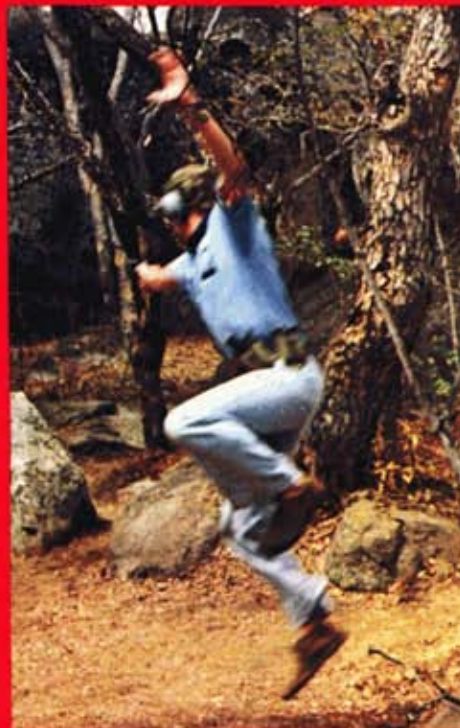


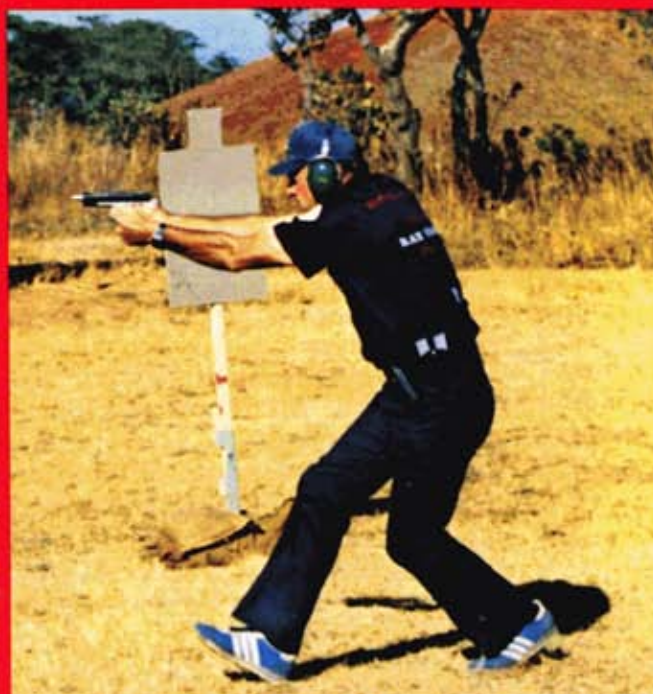
THE AMERICAN HANDGUNNER

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE OUTSTANDING AMERICAN HANDGUNNER AWARDS FOUNDATION

67522 T&E



SPECIAL COVERAGE - '77 IPSC WORLD MATCHES
Test Reports: Beretta D.A. Autos-357/44 Bobcat



231

A high energy powder designed for target and standard velocity service loads for nearly all handgun cartridges.



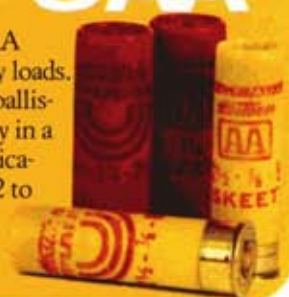
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Duplicates world famous AA® trap & skeet ammunition. Use for 12 ga. target and light field loads—our most popular shot-shell powder.



473AA

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540

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571

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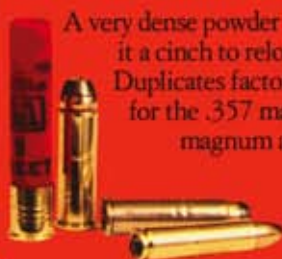
630

A high energy handgun powder suitable for high velocity loads in a wide range of calibers.



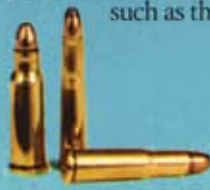
296

A very dense powder that makes it a cinch to reload the 410. Duplicates factory ballistics for the .357 magnum, .44 magnum and .30 M1 carbine.



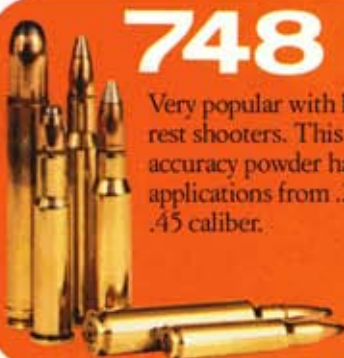
680

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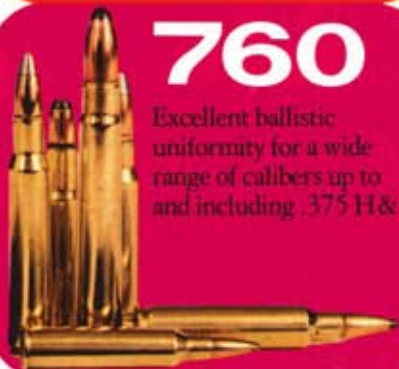
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NEWSLETTER

PLANS have been finalized for the 1978 Handgunner Awards Banquet, and this is one you should not miss. The Banquet will be held at the same time as the NRA Show, April 16 to be exact, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The line-up of guest speakers promises an evening to remember. Harlon Carter, Executive Vice President of the NRA will be the featured speaker. Considering the present climate of handgun legislation, Carter's words should be of importance to everyone concerned with the future of the handgun in America.

That's not all. Neal Knox, editor of the "Rifle" and "Handloader" magazines will speak on "Handguns and the Media," and, I'm sure, get into some background of his role in the battle to reform the NRA. Ted Rowe, president of Harrington & Richardson, will speak on behalf of the firearms industry. Bill Jordan, who was the hit of last year's banquet, will once again handle the proceedings as Master of Ceremonies—that alone is worth the price of admission.

This is more than just a banquet, with speakers, a dinner and a fast goodbye. Many individuals and manufacturers have contributed door prizes worth thousands of dollars, and that part of the evening should prove not only exciting, but rewarding to many who attend.

Here's the best part. As much as is possible, celebrity guests will preside over many of the tables, and though seating arrangements will be assigned on a first-come-first-served basis, chances are that you'll be able to enjoy the evening with the likes of Jordan, Nonte, Jurras, Keith or one of the many other notables who will attend.

Tickets to the banquet will be available at the door or at the NRA Convention but I would suggest you order yours right now. Last year's banquet was a sell-out and advance ticket sales are already coming in.

Once again, here are the details. The banquet will be held on April 16th at the Hotel Utah in Salt Lake City. The price is \$25.00 per person, and that includes not only the dinner itself, but a chance at the door prizes. The banquet is open not only to members of the OAHA Foundation, but to all who are interested in handgunning as a sport. Join us in Salt Lake City, you won't be disappointed.

To order your tickets, send \$25.00, check or money order, for each person attending to:

Larry Kelly, OAHA Foundation
30016 S. River Road
Mt. Clemens, Michigan 48045

A Personal note: if you want to talk about The American Handgunner Magazine, Jerry Rakusan, editor, will be at one of the tables, and he advises that he is most anxious to meet with AH readers and listen to their gripes, suggestions or comments.

YES, I want to become a member of the Outstanding American Handgunner Foundation

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THE AMERICAN HANDGUNNER

MARCH/APRIL, 1978
VOL. 3 No. 2-10

George E. von Rosen
Publisher



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We would like to thank Jeff Cooper, Ray Chapman, Tom Campbell and all of the members of the U.S. team for their help in providing the color photos used in this issue.

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A .357 Magnum is the last place to compromise on quality.

A handgun of any caliber should be chosen with an eye toward quality, of course. And when you're planning to pack a .357 Magnum wallop, demanding the most solid workmanship you can find becomes an absolute necessity.

a deeper, more lustrous blue color than the typically blackish blue found on most competitive guns. Naturally, the quality of a firearm's finish is subjective, but keep in mind whose products all the other gun companies started out trying to imitate.

Consider a premium gun. If the Magnum Lawman is a workhorse Colt, the

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Colt Trooper MKIII .357 Magnum, 6" (shown) or 4" barrel. Also handles .38 Special. Available in nickel finish. Walnut target grips, fully adjustable rear sight, ramp front sight, shrouded ejector rod.



Colt Lawman MKIII .357 Magnum double action revolver, 4" (shown) or 2" barrel. Also fires .38 Special. Available in nickel finish. Cut checkered American Walnut grips.

Lightweight, but heavy duty.

While the Colt Lawman's 35 ounces (with the four-inch barrel) make it quick and easy to use, its rugged construction invites comparison with other makes. It has a wider, all-steel frame, thicker cylinder walls, an oversized cylinder ratchet and a heavier duty latch locking pin than most other revolvers of its caliber. If the ejector rod in some revolvers becomes damaged, it can render the gun useless—not so with the Colt free floating ejector rod. So a Colt can take abuse and still perform. These are just a few exclusive Colt features that make the Lawman the perfect "workhorse" revolver for both on and off-duty service today.

Nothing else looks like a Colt. While the Colt Royal Bluing Process remains a well kept secret, this distinctive metal finish is acclaimed worldwide. Colt handguns possess



Thumb latch pulls toward rear on a Colt, precluding accidental cylinder release.

Trooper MKIII is a thoroughbred. Here is a .357 Magnum that can genuinely improve any shooter's accuracy. The Trooper has a wide target hammer and smooth target trigger, cut checkered walnut target grips,

adjustable rear sight and a ramp front sight. Many of these features are available on other guns only as extra-cost options. Some are not available at all. Every Trooper is proof-fired with high-pressure ammo at the factory, which is why

The choice is yours. When looking for a .357 Magnum, at some point you'll pick up a Colt. You'll like its looks, you'll love its feel, you'll understand its price. Then you'll choose. If you decide you can't afford less than the finest quality in a .357 Magnum, you'll decide you can't afford less than a Colt.



Hand honing and fitting give a Colt revolver its characteristic velvet smooth action.

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HANDGUN INDUSTRY INSIDER

By MASSAD F. AYOUB

MANAGEMENT RUMBLES, AUTOPISTOL RECALLS AND SIGHTS THAT GLOW IN THE DARK

Glow-in-the-dark handgun sights, which have been with us for a while, are finally starting to catch on among police, thanks to aggressive marketing efforts from some different directions.

Julio Santiago of Day-Night Sight (Formerly Bar-Dot) finds his luminous units for adjustable sight police revolvers are selling briskly. By the first of 1978, he hopes to have the unit commercially available for the Smith & Wesson model 39 and 59 automatics. Price will be the same \$40.

Meanwhile, **Bob Korzeniewski** of Bo-Mar has a version of the coverup target shooting rib fitted with Julio's Nite-Sight. It's available by itself, or mounted on a model 13 Smith & Wesson .357 4". Prices are available on request. Bob will also be marketing a special holster, that not only accommodates the extra bulk of

the ribbed gun, but has a wide safety strap that passes over the sights and conceals them from curious onlookers.

Bo-Mar is now out with a sandwich rib for the Colt Python. You have a choice of putting on just the skinny rib (looks sleek!) or sandwiching a heavy weight slab between rib and barrel (brings the gun up to 58 or 60 ounces, with point of balance a little farther to the rear than a ribbed and heavy barreled S&W). As much for casual gun buffs as for hardcore PPC shooters, the sandwich rib is already back-ordered. Don't be surprised to see it offered for other sporting handguns, such as the model 29 S&W .44 Mag.

Before leaving the "sight picture," as it were, we are happy to learn that Santiago's next project is to adapt his night sight to heavy barrel, fixed sight S&Ws (model 10 and 13, also probably 58).

Since more American cops carry heavy barrel 4" model 10s than anything else, this is really going to open the market for people who need after-dark gunfighting capability.

HECKLER AND KOCH have a bundle of newbies for their unusual line of auto pistols. For the P9S double service auto, we have a target version (adjustable sights, precision adjustable trigger) that really delivered decent accuracy in our quick tests. Looks like the grouping is between that of a MK IV and a Gold Cup, without at all compromising reliability or concealment. Also new, for any model P9S is an eight inch barrel. Since it uses the same sights as are mounted on the slide of the four inch gun, you're not improving accuracy per se; what you're getting is purely increased muzzle velocity (and, hence, slightly flatter trajectory). Available in 9mm Parabellum or .45 ACP, the new tube gives definitely superior MV (a Remington .45 185-grain JHP goes from about 900 FPS to plus-minus 1100). The polygon rifling, an HK exclusive, helps too, because it reduces gas escape. Unfortunately, changing barrels does move point of impact, and you have to re-sight in with each barrel change.

By next spring, says H&K vice president Dominic Napolitano, the heavy caliber P9S will be available in a multi-caliber kit, like their popular .22LR/.25ACP/.32 auto/.380 auto HK-4 pocket gun. The service pistol will give the choice of .38 Super, 9mm., or .45, and a .22 conversion unit may or may not debut with the rest. Price hasn't yet been solidified, but Napolitano hopes to keep it in the \$600 range, which won't be much more than the retail list of the top-selling Dan Wesson Pistol Pac. American handgunners are showing an increasing appetite for versatility (dealers tell us Colt .22 conversion units are hitting an all-time peak of demand, partly due to the drying up of surplus hardball ammo) while Dan Wessons are back ordered for a year or two, and we look for other manufacturers to follow H&K's lead in multi-caliber handguns. The HK-4, by the way, is becoming something of an "in-gun" among international spooks, who like being able to carry a 7.65 (.32 auto) in one country and a 9mm. Kurz (.380) in another.

H&K tells us that the PSP squeeze-handle, gas-operated auto with minimum recoil and "fail-safe" design won't be available until they get some big European military contracts. Meanwhile, they're keeping mum about the possibility of producing silenced pistols, even though they've had a lot of inquiries. The silencer on the SD version of their MP5 mm. sub-machinegun is one of the most efficient ever produced, and is a pure muffler type that lasts forever without replacement or rebuilding. The German GSG-9 commandoes who wiped out the terrorists who had

(Continued on page 8)

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(Continued from page 6)

hijacked a Lufthansa jet to Mogadishu, a feat many have compared to the Entebbe rescue, were equipped with a version of the SD submachinegun (depicted in graphic detail on the NEWSWEEK cover devoted to the incident). This is how they were able to cut down the terrorist inside the jetliner before they realized what was happening and could mount an effective counterattack. Police and military interest in the SD silenced machine carbine has subsequently soared, and with it, speculation on the feasibility of a P9S pistol with a similar attachment, which would fit very nicely over that 8" barrel . . .

While we're talking about silencers, we can now "debunk a myth that debunks a myth". For decades, gun buffs have laughed at TV and movie depictions of hoods and spies shooting silenced revolvers. "You can't silence a revolver," they said flatly, "because noisy gas escapes between barrel and cylinder."

They're wrong. An "industry insider" who is in a position to know tells us that during the Vietnam years, SMITH & WESSON produced a quantity of silent model 10 Military & Police revolvers. It is uncertain whether S&W actually fitted the silencers, or just did the basic work on the gun, but the result was an extremely effective counter-insurgency weapon.

The secret: the revolvers were assembled at the factory with scrupulous care so that the cylinder face met the barrel, yet not so tight that the cylinder couldn't rotate. The result was that virtually no gas escaped, and the weapon was effectively silenced (no, our source wouldn't or couldn't say what type of silencer was used). With that tight a fit, a freeze-up would be only a matter of time in a regular combat gun, but in a counter-insurgency weapon, this shortcoming was irrelevant since it was likely to be fired only a few times between cleanings. I'm told the silenced S&W revolver was highly effective, especially with low-velocity .38 wadcutter. It had two advantages over silenced auto pistols; there was no clack-clack of the slide operating as the gun was fired, and there was less chance of it jamming, a common occurrence in small caliber auto pistols that are so fitted. The silencer-equipped revolvers saw little service (very few were made); most missions requiring silencers seemed to have involved sionics units on special weapons. We've seen Browning 9 mm. and 1911 .45s with silencers that supposedly had been used by CIA, and one member of the highly publicized Phoenix Group told me he was issued a silenced Walther PP in 7.65 mm.

Also at Smith, the push to get the new-style grips on the market seems to have petered out. They're ready to go, but heavy production demand for standard stuff is delaying them. S&W confidantes who've seen them tell us they're worth waiting for, though.

S&W has been having some problems with the model 59. It seems that an undisclosed number of the 14-shot 9mm. autos got through with some parts (as many as three components may be involved) that "weren't quite right". The guns in question feed hardball superbly, but choke on hollowpoints. We don't know how many guns are so affected but insiders tell us it's a relatively small quantity, a production run or a fraction thereof.

Look for a release from S&W calling back the screwed up 59s. This is a move that shooters should applaud. Any manufacturer of machines can let a production run go out that wasn't perfect, and the manufacturer honest enough to say so and concerned enough to make good on it deserves a pat on the back, not a slap in the face.

Among industry insiders, one of the perennial rumors has been: "HIGH STANDARD's in trouble." That phrase is still in the air. Clem Confessori, H-S president, says all is well, guns are coming out of the new East Hartford, CT. plant, and production on the long-awaited Crusader double action in .45 Colt and .44 Mag should soon be underway. The general word is that High Standard is "seeking interested investors," and depending on who you talk to, that could mean healthy growing pains, or financial anemia that could be terminal without a quick green transfusion.

Confessori told us that the people on his team are grateful that the company is up for bid, because they had been undercapitalized before, and it was hurting them. The Leisure Group, H-S's parent company, is known in the trade for being somewhat tight-fisted. With the new plant underway, H-S target pistols and derringers are again coming off the line, and so is a pre-production run of 300 Crusaders that's intended to get the bugs out of the tooling system. Next up: the Western style DA .22s, yet another revamped version of the .22 Sentinel, and the tried and true High Standard riot shotgun. All of this is going to take money, says Clem, and it's going to have to come from the outside.

Informed industry people are looking for dollars to come out of another source (probably smart, small, independent investors) to recapitalize High Standard. Crusader or no Crusader, H-S products have proven marketability, and with a new plant that was designed from the ground up to be cost-effective, profit potential is virtually assured if that green transfusion comes in.

The bottom line on it: High Standard is for sale, and whoever grabs it is going to make money, and if nobody's smart enough to, the industry as a whole is going to suffer a real blow.



Late word is that Clem Confessori and a group of investors have purchased High Standard—ed.



COOPER'S COLUMN

THE MANAGEMENT OF THE DOUBLE-ACTION AUTO

THERE have been surprisingly few technical innovations in handguns since World War I, and such as there have been are not especially impressive. In the "Century of The Common Man" (!) scant emphasis has been placed upon the expert use of sidearms, but much upon making such pieces so "safe" that not even an idiot can hurt himself with them. This is foolishness, of course. A weapon is a weapon, and if it is absolutely safe it is absolutely useless. (Would that our courts could be made aware of that!)

In this futile search for a "fool proof" sidearm, however, one modern development stands out. This is "double-action" in the auto pistol. While not esteemed by the expert, it is vastly admired by the duffer, and in a popular vote between experts and duffers guess who wins. Whether we like it or not, the d.a. auto is here to stay. Let's make the best of it.

Double action indicates an ignition system that can be operated in two ways: from either a cocked or an uncocked condition. Thus the expression "double-action only" is contradictory, even though we know what it means. Most d.a. autos are in truth double-action, while those that are called "double-action only" are actual single-action.

When the Walther company announced its PP and PPK double-action pocket autos in the early thirties the excitement was intense. The notion of carrying an auto pistol in Condition Two—hammer down on a loaded chamber—and firing it from that condition by merely pulling the trigger, seemed to be a decisive forward step. Of course that was before we knew much about pistol technique, but so it seemed at the time. Then when the famous P-38 appeared in A. F. Stoeger's catalog, for sale in the U.S., my frustrations knew no bounds. I just had to have one, but the price was out of my reach. Less than \$100 seems a negligible figure for a sound pistol today, but for one who just doesn't have it, \$100 might as well be \$100,000. Stoeger advertised the P-38 as available in 45 ACP and Super 38, as well as in 9mm Parabellum. A factory P-38 in 45 ACP might not bring \$100,000 today, but you could certainly get an ample fistful of 100's for it.

The war came, and the P-38 was G.I. in the up-to-date German army, but pistols are not important weapons of war and we didn't think much more about them until peace broke out. At that time I was at Quantico and discovered that the Marine Corps Equipment Board was commenc-

ing a pistol evaluation that included a whole trunkful of liberated P-38's. I was not attached to the Board but a close friend was, and together we got a good long look at this first d.a. service auto. We were somewhat underwhelmed.

Double-action in revolvers is generally held to be a good thing, though it does call for extra skill and a bit of hand-tuning to make it really efficient. If it is good in a wheel-gun, why isn't it in an auto?

Well, in the first place, it isn't all that great in a revolver. We have seen Jack Weaver break that 140-yard balloon—first try, under pressure, double-action. We have also seen him print paired V's (10") at 100 yards—double-action. But Jack is a remarkable marksman—an all-time great. Even such masters as Elden Carl and Al Nichols cock a revolver when they need maximum precision. Trigger-cocking can indeed be mastered, but it is *not* an aid to control; it is rather an obstacle to be overcome by intense concentration.

Secondly, the flywheel action of a revolver can be made to be very smooth, light, and consistent. Quick, controlled pairs in coarse shooting can be developed with no prohibitive expenditure of effort. On the other hand, the trigger-cocking action of d.a. autos is uniformly poor, by comparison, and it does not lend itself to much improvement.

Third, with a couple of exceptions, double-action autos really have a *double* action, shifting from the trigger-cocking mode into self-cocking automatically with the first shot. This means that the instantaneous two-shot response that correct tactics demand is very difficult to control, because both the placement of the trigger finger and the muscular action of the hand in firing are different between first and second shots.

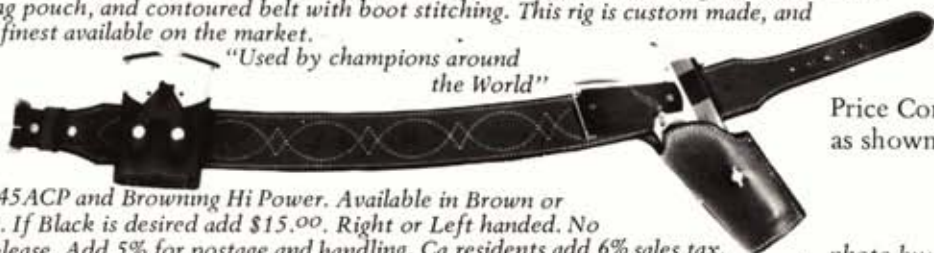
There may be those who hold that these points are quibbles, but I am not speaking theoretically. I have now had the opportunity to see hundreds of d.a. autos used in training—one entire class used nothing else—and I can state positively that exten-

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sive field work has proved that the d.a. auto is distinctly more difficult to shoot well than either the d.a. revolver or the normal self-loader. This is providing the d.a. auto is used in its designed mode, trigger cocking for the first shot. There are other possibilities, as we shall see.

The premise behind the double-action auto is safety. Most people have a sort of morbid prejudice against a cocked firearm, and really do think that it is likely to "go off" all by itself. A policeman who carries the 1911 in Condition One (cocked-and-locked) is frequently told by well meaning observers, in frightened whispers, that *his gun is cocked*. (!!!) With the

thumb safety on, the grip safety operative, and a retaining strap locked in place between hammer and firing-pin, that 1911 may be as "safe" as any loaded firearm can be, but the fact that it is *cocked* just seems to shake people up. In any case, with a d.a. auto you can carry your piece un-cocked but still ready, at least for a coarse shot. Since most defensive shooting is coarse shooting, this is a theoretical answer to an uneducated question. In actuality the d.a. system is somewhat more prone to inadvertent discharge than other types. Both in courts of law and on the range, I have had occasion to observe this at some length. It's not that the weapon it-

self is necessarily at fault (though in some versions the hammer-dropping action of the thumb lever is subject to disruptive wear), but the various manipulations it requires can be confusing, and applied out of correct sequence. For whatever reason, I count on a couple of accidental shots out of the 500 rounds that are fired in the basic course when a student uses a d.a. auto. That's why we keep that muzzle down range.

So I'm not sure the d.a. principle is a safety feature in the auto pistol, but whether it is or not, it does pose control problems. Their solution is the object of the exercise.

There are people who can print quick, accurate pairs with the first shot trigger-cocked and the second cocked by the slide. Not many. It is well to start the student using this "crunch-tick" system, to see if he can handle it, because that is how the piece was designed to be used. However, as frustration sets in, as it usually does, we may turn to other methods.

The first and most shocking technique we can suggest is simply to carry the pistol cocked and *unlocked*. This, of course, wipes out the whole theoretical purpose of the d.a. system, but if the holster covers the trigger guard it is not so risqué a solution as one might think. I don't actually recommend it, but if a student simply can't cut it any other way, I won't forbid it.

In most d.a. autos, and all those based in the original Walther system, depressing the thumb safety drops the hammer, without firing the piece (usually), so one cannot put the safety "on" without placing the action back in the trigger-cocking mode. Incidentally, once that safety is depressed, it should always be flipped back up to horizontal. On the new model Walthers it is spring-loaded and returns to position automatically—a good feature.

If we can't quite face up to carrying the pistol in "Condition Zero," we can try some other systems. One is to thumb-cock the hammer on the draw, preferably with the thumb of the supporting hand—the left thumb if the shooter is right-handed. Several people I know do this very smoothly and well, but if you try it remember to flip the thumb instantly back to the support side, to avoid being cut by the recoiling slide. Correct technique is to train the trigger finger to stay straight—outside the trigger guard—until the thumb has completed the cocking action and is back in position.

Most d.a. autos have exposed hammers, but the Heckler and Koch P-9 does not. On this one there is a cocking lever located forward of the stock on the port side, by means of which the shrouded hammer may be operated. While the lever may be depressed with the right thumb of a right-handed shooter, this action can't be done with the hand in a firing grip—at least not by any hand I have seen. You have to shift your grip, unless you operate the cocking

(Continued on page 12)

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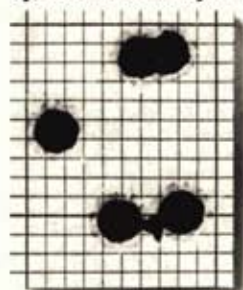
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9mm LUGER Marshal	100 JHP	1315 Ft/Sec.
M-P	125 JSP	1120 Ft/Sec.
38 SPECIAL		
Special Agent	110 JHP	1245 Ft/Sec.
Detective	125 JHP	1425 Ft/Sec.
Patrolman	125 JSP	1425 Ft/Sec.
Deputy	140 JHP	1200 Ft/Sec.
Match	148 HBWC-lead	825 Ft/Sec.
Service	158 SWC-lead	975 Ft/Sec.
Service	158 RN-lead	975 Ft/Sec.
Trooper	158 JSP	1025 Ft/Sec.
S.W.A.T.	158 JHP	1025 Ft/Sec.
38/357 Shotshell	#9 Shot	1150 Ft/Sec.
357 MAGNUM		
Special Agent	110 JHP	1700 Ft/Sec.
Detective	125 JHP	1900 Ft/Sec.
Patrolman	125 JSP	1900 Ft/Sec.
Deputy	140 JHP	1780 Ft/Sec.
Trooper	158 JSP	1625 Ft/Sec.
S.W.A.T.	158 JHP	1625 Ft/Sec.
44 MAGNUM		
Sheriff	200 JHP	1675 Ft/Sec.
Sheriff	240 JSP	1650 Ft/Sec.
44 Magnum Shotshell	#9 Shot	1200 Ft/Sec.
45 AUTO		
Inspector	200 JHP	1025 Ft/Sec.

