simplicity, reliability and the fact they are also relatively inexpensive. It's pretty hard to argue with any of those. He's also done much research to come up with all the characteristics of the different generations.



5<sup>th</sup> Gens compared: Coyote Tan 19X and black Model 45. Note forward cocking serrations on the M45.



John found the 9mm Model 48, like all GLOCKs, was a real shooter.

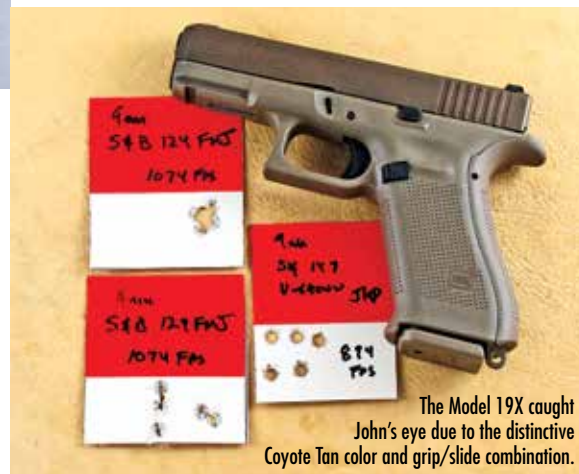
## THE DIFFERENCES

First I asked him to simplify the differences between the generations and then I further simplified it and here's what we came up with.

First Generation GLOCKs have a pebble-grained grip frame with no finger grooves; Second Generation GLOCKs have this pebble grain finish replaced by a coarse rectangular pattern; Third Generation GLOCKs went to finger grooves and a rail for mounting optics. With the Fourth Generation the changes were mostly internal with a compound recoil spring. And now with the arrival of the Fifth Generation, we're back to the beginning with no finger grooves in the grip frame. The

grip is rough-textured with a pattern somewhat like very small cubes. This of course is a highly simplified description.

I've been shooting GLOCKs for several decades and currently have the full-sized .45 ACP and 10 mm along with a compact 9mm and the .45 GAP. I've always viewed these as exceptionally high quality tools. In fact several years ago (decades?) I was invited to take part in a GLOCK Seminar normally reserved for LEOs only. Over the course of three days I learned to ser-



The Model 19X caught John's eye due to the distinctive Coyote Tan color and grip/slide combination.

vice and shoot the .45 GLOCK. During the shooting portion I ran through 1,000 rounds of Black Hills .45 ACP 230-Hardball loads with never a failure to feed,

*Continued on page 78*



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## 'TACTICAL' – OR JUST COMMON SENSE?

**B**oth my grandfathers were lawmen; my dad was a “Green Beret.” These guys were my heroes; even more so as I aged and realized all they had accomplished. Our times on the range “shootin’” were by far my favorites times.

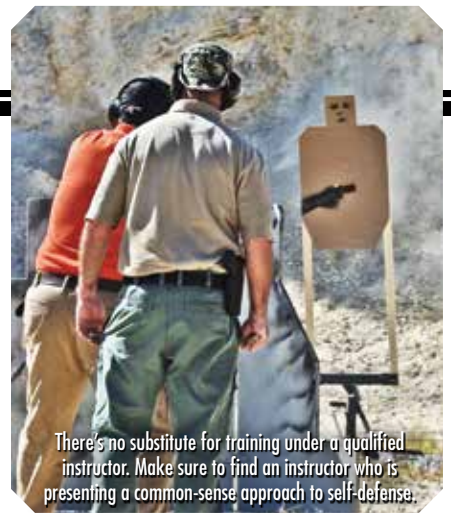
From an early age I bombarded them with “tactical” questions. “What,” I asked, “do you do when ...?” I was seeking a magic answer solving all my problems. “Well,” they all replied, “you just have to use common sense.” At the time, I didn’t get it, believing they were withholding the secrets until I was of age. Today, I understand — a “Tactic” is just common sense.

The language often used when discussing the defensive use of firearms is full of strange words and terms like “situational awareness,” “action phase”

or “adversary template.” At first these phrases sound intimidating — sometimes by design. After a little research, you discover “tactics” are nothing more exotic than plain common sense. Once you realize this, it’s just a matter of making things like “situational awareness” — paying attention to things around you — a habit.

For example, “situational awareness” is nothing more than using your senses to pay attention to the world around you. You watch people, looking for suspicious, abnormal behavior. About 90 percent of our communication is non-verbal, just body language. This requires studying body language.

Don’t neglect sound. You hear screaming, yelling or “a funny noise” you can’t identify. This noise is



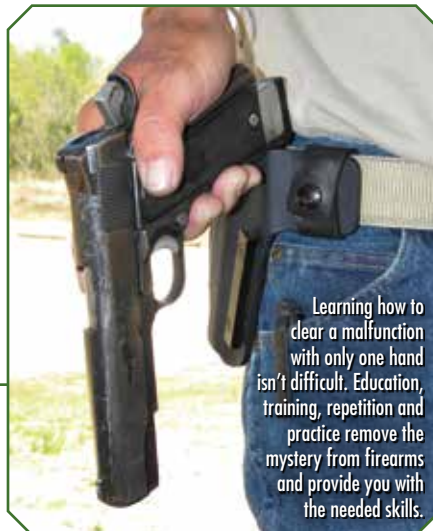
There's no substitute for training under a qualified instructor. Make sure to find an instructor who is presenting a common-sense approach to self-defense.

abnormal. React immediately. By the time you know there’s serious danger, it might be too late to respond. Reflections from windows and shiny surfaces show you what’s happening behind you. Pay attention to your “spidey” sense. If something doesn’t “feel” right, don’t ignore it. While examining your settings, you’re identifying escape routes and areas easily defended. Awareness also includes making a “what if” plan in case things go wrong. In other words, contemplate your surroundings with an eye toward safety.

## GUN HANDLING SENSE

**A**t first, especially if you didn’t grow up around them, firearms are a riddle. After learning safety and gun-handling skills, removing the mystery, everything you need to do makes sense. Yes, firearms are dangerous. So are fast cars, sharp knives and chainsaws. The key is learning how to operate them safely and efficiently.

Responding to a threat of any kind, as my kinfolk said, is “just common sense.” Our first action should be to move. You move to avoid and escape, create distance, get to the protection of cover or force the threat to react to you. Communication is mandatory. “Stop!” you command the threat, “Leave my house now!” You talk with family or friends, who may or may not be armed, to coordinate your actions.



Learning how to clear a malfunction with only one hand isn't difficult. Education, training, repetition and practice remove the mystery from firearms and provide you with the needed skills.

## CHEAP INSURANCE

**V**ery few of the skills to use firearms safely and efficiently are instinctual, which adds to the mysterious nature of firearms. We’re born “knowing” how to walk. It just takes us a little time to get there. Nobody “knows” how to use a firearm. It takes someone else — a qualified instructor — to explain how to use the firearm, and the skills needed when it’s time to apply it as a weapon. Make sure to seek an instructor with a

common-sense approach to the skills you need.

Instruction shows us how to do something, but remember there’s a big ground between knowing something and being able to perform these actions, usually under adverse conditions. In the beginning competence in defensive skills require conscious thought. With

You only shoot if it’s required to stop the threat. Moving behind cover, while drawing your pistol and yelling at the threat may reward you with a “psychological stop.” According to documentation, the presence of a firearm and strong verbal commands solve the problem a couple million times a year — without having to fire.

When shooting is required, a study of anatomy reveals all we need to know. The pelvis is a great place to place your hits. The majority of people shot here drop to the ground; most don’t get back up. The pelvis is a large target, moves less than any of the body from there up and allows you to shoot at a lower angle, which may be important depending on your background. Whether you have to shoot or not, at the first chance you break contact — leave — and locate somewhere easily defended in case the threat continues the attack.

repetition this lifestyle becomes a habit. “Tactics” is nothing more than ordinary, good habits, nothing mysterious. You know danger can show up anywhere, anytime. You acknowledge personal protection is an individual responsibility. After identifying the problem and solution, you plan accordingly. You train and practice with your weapon until it becomes ordinary for you to make accurate hits under any conditions. Taking the right steps to protect you and yours is cheap insurance. And that’s just common sense.



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# PISTOLSMITHING

THE INSIDE SCOOP ON PISTOLSMITHING TECHNIQUES

GREG DERR



Greg Derr working with a rotary tool at his bench wearing eye and respiratory protection. The mask prevents the inhalation of fine metal dust particles.



Greg Derr at the Bridgeport mill working on a 1911 frame with a full-face shield to protect himself against hot flying metal chips and coolant oils.

## TOXIC TENDENCIES

**W**orking on firearms at any time has its risks. We in the craft typically think of an accidental discharge or damage from a faulty cartridge or action. But for those who work in a full custom shop, there are hidden dangers from chips, dust and chemicals we're exposed to each day.

Years ago while working in the shop I noticed the glittering of steel dust in the late afternoon sun coming through my window. It shocked me for a bit. I took a lot for granted for a number of years until I had children. I guess when I started thinking of my kids I started to think of my mortality. I had a few older friends in the trade pass from cancer and it caused me to examine my safety practices and risks of exposure to toxins in my shop.

I always wore eye protection since chips tend to fly while milling and turning, and some springs under tension can pop free. But I didn't think too much about the dust and fumes in my shop. I guess because the 'smith I trained under didn't, I never thought it was necessary. But in retrospect — I was wrong. When I took a closer look at my shop I could see dust covered almost everything. Dust from grinding, dust from spray coatings, dust from blasting — all stuff I was breathing, all stuff I should have been protecting myself from.

That was 20 years ago.

## FIGHTING DUST

**T**oday I use a variety of masks and gloves and a large exhaust system to prevent airborne exposure to dust and fumes. If you use a bench grinder or rotary tool this creates dust particles, which tend to stay airborne for a while. Steel, aluminum and wood dust can be hazardous to lungs and eyes.

I started asking others smiths what precautions they were taking. I was surprised most did very little beyond eye protection and an apron. I did find a few who had suffered some infections from wood dust and one from ivory dust.

My first step was to evaluate my workspace. I wanted to minimize the areas of exposure. I moved my welding area to near the area I use for spray coatings. This area got a large industrial exhaust fan and hood. It's also close to my Bridgeport mill, which is equipped with a misting system for cooling.

The bench grinding area got partitions to enclose the grinders on three sides. I also installed a dedicated shop vacuum for clean up. For work in this area I use a 3M-dust mask, covering the nose and mouth and having removable fine particle filters. I also have two glass or aluminum oxide blasting cabinets. One for stainless, the other for carbon steel, and each has a dedicated vacuum and filter system. No matter how much vacuum you may use, they still leak a fine dust. I tend to get my face close to the window while working so I mask up there too.

My surface grinder was next. I hand pump coolant to help keep the dust down, but a mask is a must for the cooling vapors as they cook-off the hot work.

## FUMES

**C**leaning solvents are not only flammable but can cause respiratory issues if not used in a vented area. We use both a cleaning tank with a cover and aerosol cans to clean and degrease. I switched to mineral spirits for the cleaning tank long ago since it was less flammable and could clean everything without damage. I'm looking

at water-based cleaners for the future.

Disposable latex gloves to prevent skin exposure, breathing masks and a fan are used in this area. We also texture synthetic frames with a hot iron and a small fan moves fumes away.

Scott Kolar of SK Grips said he was lucky over 20 years ago when he started making single action revolver grips in his basement. Right off, old timers warned him about the risks of some exotic wood dusts as well as horn and ivory. Some woods like cocobolo and snake wood give off toxic oils when sanded, and ebony dust is super fine. In his shop he has a centralized dust collection system as well as facemasks.

The next time you begin to clean a gun, think about the solvents, splatter and toxic products like lead you're dealing with and suit-up appropriately. Wearing disposable gloves and eye protection is a must, and at least a small fan to blow fumes away is in order.



Nicholas Derr of Derr Precision uses a dust mask while blasting a 1911 slide with aluminum oxide beads. Most blasting cabinets have small dust leaks.



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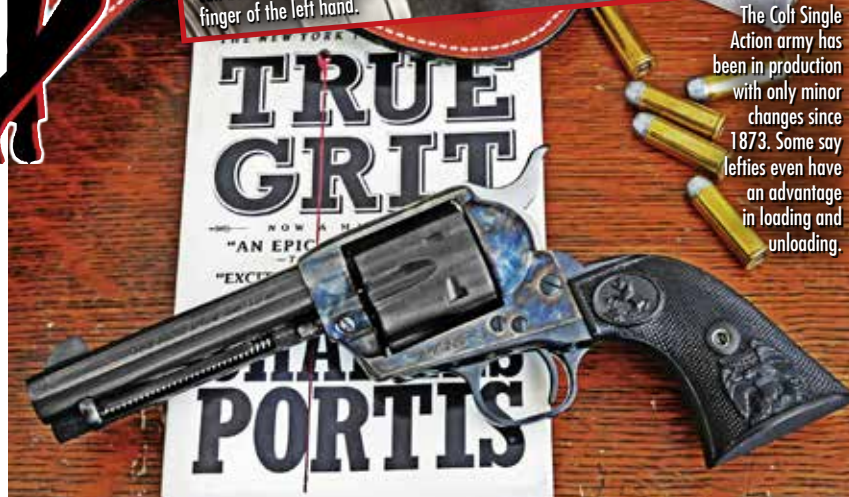
# LEANING LEFT...



The GLOCK pistol and many designs following proved suited to both right- and left-hand use. The magazine release button and slide stop/release can be manipulated with the trigger finger of the left hand.



The CZ-75 was originally made with the manual safety on the left side only. Adding an ambidextrous safety to the CZ-75 was a fairly simple process and greatly enhanced its utility.



The Colt Single Action Army has been in production with only minor changes since 1873. Some say lefties even have an advantage in loading and unloading.

## THE LONG AND SHORT

For left-handed shooters long guns seem more of a problem than handguns. Most pump and semi-auto shotguns, for example, eject fired cases in their face, and cross-bolt safeties work the wrong way for them. Most bolt-action rifles have the bolt handle — and often the safety — on the wrong side. The late Col. Charles Askins was a southpaw and an excellent all-around shooter. He managed by using over/under double-barrel shotguns with tang safeties.

In his younger days when left-hand bolt-action rifles didn't exist, Askins used lever-action rifles, notably the Savage 99, although the sliding right-side safety must have been a nuisance. Later he had some bolt-action rifles converted so the handle was on the left side. The colonel,

and many other left-handers, were delighted when Savage introduced a left-hand version of the model 110. Weatherby and Remington soon introduced left-hand actions. Most major manufacturers have followed suit.

Southpaw handgunners have it easier. Askins, for example, won a national bullseye title in the 1930s shooting left-handed and didn't feel he was handicapped. Single-action revolver enthusiasts feel the old Colt Single Action Army and its many imitators are actually better suited to left-hand use. The left hand can retain the shooting grip on the revolver while the right hand can easily access the loading gate and ejector rod.

Revolvers with a cylinder latch on

Got your attention I'll bet, but we're not talking about "that" left here. Left-handed people in many ways are better off today than in the past. My maternal grandmother was left-handed, a condition which wasn't tolerated when she was an English schoolgirl late in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. If she got caught trying to write or do other tasks with the left hand it would get a sharp rap with a ruler — all for her own good, of course.

One of my sisters is left-handed, but fortunately schools in the 1960s and 1970s were more enlightened. All she had to do was learn to cope with a right-hand world where seemingly things from school desks to scissors were difficult to use. Although the situation today is generally improved, lefties still have limitations compared to righties. Not because of any particular bias against them but simply because product designers never give much thought to the issue.

Worldwide approximately 10 percent of people are left-hand dominant. Some research suggests southpaws are better at languages, more creative and athletic, and in general higher achievers than righties. A high percentage of top baseball and hockey players, possibly as high as 50 percent, are left-handed. On the other hand only about 4 percent of top-ranked golfers are southpaws.

the left and with the cylinder swinging out to the left aren't quite as handy but pose no serious problems. Regardless of which hand shoots the gun, DA revolver shooters hold the gun in the left hand while the right hand punches the ejector rod to dump fired cases, and then reloads with individual rounds or a speedloader.



The Colt Woodsman .22 is one of the all-time classics but I could hardly blame a left-handed shooter for feeling forgotten. Those right-hand only thumbrest grips could be replaced but nothing can make the manual safety convenient for the leftie.



This Ruger SR22, a handy little .22 for the camper or hiker, is completely ambidextrous with hammer drop/safety and magazine release buttons on both sides.



Most recent semiauto pistols are designed from the start with left-hand use in mind. This CZ P07 has an ambidextrous hammer drop lever on the frame.

# AUTO ADVANTAGES?

**S**emi-auto pistols really run the gamut. Some are almost completely ambidextrous while others are still “right hand friendly.” Personally I never gave the issue much thought until I took up practical shooting competition in the late 1970s. Many matches, certainly all major ones, included some “weak hand only” stages, which for me meant the left hand. Training in left-hand shooting with my Colt Series 70 National Match .45, I found the magazine release button and the slide stop/release could be easily accessed by the left hand trigger finger. The grip safety didn’t care which hand held the gun. But the manual safety was hopeless. It could be manipulated with the left hand but not fast and with a rather precarious grip on the gun. Ambidextrous safeties quickly became a popular aftermarket accessory and are currently standard on many 1911 designs.

Manual safeties are likely the biggest issue for left-handers. Most early



In the early 1950s a left-handed hunter/shooter would find firearm choices limited. Bolt-action rifles and semi-autos were better suited to right-hand use. A left-handed hunter headed to the Big Woods might select this Savage 99, along with the S&W K-22 and do fine.

semi-autos had the safety on the left side, accessible to right-hand shooters. Not just the 1911, but also the Luger, Browning and Colt pocket automatics, Colt Woodsman, Browning High Power, Walther PP and P38 series among many others. Fortunately several popular semi-autos such as the 1911, Browning High Power, CZ-75 and others were easily adapted to left-hand use by fitting an ambidextrous

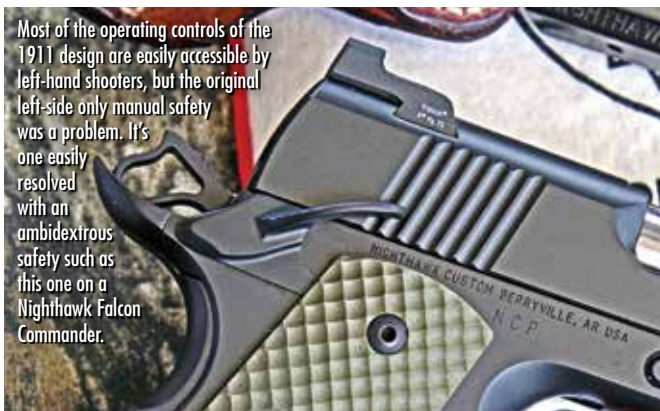
safety, either as a standard feature or as an option.

Left-handers welcomed the GLOCK pistol — and the many similar designs following — with open arms. Here was a semi-auto pistol offering no disadvantages to a lefty. There was no manual safety, the magazine release button and slide stop could be managed with the trigger finger, and the trigger pull was the same for everybody.

Many of the more recent handgun models introduced in the last couple of decades were designed with ambidextrous use in mind. Lefties may be a minority but they are not a small minority, and no sensible manufacturer is going to overlook 10 percent of the market!



Most of the operating controls of the 1911 design are easily accessible by left-hand shooters, but the original left-side only manual safety was a problem. It's one easily resolved with an ambidextrous safety such as this one on a Nighthawk Falcon Commander.



Remora holsters are made in the USA using tough, waterproof materials. Look for a host of other options like mag pouches, Kydex products, fishing plier cases and even a bra holster!

MARK KAKKURI

# REMORA

## VALUE AND VERSATILITY DEFINED



## IWB/POCKET

The IWB/Pocket refers to the fact you can wear it IWB or use it as a pocket holster. Generally you leave the belt clip on for IWB carry — but you don't have to. The holster material is so sticky it'll sit securely IWB held in place by a combination of your skin or a T-shirt and your pants and your gun belt. With the clip removed the holster doubles as a pocket holster, although this depends on what gun

If you carry concealed, it's likely you've got more than one gun and multiple holsters in order to have multiple carry options. If, however, you'd like to find one holster to do the duty of multiple holsters, there's at least one up to the task(s). The aptly named 2-IN-1 Clip/No Clip IWB/Pocket Holster by Remora Holsters does the job of at least four holsters. Retailing for \$45.95 — watch for sales too — it's a great value. Ironically, I use it almost exclusively as a simple IWB. Still, it gets called on a lot for everyday concealed carry of a SIG SAUER P365.

The 2-IN-1 Clip/No Clip refers to the steel belt clip. It's a typical belt holster clip, but attaches to the holster via a heavy-duty snap. You can snap it on and off as needed, and when it's on it'll freely swivel 360 degrees. It's a great feature for wearing the holster in multiple locations inside your waistband. I like it at 4 o'clock (classic strong side for me) and 1 o'clock (appendix). But I can wear it at 10 o'clock (cross draw), too. At 4, I cant it forward just a bit. At 1, it's a straight drop. At 10, I cant it back just a bit. And because the holster material is a grabby, rubbery type material, it stays secure in all locations.



Mark prefers appendix carry for his SIG P365 and finds the Remora stays put. The padding makes it extremely comfortable.

you're carrying. The P365 is a small gun but it's no pocket gun — at least not my pockets. Cargo pockets, possibly. But cargo pockets aren't in my rotation of street garb. But as a pocket holster, the holster material again contributes to a terrific carry experience. You'll push and fuss to get the holster seated in your pocket; but once it's there, it stays, riding upright and remaining in place on a draw.

But the versatility really shines when you want to change up your carry mode throughout the day. I can carry the SIG SAUER P365 in at least three IWB locations — good for a variety of carry situations. When driving my car I like appendix and cross draw. When I am upright and out and about, I like strong side. All possible with the clip attached or not. If I want to switch to pocket carry, which is a reasonable possibility in colder weather and I'm wearing the right jacket, I can just pop the clip off and store it in another pocket until needed later. Then the Remora goes into my jacket pocket where it's easy to access when I'm outside. Also, when the clip is off, the Remora can be tucked inside my waistband for ambidextrous access.

## TOUGH AND COMFORTABLE

Available for dozens of gun makes and models, Remora also offers fits for various light/laser accessories. The exterior color comes in black, pink punch, white and yellow punch and the interior lining comes in black, black plush, digital cameo, pink, pink camo, purple and woodland camo. An "Artemis" cut — a lower profile cut offering a better master grip and sweat shield — is also available. Finally, you can get a magnetized version to activate your light/laser accessory upon drawing, if so equipped. Remora holsters can also accommodate RMRs.

Hand manufactured in the USA, Remora holsters are stitched using marine-grade thread. I've been carrying the SIG SAUER P365 in this Remora for months and the holster shows not one sign of wear or tear. In fact, neither do I. The outer rubbery material does a good job of sticking in place but causing no discoloration or wear on my clothes. It's nicely padded with no harsh edges, and I'm surprised at how well it fits and feels in all the IWB locations I carry it. Even at 1 o'clock and sitting, where the holster pushes right into my thigh, I can feel the bulk, but it's never uncomfortable.

And 1 o'clock (appendix) is where I carry this holster 99.9 percent of the time. I keep the steel clip snapped in place and just drop the holster in place when I'm heading out. An untucked shirt, sweater or jacket is all I need to hide the Remora and it offers up enough of the P365 stocks to afford a decently fast draw. It's value and versatility defined.



Remora's versatile holster allows IWB, appendix, strong side, cross-draw, etc. due to the removable pocket clip and "sticky" holster material.

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# Good Old Days?

**“W**here were you in '62?” I remember this line was used in promoting the movie *American Graffiti*. Well, in '62 I was not quite into my teenage years, and I know exactly where I was; living in the same house, and on the same farm where I live today. Back then my main interests were books, cameras, guns, cars, hunting, fishing and pretty much any outdoors activity. Nearly 60 years later I can't say I've changed much!

1962 was also the year I first became aware there were such things as hunting and shooting magazines. Mom came back from a trip to the city and gave me a copy of *Outdoor Life*. Later I would use some of my meager savings to buy *GUNS Magazine*. It seemed incredible to me one could get paid for writing. I remember in 1985 I was first offered the opportunity to write for *American Handgunner*. I cautiously asked what it would cost me. “No, we pay you.” Whaaat ...?

## Cheap Guns?

**N**ostalgia pieces such as this are supposed to muse longingly about how inexpensive guns were back then. Colt Government Models or Browning Hi Powers for \$80, an S&W Model 10 or Colt Official Police for \$70, an S&W Model 19 for \$110 or Model 29 for \$140. Not to mention military surplus Lugers and P-38s for \$50 to \$100.

Now a touch of reality — if you could go back in time you wouldn't like it. In 1962 an average wage was about \$85 a week. Those seemingly cheap guns in fact cost a week's wages or more. Currently the average wage index in the U.S. comes to about \$1,200 a week. In 1962 it took a week's wages to buy one good handgun. A week's wages today will buy two or three good handguns.

One can feel nostalgia for an era when buying a gun was a simple process. Walk into a gun store, or for that matter a hardware or department store, hand them the cash, they hand you the gun. But the guns weren't cheap, and depending on the type of gun you wanted there wasn't much of a selection.

Let's say it's 1962 and you want to buy a centerfire semi-auto pistol. Being a proud patriot and maybe a veteran of one or two wars you prefer the pistol to be American made. The Colt .25 ACP pocket pistol doesn't strike your fancy, nor are you interested in a target

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Left: If you wanted an American-made centerfire service pistol in the early 1960s your choices were the S&W 39 and the Colt Government Model, both of which cost about a week's wages. Right: In 1962 a week's wages would buy a genuine Garand rifle. If you missed out though don't feel bad, a week's wages today will still buy a nice Garand.

pistol such as the Colt National Match or S&W 52. Your remaining choices are the Colt Government Model, the Colt Commander and the S&W 39. You could probably stretch the point a bit and include the Browning Hi Power. In your service in WWII or the Korean War, or both, you'd have seen Browning firearms in action defending America. No, they don't get any more American than Browning, even when made in one of those little European countries.

Now if it was a revolver you were looking for it was a different story. This was only to be expected as most everyone *knew* semi-auto pistols were not reliable enough for personal defense. Even so it wasn't too hard to narrow down your choices to small, medium or large, and Colt or S&W. Or if you considered a single-action revolver a viable defensive handgun, and many did, the choice was Colt or Ruger. If the budget was really tight there were inexpensive models from H&R, High Standard and Iver Johnson, some of which cost less than half a week's wages.