*Test barrel velocities.

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(Continued from page 10)

lever with the left hand, which seems to me the better method. Unfortunately it is difficult or impossible for a left-handed shooter.

The P-9, unlike the Walther-type pistols, does not drop the hammer when the thumb safety is depressed. It thus offers a type of "selective double-action," in that the wearer can select Condition One or Condition Two at will. The drawback to this is that thrusting the safety forward and up is awkward and unnatural, compared with depressing the thumb piece on a Browning-type pistol simply and easily as the hand assumes the firing grip. It can

be learned, of course, but it is not handy.

The Smith & Wesson M-39/59 pistol does not come over the counter with selective double-action, but it can be easily altered to that condition by removing the sear-release lever. (This is also true of some other non-selective d.a. autos.) Without this part in place, the thumb safety can be depressed without dropping the hammer. This does not prevent dropping the hammer by pressing the trigger, but it does keep the piece from firing if this is done. (Or it should. Things can go agley in this arrangement, and the Walther instruction sheet recommends that you lower the hammer gently with the thumb

whenever possible.) With the sear-release lever removed, the M-39 can be placed on safe, locking the firing-pin but not the trigger nor hammer. You can then stab the safety forward on the draw as with a P-9. This is unhandy but probably better than "crunch-tick." Of course if you get butterfingers and touch the trigger before you stab the safety, you will wind up pulling like mad with no results, until you release the trigger all the way and start over. This may not be the complete answer.

And then, of course, there is that preferred form of d.a. auto that offers trigger-cocking in conjunction with a convenient Condition One override. This truly selective double-action is a feature of the Czech 75 and the Seecamp Conversion of the 1911. This system offers the best of both worlds.

One might well ask why, if you prefer a Condition One carry (as you do if you know about pistols), do you bother with double-action at all? Two answers: Live storage and left-handedness. Many people, myself included, prefer a pistol in a desk drawer or glove compartment to rest in Condition Two. (I should note here that Bruce Nelson, who knows as much about serious pistolcraft as anyone, *never* uses Condition Two. I do not fault him, but I like the hammer on an untended pistol to be all the way down—possibly because I am used to houses full of children.) It's easy enough to cock a single-action pistol as you pick it up—you do not "quick-draw" from off the mantel-piece—but trigger-cocking might just be a help under these peculiar conditions. You can always cock it if you have time, and if you haven't your range is likely to be arm's length.

The other point is the problem of the southpaw—that one man in six who has simply been ignored throughout most of the machine age. (In sword-wielding armies you used your right hand, even if you were left-handed. Besides being regarded askance in the days of superstition, left-handers fouled up the battle drill.) New pistol designs will feature ambidextrous safeties, such as are now available at considerable expense for the 1911 series. Until they become advantages to the "sinistrous sixth" of the population.

There are those who insist that, when all is said, "double-action only" is the only way to fly. Pioneered by the venerable *Manufrance Type Armeé*, an auto pistol action that remains uncocked and must always be fired by a trigger that both compresses and releases the mainspring on the same stroke does have a certain appeal. Instead of "crunch-tick" it goes "crunch-crunch," and the action of the firing hand and finger are constant. The Czech 38 pistol had such an action, and today it may be found on the Marshall and Semmerling pocket pistols, as well as the H&K VP-70. A very smooth, light trigger action can be well controlled, no matter how long it may be. Look what the police

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do to the P.P.C. with their squib-loaded "combat" revolvers! Weaver stoutly maintains that with a trigger that travels an inch or more you cannot possibly flinch since you have no idea where the end of that travel may be. That is certainly an interesting point, but I have not yet found a trigger-cocking auto with a really good trigger stroke, and I don't believe that the effort necessary to design one would be well spent even if successful.

Single-action autos work just fine (except for left-handers) and it is hard to see how a man can protect himself better, or print better targets, or pot squirrels better, or untangle a leopard better, with a trigger-cocker. However, double-action is demanded by "the market," so from now on auto pistols will be double-action. Aside from introducing a degree of unnecessary complexity into the mechanism this is OK, as long as such pieces are truly and conveniently *selective*. With a non-selective example we can still manage, if we will take time to learn how, but it does seem bothersome in the face of all the other things we have to learn. Designers, one might think, should make mechanisms easier, not harder, to use well.

But we might take another view. In the eyes of some people firearms are *dangerous*. If we made them so hard to use that they could not be fired at all, under any circumstances, we would dispose of the danger. I'll bet I could sell that notion to certain people in Washington—but let's not.

For the present, we need not make too much of the double-action feature in auto pistols. If it's there, we can handle it, one way or another. If it's not, so much the better. A certain radical new handgun design is in the wind, which may indeed be the "better mousetrap" for the world to seek out. It will offer double-action, but that won't be the reason for its triumph.



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By GEORGE BREDSTEN

HANDGUN CARTRIDGES FOR BIG GAME—PART II

To misconstrue data derived from media tests can cause hunters to err while afield, yet such mistakes are seldom as serious as the mistakes that can be and are made by hunters who prejudge the effectiveness of a cartridge solely by the number of foot pounds of energy it has. Many persons harbour the belief that a bullet must generate a minimum number of foot pounds before a quick and hu-

mane kill is possible. Theoretically this may be true, but because of physiological and psychological variables any stated minimums can only be approximations and not categorical constants. Nevertheless, there are persons who still attempt to inveigle others by claiming X number of foot pounds is the minimum. Carried to extremes, such claims are absurd. For example, if a minimum of 500 foot pounds

is stipulated, would you seriously believe a bullet developing 499 foot pounds will only cripple, maim or otherwise prove ineffective?

A better method would use performance criteria as a guide in the appraisal of a handgun cartridge's effectiveness on big game. Such criteria can be as complex or as simple as desired, but to be useful to the handgun hunter it need be concerned with the evaluation of at least three factors; i.e., handgunner shooting skill, terminal (wound) ballistics, and game animal reaction.

Shooting skill, as herein described, refers to the handgunner's ability to make a first shot hit into the vitals of the big game species at whatever distance the shot is attempted. No importance is attached to how well the handgunner can shoot in NRA competition, metallic handgun silhouette contests, organized combat matches, or plinking with uncle Henry on the "back forty." These endeavors are separate disciplines, and any developed skill the handgunner has therein will not necessarily enhance his hunting ability or, for that matter, appreciably affect the outcome (failure/success) of the hunt itself. Shooting skill, as it pertains to the handgun hunter, is probably the best considered as being a logical complement to hunting skill—the latter skill being undeniably more important. A highly skilled hunter need be only a reasonably good marksman in order to be consistently successful in taking big game with a handgun. Conversely, a man may be a world champion marksman, but if his hunting skill is lacking or poorly developed, he is not apt to have many opportunities to demonstrate his game shooting expertise!

While some handgun hunters are interested in hydrostatics, temporary/permanent cavitation, neurolysis, and other phenomena of terminal (wound) ballistics, most have only a pragmatic interest; i.e., does the cartridge (load) produce a relatively quick and humane kill? If the answer is yes, it follows that the bullet must have penetrated into and/or through the vitals from whatever angle the shot was attempted, and the bullet must have also caused sufficient physical damage and trauma so as to minimize the animal's movement after being hit.

Even though it is unlikely that handgun hunters will ever be in total agreement as to which handgun cartridges are adequate and which are inadequate for big game, there is general agreement that the more powerful handgun cartridges are adequate. Argument ensues whenever there is discussion as to what handgun cartridge can be considered as having minimum adequacy for taking big game. There is or should be room for differing opinion, but only the most dogmatically opinionated individual would not accept the fact that handgun cartridge performance can be and often is improved. Some handgun cartridges that were once deemed inadequate

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Hornady Bullets

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quate for taking big game have been improved to the degree that these cartridges (specific loadings) now prove to be entirely adequate. One such handgun cartridge is the 9mm Parabellum (P), and more and more serious handgun hunters are taking to this cartridge after observing its performance on big game. Even though handloaders have been loading the 9mm P to improved levels of performance for quite some time, it remained for Super Vel and Remington to manufacture 9mm P commercial loadings adequate for big game.

Although Super Vel was the first to introduce commercial 9mm P loads that would more or less expand, the performance in big game was erratic. Expansion with the lighter weight bullet (90 gr) was too extreme; i.e., either complete fragmentation when bone was struck or core/jacket separation in muscle. Thus, penetration was often inadequate to reach the vitals and this load was quickly rejected by most handgun hunters for use on big game. As a rule the 112 gr JSP Super Vel loading gave better results since it would usually penetrate deep enough to reach the vitals. However, its expansion was not consistent nor was it always significant—sometimes expanding to over .60" and at other times it would perform like a solid. This is not the case with the Remington 115 gr. JHP 9mm P loading (Index R9MM1), for with little doubt this is the single best performing commercial 9mm P load currently available to use on big game. It consistently has expanded to over .60" yet its penetration has always been more than adequate for Category I: A big game. Unless an extremely (relatively) large bone is struck, this 115 gr Remington JHP seldom loses more than from three to five grains! Apparently a fine combination of structured jacket strength and bullet core cohesion exists so as to permit optimum terminal performance at 9mm P velocities. This loading has, thus far, always chronographed (average) in the 1180 to 1210 fps range—regardless of the 9mm P pistol used. Also, and depending on the pistol tested, the accuracy of this load is good—generally going from three to seven inches at fifty yards.

Another fine handgun cartridge is the Colt 38 Super. This cartridge is superior to the 9mm P, and actually its performance compares favorably with that of a 3½ to 4 inch barreled 357 Magnum when lighter weight bullets are used. Currently, there isn't a commercial load for the 38 Super that is suitable for use on big game. The W-W 125 gr JHP 38 Super loading (Index W38A3P) can be used, but it cannot be recommended. There are two reasons for this. First, the exposed lead on the ogive of the bullet tends to cause feeding malfunctions. It is true that polishing and possibly recontouring the feed ramp could eliminate this, but the second fault would still remain and it is by far the more

important. The 125 gr JHP bullet does NOT remain intact during penetration; i.e., core and jacket *usually* separate. As a result, performance in big game has been very erratic—sometimes good but generally unacceptable. This inadequate bullet performance occurs even though actual velocity is 75 to 100 fps slower than claimed—1180/1200 vice 1275 fps.

Those who would use a 38 Super on big game must handload to achieve the desired bullet performance. Here too the Remington 115 gr JHP bullet (Index B22942) is an excellent choice for use in the 38 Super. Even though this bullet may be loaded to a velocity approaching 1600 fps, it is not advisable. Field performance indicates that a velocity somewhere around 1300 fps is critical for this bullet. At or around this starting velocity, the bullet typically expands to .70" with a minimum weight loss; whereas, velocity much over 1300 fps is enough to cause the bullet to fragment. Consequently, penetration is often inadequate to reach the vitals—other than when a behind the shoulder, lung shot is made. One popular load reported to give excellent results on whitetail and other deer uses this bullet over 6.8 grains of Hercules Unique. Using R-P cases and CCI #500 primers, the before mentioned powder charge gives this bullet a chronographed velocity (average) of 1266 fps fired in a Colt, Mark IV/Series 70.

Another bullet that does well in the 38 Super is the Speer 125 gr SP. Although this bullet does not usually expand as quickly or to the degree that the Remington 115 gr JHP does, the Speer 125 gr SP gives significantly greater penetration and is a somewhat better choice where angling shots are tried. Most 38 Super aficionados, this writer included, have judiciously loaded the 125 gr Speer (especially the older cannellured version) to velocities exceeding 1400 fps. However, and substantiated by field performance, better results on big game are achieved when the velocity is kept between 1300 and 1350 fps. There are other bullet selections which can be and have been used to take big game, but to date the two before mentioned bullets are preferred by a majority of handgun hunters who report hunting big game with a 38 Super.

Certainly one could select other handgun cartridges which give more impressive ballistics, but a responsible handgun hunter need not be hesitant in choosing and then using either the 9mm P or 38 Super. Whether a person likes, dislikes or is indifferent to the 9mm P or 38 Super, the fact remains that proper loads for each have made these cartridges effective for taking big game under field conditions.

A discussion of those cartridges both popular and more effective on big game than the 9mm P will be given in the final part of this article on handgun cartridges for big game.



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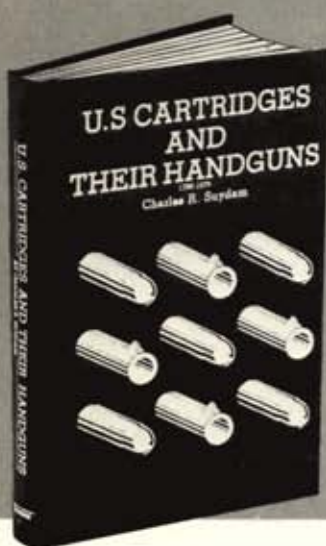
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HANDGUN Handloading

POWDER SPHERES AND FLAKES

By DAN COTTERMAN

IT was with a lamentable loss of pure American romance that handloaders long ago bid farewell to powders with such high-flown names as Hazard's Electric and Dupont's Diamond Grain. Those named Bear, Stag, and Pyro Pistol had their day as did a series of concoctions known as Lightning and Sharpshooter. Of course, Unique and Bullseye linger on with the latter, now in its 90th year, laying undisputed claim to being hoariest of them all. Be that as it may, Walsrode and Orange Extra are, I believe, gone forever.

We are nonetheless blessed in these times with the broadest choice of specifically adaptable handgun propellants ever to be at our disposal. There is, within the present situation, a diminished necessity for attempting to adapt to the use of powders of questionable handgun performance characteristics. There also is no need to experiment with those whose granular nature is so coarse as to cause rough metering and broad inconsistencies of charge weights.

Regardless of the fact that optimum accuracy results will call for weighing each charge, the flake types and especially the sphericals will work best.

A notable exception is Hercules' Blue Dot, a color-coded flake powder with an add-mixture of stubby cylindrical granules. Because of the interspersing of cylinders, Blue Dot may be regarded as somewhat slower burning than the rest of Hercules' flake-grained offerings, including their other Dots, Red and Green.

An obvious fact about Blue Dot was revealed after devoting a few minutes to

physically separating small, equal sample weights of flake from cylindrical granules. It is apparent that there is a considerable difference in the rapidity with which the two types of granules burn. This, to be sure, is somewhat less scientifically absolute than closed-bomb testing such as might be done in a factory laboratory. It is, nonetheless, sufficient to confirm the fact that the mixing in of the coarser granules is meant to physically retard burning rate. It follows that low-volume charges of Blue Dot might easily contain a relatively wide variance in ratio between flakes and cylinders, thereby causing some ups and downs in burning rate. The foregoing concept is to some extent supported by Hercules loading tables which recommend no quantity smaller than 14.2 grains of Blue Dot, that being behind a 220-grain bullet in the .41 Magnum's rather spacious hull. Other Blue Dot recommendations include loads for magnums only and, at this time, exclude the .45 Colt and the .45 ACP. It is, however, possible that a highly satisfactory load using Blue Dot in the larger .45 Colt can be worked up provided care is taken to keep the charge volume high enough to maintain correct balance of grain types while not going beyond safe pressure levels.

The presence of the small cylinders in Blue Dot will not adversely affect metering. Also particularly tractable are the numerous sphericals offered by Hodgdon and Winchester. A recent development by Winchester provides some .41 Magnum spherical powder loadings not included in their currently available tables:

Bullet	Powder	Charge in Grains	Velocity	Pressure (LUP)
210 gr. lead	231	7.4	1125	28000
210 gr. lead	630	12.4	1125	19500
210 gr. JSP	231	8.8	1220	38000
210 gr. JSP	630	17.6	1460	38000
210 gr. JSP	296*	20.4	1460	24000

*Note—The 296 loads must be used exactly as shown with no alterations or substitutions.

The caution dealing with 296 also applies to data for the .357 Magnum and the .44 Magnum. Winchester continues with an admonition against using reduced charges with 296 while recommending the use of their magnum primers and "a very heavy crimp." There is an obvious need for strong ignition and adequate burning time for 296 which would appear to be slightly slower burning than Blue Dot.

The writer has experienced good results with Winchester's versatile 630 Ball which finds wide application in everything from small autoloader hulls to the big magnums and with a considerable variety of bullet weights. Fouling, through unburned powder granules, is held to a minimum, especially in the larger cases, by using magnum primers. In the .357 I have found that an even 13.5 grains of 630 produces a good load behind a 158-grain JSP bullet. Velocity, from a six-inch barrel, averages out at around 1350 fps. The load is less than maximum while providing excellent striking force and overall effectiveness. At the same time, it is light enough to allow considerable practice sessions at the range without becoming unpleasant.

The .44 Magnum also responds well to 630 stoking. I have had good results with both 210-grain and 240-grain bullets in Ruger and Smith & Wesson .44 Magnum revolvers. Considerable loading has, however, revealed that the two guns respond best to different charge weights with similar bullet weights. The same may well apply to your own efforts to produce the best performance from your gun. For example, I have found that my S&W is more agreeable to a charge of 20.5 grains of 630 behind 210-grainers while the same bullet weight and type will do better in the Ruger with Winchester's prescribed 21.4 grains of 630, both loads touched off with magnum primers. With the 240s, the gun-to-gun difference is a little less: 19.5 grains for the Ruger compared to 19.0 grains for the S&W. It's a matter of applying the proven method of starting a grain or so below the top and working up until you get what you want. The optimum level is often found when charges are lighter than maximum.

Autoloaders also respond favorably to a diet of 630. I have, for my own use, settled on a charge of 10.5 grains with a 210-grain semi-wadcutter in the .45 auto and 10.7 grains behind the 100-grain hollow-point in the 9MM Luger. Stepping up in weight with the big .45, I have developed a preference for 10.8 grains of 630 with the 225-grain jacketed hollow-point. The load behaves well in either of two .45 autoloaders—one a Gold Cup, the other a GI—leaving the matter of accuracy under better control when target shooting while remaining effective for more serious uses.

No extensive use of 231 has been carried out to date. However, preliminary indications with 148-grain target wadcutters in the .38 Special are such as to indicate that Winchester's recommended

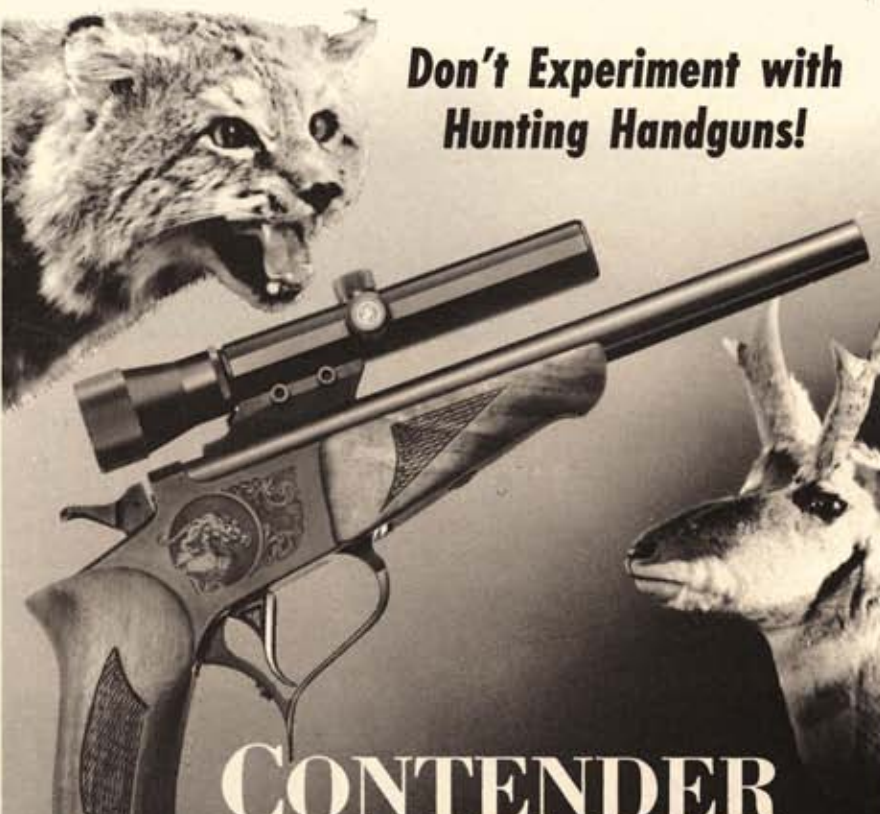
3.4/231/148WC will work out as well as any target load I've tried thus far. Although I have not personally chronographed this load, the Winchester tables list it at 880 fps with pressure at 19.5M C.U.P.

With the more or less specific magnum application of 296 and light to mid-range limitations of 231, it is highly probable that 630 will develop as one of the most widely used of all handgun propellants. Its recommended loadings, like Hodgdon's expanded line of sphericals for handgun use, cover a broad spectrum of cartridge

sizes and bullet weights.

The Hodgdon "HS" (Handgun, Spherical) series—HS-5, HS-6, and HS-7 are being loaded and tested with various bullet weights and types in a number of representative calibers. The same is true of that company's other handgun fuels, including HP-38, H-110 and Trap 100 with additional attention to another finely-grained, easy-loading mix, H-4227. A full report on the results of these loading experiments will follow in a future issue of THE AMERICAN HANDGUNNER.






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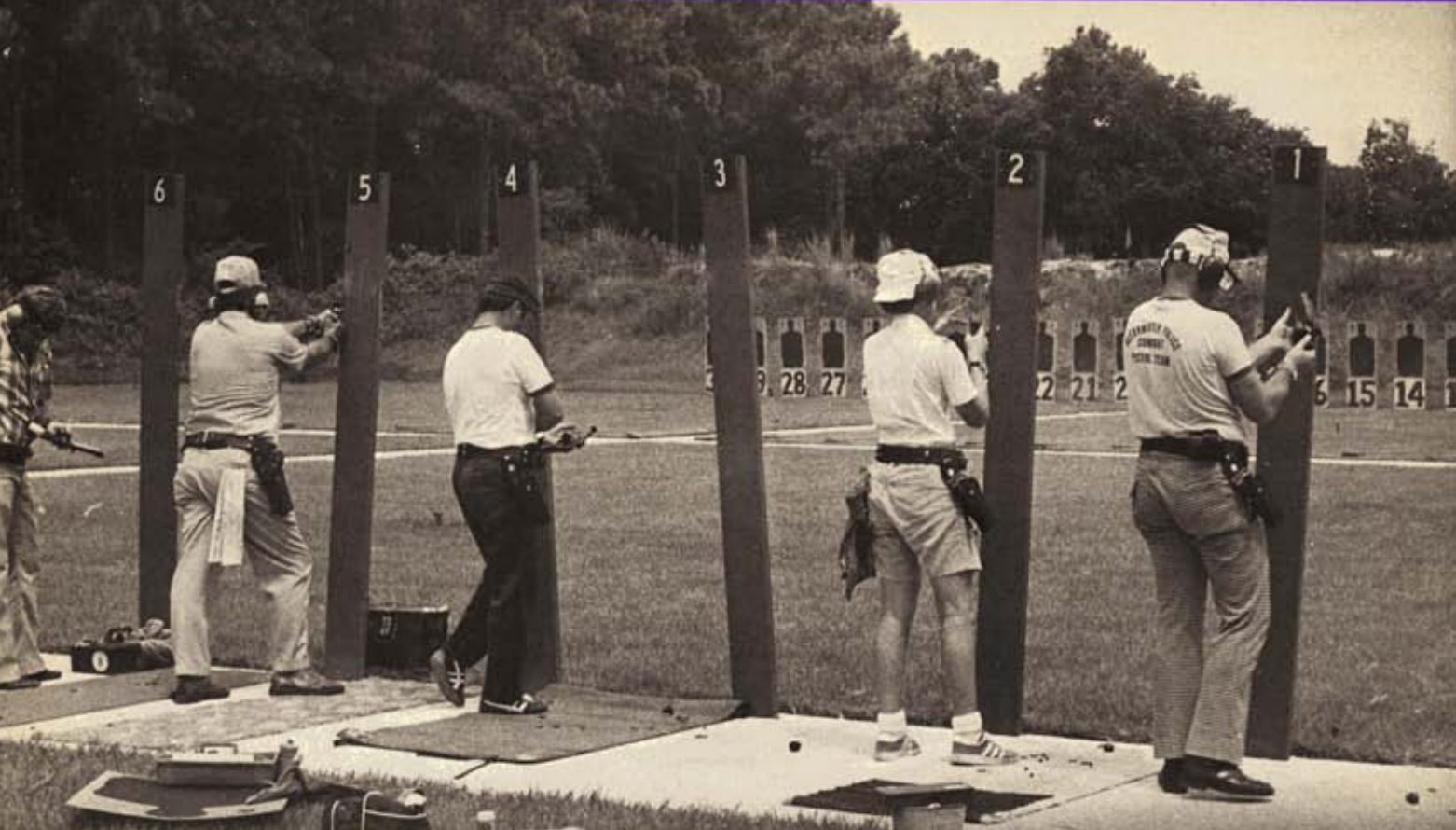
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POLICE COMBAT MATCH

Regional Police Match Puts Two New Records on the Books

By J. K. OSGOOD

August 20, 1977 was hot and slightly hazy, but the weather didn't seem to bother Lucy Chambliss, as she set a new Women's National Record with a blazing 240-22X! And Richard Jarvis of the Hialeah Police tied the Men's with a perfect 240-24X!

The scene was the Hamp Rogers Memorial Pistol Range in Winter Haven, Florida, where a registered Florida Police Combat League Match was being shot. A total of 73 shooters came to the line, and when it was all over, 2X's decided the winner. More about that later.

Lucy Chambliss is a top shooter in anyone's book, and it only was a matter of time before Winter Haven's lady cop was expected to do something like set a record. She did it on the first relay of Match One, using her Ron Powers' conversion of a Smith Model 10. The 6" Douglas barrel is topped by a Bo-Mar rib, and fitted with Hogue grips. Lucy uses custom re-

loads made up with 158 grain round nose bullets propelled by 3 grains of Bullseye. She prefers the HKS speed loaders, and the popular leather Reno holster tops off her rig. Lucy attributes her high score to Powers' work on her gun. He does do good work, but anyone who has tried this game knows it takes a damned good shooter as well as a good gun! And Lucy is one good shooter. Congratulations on your fine shooting!