A Luger for under \$60 is not a bad deal even if your weekly salary is only about \$85. Still, you could get a quality American-made revolver or semi-auto pistol for not much more, chambered for a real American .38 Special or .45 ACP cartridge. Nine millimeter? What the heck is a millimeter?

## TIME TRAVEL

**L**et's jump ahead to the present day. In semi-auto pistols alone there are literally hundreds of models available. If someone asks for advice on buying what they expect to be their first and only semi-auto pistol I hardly know where to start. There are cartridges that didn't even exist in 1962 such as the 10mm Auto and .40 S&W. Loads for cartridges that did exist, such as the 9mm Luger, are far more effective. Let's say you want a compact pistol for personal and home defense, concealable in an IWB holster, with an accessory rail, striker fired, tritium night sights and single stack. Gosh, that narrows it down to about 37 models.

And make no mistake, the semi-autos of today are not just cheaper in terms of your buying power, they're better made, more reliable, more durable and with more features. If your choice turns out not quite right, buy another. You can afford it. Don't let old-timers like me fool you. The good old days are now. And don't even get me going about the dozens of new revolver models today!



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Duke ended up paying more for his Artillery Luger accouterments than he did for the pistol itself — stocks, loaders, holsters and more abound for it.

# ACCOUTERMENTS

**M**y dictionary says “accouterments” are military accessories. I love the word because to me it seems like a combination of accumulate and collect, both endeavors I do very well. Let’s apply accouterments to handguns: What do they need in the way of accouterments? The first two in my mind are the most common. They are holsters and nice grips (stocks). Make mine leather in the first and some sort of organic material in the second.

Then there are accouterments specific to certain types of handguns. Speed loaders for DA revolvers or even half- or full-moon clips for .45



Auto revolvers come to mind. And don’t forget lots of spare magazines and magazine pouches for semi-autos. Most young shooters need more accouterments. Laser-dot sights, flashlights and whatnot to fill up the rails placed all over many semi-autos nowadays fill the bill.

What about single action revolvers? Since they are not commonly considered fighting handguns nowadays they usually (hopefully) don’t have rails. What could possibly be necessary accouterments for them? From my 51 years of experience as a single-action shooter there are two. A screwdriver is essential! By my count Ruger Old Model SAs have 10, New Models have nine and Colt SAAs (and replicas) have 11 external screws that are forever

working loose. A properly fitting screwdriver is a necessity. I’ve ruined more SA screws than most people will ever see by using poor screwdrivers!

Then there’s the problem of stuck cylinder base pins. Anyone who has owned and fired Colt SAA type revolvers knows about this problem. I’ve driven out many after dismantling the sixgun and punching them out from the rear. Peacemaker Specialists markets both proper fitting screwdrivers for single actions and a special prong-shaped steel tool to pry those recalcitrant base pins out.



Because Yvonne is around horses daily Duke insists she carry a small knife in case of tangled ropes, etc. Maybe you should too?

# LUXURY LUGER GOODIES

**I**f you really want to get involved with a firearm — the accouterments for which could properly be termed “money pit” — then buy a German P08 *Lange* (meaning long). American collector types refer to them as Artillery Lugers. They actually were first intended for troops protecting World War I artillery and machine gun positions. I know the “money pit” deal because I bought one.

Germany’s P08 *Lange* pistols came in sets with plenty of accouterments. Included were standard 8-round magazines, snail drum 32-round magazines, a special lever-actuated loading tool for the latter, a take-down tool also used for helping load the 8-round magazines and a special tiny spanner wrench for zeroing rear sight for elevation. Sound like a lot? I’m not finished!

Also issued with them were a leather

holster, straps and magazine pouches. The holster had a slot especially for storing the special long cleaning rod needed for a P08 *Lange*’s 8" barrel and a pocket for the take down tool. The holster was secured to a wooden “shoulder board” that, when attached to the Luger, turned it into a carbine. It took me several years but I finally added all those accouterments to my Luger P08 *Lange*. Only the leather gear is reproduction; all the rest are original. The accouterment cost was above and beyond what I paid for the pistol itself. I just couldn’t stop myself from searching out and buying it all.

For the more practical sort, a knife is a good accouterment for handgun-packing folks. Fighting men and outdoors types need them for all sorts of reasons. Folders and sheath knives abound in pockets and on belts here in



Single-Action revolvers sometimes need specialized accouterments such as this stuck base pin puller. Duke reminds you to use proper fitting screwdrivers too.

Montana. Back in my horse-riding days I wouldn’t be without a knife, and since Yvonne is still around horses nearly every day, she packs a small sheath knife. You might be surprised even here in Montana she is sometimes told she cannot enter an establishment wearing that petite knife.

And finally we get to the ultimate handgun accouterment — a carbine in the same caliber. I’ve been working with a couple of modern ones. The idea started in the 1870s and is far from dying today.



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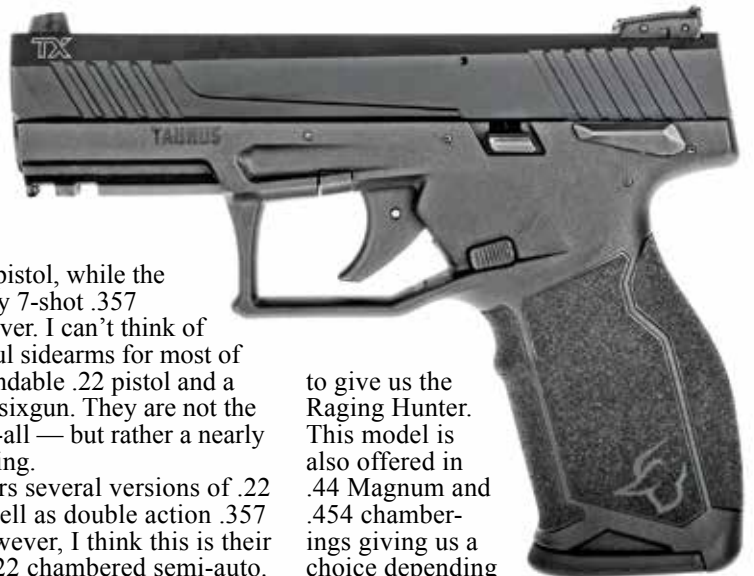
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The built-in muzzle brake on the Raging Hunter — and 43-oz. weight — help keep recoil manageable even with the heaviest hunting loads. Below: The TX22 can be had with or without an ambi-thumb safety, and even has a light rail!

# TAURUS .357 RAGING HUNTER —

# AND A TX22 UPDATE



**S**hooters buy firearms for many reasons including self-defense, hunting, target shooting and just plain old plinking. Many of the handguns purchased are for use afield; getting off the beaten path and traveling sagebrush and foothills. Anyone traveling these areas requires a reliable handgun as a companion. It can be anything from a .22 to one of the largest .500 custom revolvers. Each of us has to decide just what our needs are.

Taurus has recently introduced two handguns serving quite well for our travels afield. One is a very lightweight

.22 semi-auto pistol, while the other is a heavy 7-shot .357 Magnum revolver. I can't think of any more useful sidearms for most of us than a dependable .22 pistol and a .357 Magnum sixgun. They are not the do-all and end-all — but rather a nearly perfect beginning.

Taurus offers several versions of .22 revolvers as well as double action .357 Magnums, however, I think this is their first full size .22 chambered semi-auto. The .22 has been labeled the TX22 while the .357 Magnum capitalizes on the original Raging Bull nomenclature

to give us the Raging Hunter. This model is also offered in .44 Magnum and .454 chamberings giving us a choice depending on what we are likely to encounter in our off the pavement excursions.

## TX22

I know David Freeman covered the TX22 (*American Handgunner* Mar/April 2019) but thought this follow-up would be good. I've lived with this test gun for quite some time now. Did it hold up? You bet!

I started everyone in the family, kids and grandkids, shooting with a .22 pistol. Now more than 50 years later my oldest daughter still shoots .22's with me once a week. For the past summer I've been taking along various .22 pistols from different manufacturers. We always have a supply of many different .22 cartridges to try and several of these pistols were quite prone to jamming

with some versions of the ammo. In fact, it happened so often my daughter decided she would learn how to take care of jams herself instead of asking me to do it. Sometimes it gets very frustrating.

However, the past few weeks have been very enjoyable as she's been shooting the Taurus TX22. This little pistol costs one-half to one-third of some of the others, however it always, and I mean *always* works. No matter what ammunition we try every round always feeds and ejects. I have personally put over 600 rounds through this Taurus and have never had a failure to feed or eject. It is a rare semi-auto .22 with this attribute.

The TX22 is a full-sized pistol with a 4" barrel and a magazine capacity of 16 rounds, with two magazines supplied.

Holding this many rounds is also very rare for a .22 pistol. Total weight is just over one pound. Sights are excellent too, with a white dot front and white dots on both sides of the rear notch (adjustable for windage and elevation).

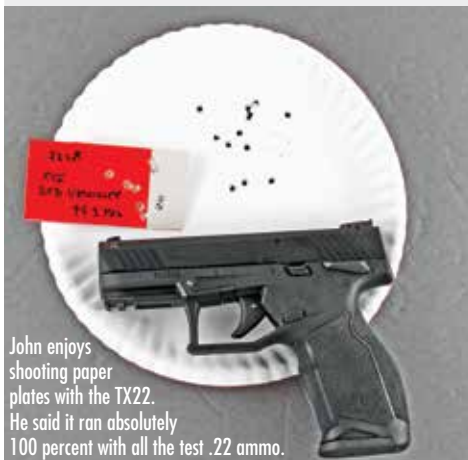
The trigger is exceptional especially for a .22 pistol with an MSRP of \$349. It is smooth, very smooth and as the pull begins it rotates slightly and then starts straight back. It's designated the precision-design Taurus Pittman Trigger System (PTS). The engineers said they specifically wanted a great trigger on this gun and they succeeded. This striker-fired .22 also has an extremely comfortable grip with an aggressive pattern for secure handling. It's available both with and without an ambidextrous manual thumb safety.

# ACCURACY & FEATURES GALORE

Today many .22 semi-autos have a threaded part of the barrel extension for attaching a suppressor or muzzle brake. This sticks beyond the front of the slide and requires a thread protector when not being used. It's also not very attractive. Taurus shows their innovation and ingenuity another way in this area. Instead of a threaded portion of the barrel beyond the front of the slide Taurus provides a suppressor adapter collar that can be attached to the barrel if needed and when not it's out of the way.

During my actual testing, 12 different .22 loads were tried with the average groups at 15 yards for 10 shots being right at 1.5" to 1.75". The most accurate load was the Federal "325" bulk pack hollow points with a muzzle velocity of just over 1,025 fps and a group for 10 shots of 1.25". This is by no means a target pistol which will drop them all into the X-Ring, however it's an excellent fun gun for plinking as well as a gun one can carry as a trail pistol with confidence knowing it will always work.

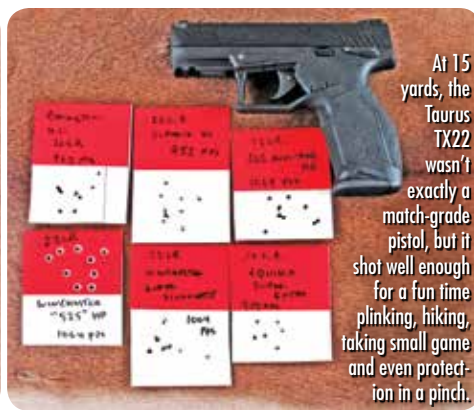
Although it's light in weight the size is such it makes a good understudy for inexpensive practice as it feels much like a 9mm polymer "duty" type pistol. And apparently trainers know this and are beginning to put it to work doing that very thing. I particularly enjoyed it shooting plates — not steel plates but 8" paper plates. The low price of the pistol, ammunition, and targets make for very inexpensive practice. The price and tough finish add up to an excellent choice for carrying in a tackle box, backpack, or pickup truck as well as packing easily on the hip. That is, if I can ever pry it back out of my daughter's fingers!



John enjoys shooting paper plates with the TX22. He said it ran absolutely 100 percent with all the test .22 ammo.



Once scoped John chased 1" groups at 25 yards again and again depending upon the load.



At 15 yards, the Taurus TX22 wasn't exactly a match-grade pistol, but it shot well enough for a fun time plinking, hiking, taking small game and even protection in a pinch.

Taurus has introduced a couple of color variations of the TX22, including this sort of "Coyote Tan" version. The trigger pull on all of them is excellent.



## RAGING HUNTER

That's the fun gun; now we look at the more serious example. I chose the .357

Magnum version for its versatility and also the fact it's so much more enjoyable to shoot.

There are several versions offered in the three chamberings, however I went with the 8 $\frac{3}{8}$ " barreled version — a two-toned sixgun. The cylinder and barrel assembly are both matte black while the frame is matte stainless. Total weight of this 7-shot .357 Magnum is right at 43 oz. empty, so it's no lightweight. This, coupled with the very comfortable rubber grips with the red insert in the back and the porting of the barrel make it exceptionally comfortable to shoot.

Much of the weight comes from the very heavy full underlug barrel. Actually this whole assembly fits over the barrel. The entire wide top rib of the lug consists of a full-length Picatinny rail for the ease of installing a scope. For most of my testing I used a 2X Leupold to remove as much human error as possible. The main option for sighting is excellent, though, consisting of a slightly undercut flat black post front sight matched up with a fully adjustable square notch black rear sight.

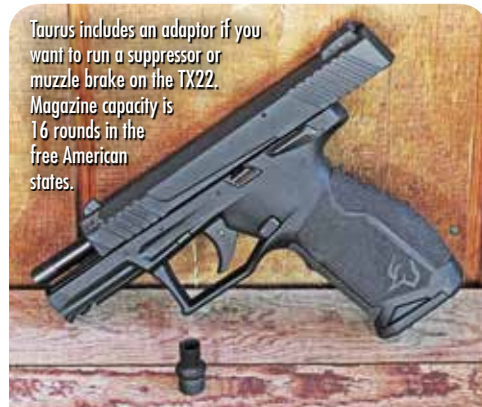
The cylinder on this Taurus .357 Magnum locked both at the front and the back. This requires pressing forward on the latch behind the cylinder shield and downward on the latch in front of the cylinder at the same time to swing the cylinder out to the left. With its two-tone finish the Raging Hunter is quite attractive. The right side of the barrel assembly is marked "TAURUS" while the left side reads "RAGING HUNTER." The Taurus Raging Hunter is heavy enough — whether scoped or with the factory sights — I would pack it in a shoulder/ across the belly holster rig or pack.

Taurus has a reputation for smooth actions on their DA revolvers. The double-action operation is quite acceptable and smooth, however, when we come to the single-action trigger there is no way to describe it except, well ... awful. I gotta' believe this is an anomaly and somebody

*Continued on page 86*



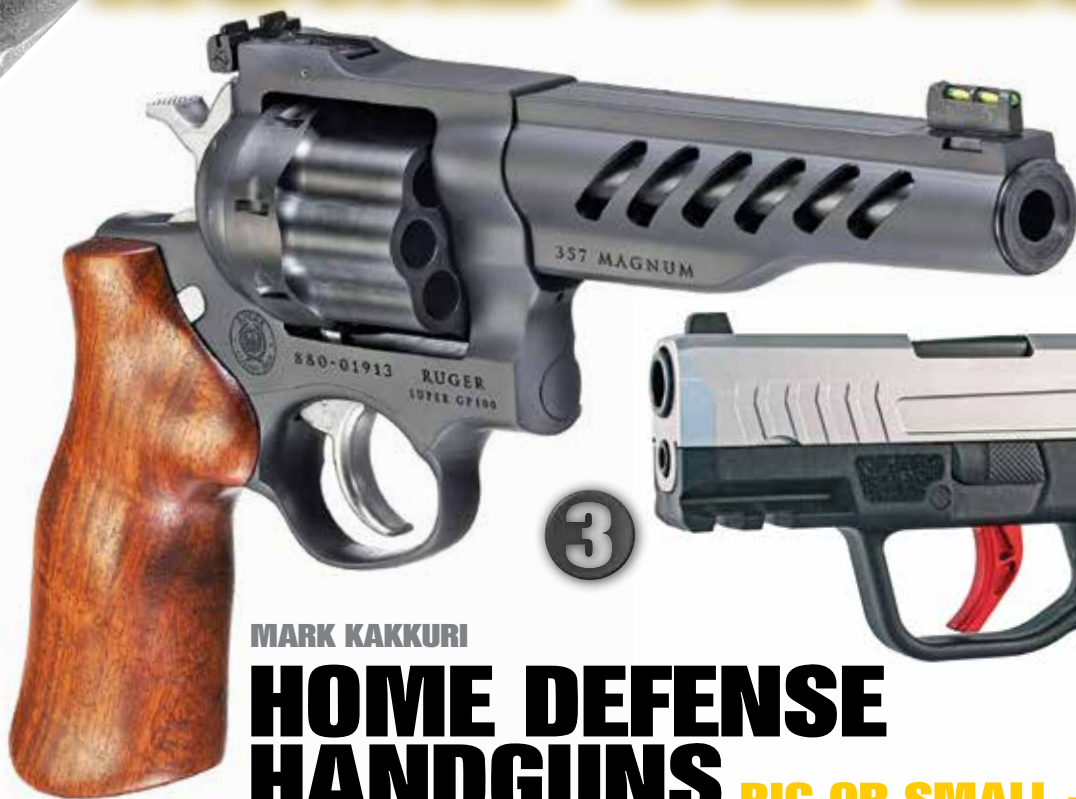
The burly Raging Hunter is John's "Most Accurate" .357 Magnum revolver. It holds seven rounds.



Taurus includes an adaptor if you want to run a suppressor or muzzle brake on the TX22. Magazine capacity is 16 rounds in the free American states.

# HOME DEFENSE

A CLOSE LOOK AT



9

3

MARK KAKKURI

## HOME DEFENSE HANDGUNS

**BIG OR SMALL — RELIABILITY IS JOB ONE**

**W**e like shotguns and rifles for home defense, but we *really* like handguns, too. Full-size handguns are legit options for home defense, but so are sub-compacts and all manner of revolvers. The gun you have “at-hand” is likely the gun you’ll use to defend yourself or your family. Keep this in mind if you’re in the market. Big is powerful, controllable and effective — but may not always be close at hand. The Ruger LCP II you have in the pocket of your shorts just may be the one you use to protect the ramparts!



6

**1** Comprised of American stainless steel and custom wood grips, Colt’s King Cobra “Target Revolver” has all the marks of a classic combat revolver, weighing in at 39 oz. with a 9.25” overall length. This is no plinker but a 6-round .357 Magnum with a 4.25” barrel. The addition of an adjustable rear sight gives it plenty of versatility, while remaining a solid home defense choice too. Whether you’re in competition or in your home, it’ll deliver the goods if you do your part. MSRP: \$999. [www.colt.com](http://www.colt.com)

**2** Mossberg’s MC1sc marks another entry in the sub-compact 9mm arena. The MC1sc sports a 3.4” stainless steel barrel with Diamond-Like Coating, stainless steel slide and glass-reinforced frame. The trigger’s flat profile features an integrated blade safety, breaking at 5 to 6 lbs. Features on this gun include the oversized trigger guards, ClearCount 6- and 7-round magazines, and reversible magazine release. Low-profile, white three-dot sights provide an excellent sight picture. Overall length is 6.25” and it weighs 19 oz. MSRP: \$421. [www.mossberg.com](http://www.mossberg.com)



8

**3** Naroh Arms recently came out with the N1, a 9mm pocket pistol. Sporting an aluminum internal frame with a polymer exterior, the N1 measures 6.1” long, less than 1” wide, and weighs 19 oz. loaded. There’s white, 3-dot sights and two magazines (one flush fit, one extended) carrying seven rounds each. The N1 offers a go-virtually-anywhere concealed carry option. Retail \$399 (black nitride) or \$410 (silver stainless). [www.naroharms.com](http://www.naroharms.com)



4

**4** Dan Wesson knows 1911's and their parent company knows CZs, so combining both is a natural. Their new DWX has a CZ75 style grip frame and 1911-style slide. Combining parts from both models, the DWX does away with the 1911 swinging link and uses a bushing-less system too. Holding 19+1 in 9mm (also available in .40) and weighing 43 oz., the DWX is a full-sized "duty" type pistol promising great ergonomics and shootability. The rail allows a home defense light. MSRP: \$1,799. [www.danwessonfirearms.com](http://www.danwessonfirearms.com)

**5** Another "slim nine" for consideration, Ruger's Security 9 follows a long legacy of excellent pistols. Offering a Hogue Beavertail HandALL grip sleeve with Cobblestone texturing, the Security 9 rides securely in-hand. Weighing in at 22.5 oz. and measuring 6.52" overall and 4.35" tall, the Security 9's slide is just over 1" wide. Capacity is 10 rounds of 9mm in a steel magazine (you get two), and the glass-filled nylon frame houses a trigger with an integrated safety lever. MSRP: \$399. [www.ruger.com](http://www.ruger.com)

**6** Springfield Armory's hot new Hellcat is 4" tall, 6" long and 1" wide, yet holds 13+1 9mm in the slightly extended magazine version. The highest round count of any of the compact 9mm autos. Weighing in at a lightweight



2



5

18.3 oz. the 3" barrel is hammer-forged, the frame has a standard light rail and there is an optics-ready model. Top slide serrations, a loaded chamber indicator and reversible mag release are among the features. MSRP: \$569. [www.springfield-armory.com](http://www.springfield-armory.com)

**7** The new Taurus 1911 Commander in 9mm is sure to become popular. This 9+1 auto has classic Commander features like a 4.2" barrel and single stack 1911 grip frame. Drift-adjustable Novak front and rear sights, a firing pin block and all-steel construction make it safe and easy to shoot and a great companion piece to their .45 ACP version. MSRP: \$639. [www.taurususa.com](http://www.taurususa.com)

**8** IWI US launched its MASADA pistol, a polymer-framed, striker-fired 9mm, optics-ready! This 17+1 capacity auto weighs 20 oz. (without the mag), has polygonal rifling, 3-dot sights and an overall length of 7.4". It can handle several brands of dot sights, has a removeable trigger group, a six-lb. trigger with built-in safety and a light rail. MSRP: \$480. [www.iwi.us](http://www.iwi.us)

**9** We had to get another revolver in, so check out Ruger's new Custom Shop Super GP100 Competition Revolver. Sure, it may be geared toward competition, but this just means it's fast, reliable, accurate and proven. Perfect for home defense too! The 5.5" barrel can send eight rounds of .357 Magnum downrange as fast as you can pull the smooth DA trigger. The Custom Shop polishes and tunes the internals, and the adjustable rear sight and fiber optic front allow you to dial it in for your favorite load. MSRP: \$1,549. [www.ruger.com](http://www.ruger.com)



1

# TAURUS

J.B. WOOD

The 380 UL has comfy rubber-like grips with a pinky rest at the bottom. The barrel is only 1.75".



## THE POCKET REVOLVER REINVENTED

The Taurus 380 UL. Its companions are the ProTec 90 from Streamlight and a tidy little "Stellar Clip" as Taurus calls the loading clips.



**A** neat little revolver, using full-moon clips, and chambered for the .380 Auto cartridge? At this point, a gun-cynic might ask why? However, they'd find they didn't think it through. First, look at the cartridge. In modern loads, the ballistics edge into full 9mm category. And it does this without hand-stinging felt-recoil. For those with any hand problems, this can be important. The Taurus 380 UL takes it a step further with a one-piece grip of soft rubber having a little rest for the small finger at the bottom. I'm an auto-pistol person, and this is one of the few revolvers I've picked up feeling "exactly right" as it were.

Then, there are those full-moon clips. While they don't hold the cartridges as rigidly as a speed-loader, the clips can serve in this role and be quicker than loose rounds. I also noticed these clips

# 380 UL



Above, left: The small screw below the rear sight will laterally adjust it. It's great to be able to precisely zero this little wheel gun. Right: The "stellar clip" acts as a speed-loader and allows positive ejection too. Below, right: The spurless hammer is neatly recessed. At its base is the Taurus key-safety.

are easier to load and unload than most of the type. You get several with the 380 UL, and more are available, of course.

In the model designation, Taurus drops the decimal from ".380", and the UL is for "Ultra-Light." And, with its alloy frame, light it is at just 16 oz. Also, because of the small cartridge, the dimensions are good for concealment. It's 5.95" long, 4.4" in height and the 5-shot cylinder has a width of 1.4". The short barrel is 1.75".

## Innovative Thinking

Taurus calls their "full-moon" cartridge holders "stellar clips." It's really a better term since they do have a star-like appearance. If you're in a survival situation — your light plane crashes in the Outback and all your clips are lost — you can use the 380 UL without them. Comforting, no?

The chambers have a step and the rounds will stop on the case mouth. However, this method should be used only in a dire emergency. With different kinds of ammo, there can be a slight variation in case length, causing a misfire. In personal protection use, such an occurrence could be fatally embarrassing. Use the clips.

The trigger is wide, and its front face is smooth, as it should be on a DAO Revolver. The pull is so easy I was surprised to find it was around 11 lbs. If that's a little heavy for you, the hammer spring tension is adjustable on Taurus revolvers, which is very clever. Just be sure you don't lighten it to the misfire level.

The hammer has no cocking spur, of course, and it's beautifully recessed into the frame. There's nothing there to snag

as you're getting it out. Near the rear edge of the exposed part is the Taurus safety, ready to be popped out with the provided key. When that's done, everything stops.

Because of the small cartridge, everything is shorter, and this includes the ejector movement. The rod travels only 3/8". Even so, it efficiently ejects the clip and five empty cases. I think the added weight of the clip helps in this.

On a self-defense piece like this, sights are of less importance, but these are excellent. They are a square-picture and the rear notch is wide. The ramped and serrated front is part of the barrel housing. The small black rear sight is adjustable, laterally, via a small screw on the right side.

## Fun To Shoot

Out at the Big Tree range, I tried the 380 UL with five different loads, ranging from ordinary full-jacket to hot hollow-points. Standing, with a 2-hand hold, the distances were 7 and 15 yards. On the big 8" black of a Champion 100-yard sight-in target, all shots stayed near the center. At the closer range, I got one group just a hair over 3". At 15 yards, the average was around 5". But hey, it's a tiny revolver, a genuine pocket gun if ever there was one so I think it's pretty good.