Now let's run through the rest of the matches and check out the winners and their gear. Match One was won by Richard Jarvis of the Hialeah Police, as he drilled a perfect 240-24X with his Smith Model 10. Garcia's Gun Shop of Hialeah fitted a heavy sleeve over the 6" factory barrel, and added a Bo-Mar rib. Jarvis left the factory stocks and hammer as is, but allowed, "some work had been done on the action." He used Winchester factory match loads in Dade speedloaders, and the Reno leather breakfront holster. A police officer for six years, Dick started com-

bat shooting only this year! A highly personable young man, Dick has definite opinions about combat shooting. "I'd like to see this opened to civilians," he said, "and make the guns more representative of a service revolver." We'll be hearing more about this young shooter, I'm sure. And his ideas are being repeated by many other combat shooters.

Two top Florida shooters tied for the second match with 180-14X scores. Walt Sherman, a sergeant on the Highway Patrol, and the 1977 Florida Combat Champion, used a Python he customized himself. Walt shoots Speer 158 grain factory loads and uses the Dade speedloader. He wore a handmade leather holster similar to the Reno. Jim O'Neill of the Clearwater Police Department used a Smith Model 14 to tie Walt. Jim's gun was customized by none other than Walt himself! Jim's gun has the popular Douglas barrel and Bo-Mar rib, like Walt's Python. Jim shoots 148 grain Star bullets in Winchester Western brass loaded up with 2.7 grains of Bullseye. Dade speedloaders and the plastic version of the Reno holster finish off Jim's rig.

Walt steadied himself long enough to



Lucy Chambliss shows her record target to Hamp Rogers, Director of Public Safety, Winter Haven.

Model 53 frame and action, to which he fitted a .38 cylinder and Douglas barrel, topped by a Bo-Mar rib. Reed's 148 grain Remington factory loads are used in Dade speedloaders. A Reno leather holster finishes his rig.

Reed, a personable young man, is President of the League, and top-rated in the 1976-77 Governor's Twenty. He serves as a Reserve Officer with the Vero Beach Police Department. His favorite combat pistol is another Model 53, with an Obermeyer barrel bored out to .32 caliber! With Dynamit-Nobel ammunition, Reed gets 1" machine rest groups at 50 yds.

The rigs described were typical of most of the shooters, although the plastic version of the Reno breakfront seemed to be worn more than the leather—by the non-winners, at least! Dade speedloaders were used by a majority, and factory ammunition was prevalent. I saw only three shooters without earmuffs, and wrist-hung stopwatches were very much in evidence. Pistols? Well, the winners' choices ranged all over the map as far as actions go. Not many Colts, although people like Walt Sherman swear by them.

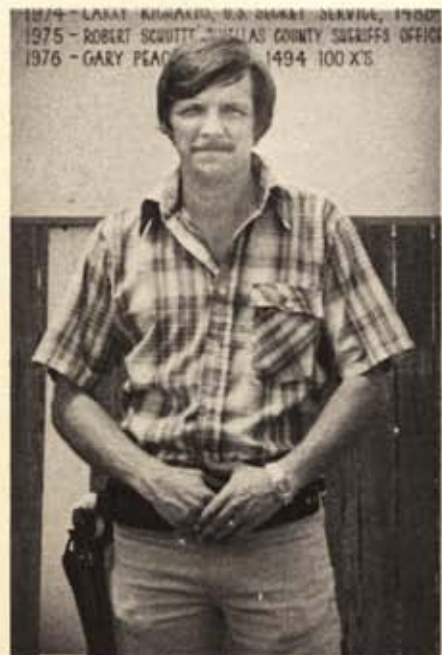
There you have it, a new Women's Record, a Man's tied, and 2-X's deciding the winner! And enough information about guns and rigs to let you know what Florida shooters are using. If you can keep the gunsmiths and shooters straight, that is!



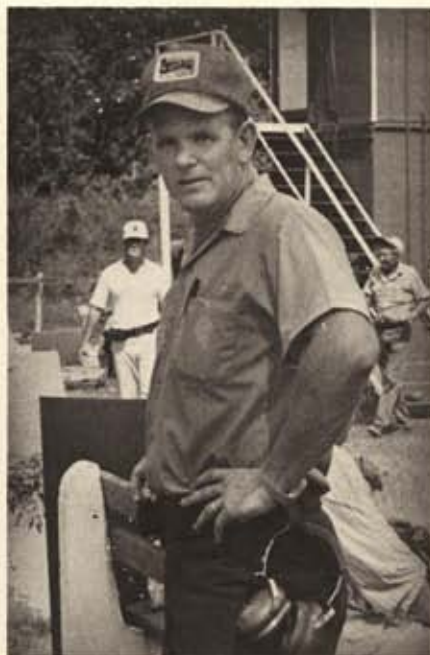
George Kitchell, another 1976-77 Governor's Twenty member, took Match Four with a Smith Model 10 customized partially by Reed Knight. Reed added a Douglas barrel and Bo-Mar rib, then take the third match, but didn't pop many X's, which would end up to haunt him later!

George did his own action work. George uses Dade speedloaders filled with custom loads made up of Zero 148 grain bullets and 2.7 grains of Bullseye. The leather Reno holster hangs from a Safariland belt.

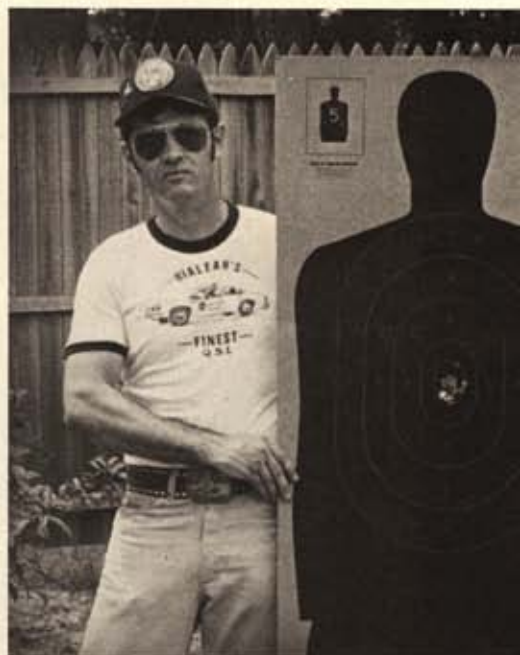
Now for the topper! Reed Knight took the aggregate with a 1486-94X to Walt Sherman's 1468-92X! Reed used a Smith



Reed Knight, aggregate winner, used a Model 53 custom revolver to post an amazing 1486—94X.



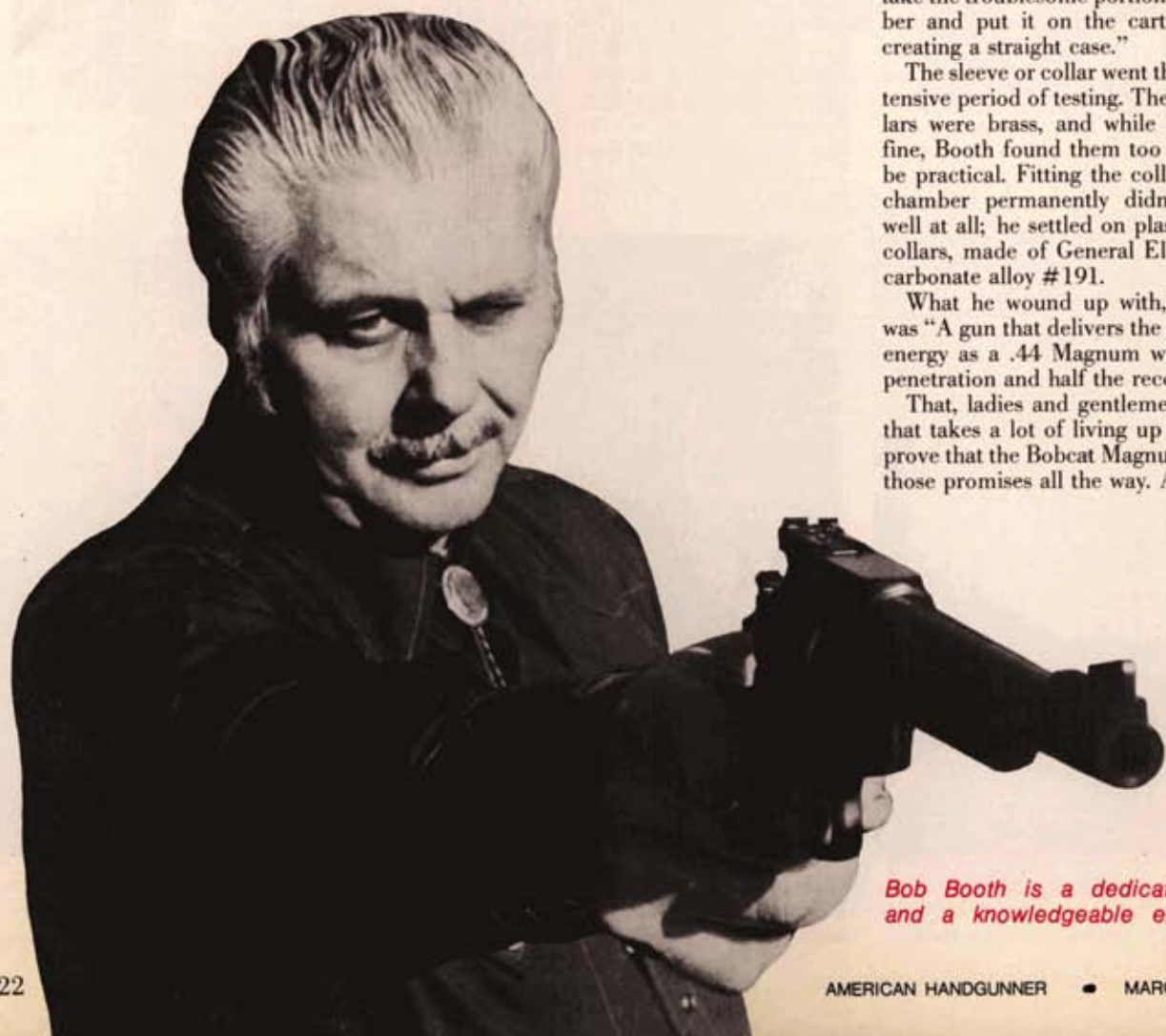
Walt Sherman tied for Second using a Python he customized. Walt was 1977 Florida champion.



Richard Jarvis with his record tying target. Dick shoots a re-worked M-10 with sleeved barrel.

.357/44 **The Sensible** **Wildcat!**

**The Bobcat Magnum Collars the
Problem of Necked Cases**



By MASSAD AYOOB

For well over a year now, Robert Booth of Bobcat Magnums, 2560 San Carlos Avenue, Dept. AH, Castro Valley, CA 94546, has been turning out a fascinating cartridge-revolver combo of extraordinary midmagnum capability. He calls it the .357/44 Bobcat Magnum, and while it has at least as much bite as its namesake, it's a lot easier to handle, and a heck of a lot easier to come by.

The round is formed by necking standard .44 Magnum brass down to .357, and attaching a plastic collar around the neck to flesh out the case to .44 Mag dimensions. Standard .357 bullets are loaded into the wildcat. Backed by the bucketful of powder that fits the big .44 hull, they come out roaring.

Bob Booth explains the concept thus: "It is, of course, common knowledge that the bottleneck is a more efficient design in the interest of velocity and trajectory, and I have been discouraged in the past with other attempts to get it to work. I realize the problem of the bottleneck in a revolver is that expansion of the brass shoulder against the hard steel chamber causes a backing out of the case. My idea was to take the troublesome portion of the chamber and put it on the cartridge, hence creating a straight case."

The sleeve or collar went through an extensive period of testing. The original collars were brass, and while they worked fine, Booth found them too expensive to be practical. Fitting the collar inside the chamber permanently didn't work out well at all; he settled on plastic cartridge collars, made of General Electric's polycarbonate alloy #191.

What he wound up with, says Booth, was "A gun that delivers the same muzzle energy as a .44 Magnum with twice the penetration and half the recoil."

That, ladies and gentlemen, is a claim that takes a lot of living up to. Our tests prove that the Bobcat Magnum lives up to those promises all the way. Almost...

Bob Booth is a dedicated shooter and a knowledgeable experimenter.

In Booth's tests, he used "diamond steel" plates of $\frac{3}{16}$ " and $\frac{1}{4}$ " thickness. They stopped every non-armor-piercing .357 and .44 Magnum load Booth and his associates threw at it, yet every bullet weight of Bobcat Magnum went sailing on through, Booth told this writer.

Getting down to a little finer test, I used a large pad of Kevlar, the DuPont fabric used as a replacement for steel in belted radial tires. My test piece was 16 layers thick. A .357 Magnum Federal High-speed 110-grain hollowpoint stopped at the fourth layer, mushroomed perfectly back over the bullet base, fired out of a 6" Ruger Security Six. The Bobcat Magnum with the 110-grain SJHP configuration, went through all 16 layers and two inches into the soft earth behind it, mushrooming fully but a little more raggedly; the jacket fell off when the spent round was picked up. The 125 and 140 grain Bobcat Magnums also penetrated every stitch of the tight-denier Kevlar, and buried themselves so deep into the earth that we couldn't recover them; all three were from my 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Blackhawk Bobcat Magnum.



Progression of the conversion shows .44 Magnum case (left); a necked case; a loaded round; the collars and a complete round ready to go.



By contrast, no .44 Magnum I've ever fired at this substance has completely penetrated 16 layers, and they usually stop half or two thirds of the way through the swatch. When Booth says he's got twice the penetration of a .44 Magnum with equivalent bullet types, believe him. He's telling you the truth, and so am I, right here.

Now, about that "half the recoil of the .44 Magnum" statement. Bob says he arrived at that conclusion from his own subjective tests, and from handing the gun up and down firing lines of novice-through-master shooters, and asking them to fire the gun next to a .44 Magnum of identical configuration.

My observations, like Bob's are subjective. I'd rather say that while apparent muzzle lift is much more than half of the .44 Maggie's, it's a whole lot more comfortable to shoot. The .357/44 Bobcat, at least in my new model Ruger Blackhawk, still has plenty of upflip, enough to roll the gun back in my hand during offhand firing. The single action winds up in the same position—with the hammer spur against the web of my hand—that a Super Blackhawk fetches up to when I shoot it one handed with a full-house load. However, recoil is largely a function of bullet-weight, and when you drop from 240 to 110, something's got to be missing in the kick department. And it is: with the Bob-

Steel plate shot at 50 feet. Only the .44 Magnum and the Bobcat penetrated the plate.

Here's a tougher test. The 1/4" steel plate was easily punched through by the .357/44 Bobcat.



cat Magnum, you don't feel that "impact shock" in the palm of your hand that gets you when you touch off a full-house .44.

All that happens when you touch off a .357/44 Bobcat is that the gun rolls back in your hand and lifts. With a good two-hand hold, it doesn't even roll back appreciably; that's in the Ruger configuration, which I find eminently comfortable to shoot.

I haven't fired the Smith & Wesson conversion yet, and that may be a different story. Booth says one reason he prefers to convert the Ruger is that, in his words, "The recoil in the Smith & Wesson configuration bothers Hell out of me!"

This is no big news, as .44 Mag buffs have known for years: the Model 29 S&W kicks harder than the Ruger Super Blackhawk, but has faster locktime, better trigger, and a lighter hammer fall, making it more conducive to precision accuracy.

The same is not necessarily true in the Bobcat Magnum; here, the Ruger SA makes more sense vis-a-vis the DA Smith than anywhere else. Booth likes the heavier cylinder on the Blackhawk, and especially, the rifling twist: he finds that the one in 16 inches twist of the Ruger is significantly more stabilizing at his speeds than the one in 18 3/4 inch twist of the Smith. I haven't shot a Smith & Wesson

Bobcat Magnum, but his comments make sense: I know my Ruger shoots super.

Just what speeds is he talking about? Friends, the loading data for the Bobcat Magnum virtually duplicates that of the .357 AutoMag that handgun buffs have been raving about for the past few years. A table accompanies this article, but we can look here at some of the more spectacular figures: right around two thousand feet per second with the 110 grain semi-jacketed pill (using 19.5 grains of Blue Dot for an absolute red line load); close to 1700 fps with the 158 grainers when cranked all the way up with 22.4 grains of 296 (hitting almost half a ton of muzzle energy); and just about 1800 fps with the 140 grain slugs, using 23.5 grains of 296. The 125-grain, while it can come within spitting distance of 1900 fps with 25 grains of 296, seems to give its finest accuracy when you sacrifice 90-some odd fps with a charge of 24.6 grains of H110. The latter is the powder Booth prefers, finding it the most accurate and consistent in all his Bobcat Magnum guns and loads.

Booth is sometimes conservative, sometimes a trifle extravagant in his claims for his Bobcat Magnum. When he shipped me mine, he promised that with the 125-grain bullet, sighted at 25 yards, drop would be less than two inches at 100 yards. That was a conservative promise: in my 6 1/2" Ruger, it was *less* than "less than two inches." At 25 yards, the 125 grain loads I was using were grouping at the edge of the line between the 7 and 8 rings of the 25-yd slow fire bull: a bit less than an inch above my 6 o'clock point of aim. Three shot groups, incidentally, ran well under an inch center to center at that dis-

RCBS CHRONOGRAPH REPORT • RUGER BOBCAT MAGNUM*

No.	Grains	Powder	Primer	Case Make	Weight	Bullet Make	Type	Muzzle Energy	Average Muzzle Velocity
1	23.7	296	Win	Win	140	Speer	H.P.	941	1743
2	24	H110	Win	Win	125	Speer	H.P.	909	1808
3	25	H110	Win	Win	125	Speer	H.P.	965	1865
4	25	296	Win	Win	125	Speer	H.P.	944	1845
5	25.2	296	Win	Win	125	Speer	H.P.	955	1850
6	26.3	H110	Win	Win	110	Speer	H.P.	928	1947
7	26.3	296	Win	Win	110	Speer	H.P.	836	1851
8	26.7	246	Win	Win	110	Speer	H.P.	913	1934
9	27	H110	Win	Win	90	Sierra**	H.P.	842	2053
10	27	296	Win	Win	90	Sierra**	H.P.	738	1923
11	27.5	296	Win	Win	90	Sierra**	H.P.	810	2017

* = Ruger Blackhawk, 6 1/2" bbl., 16" twist

** = .355 diameter



Dick Brown fires the Bobcat to show that though kick is still there, it's not uncomfortable.

sighted for 25 yards, my Ruger was putting them in the hip area of the silhouette with the same neck hold that had been dead on at 100 yards: a drop of more like two feet. In fairness, Bob's claim was based on the 158-grain load, which I didn't test, but if the 158 drops only eight inches, a faster-stepping 125 in the same gun shouldn't drop three times as much.

But back to the *fulfilled* promises: Bob had told me, "The average Blackhawk with open sights can hold a 14" group at 200 yards." My own did a bit over half that off a bench at 200; one memorable group measured just under eight inches with a called flyer, and with two of the 125-grain bullets almost touching each other.

My total impression of the .357/44 Bobcat Magnum is strongly positive. The accuracy and trajectory are excellent, and give a handgun hunter all the confidence he could want. Penetration is excellent, as is uniformity and completeness of bullet expansion, and these are things I want in a hunting handgun. I never agreed with the theory that the bullet should stop inside the animal and "expend its total energy;" I'd much rather have a .357/44 slug, expanded to fifty or sixty caliber, go crashing out through the other side of the animal's chest. That way, there's more tissue damaged, plus another hole through which the air can rush in and aid the collapse of the lungs and cause pneumothorax, squeezing the heart until it stops and plunges the ani-

mal into painless unconsciousness. A bullet-damaged heart can still beat wildly and erratically with enough efficiency to keep oxygenated blood circulating through the brain for a span of time, but a heart compressed by air and by two collapsed lungs isn't going to beat as long. Complete penetration also increases the blood trail for the hunter to follow. The penetration characteristics of the .357/44 Bobcat Magnum also seem likely to eliminate a problem that has plagued .357-armed handgun hunters for so long: the danger that an otherwise more efficient expanding bullet will be defeated when it encounters heavy bone. I have no doubt that a slug which can pierce 16 layers of Kevlar and still travel deep into damp earth and maintain a perfect mushroom, can be counted on not to shatter on a shoulder bone and turn a clean kill into a crippling wound.

It's not a load for police, and Bob Booth agrees, though he has reluctantly done a few conversions on Highway Patrolman revolvers for Southern California cops. One insisted on it after his standard .357 failed to penetrate a felon's car door in a running shootout. I personally don't care for the idea: the Bobcat Mag's penetration makes it dangerous for police, who always have to contend with the possibility that an innocent victim may be standing unseen behind the gunman they drop the hammer on.

(Continued on page 51)

tance with all bullet weights, using a double-fisted right hand barricade position.

At a hundred yards, I figured, my center hold would equate to mucho drop, so I switched to a B-27 silhouette and held for the neck with one group, for the center head for another. Upon examination of the target, I found one group in the neck area, another in the head: there had been no drop from point of aim, and the sights hadn't changed. Conclusion: in my gun, the 125-gr. bullet backed by 25 grains of H110 was dropping no more than an inch between 25 and 100 yards. For handgun hunters, who will take most of their shots somewhere between those two distances, that's good news indeed: hold on the critter's eye if that's all that's exposed to you, and that's where you'll hit without any hold over. Even at point blank range (during the 10-foot penetration tests), a dead-on hold put the bullet's point of impact at point of aim, which isn't so strange to remark on: some rounds, notably the .38 mid-range wadcutter, will shoot 2" low at 7 yards when the gun is sighted center at 25.

Moving out another hundred yards, we found the first Bobcat claim that might have been called extravagant: while Bob had told me the drop at 200 yards would be no more than eight inches with a gun



Though the plastic collars on the neck of the Bobcat often split upon firing, it has no effect on performance, being designed for one-time use.

Watch the Flying Case!

There are a lot of things going on when a handgunner lets go with a round. In a split second there is a roar, an abrupt jump of the muzzle, and not a small amount of backward recoil. The revolver shooter experiences all of these, but the shooter of an auto pistol has still more to contend with; the slide slams back and then forward and the empty case is ejected. This latter effect is the subject of this photo story.

While Byron Boots was photographing the 1977 National Shooters League Shoot in Wyoming, a series of unplanned photos showed the empty cartridge cases being ejected from a variety of auto pistols. While these photos are one-dimensional, and may distort the actual trajectory of the flying case, some of these photos are enlightening and others downright humorous.



1. Stuart Clingman of Guernsey, Wyoming—



3. Mason Williams—What a Balancing Act!



5. John Starling of Laramie—Headin' Your Way!



Up and Away!



2. Bob Merritt of Oregon—It Went Thataway!



4. Brian Lendzion of Chicago—Reading the Headstamp!



6. Shel Chazon of Colorado—Keep Shut the Mouth!



Model 92



Model 84

**Increased Capacity
and a New Configuration
Are Features of Latest
From Beretta**

New D.A.

By J. B. WOOD

IN automatic pistols, the wave of the future seems to be double action trigger systems and large capacity magazines. When this trend began, just a few years ago, my personal reaction was: Why did the designers wait so long? The double-row magazine has been around since before 1900, and a true double-action pistol since about 1920. In research and development, though, these things move with ponderous slowness. Tooling up to produce a new design costs a tremendous amount of money, and the sales managers are always haunted by the same spectre: Will it sell?

As befits a grand old firm that has been in business since 1680, Armi Beretta has been very cautious. Around 1968 they finally entered the double action field with a beautiful little pocket pistol called the Model 90. Regrettably, it was made only in 7.65mm (.32 auto), and when I asked if it was to be available in .380, the reply was negative. Instead, they had something else in mind. That "something else" has now arrived, and it was worth waiting for.

The new pistol is designated the Model

84 in 9mm Corto (.380 auto), and in 7.65mm (.32 auto) it is called the Model 81. To those who might wonder why anyone would bother to make a modern .32 auto, it should be pointed out that this is still a popular round in Europe, and is considered an adequate police and personal protection round. I doubt that even the finest .32 will achieve popularity in the U.S. today, so let's concentrate on the Model 84 in the .380 chambering.

Externally, it is a return to the traditional Beretta "look," with the open-top slide and exposed barrel originated by Beretta's Master Designer, the late Signore Tullio Maregoni. Other than this nod to tradition, the rest is all new, and brilliantly done. Consider these points:

The pistol has an ultra-smooth double action trigger pull, achieved by good mechanical advantage and careful fitting. The magazine capacity is 13 rounds in the .380 Model 84, giving a fully loaded count of 14. (For some reason, the .32 version, the Model 81, has a capacity of one round less for the smaller cartridge. I'm still trying to figure this out.) There is a back witness hole at the "full" level.

The manual safety is ambidextrous,

with a lever and a red indicator spot on both sides. Now, you might say, "So what? I'm not left-handed!" But what if you were in a critical situation, and your right hand incapacitated in some way? Then it would make a lot of difference. Mechanically, the safety is a good one, as it directly blocks the sear.

For those who *are* left-handed, the magazine release is reversible, to push from right to left. This alteration is not difficult, and requires no special tools. It is somewhat tricky, though, and might best be done by your friendly gunsmith.

There is an external slide latch, to act as a hold-open when the last shot is fired, and it is well-placed for easy release.

The extractor has a red-painted area on its top edge, and protrudes slightly when a round is in the chamber, acting as a loaded indicator.

Takedown is a simple one-lever opera-

*Author found the new Model 84
Beretta well worth waiting for.*

tion, the lever locked in place by a spring-loaded button.

Grips are smooth walnut. Frame, magazine floorplate, and magazine follower are of alloy, all other parts steel. Fit and finish are as you'd expect on a Beretta—impeccable.

When I took the Model 84 out to the range, I tried it with a variety of .380 ammo, from ordinary FMJ rounds to the "funny stuff," such as the stubby little 84-grain JHP loaded by Smith & Wesson. While some pistols require "throating" to feed the latter, the Beretta ran through them all without a hitch.