So, it's accurate. Also, beautifully made, and perfect for the purpose. Out there on the free market, it's a little less than \$400. MSRP is \$513.79. I imagine a company numbers-person translated this directly from Brazilian reals and centavos? Even at full price, it's worth it.

Charter makes a .380 revolver and now, Cimarron is importing a cute 1862 Pocket Navy, also in .380 ACP, so this latest Taurus occupies rarified air, without much competition. I enjoyed shooting this little gun a lot.



For more info: [www.taurususa.com](http://www.taurususa.com)

Frank's wife Odessa repels borders. As Frank says, "There are few more fearsome sights to behold than a mother protecting her flock." We're just having fun here, but you have to admit — if one Rhino is good, two is better!



# CHIAPPA RHINO 2000S

**PERFECT FOR  
SPACE DETECTIVES—  
AND YOU TOO**

# .357 MAGNUM

**FRANK JARDIM**



**A**s a guy who makes his living evaluating and writing about guns, I get a lot of "What's the best ..." questions from folks. They're usually pretty hard to answer because of variables specific to the questioner's intended use. Things like physical limitations, budget, favorite cop show on TV, etc., may all come into play.

One of the few easy questions is, "What's the best concealable, self-defense .357 Magnum revolver in the world today?" That I know unequivocally. A few years ago I concluded it was the Chiappa Firearms' Rhino. If hitting the target fast and accuracy is important to you, there's no

There are adjustable-sighted versions of the Rhino, along with color options and other accessories like holsters.



other .357 topping it. But, if the Rhino shoots so well, why doesn't everyone carry one? That's a little more nuanced, but more than anything else, it comes down to the simple fact the Rhino looks freaky weird to most people. It did to me too ... at first.

The Rhino's science fiction looks landed it roles in numerous movies and television shows — *Total Recall*, *Suicide Squad*, *Nikita*, *The Expanse*, and others — so the lesson here is weirdness makes most gun buyers uncomfortable and suspicious. Unless, that is, they're prop-masters in the entertainment industry. That's a shame, too, because the Rhino is a simple case of form following function. It succeeds in the function of rapidly delivering six screaming .357 magnum bullets to the target like no other before. You won't believe you're even shooting a .357 magnum. Honest.

### Shifting Paradigms?

The Rhino has a lot about it that's very unique, so much so it's really a paradigm shift in terms of revolver design. Unlike conventional revolvers, the Rhino fires from the bottom chamber of the cylinder, significantly lowering the bore axis. The cylinder is also positioned much farther to the rear of the frame. These two characteristics work to reduce muzzle flip by diminishing the upward leveraging force of the recoil impulse. When combined with the Rhino's soft rubber grip — designed with a rearward raking grip angle compelling the hand to grasp the revolver high on the frame — the recoil impulse is further reduced, directed more rearward than upward. The grip angle also makes the boxy looking Rhino a natural pointer like the P-08 Luger.

The result when you pull the trigger is the recoil doesn't cause you physical pain and the pistol isn't left pointed at the sky. Firing full power Black Hills Ammunition .357 Magnum, 158-gr. JHP felt like shooting .38 Specials in my 4" S&W K-Frame Model 10. But there is less muzzle flip allowing me to get back on target faster.

The Rhino's DA trigger pull is a smooth 9.5 lbs., and the single-action broke at three lbs., the same as my favorite old S&W. In some rapid fire DA firing drills using Black Hills .38 Special +P 100-gr. HoneyBadger, the 2" Rhino 200DS produced tighter groups than the trusty Model 10. I'll always love my traditional revolvers, but they've been outclassed by the Rhino. I know, I know ... heresy.

A shooter new to revolvers will acclimate to the Rhino faster than an experienced wheelgunner. The Rhino requires a different hold to prevent burning your offhand thumb on the hot gasses jetting out of the gap between the cylinder and the barrel. This is no joke because this gap is much closer to

your hands in a revolver firing from the bottom cylinder. You need to keep the thumb out of the way!

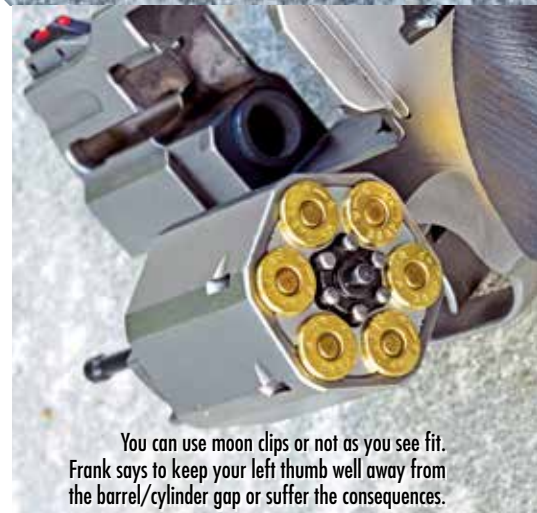
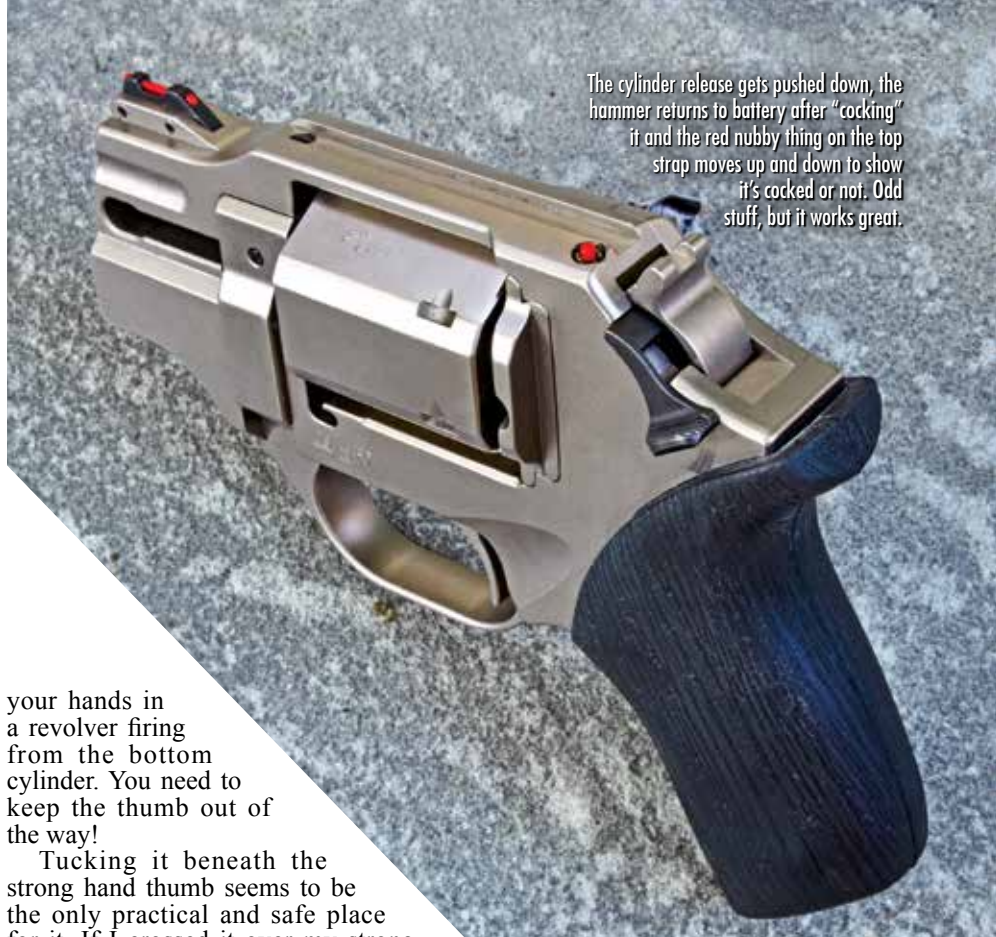
Tucking it beneath the strong hand thumb seems to be the only practical and safe place for it. If I crossed it over my strong thumb, as I'm inclined to do with normal revolvers, it sometimes blocked the rearward travel of my trigger finger interfering with the pull and spoiling my shot. It's bad, but easily correctable by simple training; like not wrapping your off-hand thumb around the back of your strong hand when shooting an auto-loader.

### Easy To Learn

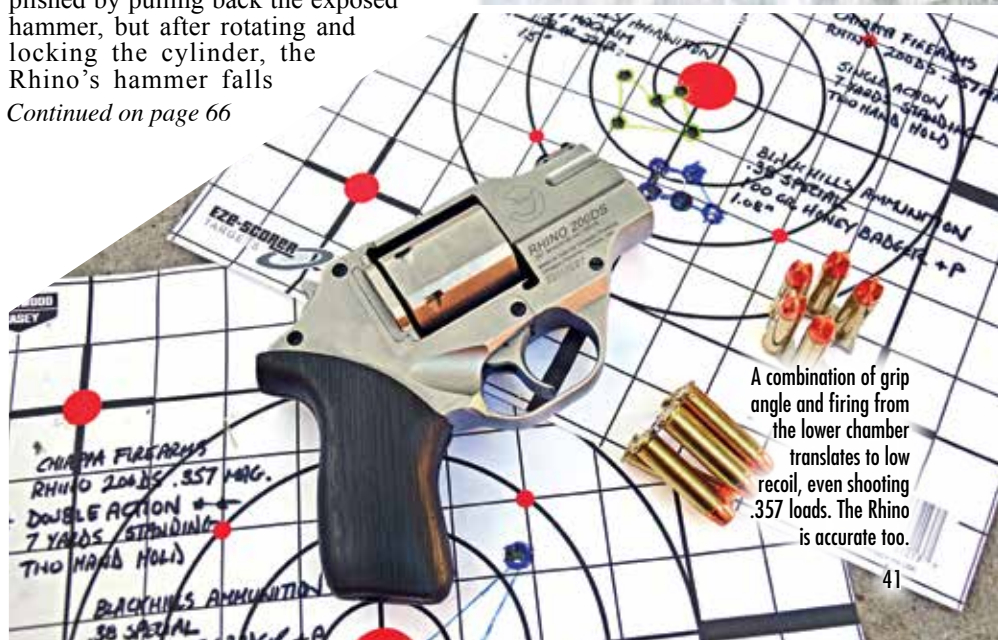
The Rhino's controls are simple like a conventional revolver, but operate in an unconventional manner. The cylinder release is operated by the right thumb, but you press it down instead of pushing it forward or pulling it back. Cocking for single-action fire is accomplished by pulling back the exposed hammer, but after rotating and locking the cylinder, the Rhino's hammer falls

*Continued on page 66*

The cylinder release gets pushed down, the hammer returns to battery after "cocking" it and the red nubby thing on the top strap moves up and down to show it's cocked or not. Odd stuff, but it works great.



You can use moon clips or not as you see fit. Frank says to keep your left thumb well away from the barrel/cylinder gap or suffer the consequences.



A combination of grip angle and firing from the lower chamber translates to low recoil, even shooting .357 loads. The Rhino is accurate too.

# PISTOL CARTRIDGE SEMI-AUTO CARBINES



## MODERN AND VERSATILE — EVEN DUKE LIKES 'EM!

MIKE "DUKE" VENTURINO PHOTOS: YVONNE VENTURINO

In the late 1860s and early 1870s, Henrys and Winchester '66's (repeating rifles) became popular. Their puny .44 Henry Rimfire round was certainly weak enough to be used in fairly large revolvers. The idea carried on to .44-40's, .38-40's and .32-20's. Without proof I'd say the .44-40 was top of the heap in number of revolvers and long guns so chambered.

But what about semi-auto, pistol-cartridge carbines? Matching handguns and semi-auto long guns is relatively new if you discount the .30 Carbine. Appearing in M1 Carbines in 1941, in reality the cartridge is a magnum pistol round, its case length the same as .357, .41 and .44 Magnums. The proof is in Ruger's Blackhawk .30 Carbine revolvers that have been around for about a half-century.

Although back in the 1980s Marlin made some semi-auto carbines for pistol rounds (9mm and .45 ACP), in the 21<sup>st</sup> century there's more impetus for pistol cartridge carbines. So many locales have made handgun ownership difficult if not actually impossible, and these short, handy rifles are a natural replacement. A carbine is the answer for someone who cannot own an actual handgun but doesn't want excessive power — like a centerfire rifle round — in a home defense gun. For some, a shotgun is a possible choice, but for others shotgun recoil is intimidating. Pistol cartridge carbine recoil is negligible.

### Good Ideas Abound

Also there's this fact learning to shoot a handgun proficiently is a diffi-

Beretta Storms; one with Aimpoint sights and one just with issue sights.



Ruger's newest PC is the "Chassis" version, also with the M-Lok handguard and other standard features on the PC series.

cult task. It requires eyesight, fine motor skills, dedication, time and expense. Shooting a pistol cartridge carbine with reasonable precision, especially at handgun ranges — is easy. His Editorship Roy told me during his police career he put an early Marlin 9mm carbine into the hands of officers struggling to qualify on the range and suddenly scores jumped and anxiety levels lowered. The agency later adopted the early Ruger PC9 police carbines, which increased on-target hits in defensive shootings immediately.

Even further, some bright light at one or another gun company got the idea a semi-auto pistol cartridge carbine taking not only the same ammo but the exact same magazines as a person's sidearm would appeal to a broad spectrum of people. That idea person was smart!

This leads me to my first experience with a pistol cartridge semi-auto carbine while visiting a friend. "What a beast!" I exclaimed. To my traditionalist's eye his pride and joy, Beretta's Storm (Cx4), was the ugliest gun I'd ever seen. They have black synthetic stocks formed so differently from traditional ones it took me a moment to grasp what I was seeing. I thought it was a kid's Star Wars toy.

My friend has Storms in all three of its offered chamberings, .45 Auto, .40 S&W and 9mm Parabellum. And I'll confess, the longer I looked at his Storms the more intrigued I was. There was plenty of practicality and innovation about them, so I borrowed them for some shooting.

### Awkward?

In the beginning I found them a bit awkward since my hands and brain are used to more traditional carbines. The Storms have a large empty space behind the pistol grip. While looking odd it certainly helps keep carbine weight under six lbs. They have rails everywhere — on the top, sides and even an extendable one beneath the 16.7" barrel. I cursed that one for not pulling out until I figured the front sling swivel must be pressed to release it. Storms come with stock extenders increasing the length of pull from 13.5" to 14.5".

Beretta has Storms accepting the magazines of the company's semi-auto pistols of the same caliber. Like the world famous Israeli Uzi, Storm magazines go into the pistol grip. While shooting them, my left hand was forever trying to stick magazines in front of the trigger guard. The traditionalist's hand

*Continued on page 75*



Duke had trouble getting his hands to remember the Beretta Storms' magazines inserted into the pistol grips.



Duke felt an instant affinity for the new Ruger PC carbine (9mm) because it reminded him of his Russian PPSH-41 sub-machine gun.



Beretta Storms were chambered for three semi-auto pistol cartridges. From left: .45 Auto, .40 S&W and 9mm Parabellum. Only the latter two are still offered. Ruger's PC9 is also offered for the latter two.



# SIG'S

# P320 X5 LEGION HEAVYWEIGHT & HARD-HITTING P365 XL LIGHTWEIGHT

## EXTREME OPPOSITES — UNITE

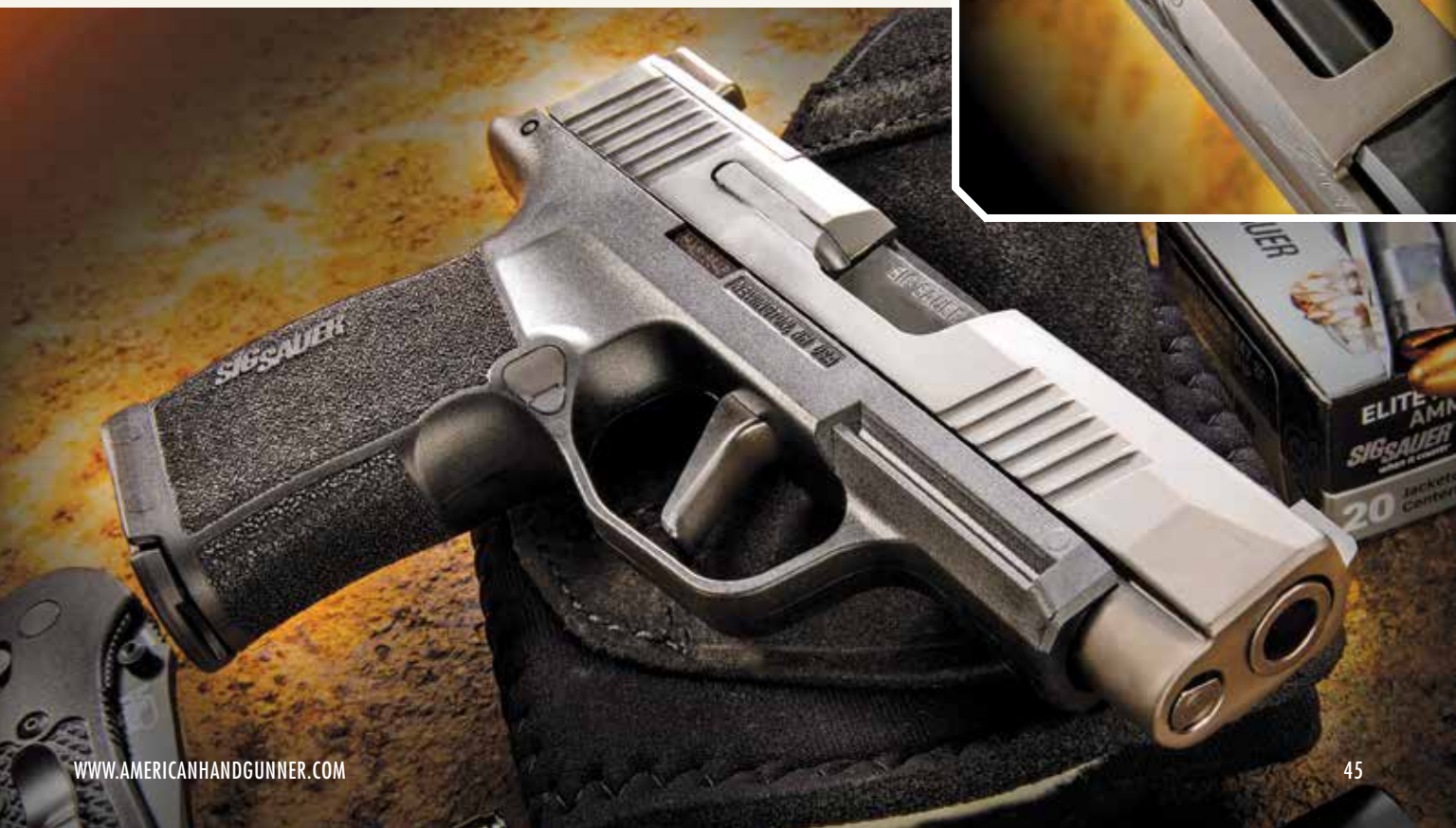
MASSAD AYOOB · PHOTOS: ROB JONES/THE IMAGESMITH LLC

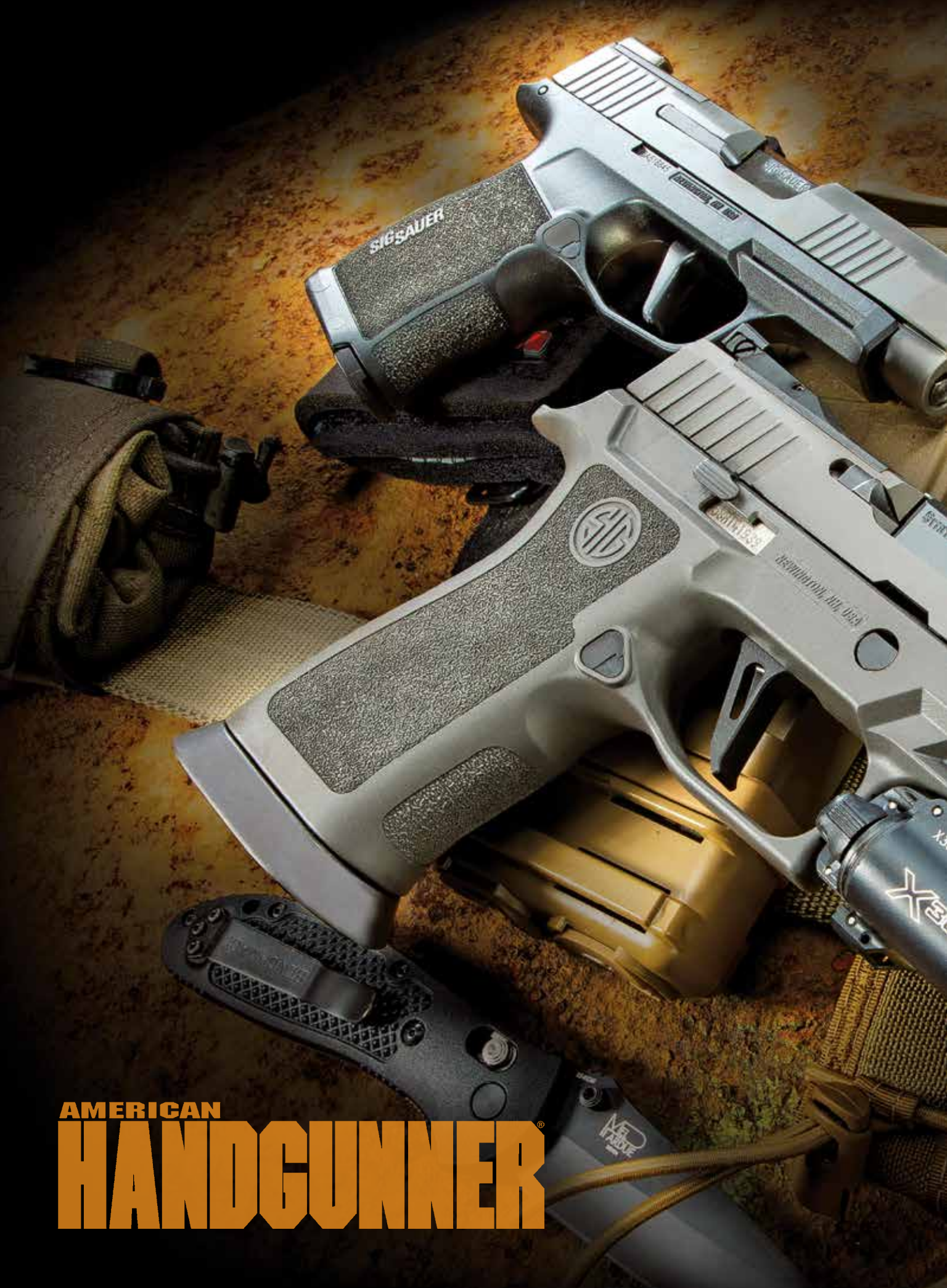
A short time ago, SIG SAUER introduced a pair of 9mms that could hardly be farther apart in size and application. It's particularly interesting to examine the P320 Legion heavy duty shooter and the P365 XL concealed carry pistol side by side.

### **P320 X5 Legion**

The P320 pistol has come a long way since the New Hampshire-based

SIG team led by Ethan Lessard finalized the design circa 2013. A striker-fired modular pistol based on the P250, which was a DAO hammer-fired gun, it has evolved past some issues and been adopted by agencies such as the Oklahoma state troopers, the Texas Department of Public Safety, and most famously, by the U.S. military as the M17 service pistol. Its latest variation is the Legion. The “target” version of the P320, the X5, morphs into the Legion





**AMERICAN**  
**HANDGUNNER®**

P320 X5 LEGION

SIG

P365 XL





one shot per target, the lighter polymer framed X5 would be my choice from the P320 line for its faster handling. Recoil recovery takes place as you're tracking between the multiple targets. In games like USPSA or IDPA, however, it's generally multiple shots *per target* and here, recoil recovery between shots is more critical.

Phil Strader told me, "The P320 XFIVE Legion is approved for USPSA Open, Limited, Production/Carry Optics (with the magwell removed), NRA Action Pistol Metallic and Production Optics divisions, and IDPA Carry Optics, SSP (with the magwell removed) and ESP (with either the magwell or the internal grip weight removed). Removing the magwell or grip weight brings the weight of the XFIVE Legion to 41.7 oz. or 42 oz. respectively, well below the 43-oz. weight limit for SSP and ESP."

### The Mechanics

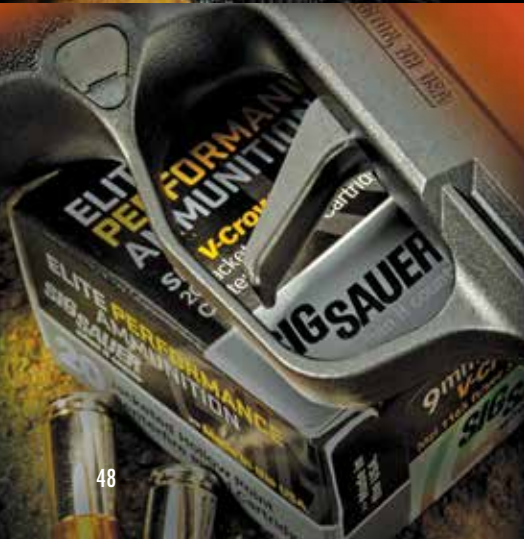
The 320 Legion's trigger is flat-faced, skeletonized and does not have a GLOCK-ish trigger tab or similar device. I think all serious shooters should have a trigger pull gauge, like the Lyman digital unit I got from Brownells. On mine, the test sample (serial number 58H116216) averaged 3.84 lbs. when measured from the toe of the trigger. While it's a common measuring point, most human fingers generally pull from the center of the trigger, offering less leverage, and from there our P320 Legion averaged 4.67 lbs.

The test Legion's trigger had significant backlash to it, i.e., rearward movement after the striker released. This can cause gun movement between

by more than its "SIGnature" Legion chevrons. The key differences are its heavy tungsten-infused polymer frame and its 30 percent lighter trigger pull.

The rationale of this model SIG is to combine the recoil-dampening weight we associate with all-steel frames with the kick-absorbing flexion of polymer. Hence, the new frame element. Phil Strader, pistol product manager for SIG, is a top-tier competitive shooter himself. He explained to *American Handgunner*, SIG learned "the company that actually makes some of our polymer material could add tungsten powder to the original mixture of polymer, glass, etc. After a few iterations of (this) TXG material, we found the perfect balance of extreme weight and durability. The process has never been used in the firearms industry and SIG has a patent pending for its use."

We found the recoil was indeed mild. It's a hackneyed phrase to say, "This centerfire pistol kicks like a .22," but with the P320 Legion, that's actually pretty much the case. The Legion model is geared for competition. In Steel Challenge matches, where it's generally





# P320 X5 LEGION & P365 XL SIG



the trigger release and the instant of the shot. I haven't experienced this with previous P320 X5s I've shot so am not sure why this was the case.

From a Matrix rest on the 25-yard bench, I tested it for accuracy with FMJ loads in the three most popular bullet weights. Five-shot groups weren't up to what I got with my first P320 X5, and tended toward "4+1" clusters running in the 3" to 4" range. The best group was with SIG's own 115-gr. FMJ, measuring 3.05" for all five shots, with four of them in 1.5" and the best three in 1.3", measured center to center to the nearest 0.05". The "best three" measurement factors out enough human error to reasonably predict what the same gun and load could be expected to do with all five from a machine rest.

With no holster to suitably fit the big, square beast, testing the P320 X5 Legion for ergonomics under pressure at a match was off the table. I went with the old Bianchi Cup falling plates test instead. Eight runs at six 8" plates, twice each at a pace of six seconds at 10 yards, seven at 15, eight at 20, and nine seconds at 25 yards. I tightened each run by a second to allow for a low-ready instead of holstered-gun start. The pressure was applied by the unforgiving CED electronic timer. I wound up with 46 out of 48 possible plates down, missing one each at 20 and 25, and finished convinced the P320 X5 Legion could have shot a perfect score, even though I couldn't that day!

## The P365 XL

The P365, a "slim-nine" amazingly packing 10 rounds into a magazine

scaled for a tiny grip-frame, was a game-changer and an instant hit when it was introduced at the beginning of 2018. I liked mine enough to buy it. The XL is simply that slim, small-grip pistol extended at muzzle and butt. Magazine capacity is now 12+1, two rounds up from the standard P365. At 6.6" long with 3.7" barrel, 4.8" high and 20.7 oz., it's 0.8" longer overall, 0.5" greater in height (read: butt protuberance), and 2.9 oz. heavier than its smaller predecessor — not counting the two extra cartridges when fully loaded.

SIG categorizes the original P365

(still in the catalog, of course!) as a "micro-compact" and this new XL variation as "The perfect balance of micro-compact concealability with full-size shootability." SIG also offers a 15-round P365 magazine, and while I haven't tested it, I trust gun expert Chuck McDonald who tells me the 15-rounders run fine in his extensive P365 experience.

*Continued on page 81*





The Tec pistols are simple, mostly plastic and stamped metal with a couple of hardened steel parts. Field stripping is also easy, and there are numerous aftermarket parts available.



The most common way to fire the Tec models is the two-handed "boxer" stance. You can also grip it with both hands like a pistol, or fire it one handed. Shades of *Miami Vice*, eh?

# RETRO TIME MACHINES

## THE TEC-9 AND .22

**TIGER MCKEE**



The Tec pistols are similar but different. The Tec-22 is ambi while the Tec-9 (bottom) has a left-side charging handle. Note the sling attachment point on the back of the 9.

**O**n the way home not too long ago I stopped by Scottsboro Gun & Pawn, which always has an interesting collection of used firearms. I noticed a used Tec-9, a 9mm pistol/sub-gun in the counter and asked to see it. I'm immediately transported back to the mid 1980s when I used to own one of these "nostalgic" firearms. This Tec-9 was priced right, it went into a "redneck" presentation bag — a brown paper sack — and it made it home to be shoved into the safe.

Swedish company Interdynamic AB designed the full auto version of the 9mm Tec-9 sub-machine pistol for the military market in the early 1980s. There were no buyers, so they began producing the KG-9, a semi-auto version, to sell in America under the name Interdynamic USA. The inexpensive pistol — no stock — is made of stamped steel and plastic with a few milled/hardened pieces.

The original KG-9 fired from an open bolt like the full-auto version. ATF said it was too easily converted to full auto — it was — so a closed-bolt version was produced, the KG-99. The company name changed to Intratec, after a buyout by one partner and the gun became the

Tec-9. Are you still with me?

California banned the Tec-9 after a mass shooting, so the Tec-DC — “Designated for California” was created. In response to the 1994 assault weapons ban it became the AB-10. Production ceased in 2001, and now “Tec-9’s” — the generic name for all versions — are rare and prices are rising.

## TV Fame

Most people “discovered” The Tec-9 through the hit television show *Miami Vice*, where it appeared regularly in the hands of drug dealers. It soon became a status symbol for real-life gang members. I’ve always wondered whether art was imitating life, or was art influencing the street? The Tec-9 appears in *The A-Team* television show. Kurt Russell used one with great success in *Big Trouble In Little China* and you’ll see it in *The Walking Dead* zombie series. Editor Roy even has a picture of him test firing one when he was a cop back in the day. I eventually traded my Tec-9 for a “sensible” S&W Model 10 with a 2” barrel.

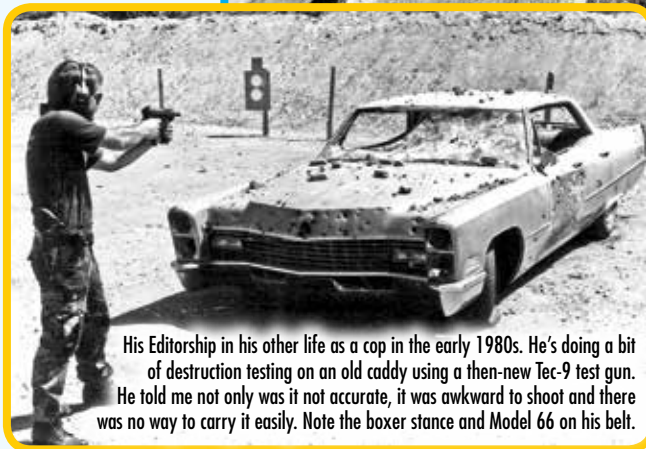
Today there’s a cult following for the Tec-9. There were and are plenty of aftermarket accessories for Tec-9’s, from muzzle-breaks, barrel extensions and fake suppressors to upgraded internal parts. There are several forums on the ’net devoted to the Tec-9, full of tips on modifying and improving them. Old guys like me are buying ’em again, and younger shooters are rediscovering them. And yes, it’s still a major status symbol on the street.

## More Grist

A few weeks after my first stop, I dropped by the gun shop again. *Déjà vu*, except this time, it’s a Tec-22. I never owned the .22 long rifle version of the Tec, the price was right and there was a factory mag and original hard plastic case included. Who could turn this down? I took it home too, jamming it into the safe.

The Tec-22, or Scorpion or Sport 22, was produced from the late 1980s until 2000. Same concept — an inexpensive semi auto. It has an ambi-safety and uses Ruger 10-22 magazines, which is

The Tec pistols are iconic firearms of the ’80s, and still have a cult following on the range and the street. The Tec-9, the generic name for all versions, uses magazines specifically made for this pistol. The Tec-22 works off Ruger 10-22 mags.



His Editorship in his other life as a cop in the early 1980s. He’s doing a bit of destruction testing on an old caddy using a then-new Tec-9 test gun. He told me not only was it not accurate, it was awkward to shoot and there was no way to carry it easily. Note the boxer stance and Model 66 on his belt.

a big plus. Mags for some of these type firearms are expensive, which limits buying something just for the fun of it.

After reading and researching these pistols — part of the joy of acquiring new guns — I had many questions. It seems a lot of Tec-9s have feeding and extraction/ejection problems. Will mine even fire? And if they function properly, how accurate are they? Are Tec-9s basically pistols too big to shoot like a pistol?

Eventually I pull the Tec-9 from the safe, disassemble, clean and inspect them. The Tec-22 is simple to strip. There’s a latch on the rear, like an AK47, releasing the hinged upper. Flip the upper up and pull out the guts. The Tec-9 is more complicated, requiring a hammer/punch and use of the sling attachment to unscrew the cap from the receiver.

On the range there’s no joy. Both the 9mm and .22 have problems. Fortunately, I know just who to send them to. Randy Morris, who operates MHT Defense — the same shop building the Shootrite Katana AR — has plenty of experience with Tec pistols.

It turns out, the Tec-9’s extractor is chipped, a common problem, and the magazine is worn out. Both easy fixes. There are plenty of aftermarket options

for both. The .22 requires a little tuning, and now runs great with BX 25 Ruger mags.

## Fun On The Range

Shootin’ the Tec-9s is fun. Not very edifying, but way cool, if you get my drift. Just plain fun. You grip the gun with the strong hand and hold the magazine with the support hand. Raise up both arms in a boxing-like stance, line the sights up and press the trigger. Or, grip with two hands like any other pistol. And there’s always the one hand “gansta” option. One thing for sure, regardless of how you shoot ’em, it’s entertaining. My buddy helping me test fire had never seen Tec-9s before. Now, he’s hunting for a Tec .22.

Accuracy? The .22 is great. At about 25 yards you hold the sights steady, press the trigger and get good hits in 3”. The 9mm is another matter. At this distance I have to aim about three feet low and 18” left to score center hits. Makes it hard to determine a group size. But again, it’s all about the fun, right?

The Tec-9s are amusing to shoot, but I’m not sure they have much defensive value. They’re an ’80s icon, humorously reminding us of a “simpler” time when fashion, music and firearms were all about lookin’ sharp, feelin’ right and having fun. Should you come across one of these gems put it in a red-neck presentation bag and take it home. You won’t be sorry.



# AMMO

A CLOSE LOOK AT



5



8



ROY HUNTINGTON

## MAKING IT GO BANG

## RELOADING & AMMO

If you reload you get to do two fun things at once — shoot more — and reload! If you don't reload, check out a simple how-to video we've done using the Lee Loader ([www.americanhandgunner.com/videos](http://www.americanhandgunner.com/videos)) and I'm wagering it'll light a fire under you to give it a try. What you see here is a combo of ammo (for you lazy bums out there!) and loading tools and accessories to help you out. As usual, there's way too many goodies for these two pages, but these should whet your appetite to dig deeper at your local gun store and online.



9



**1** Eley's known for their meticulous attention to quality, and their new .38 Super Major Power Factor round shows this dedication. Geared specifically to meet "major" competitions, the 124-gr. load delivers lower recoil, and is safe to shoot in any gun designed to handle Major Power ammo — \$17.45 for 50 rounds. [www.killoughshootingsports.com](http://www.killoughshootingsports.com)

**2** Mistakes happen when reloading so the Hornady L-N-L Impact Bullet Puller removes bullets from loaded rounds safely and easily. It captures the bullet and powder for re-use, working best on handgun and rifle cartridges up to .45 caliber. You "chamber" a cartridge in it using the built-in holder, then a couple of whacks on a firm surface does the magic, all for about \$20. [www.hornady.com](http://www.hornady.com)

**3** If you reload, you need a good quality scale to weigh bullets and powders. Lyman's new Pro-Touch 1500 Electronic Scale has big 7/8"

numbers and handles weights up to 1,500 grains — plenty! It operates on AAA batteries or AC power, works in grain or gram modes, has a dust cover and is accurate to 1/10 grain — MSRP: \$99.95. [www.lymanproducts.com](http://www.lymanproducts.com)

**4** A single stage press means you have to change dies for each step. With the Lee Auto Breech Lock Pro the dies stay installed and a "shell" plate moves cases from position to position. Once you get going, each pull of the handle makes a loaded round — for just \$165. That's little more than the cost of a single stage press in most cases. It loads most handgun rounds and some rifle rounds. [www.leeprecision.com](http://www.leeprecision.com)

**5** Norma has always been famous for precision and quality. Their new .22 Magnum ammo firing a 40-gr. bullet at about 1,870 fps promises to carry that tradition forward. With the establishment of Norma USA, look for all of Norma's remarkable ammo and components for sale here



4



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in the U.S. again soon. MSRP on the .22 Magnum is \$10.30 for 50. [www.norma-usa.com](http://www.norma-usa.com)

**6** The RCBS Matchmaster powder scale and measure is controlled by a simple phone app — but can be used alone too. The app allows you to calibrate, dispense, fine-tune your operations, modify configurations and build a database of your favorite loads. The scale can be used in “auto, manual and match” modes and throws a typical load in about 20 seconds. This is really convenient! [www.rcbs.com](http://www.rcbs.com)

**7** Nosler continues to make ultra-precise “Custom Competition” bullets in .45 (180 gr.) and 9mm. The 147-gr. 9mm JHP blends the accuracy of their competition bullet jackets with its own precise, lead-alloy core. The HP provides a small meplat for reducing drag and efficiency. If you want the best for your gaming, you’ve found it! MSRP is \$60.90 for 250. [www.nosler.com](http://www.nosler.com)



7

**8** I just had to show you this from Lee. It’s a very simple powder measure kit coming with an old-school sliding card powder dispensing chart. Pick the load, powder and bullet weight and the chart tells you which measure to use to dip that load. If you’ve got a Lee Loader, or just don’t want to mess with a scale, here you go. Sometimes old is just fine! And at only \$12.98 you can spend your money on bullets, powder and primers instead of equipment! [www.leeprecision.com](http://www.leeprecision.com)

**9** Speer Gold Dot ammo is legendary in its reliability, accuracy and stopping power in the real world. Their “Personal Protection” .380 is a 90-gr. Gold Dot HP load at about 1,040 fps. Testing has shown reliable, deep penetration in gel and barrier tests. With the .380’s explosion of popularity, the caliber — and this ammo — deserves a close look. About \$21.56 MSRP for 20 rounds. [www.speer-ammo.com](http://www.speer-ammo.com)



3



This was the last target at the end of approximately 200 rounds of freehand shooting at seven yards. David was shooting fast and smoothly and the group is about 3".

**RUGER**

**RUGGED. RELIABLE. REASONABLE.**

# SECURITY-9 COMPACT

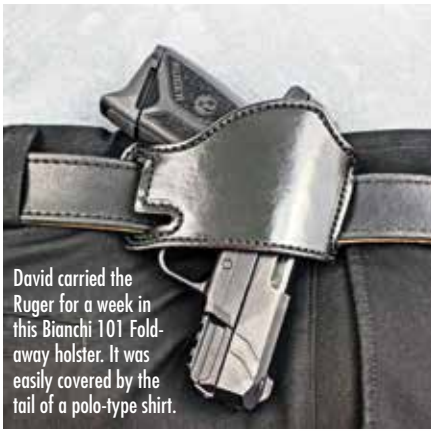
**T**he three R's of guns could easily be Rugged, Reliable and Ruger. Add an additional "R" for "Reasonably" priced and you've got Ruger's concealed carry handgun offerings defined. The latest addition, the Ruger Security-9 Compact, fits right in. The original Security-9 is a well-accepted member of the class of firearms

we generally call "mid-size" carry guns. With the Security-9 Compact, Ruger has provided another option right in-between for folks looking for a compact double-stack 9mm. In size it competes



The slide lock, safety and magazine release controls are small, but easy to operate.

DAVID FREEMAN



David carried the Ruger for a week in this Bianchi 101 Fold-away holster. It was easily covered by the tail of a polo-type shirt.

with the GLOCK 26, Springfield XD Compact, S&W M&P Compact and others with a barrel length around 3" and a double-stack magazine holding 10–12 rounds.

I like the idea of having more ammo in the gun, so the concept of a compact, double-stack 9mm is appealing. But since my body style allows me to easily carry a bigger gun, I haven't spent a lot of time exploring them so was interested in getting this new Ruger. It arrived in a white box with two magazines, a security lock and an extended base plate for one of the magazines. An orange open-chamber indicator also doubled as a tool for changing the magazine base plate, so I immediately installed the extended base plate on one of the magazines.

The extension allowed my pinky finger to remain on the grip rather than under it. The compact model accepts a 15-round magazine from the full-size Security-9 too, if you like. I found it interesting the Compact shipped in the same box as a full-size Security-9 and shares a manual with the Security-9. It's apparent the only difference between the two guns is size. The Security-9 Compact is 6.52" long and 4.35" high. It's 1.02" wide and weighs 21.9 oz. Less than a Walther PPKS for comparison.

## Good Feeling

Even though it's small, the gun feels beefy. It's obviously well made, with a hardened alloy steel slide and glass-filled nylon grip frame. Inside the frame is a precision-machined, hard-coat anodized aluminum chassis with full-length guide rails. The hammer-fired action used in the Security-9 Compact is the same as in the LCP II. This action, labeled "Secure Action" by Ruger, provides a smooth pull of the bladed trigger with the short, crisp feel and positive reset of a single action. The trigger pull weight consistently measured just an ounce or two over 5 lbs. on my test gun.

Cocking serrations on both ends of the slide help with racking against a rather stout spring. All of the controls — slide lock, safety and magazine release — are small, but I had



The diminutive size of the Security-9 Compact makes it an easily concealable handgun.

Disassembly for cleaning is straightforward and easily accomplished. With the gun apart, it's easy to appreciate the ruggedness with which it was made.

no trouble with any of them. The safety can't be put on unless the gun is cocked and although it's small and has a solid detent, I had no trouble pushing it on or off with my thumb. I have to rotate my grip to push it on but can easily push it off with my hands in the firing position. The grip has the same texture as the LCP series and the larger Security-9. It's just enough to ensure a good, solid grip without being uncomfortable.

Although the gun's hammer-fired, the hammer is small and totally enclosed



within the slide. When the gun is cocked, the hammer lies almost horizontal and can be seen just inside an opening in the rear of the slide. When the trigger has been pulled, it sits vertically against the firing pin until the rearward motion of

*Continued on page 69*



The trigger blade safety is one of three safety mechanisms to prevent accidental discharge.

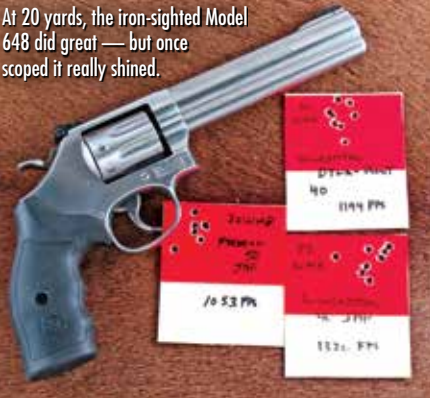
# S&W M&P M2.0 COMPACT 9MM

JOHN TAFFIN



The S&W M&P M2.0 was test-fired with a variety of 9mm ammunition and John wasn't surprised to find it ran like the proverbial top.

At 20 yards, the iron-sighted Model 648 did great — but once scoped it really shined.



## ONE FOR THE STREET ONE FOR THE FIELD

Handguns are purchased for a variety of reasons, with self-defense and general outdoor use right at the top. Two of the latest from S&W, the M&P 2.0 Compact 9mm and the Model 648 .22 Magnum fit nicely into these two categories. And keep in mind, the 9mm could certainly be carried in the field while the .22 Magnum could also serve for self-defense in a pinch.

The M&P name goes back 120 years to the original K-Frame first chambered in .38 Long Colt. And just about one century after S&W brought out their New Century .44 Special Triple-Lock they introduced their M&P line of semi-automatics, carrying on the grand tradition of the M&P name. I was not too pleased at them stealing the name of a classic sixgun, however the 21<sup>st</sup> century line up of M&P pistols have proven to be more than worthy of the title.

The latest M&P, M2.0 Compact 9mm is exceptionally attractive with its Flat Dark Earth finish. Its 4" barrel riding inside an Armornite stainless steel slide is finished in Cerakote Flat Dark Earth and this same finish is molded into the polymer frame. Armornite is a corrosion-resistant finish, furnished on the barrel as well as the slide.

This M&P features a low barrel axis, helping to reduce muzzle flip and allowing faster acquisition of the sights. When it comes to fast shooting there's no one any faster than Jerry Miculek. Jerry says the new M&P 2.0 Compact is exceptionally fast shooting because of several things, including the 18-degree grip angle and the trigger having a tactile

reset. The tactile reset is short allowing minimum travel on both the pull of the trigger and the reset. When Jerry shoots it you have to really pay attention to even be able to count the shots — he's that fast! In my shooting I find the trigger to be excellent, very smooth, measuring 6½ lbs. My trigger finger always seems to get irritated by so-called safety triggers, however the regular trigger found on the M&P is quite comfortable for me.

### Grip Ergonomics

The grip can be custom fitted to give the best natural point of aim by using any one of four interchangeable palm swell backstrap inserts furnished with each pistol. These are graduated in sizes of



# S&W MODEL 648 .22 MAGNUM

The S&W Model 648 was test-fired with a variety of .22 WMR ammo and John found them to all shoot excellently!



The standard magazine holds 15, while the extended mag adds two more rounds.



The M2.0 Compact comes with four interchangeable back straps and two polymer grip extensions for the use of 17-round mags.



The M2.0 Compact is accurate enough to pull double-duty as a trail pistol, says John.



small, medium, medium large and large. The molded-in grip texture is featured all the way around and is quite aggressive, allowing for a very secure hold.

Two 15-round magazines are furnished, along with two polymer grip extensions to fit over 17-round magazines, providing a comfortable gripping surface. S&W provides the polymer extensions with each pistol, however the higher capacity magazines have to be purchased separately. With all four magazines fully loaded plus one round in the chamber you have access to 65 rounds of ammunition! If this amount doesn't give you a comforting feeling I have no idea what would.

Sights on this striker-fired pistol are excellent, steel not plastic, with the three white dot set-up going on. I opted for the ambidextrous thumb safety and this model can also be supplied without. Cocking serrations are found on the back of the slide below the rear

sight and there's a rail for a light too. I can't think of a single thing needed to improve this pistol. It's simply excellent in all regards as provided.

## Shooting

With over two dozen versions of 9mm ammo at my disposal, this pistol was fired extensively. Five-shot groups at 16 yards were mostly in the 1.5" to 2.5" size with me doing the shooting. My main practice ammo is S&B 124-FMJ and Blazer Brass 115-FMJ. Both of these group right in the 1½" neighborhood with muzzle velocities of 1,070 fps and 1,100 fps respectively. I normally opt for JHPs for carry and I had good results with SIG SAUER "365" 115-JHPs, 1,150 fps at 2"; Black Hills 124-JHPs, 1,160 fps, at 2" and Hornady 115-XTP-JHPs, 1,150 fps, at about 1⅞" among others. Everything I tried shot well with no failures to feed, fire or eject. I would have no problem carrying this excellent little

pistol for either concealed self-defense use or everyday carry off the beaten path. At 27 oz. unloaded, it's handy too. It is definitely worthy of the M&P name.

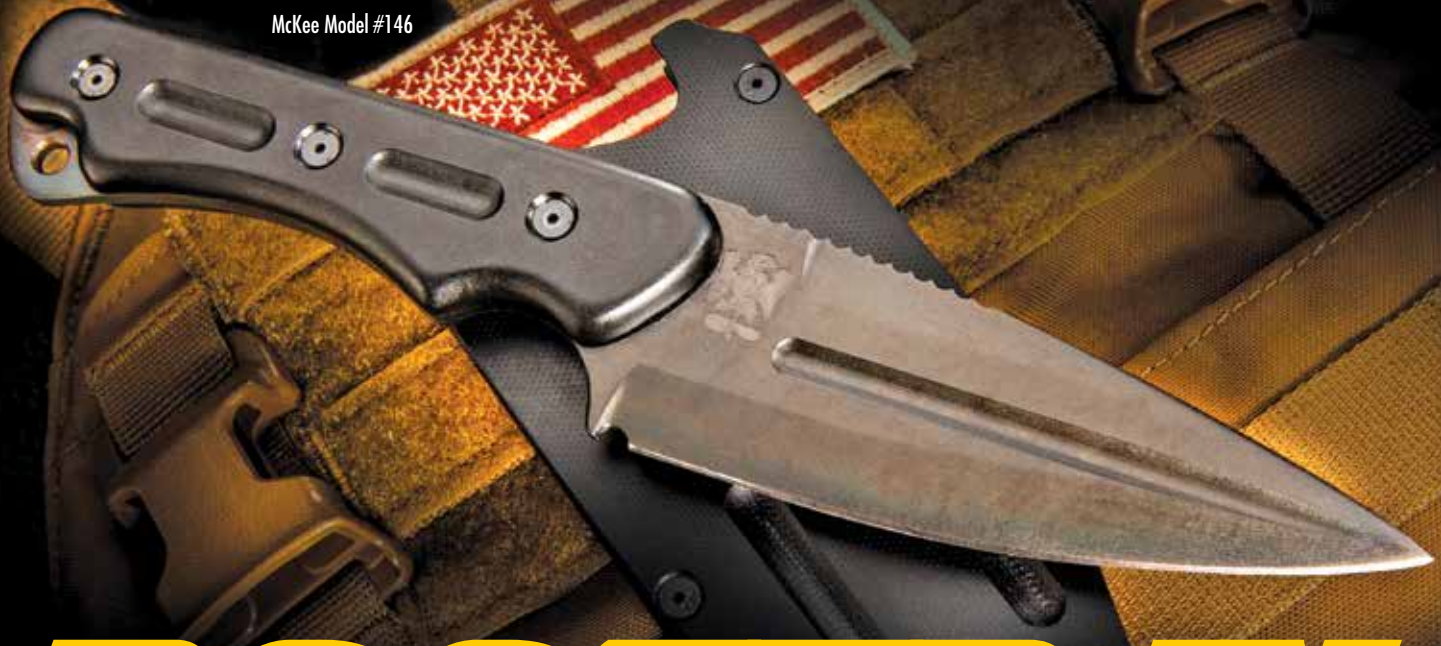
## .22 Fun-Gun

I've long been a great fan of .22 Magnum and S&W's newest .22 Magnum sixgun is the stainless steel 6" Model 648. It's an 8-shot .22 WMR revolver mainly designed for outdoor/hiking/hunting use. With a total weight unloaded of just over 46 oz. this is a hefty pistol making it very easy to hold on the target. Adding the weight of a scope makes it especially desirable for shooting small game or varmints.