Fired from a sandbag rest at 25 yards, all shots stayed in the black, and best

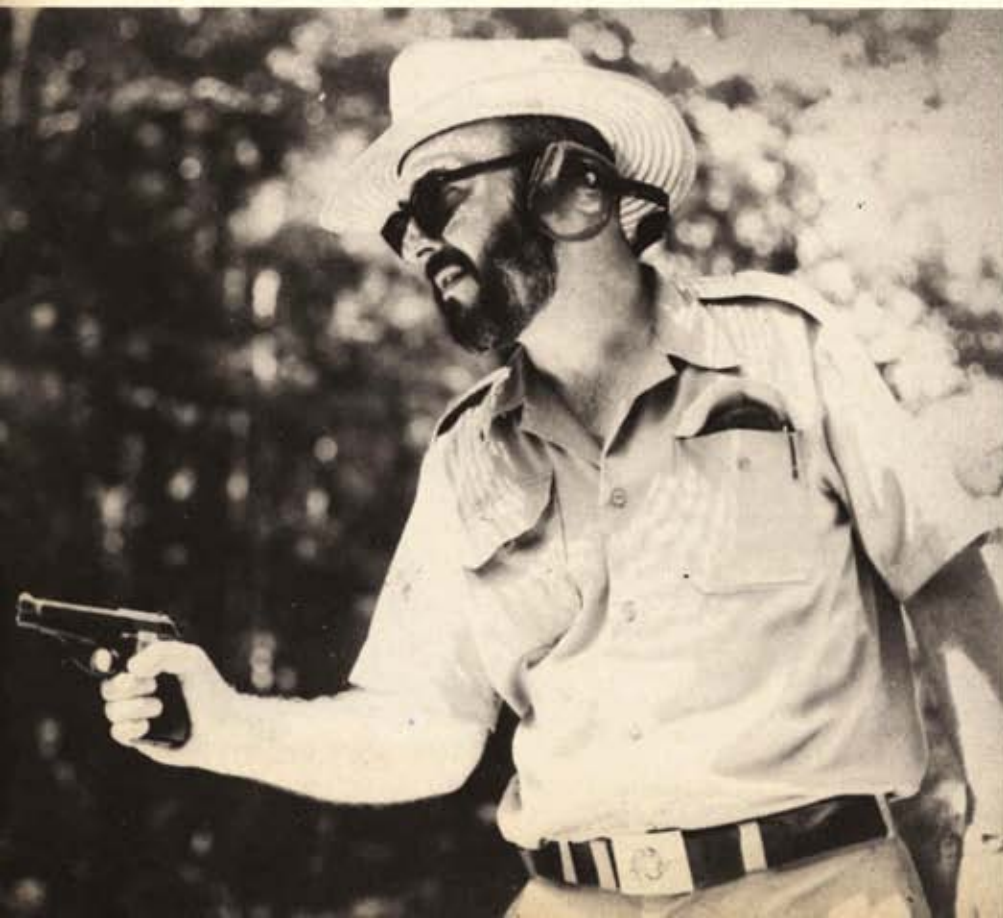
group was around four inches. The gun will do better than this, after a little work on the single action sear step. My gun has a single action pull that can best be described as rather stiff. Sights are excellent—square post front, integral with the slide, and square notch rear, dovetailed into the slide.

In combat-style shooting, the Model 84 really shines. At five to seven yards, all shots were in the "K" zone, with the first round being fired double action. There was an initial tendency to shoot a few inches low, but this was no fault of the gun. As soon as I became more familiar with it, and adjusted my hold, all was well. Toward the end of the firing tests, I was

consistently popping soft-drink cans off a log, from the hip, doing a "turn-and-fire" routine.

With the double-column magazine, the grip section is a bit wider than average, but not objectionably so. The measured width (or, thickness, if you prefer) is $1\frac{1}{16}$ inches, and is quite comfortable for my average-sized hand. From the center of the trigger to the backstrap is $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches, about the same as a Walther PPK/S. The upper rear of the frame has a generous overhang, and there is no way that even the fleshiest hand can be bitten by the hammer. The trigger has a small raised stud on its rear face which contacts the frame to prevent excessive over-travel.

Autos from Beretta



Staggered magazine of the M-84 (left) and M-92 add greatly to capacity in all three calibers.



The new Model 92 (above) is similar in appearance to the Model 51 which was introduced in 1969. Only DA trigger shows a marked change.

There is a magazine safety which disconnects the trigger bar when the magazine is removed, a welcome feature for those who are dumb enough to forget the round in the chamber when unloading. For the rest of us, who want that last round available while changing magazines, taking off the right grip allows removal of that little abomination, without tools, in about three seconds.

The Model 84 is a little large for a pocket pistol, but then I've always considered anything above the size of a .25 auto to be a holster gun. The new Beretta .380 is really an intermediate pistol, bridging the gap between the military-sized auto and the pocket gun. In this category, at the present time, it has no equal.

While the Model 84 was in the works, the people at Beretta were also doing things to the already excellent design of their Model 51 pistol, sometimes called

the Brigadier. When I first tested this gun about ten years ago, I remember lamenting the fact that it didn't have a double-action trigger and a large-capacity magazine. Well, now it has both, and they call it the Model 92. It's not really correct, though, to imply that the new military Beretta is nothing more than a re-designed Model 51. It is similar in general appearance, and has the same tilting-block locking system. The extractor acts as a loaded-chamber indicator, just as on the Model 51. The magazine release is in a similar location. The cartridge is the same, the 9mm Parabellum (Luger). Otherwise, it's all new, and quite different.

The double-column magazine holds 15 rounds, giving a fully-loaded capacity of 16. There is a witness hole on the back flat at the fully-loaded point.

The double-action trigger system is virtually the same as used in the Model

84, and is very smooth. On my Model 92, the single action pull was also smooth and light.

The manual safety is well-located for easy operation, and brings a heavy steel bar up to block the sear. On double-action pistols with inertia-type firing pins a manual safety is really not essential, but if it's ever needed, this one is very positive and efficient.

The external slide latch is also in the right position for easy operation with the thumb of the shooter's hand, and like everything else on these pistols is made with an extra margin of strength.

The Model 92 also features a quick, one-lever takedown, with the lever located on the left side and the lock button on the right.

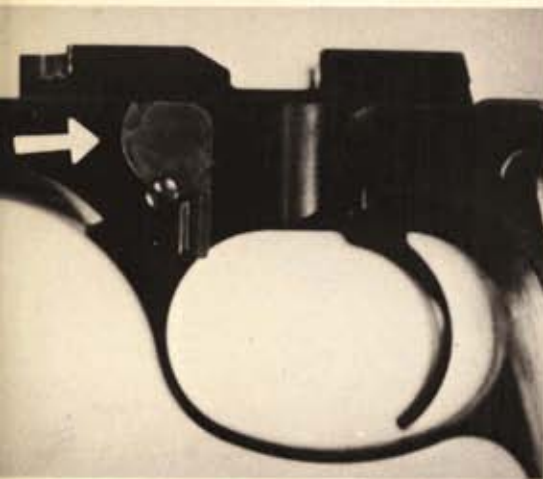
The location of the magazine release button, at the lower rear edge of the left grip, may cause some frowns among the combat/competition crowd. On the other hand, this magazine holds fifteen rounds, and is not likely to need rapid replacement during the average serious social encounter.

Grips on the Model 92 are of plastic, with rather sharp moulded checkering. The frame and magazine follower are alloy, the rest steel. Grip width is 1⁵/₁₆ inches, the same as on the Model 84, but the center-of-trigger to backstrap measurement is actually less—just 2³/₈ inches.

The Model 92 is a large pistol, with a barrel and slide even longer than its predecessor, the Model 51. The Brigadier had a 4¹/₂-inch barrel, and the barrel of the Model 92 measures 4⁷/₈ inches. With an overall length of 8⁹/₁₆ inches, it's out of the casual carrying class. It's a pistol for the professional in law enforcement, the military, and related fields. It would also be excellent for home defense.



Model 84 magazine safety exposed with grip panel removed. It can be easily removed without tools.



Take-down latch of the Model 92 shown in open and closed position. Lock button is pushed from the right side of frame to unlock.

At the range, I put the Model 92 through much the same paces as the Model 84, and the results were similar. The better single action trigger pull of the Model 92 gave me tighter target groups, but in combat-style shooting they were equal. The Model 92 also functioned perfectly with all loads and bullet types without alteration.

A final note, for those who have heard the stories about the Model 51 developing cracks in the slide at the location of the locking block recesses. First of all, I have never seen a Model 51 with such a fault, nor have I been able to locate anyone else who has. The fable probably began because the slide just *looks* thin at that point. Even so, Beretta had apparently heard these tales, too, and the new Model 92 slide is beefed-up in the locking block area.

Altogether, Armi Beretta can be proud of these two pistols. If Signore Marengoni were still with us, I feel they'd also get his stamp of approval.



The Model 84 Beretta, field stripped down to major components.



The Model 92 field strips down to five major components.

- What is your current percentage of returned guns?
- Why did you drop the .22 single actions and the Woodsman?
- Will there be a Detective Special in .357 Magnum?
- Are you selling as many large bore auto pistols as S&W?
- What are Colt's views on gun control?

Colt's President Answers

By MASSAD AYOOB

C. Edward Werner became president of Colt's Firearms Division in August, 1975, drafted for the spot from a similar position in Elox, another Colt Industries firm which builds electrical discharge (EDM) machinery. Previous management in the Firearms Division had been largely marketing-oriented with an emphasis on government marketing; what was needed, the parent corporation decided, was someone a little more in tune with engineering and the nuts and bolts of manufacturing. Werner's background included fifteen years of engineering at G.E., gradually drifting into the manufacturing side as he climbed the career ladder.

With this in mind, our field editor, Massad F. Ayoob, began by asking Werner what his first impressions of the operation were when he took Colt's reins.

WERNER: *I was appalled by a number of things, but I was comparing it to what I consider a good manufacturing operation, mentally going through and comparing the business, function by function, to what I thought it should be.*

It wasn't just quality control; there were other factors also.

AYOOB: Can you elaborate on that?

WERNER: *Some of this is strictly internal operations, such things as inventory control, production control. The manufacturing and engineering at that time were really back in the Dark Ages. We were not looking at anything new or different, not making any progress in our methods. There were just a number of areas throughout the company that I felt had to be shored up and worked out.*

AYOOB: Specifically, though, what did you address yourself to?

WERNER: *Gauging was required to bring us back up to where we were producing properly. We had slipped in repairing gauging, and had goofed on some new process steps. It just hadn't been kept up to date, that's all it was.*

I thought the biggest hole in the company was quality control. We had a very strong quality control organization on the military side with the M-16s, and in my

opinion we had a very weak organization on the commercial side, so we went to work on that immediately. I proceeded to secure for them not only their normal money for gauges and so forth, but I got them over \$300,000 for what I call catch-up gauging, to bring us back up to the state of the art.

AYOOB: Did you increase the manpower assigned to quality control?

WERNER: *Yes, dramatically. We really had a very peculiar setup when I got here. We had all of our inspection under the production people, which goes cross-grain with me; if you're going to have quality control, you should have inspection along with quality control analysis, engineering, and so forth all in a separate operation that is not reporting to the production people and not driven by the production schedule, so to speak.*

We then gathered together all the different parts of what I would consider quality control and put them into a separate quality control organization. Since then, we have added eight quality engineering and quality analysis people. We put some real professional types in there.

AYOOB: You're talking about how many people assigned to quality control, right

now?

WERNER: *Including inspection, it would be in the vicinity of a hundred people.*

When I got here, I found what I considered a rather weak quality control effort in the commercial side, the handgun side. However, I did find that throughout the rank and file of this place, right down to the people working on the floor, there was and is a real, serious desire to produce a quality handgun. We get good feedback from our people when they see something they don't feel is right. It's not a question of slam a gun together, shove it into a box, and out the back door it goes.

This feeling has been maintained and encouraged. That was the one bright spot that I saw in the whole area: that all our people were really serious about keeping up the quality of Colt, and I'm talking about 2,000 plus people. This was a good place to start to work from because we had nothing but cooperation when we made our changes and straightened out quality control.

AYOOB: Do you have any studies to determine how successful the new quality control program has been?

WERNER: *It comes out pretty clear in our weekly and monthly financial reports. We can read it in terms of scrap reduction, rework reduction, returns reduction, warranty costs reductions, this type of thing. All of these indicators are now trending in the right direction.*

AYOOB: Can you give me the difference in terms of defective guns getting out to the consumers?

WERNER: *It would be hard to say how many total guns develop defects, because they are cycled back through production. I don't think there were any more getting out of the factory in 1974 than there are today. The difference is how they got out*



of the factory.

In other words, in 1975 we were reworking a gun two or three times in some cases before it went out to the consumer. Today, many more of them are right just as they first come off the production line, without need for any rework or recycling back through certain parts of the manufacturing system.

AYOOB: Then you think you've turned around the quality control problem? What's your current percentage of returns?

WERNER: Looking at warranty returns and repairs, both in terms of the number of returns and the cost of repairing these guns, we're running really low in both respects. You have to remember that we're shipping out a unit of a product that goes for a pretty high price and people not only expect, but demand the best in quality. They become super-critical when they receive something like a Python or a Government Model for which they've laid out good hard cash, and if they were not happy, we'd know about it fairly quickly.

I think a trend has been started now to improve even more on the warranty returns, and the cost of the returns, and both are attractively low. I'm talking about less than one percent. Lately, returns have been running about three-tenths of one percent.

AYOOB: Have sales increased since you took over?

WERNER: Sales are limited strictly by our capacity. We cannot produce any more, therefore we can't sell any more. We increased our production slightly in '76 over '75, and of course, we're selling everything we can produce today.

AYOOB: Then why did you drop two popular lines, the "G" frame series of .22 single actions, and the famous Woodsman line of .22 auto pistols?

WERNER: Profitability-wise, one was marginal and one was a loser. We needed the manpower and the production capacity of those production lines to build other models, and to help us improve still further (by better distributing the workload).

The problem wasn't falling sales. It was increased cost, which Colt's Firearms historically had not done anything about correcting, and we were competing with some people who have handled their costs right. We were selling the Woodsman guns at a price that was too low for our costs in producing them; so, the economics of this was that we either had to do something dramatic about reducing the cost of the gun, or discontinue it. We chose a temporary discontinuation.

AYOOB: I know you're sick of hearing this, but what's the status on your stainless, double action .45 auto?

WERNER: We have no plans whatever to produce those guns at this point. We're sticking strictly with the Model O (Gov-

ernment Model, Commanders, and Gold Cups) in single action.

AYOOB: What about the oft-rumored Detective Special in .357?

WERNER: If it's going to be a reality, it's not going to be done on the current Detective Special frame. We have run through that and we have found that after a number of firings we developed some flaws in the whole structure.

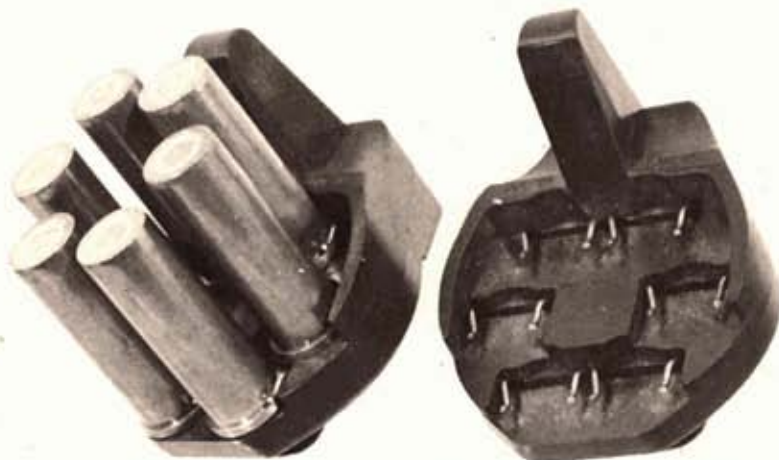
AYOOB: We understand Smith & Wesson has the same reservations about small-frame .357s. What, then, about the rumored new police revolver to replace the Mk. III series?

WERNER: We have no new revolver that is planned for introduction at this time. We have a number of development programs under way—and some of the new designs they're looking at are pretty far out—but there are no specific plans for introduction of any of these right now. If you go into something like this, you're talking about a major investment in tooling, and in our case, maybe even shop force. We feel that we have to be extremely careful, and extensively test the design and then the market in great detail. At this point, all we're definitely doing is looking at several different pictures of new approaches to handgun design.

AYOOB: Gun buffs felt that the Mk. III revolvers, along with the discontinued G
(Continued on page 65)

TEST REPORT:

Kubik Reloader



The Kubik reloader: left, charged with wadcutters, right, empty.

By JAMES D. MASON

An explosion of revolver speedloading devices has come on the market in recent years. The latest is the RL Series by Kubik Products, 631 Catherine Street, Warminster, Pa. (18974)

This device is unlike any other offered. Molded as a single piece of plastic material, the Kubik is a well designed speed-loader with several features that will appeal to wheelgunners. Cartridges are retained in spring wire stirrups that are molded integral with the unit. Cartridge rims slip under these stirrups. The stirrups are mounted on three platform steps that are staggered so as to place the case mouths of the two uppermost cartridges slightly out in front of the other rounds. Each staggered step insets case about $\frac{3}{32}$ -inch. This staggered arrangement makes it easy to align the upper two cartridges with chamber openings on the cylinder. Once the top two rounds are aligned, the others follow into the cylinders precisely.

Precision alignment of the loader to cylinder geometry is a plus factor when shooting wadcutter target ammunition. This feature will make the Kubik of interest to PPC shooters, and may expand interest in full-power combat loads using the blunt, terminally efficient wadcutter bullet. Normally, wadcutters are the most difficult type of ammunition to speedload effectively, but the Kubik system simplifies the task.

The procedure for ejecting rounds from speedloaders is a main feature that helps to separate and identify the various brands. Kubik effects separation by a cam bar projection that engages the back edge of the cylinder. As the unit is pushed home, this cam displaces the loader off of the cylinder axis, causing case rims to slip out from under the spring wire stirrups. The loader is then discarded and cases make the final, short fall into chambers by gravity.

Many new revolvers have a sharp or burred rim on the back edge of the cylinder. This condition will bind the camming surface on the Kubik loader, and reduce its operating efficiency. These same sharp edges will gouge holster leather and can even cut or irritate hands and fingers. Ideally, the cylinder should be centered in a lathe chuck to machine a slight radius on the back edge. Otherwise, a hard stone can apply as little as a .010-inch radius for good results.

The Kubik belt carrier is molded from plastic, has riveted-on pressed metal rails to mount the loaders securely. A small sheet metal plate screwed-on the back of the loader forms the slide-on adaptor that holds the loader on the carrier rails. A snap-off leather cover protects the unit

Reloading with the Kubik is fast and bobble-free. Note how the stepped design allows fast alignment.

while giving ready access to the loaders. Grasping the loaders while in the holder is natural, and the sliding release is positive. The holder case is a bit bulky which will limit its use for plainclothes wear; it is one of the largest units on the belt of all the brands offered today.

All speedloaders have their own particular techniques for most efficient handling. I found the Kubik unit to be natural and effective in application; it is relatively easy to learn to manipulate. Placement of the thumb in opposition to the first and second fingers (a natural hand position) gives a firm, controlled hold on the loader. Mating of the cylinder to the holder is easy, made even easier if the chamber openings are chamfered. On S&W revolvers, the cylinder must be swung out to the full 90 degrees and position of the loader bottom edge must be parallel to the side of the frame in order to avoid contact between the loader and the thumbpiece of the cylinder latch. In its proper position, the Kubik loader showed better than average clearances between the grip and the frame.

Kubik's durability and quality appear to be top-rate; the loader holds its rounds securely when the unit is dropped to the floor. Charging the loader is relatively slow and requires individual manipulation and precise placement of all the rounds. A misplaced round will foul up the speed-loading process; individual rounds will not self-center easily in the Kubik unit, if they are positioned improperly in the first place.

Overall, the Kubik RL loader (which is available for all S&W, Colt, and Dan Wesson guns), has much to offer the revolver shooter. A lot of thought and integrity is evident in this design, which should grab its share of the marketplace.



SPECIAL EDITIONS from...

Mag-na-port

Many readers will recall several years ago when Larry Kelly of Mag-Na-Port offered a special edition Ruger Blackhawk called the Mark V. Today, those guns are worth mucho bucks, when you can get an owner to part with them.

Feeling that the handgunners of today were ready for more of the same, Larry came up with a double shot; two specialized guns that are destined to be winners.

The Ruger pictured here is called the "Tomahawk," and here's a sample of what you get for \$4.95—oops, that's \$495.00.

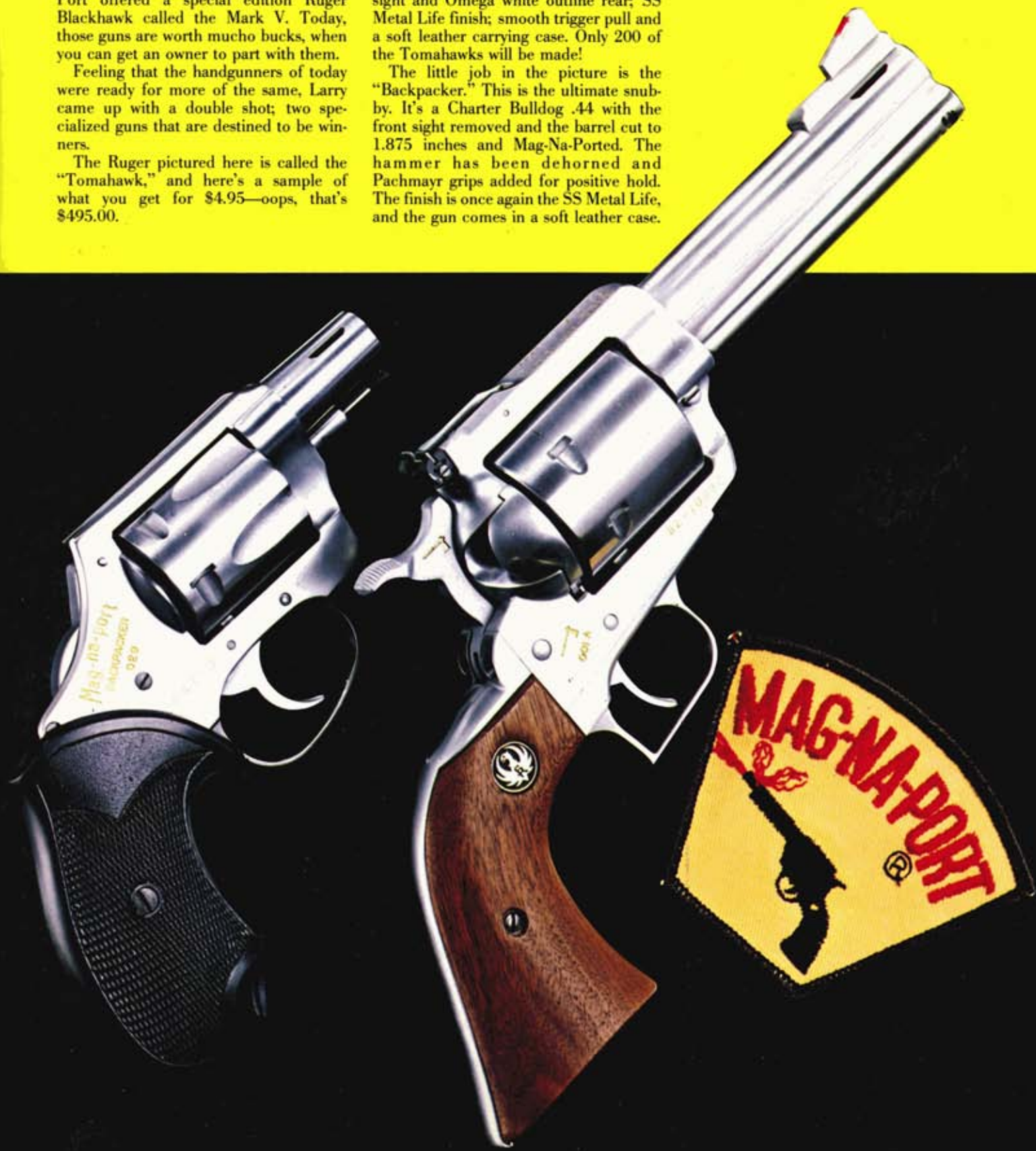
A Super Blackhawk with 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ " barrel that is Mag-Na-Ported; red insert front sight and Omega white outline rear; SS Metal Life finish; smooth trigger pull and a soft leather carrying case. Only 200 of the Tomahawks will be made!

The little job in the picture is the "Backpacker." This is the ultimate snubby. It's a Charter Bulldog .44 with the front sight removed and the barrel cut to 1.875 inches and Mag-Na-Ported. The hammer has been dehorned and Pachmayr grips added for positive hold. The finish is once again the SS Metal Life, and the gun comes in a soft leather case.

In addition, the action has been tuned to perfection. Price, \$295, with only 250 Backpackers being made.

Sales of these special editions handled by Magnum Sales Ltd., 30016 S. River Rd., Mt. Clemens, Mich. 48045. (Sales thru licensed dealers only)

For a full report on these two guns see the February issue of GUNS Magazine.



First World Practical



Conducted under The International Practical Salisbury, Rh

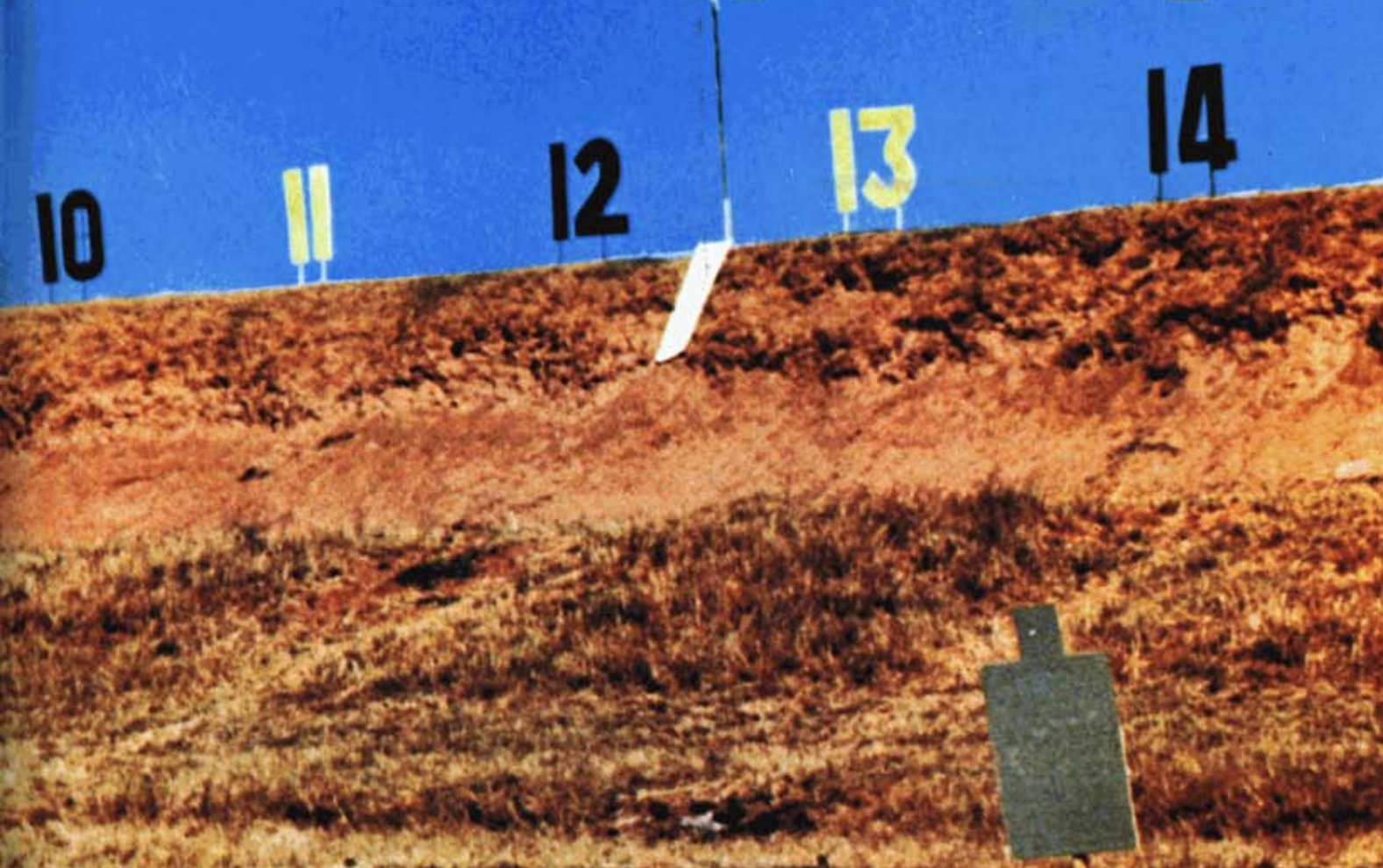
THE following presents a capsule view of the matches. Space does not permit us to publish full details of the course or the entire list of entrants. In following articles, Jeff Cooper and Ray Chapman present their views of the Matches.