The grips are a synthetic finger-groove wraparound style, and while I'm not normally enamored with finger grooves, on this pistol they're more than welcome to compensate for the muzzle-heavy feel. The grips and the weight combine for

*Continued on page 68*

McKee Model #146



# ROOTED IN

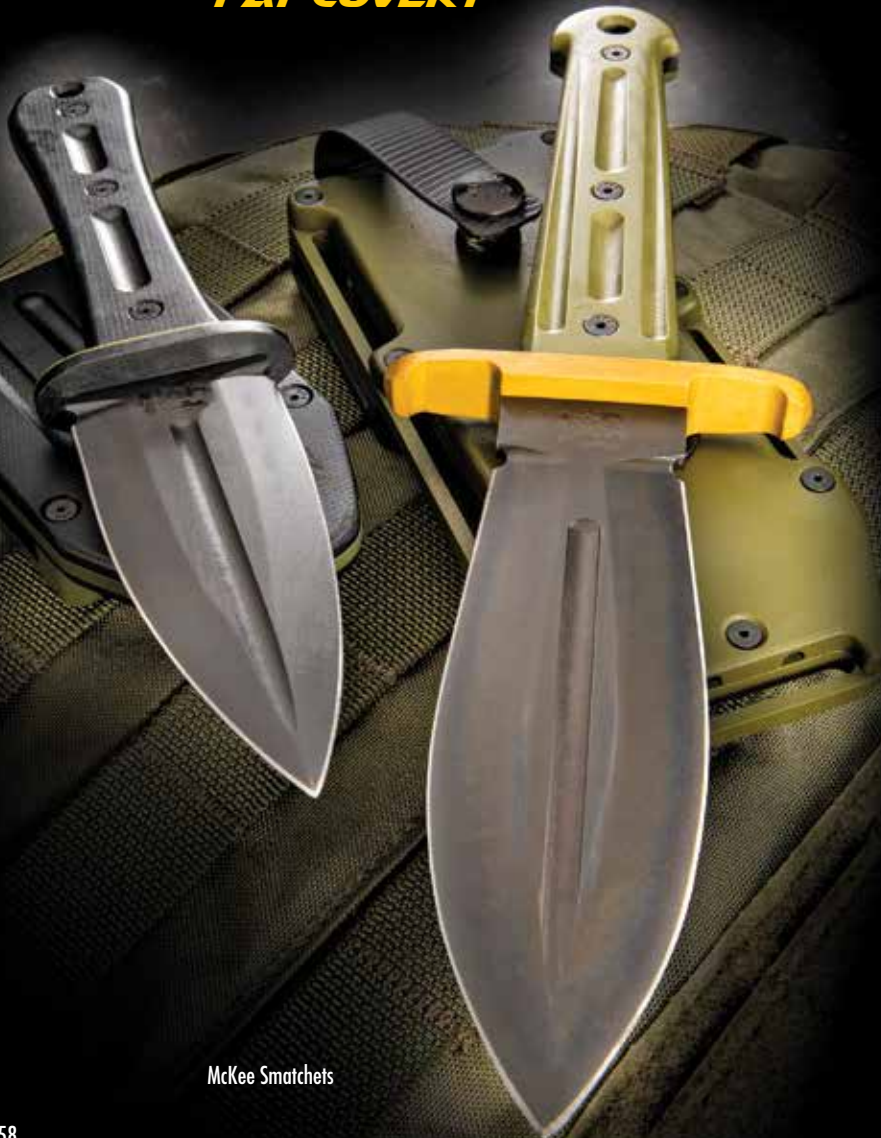
PAT COVERT

**S**ome people just have it in their blood. Tiger McKee, owner and founder of Shootrite Firearms Academy —

and our own *Tactics & Training* columnist! — spent much of his youth in northern Alabama. There, his father commanded the 20th Special Forces Group, located in Huntsville at the time. Many tactical firearms experts and enthusiasts are familiar with Tiger's firearms training courses, the articles he's penned in various publications as well as *Handgunner*, and other accomplishments. Tiger also has the distinction of being awarded an expert rating with handgun and rifle by none other than Col. Jeff Cooper at Gunsite. But there's another side to Tiger of which most aren't aware — he's a custom knifemaker.

"Knives and guns have always been part of our family," Tiger tells *Handgunner*. "I had a toy pistol as a tiny boy my mom said I wouldn't leave the house without. Knives were the same. It was a great milestone as a young boy when you received that first knife, usually a small camp knife. I wore mine everywhere, including trying to sneak it under my coat when I dressed for church."

The seed of making knives was planted early on in Tiger's childhood. "I've toyed with knifemaking for a long time. When I was about 10 years old I finally pestered my grandfather, who was a blacksmith and policeman, to help me make a knife. Of course, I had to have a large Bowie blade. He looked over my drawings and we built it, with



McKee Smatchets

McKee Model #141

McKee Model #140

# TIGER MCKEE'S DREAM OF MAKING CUSTOM KNIVES WAS PLANTED AT AN EARLY AGE

McKee Model #139

# STEEL!

him doing most of the hard work. I still have that knife to this day.”

## Growing The dream

McKee’s final impetus to pursue knifemaking came from an itch he’s been scratching all his adult life. “I can’t say there’s anyone specific who has influenced my work,” Tiger notes, “But, like all things, I’m sure I’ve been influenced by work I’ve seen. A big motivation for making knives was, regardless of what knife I handled, there was always something I didn’t think was ‘right,’” he confesses. “I’ve studied a good bit about design and function and have strong ideas. It’s the same for firearms and shooting gear — everything I have has been modified. Ultimately, the only way to express my concepts was to bring them to life.

“About eight years ago I decided to make the Shootrite instructors gift-knives for Christmas. After that, I was hooked,” laughed Tiger! “I began making a few. The first year I made around 10 which I sold to Shootrite students. Every year I made more, selling them all. I thought, ‘Hey, here’s a hobby that pays for itself.’ In 2018 I made 72 knives and about half of those were custom orders.

“I sell a lot of knives to law-enforcement, but my main clients are just normal guys and gals,” states Tiger. “A common comment I get is the knives ‘feel good.’ I spend a lot of time on getting a lightweight knife that’s well balanced. To me it’s all about size, shape, weight, and balance.

“This October I got my first commercial account,” Tiger adds. “A knife

shop in Huntsville, Alabama ordered 10 of my knives to sell. I’ve known the owner for a long time and had taken some knives in just to get his ideas. I was surprised when he ordered 10 knives to resell. This realization I might actually be decent at what I’m doing, prompted me to expand my knife making, taking some time away from teaching firearms and devoting it to my blade work.”


## Neo-Retro Designs

Tiger’s fixed-blade designs might best be describe as *Neo-Retro*. Although they are thoroughly modern, look closely and there’s a hat tip to the zoomy accents found in Art Deco period design. Tiger notes, “One of the most popular knives I make is the Smatchet — based on the WWII Smatchet — but reduced in size for carry. Someone asked me could I make one and I said, ‘Sure, I can do that.’ The Model #45, a small knife with a 4" blade in either drop point or tanto, and the Model #151, a modern version of the classic Tanto — what my wife Gretchen calls the ‘little black dress’ of knives — are also very popular.”

His Models #139 and #141 are large fixed-blade fighters with traditional profiles. McKee adds spice in the form of Fuller grooves extending off the blade tip and machined patterns in the handle scales, not only adding flair, but enhancing the user’s grip. And those finger guards? Very cool stuff! In essence, Tiger McKee’s desire to modify and improve the knives he designs has paid off in huge dividends.

For blades, handle and sheath materials Tiger has stuck with time-proven materials. “I work in O1 carbon steel,” the knifemaker lends. “I love carbon steel and O1 is easy to work with — especially for a basically equipped shop like mine. I know it’s not fancy, but neither am I. It’s predictable steel, it holds an edge well, and is easy to sharpen. Ultimately I’m looking to make a knife that *functions*. I’ve also started making sheaths for my knives out of G10 as opposed to Kydex. The G10 is durable, you can do a lot of different things to it you can’t do with leather or Kydex, and the finished work has a unique look.”

What does Tiger enjoy most about making knives? “It’s a mixed media art,” he explains. “You get to work with multiple mediums — steel, wood, synthetics — and incorporate all the different techniques used to work with these materials into one piece of art. It actually has function, and doesn’t just sit on a shelf or hang on the wall. It’s very relaxing and one of the best ways to express creativity I’ve found.”

When a skilled artisan enjoys his work as much as McKee does you can bet you’re going to get an excellent product, and Tiger flat delivers. 

For more info: Shootrite Firearms Academy, [www.shootrite.org](http://www.shootrite.org), Ph: (256) 582-4777, Email: [tiger@shootrite.org](mailto:tiger@shootrite.org)

# ACCESSORIES

A CLOSE LOOK AT

4



ROY HUNTINGTON

## ALL THINGS 1911

### INNOVATION MEETS TRADITION

I know, I know ... more 1911 stuff? You bet. The design doesn't die because it works, and Browning's genius allows incremental improvements, each one building on the success of the previous ones. This combination of innovation, forward thinking and sheer moxie among modern designers and pistolsmiths continues to revolutionize this 100-year-old plus miracle gun. We're proud to showcase some of the latest new ideas.

**1** Barranti Leather's "Barranti-Myres" Lonewolf Ranger holster (and matching mag pouch) is named after famed Texas Ranger Manuel "Lonewolf" Gonzallas who carried two custom engraved 1911s in a pair of holsters like this. The cut-away trigger guard and traditional floral carving adds to the mystique. If you have a favorite BBQ 1911, it can't find a better home! Mike "Doc" Barranti also offers "Old Century" shipping in a wooden crate! [www.barrantileather.com](http://www.barrantileather.com)

**2** Cammer Technologies initially introduced a revolutionary hammer design offering easier cocking and smoother slide operations, resulting in moderate recoil. This "0.404" Sear" is new, offering a constant distance of 0.404" from the sear pin center allowing a "neutral" engagement with the hammer hooks throughout the sear movement. It's CNC'd by Evolution Gun Works for Cammer. Look for other high quality 1911 ignition parts from Cammer. MSRP: \$40. [www.cammertechnologies.com](http://www.cammertechnologies.com)



**3** Speaking of traditional, since 1970, Galco's Miami Classic Shoulder System has had a long history of helping 1911 carriers handle the load. Today's version is still premium steerhide, having a double mag pouch to balance the load. The narrow harness straps help with both comfort and concealment, and the Flexalon back plate swivels to keep things in place. It can be had with tie downs, and cuff/case/flashlight accessory attachments. Cost depends on how it's accessorized. [www.galcofirearm.com](http://www.galcofirearm.com)

**4** A clever tool here. This 1911 Slide Jig from HS Custom LLC, slips into a 1911 slide and is secured with two set-screws. You can then clamp the jig into a vise to work on the slide (polishing, adjusting sights, filing, etc.) and the eight sides of the jig allow you to adjust it as needed. It's



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secure, reliable and keeps the delicate slide out of direct contact with vise jaws. Perfect for gunsmiths of all types and accomplished hobbyists. MSRP: \$100 + free shipping. [www.hs-custom.com](http://www.hs-custom.com)

**5** I don't know too many things, but I do know most 1911 aficionados have more than one gun, and like to shoot a lot! They also tend to be loaded with accessories, holsters and other goodies. MTM Case-Gard's 5-Can Ammo Crate Mini does more than carry ammo. Coming with five mini-ammo cans (each holding 400 rounds of .45 ACP ammo) and a crate only 24" wide, it's easy to carry and store in the trunk. Fill the cans with ammo and accessories and go shooting! MSRP: \$40. [www.mtmcase-gard.com](http://www.mtmcase-gard.com)

**6** Keeping 'em clean is critical and having something to do it at the range just as important. Pro-Shot's .38 to .45 caliber cleaning kit comes with all the goodies in a reusable box. A very high quality aluminum/steel cleaning rod, cleaner/lubricant, brushes, bore guide, bore "light," patches and silicone cloth are all right there. MSRP around \$40. [www.proshotproducts.com](http://www.proshotproducts.com)

**7** Real Avid's "Master Cleaning Station — Universal" is just that, about everything you'll need for a deep clean at a bench. It includes a mat, with the kit attached. When you open the lid the attachments all stand right up! There's brass rods, a handle, bore brushes, Accu-Grip brushes, jags and bore mops. It rolls up and fits into an included bag. Add a bit of solvent and lube and you're good to go. Now you can clean your favorite 1911 and your favorite long gun at the same time! MSRP: \$49.99. [www.realavid.com](http://www.realavid.com)

**8** VZ's "Hydra" grips are just one of about a zillion styles, materials and options they show for the 1911. Need grip screws/bushings, hardware, magazines, cleaning supplies, magwells — even holsters? VZ can lend a hand. I like their grips because they're both beautifully made and excellently designed. Most grips are of G10, but they also use Micarta, Carbon Fiber and even Stabilized wood. There are lots of options to choose from. Prices vary by design and materials. [www.vzgrips.com](http://www.vzgrips.com)



3

8

**9** XS Sights are world-famous and have many models fitting your favorite 1911. The "Big Dot" Tritium Express design is one of my favorites and installs easily on a 1911 with dovetails. They make several models fitting different dovetail cuts and their excellent fitting charts on their website make selection easy. The "Big Dot" front and "Express" V-notch rear is very fast, yet still allows precise aiming if you take your time. MSRP: Around \$110 depending on style. [www.xssights.com](http://www.xssights.com)



**10** It's becoming more and more popular to mount a "dot" sight onto a 1911 using various plate systems. Some come stock from the factory; others can be retro-fitted to some slides. TRUGLO's Tru-Tec Micro is light, affordable and has enough features to accommodate the needs of just about any shooter. The sight also comes with a Picatinny style rail included. There are several options so you're sure to find one working for you. If you haven't tried a dot sight, prepare to be amazed! MSRP: \$235 to 261. [www.truglo.com](http://www.truglo.com)



1



5

# WIN!



## AMERICAN HANDGUNNER

### HANDGUN OF THE MONTH



# GLOCK 48 PISTOL PACKAGE

PLUS

MTM CASE-GARD 3-CAN AMMO CRATE



VZ GRIPS VZ PUNCH ARROW



**ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE MARCH 31, 2020** WINNERS CHOSEN BY RANDOM DRAWING. Limit one entry per household. To protect the privacy and security of winners, their names will NOT be made public. Contest void where prohibited by law. Winners must undergo a background check and comply with all other federal, state and local laws. Taxes and fees will be the responsibility of the winner. Contest open to U.S. residents only. Employees and agents of Publishers' Development Corp. are not eligible. No purchase necessary. Winners will be notified by certified mail on official letterhead. Winners must respond within 30 days of receiving notification or an alternate winner will be selected. Attention deployed military: use stateside address! Giveaway guns and accessories may have evidence of being test fired or exhibit minor handling marks. Factory warranties may apply in some cases. The *Handgun of the Month* package is awarded only to the entrant drawn and will not be awarded if the firearm presented is illegal in the jurisdiction of the winner. An alternate, authorized winner will be selected. No substitutions or transfers to a third party are allowed. **UNABLE TO ENTER ONLINE?** Mail a postcard with your name and address (no envelopes please) to *American Handgunner Magazine*, GOM March/April 2020, P.O. Box 501377, San Diego, CA, 92150-1377.



## SCAN TO ENTER



**E**very time one of our magazines gets printed, I imagine readers hurrying to go online or mail a postcard to join our giveaway. I'm guessing it will be the same for this issue as we again have seriously delightful prizes!

First off, we have the **GLOCK 48!** Chambered in 9mm Luger, the G48 features a compact Slimline frame and black slide with an nDLC finish. Designed for comfort and concealed carry, the G48 combines a compact-size grip length and a minimal profile for a balanced, versatile grip ideal for a variety of users. The frame has elements of the Gen5 and Slimline series such as a short trigger distance, a frame with a built-in beavertail, a reversible magazine catch, a match-grade GLOCK Marksman Barrel (GMB) and precision-milled front serrations. The G48 comes with a 10-round magazine with high-visibility followers.

If you win, you can transport and store ammo for the G48 in the **3-Can Ammo Crate**. The crate has large carry handles and includes three conveniently sized ammo cans to store all types of boxed or bulk ammo. Each can has a water-resistant O-ring seal for dry storage. Made of polypropylene, the 3-Can Ammo Crate (13.5" x 25.4" x 8.9") can be stacked and strapped down. The cans come in Dark Earth; the crate in Army Green.

The **VZ Punch Arrow** from VZ Grips is machined from a solid piece of G10, a non-electrically conductive material that doesn't throw a metal signature should a Garret wand appear. Add this little dagger/tool to your EDC kit and take it anywhere you go. The new argyle checkering pattern will keep the VZ Punch Arrow securely in your hand. It comes with a handmade leather sheath.

So dear readers, what are you waiting for? On your mark, get set ... go to [www.americanhandgunner.com/giveaways](http://www.americanhandgunner.com/giveaways) or mail a postcard. —Jazz Jimenez

### GLOCK 48

MAKER: GLOCK USA, (770) 432-1202  
[US.GLOCK.COM](http://US.GLOCK.COM)

CALIBER: 9MM LUGER, CAPACITY: 10, BARREL LENGTH: 4.17"  
OAL: 7.28", WEIGHT: 18.48 OZ. (W/OUT MAGAZINE)  
VALUE: \$538

### 3-CAN AMMO CRATE

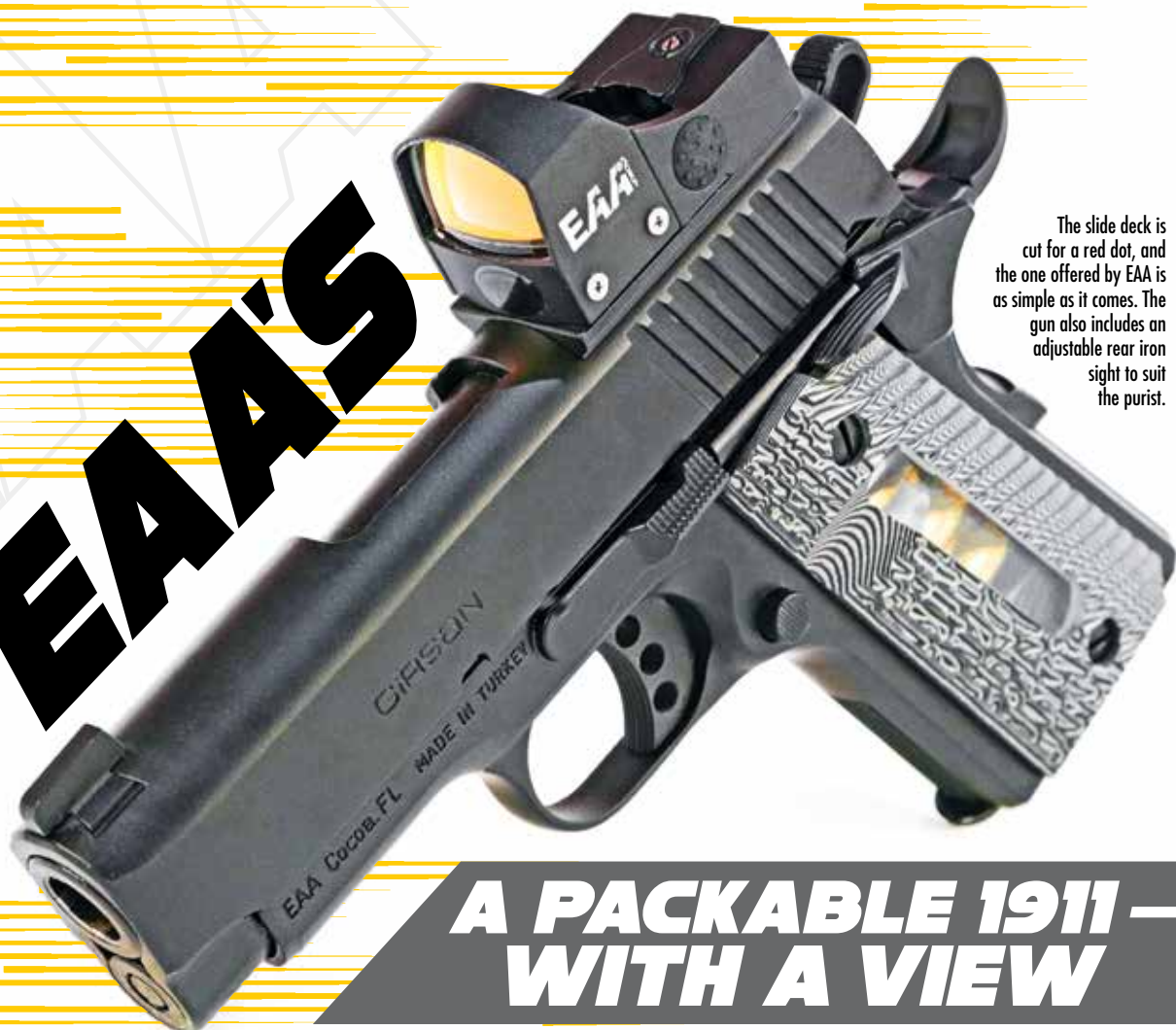
MAKER: MTM CASE-GARD, (937) 890-7461  
[WWW.MTMCASE-GARD.COM](http://WWW.MTMCASE-GARD.COM)  
VALUE: \$44.99

### VZ PUNCH ARROW

MAKER: VZ GRIPS, (850) 422-1911  
[WWW.VZGRIPS.COM](http://WWW.VZGRIPS.COM)  
VALUE: \$80

## TOTAL VALUE: \$662.99

# EAA'S



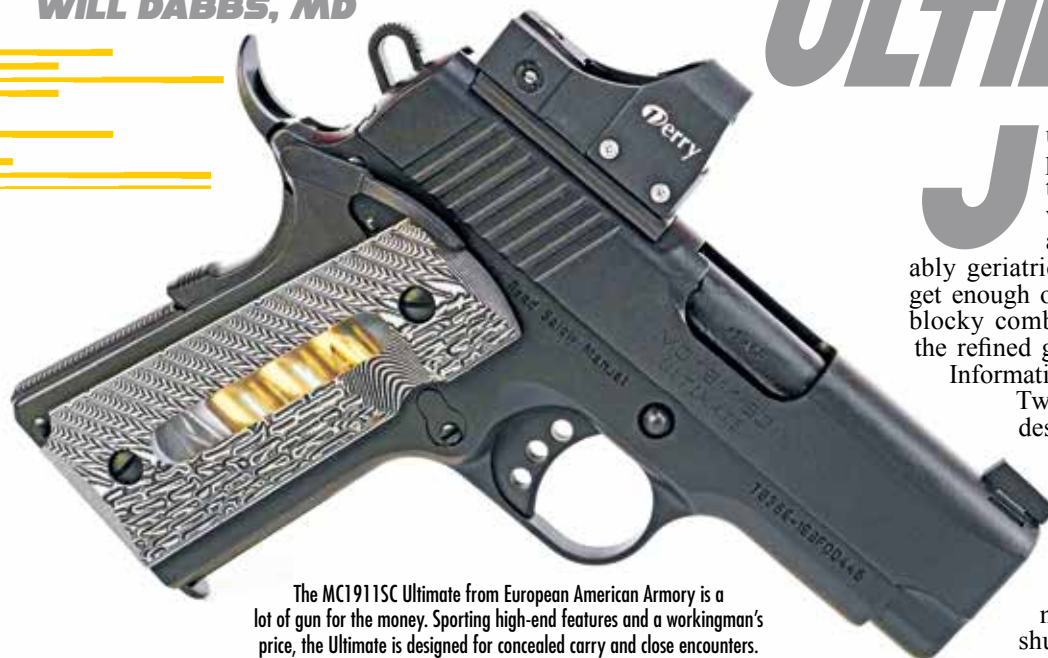
The slide deck is cut for a red dot, and the one offered by EAA is as simple as it comes. The gun also includes an adjustable rear iron sight to suit the purist.

## A PACKABLE 1911 — WITH A VIEW

# MC1911SC

## ULTIMATE

WILL DABBS, MD



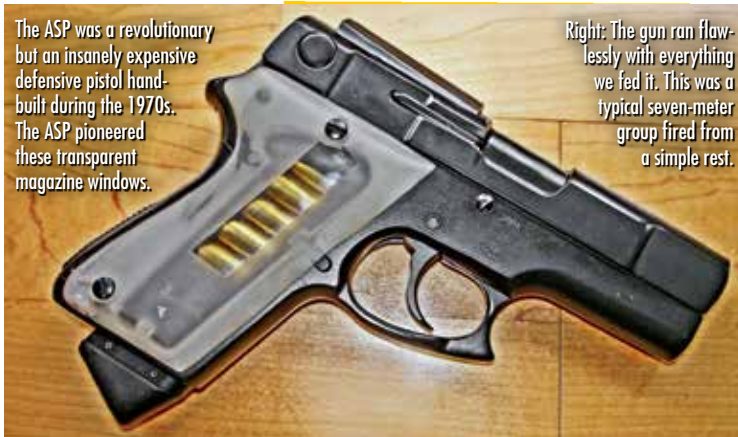
The MC1911SC Ultimate from European American Armory is a lot of gun for the money. Sporting high-end features and a workingman's price, the Ultimate is designed for concealed carry and close encounters.

**J**ust what is the ultimate 1911 pistol? John Browning birthed the gun back when telephones were both tethered to the wall and rare. Despite its undeniably geriatric heritage, we still just cannot get enough of these things. Mr. Browning's blocky combat pistol remains the mark of the refined gunman even this deep into the Information Age.

Tweaking this most tweakable design is the place where dreams either thrive or die. Some of the world's most accomplished metalworking artisans churn out modern-day versions incorporating more rarefied technology and advanced materials science than the space shuttle. This recent offering from



The ASP was a revolutionary but an insanely expensive defensive pistol hand-built during the 1970s. The ASP pioneered these transparent magazine windows.



Right: The gun ran flawlessly with everything we fed it. This was a typical seven-meter group fired from a simple rest.



European American Armory combines this same innovation — with affordability.

### Pertinent Particulars

The EAA MC1911SC Ultimate begins life as an Officers' ACP-sized gun. This means it sports a 7" overall length, a 3.4" barrel and an abbreviated frame accommodating a 6-round single-stack magazine. The gun is 5" tall and 1.22" thick. This is essentially the smallest full-power 1911 mankind can produce, other than a very few extreme custom guns.