The Matches were held in Salisbury, Rhodesia, August 25th through the 31st. The courses of fire included:

I. PRACTICAL MATCH

A. Jungle Lane. A series of 12 targets set in rocky terrain, well

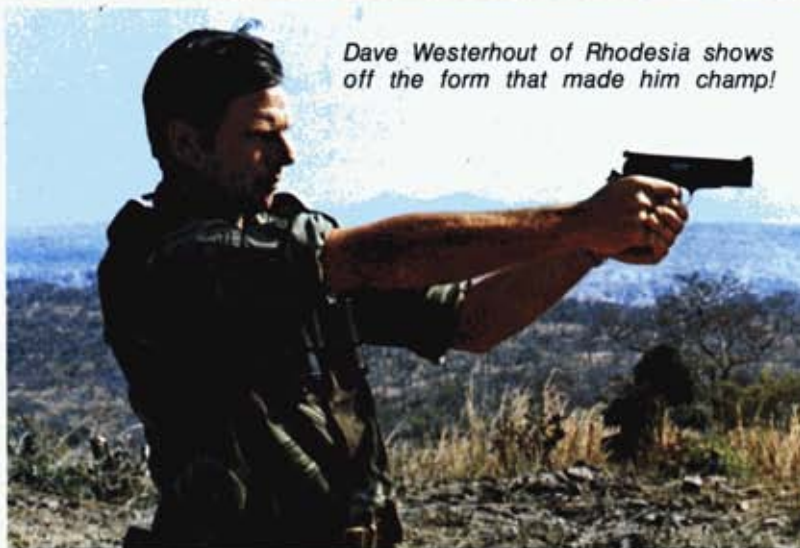
Pistol Championships



For the Auspices of International Shooting Confederation— Rhodesia, 1977

covered with trees and brush. Each competitor will be required to place at least two hits on each target, followed by a hit on the gong which concludes the course and stops the timer. (25 shots minimum).

B. Assault Course. A flat course with 12 targets where the competitors fired at turning targets from a tunnel, barricades, and while running. Interspersed in the various obstacles are targets with a red cross painted on the face; these are "hos-



Dave Westerhout of Rhodesia shows off the form that made him champ!

tage" or "innocent bystanders," and hits on these targets will cost the competitor 10 points. He may also lose 10 points by stopping in full view of a target.

2. URBAN MATCH

- A. Simulated house clearing. Here there are 12 targets scattered in a complex of structures. Competitor begins sitting on a chair facing the complex. One target will be turned toward him and the course will begin. Again, 10 points off for hitting a "hostage" target or for a complete miss on any target.
- B. Vehicle shoot. Five targets that are shot while competitor is sitting in a car with both hands on the wheel. Two stages; one from driver's side, the other from the passenger side.

3. MOVING MATCH

- A. Fire with movement. This shoot consists of two barricades spaced 10 meters apart. Three targets are set 5 to 10 meters in front of the barricades. The shooter can engage the targets either from the barricade position or while running between barricades. If he shoots from the barricade, he must run to the next barricade, where the clock stops as soon as he reaches it. This is repeated running from opposite barricade.
- B. Running felon in crowd. This is a moving target that will cross the range in about 5 seconds. In front of the moving target are two innocent bystanders. This match has two stages; one with target running parallel to the shooter, the other with target running obliquely away from the shooter.

4. TURNING MATCH

- A. Six targets at from 10 to 15 meters. Competitor starts facing away from targets. On command, he will turn, draw, and place one shot in each target. He will then reload and place one shot in each target.
- B. Double Tap. Three targets, 8 to 12 meters. Competitor must place two shots in each target in 4.5 seconds. He then reloads and repeats the exercise.
- C. Falling plates. There are six 10-inch plates at a distance of 25 meters. Contestant must hit six plates in nine seconds.

5. STANDARD EXERCISES

This consists of four matches; Quick-draw; Walk and Draw, Modified Mexican Course and an Ambidextrous Shoot.

Persons interested in participation in the International Practical Shooting Conference should contact: Jeff Cooper, Gun-site, P.O. Box 401, Paulden, Arizona 86334.



Jeff Cooper: An Overview of The Matches

PRACTICAL pistol competition began just thirty years ago. In 1947, the competitive course of fire since designated as the Advanced Military Combat Course was devised at Quantico, Virginia, by Howland G. Taft (then Captain, later Colonel) and I. We had taken a long look at conventional target shooting, and a further look at the Practical Pistol Program of the F.B.I. We felt that there were grave deficiencies in both systems, and the result was the commencement of what is now known world-wide as "practical shooting."

Years passed. Having left the Marine Corps, I set up the first Leatherslap at Big Bear Lake, California, more as a stunt than anything else. But I found there was such a vital interest in such things that it was necessary for those of us shooting in Southern California to start something better. The "Bear Valley Gunslingers" were formed, holding matches during summer months at Big Bear. In '63 the Southwest Combat Pistol League was founded to coordinate the activities of the many new clubs which had begun shooting what we called "combat" at that time. When it came time to incorporate, we discovered that the Secretary of State of the state of California objected to the word "combat," so we incorporated as the Southwest Pistol League. We held one match a month throughout the year except for December, when we had our annual banquet.

Left, in color: Jeff Cooper practices what he preaches on the "Jungle Lane", just one of the events.

Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith gets into the spirit of the matches by taking a few shots with a 9MM Browning Hi-Power custom conversion.

More years passed. The competitive pressure uncovered astonishing new systems and techniques. We found out that what had been taught throughout the years about pistol marksmanship was sadly incomplete. We found that men turned loose to pursue excellence, free from restriction, discovered all sorts of things which had not before been suspected. (You may note, if you have a long memory, that prior to about 1960 no cinema marksman ever used a pistol with two hands. Now it is rare to see a man use one hand. This is the direct result of what was uncovered during this period in Southern California.)

By the end of the nineteen sixties, it was apparent that we had something new and very attractive. All over the free world sportsmen began to discover that there were more exciting and relevant ways to pursue sport with their firearms than they had known before.

By 1973 it was evident that the time had come for a world-wide organization of sportsmen seeking further excellence in competition with sidearms. One thing led to another, and in 1975 the Swiss combat shooters conducted the first international championship at Glattfelden. This was a notable beginning, and while it was not perhaps truly representative of the world-wide movement, there was enough representation at Glattfelden to make it a true world championship. The tournament, incidentally, was won by Ray Chapman of California, one of the original Grand Masters of the pistol.

In 1976 two significant things occurred. The first was the Columbia Conference, held at Columbia, Missouri, at the instigation of Dick Thomas and Franklin Brown. This was both an advanced school, which I conducted, and a meeting of enthusiasts throughout both the United States and the world, attempting to devise some sort of



international organization. With no authority but our own enthusiasm we set up the International Practical Shooting Confederation, with representation in fourteen nations. If one asks why we did not seek to do this through established sporting channels under the auspices of the I.S.U., the answer would be that such channels have never countenanced the use of the pistol in what we call a "practical" fashion and would not be receptive to this sort of thing.

The other major event in 1976 was the Austrian World Championships in Berndorf, near Salzburg. This was the second international contest, and while there was not time to hold it under the rules and principles of the newly formed I.P.S.C., it was a very satisfying event for all concerned. It was won by Jan Foss of Norway. Chapman, who had won the previous match, was second in this event. (At this time teams began to appear, and while formal organization was spotty, the officially constituted Rhodesian team won the team prize.)

At the Columbia Conference it was decided to hold a world title immediately, that is to say in the year following 1976 for which the Austrian contest had already been scheduled. It is clearly a very expen-

sive proposition to travel around the world every year and there was some talk of delaying the contest for several years to get started. But because we thought we should get the program up into wide view, we decided to hold a world title in 1977, not to be followed until 1980. At Columbia the Rhodesians bid for the site. They offered marvelous weather, lavish hospitality, a brand new range designed specifically for practical shooting, and full adherence to the principles of practical shooting as agreed upon. This bid was unanimously accepted.

Some felt that the political situation was unsatisfactory and that people could not travel to Rhodesia. This objection was unsound. There may be difficulties advanced toward persons of various nations in going to various places, but the Rhodesians are free hosts and welcome anyone. Getting out of one's own country may be difficult for a Russian but getting into Rhodesia is not a problem.

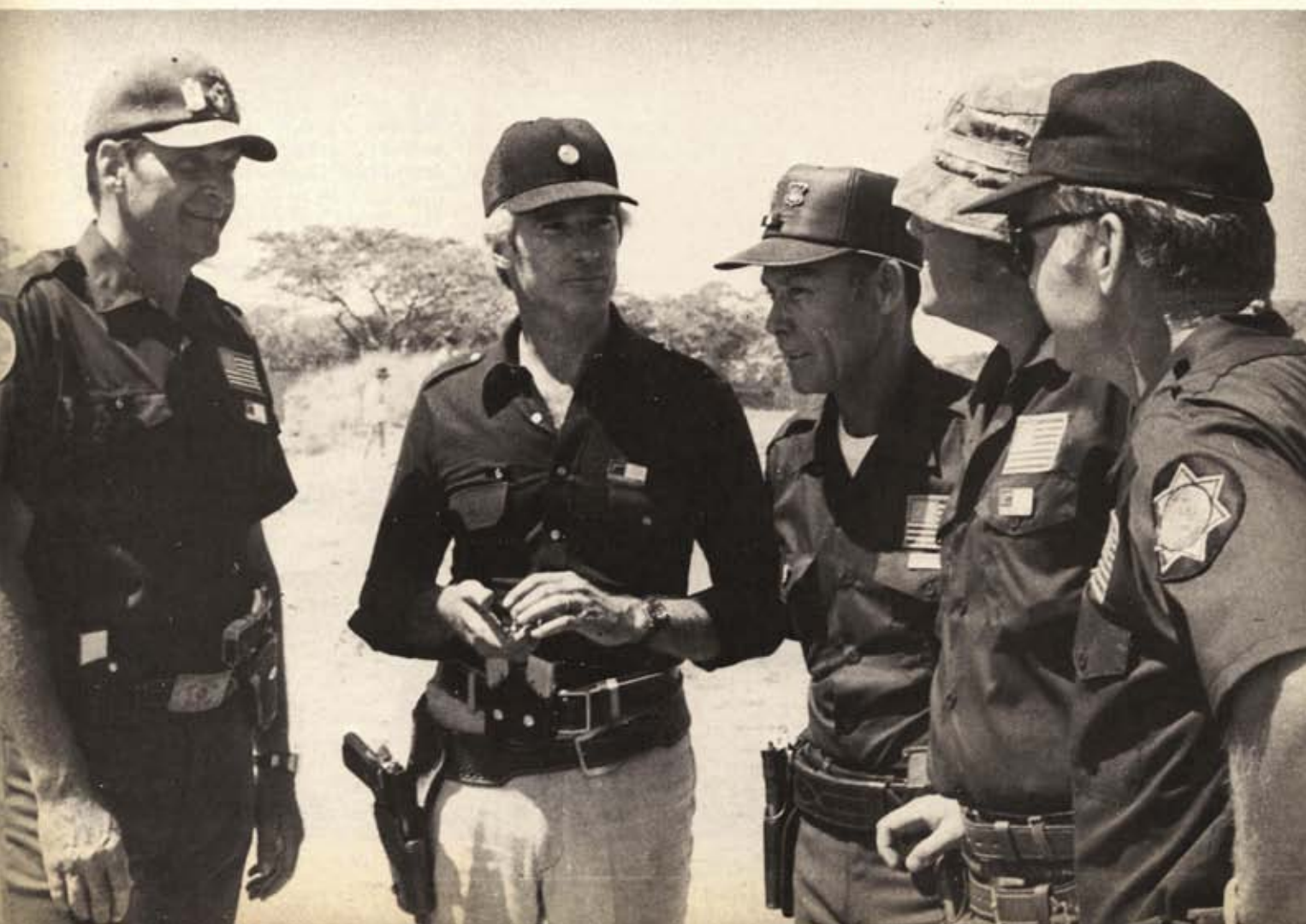
Others held that it was unwise to conduct a major sporting event in a locale plagued by turbulence and unrest. Such people were uninformed, since those of us who had been to the country realized that the civic scene in Rhodesia is perfectly tranquil. There is trouble in the country-

side, but one is safer in downtown Salisbury after dark than he is in New York, London or Berlin.

There are of course monetary problems as the transfer of funds across is always somewhat fraught. However those of us who wished to make the operation succeed were able to do so despite petty harassments.

What we sought was adherence to the original Olympic tradition, in which sportsmen from hostile nations could cross borders in pursuit of excellence without hindrance of a political nature. Our infant confederation thus far surpasses the Olympic committee, which is unable to divorce its current proceedings from politics. It is obvious that practical shooting is only practiced in free nations. I have been asked what my policy would be if communists sought to enter. The answer is that they certainly could. While the Canadians would not allow Taiwan to appear in their Olympic games, we will permit Albanians, Chinese or Russians to compete in our matches if they so desire. (We do not think that they will, since individual excellence is not highly thought of in communist nations except as it leads to their psywar endeavors, and thus far psywar has not picked up practical shooting

Members of the U.S. Team discuss strategy. Author Ray Chapman is at left.



as a means to an end.)

So we all went to Salisbury in August of 1977. We were not sorry. To the contrary we were marvelously impressed. The Rhodesians had spared no effort to produce an outstanding event. Unlike previous world matches, this one was *big*. It did not consist of one match but of five. Shooters did not expend 35 or 50 rounds, they expended nearly 250 in the course of their endeavors. Organization was flawless. Scoring and range-keeping were excellent. The weather was perfect and entire event was conducted with scarcely a hitch.

The chief organizer of the event was David Westerhout, an optometrist of English extraction. David had been present at the 1975 Swiss championships as well as the Austrian match in '76. He also was one of the founding fathers of the confederation at Columbia in '76. He was assisted in his endeavors by Alec Du Plessis, who was principally responsible for the design of the course; by Peter Maunder, Tony Weeks, Mike Large and Joe Hale.

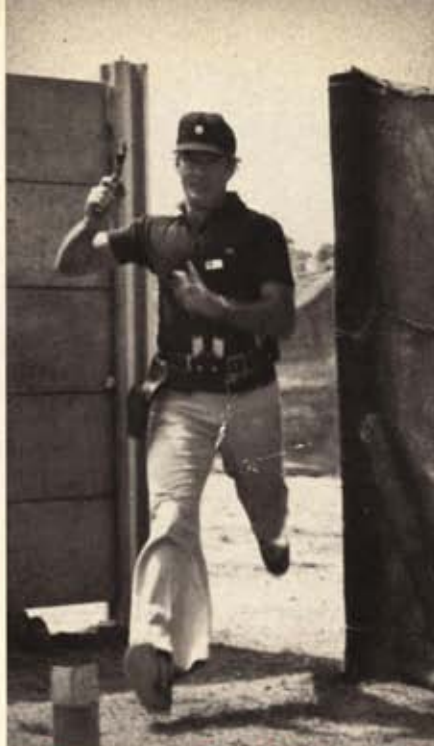
The Rhodesian government, plagued as it is by invasion from outside, was conspicuously helpful in doing all possible to insure a smooth and efficient contest. The Minister of Justice opened the occasion, and the Prime Minister appeared in the midst of his busy schedule to greet the contestants and to fire a few shots himself. As a former Spitfire pilot, Ian Smith is no stranger to gunfire.

As everyone knows now, the contest was well and fiercely fought. The three strongest nations in the world of combat shooting today are the United States, Rhodesia and Norway. Since only one Norseman was present, the team contest became one between the U.S. and Rhodesia.

After the first day the individual title became less and less in doubt as David Westerhout shot brilliantly, with very few errors, and Ray Chapman, his most serious competitor, was plagued by a series of outrageous mishaps. I don't believe that Ray could have caught David even if he had not been unlucky, but that we will never know. In the team event, the United States and Rhodesia hung neck and neck until the last day, which the U.S. entered with a very tiny advantage. I hope I hurt no one's feelings when I say that it seems to me that the match was not so much won by the Rhodesians as it was lost by the Americans, since on the final day, on the easiest contest, the U.S. competitors were unable to hold their nerve as well as their opponents.

It is hard to believe the degree of tension which mounts up over a match of this magnitude. The last day's exercise on the falling plates was essentially a simple one, and yet people of distinguished ability came time and again to defeat on this fairly easy operation. For example, Dave Westerhout had never missed one of the steel plates since they had been designed. On record day he missed three. Only one man, Joachim Krenkler of Germany, was able to down all twelve plates in the required time. In the future, we will see more of this sort of thing and more people will be invited to test their nerve control under pressure of this sort. I feel sure that the results will be most illuminating.

But it is never the matter of who wins and loses in an event of this magnitude. It is more a question of brotherly competition and the pursuit of excellence by individuals. Everyone does his best. Victory is sweet and defeat is bitter, but the essential



U.S. shooter, Raul Walters, who finished in 3rd place, runs full speed through "house cleaning."

thing is the brotherhood-in-arms which contests of this kind can produce. Men who met as strangers left as fast friends. People who came with doubts left with confidence. The occasion was a milestone, both in the history of marksmanship and in the modern story of international brotherhood.

Nothing in human experience is perfect, and it would be a mistake to say that there were no errors in the conduct of the
(Continued on page 60)

TOP 20 CONTESTANTS

PLACE	COMPETITOR	PRACTICAL MATCH	URBAN MATCH	MOVING MATCH	TURNING MATCH	STD EX.	TOTAL SCORE
1	Dave Westerhout (R)	494.132	470.000	192.301	329	475	1960.433
2	Peter Maunder (R)	423.436	377.006	280.588	317	446	1844.030
3	Raul Walters (US)	449.352	381.184	211.753	328	432	1802.289
4	Vidar Nakling (N)	452.979	380.070	208.223	334	427	1802.273
5	Thomas Campbell (US)	413.259	378.078	230.000	327	445	1793.337
6	Ray Chapman (US)	394.147	356.762	225.462	324	478	1778.371
7	Lionel Smith (R)	423.186	379.897	227.592	292	454	1776.675
8	Jerry Usher (US)	409.250	385.883	229.588	274	443	1741.721
9	Ron Lerch (US)	428.777	320.835	187.286	334	461	1731.898
10	Leonard Knight (US)	387.068	358.391	177.064	328	469	1719.523
11	Mike Dalton (US)	446.825	297.416	167.314	345	461	1717.555
12	Peter Boniface (R)	458.604	334.363	146.759	331	429	1699.725
13	Kirk Kirkham (US)	430.320	317.559	172.271	320	453	1693.149
14	Andy Langley (R)	381.144	340.007	199.719	319	447	1686.869
15	Nigel Parker (R)	433.824	373.741	162.706	303	407	1680.271
16	Jim v. Sorgenfrei (SA)	434.702	360.580	159.222	326	382	1662.505
17	Alex du Plessis (R)	445.788	329.163	216.410	253	408	1652.361
18	Roger Stockbridge (GB)	433.004	321.951	202.607	268	423	1648.562
19	John Davis (US)	405.385	302.910	201.463	276	438	1623.758
20	Tony Ellingford (SA)	431.310	308.997	177.983	268	431	1617.290

1977 World Matches: Equipment and Techniques

By RAY CHAPMAN

EQUIPMENT used for practical pistol shooting has evolved along with the sport. Many of the top pistolsmiths and leather workers have also been competitors of note.

Some twenty years ago, when the sport was just getting off the ground, no special equipment was available for this type of shooting, but now, thanks to research and development by both manufacturers and shooters, you can buy almost any equipment needed "over the counter." A top shooter can get special equipment made by any number of excellent manufacturers.

The better suppliers of equipment are constantly upgrading their line to meet the demands of competition. On several occasions both Frank Pachmayr (Pachmayr Gun Works of Los Angeles, California) and John Bianchi (Bianchi Leather Products at Temecula, California) have asked me for advice on new products being developed for the practical pistol shooter. I'm sure that others ask for advice when they need it.

The Browning self-loading, semi-auto action design, used in both the Colt and Browning auto pistols, was by far the most popular action used at the 1977 World Championship Match in Rhodesia. Of the top twenty competitors, one used a S.I.G. 210 (9mm), four used Browning P-35 (9mm), and fifteen used the Colt (45).

Double-action autos were conspicuous by their absence. The general feeling among shooters is that revolvers don't hold enough rounds and are very hard to reload while moving and under time pressure, while any d.a. auto is not reliable.

Some pistols had no alterations, some minor, and some extensive. Two real attention-getters were Pachmayr Combat Specials with six-inch Bar-Sto stainless steel barrels, Bo-Mar low profile sights, ambidextrous safeties, hard chromed frames, and blued slides. The top score was fired by Dave Westerhout with a Browning P-35 sporting a Bo-Mar Rib on the slide. Most of the pistols used by the



This rig, combined with the talent of Dave Westerhout, took first place; modified Browning and rig designed and made by Westerhout.

top twenty had adjustable sights, either stock or fitted. Any competent pistolsmith can fit good sights on the slide of an auto.

Makers of leather goods for the practical pistol shooter were well represented at the match, including Bianchi, Davis, Sparks, Anderson, and Safariland. The "gun-hand side" hip carry was by far the most popular position among the shooters, but the cross-draw and shoulder carry were also used by well known contestants. One even used a rig that held the holster directly over the sternum. Dave Westerhout used a right hip rig that he made himself (except for the stitching). Another "home-made" rig that some manufacturer might be interested in working with was used by Alex du Plessis. The holster has a mechanical restrainer that releases the pistol as it is drawn. The fingers of the gun hand come in contact with a small lever on the way to the pistol, moving it up and out of the way. It has great possibilities.

Shooting techniques used by most

shooters today have been developed by experimenting, correcting, and improving them, since the beginning of practical pistol shooting as we know it. Jeff Cooper used a shoulder holster when he started the game but now uses a much more practical (and faster) carry. Jack Weaver was the first to use the two-hand hold in a match and it is used in one style or another for 90% to 95% of all shooting done today. Extremely close and fast, and of course weak-hand only, are examples of one-hand shooting, but for control and maneuverability the two-hand hold (Weaver Stance) is used by almost everyone that competes in practical pistol shooting.

The extreme variances in distance and situations encountered in the Rhodesian Match put a contestant's shooting style to a stiff test. In the last and Team-Championship-decider shoot of the event (Falling Plates), the high scores were fired from the prone position. When the range was 25 meters or over, and time permitted, most better scores were shot from the prone position. It seems that if there is time for a position other than standing then it is just as quick to assume the prone position as any other. The Rhodesians used a one-handed shooting style to fire the right-to-left stage of the "Fire With Movement" course. When asked about this Dave Westerhout answered, "We found that the light recoil of the 9mm allowed us to use one hand and it was much faster to run the course from right to left this way." Dave should know, as he fired the fastest time, and therefore the highest score, on this course.

Dave also used an unusual style in the "Vehicle Shoot." He sat twisted toward the car door as much as possible; at the "go" signal he slipped forward to the edge of the seat while twisting his body squarely to face the window, and extended only his hands and forearms out the window. This style, and the fact that he did not have to reload during the string, was really a winner.

Here are profiles of the top 10 shooters and their equipment:



Americans, Jerry Usher, Raul Walters, Kirk Kirkham and Chapman, firing the 10-meter stage.

1. David Westerhout. Rhodesian. Age: Early-forties. Description: Tall, slender. Pistol: Browning Hi-Power. Rig: Self-designed-made, right hip. Shoots with Marlborough Pistol Club.

2. Peter Maunder. Rhodesian. Age: Mid-thirties. Description: Average height, athletic build. Pistol: Browning Hi-Power. Rig: Sparks or Anderson, right hip. Shoots with Marlborough Pistol Club.

3. Raul Walters. American. Age: Late-thirties. Description: Average height, athletic build. Pistol: Pachmayr Combat Special 45. Rig: Milt Sparks. Shoots with Mid-west Combat Pistol League.

4. Vidar Nakling. Norwegian. Age: Late-twenties. Description: Tall, slender. Pistol: Customized SIG 210 (9mm). Rig: Self-designed-made. Shot with Nordisk Union for Praktisk Skytte, but remained to settle in Rhodesia after the match.

5. Thomas Campbell. American. Age: Late-twenties. Description: Average

height-weight. Pistol: Customized Colt 45 auto. Rig: Self-designed-made. Shoots with Northeastern Section of I.P.S.C.

6. Ray Chapman. American. Age: Late-forties. Description: Tall, athletic build. Pistol: Pachmayr Combat Special 45. Rig: Bianchi "Chapman Highride." Shoots with California Pistol Club.

7. Lionel Smith. Rhodesian. Age: Late-thirties. Description: Average height-weight. Pistol: Browning Hi-Power. Rig: Self-designed-made. Shoots with Marlborough Pistol Club.

8. Jerry Usher. American. Age: Early-forties. Description: Below average height, somewhat stocky build. Pistol: Hoag-customized 45 auto. Rig: Gordon Davis. Shoots with Desert Sportsmen (Practical Pistol Club).

9. Ron Lerch. American. Age: Early-thirties. Description: Average height-weight. Pistol: Hoag-customized 45 auto. Rig: Gordon Davis. Shoots with the California Pistol Club.

10. Leonard Knight. American. Age: Mid-forties. Description: Average height, slender. Pistol: Pachmayr Combat Special 45 auto. Rig: Safariland. Shoots with South West Pistol League.

(All of the aforementioned shooting clubs are affiliated with the International Practical Shooting Confederation.)

Twelve Americans participated in the World Championship Match in Rhodesia. Other than the six that finished in the top ten, there were:

Mike Dalton	11th
Kirk Kirkham	13th
John Davis	19th
Dick Thomas	41st
Dana Drenkowski	77th
Dan Henson	86th

All the Americans used the 45 semi-auto in the match, and although the 9mm had an advantage in this particular contest none of the Americans seemed to be inclined to change his shooting equipment.



Above: Alex de Plessis designed this unique rig for his Browning. Note tube sight on rear of slide.

Right: Ray Chapman, sporting his American Handgunner Staff shoulder patch, greets Prime Minister Smith.