The details are all seriously top flight. There is a bushingless interface between the tapered barrel and the slide for optimal accuracy. The generous beavertail and ample large ring hammer combine to make hammer bite not a real thing. The oversized thumb safety is bilateral, while the slide stop and magazine release are nicely scaled and appropriately checkered. The grip safety includes a memory bump, and the mainspring housing is flat. The front and rear backstraps are comfortably checkered as well.

The skeletonized trigger is pure art. I have squeezed more than my share of 1911 triggers, and this one is superb. There's just the tiniest bit of predictable take-up, and the thing breaks like a prom queen's heart. The gun's sundry edges are nicely melted for easy holstering and presentation. An aluminum frame keeps the weight at 1.6 lbs., or call it about Walther PPK weight.

I'm not the young stud I once was, and I have of late come to appreciate

the benefits of electronic sights. The MC1911SC Ultimate has its slide deck cut for a micro red dot. The gun also comes with an adjustable rear iron sight for the purist. EAA sells its own branded red dot.

Some electronic sights require an engineering degree to operate. This one, by contrast, is stupid-proof. Push the button and it comes on. Push it again and the sight goes off.

The dot is readily usable in both bright light and hard dark. As near as I could find there were no brightness controls. Before you look down your long Roman nose at this just imagine your state of mind should you ever have to use the gun for real. Do you really think you'll have the presence of mind to cycle through half a dozen brightness settings while facing some thug in a dark parking lot? Me neither.

This simple EAA sight offers everything you need without the fluff you don't. The sight will even serve as a charging handle in a pinch. Then there are the grips.

The G10 grips are attractive, indestructible and aggressively textured. They also include transparent windows along their centers corresponding perfectly with cutouts in the steel magazine. As a result you can tell at a glance your rounds remaining without calling a timeout to the fire to drop your magazine. In addition to looking cool these windows are remarkably functional. Previously you had to be a fairly rarefied

collector to avail yourself of such as this in the name of ASP.

### One Deadly Snake

Back in the 1970s there were still, believe it or not, gun shops in New York City. Paris Theodore owned Seventrees Ltd., a custom gunleather shop serving customers in the Big Apple back before it became enslaved. Paris' professional life orbited around concealable handguns, so he set out to build the perfect one. He started out with a Smith & Wesson Model 39 as a foundation.

The thoroughly revamped gun was called the ASP, short for Armament Systems and Procedures. In addition to melted edges, a radical "Gutter-snipe" sighting system, and a revolutionary Teflon coating to the metal bits, the ASP also included clear Lexan grip panels. When combined with a skeletonized magazine these grips allowed you to keep track of rounds remaining — at a glance. It was groundbreaking.

The ASP package included a nifty 2-cell magazine pouch using magnets to hold the mags in place. Prices back then using a customer-supplied gun ran around \$475. That's \$2,200 in today's money. Some 450 copies were hand built before the ASP went the way of the dodo. Now the most admirable attributes of the ASP, its see-through grip panels, are available in a reasonably priced powerful concealed carry pistol.

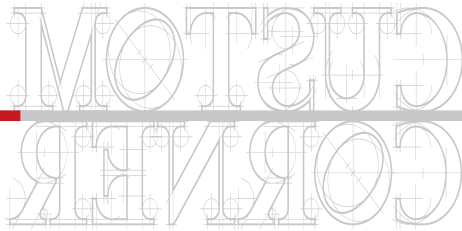
While not an ASP, in our case, GiRSAN in Turkey makes the EAA MC1911SC Ultimate. Historically the Turks have not been serious players in the American gun market. However, all this changed a decade or so ago. I own

*Continued on page 74*



An oversized hammer and extended beavertail prevent hammer bite. Note the EAA-branded red dot — dirt simple and tough. The transparent grip panels are the gun's most appealing feature. Now you can keep track of rounds remaining without dropping the magazine or doing math while someone is trying to kill you.

# CUSTOM CORNER



Custom Corner features paid listings by the identified pistolsmiths. Many are members of the American Pistolsmiths Guild and the American Handgunner Club 100. Advertising information is available from: *AMERICAN HANDGUNNER*, Adv. Dept., 13741 Danielson St. Ste. A, Poway, CA 92064; [delano.amaguin@fmghq.com](mailto:delano.amaguin@fmghq.com); (888) 732-6461.

## CHIAPPA RHINO

*Continued from page 41*

back down instead of staying cocked. If you don't read the instructions first, this is going to be very unnerving!

What looks like a hammer is not a hammer at all. It's just a cocking piece. You can tell the pistol is cocked when a red indicator pin is sticking up through a hole in the left rear of the frame. You can feel the pin too, so it's practical in the dark. The pin also pops in and out during double-action shooting which I found to be a distraction. I'm half inclined to file it down until it's almost, but not quite, flush with the top of the frame. Okay, I'm easily distracted.

A practical feature the futuristic Rhino shares with old-school revolvers is the ability to use moon clips. You don't need to use them but they can speed up loading and ejection. The only downside with them is not all ammunition is made to the same diameter as the clip's engagement point and some brands are loose enough to fall out. Take this into consideration if you're planning to carry one in your pocket.

Speaking of pockets, the Rhino is no pocket pistol like the J-Frame, so it isn't quite so concealable. However, it's about an inch shorter than a 2" barrel K-Frame with comparable volume, and surprisingly lightweight thanks to an aluminum alloy frame. The cylinder and barrel sleeve are stainless steel.

I tested the 2" concealed carry, fixed sights model, but there are 3", 4", 5" and 6" barrel Rhinos with Picatinny rails at the bottom and adjustable sights. Pistols are currently made in .357 Magnum, .40 S&W and 9mm. Finish options include black or hard chrome. Grips are available in wood or rubber, with or without finger grooves and Hogue will be offering a custom grip soon. From time to time Chiappa also offers special, limited-edition Rhinos with custom finishes and grips, like the Nebula.

### Competitive & Complete

The Rhino 200DS comes in a hard case with everything the first-time gun owner would need to use it immediately for personal defense. A leather ambidextrous belt holster with slots for vertical or forward cant, three moon clips, clip unloader, a cleaning brush and practical trigger lock are all part of the package. The MSRP on this chrome-finished model is about a grand, but actual online retail prices are between \$850 and \$900. The black finish guns seem to run about \$100 less.

For more info: [www.chiappafirearms.com](http://www.chiappafirearms.com) or [www.charlesdaly.com](http://www.charlesdaly.com); *Kydex Holsters*: [www.gamefaceholsters.com](http://www.gamefaceholsters.com); [www.aliengearholsters.com](http://www.aliengearholsters.com); [www.midway.com](http://www.midway.com)

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# GUN RIGHTS

Continued from page 85

is free, who pays the farmers? When debts you run up — money you spent and owe — are erased, how do people you ripped off get remunerated? If your guns are confiscated, how will you prevent armed agents from taking your stuff so other people can have it “for free?” You never thought about that — but they did. Isn’t your gun supposed to protect itself from confiscation? If someone “red flags” you because, “armed people are dangerous!” then what?

Missing from the rhetoric are plans to address crime. Look closely — each proposal directly addresses you and guns you legally own. Focus on crime is missing! Taking a gun you legally bought, possess and own is *infringement*, by definition. This no longer matters to the party Prager identifies as the tremendous threat — the one believing it can vote away civil rights.

*All enemies foreign and domestic* has new significance, because we have met the domestic enemy and “they is us.” While Congress dithers and struts falsely about non-existent collusion, ignoring a *true* foreign enemy, they fail to sufficiently address this obvious

threat, Rooskies at our necks and armed criminals already on our streets.

## Focused Attacks


The legislative calendar should be bursting with attacks on Russia. Instead, politicians attack plastic that can make regular rifles achieve burst fire, just like shoelaces can. The way the bump-stock bill is written, a future administration can arbitrarily outlaw any semi-automatic firearm it wishes to, even pistols. But it won’t have to. Because the so-called assault-gun law is already drafted to outlaw anything with a magazine and a grip. I kid you not. I read these bills. They banned rifles with pistol grips, then defined pistol grips as *anything* that functions as a grip 11 pages later (and included shotguns and sidearms). These people have no honor.

Only two things prevent their nefarious action — they only control one house of Congress (a brilliant distribution of power built in by our Founders). And they don’t control the signature needed to make bills law.

Where are bills that would train citizens in the decent and righteous use of firearms? When we were younger, bills weren’t even needed to have high-school marksmanship teams with ranges in the basement. We are so far removed from such proper and useful

law it’s hard to even conceive.

And the media, need we even go there? Most are so far socialist-supporting left-wing traitorous censors themselves, we have a new third-rail of politics. They will not even mention anything gun unless it’s related to crime or denigrating arms.

We have long past the point where hot civil war only approaches the radar. Communist Chinese generals lament the fact they never got experience in blood-and-steel battle of “the old days.” Today, in what they call “Unrestricted Warfare,” (read their book) war is fought on 40 fronts, none of which involve firing. Battles today are for the hearts and minds of populations. You win these wars on TV, in schools, on paper in legislatures, in debates over dinner (if the subjects can even arise, in true Orwellian thought-control style). Your arms remain carefully greased, preserved, perhaps transported to the range for practice, never to be used for their intended purpose — the defense of freedom against all enemies, foreign and domestic. 

*Award-winning author Alan Korwin has written 14 books, 10 of them on gun law, and has advocated for gun rights for nearly three decades. See his work or reach him at GunLaws.com.*



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# STREET & FIELD

Continued from page 57

very steady shooting. Sights are typical S&W and are all black with no white dots or fiber optics. The trigger, like most S&W DA sixguns is excellent whether it's operated DA or single action.

My own model 48's are strictly an iron-sighted proposition. However with the 648 the rear sight can be removed exposing drilled and tapped holes in the top of the frame for accepting a scope mount base. I chose to use a Weigand base mounted with a 2X Burris scope for test-firing at 25 yards. My shooting consisted of a full dozen versions of .22 Magnum ammunition.

Everything I tried shot very well, with my best groups for seven shots at 25 yards with scope included a Winchester 40-HP at 1,325 fps and a 1" group; Federal 50-HP, 1,055 fps, at 1.25"; Winchester 40-Dyna-Point, 1,200 fps, CCI/Speer Gold Dot HP, 1,300 fps; Remington 33-Accutip, 1,515 fps, and Fiocchi 40-HP, 1,400 fps with all putting seven shots into 1 3/8" at 25 yards. These groups were amazingly consistent and really showed this gun off!

## Iron Sights Too

Switching to iron sights and seven shots at 20 yards saw the above-mentioned Gold Dot HPs and Winchester Dyna-Points grouping right at 0.75", and Federal's 50-grain load giving a a solid 1" group. My most-used .22 Magnum loads are from CCI consisting of their Maxi-Mag JHP and the Maxi-Mag +V JHP with both giving me right at 1" groups for 20 yards. Muzzle velocities of 1,313 fps and 1,700+ respectively showed up on the chrono. The latter is also the most powerful load I know of in the .22 WMR line up.

This illustrates a significant increase in performance from the .22 Magnum compared to the regular .22 LR, even out of this shorter revolver barrel. This increase does not come cheaply, as a box of .22 WMR ammunition can cost anywhere from 4-6 times the same amount of .22 LR loads. In fact if cost is a factor the M&P 9mm can actually be shot cheaper than the .22 Magnum!

The M&P 2.0 Compact can do double duty. And the Model 648 .22 Magnum — while much heavier and larger — can also be pressed into service for self-defense with the CCI Speer Gold Dot 40-gr. JHP designed specifically for this purpose. These were two totally different new handguns from S&W, with both rated highly for use by me and mine. MSRP of the Dark Earth M&P M2.0 is \$569 while the .22 Magnum Model 648 is listed at \$749.

For more info: [www.smith-wesson.com](http://www.smith-wesson.com)



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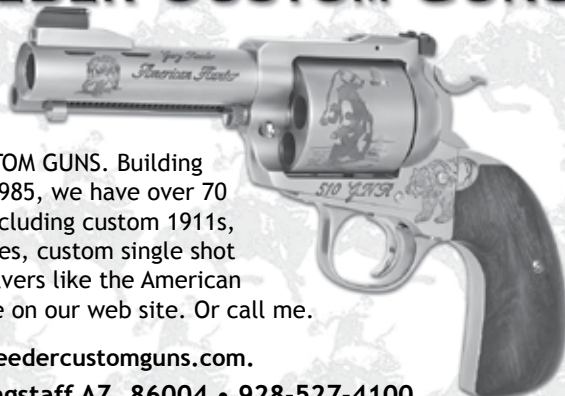
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## RUGER SECURITY-9

Continued from page 55

the slide cocks it again.

In addition to the manual safety, the Security-9 Compact has a familiar blade safety built into the trigger and the “neutrally” loaded sear/hammer and secondary safety notch on the hammer. There’s no magazine disconnect safety so the Security-9 Compact can be fired without a magazine. The sights have a white outline “U” for the rear sight and a white dot front sight. They are easily replaceable, and the rear sight is adjustable for windage.

**I like the idea of having more ammo in the gun, so the concept of a compact, double-stack 9mm is appealing.**

Takedown is accomplished by removing the magazine, clearing the chamber and letting the slide go forward. Retract the slide approximately 1/16" to align the notch on the slide with the takedown pin, then carefully use a small screwdriver to pry loose the takedown pin and remove it. The slide will then move forward off the frame. Compress the recoil spring to disengage it from the barrel lug and lift it out. Remove the barrel by sliding it forward to free the top lugs, then lift it from the slide and the gun is ready for cleaning. I smiled when I took the test sample apart as the folks at Ruger had already lubricated it and was ready to go.

### Shooting

For my range session with the Security-9 Compact, I put together an assortment of defensive and practice rounds. The defensive rounds were Speer Gold Dot 124-gr. GDHP, Federal Train + Protect 115-gr. JHP, Novx 65-gr. ARX and Hornady Critical Duty 135-gr. Flex-Lock. I chose the latter because of its mule-kickin’ recoil. I specifically wanted to see how shooting it felt in the small gun. None of these are +P rounds, which the manual specifies should not be used in either version of the Security-9. The practice rounds I brought along were Federal Syntech rounds in 124- and 147-gr. versions. I also picked up a container of mixed 9mm rounds left over from numerous range trips.

The range had a loaner full-size Security-9, so I borrowed a magazine from it too to see how it ran. At my sta-

tion, I started firing using different types of ammo for each reload. The target station was set at seven yards, the starting point for the Texas License to Carry Shooting Proficiency test. Some of my shots grouped one on top of the other, with overall 10-shot groups staying within a max dispersion of 3". Not bad at all for a small semi-auto with a grip just 2.5" high and 5.5" around.

Funny thing, while I was shooting, I wasn’t thinking about it being a small grip at all. I shot with each of the three magazines: the one with the extended baseplate, the one without it and the 15-round magazine from the full-size Security-9. I can’t say any of them made a difference in how I shot the gun.

I asked the Range Safety Officer to shoot it and give me his impression and when a couple moved into the lane next to me and I noticed the wife was in a wheelchair like me, I asked them if they would like to try the Security-9 Compact and give me their impressions. The couple was concealed-carry practitioners, who obviously recognized the need for practice. She carries a Kimber Micro 9 in a pocket holster, which is most often in her purse right beside her in the wheelchair, and his carry gun is a SIG SAUER P320. All three shooters shot the gun at the same 7-yard distance and their results were similar to mine. The husband and wife both said they enjoyed shooting it but had no earth-shattering observations. I think that’s good. She apparently has shot her Micro 9 enough she’s comfortable with it. I noticed she had excellent shot control with both guns.

### My Thoughts?

There wasn’t the slightest indication of any type of problem as the four of us managed to put approximately 200 rounds downrange. I didn’t expect the gun to handle as comfortably as it did, and I didn’t expect to be able to shoot it as well as I did. Even with the “hot” Critical Duty rounds, recoil was easily managed.

I carried the gun for a week in a Bianchi 101 Foldaway holster. This is a minimalist holster costing around \$15, working amazingly well. It’s an OWB I covered with the shirttail of a polo shirt. I felt comfortable and secure in a variety of locations with this method of concealing a gun. I had no doubt the Ruger would be up to the task should the need to defend myself or my loved ones arise.

The MSRP on the Security-9 Compact is \$379. The retail outlet at the gun range where I shot it has it listed for \$339, but ran a special on it this past week for \$319. That puts the Ruger Security-9 Compact right at the top of my recommendations for a 9mm double-stack compact concealed carry gun.



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## AYOOB FILES

Continued from page 87

“Later, both men returned to the Oriental, where the argument was renewed. Milt Joyce asked Tyler to leave the saloon, ‘as he didn’t want trouble.’ Tyler left, but when Joyce ‘remonstrated with Holliday,’ Doc, who was apparently intoxicated, got into an argument with Joyce during which Joyce ‘bodily fired’ Doc out of the saloon. Doc was no physical match for the burly former blacksmith, who easily threw him into the street. Uncowed, Doc returned and demanded the return of his pistol from behind the bar. Joyce refused to give it to him.

“Infuriated and humiliated, Holliday left again, found another pistol, and returned. He approached Joyce, who was coming out from behind the bar, ‘and with a remark that wouldn’t look well in print, turned loose with a self-cocker.’ Joyce pulled his own pistol and charged Doc, perhaps firing at him once, before using it to knock Doc to the floor with a blow to his head. As they struggled, Marshal White and Officer Bennett arrived and separated them. In the melee, several shots were fired. Joyce was wounded in the hand, and William Parker was shot in the big toe of his left foot. Gus Williams, a bartender, had fired a shot, which hit no one. Doc was bleeding badly from the blow to his head, and observers thought at the time that he ‘was severely, if not fatally, hurt.’ He was lifted into a chair, and Joyce was escorted out of the saloon. When it was clear Holliday was not critically injured, he was arrested.

“The following day, Fred White secured a warrant against Holliday sworn out by Joyce on a charge of ‘assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill,’ before Justice of the Peace James Reilly. The next day Doc pleaded guilty to assault and battery even though no witnesses appeared against him in Reilly’s court. He was fined \$20 plus \$11.25 in court costs.”

Author Roberts considered that getting off lightly, which is an understatement by today’s standards. In today’s America, the tubercular dentist would have died in prison for pleading guilty to that crime.

### The OK Corral Aftermath

The most famous gunfight in the history of the Old West took about 30 seconds on October 26, 1881, and is still being debated to this day. We’ve discussed it at length in past *Ayoob Files* (available online at [www.americanhandgunner.com](http://www.americanhandgunner.com)).

For Holliday’s part, it is unquestioned he was the one who shot and killed Tom McLaury. Tom died from

a 12-pellet blast of buckshot, and Holliday was the only person at the scene wielding a shotgun, which had been given to him by Virgil Earp. Holliday, alone among the Earp side, was wearing a long “duster” coat that could discreetly conceal the big scatter-gun.

At the end of the fight, it’s pretty much agreed the last man to fall was Tom’s brother Frank McLaury. Frank had been hit in the belly in the beginning seconds of the fight by a slug from Wyatt Earp’s Colt .45. Though the wound had doubled him over, Frank McLaury was still up and running and wielding his own long-barrel Colt single action, a .44-40 Frontier Six-Shooter. Spotting Holliday McLaury shouted at him what would be his last words: “I’ve got you now!”

According to witnesses, the unperturbed Holliday snapped back, “Blaze away! You’re a daisy if you have.”

In the next moment, the famous gunfight came to an end as three men fired virtually simultaneously. Frank McLaury shot Holliday, the bullet skidding off the heavy leather of Doc’s gunbelt, leaving a nasty welt. Holliday returned a revolver shot, and Morgan Earp, who had been downed by a bullet that hit his shoulder and went across his back chipping a vertebra, fired upward from the ground. Both bullets slammed into McLaury, Holliday’s into the chest and Morgan Earp’s into the head, and McLaury fell heavily into the street. Holliday was heard to cry out, “I’m shot right through. The son of a bitch has shot me and I mean to kill him.” He advanced toward the prostrate McLaury as if to administer a *coup de grace*, but held his fire when he realized the man was dead and the fight was over. While we can accept the brain shot by Morgan Earp was the one that decisively downed the last McLaury, Holliday’s shot to the same man’s chest would have been highly likely to be fatal, given the primitive medical care of the time. However, other famous outlaws of the period were known to have survived gunshot wounds to the chest and recovered with little or no medical care. Jesse James and John Wesley Hardin come to mind, and that may be why some historians list the shotgunning Tom McLaury as Holliday’s only “kill” that day.

The shooting polarized the community. The Clanton/McLaury faction was closely tied with county sheriff Johnny Behan, and one of the Tombstone newspapers, along with local Democrats. The Republican Earp faction had the town’s other newspaper on their side. On October 29, warrants were sworn out against Holliday and the three Earp brothers, charging murder. Justice of the Peace Wells Spicer set bail at \$10,000 apiece. That \$10K in 1881 would have an equivalent value of well over a quarter million dollars today.

Apparently, the justice system in

that time and place took it more seriously when three politically connected citizens were killed in the street, than when an angry drunk shot a purveyor of demon rum in the hand.

On November 30, having heard evidence from both sides, JP Spicer ruled that while Virgil Earp taking Holliday with him and giving him the shotgun was “an injudicious and censurable act ... I can attach no criminality to his unwise act. In fact, as the result plainly proves, he needed the assistance and support of staunch and true friends, upon whose courage, coolness, and fidelity he could depend, in case of an emergency.” The prosecution, and some eyewitnesses, maintained Holliday had fired the first shot, but Spicer had accepted Wyatt Earp’s testimony he himself was the one who discharged the very first round, which had struck Frank McLauray. In any case, the Earps, and Holliday, were completely exonerated.

### Last Shooting. Last Trial.

In the year 1884, Holliday was living in Leadville, Colorado. Perhaps he thought dry air would ease his tuberculosis, but it appears the wickedly cold winters and thin mountain air would more than offset any such advantage. He had deteriorated to a skeletal 122 lbs. and was described by those who knew him at the time as appearing exceedingly frail.

In Leadville, he had run across many hostile rival gamblers and in particular a nemesis named Billy Allen. Holliday’s gambling luck and his funds had both reached a low ebb, and he found himself owing five dollars to Allen. To the proud dentist’s humiliation, Allen bullied him and threatened him over it. On one occasion, Allen told him “Holliday, I’ll give you ’til Tuesday to pay this money, and if you don’t pay it, I’ll lick you, you son of a bitch.” Allen told a mutual friend if Holliday didn’t pay him at the appointed time, he “...would knock him down and kick his damned brains out.” Allen told still another party he would “start hunting for him” (Holliday) if the five dollars were not promptly forthcoming. Word of all this reached Holliday’s ears, and he took it seriously.

That day came, and in the afternoon Doc repaired to a bar called Hyman’s. It is believed, knowing it was illegal for him to carry there, he had a friend slip a revolver of Doc’s into a predetermined spot on a shelf near one end of the bar, not far from the door. Holliday stationed himself close to the gun, generally believed to be a double action Colt, probably .41 caliber.

Very shortly, Billy Allen walked in, at least one hand in a pocket as if holding a hidden revolver. Holliday snatched up his Colt and, taking partial cover behind a cigar case, opened fire.

His first shot apparently missed

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Allen, who either fell or dove to the floor, face down. As he was pushing himself up Holliday fired again, connecting this time. The bullet entered the back of Allen's upper right arm, cutting an artery. A bystander grabbed Holliday before he could trigger a third shot. Police had been right outside the door, and Holliday surrendered to them readily. No weapon of any kind was recovered from the hemorrhaging Allen.

Charged with "assault with intent to kill," Holliday languished in jail for months. He would not go to trial for this, his last violent encounter, until March of 1885.

Holliday was promptly acquitted by the jury.

It's time to look at the "whys."

## Lessons

It was true then and remains true now "allegation" does not necessarily equal "probable cause," whether or not mainstream media gives false impressions of sensational cases. It's only hearsay Doc Holliday stabbed someone named Ed Bailey in Fort Griffin. The legend says Holliday originally fled Georgia because he had murdered some young black people for being in a "whites only" swimming hole. It would have been a heinous felony even in the Deep South in the time of slavery. However, the Holliday family maintained young John Henry had only fired warning shots from a .36-caliber Navy Colt, and some historians can't even find documentation to support that much.

In the Leadville case, Holliday took the witness stand in his own defense. He explained what he knew of Allen's promise to harm him if he didn't pay him the money he didn't have. A string of witnesses confirmed Allen's prior threats. There was testimony from one of Allen's friends Allen had seen Holliday enter the bar and immediately went after him, stating "I am going to hunt this party." The effect of all this was to establish Holliday was in reasonable fear of death or great bodily harm at Allen's hands, and the road to this violence had begun with Billy's previous threats against Doc.

The best analysis of this trial and its outcome I've seen comes from the aforementioned Gary L. Roberts in *Doc Holliday: The Life and Legend*. Here, he quotes Holliday's testimony at trial: "I knew that I would be a child in his hands if he got hold of me; I weigh 122 lbs.; I think Allen weighs 170 lbs. I have had the pneumonia three or four times; I don't think I was able to protect myself against him."

Holliday had just described a principle known today as disparity of force. It comes into play when one's opponent is not armed with a weapon per se, but has so great a physical advantage over the defender that if the assault continues, it's likely to cause death or severe injury.

Multiple opponents create disparity of force through force of numbers. So can "position of advantage," where the attacker has the defender in a position where they cannot defend themselves. Ditto known or obviously recognizable high skill in unarmed combat.

In the Holliday/Allen matter, two other elements of disparity of force came into play: distinctly greater physical strength, and the able-bodied attacking the physically disabled. The term "disparity of force" may not have been used in the Holliday trial in Colorado in 1885, but it was certainly an issue in the jury's deliberations.

Note also the rule of thumb you don't have to be right, you have to be reasonable. Holliday testified, "I had been told he had a gun and was looking for me; when he came in his right hand was in his pocket; he was about three feet inside the door when I shot; when I shot the first time, he turned and fell; I did not see where his hands were when I shot the second time; I supposed he was going to get there if he could, for I thought he had come there to kill me."

Holliday obviously testified articulately and believably in Colorado. Why didn't the defense team put him on the stand in the OK Corral matter? Roberts again has a cogent analysis. "He likely would have been a good witness," Roberts wrote. "He was bright and savvy enough to have handled himself well on the stand; he could have even submitted a written statement as Wyatt had. The defense never explained why Doc was not called. Practically, he would have added little to what Wyatt and Virgil had said, but he would have provided the prosecution opportunity to exploit his unsavory reputation and raise questions about his previous brushes with the law in Tombstone. Since the prosecution's case focused on Doc's role in precipitating the fight, the defense wisely chose not to put him on the stand. The risks outweighed the advantages." (3)

Some 135 years later, the reasonableness test applied in both the Tombstone and the Leadville courtrooms remain in effect. So does the disparity of force principle working to Holliday's advantage in the Leadville trial. The lethal force area is one of the most mature and well-established bodies of law in American jurisprudence. Whether Doc Holliday was a "good guy" or a "bad guy" — or, most likely, a mixture of both — our law holds the evil man has the same rights as the good man.

(1): Denver Republican, *May 16, 1882*. (2): <http://marydoriarussell.net/2011/07/20/docs-marksmanshi/> (3) Roberts, Gary L., *Doc Holliday: the Life and Legend*, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2006, Page 214.

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## EAA'S MC1911SC

Continued from page 65

a pile of Turkish-made firearms, and they are, without exception, well made and professionally executed. The EAA MC1911SC Ultimate is both functional and attractive. The gun also includes a limited lifetime warranty for the original purchaser.

### Does It Run?

The MC1911SC Ultimate is built to tote, and it doesn't disappoint. I humped this powerful little gun in an Alien Gear 1911 IWB rig underneath my scrubs at work — and looked cool doing it. You really cannot get any smaller or lighter with a 1911 pistol. The Alien Gear holster even tolerates the red dot sight nicely.

This is a lightweight, compact single stack handgun throwing big .45 ACP bullets. However, I found the pistol to be surprisingly placid. It reliably ate everything I fed it, from lightweight ARX polymer rounds up to heavy SIG hollow-points. The divine single-action trigger made it surprisingly accurate for such a small chassis.

If you've ever run a 1911 before, the manual of arms will be foundational dogma. The generous bilateral thumb safety allows for safe Condition 1 carry with a round in the chamber, the hammer back, and the safety on. With a little practice this is one of the world's fastest pistols to get into action.

I could easily keep my rounds in a juice can lid at seven meters without much effort. For most self-defense scenarios seven rounds of 230-gr. hollow-point chaos should be more than adequate to get you out of any reasonable bind. It should take care of a few of the unreasonable sorts as well.

Interestingly, the Mec-Gar magazines are clearly converted from standard six-rounders. The windows are professionally milled in each side, but they carve through the original index holes. This leaves a couple of sharp corners that could nick you if care is not exercised. Practically speaking this likely won't make much difference.

### Ruminations

You can dump as much as you might spend for a nice used car on a tricked-out 1911. I have myself run a few of these rarefied heaters, and they are undeniably sweet. However, the EAA MC1911SC Ultimate offers superlative execution along with a few features you won't find anyplace else, all at a price around the \$700 mark — more in line with a typical plastic pistol. The gun looks cool, carries well, and runs like a scalded ape.



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# PISTOL CARBINES

Continued from page 43

and brain habit kicking in. Mode of semi-auto function is simple blow back. A new feature to me was the fact their bolt knob was moveable from right to left side making them “lefty friendly.”

My friend’s 9mm Storm was his favorite for it had a vertical foregrip and an Aimpoint sight — my first experience with those also. Likely because of the Aimpoint it became my favorite. With such light recoil and perhaps aided by the foregrip, I found it very easy to hit with it quickly. I was bouncing steel dueling tree paddles with alacrity. Also my paper groups at 100 yards were tightest with the 9mm and usually less than 3". I know for sure this level of accuracy was aided by the Aimpoint sight.

## Ruger PC

Ruger’s new PC carbine was easier for me to accept at first sight. It instantly reminded me of my Russian PPSH-41 submachine gun. This was caused by the aluminum perforated shroud around the 16.12" barrel. Also it’s more traditional in magazine placement. Without looking, my left

hand put the magazine out in front of the trigger guard where it belonged. Speaking of magazines, with the PC9 you have a choice; Ruger’s own 10- or 17-round ones or 9mm GLOCK magazines. An extra magazine well is included so PC9s can be adapted to either brand. The PC is also available in .40 S&W.

Three 0.5" stock-extender inserts come with each carbine. Stock length of pull is 12.5" so it can be increased to 14" with the extenders. The bolt knob and magazine release can be moved from one side to the other. PC9s are 1-1/4 lbs. heavier than Beretta Storms which I attribute to the barrel shroud. It should be noted Ruger’s website lists PC9s without the shroud and there are some stock color options. There’s also a new “chassis” stocked PC9 just released. Functioning is also by simple blow back.

The PC9’s issue sights pleased me. They would especially please me if I were a few years younger with the eye-sight I used to have. They consist of a large “ghost ring” peep at rear with post front between protective wings. The rear sight is adjustable for elevation and windage and proper Allen wrenches are supplied.

Usually, when factory loaned firearms are sent to me for “testing” they

arrive far from zeroed. To my surprise this PC9 hit precisely at point of aim at 25 yards. And it groups Federal 115-gr. FMJ factory loads in an inch or so at that distance. It was fired also at 100 yards but with my eyes I just couldn’t make the front sight focus. Also to my surprise when the carbine is brought to my shoulder quickly the post front and aperture rear are perfectly aligned. Keeping my steel dueling tree plates spinning with it was a cinch.

An innovation I like is the entire shrouded barrel can be removed quickly, and I mean in seconds. I’m no stranger to take-down Winchester lever guns but all this PC9 required for take down was to assure the gun is empty, lock the bolt back, press a button under the barrel, twist the barrel and shroud slightly and it’s apart! It also ran through several types of 9mm Parabellum factory loads with utter reliability. It’s also available chambered in .40 S&W.

I’m a “wood and steel” kind of guy but I’m honestly thinking seriously about buying this Ruger carbine instead of sending it back. If I do it’s going to get one of those Aimpoint sights for sure!



For more info: [www.beretta.com](http://www.beretta.com); [www.ruger.com](http://www.ruger.com); [www.aimpoint.com](http://www.aimpoint.com)

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# GUNNYSACK

ROY HUNTINGTON

## CASPIAN 1911 MODS

**W**e touched on these new offerings from Caspian a while ago but I wanted to flesh 'em out a bit. Basically, you can buy a frame and slide, choosing whichever model you want, then for an additional \$45.50 you can get some fancy “cuts” applied to the slide and frame. It’s a cool way to ramp-up the look and make the guns a bit more carry friendly too by rounding the corners off some.

The “Crew Cut” rounds off the top edges of the slide and you can also have it done to the frame. It’s sort of like old-school “melting” of the edges, but done a bit more extreme. In my samples in the photo I found it definitely makes the gun more hand-friendly. And if you’re having a gun built, getting it done right off the bat when the slide and frame are “raw” saves time, energy and money later.

The “High and Tight Cut” is the popular “Tri-Cut” look and sort of reminds you of a military look — sharp and crisp. It’s just as hand-friendly as the Crew Cut but offers a bolder, edgier — literally — look and feel. With the right sights and other



custom touches, this look really makes a custom 1911 stand out from the crowd. I’ll be doing a build on this one soon and will document it for an article later so you can see how it goes.

Caspian is made up of the nicest people, and being a family-owned business, if you’re a customer, you become immediate family. They supply slides, frames and parts to many custom gunsmiths as well as “factory” makers, as well as individual customers like you. You’d be surprised who uses Caspian products! They can also supply most of the “bits” you’d need on a build, including a fitted frame and slide. If you have the skills to build your own gun — or would just like to get a project started — check out their website for ideas. Make sure you also check out their ongoing specials and deals. I’m a strong proponent of selling off your safe queens and putting the money to work on a true custom gun you’ll cherish. Caspian can sure help with that! *For more info: [www.caspianarms.com](http://www.caspianarms.com), Ph: (802) 472-6454*

## UMAREX BERETTA MOD. 92A1 ROY HUNTINGTON



## FULL AUTO BB PISTOL

**N**ope, this isn’t a “real” Beretta. But at first glance, it really looks like one. In the hand it feels like one too, with the right weight, heft and control placements. But Umarex really ramped up the game here and have not only made an excellent “trainer” for those who like the Model 92 series, but have made this CO<sub>2</sub> powered BB pistol complete with a “fun” switch. Yup, throw the tiny, almost hidden lever at the top of the right grip panel and things go from semi-auto to full-auto! Ha!

The drill is drop the magazine the normal way with a button on the grip and load a 12 gram CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder into it. Then load 18 BBs one at a time — a bit fussy to do but such is life. Insert the magazine and run the slide just like a real gun. If the select fire is on the “one-dot” mode, it fires semi-auto. Nudge the lever to the “three-dot” mode and you suddenly have the full-auto grin-machine. I have no idea how fast the rate of fire is, but after shooting my share of Mac 10s and other fast shooters, I’m guessing around the 1,200 to 1,500 rounds per minute rate — extremely fast! It just sort of goes “Brrraapp” and you’re empty. Velocity is about 310 fps, and casual plinking and even modest “target” shooting is great fun. The gun takes down like a “real” Model 92 and even the DA trigger pull feels about right.

The real kicker is opening up on aluminum cans, shredding paper cups, tackling the errant rogue grasshopper or even taking on fast-attack flying wasps. I’ve got a few acres outside my office door and in the summer here, wasps are always hanging around. So far, my score is about “Wasps: 273 escapes” vs. “Roy: 1 confirmed hit.” The pesky devils are tough to hit, even on full auto and in-close. And yes, I’ve done the “wasp dance” on a few occasions when they ramped up the game and I was out of bullets. Run away!

This is just plain fun at every level. Any kid worth their salt will volunteer to load that magazine until their fingers are bleeding, if you allow them to shoot it some. Heck, so would I. MSRP is \$139.09. *Check out [www.americanhandgunner.com/videos](http://www.americanhandgunner.com/videos) for my “hands-on” video of this fun gun! For more info: [www.umarex.com](http://www.umarex.com)*

ROY HUNTINGTON

## HAWK SMART SCOPE

**T**his device answers a lot of needs. I have a couple of “target” camera systems I’ve accumulated and enjoy using them. But sometimes you don’t want to fuss with setting them up. The HAWK Smart Scope Spotting Scope Camera does just what it says, hooks up easily — very easily — to any spotting scope with a 36mm to 58mm eyepiece, and that’s just about any scope out there. The fun thing about something like this is suddenly target shooting is a group event. The feed from the unit hooks up to an iPad or smart phone, offering HD video, stills, shot-tracking and other stuff and it’s all easily visible to people watching. You pull the trigger and they see the shot hit!

I downloaded the app for my iPad, charged the unit (built-in Lithium-Ion batteries manage a 12+ hour run-time), and hooked it to my ancient spotting scope. I opened the app, turned on the scope, found it in my WiFi list, selected it and presto, I had the video feed on my iPad. The build-in screw clamp on the HAWK clamps around the spotting scope eyepiece so there’s no fumbly adaptors to mess with. You can turn the HAWK to assure the image is upright, and you use your spotting scope’s focus. It honestly takes less than a minute to clamp it on, hit the “on” button and get the app going. It’s got a two-year warranty and can handle iOS or Android operating systems.



You get live HD video or stills and you can record either on your smart device. You don’t need any local WiFi or cell service either as the HAWK supplies it. It uses the 2.4GHz band, weighs about one pound and has 1920 x 1080 resolution. It comes with a custom soft case, charger and the HAWK. It’s \$299 at MSRP and if you shared the cost with a buddy or two that’s cheap fun and great convenience. I like to set it up with my iPad right next to me. This way, it’s shoot, look, shoot, look, without having to get up to look through the spotting scope every time. Plus, wife Suzi can make snide comments if I miss. “If you keep at it, maybe you’ll do better?” Make sure you have a stout ego if you get this. *For more info: [www.longshotcameras.com](http://www.longshotcameras.com), Ph: (281) 205-8134*

## DESANTIS POCKET HOLDER

JOHN TAFFIN

**W**hen it comes to purchasing brakes, tires or parachutes, cheap is much too expensive. This is also true of holsters and especially so of pocket holsters. I always, that is always, have a J-Frame in my pocket. For a while I carried it in a very inexpensive pocket holster and two things started to happen. One was no matter where I placed it in my pocket it would change its position and the grip of my little pistol might be anywhere when I reached for it. Secondly, it started to irritate my leg through the pocket material until it constantly reminded me it was there.

Several months ago I invested in a DeSantis Nemesis Pocket Holster. These holsters are not cheap, by any means, however at just under \$27 they’re certainly not expensive. The best thing about them is they really work. Because of the design of the Nem-



esis and the material used, when it’s placed in the pocket it stays put. The inside of the holster is what DeSantis calls a “slick pack cloth” providing a low friction draw while at the same time keeping the pistol exactly where it belongs. The core of the holster is foam. The combination of material for the holster itself and the foam core molds itself to the pocket pistol and to the pocket itself.

In addition to forming to the pocket the material doesn’t irritate my leg and I hardly know I’m even carrying. The pistol draws easily, but remember to remove the holster from the pocket, re-place the gun and then place both back into the pocket. The Nemesis is an excellent design at a most reasonable price, is ambidextrous, and most importantly — it works! The picture shows a S&W J-Frame and a SIG P365. *For more info: [www.desantisholsters.com](http://www.desantisholsters.com)*




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## SIXGUNNER

Continued from page 20

ject or fire except when malfunctions were caused deliberately to be able to learn how to take care of them.

I definitely appreciated the 100-percent performance of the GLOCK .45, however it just did not stir my soul. Appreciated? Yes. Liked? Not really, but it's always been handy to reach and ready to go if needed.

### Newest

One of the latest GLOCKS offered, and one of the most popular, goes back to the beginning somewhat with both the numbering system and configuration. This is the tan-colored 19X, mating a Model 17 grip frame with a Model 19 slide. It was originally aimed at possible military acceptance. It's basically the same 9mm pistol GLOCK submitted to military testing with the only noticeable difference being the lack of a thumb safety on the commercial model, as provided on the military model.

**He appreciates the GLOCKS for their simplicity, reliability and the fact they are also relatively inexpensive.**

The 19X was the first GLOCK I really liked. Two things caught my eye immediately. First was the color, as instead of the traditional black this GLOCK is a tan color with a somewhat mottled finish on the slide. The second feature that realistically is more important to me is the fact there are no finger grooves in the front strap. Finger grooves are okay if your fingers happen to fit and mine rarely did. This particular GLOCK has been so well accepted, law enforcement has asked for a black version for their use and the result is the Model 45, which is not a .45 but actually a 9mm.

The 9mm GLOCK 45 has a few minor differences from other Generation Five GLOCKS. There are forward cocking serrations on the slide and this slide is not marked with "Gen 5" roll marks. Instead of the crescent shaped cutout found on the bottom of the front strap the GLOCK 45 has a small ridge blending smoothly into the flare on each side of the grip frame, adding a 1/8" bevel to the front of the magazine well.

I figured the GLOCK 19X would be the last GLOCK in a long time that would really appeal to me. Walking into Buckhorn Gun Shop in the closing days

of January of 2019 I was greeted by my friend Cactus saying, "Here is a gun I think you will want to see." With those words he pulled out a two-toned semi-auto turning out to be the latest GLOCK, the Model 48. Once I had it in my hands I thought, "I think I want this one."

This Fifth Generation GLOCK is in 9mm and from the side looks much like a GLOCK 19, however the width has been greatly reduced making this compact pistol much easier to conceal. It also looks very attractive with its typical black frame set off by a silver colored PVD coated slide. It immediately appealed to my eyes and felt exceptionally good in my hands. Barrel length is 4.17" and the magazine is a single stack with a capacity of 10 rounds, also adding to the ease of concealability. GLOCK 45 magazines will not fit in the 19X though.

### Particulars

I found myself liking the Model 48 even more than the 19X, mainly because of its ease of concealability. I thought this would be my last GLOCK in a long time, however the next trip to Buckhorn found the new GLOCK 43X. I couldn't resist! This is basically a Model 48 with a shorter barrel by about 3/4" making it even easier to conceal in a pocket. The magazines are interchangeable and by now my early appreciation had become real liking for these GLOCKS. In warm

weather I wear a holstered pistol covered by my shirttail.

However, in the cooler weather of spring and fall I have a very special "holster." I have tried several so-called tactical vests, however, I found them all lacking in one way or the other. I turned to King Size for an extra tall denim vest. It has two pockets tapered toward the front and with this set up I can carry both a Model 48 and a Model 43X, one in each pocket. The natural shape of the pockets keeps the guns in the proper place without shifting and when I sit down both of these pockets set on top of my legs making either gun easily accessible. This is especially appreciated when driving as the seatbelt is not in the way of accessibility.


### Improved?

Is the Fifth Generation GLOCK really an improvement over previous generations? Here are some of the changes found with the new GLOCKS courtesy of extensive study and research by my friend Denis. Coming up with this list is way above my pay grade, however it's a natural for his engineer's mind and heart. He came up with a long list of improvements going from the Gen 4 to the Gen 5 by, as he says, "A rigorous inspection of Gen 3, Gen 4 and Gen 5 GLOCKS along with literature from GLOCK."

He came up with 21 differences and

then four minor changes to arrive at the Model 45, and 10 minor changes going from the Gen 5 to the Gen 5 Model 19X. Our limited space here only allows some of the differences to be covered.

The traditional Tenifer finish has been replaced by a tougher and more attractive finish known as DLC or Diamond Like Coating. The front ends of the slide and the rails have been beveled for easier holstering; the finger grooves are gone and replaced by a RTF, or Rough Textured Frame that definitely makes the grip more comfortable. All GLOCKS now come with three magazines (as all semi-autos should) and all are now fitted with orange followers. All Gen 5 GLOCKS now have ambidextrous slide stop levers. So far, at least as this is written, all Gen 5 GLOCKS are chambered in 9mm. Barrels are now known as Marksman Barrels with a more aggressive rifling and a recessed crown, and Gen 5 GLOCKS are now available with factory installed tritium night sights.

I have shot my three latest GLOCKS extensively and like the way all of them handle and shoot. They will never replace the part of my heart reserved for Colt Single Actions and Smith & Wesson .44 Specials — but at least they  now have their own space.

For more info: [us.glock.com](http://us.glock.com)

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



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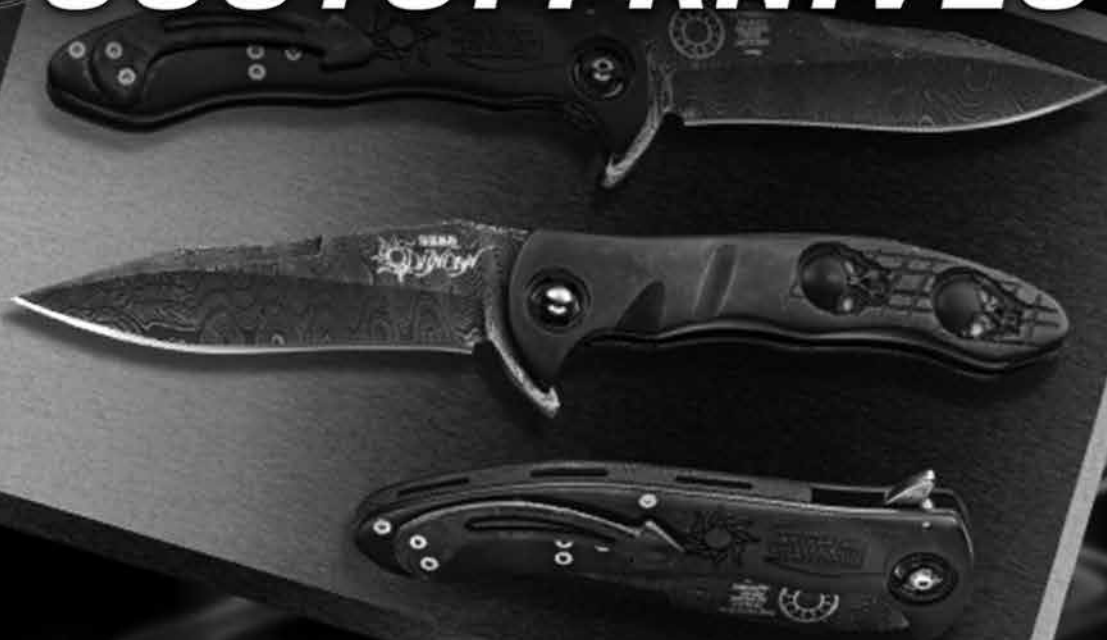





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# SIG SAUER

Continued from page 49

On our test sample, serial number 66A494274, the trigger pull ran an average 5.59 lbs. from the toe, and 7.64 lbs. from the center of the trigger on the Lyman gauge.

From the Matrix rest on a concrete bench, I ran it with SIG's own load actually designed for the original short P365. The "365" cartridge comprises a 115-gr. V-Crown JHP spec'd for 1,050 fps velocity, running the gun fine, with very mild recoil. Five shots went into 3.35", with the best three into 1.60". The 147-gr. subsonic shot better, with the flat-nose Winchester FMJ grouping all five into 2.80", four of those into 1.25" and the best three in the tightest measurement of the test at 0.8". The best five-shot group came with the Speer Gold Dot 124-gr. +P bonded hollow point at 1.95" — with the best three into 1.05". Yes, the little P365 XL grouped tighter than the big, heavy P320 X5 Legion. At least with these two particular pistols, in my hands.

## Handling Thoughts

Recoil and muzzle jump are mild in the P365 XL, even with +P ammo, and slightly less than with the original smaller model. The topmost round may be a little tight to squeeze into the magazine, and with the slide forward, the 12-rounders coming with it wanted to be seated firmly because of limited flex in the stack of cartridges when filled all the way up. The gun came with a flat trigger which, on this model, I liked better than the traditionally curved one on my original P365. There was a little creep in the pull, but it seemed to disappear in rapid fire.

I tested it for ergonomics, among other things running it over an off-duty police course encompassing 60 rounds, five-speed reloads, multiple draws, one hand only with each hand, and use of cover positions, from four to 15 yards. The pistol came with only two 12-round magazines, but the course of fire was "revolver neutral" with six round strings and mandatory reloads, so I got by mixing tactical reloads with speed reloads and filling one mag with six and the other with 12 for 18-round strings of fire.

The P365 XL gave me a full 300 out of 300 possible points, with some three-fourths of those in one ragged hole. The overall group measured about 5". For a "micro-compact" pistol it would have been hard to ask for more than this. My reloads weren't terribly fast. To make those many rounds fit into *that* compact a pistol, the P365's mag release had to be mounted forward on the grip-frame requiring a push more to 5 o'clock than 3 o'clock

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to dump the empty mag. My old arthritic thumbs don't handle that well. Some P365 shooters have addressed this by swapping the release button to the starboard side (instructions are in the owner's manual) and ejecting the spent mag with the trigger finger.

I carried the XL for a while in a Bullseye Kydex OWB. No surprises: this 1.1" thick pistol concealed very well and very comfortably, just as it was designed to do.

## Reliability

Everybody wants to shoot new guns, allowing me to get lots of hands on test firearms. Hundreds of rounds went through each of these SIGs, in the hands of five-foot-tall females and six-foot-plus testosterone monsters alike. There were no malfunctions except for failures of the slide to lock open when people left their thumbs on top of the slide stop levers — a shooter malfunction, not a gun issue.

What particularly impressed me was the P365 XL performed so reliably when it came out of the box bone dry. I know we should field strip and lube new guns before we shoot them. I also know most gun buyers *don't*, so I test them as they come out of the box. Thus, for this little P365 XL, the test was somewhat abusive, but it still ran fine. Big thumbs up for that. Be smarter

than me and lube *yours*, though!

Through the broad range of P320 options, this model has proven reliable enough for U.S. military adoption. The P365 has been approved by many law enforcement agencies for plain-clothes, off-duty and backup carry. One such entity is the Orlando, Florida Police Department. Many of their 800-plus sworn officers have opted for the P365, including Rangemaster Kevin Williams, who happened to be wearing his own when I interviewed him. He says the P365s have done fine in training and qualification with department issue Winchester 124-gr. +P Ranger Bonded ammunition.

## Bottom Line

Both of these guns are "optics ready," the mounting platforms atop their slides gracefully covered by plates on which the rear sights ride. The Legion had the excellent Dawson adjustable rear sight. The simple fixed rear component of the excellent X-Ray sights on the P365 XL's plate is not driftable for windage but fortunately, the front sight is.

Suggested retails are very competitive with their respective markets: \$1,080 for the P320 X5 Legion and \$685 for the P365 XL.