Dr. Farnam's Traveling Shoot-Out and Preventive Medicine Show!



A NEW APPROACH TO POLICE COMBAT TRAINING

By MASSAD F. AYOUB

In the ongoing quest for more realistic and relevant handgun training for law officers, one of the sharpest forward strides was made a few years ago by the ATS company with their introduction of Duelatron. This electronic target system, which features detailed images of hostiles and innocent bystanders all facing the shooter at random, has found favor with a number of police departments.

Trouble is, it's some kind of *expensive*. One police training officer, John Farnam of the Elroy, Wisconsin police department, hit on an idea I wish I'd thought of: he acquired a full ATS system that he takes around the country holding seminars for local police.

It is perhaps the most sensible approach to the ATS system. Since a fully

equipped Duelatron scores via impact-impulses recorded behind the firing line by digital readout, an officer seldom has a chance to find exactly where he hit on the target, or to analyze any kind of "grouping". PPC shooting on standard silhouettes is much better for basic marksmanship training. What the Duelatron is for is honing skills already acquired. It is not the whole answer, but an additional dimension. Therefore, the department that buys one is still going to have a hard time using it for *all* training and qualification shooting.

Farnam's approach lets every man on the department take a few runs through the course at a paltry fee (\$200 for one day, \$300 for two), and to boot they get Farnam's excellent instructional skills.

John videotapes all shooters on his own Sanyo units as they go over the course, and then screens the tape back to them so they can see for themselves how they're doing in terms of style and form, and how they can improve. With videotape becoming more and more common in law enforcement for evidence gathering as well as training purposes, this technique is something police weapons instructors reading this article should take a look at, on their own.

I spent a day with John as he took the members of the Glendale Heights, Illinois PD through his course on the department's handsome indoor range, with the cooperation of GHPD firearms instructor Eric Wendt. Glendale Heights was an excellent testing ground because it gave us a broad spectrum of fine-to-mediocre shots, and a number of different guns; officers there can carry the .38, .357, 9mm., or .45 of their choice, and there's a little of everything to be seen on the Sam Browne belts there.

A view of the ATS target system and its controls, set up on outdoor range.





Farnam watches closely as officer blasts a close target.

John will set up ten or so targets, each with a double face; one side may be a mean looking fox with a .38, while the other might be a detective flashing a shield that could easily be mistaken for a gun. This gives John a good choice of figures to flash at the trainee, and he has broadened that selection still more by taking the basic ten ATS figures and modifying them himself. The bearded guy with the magazine now holds a .45; the charging junkie with the knife (who wouldn't be shot except at point blank range), gets a .38 instead and becomes a target of opportunity no matter where he shows. John is trying to sell the ATS people on his concept of interchangeable inserts to be "held" by all targets, to keep the trainees guessing.

Another addition Farnam has made to the excellent but not quite perfect ATS system is to replace the cardboard backing on some of the targets with heavier chipboard; occasionally, a .38 wadcutter will zip on through without registering the impact on the equipment, but the more resistant chipboard eliminates this problem.

As he flips the targets at random, and the officers grab at their guns with what appears to be agonizing slowness, I ask Farnam what the most common mistakes are. "Watching their guns when they put them into the holsters, or reload them," John answers immediately. "A lot of them don't realize they're doing it until they see the tape. But taking your eyes off the danger in front of you is a good way to get killed. Occasionally, when I see a man looking down at his gun as he loads, I'll flip that mean-looking target with the double-barrel shotgun. I've had guys spill their ammo on their shoes they were so startled, and one guy's magazine went flying across the range. But if I pull the same

trick on a man who's *watching* the target, the tendency is usually to duck out of the way, or bring the gun up if it's a .45 and use the round in the chamber."

One trend he has observed is toward the Model 59 S&W 9 mm automatic, especially among suburban agencies in the midwest. "Autos do give slightly better scores over this type of course," he admits, "but the guys with the double action autos have problems. The majority will put their first double action shot high right, off the target, though the second, single-action shot will be right in there. This is one reason I stress firing in two-shot bursts on each target."

Each officer goes up on the line with 18 rounds in his gun and on his belt. He'll reload on his own command; Farnam knows that there's no range officer on the street to count your shots for you, and once a guy's gun goes "click" when he's looking down the muzzle of that monstrous shotgun in the ATS targets, he's learned a graphic lesson about counting his shots and the dangers of holstering a depleted gun.

Reloading is another problem a lot of the officers have, even with the autos; while some can do it smoothly enough on a regular range, they get awfully shaky and fumblesome when they know a "killer target" may turn on them at any second and catch them with their cylinder hanging out. More than one officer with an S&W or Browning auto has removed the magazine disconnect safety after running Farnam's course, having gained a new understanding of the value of being able to get a fast shot off if he's jumped while reloading. As a rule, though, John won't pull that nasty trick unless he's trying to deliver an object lesson to somebody.

He never leaves a target facing a shoot-

er longer than 5 seconds; the time averages 3 or 4. He can get down to less than a second target exposure, but never goes below two because, for a regular cop working a regular gun out of regular leather, it's virtually impossible to spot the target, make the judgment to shoot, and place two bullets accurately in that short a time.

It *could* be done if the cop just shot hell for leather at everything that turned toward him, but this would violate the whole ATS concept, which is teaching judgment. Some targets are hostiles, some are brother officers or innocents who are holding badges, cigarette packs, or rolled-up magazines in such a way that they could be mistaken for armed antagonists. Teaching the officer to make that definite identification before he shoots is the *raison d'être* of a system like this, and it works. Almost everybody who goes through the course more than a couple of times winds up nailing at least one "innocent bystander," and that's a very sobering experience to take away from the range. It's something that can one day prevent tragedy on a dimly lit street.

I happen to think the ATS target format, fine though it is, could be improved a



Displaying intense concentration, Farnam demonstrates 2-hand hold of auto pistol for speed and accuracy.

little, and like I said, so does John. ATS advertises the Duelatron targets as being far superior to regular silhouettes because they're more humanoid. I agree with that as far as it goes, but the figures as sold currently by ATS are still cartoon images. I'd rather see them selling life-size pictures of real people, to make the transition to actual field-condition duplication as complete as possible this side of animated targets.

Another question has cropped up with one of the ATS targets, the guy with the shotgun. The twin muzzles, pointing toward the officer, are exaggerated to cantaloupe size, and this has a definite psy-

chological effect on the shooter: more of them miss this target than any other, and it's the only one the officers will ever pepper with more than two shots. So what's the problem? The suspect pictured on the shotgun target is black.

There have been complaints from some black patrolmen's unions, and I got an angry phone call from a non-police friend of mine who works with community action groups in Harlem: "Hey," he said, "I hear you cops got special targets with Afros now! And you tell me white cops ain't genocidal?" Most police have put down this argument as foolishness. Now, I realize that ATS makes no deliberate racial

slur with this target (the other armed criminals depicted are white, and one of the innocent bystanders is black), but think how you'd feel if you were a young black officer, and the target that your brother cops went wild shooting at was the one that looked most like you. I think it would leave a bad taste in your mouth about the whole program. Yet the black officer needs this kind of training as much as his white counterpart, and to alienate him from it is senseless. I'd like to see ATS change this particular target. I reiterate, there was nothing intentional on ATS' part about making this particular target this way.

The ATS system (which Farnam, not surprisingly, sells as a sideline), is an excellent adjunct to any police training program that can afford it. It can operate off a car's electrical power outdoors, or just plug it in on your indoor range. It gives a sense of excitement, urgency, and realism that 99.9% of American cops won't get until they meet deadly danger on the street for the first time, and the lessons it teaches the lawman are memorable and valuable.

I had shot this type of course before, and a number involving moving images of actual people, but I still found myself reacting to the pressure. On the videotape, I saw myself crouching deeper than I would have normally in practice, and I once caught myself ducking for cover behind a paper granny lady when a 25-yard target presented itself with something in its hand I couldn't quite identify. I wasn't going to shoot if I wasn't sure, yet instinct told me to get the hell out of its way just in case, even though all I was "threatened" by was a life-size cartoon man. The ATS concept works, psychologically.

Farnam is running these courses full time now; police response to his program has been overwhelming. I've seen him in action, and he's an excellent instructor whose advice can be beneficial to both the patrolmen and the training staff of any agency he visits. John also works with private security guards.

He doesn't hustle ATS equipment. He's got \$10,000 of his own invested in the system he uses to teach with, and he'll sell one to you if you want it, but it won't be a hard sell. Many a department ends up placing an order, though: two days working with the system sells it by itself, and of the many officers I've talked to who've been through Farnam's course, none has anything but enthusiastic praise for it.

It is not basically a qualification system, but rather a learning experience for the



Here Farnam demonstrates speed draw with left hand ready to grasp gun.



Officers get individual attention from Farnam during entire course.

officers. Farnam doesn't emphasize scores; rather, he wants his students to concentrate on what they learn when they shoot a course that can duplicate many realities of street gunfighting that can seldom if ever be simulated in conventional police training. He says only an occasional officer cleans the course 100%, and then only at the 4 and 5 second exposures. That, in itself, is a learning experience.

Every shooter runs the course at least six times, and most of them are ready and willing to stay on after work to shoot it some more. It's fun, but most of all, it's an instructive challenge that appeals to any cop's sense of professionalism. If time permits, Farnam will run them through it one or two more times each, with shotguns.

The ATS system has a lot to offer when you look at contemporary police firearms training, and with Farnam running the course, it becomes an even more attrac-

tive proposition. It duplicates physical and emotional stress by creating a sense of urgency; it requires a definite judgment factor; and, depending on how good the individual cop is, it is either a great confidence builder or the final proof that he better start applying himself to learning the tools of the trade.

Farnam can go anywhere, but his schedule is pretty much booked in advance. You can contact him at Rt. 2, Box

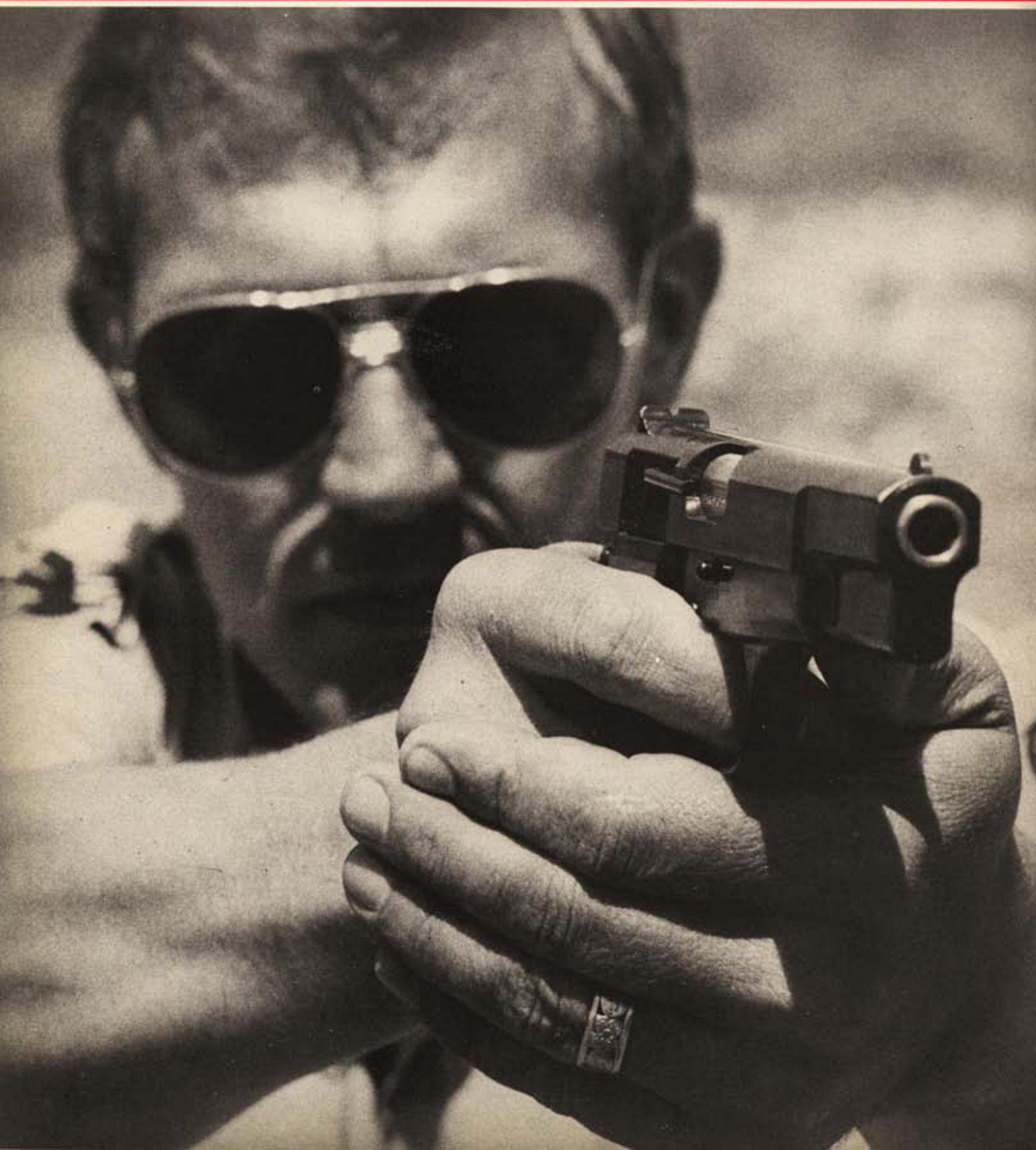
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If you're involved in police weapons training, I heartily recommend that you get in touch with John. If you aren't, pass this article on to a cop friend. The price is dirt cheap, and the lessons to be learned are invaluable for men who have to put their lives on the line under circumstances where the only thing that will bring them home again will be their training and preparedness.



Right: Standard ATS "woman with gun" changed to knife. Left: Controversial shotgunner target.

BAR-STO Barrels For



The Browning Hi-Power

Accuracy is Enhanced Measurably with these Precision Fitted Stainless Barrels

By JAMES D. MASON

FOR all of its virtues and world fame, John Browning's last handgun brainchild has never had a reputation as an accurate shooting pistol. Every Browning Hi-Power (P-35) that I have fired left much to be desired in the grouping department.

The gun was originally designed as a military autopistol and no stringent requirements were ever set for accuracy. Reliable functioning and produceability have always been more important for an issued sidearm. Hi-Power accuracy has been adequate for military and police use, however.

In recent years, many combat shooters have become interested in this FN pistol. Its big magazine capacity and basic reliability gives it considerable appeal. Several pistolsmiths are offering full-blown accuracy and combat conditioning jobs for a price. It is not unusual for such a conversion to cost over \$400.

Interest in the Hi-Power has grown in recent years to a point where Bar-Sto Pre-

cision (633 South Victory Boulevard, Burbank, CA. 91502) recently offered a stainless steel barrel for improving accuracy performance on the gun. This unit sells for \$75 and gives dramatic improvement in group size. Performance matches that of combat conditioned Colt Mark IV auto pistols in the 9mm chambering. Cost of the barrel is much less than what a hard-fitting job will cost to produce the same results. The Bar-Sto barrel makes an ideal basic unit for planning a full, match conversion of the Hi-Power pistol.

The Browning recoil system uses breech end barrel elevation so lug-rings can engage locking recesses that are integral with the slide. This constant disengagement/engagement causes shot-to-shot shifting of barrel position relative to the slide. Since the sights are located on the slide, considerable group dispersion results from random barrel displacement. While this Browning system has many advantages in ruggedness and simplicity, the barrel alignment problem produces inher-



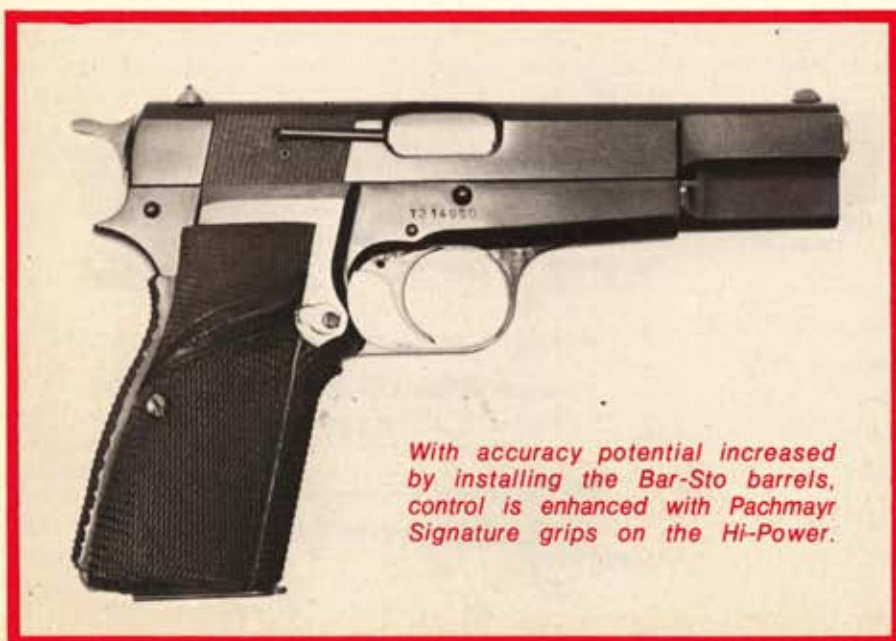
Close fit at breech and muzzle ends of slide result in a tune-up that rivals a full accuracy job.

ent inaccuracy.

Production barrels generally are held to fairly loose tolerances for reasons of cost and production expediency, and to assure reliable operation. Irv Stone, owner of Bar-Sto Precision, is a very savvy pistol shooter and master machinist. His years of jig bore and prototype experience in the aerospace industry led him to devise a system for producing barrels that fit snug in the slide and shoot straight with a minimum effect on reliability.

To do this, production drawings were studied to determine nominal field dimensions for Browning guns. The "secret" is to determine these reliable dimensions, then hold to these measurements very closely in the manufacture of Bar-Sto stainless steel barrels. This kind of an operation is possible in a precision machine shop. Cost and production effort would be prohibitive if this kind of process were used in a mass production operation.

Bar-Sto's Browning Hi-Power barrels fall into four major empirical fitting patterns. Stone has discovered most of these variations over the past two years. It



With accuracy potential increased by installing the Bar-Sto barrels, control is enhanced with Pachmayr Signature grips on the Hi-Power.



In most cases, Bar-Sto barrel will replace original with no problem; a few require that gun be sent to Bar-Sto for a special hand fitting operation.

seems that Browning production is batched, with tooling designed to adjust for fitting variations in each batch. Barrels evidently are hand fitted within the particular batch, rather than held to close overall tolerances per design specifications for all guns. This technique is typical of older pre-WW II arms production methods.

Over the years, Hi-Power guns have been produced under several contracts and by foreign licensees (in Canada). Trying to make barrels that will fit the field dimensions of such a polyglot of production variables is a demanding task. This is especially true when the object is to minimize tolerances in order to effect reliable, but accurate repetitive operation within such open field dimensions.

When the occasional gun turns up that will not accept one of his barrels, Irv Stone requests that the owner send the gun in for fitting. In these very few cases, checks of slide-to-frame and locking cam tolerances quickly identify the problem. In other cases, where a hard fit is desired, "fat" barrel dimensions allow file fitting to achieve match performance.

Bar-Sto barrels are machined from solid #417 stainless steel stock and heat-treated to Rockwell C 38. Runouts on critical dimensions are maintained within .0002-inch. Bores are button broached to a specially selected specification designed to handle 9mm bullets. Bores are relatively open (.356-inch nominal groove diameter) with 16-twist rifling that features narrow lands and wide groove areas.

Current Browning production makes the factory barrel as a fabrication; the tube is machined separately from the breech/locking cam unit, then the two pieces are brazed together. This new method is not inferior in any practical sense, but it mildly irritates many Browning owners. Bar-Sto makes their barrel out

of one piece of solid 417 stainless stock. The precision and finish of all machining cuts will be appreciated by connoisseurs of fine workmanship. Traditional stock removal processes are expensive, and the complexity of the Browning barrel cam section and integral feed ramp make the Bar-Sto unit a more expensive piece to produce in this traditional way.

Muzzle outside diameter on the replacement barrels is maintained to generous dimensions, enough to eliminate the need for a special bushing. This has always been a problem area in Hi-Power accuracy and requires an expensive machined and threaded fitting on accurized guns. The Bar-Sto saves considerable money in this regard over regular custom accuracy jobs. In terms of applied cost compared to other solutions (cost-effectiveness), the Bar-Sto barrel is a very good buy at \$75.

Machine rest testing by Bar-Sto has shown that 16-twist is the most accurate with a wide variety of bullets; pressures are more uniform with the open groove diameter. Bullets tend not to strip in the narrow lands. Recovered lead bullets

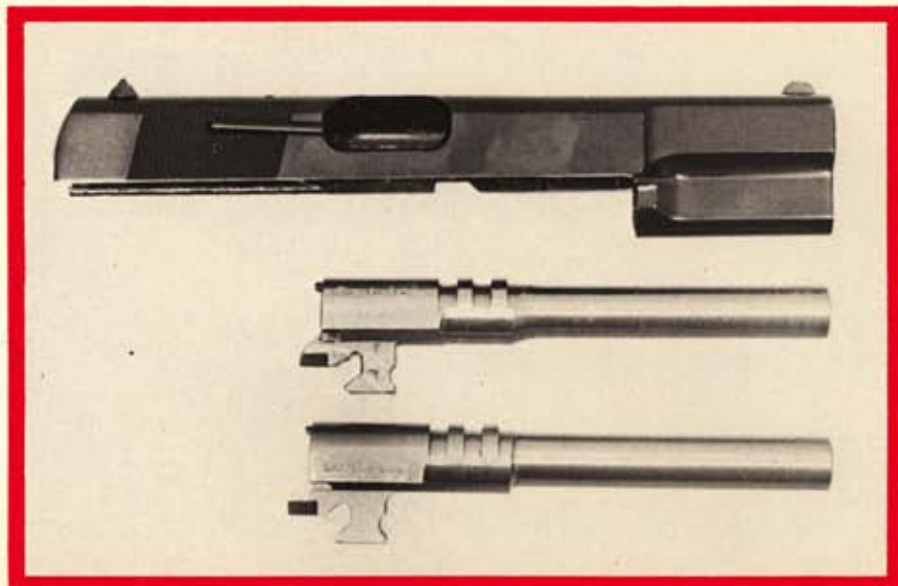
show very uniform engraving without signs of stripping. These bore specifications contrast remarkably with industry standards, where bores are nominally .354-inch. The 16-twist rifling is used by Colt but most other makers specified ten-inch twist for 9mm.

Some theoretical speculation is of interest here. It would seem to some observers that the open .356 bore of Bar-Sto barrels would shoot erratically. To the contrary, engineering lab testing has shown higher bullet velocities at lower pressure with this arrangement. This is not without precedent. German ordinance through the years has always recommended that bores be loose as an answer to many military field problems relating to velocity and pressure.

Bar-Sto also claims less bullet deformation and better accuracy with their relatively loose bore fit. Narrow lands result in less jacket engraving. Bullet bases upset, but do not completely fill all the groove; instead, the bullet glides through the barrel on a thin film of hot propellant gases that "lubricate" the projectile while centering it in the bore. Pistol propellant temperatures and total energy are not so high as to noticeably shorten barrel life as is the expected result with loose bore dimensions in high-powered rifles.

Whether all this second guessing is fact or fancy, the Bar-Sto Browning barrels perform well. Ransom Master machine rest groups measured 2-2½ inches at fifty yards with good quality reloads from the test pistol after some adjustments for slide fit. Many recoil operated pistols will shoot very well in the hand, only to scatter hits

(Continued on page 68)



Machined from solid stainless steel bar stock, Bar-Sto barrel shows its fine finish. Close tolerances are held to assure improved accuracy.

357/44 BOBCAT

(Continued from page 25)

And now, group, on to the *really* good news. What we are talking about here is a level of ballistic performance that has hitherto been available to the handgunner only in a weapon like the .357 AMP (Auto-Mag), a super-expensive, hard-to-find piece. The Bobcat conversion can be done on any .44-framed .357 Magnum, by which we mean the fullsize Ruger Blackhawk or the Smith & Wesson "N" frame Model 27 or 28, for 35 bucks.

Since the barrel is the same, all you need to do is send Bob your cylinder. For either gun, it will run a paltry \$35.40 to have the rechambering done (because of accelerating demand, Don Hartzel, a retired Navy armorer in Concord, California, has been signed on to do the actual rechambering. He did mine, and the workmanship was flawless.)

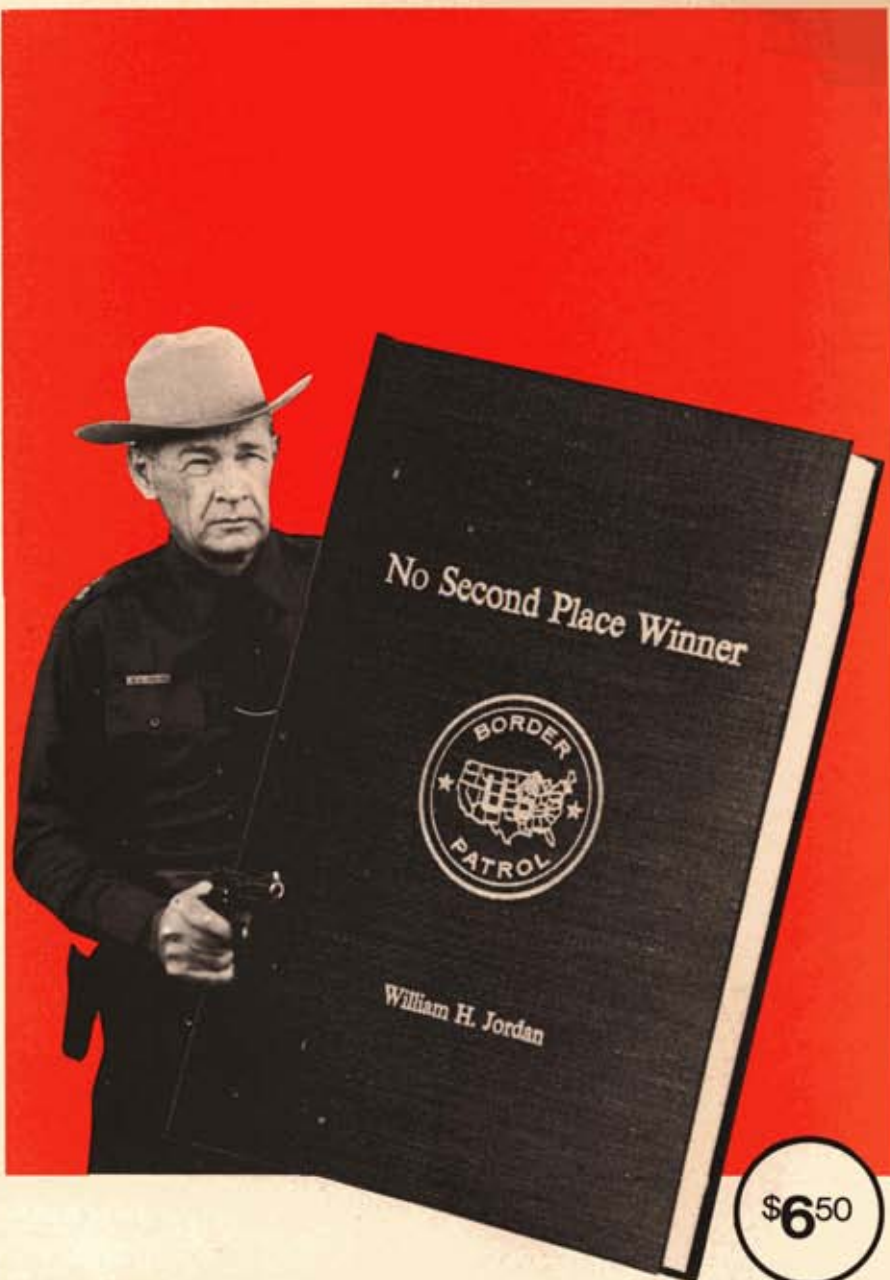
The ideal gun, Bob feels, is the Ruger Blackhawk Convertible .357/9mm. "If the shooter sends me his 9 mm. Parabellum cylinder," says Bob, "I can convert it for \$49.95, and he still has his other factory-fitted cylinder to shoot .357 or .38 wadcutters. If he buys a box of ammo for \$9.50 (25 rounds), he'll have a total investment of less than \$60.00, and will now possess the most powerful .38 caliber handgun in the world!"

A few zealous AutoMag buffs may dispute that last statement, though it's hard to argue one of Bob's points, which is that his necked-down .44 case has 8% more powder capacity than the .357 AMP's shortened .308. But even the most hot and heavy AutoMag fan will find it hard to argue with Booth's price list: in addition to the above dirt-cheap conversions, he'll send you a factory new Ruger Blackhawk cylinder in .357/44 for \$69.50, and (dependent on availability) will do the same with a Smith & Wesson Model 28 cylinder for \$97.95.

Although that deal makes sense, I think a lot of the kind of people who read this magazine will go for the cheaper alternative, especially if they've got a .357 lying around that has given way to a more deluxe addition to the battery. Another alternative is simply to go out and buy a second hand Ruger: that's what I did, for \$90, and the finished package for \$140.00 does all I could ask in the field from a \$600 .357 AMP.

Bob will sell you Bobcat ammo with virgin brass for \$9.50 per 25, \$16.95 per 50, or reloads for \$5.95 and \$10.70 for those respective quantities. The sleeves are \$2.95 for 50 and you'll need 'em. Bob makes a point of recommending that you change sleeves with each reload, though he says some of his customers like to brag about getting five or six firings per plastic collar. I dunno what *they're* using for

(Continued on page 54)



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Sterling Arms DA .45 Auto

EDITOR'S NOTE

This article is merely a preview look at the new Sterling DA .45 pistol. By the time you read this, the gun should be in production, and your dealer should have word from Sterling on availability. A full report on a production sample will appear in a future issue of The American Handgunner.—J.R.

By **TERRY HUDSON**

THE double action .45 Auto is coming of age. For several years the L. W. Seecamp Co. of New Haven, Connecticut has provided a custom DA conversion of the Colt Combat Commander and Government Model. Within the past year Heckler and Koch began importing their DA P9S in .45 ACP in both target and combat versions. Even more recently, Browning started importing its DA BDA .45 ACP.

Now, Sterling Arms Corporation of Gasport, New York—well known to the gun world for its .22, .25 and .380 pocket

autos—is moving into production of its Model 450, which will be the only American-made DA .45 Auto.

In the fall of 1976 I learned that Sterling Arms had a prototype of a DA .45 Auto. Although literally a neighbor, it was not until June 1977 that I was able to make the three hour drive to Gasport and spend the day. There I met with John Leak, Vice President, Gene Sauls, President, and Dick Wright, Engineer, toured the plant and inspected and test fired the prototype.

John Leak and Gene Sauls form a unique team, bringing great energy and devotion to handgun production. Sauls' background is manufacturing. In the early

70's he acquired Sterling Arms and now runs it concurrently with other manufacturing interests. Leak, formerly of Ithaca Gun, has also been in law enforcement and contributes extensive firearms expertise.

Since last fall three prototypes have been developed, and it was the third, Exp. #3, that I saw. Sterling Arms is satisfied enough with this prototype that design drawings have been completed with minor modifications that will be mentioned below. They were producing enough of each of the parts to assemble 500 completed guns by late summer. This limited run will be used for promotion and special orders. Production for general distribution was scheduled to begin in 1977.

My major impression at seeing and handling the Sterling Model 450 was its size and strength. The broad backstrap, uncluttered by a grip safety, is a part of the receiver and is as hand-filling as the S&W Model 59 or the Browning HP.

As with these two guns, the Model 450 utilizes a large magazine that, with a



John Leak and Gene Sauls (Left & Right) discuss the prototype Sterling Model 450 double action 45 ACP autoloader.



John Leak cuts loose with a DA/SA blast while range testing the Sterling Model 450. Note the ejected case in mid-air above the 450's port.

slightly staggered effect, gives the .45 Auto eight rounds in the magazine and a ninth in the chamber. This will allow a truly staggered fifteen-round capacity in either 9mm or .38 Super, two calibers that Leak acknowledges are planned for the big Sterling DA after the .45 ACP gets underway.

The weight in the grip area—it will be reduced slightly in production guns—is balanced by a long, thick frame nose and the lower front abutment of the slide. These forward sections of the frame and slide are mated by a unique set of rails and guides. In addition, rails are placed at the upper rear of the receiver and conventional guides are machined inside the slide. The two sets of rails and guides add strength to the entire gun and give support to the front half of the slide. In battery, less than an inch of the slide of the Model 450 is unsupported, whereas the entire front half of the Model 1911-A1 is unsupported. Nevertheless, according to Leak, the weight of the Model 450 is only

36 ounces empty, actually 3 ounces less than the Colt.

The lock-up is accomplished as in the Browning HP and S&W Model 39 by the bottom of the barrel camming against the slide stop pin, forcing the barrel rib to lock into a groove in the ceiling of the slide. Because the barrel cams, the feed ramp is in two steps. The single rib and groove in the prototype will be replaced by two ribs and grooves in production guns.

Since the barrel is locked by camming action, it is positioned low in the frame. Recoil is thus along a low center of gravity and is absorbed by a hefty frame. The recoil is distributed to the hand by a wide grip. The net result is less apparent recoil than encountered in most other .45 Autos.

The lock-up system also results in high inherent accuracy. With the Model 1911-A1 link-and-pin system, the rear of the barrel begins to fall almost as soon as the slide moves out of battery. According to Wright, the camming surfaces in the

Model 450 allow the slide to move .280" before the barrel is forced downward. This longer dwell means the bullet is well on its way before the barrel changes position. The front of the barrel is held snugly by a fitted bushing that is screwed and pinned into the slide and is not removed for field stripping.

The lock-work impressed me with its simplicity and ruggedness. The double-action trigger is wide and hooked for leverage. It is linked to a heavy drawbar on the right side of the frame that is connected to a lug on the hammer foot. Another lug rotates the single action sear out of the way before the trigger bar cams off the hammer allowing it to fall. A small ridge on the top of the trigger bar fits into a niche in the slide. In recoil, pressure against this ridge by the slide forces the drawbar down and disconnects it from the hammer. The sear engages the hammer at full cock, and the trigger springs forward when released with the drawbar re-engaging the sear.

(Continued on page 64)

Experimental prototype #2 of the Sterling 450 is a hefty handful.



The prototype Sterling 450 is shown field-stripped above. Note camming surfaces on bottom of barrel and captive recoil spring.

loads, but in my max rounds, the collars split on about every other shot, though this has no effect on accuracy, or extraction, or safety: operating pressure is 35,000 psi, well within SAAMI specs for rounds of this type. I have had only one split case, which I think was one of the red-line loads of Blue Dot in the 110-grain, put together by Bob before he backed off a couple grains.

Dies for the .357/44 Bobcat Magnum go for \$26.00 a set; they're made by RCBS, who also did the chronographing on the tables that accompany this article. Forming dies are \$18.30.

Monster Mag performance at under \$50... incredibly flat trajectory and some fine grouping within hunting ranges... superior penetration and bullet performance... controllable recoil... and immediate availability.

With a combination like that, you wind up with a lot of sense for very few dollars. I heartily recommend the Bobcat Magnum, and I'll look forward to the new projects Bob Booth is working on with silent partner Bob Moulten. These include a .357/44 Spl. Bobcat round for the Charter Arms Bulldog, a .22/357, and a .357/45 Long Colt that, Bob promises, will be "strictly for the he-men."

But for now, the .357/44 Bobcat Magnum is news enough, and most welcome news at that. At least, for everybody but the black bear I may try to snuff with mine next fall.



THE PISTOLSMITH

By GEORGE C. NONTE

THE SIGHTS MAKE THE HANDGUN

A good many of today's new autoloading pistols have sights that are a lot less than ideal. Look back at the hundreds of thousands of older big-bore autos—mostly of military origin—and you find sights that are downright lousy.

Rear sights can usually be improved a great deal by just truing up the notch to precise rectangular form, perhaps widening and deepening it a bit. Lots of the older guns have notches V or V-shaped and far too small to work with a proper front sight. It's that original front sight that causes the trouble. It's usually too narrow,

too low, as well as tapered or rounded in section so that it's nearly impossible to obtain a sharp sight picture—so, it needs to be replaced.

The front sight may be riveted to the slide as on the 1911 Colt/Browning, dovetailed as on the Browning Hi-Power, machined integral with the slide, or merely brazed or silver-soldered in place. Regardless of the method of attachment, removal is easy; forget the niceties and simply file the blade off (a grinder is a help, but unless you're experienced and careful you'll probably gouge the slide) flush. True up the top of the slide; often there are dips or humps around the original sight.

The new sight blade should be at least 1/16 inch thick, and 1/8 inch is probably better. Choose a piece of steel thick enough and hacksaw it roughly to the shape you'd like, making sure there is stock for the foot or tenon, and that its at least 50% higher than the original. The type of steel doesn't really matter; the blade shown here was cut from an old scrapped bed rail. True up the new blade with files, but otherwise leave it alone for now.

Carefully scribe a line centered laterally on top of the slide where the old sight was



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ALBERT ESKINAZI

and the new one is to go. Lay the sight in place and mark off about one-half the blade length on the slide. This represents the length of the hole in the slide for the tenon on the bottom of the sight.

Next, centerpunch for a row of $\frac{3}{64}$ -inch holes which will overlap very slightly; make sure the punch marks form a straight line parallel with the sides of the slide.

Drill that row of holes vertically into the top of the slide. If you're forced to use a hand-held drill, have someone handy to help eyeball alignment to insure the holes are vertical. Also, start with a new or freshly (and properly) sharpened high-speed drill bit.

Now comes the fun part. Use needle files to open up that row of holes into a slender rectangular slot. Keep it vertical and keep the sides parallel in both planes. Take particular care that the slot does not finish out wider than the new sight blade. The slot *should* finish a bit narrower than the sight, but the exact width isn't important.

Now go back to that rough blade and file a tenon on its bottom to fit into the slot. File and fit as many times as necessary, keeping the tenon sides parallel and making certain it enters the slot smoothly but snugly. Be particularly careful it doesn't run off to one side and cause the blade to lean or to point off to one side or the other. Since most stress on the blade is directly fore and aft as the slide slams back and forth, both ends of the tenon should fit tight against the ends of the slot.

Next, fit the overhanging underside of the blade as close as possible against the slide. This will be easiest if straight flats are filed on the slide. Work carefully until the blade can be pressed into place without visible gaps and in proper alignment. When this is all done the tenon should reach clear through the slide roof; no harm done if it protrudes on the inside.

Attachment is by low-temperature fusion-type silver solder. Degrease the entire joint area with acetone or similar solvent, then apply a thin coat of the solder paste over all surfaces. Press the blade into place. Clamp or block the slide upright, then lay a bar or rod of metal across the top of the blade to hold it down and pre-

vent its shifting when the solder liquifies. Align the sight *very* carefully.

Fire up your household propane torch (two are better than one for faster heating) and apply the blue tip of the inner flame to the *slide* near the sight. The slide is much more massive and heats more slowly than the blade; when the slide is hot enough the blade will be too.

Watch the joint line and when solder liquifies and flows out, hold the heat on just a few seconds longer, then remove it. As soon as the solder "freezes" (apparent by an obvious change in its appearance) cool the slide butt-first in water.

Examine the joint very carefully, inside and out. If there are any gaps or bubbles, the job will have to be done over.

If any of the tenon protrudes inside to interfere with barrel or bushing, trim off with files or hand grinder. Use scrapers, files, and/or abrasive cloth to remove excess solder along the joint lines, then true up the blade shape—but leave it way too high.

Assemble the gun and head for the range with files and a supply of the load you'll be shooting most in the gun. The first shots should be low; don't worry yet about windage. Alternately file and shoot cutting down the sight's height until bullets strike dead-on for elevation.

True up the edges of the blade and make any alterations in shape that seems appropriate now that its height has been finalized. If you want to be real classy, file a slight forward taper to the sides.

Now, not before, is the time to reshape the rear sight notch. If the rear unit is dovetailed laterally into the slide, just needle-file the notch to the width that looks best to *you*, then drift the sight sideward to zero for windage. Afterwards, stake the sight so it won't shift later and louse you up. If the rear sight can't be moved, then zeroing will have to be done concurrently with widening the notch. If bullets strike to the right, widen to the left. If you're reasonably lucky and centered the new front sight well, the bullets will come in before the rear notch is carved too wide to be practical. If it turns out that way, file out a wider front sight, or one offset a bit on its tenon, get out the torch and solder-pot and start over.

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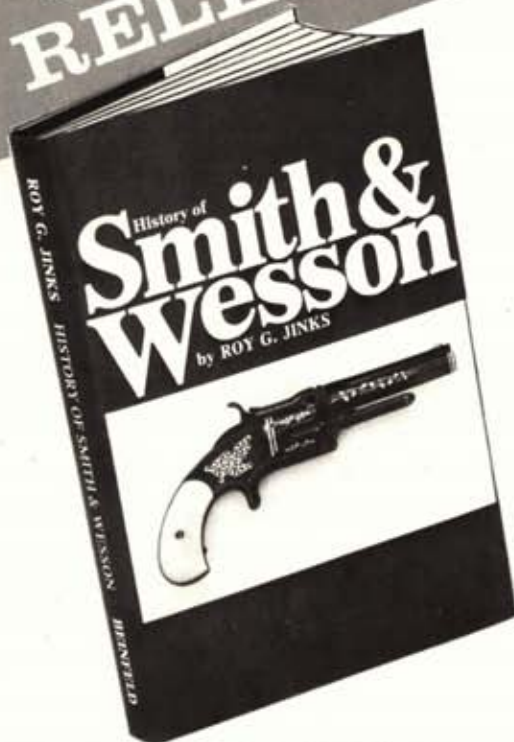
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VIEWING THE Ammo Scene

By EVAN MARSHALL

THE 9MM PARABELLUM

The 9MM was introduced in Germany shortly after the turn of the Century. While a certain limited number of weapons in this caliber were either imported or brought home by returning GIs, the caliber was not, at first, an overwhelming success in this country. The lack of a domestically made weapon in this caliber severely limited its early acceptance.

Following the Second World War, there was a move within the armed forces to adopt a 9MM handgun. It was not done, however, because of the large stockpile of Model 1911A1's and parts. In an attempt to recover the investments made on research and design, both Colt and S&W turned to the police and civilian markets with their 9MM offerings.

While the Colt Commander in 9MM didn't gain the popularity it deserved, the S&W Model 39 began a slow move towards acceptance. When police departments such as those in Salt Lake City, West Covina and the Illinois State Police adopted the S&W 9MM as their issue weapon, this caliber gained a solid foot hold in police circles.

Super Vel was not quite as influential in the development of high performance

loads for the 9MM as it was in other calibers. The early Model 39s didn't like the stubby Jurras bullets, and routinely refused to feed them with any degree of reliability.

The Illinois State Police approached Winchester about a high performance load for the 9MM that would feed reliably in the Model 39. The result was the W-W 100 grain jacketed soft point, commonly known as the "Power Point". This load has been a reliable performer, and has been adopted as the issue round of the majority of those police departments that carry the Model 39/59.

Like the .38 Special, the 9MM relies on expansion and/or more efficient bullet shape to achieve reliable stopping power. Since the 9MM generally produces higher velocities than the .38 Special in comparable barrel lengths, expansion generally takes place.

Expansion, however, is only a means to an end, not the end itself. By the time a bullet has expanded to its full diameter, it has probably completed its penetration. The recovered slug, therefore, cannot be judged to be the diameter of the bullet through its entire passage. Furthermore,

it's a thin line between a bullet that will expand with adequate penetration and one that will blow up on impact without reaching vital organs.

Both the Browning High Power and S&W Model 59 are highly popular 9MM pistols. Both are great guns if you have large hands. If you're like George Nonte or myself, the guns feel bulky at best. I, personally, find the Model 39 a much more comfortable weapon.

Of all the current double action 9MMs, I've found the new Browning BDA to be the best of the bunch. Its workmanship is excellent, with the best combat sights available on a factory produced weapon. Its double action pull is as good as any other available. Furthermore, its single action pull is light and crisp.

The Browning BDA 9MM I used in testing the various high performance loads has a barrel length of 4.415". A quick check with my Oehler Chronograph, showed only a slight difference between its velocities and those obtained from the more commonly found 4" barrels.

These loads were also checked for accuracy and expansion. Since the 9MM is basically a combat round, I checked its accuracy on silhouette targets at 25 yards. Expansion was checked by the use of oil-base clay blocks.

The lightest weight 9MM load currently available is the Super Vel 90 grain jacketed hollow point load. After ceasing production for a couple of years, this line of high performance ammunition is being produced under the direction of Bob Hamilton (H&H Cartridge Corporation, PO Box 294, Greensburg, Indiana 47240). This high velocity slug expands impressively in any test medium used. I've seen the results of this load when used on felons. The effect is sudden, dramatic, and generally fatal.

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Load	Velocity	Expansion
1. Super Vel 90gr JHP	1329fps	.714"

Both Winchester and Speer produce 9MM loads with 100 grain bullet weights. The Winchester hollow and soft point loads are designed so that no exposed lead contacts the feed ramp, but the Speer JHP leaves a generous amount of the soft lead core exposed. In spite of this, the Speer load fed reliably in the test weapon and every other 9MM I've tried it in.

Load	Velocity	Expansion
1. Speer 100gr JHP	1275fps	.591"
2. Winchester 100gr JHP	1281fps	.623"
3. Winchester 100gr JSP	1283fps	.545"

The Super Vel 112 grain JSP load has long been one of my favorite 9MM loads. This bullet weight and design offers an excellent compromise between the SV 90 grain JHP and the Speer 125 grain JSP load. This SV offering gives good penetration on things such as car doors, windshields, etc., while still having sufficient power to produce the desired results on anyone inside.

Load	Velocity	Expansion
1. Super Vel 112gr JSP	1238fps	.585"

The 115 grain bullet weight is the most commonly found high performance 9MM load. While the velocities vary only slightly, the expansion capabilities are substantially different. Bullet design and jacket thickness are critical factors, and S&W's 115 grain JHP was the best performer in this bullet weight.

Load	Velocity	Expansion
1. S&W 115gr JHP	1168fps	.612"
2. R-P 115gr JHP	1189fps	.547"
3. Federal 115gr JHP	1134fps	.529"
4. Norma 115gr JHP	1127fps	.516"

5. S&W 115gr SWC-FMJ	1147fps	.369"
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Some might question the inclusion of the S&W 115 grain semiwadcutter-full metal jacket in a series on high performance ammunition. Many police departments who allow their officers to carry 9MMs, however, specify FMJ ammo only. Unlike the round nose FMJ load, the SWC load will not exit the human body. Furthermore, it has a tendency to shed its jacket and fragment upon impact.

I consider it unfortunate that only one manufacturer offers a high performance load in the 125 grain weight. It's even more unfortunate that it's offered in soft point rather than hollow point form. Like the 100 grain offering, the Speer 125 grain soft point has a substantial amount of lead exposed. This doesn't seem to effect its reliable feeding in weapons I've tested it in.

Load	Velocity	Expansion
1. Speer 125 grain JSP	1110fps	.502"

Which of all the available loads is best? Well, that all depends on your intended purpose. For off-duty police or personal defense use, the 90 or 100 grain JHP loads would be excellent. For police duty use, the 100 grain JSP or 115 grain JHP loads provide better penetration. The 112 grain and 125 grain JSP loads are excellent for those specialized situations where deep penetration with some expansion is desired.

Regardless of which of these 9MM loads a handgunner decides to use, he should make sure they feed reliably in his particular pistol. Terminal performance is negated without reliability.

The 9MM can be depended upon to fulfill its intended purpose, if ammo selection is intelligently made. Without the right load, however, all you have is more penetration than the traditional .38 Special load with even less stopping power!



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WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

(Continued from page 41)

1977 championships. These errors should not cause blame to those who made them, but simply should serve as guidance for those of us who will try to hold major tournaments in the future.

Points: 1. The camouflaged I.P.S.C. targets were not used. I think this is a mistake, especially in reaction courses. In the future, properly camouflaged targets should be standard. 2. The scoring system of 10, 9, 8 should be supplanted with the more improved factoring system which uses 5, 4, 2 for major caliber and 5, 3, 1 for minor. This provides a more equitable distribution of power values. 3. Running ability was weighed to an unreal degree in place of marksmanship. A contestant could pick up or lose 6 points per second on a course involving quite a long distance. Thus he could make up in strength of leg what he lacked in ability to hit a tar-

get. We do prize the balance of movement and accuracy, but it's possible that that balance was not properly achieved in all cases at Salisbury. 4. Certain phases were not tactically disposed. One obviously cannot get up and run at a target which represents a lethal adversary. Allowing a man to charge a target and dump his rounds into it at arm's length is tactically unsound. In a practical contest, if you can see a target, that target can see you. Any movement which you make apart from just shooting exposes you to disaster. 5. In a realistic problem, it is a mistake to permit more than two hits per target to count. If you have fired carefully twice and nothing has happened, it's time for you to change your plan.

It will be added that the course as designed gave a built-in advantage to the Browning 9mm automatic pistol, with its large magazine capacity. In answer to this it should be pointed out that while a Browning P-35, in the hands of Dave Westerhout, did win, we can be sure that, given the way David was shooting, he

would have won with any weapon he had had in his hand. It should further be noted that of the first 20 finishers, 15 did not use the Browning but, rather the 45 auto.

Now we have finished with the 1977 World Championships and everyone who had anything to do with them may take pride in that fact. We look to the future. It was decided that the site for the next contest should be South Africa. We are all aware that it is not the best idea to hold successive world titles in the same corner of the world, but we are faced with the problem that the present political situation makes it impossible for the Rhodesians to travel anywhere but to South Africa. A world practical shooting contest which did not include the Rhodesians would be something like a world chess match which did not include the Russians. Anyone who won would realize that his title was meaningless. Therefore we must hold our contests in places to which Rhodesians may come. As David Westerhout pointed out, "If the Rhodesians surrender

(Continued on page 64)

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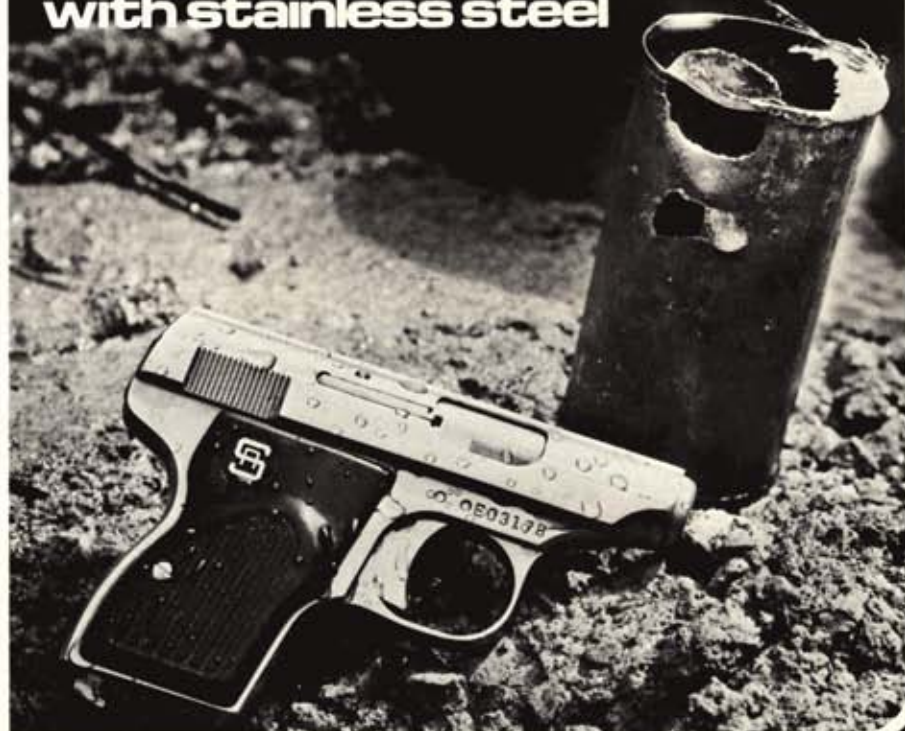
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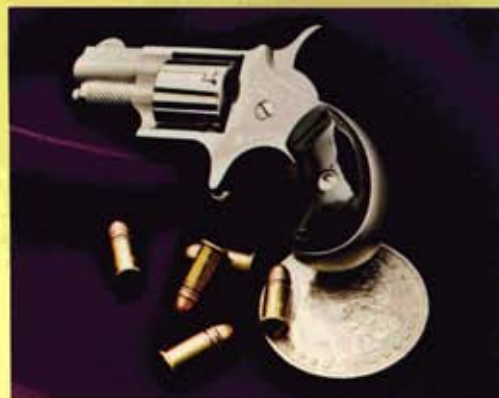
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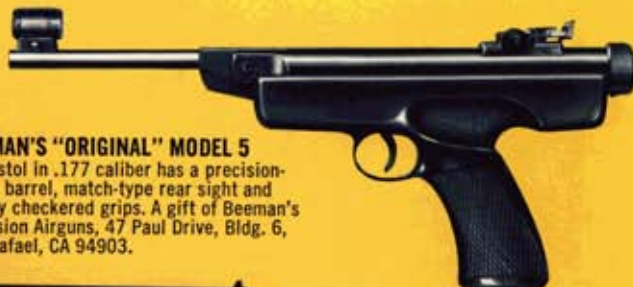
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(Continued from page 60)

to Marxist pressure, a Rhodesian passport will be valid in any part of the world. However, if a black racist government takes over, no Rhodesian will be permitted to own or use his own personal sidearm." So either way there is no happy solution.