For more info: [www.sigsauer.com](http://www.sigsauer.com)



# NEW PRODUCTS

## SHORTY GRIP

ZEV Technologies

ZEV Technologies has released the *Shorty Grip* for its standard-sized O.Z-9 modular pistol platform. According to ZEV Marketing VP Dave Roberts, a compact grip on a standard pistol gives "the advantage of a longer slide and longer sight radius" but minimizes printing to allow concealed carry. With the *Shorty Grip*, O.Z-9 standard pistol can change the size and color of grips as well as slide and barrel lengths. Available in Black, FDE and Gray, the *Shorty Grip* comes with a take-down pin and with the ZEV Gen4 Magazine Release already installed. It's compatible with both G19- and G17-size magazines. For more info: (805) 486-5800, [www.zevtechnologies.com](http://www.zevtechnologies.com)



## NEW X-TAC SUPERGRADES

Wilson Combat

Wilson Combat's *X-TAC Supergrades* are limited-number custom 1911s (only a few are hand-built each month). This makes every Supergrade a collector's piece. Offered in .45 ACP, 9mm or .38 Super, the pistols have a 5" Stainless Match Grade Barrel and Bushing with Flush Cut Reverse Crown. Other features include a Full-Size Carbon Steel Round Butt Frame, a Unique X-TAC Frontstrap/Mainspring Housing Treatment, a Contoured Magazine Well, High-Ride Bullet Proof Beavertail Grip Safety, a Tactical Bullet Proof Thumb Safety and more. For more info: (800) 955-4856, [www.wilsoncombat.com](http://www.wilsoncombat.com)



## TORIC 10X50 BINOCULAR

TRACT Optics

TRACT Optics has added the *TORIC 10x50 Binocular* to its high-end optics line. Featuring SCHOTT HT (high transmission) glass for superior images, the *TORIC 10x50 Binocular* comes standard with a magnesium alloy body, Argon-filled waterproof and fog-proof construction plus multi-step eyecups with rounded edges. These enhancements result in incredibly sharp and bright images for long-range viewing. Each *TORIC 10x50* ships with a Neoprene neck strap, an eyepiece rain guard, tethered/removable objective lens covers and a micro fiber cleaning cloth. For more info: (631) 662-7354, [www.tractoptics.com](http://www.tractoptics.com)



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Rock Island Armory

Rock Island Armory brings the pump action to the VR family of shotguns with the *VRPA40*. RIA calls the 12-ga. *VRPA40* "the ultimate home defense shotgun." Its capability and versatility make it a leader in pump action mag-fed shotguns for a fraction of the price. Made of 7075 T6 aluminum with a Marine black anodized finish, the *VRPA40* has a 5+1 capacity of 2¾" and 3" shells. Its magazines are interchangeable with other RIA VR Series shotguns. OAL is 55.1"; weight is 6.9 lbs. empty. The *VRPA40* has a contoured 20" barrel and comes with a heat shield. For more info: (775) 537-1444, [www.armscor.com](http://www.armscor.com)

## 300 HAM'R

Starline Brass

Starline Brass has added the *300 HAM'R* to its line of high-quality brass. Originally named the .30-30 AR, the *300 HAM'R* was developed for improved terminal performance in the AR-15 platform while still using the standard 5.56 bolt carrier group. The *300 HAM'R* has a substantial velocity and energy advantage over calibers such as the *300 Blackout* and *7.63x39* that gives it a *30-30* performance out of the AR-15. This cartridge has been used extensively for hog and deer hunting and has even been used in Africa for plains game. For more info: (800) 280-6660, [www.starlinebrass.com](http://www.starlinebrass.com)



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Tactica's *Universal Grip Holster* allows you to conceal carry a wide variety of handguns. It protects the trigger guard so if you have different guns with similar lengths and widths, the *Universal Grip Holster* is the ideal choice. There's no need to buy a separate holster for each make and model. Featuring a grippy, textured outside material, the *Universal Grip Holster* will grasp securely to any type of clothing. It is lined with thermoplastic elastomer, a flexible yet durable material. For more info: (208) 618-4101, [www.tacticaefashion.com](http://www.tacticaefashion.com)



## MC-800-TI-S

Bear & Son Cutlery



Bear OPS, the tactical brand of Bear & Son Cutlery specializing in military and law enforcement knives, introduces the *Bear OPS MC-800-TI-S*. The American-made Titanium pocket knife combines premium materials with superior performance at an affordable price. The low-profile, fast action framelock has a 2¾" S35VN steel blade with a satin finish. It deploys smoothly using the integrated flipper on ball bearing washers. Ergonomic titanium stone-washed handles ensure a positive, comfortable grip and firm blade control. With an OAL of 6½" and weighing 1.7 oz., the *Bear OPS MC-800-TI-S* comes with a deep-carry, ambidextrous pocket clip. For more info: (256) 435-2227, [www.bearandsoncutlery.com](http://www.bearandsoncutlery.com)



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HSM Ammunition

HSM Ammunition's 6.5mm Creedmoor Low Recoil Ammo reduces felt recoil by 47 percent! So one rifle chambered in 6.5mm Creedmoor can be shot by anyone, even by youngsters, without worrying about excessive felt recoil. The ammo also features full, standard weight-for-caliber, 140-gr. hunting bullets. HSM partnered with Sierra Bullets to develop the proprietary bullet with the distinct orange ballistic tip. Only the best cases and primers combined with a "secret" blend of temperature tolerant powders drive those bullets. For more info: (406) 777-2106, [www.hsmammunition.com](http://www.hsmammunition.com)



## RAGING HUNTER

Taurus USA

Taurus USA's Raging Hunter is now offered in .454 Casull. It joins the original .44 Magnum and the .357 Magnum in this hunting revolver platform. Available in three barrel lengths (8.375", 6.75" and 5.125"), the .454 Casull Raging Hunter features a spurred hammer, DA/SA action and a five-round cylinder. A sleeved barrel construction, factory-tuned porting and a gas-expansion chamber to reduce muzzle rise make the Raging Hunter ideal for short- and mid-range big-game hunting. Its frame comes in matte black or stainless; the barrel and cylinder are matte black. An integrated Picatinny rail allows easy optic mounting. For more info: (800) 327-3776, [www.taurususa.com](http://www.taurususa.com)

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front strap. It features a permanent G10-reinforced polymer frame and G10 grips. The finger-groove front-strap inserts ensure frame rigidity, grip surface ergonomics and tactile functionality. The custom G19 slide has front serrations and a deep star stipple in a gray/black finish. For more info: (800) 626-5774, [www.altamontco.com](http://www.altamontco.com)



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The No Bite Ultra Lite Hammer Set from Cylinder and Slide reduces the possibility of the hammer hitting or pinching the web of your hand. The edges of the hammer are chamfered for comfortable non-sag carry. Made from special tool steel, the hammer set is made of Rockwell C tested at 50-55. The sear is cut from tool-steel plate stock and CNC-machined to exacting tolerances. The No Bite Ultra Lite Hammer Set is offered in a Target set (21-lb. hammer spring) or Duty Carry set (26-lb. hammer spring). For more info: (800) 448-1713, [www.cylinder-slide.com](http://www.cylinder-slide.com)



## SWEAT SHIELD MICRO HOLSTER

Remora Holsters

The Sweat Shield Micro Holster is a low-profile concealment holster offered in Remora's original Non-Slip or New GENII material. It's draw-side specific with a swivel metal clip to accommodate your preferred cant for improved comfort. Lightweight and durable, the Sweat Shield Micro Holster's outer skin is made of rubberized non-slip fabric. Lining options are Standard Black Denier, Black Ultra Plush and Leather. Marine-grade thread is used to put it all together. The holster comes in four sizes for semi-autos and three sizes for revolvers. For more info: (239) 316-7770, [www.remoraholsterstore.com](http://www.remoraholsterstore.com)



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## SPEAK OUT

Continued from page 10

include different syllable accents. They can be verified through different dictionaries as well as several ammunition manufacturers.

Try: ohjive, ohgive, owjive (rhymes with cow), and ogee. Take those and change the accent from the first to the second syllable, too.

You can also pronounce meplat as mepha, mephat, maypha and may-play. Both of these terms have also been used in describing architectural designs.

And I might also add if I mentioned I have a “Danish Garand,” people might ask, “Is it chocolate or vanilla?”

Tom Armstrong  
Milwaukee, WI

## PPC Look-Back

What a pleasant surprise to find Fred Romero's article on the legacy of the NRA PPC course of fire (Jan/Feb 2020). It was especially nice to see photos of guys I know and worked with back in the day. For about three years in the early '80s, I was the lead tactics instructor and OIC of LAPD's Firearms Training Unit. I can tell you the guys and gal seen in the team photos were a seriously dedicated group of professionals, committed not only to personal excellence in pistol craft, but also to teaching and mentoring anyone interested in becoming a better marksman. They spent countless hours of their own time and a lot of their own money working to develop their skills and promote the game. It's equally important to say they were also some very serious street cops. Truly great shooters, great cops, and great people, all of them!

Tom Lorenzen  
LAPD, Retired

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# GUN RIGHTS

Alan Korwin



## THE TICKING TIME BOMB

**T**he sheer number and reach of bills attacking your right to arms, all introduced by the leftist party of socialists at the state and federal level, may be the single biggest threat to freedom this nation has ever faced. One of the wisest men on radio, Dennis Prager, has said, "Democrats have become a completely destructive force in America." I believe he's right.

Solidifying the point, Ray Sweeney, a highly decorated Marine, who among other things in his long illustrious career has served as an honor guard at the White House, observed, "Democrats have rejected our system of government." They keep up the face, but their actions and mindset abandon the principles enshrined in our system and fabric.

The ACLU, from its inception a left-wing organization pretending to be a neutral purveyor of American rights, states flatly at the top of their latest fund-raising mailer, "So long as we have enough people in this country willing to fight for their rights, we'll be called a democracy." Anyone educated knows America's Founders detested democracy with its limitless power, and gave us instead a Republic, with rule of law and limits provided by a Constitution.

Bills the left has passed in the House of Representatives, if enacted, would eventually destroy this country and the entire firearms industry — if people who concocted those horrific proposals ever gained power needed to enact them.

This is not theory. The bills await Senate votes. Republicans desperately forced through the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Firearms Act, to forestall end-run attempts to shutter the firearms business, led by the left under a guise of law. Leftists no longer make a secret of it, or deny it, or play games with words. One of them *declared* we're taking your guns. None of them disagreed.

To listen to their presidential candidates you have to wonder in what country they're running for office. Their plans flatly violate our Constitution — how can they swear the oath to preserve, protect and defend it? They cannot. The central theme for "free stuff" exceeds any power they will be delegated. In this land, you earn your own way and pay for yourself.

### Free?

If college is free, who pays for the lights and professors? If food

*Continued on page 67*

An advertisement for the American Handgunner website. The background is a collage of various handguns and magazines. At the top, the words "CLICK BAIT:" are written in large, bold, white letters with a black outline. Below this, the text "Catch more handguns daily!" is written in a similar style. At the bottom, it says "New website loaded and made ready for you. Visit americanhandgunner.com". The website name is in a yellow font.

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Diamond D Custom Leather	79	Powder River Precision Inc.	66	W.C. Wolff Company	74
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Duncan Custom Knives	33, 80	SCCY Industries LLC	13	Wyoming Sight Drifter, LLC	66
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## TAFFIN TESTS

Continued from page 35

missed this during final inspection as it's very odd to have this, but it's the truth and is what I found. You can bet once I purchase it — and I like it so much, I'm definitely going to — my gunsmith will bring it down to a much more acceptable and usable 3–4 lbs.

### .357 Bite!

In spite of the heavy trigger pull — or perhaps because it required extreme concentration — the test-fired groups are exceptionally good. In fact so good I can say *this is the most accurate double-action .357 Magnum sixgun I have ever encountered.* I can hardly wait to see what it will do with a decent trigger pull! Average groups for six shots at 25 yards were all well under 1". Quite often the groups were simply one hole. The most accurate load is a load I have used in .357 Magnums for many years now, the Black Hills 158-JHP. Clocking out at just over 1,300 fps from the long-barreled Raging Hunter, it put six shots in 5/8" at 25 yards.

Not only did it shoot all jacketed bullets well, it also did the same thing with cast bullets. That's somewhat of a surprise because of the ported barrel. Often the porting will cause distortion and inaccuracy of cast bullets. Not so in this example as once again my groups were well under a 1" average. One of my heavy-bulleted loads, the Cast Performance Bullet Co. 187-gr. FNGC over 13 grains of W296 clocks right at 1,250 and results in consistent groups of 3/4" for six shots at 25 yards.

At one time, beginning in 1935, the .357 Magnum was the most powerful sixgun cartridge available. This changed in 1955/56 with the introduction of the .44 Magnum followed by several other more powerful cartridges, including the .454 Casull. All of these big bore cartridges are certainly above the .357 Magnum in muzzle energy. This may be, however, with all the progress in ammunition and bullets, the .357 Magnum is an even better choice than it was when Col. Wesson used it to take deer, antelope, elk and bear with it in 1935.

In fact with all the progress in ammunition and bullets, the .357 Magnum is better than ever. I would certainly not hesitate to use it on deer-sized game, antelope, or feral pigs with the proper ammunition. With its built-in accuracy the Taurus .357 Magnum Raging Hunter is certainly up to the task in the hands of a shooter who chooses his ammunition, distance and quarry carefully.

For more info: [www.taurususa.com](http://www.taurususa.com)

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# THE TRIALS OF DOC HOLLIDAY

**SITUATION:** A sick man with a bad reputation “gets away with” shooting some people.

**LESSON:** Deadly force law, in the 19th Century and the 21st, contains elements not widely known then or now by the general public.

---

Born in Georgia and dying in Colorado, Dr. John Henry Holliday became something between famous and infamous in the 36 years in between. He was a genuine dentist and by all accounts a very good one, but unable to make a living at it because patients didn't want a man known to have tuberculosis breathing into their faces. This forced him into a feast-or-famine existence in professional gambling. Said to be skilled at card-counting, and accused of cheating by some, he was known to rake in some substantial pots but by all accounts his overindulgence in alcohol got in the way of sustained profitability. It also doubtless got him into some of the continuous trouble dogging him throughout his short life.

Holliday had contradictory relationships with the criminal justice system. On one hand, some of the most respected lawmen of his day stood up for him publicly: Wyatt Earp, of course, but also Bat Masterson, Pima County (AZ) Sheriff Bob Paul, and Tombstone Chief of Police Virgil Earp who de facto deputized him and armed him with a shotgun on the day of the OK Corral shooting. But on the other hand, Holliday was often arrested, paid many fines, and became intimately familiar with the inside of various jail cells on multiple occasions.

His history as a gunfighter spawned wide-swinging debate among newspapermen in his own time and historians of today. At least one of the latter insists Holliday only killed one man in his life. At the opposite extreme, the Denver Republican said of Holliday in 1882, “The murders committed by him are counted in the scores, and his other crimes are legion.” (1)

Just how skilled at arms was Holliday? Walter Noble Burns, the first author to create the aura of Wyatt Earp as “the lion of Tombstone,” characterized Holliday as an “excellent shot.” Writer Mary Doria Russell was less impressed with Holliday's marksmanship and hit ratio. She noted, “The mythology isn't accurate, and neither was Doc! ..., I've learned from Jeff Guinn's book *The Last Gunfight* that Doc participated in a rifle contest while in Tombstone. He ranked very near the bottom of the contestants. My reading of all this is that Doc's marksmanship was much like my typing skills: we're quick but not accurate!” (2)

## About The Ed Bailey Killing

The legend of Doc Holliday includes the story in Fort Griffin, Texas in 1878, he got into a fight at a gambling table with one Ed Bailey, who Holliday accused of cheating at cards. Bailey supposedly attempted to go for a gun and Holliday drew a large fighting knife from under his coat and stabbed him center mass. One account of the event has Bailey dying from the wound, while in another he survives. We'll get to a third version momentarily. The story continues Holliday was taken into custody and fearing a lynching, his girlfriend Katherine “Big Nose Kate” Harony started a fire to divert attention, and then “sprung” Doc at gunpoint, fleeing with him. The tale ends there, with no attempt to arrest and extradite him subsequently.

If the story is true, it's a testament to poor communications between law enforcement agencies in the American West in the latter 19th Century. However, there seems to be no contemporary records corroborating the account. Respected Western historians and Holliday biographers have expressed doubt it ever happened at all, and both Katherine Harony and Wyatt Earp declared the story to be false during their lifetimes.

## Joyce Shooting

The shooting of saloon proprietor Milton Joyce showed the lack of seriousness with which the criminal justice system in Tombstone, Arizona in 1880 treated “shooting scrapes.” The following is from Gary L. Roberts' excellent book, *Doc Holliday: the Life and Legend*.

On Sunday evening, October 10, Holliday got into an argument with (John) Tyler near the Oriental (saloon) “which boded a shooting scrape.” Marshal White or Officer James Bennett disarmed both men to defuse the situation and deposited their pistols behind the bar at the Oriental.

*Continued on page 70*

bit of kinda' heavy chain and whack the stock or grips some, leaving good dents. Use a pipe wrench if you want. Scratch some marks, put some sharper dents and dings around and maybe even drag it along the rocky dirt a bit. Depends on how "worn" you want it. Playing fetch with the pooch can add some interesting marks. "But hey, no chewing!"

Then put the wood on the rifle and the grips on the handgun. Remember, guns "wear" with the wood or grips in place, so "age" it that way. You'll find the creases and crevices, nooks and cranies will keep some finish on a "real" old gun, so yours should look the same. To get off old finish it depends on the finish. Some bluing — isn't — it's more like paint, so I like to "wear" this using a "Scotchbrite" type pad. Get three or four grits, finishing with the finest. Rub over everything and you'll begin to see what's

happening. The high spots get worn, like real wear. For bluing, you can do the same thing, or any rust remover can help out, and Birchwood Casey makes a dedicated one. Go slowly and use it sparingly with Q-Tips and small patches. You don't want it all gone — just some. I like to ding up the screw slots too using a badly fitted screwdriver. Bang the metal bits of the gun on a vise or something and drag 'em in the rocky dirt some too. Have fun. I've been known to wet the bare metal down and let it sit outside for a week or two to rust, then rub this out some. You'll get the hang of it. I know all this goes against everything you feel about a "new" gun — but be brave.

**Then What?**

Once the wood is "old" and the metal's been abused and the finish "worn" all the edges should be looking about right. Feel free to "wear" the muzzle edges, front of the cylinder, edges on the rifle's steel, etc. Once you have it "about right" a once-over with 00 to 0000 steel wool sort of blends things nicely, even on the

wood. I like to rub old black dirty grease into the stock around the action and in most of the deeper nicks. I just rub my finger on my tractor's axle, hit the spots, then wipe the wood good and hard with a rag to just leave the black in the pits.

My friend was delighted with the rifle and surprised with the "old" SAA with it. He's pronounced them his "favorite" guns now (from a man with some pretty fancy guns) and said, "I just can't put them down! I keep working the actions and my brain fills with stories to go with how they got all that history on them!"

When people see my own "old" Rossi Model 92 their eyes always light up as they reach to hold it. "Wow, what a great old Winchester. What's the story behind it?"

"Well Pilgrim," I say, "me and the boys had been riding hard when we stumbled onto the gang ... but they didn't give up easy, if you get my drift ..."

*To see plenty more pictures of the process and ideas, jump online to: [www.americanhandgunner.com](http://www.americanhandgunner.com)*

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**HYSKORE ORGANIZERS**



**T**ed Werner, honcho at Hyskore, always comes up with simple but clever ideas when it comes to shooting accessories, especially when it comes to storage. His latest is this series of wall racks holding AR/AK style mags (Model 30317), single- (Model 30318) or double-stack (Model 30316) handgun mags or rifles/handguns (Model 30315, shown). Each rack holds a certain number of items and can be mounted on a wall, inside a safe or even used on a bench with a simple "L-shaped" base you could make from wood. The racks are made of a sort of firm "foam" holding the guns, with a formed hard plastic bracket for mounting. [www.hyskore.com](http://www.hyskore.com)

**RUGER'S NEW CHARGER .22**

**I** had noticed the Charger semi-auto pistol sort of disappeared for a few years, but now Ruger has just launched more new models. I particularly like the take-down models, the new stock design and the 15-round magazine — just the right size since the 20- and 30-round ones are long and awkward to use. All are threaded



for suppressors, come with an adjustable bipod, and the factory installed Picatinny rail allows fast installation of optics or dot sights. The coolest feature is the standard A2-style grip allowing you to replace it with any AR-style grip! MSRP is between \$309 to \$599 depending upon the model. [www.ruger.com](http://www.ruger.com)





## S&W SPINS OFF ACCESSORIES

American Outdoor Brands Corporation, made up of S&W, Thompson Center and a wide range of accessory brands like Crimson Trace, Tipton, Caldwell, Wheeler and a host of others, has announced they're separating the gun side of the house from the accessory brands. The gun side will be called "Smith & Wesson Brands, Inc." while the outdoor products side will remain AOBC. The company says it's to allow each to focus on their respective industry growth.

We don't see anything negative about any of this and wish them all success.



## HANDGUNNER LES BAER 1911!

We finally got this together and we're all really excited about it. Over the years I've kept notes concerning what features you guys think a 1911 needs. Les Baer reached out not too long ago and asked me, "How'd you like to collaborate on a 1911 based on your readers' ideas, with input from you and me too?" I grabbed at the chance, and we soon had a list of "must-have" features named. Along with Les' no-compromise components and build excellence, readers added: Adjustable, Tritium sights (Les used his remarkable new "Rolo" low mount adjustable rear), all-steel 5" slide and steel frame, .45 ACP caliber, brushed hard chrome lower, blued upper, the "Guaranteed to shoot 3" at 50 yards" promise and no forward serrations. We added the custom VZ blue/black highlighted grips, special "AH00001" etc. serial number range, and then I test-fired the heck out of the prototype.

I could chase 1" 25 yard groups with Black Hills 230 ball and in all honesty, I think it'd do better with better eyes behind it. The adjustable sights are great, if I do say so myself. I really value the ability to dial the sights in for a favorite load. With a gun as accurate as this one, hitting a squirrel at up to 50 yards is actually possible. The ability

to hold 3" (or better) at 50 yards means adjustable sights can really take advantage of the performance. Talk about "pointing your finger and smiting at a distance!" The trigger is crisp, and the gun runs like every other Baer gun I've ever tested — perfectly. It's tight, the slide runs slick as glass and lock-up is something you won't believe. If I sound happy, it's because I am. I've wanted to do this for you all for years. You've asked for it — and now we've built it! Check out the "house" ad about it from us in this issue to get more info. I can hardly wait to get mine as it will become my "most-favorite" 1911 I'm sure!

If you'd like one for yourself, contact Les Baer Custom at (563) 289-2126 or email at: [info@lesbaer.com](mailto:info@lesbaer.com). They will direct you to a local FFL in your area (or you can use your favorite FFL) to get the ball rolling. They are in stock by the time you read this. Each one comes with a certificate signed by Les and by me assuring the gun meets specs, as promised. MSRP is \$2,995 for a complete, full-custom "Special Edition." I'd like to think you'll get one — and shoot the hell out of it! It'll protect your family, compete on the weekends and maybe even snare the odd varmint now and again!



THE INSIDER



## MINI-PYTHON COLLECTIBLE

It's always fun to show you the latest from our friends who do the great cast metal gun models. Their latest is this very detailed Python showing a scale 4" barrel. As the others in the series, it comes in a red sort of flocked case (red for revolvers, black for semi-autos), along with an etched plate with the model name and caliber. While the "Combat Magnum" technically is the name of a S&W handgun; in the "spirit" of the caliber listed, it's just showcasing the legendary .357 Magnum is, indeed, a "Combat Magnum" at every level! Around \$21 or so, and they also offer cool lapel pins like the two shown in the photo. [www.firearmsassurefreedom.com](http://www.firearmsassurefreedom.com)



## C&S HI-POWER PARTS

It's always good to see offerings for one of our favorite pistols, and once again the Cylinder & Slide Shop is helping out. Their "Browning Hi-Power/Tisas BR9 No-Bite Ultra Lite Hammer Set" has a hammer, sear and two spring choices. The hammer saves you from "hammer bite" and is chamfered and hardened. The hammer and sear are both CNC'd from tool steel stock too, no MIM here. Hammer spring choices are a 21-lb. "target" one and a 26-lb. "Duty Carry" model. [www.cylinder-slide.com](http://www.cylinder-slide.com), Ph: (800) 448-1713



## GENERATING SOME

The "before" on the Rossi 92 lever gun. Nice, but too new to my eye!



# PATINA

It's funny, but to many people — including me — a "cowboy" gun just doesn't look right unless it has a certain patina. Finish wear, stained grips, shiny edges, nicks, scratches and even some rust pits make any "new-old" gun look like it's been there, done that. But it's easy to forget when the west was "new" — so were the guns. Keep in mind, the entire history of the Old West as we think about it was only about 25 years. Say, from 1865 to about 1890 was the heyday, and then civilization set in and the heady days of desperados and Indian fights were pretty much over.

During that time a new Colt SAA or '73 Winchester was as pretty as anything you'd see out of Colt today or Turnbull's custom shop. Jump online and look at the minty guns for sale at auction sites and you'll see what looks like new guns, just as they appeared in the rack at the local dry-goods store in 1875. Even old-time photos show clean, sharp-looking

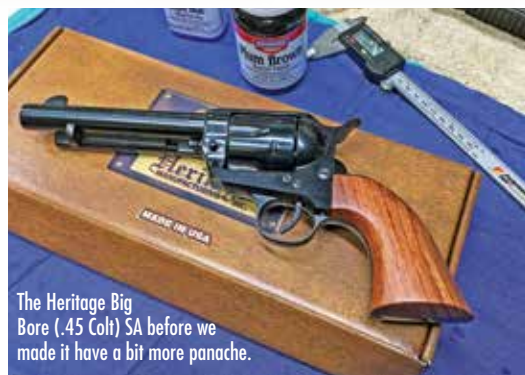
cowboys posing with obviously shiny new guns. What we think of as "real" cowboy guns are 150-year-old antiques, with suitable patina from being exposed to neglect, rust and abuse — for 150 or more years!

But it is what it is, and while I'd never "age" a new Colt or Winchester or some other collectible, there's plenty of very affordable "cowboy" guns around to have some fun with. So herewith is a sort of brief how-to if you'd like to make your favorite modern revolver — or auto — into a "real" Old West gun. Take some time to troll the internet and look at old guns and how they've worn. Look at old tools, old cars, see how the handles wear on things, how an old pot or pan looks. There's secrets there and you can put what you learn to good use. Oh, also, feel free to file off the original maker's name

if it's too obvious and takes away from the game — or those silly "Read the manual" markings. Just don't try to fool anyone "too good" here, if you know what I mean.

### Fun Part

I have a dear friend who saw a Rossi 92 I have I did the "patina" dance to and he dearly needed one too. He supplied me with a



The Heritage Big Bore (.45 Colt) SA before we made it have a bit more panache.



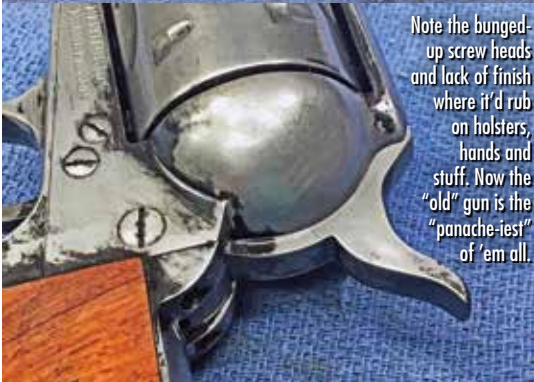
At this point, I had some of the finish off using Birchwood Casey blue remover, had wet it and was letting it rust-up for a few days. I was using the Scotchbrite pads to blend and soften the look of the finish too.

The final look. Note the "notches" on the grip bottom and finish left in the nooks and crannies like a real worn gun.



It's resting on different grits of Scotchbrite pads.

Note the bunged-up screw heads and lack of finish where it'd rub on holsters, hands and stuff. Now the "old" gun is the "panache-test" of 'em all.



Now we're talking. Plenty of "honest" wear is evident, along with stock abuse and dark "oil-stained" areas around the metal. The stories it could tell!

Continued on page 88



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