I was privileged to meet with the South African Ministry of Sport the day before my departure for the United States. Our conversations were entirely promising and cooperative. I have reason to believe that the 1979 World Championships will be conducted with all the smoothness and organization of the Rhodesian tournament and with even greater material support.

The challenge now is for each nation to formulate its program or practical competition for next two years, in order to be sure that those who represent each flag at the world title will be truly representative and the best people available from each nation. Discussions are now under way in Britain, Austria, South Africa and the United States, directed at the proper formulation of international competitive programs. In the U.S., the N.R.A. has expressed its full willingness to participate in the conduct of practical shooting programs. If we can only prevent the total triumph of enemy arms in years to come we can be assured of a splendid and truly representative period of brotherly competition.



STERLING .45

(Continued from page 53)

The pistol may then be fired single action or the hammer may be lowered manually for another double-action shot if desired.

The trigger spring was fatigued on the prototype I test fired and occasionally it would not return the trigger. Presumably a new spring will remedy the problem.

The action is powered by a hammer spring that is housed inside the rear of the grip. The sear spring is a small coil spring with two legs, one for the sear. On the prototype, the sear spring is on the right side but it will be moved to the left side on production guns where the other leg can contact the ejector. This will allow ejection of single shots when the magazine is not in place—something not possible on the prototype.

The safety is described by Leak as a "cross bolt rolling block type" that is now used in the Sterling Model 400 .380 ACP. It rotates a cross bolt to block the hammer from the firing pin head. The safety also engages a cone-shaped segment of the firing pin, positively locking it so that the pin will not move even if the pistol is heavily struck or dropped. With the safety engaged, you can pull the trigger to safely let the hammer fall on a live round. Although

I held my breath, I did this on the firing line.

The thumb lever for the safety is located on the left side but southpaws may be able to have the lever installed on the right side by special order. The safety will take a little getting used to since the positions are the reverse of the Colt with "safe" down and "fire" up.

There are several other changes from the prototype that are planned for production guns. The magazine catch on prototypes is small and will be enlarged and knurled. The magazine catch spring is also to be changed to a small coil spring held by a lock that engages the frame similar to the Model 1911-A1. The extractor is now only about 1/2" long and on production guns will be extended to 1" or more back toward the safety bolt. The slide stop is now held by the leg of a coil spring that protrudes from the slide stop hole. This spring will be eliminated and a new captive spring will be placed between the rear of the recoil spring guide and a flat on the slide stop pin.

The recoil spring is a short captive assembly on a full length guide. On the prototype this spring was so heavy it was difficult to pull the slide back. When preparing to test fire the gun, one of the pins sheared that held the spring on the guide. I understand the recoil spring will be lightened on production guns, eliminating such problems.

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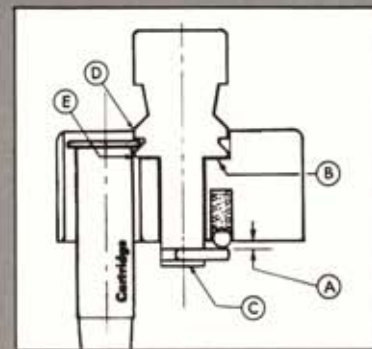


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Cut away view (below) showing how rim of metal on top of cartridge head (D) and metal cam points below (E), positively retain cartridges until knob is turned.



Disassembly is accomplished by pulling the slide back until the slide stop lines up with the slot that holds the slide open, then pressing the stop from the right and drawing it out of the left side. Of course the magazine is removed first. Once the stop is removed, the slide can be eased forward and slipped off the frame. The gun is assembled by reversing the procedure. No separate disassembly notch or means of relieving recoil spring tension is necessary. On production guns the slide stop pin will be lengthened slightly to ease disassembly.

The rear sight is adjustable for elevation and windage and will have a white outline on production models. The front sight is a smooth, low ramp that should be snag-free.

The front of the trigger guard is hooked for a two-hand hold. Consistent with its double-action capability on the first shot, the hammer of the Model 450 is of the rounded "burr" style of the Colt Commander. The hammer is partly shrouded by the slide, and it takes an effort to cock or lower the hammer with your thumb. Stocks are made of smooth, polished walnut and on production guns may be checkered at the bottom. Stock screws are quite large to hold the stocks securely.

The Model 450 will be made of 8620 steel and will make general use of investment castings, although all surfaces will be highly polished and then finished in deep blue. John Leak anticipates that the gun may eventually be offered in stainless steel as well.

I test fired the Model 450 at the indoor range at the plant. Recoil was low and accuracy good. Off-hand at 25 yards produced groups of about 1 1/2". As already

noted, the trigger return spring needed replacing and did not function well, and a pin on the recoil spring guide sheared and had to be replaced. Once these adjustments were made, the Model 450 was a pleasure to shoot; feeding and ejection were faultless. Single-action trigger pull on the prototype was set at 6-7 lbs. and was stiffer still for double action. With Sterling Arms' concern for safety, production .45's will probably be similar in trigger pull.

In a day when some new .45 Autos are costing as much as \$400, the Sterling's best news comes in price. Suggested retail for the Sterling 450 is only \$265.00. No other .45 Auto offers the features of the Sterling DA .45 for this price. Inquiries can be addressed to your local dealer or regional wholesaler of Sterling Arms products. Distributor inquiries are welcomed by Sterling Arms Corp., 211 Grand St., Lockport, N.Y. 14094



SPECIFICATIONS

Sterling Arms Model 450

Caliber: 45 ACP

Action: Double Action, Semi-Automatic

Overall Length: 7 1/2"

Height: 4 7/8"

Barrel: 4"

Rifling: 6 lands, 6 grooves

Twist: 1 in 16"

Magazine Capacity: 8

Weight: 36 oz.

Safety: Cross Bolt Rolling Block

Sights: Front Ramp Rear Adjustable for Windage and Elevation

Grips: Wood

Construction: Ordnance Steel

Melting Point: 1800°

Tensile Strength: 55000 psi.

COLT INTERVIEW

(Continued from page 33)

series, were their greatest disappointment in Colts. Your comment?

WERNER: I haven't gotten that deep into the engineering of the Mk. III as yet.

AYOOB: Then, has it fulfilled the expectations Colt had when the gun was introduced?

WERNER: Let me put it this way: If it has problems, they're not great enough to prevent it from being an attractive gun to us, if you know what I mean. The volume of their sales is sufficient to keep us interested. The warranty costs and so forth are not big enough to disillusion us about the gun. It has been changed over the last three years. We've identified the minor problems with it, and taken those one at a time.

AYOOB: Since taking over, have you been able to increase the percentage of

Colts going into the police sector?

WERNER: No, I would absolutely not be able to say that, because I think at this point, S&W fairly well dominates the police market. We have broken into a few areas, but that's not because I'm here; it's just a few cases where all of a sudden Colt was chosen over the traditional Smith & Wesson.

AYOOB: In those cases, did the buyers give an explanation for their change in taste?

WERNER: There have been a couple of cases where police departments have decided for one reason or another, after trying out stainless steel guns, that they'd rather go with our Python .357. But in no way does that reflect any trend of Colt to increase its share of the police market. We're not slipping in the police market. We are holding the same share, but that share is still on the short end of the stick.

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Anti-Gunners: "You keep distorting the issue with Facts."

To some this may be hard to believe, but to those of us who have engaged anti-gun people in debates or mere conversations, it is all too real. The following is excerpted from "Reports from Washington" published by the NRA Institute for Legislative, bylined: Lee Jorgensen.

Students from Archbishop Carroll High School in Washington, D.C. demonstrated their opposition towards handgun ownership during a two-day demonstration staged in front of the NRA Headquarters building. Led by their Christian Consciousness course instructor, Robert Hoderny, about 26 students of the class split up placard-carrying tasks—13 each day—and handed out a printed sheet to passersby. On the third day of their "field trip" assignment, the students gathered near the White House to continue their protest.

Their premise was based on the "right-to-life" theme and the slogan that "guns take lives." NRA responded by extending an invitation to Hoderny and his students to discuss the issues. NRA's Executive Director for General Operations, Gary Anderson, and Executive Vice President Harlon Carter, met with the group. Representatives from NRA's Institute for Legislative Action were also present. Later one of the students told a television reporter that "... we were mostly surprised by the cordial reception we received from the NRA."

During the point-counterpoint dialogue the discussion centered basically on a plat-

form of life and rights.

"This is a moral issue where we're talking about lives taken by guns. You keep distorting the issue with specifics and facts," said Hoderny at one point.

"Isn't it facts we want to deal with. You're talking about creating a law ... and a law, to me, is a very important matter that should be thought through completely and will be obeyed by a human being ... not a gun. It's the human being who can commit a crime. The man who reaches for and carries a gun is the person who is responsible for good sense, good citizenship, and good judgment. A gun is an inanimate object made of steel and wood. A gun doesn't kill people ... It's the person who uses it that kills," responded Harlon Carter.

Mr. Hoderny asked "Don't you think that if taking guns away would save even one life that the effort would be worth it regardless of the rights you keep talking about? You make rights too sacred."

"Absolutely not ... because the rights we enjoy today already have cost the lives of millions of men ... not just one," said Carter.



AYOOB: It's interesting you should say that, because some dealers and some officers tell me they have the impression that Colt couldn't care less about selling to police departments. They were talking strictly about Colt automatics, and they all noted that S&W is more aggressive about selling autos to police.

WERNER: I have no feedback on that. We sell a lot of automatics to police.

AYOOB: To departments, or to individual officers?

WERNER: Both. Of course, automatics are popular by region. They're extremely popular in California, for instance, and in Nevada. Most of the departments out there that carry automatics, carry Colt automatics, and we do everything we can to maintain that business. We obviously hope someday to turn around and get back heavily into the police business.

AYOOB: Are you selling as many large bore automatics as Smith & Wesson?

WERNER: Oh, I think that it's pretty safe to say that we have the lion's share of the automatic business with civilian and police groups.

AYOOB: How much of Colt's production is in military M-16s today, and how much in the commercial side?

WERNER: You can divide it about 50/50. It's close enough.

AYOOB: Which is more profitable?

WERNER: The military tends to be more profitable currently, and I think it has been over the past few years.

AYOOB: Why? More integrated manufacturing processes?

WERNER: Yes. The M-16 is a gun that's designed for production. The facility was put in place with the right equipment, the right tooling, the right flow, and it just runs like a well-oiled clock.

AYOOB: How much of Colt Industries' income derives from the Firearms Division?

WERNER: A very small percentage. Our sales probably represent about eight or nine percent of the total corporation, so income would be in direct proportion to that.

AYOOB: There are people in the industry who fear that the Colt parent company cares less about the fate of the Firearms Division.

WERNER: Colt Industries is a group of what I'll call companies, but legally, they're divisions. Colt runs these companies on a totally decentralized basis. Each company or division is looked at as a separate entity and handled accordingly. We're not in a melting pot.

I don't believe the Firearms Division is considered just part of the big overall

corporation. Each division is looked on as a contributor of cash, a contributor of profit, etc., and there is no putting down of one division for the sake of another. One of the beauties of the way Colt Industries is run is that as long as we contribute and do the job we're supposed to do, just generate profit and cash and grow over the long range, there would be no putting down this division.

AYOOB: Over the past few years, people in the industry have noted a very high turnover among Colt executives. Has that been halted?

WERNER: (laughing) Personally, I hope so!

Seriously, there have been some changes made since I've been here, but I think they were minimal. One of the things we needed to do was kind of stabilize. People with the capabilities for what we need haven't been tossed around; rather, we tried to build around them.

AYOOB: No new Colts foaling in the immediate future?

WERNER: We're best qualified and most capable of producing large caliber, ultra-high quality handguns. That's where we shine and I guess we always have shone here, and that's what we're going to concentrate on for the next few years.

AYOOB: The people in the plant tell me you're quite a good shot. Are firearms part of your personal lifestyle, off the job?

WERNER: Not on a major basis. I used to plink a little bit, do a little bird hunting, but I'm a long way from being what you'd call a gun buff.

AYOOB: One final question. Gun manufacturers' views on gun control seem to be in the news these days. What is Colt's official position on that issue... and what is your own?

WERNER: My own feeling on handgun control, which I think probably reflects the corporation's, is that really, we're much more interested in seeing legislation go through that controls and bans crime instead of trying to achieve crime control by taking away people's personal rights. Instead of trying to take handguns away from citizens, or to make it more difficult to own them and so forth, we'd like to see Congress address itself to reducing the amount of crime through more effective means.

That's where we stand on the thing, and we also stand ready, willing, and able to do anything with any of the Congressional people to develop legislation aimed in that direction.

On the other hand, we're going to be against anything that arbitrarily limits the rights of law-abiding people who choose to own handguns.



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BAR-STO BARRELS

(Continued from page 50)

over a 5-6 inch circle when placed in the machine rest. The reason for this is that when a recoil barrel is well fitted to a slide, sight and bore alignments are rather constant. In the machine rest, the frame aligns to the rest axis, but a loose slide may cause significant change in impact vis-a-vis frame orientation to the target. While slide tightening may not effect hand held accuracy, it may significantly

improve machine rest performance. However, there is no rule of thumb in this matter; each gun must be considered as a separate case.

Slide fit on the Hi-Power pistol is another important consideration that relates to trigger pull characteristics. To avoid making a split trigger bar to girdle the fat, double row magazine and connect trigger motion with the sear (as in the .45 ACP), John Browning devised a walking-beam arrangement to effect ignition control. This small, second-class lever is located on the bottom right hand side of the slide; pulling the trigger raises the forward

end of this beam, depressing the back end which releases the sear.

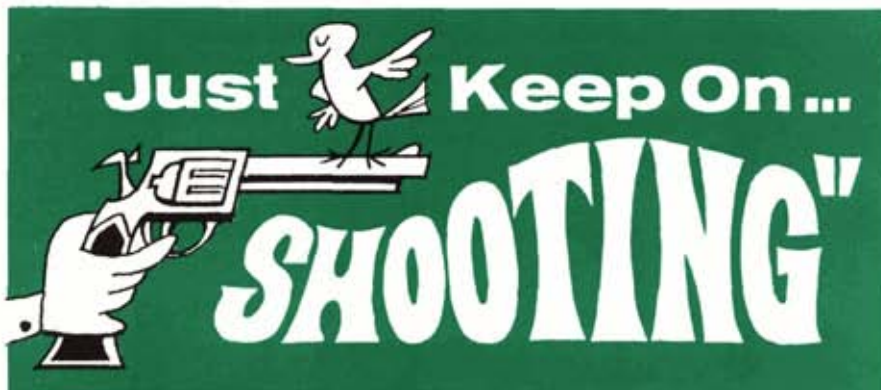
This clever design eliminates the need for a special disconnecter. The trigger pawl that raises the walking beam disengages as the slide cycles. On returning to battery, the beam displaces the pawl forward, requiring that the trigger be released before the next shot can be fired; this arrangement produces a semi-automatic mode of fire control. The initial trigger movement pushes up against the slide, rocking it to the left. Tightening the slide to eliminate this movement will improve accuracy as well as trigger motion.

But, as ingenious as the walking beam design is, it results in a Rube Goldberg system of compound levers that plays hob with adjusting a good 4.5-pound regulated trigger pull. It is easy to mess up the trigger job on a Hi-Power so that the hammer will tend to fall forward with slide motion. Unless the shooter knows what has to be done, it's best to have Browning Hi-Power triggers regulated by a practiced Browning trigger specialist.

Another factor effecting P-35 trigger operation is the plunger-type magazine clutch safety. With the magazine inserted, the safety plunger is depressed and additional spring tension is added to the trigger pull. Most Hi-Power trigger jobs remove this magazine safety device, thus eliminating one more spring variable in the pull. One should be aware, however, that if a shooter removes the magazine safety, and subsequently, the gun discharges and injures someone when a round is in the chamber with the magazine removed, the gun owner can be held liable by one or both of the other parties involved.

Sighting equipment can be improved for combat purposes on this Browning pistol. Installing of low mounting Micro or Bo Mar micrometer rear sights with appropriate 1/8 inch ramp front blades all make highly satisfactory choices. Bo Mar's Combat Rib (with sights) helps stabilize the gun in recoil, but increases carrying weight for duty guns. Pachmayr's new Signature wrap around rubber grips are ideal for this gun, giving a non-slip checkered rubber grip surface that is supple and non-irritating to the palm contact. This is a major grip breakthrough, and is catching on rapidly among knowledgeable combat pistolers.

Law enforcement and combat shooters who favor 9mm in the big magazine guns will be tempted by this new Bar-Sto barrel. To have the advantages of carefree maintenance and improved lifetime performance for a relatively low cost is a bonanza in this era of rising costs and declining quality. Bar-Sto barrels pedigree performance will be fully accepted by those shooters who appreciate craftsmanship and accuracy. The Browning Hi-Power steps up to near match performance with these stainless steel barrels.



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Got your letter last week askin about our town's police range and gettin them little pins from the NRA. You bet our boys got em, how else the citizens gonna tell which one's a Marksman and which one's an Expert when they start shootin' down the street?

Took up a spell to get the money for the range from the Town Council. They weren't gonna spend money for police to lie down and shoot, or run and shoot behind door's got no walls around it. This is the same council that one year gave \$1500 out of their budget to the Clear Lake Water Ski Association and only \$250 to train the police to shoot. Kinda hard to figger, not a one of them police carry a water ski in his holster.

First thing you want to do is get affiliated with that NRA bunch, only takes \$10. If your city guvernment's like ours, takes a rainbow of purchase order copies to get \$10 cash, a pink copy, yellow copy, a white copy. The white copy came in handy one night to draw out the combat range plan on. Abe Jackson and me, we took the boys down at the station a crocker sack full of peaches. While we all standin around eatin peaches and swattin mosquitos, talk got around to the new range. Abe offered some lumber from his old barn, and there's one or two abandoned buildings around town now, ain't got doors on them any more, so our police got their whole range almost built that night.

Lay your range out careful. Our 25 yard line came out smack in the middle of a palmetto clump, two of the boys had to do a days grubbin. Killed two rattlesnakes and we sent one set of rattles up to our friends at NRA. They'd been so nice helping us get them little pins and all, we put them in our next order for more scorecards. Thought they might never have seen 13 rattles and a button up there in Washington.

All our boys took to shootin on the combat range real good and gettin practice every week. All cept Sgt. Curry, he had to send his favorite revolver back to the factory and get everything replaced but the grip screws (little too much powder in his reloads) he's got his shootin hand wrapped up in a Jimson week poultice. Believe he needs a little advice from the NRA Technickel Staff.

Let me know if you need any more help gettin your boys started in combat shootin.

Nat

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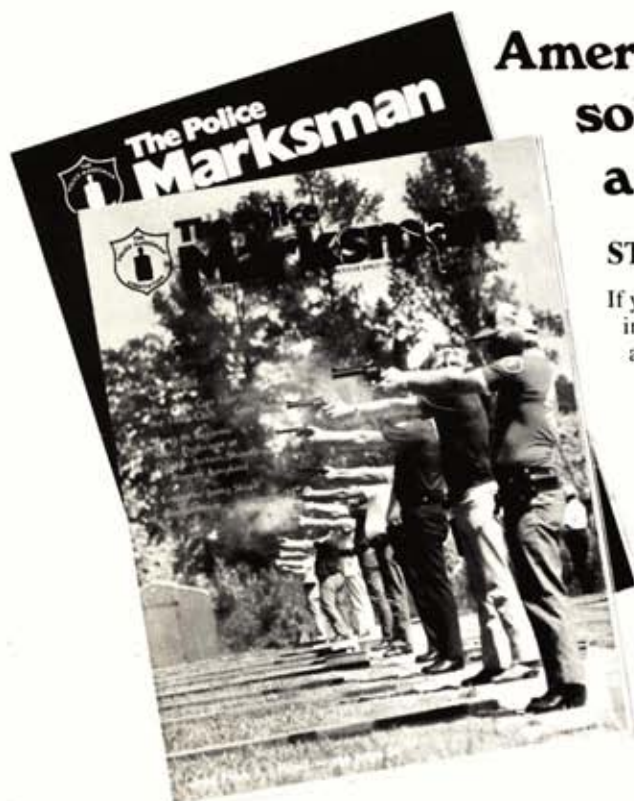
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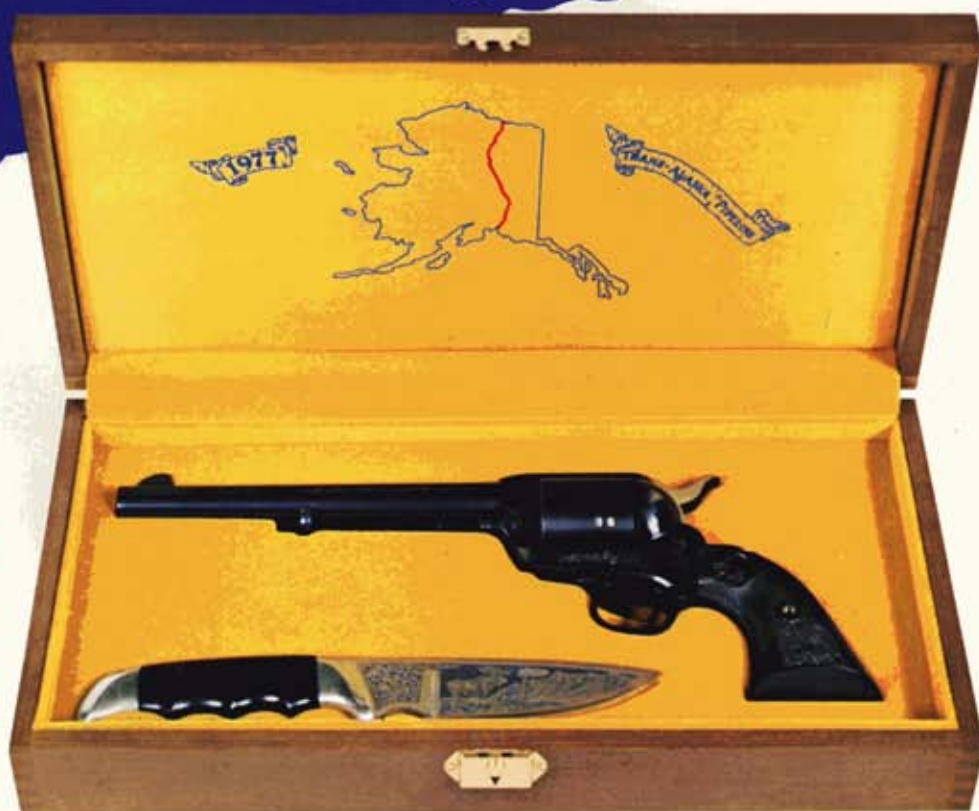
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Trans Alaska Pipeline Sets

802 cased, limited edition, numbered matched sets, each including a Colt .45 and a Kershaw Knife are now available from Pat's Gun Shop, Chugiak, Alaska. The guns are the first publicly available firearms from Colt's new specialty custom shop and the knives were specifically created for these collector sets commemorating the Alaskan pipeline.



***The first Alaska inspired cased set.
The first public run from Colt's new custom shop.
The first time Colt has cased a Colt product with a non-Colt product.***



The pipeline runs 801 miles from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez and its entire length is marked in mileposts from "0" to "801". A numbered set is available for each milepost. The specially designed Kershaw Knives included in each set feature engraving on both sides. One side includes a map of Alaska including the pipeline route and prevalent Alaskan game. The reverse side pictures a moose against a mountain backdrop with a standing milepost containing the serial number of the knife.

Bearing the same serial number is the Colt single action .45 army revolver specially prepared by Colt's new custom shop. The gun features unfluted cylinders, a 7 1/2" barrel and is finely blued. "Colt single action army .45" is engraved on the right side of the barrel. The left side of the barrel is engraved "Trans Alaska Pipeline: Milepost number 0 to 801 of 801". The revolvers are all in the 91,000 series with the last three digits of the serial number corresponding to the milepost number on each firearm.

Each set is in a French-fitted walnut case to accommodate both the knife and the revolver. Matched sets and further information is available from Pat's Gun Shop, Box 222, Chugiak, Alaska. 99567.

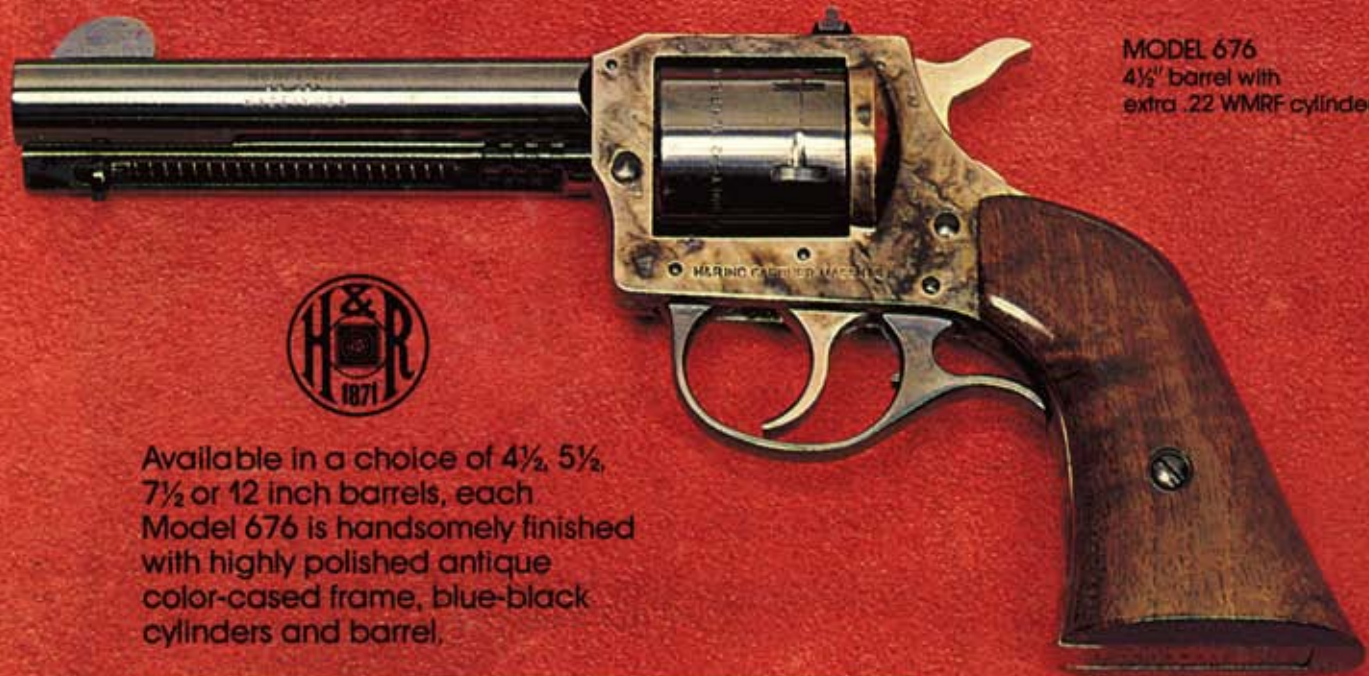
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