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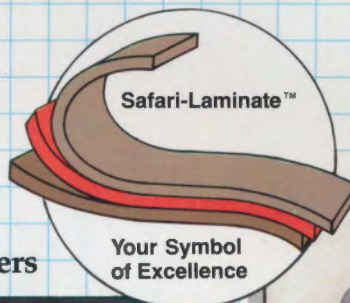
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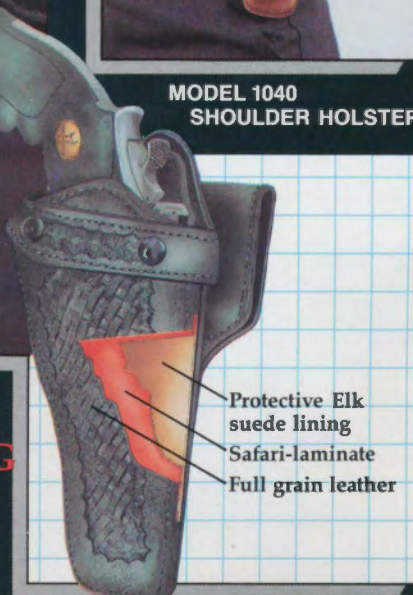
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Cover: IPSC National Champ Rob Leatham reloads on his way to victory. Photo by Cameron Hopkins.



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AMERICAN HANDGUNNER (ISSN 0145-4250) is published bi-monthly by Publishers Development Corp., 591 Camino de la Reina, San Diego, CA 92108. Second class postage paid at San Diego, CA 92108, and at additional mailing offices. Subscriptions: One year (6 issues) \$14.75. Single monthly copies \$2.50 (in Canada \$3.50). Change of Address: Four weeks' notice required on all changes. Send old address as well as new. Contributors submitting manuscripts, photographs or drawings do so at their own risk. Material cannot be returned unless accompanied by sufficient postage. Payment will be made at rates current at time of publication and will cover reproduction in any or all **AMERICAN HANDGUNNER** Magazine editions. Advertising rates furnished on request. Reproduction or use of any portion of this magazine in any manner, without written permission, is prohibited. All rights reserved. Title to this publication passes to subscriber only on delivery to his address. **SUBSCRIPTION PROBLEMS:** For immediate action write to Kellie Ray, 591 Camino de la Reina, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92108 or call (619) 297-8524. Ask for Kellie Ray.



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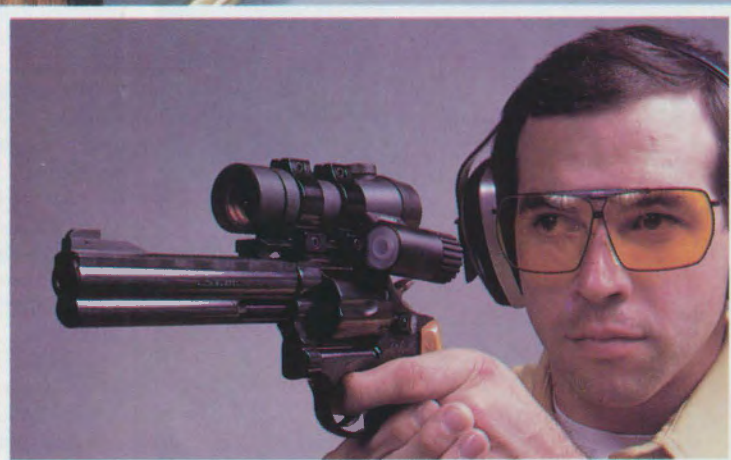


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HANDGUN LEATHER

AL PICKLES

SUPER BELT SLIDE HOLSTER FROM UNCLE MIKE'S OFFERS VERSATILITY

It almost seems as if the modern Cordura® nylon holsters have been around for ages, yet I remember my first exposure to them when I visited Michaels of Oregon in 1979 while on assignment with a federal agency in Portland. Steve McCarthy, president of Michaels, showed me some prototype nylon holsters and asked for suggestions. Little did I know at the time that Michaels was about to enter into a venture that would become widely copied by almost every major holster manufacturer and possibly a half dozen new companies geared exclusively to nylon gun carry systems.

Once the great nylon holster race was on, and all questions of them being just a passing fad were negated, "state-of-the-art" status rapidly passed from one company to the other with Bianchi, Roy's, and Tex Shoemaker all contributing novel improvements. It is my opinion, however, that Michaels of Oregon has just regained the lead.

Michaels has just introduced the *Super Belt Slide* model holster along with a police duty belt and a host of accessories. To make it even better, the new belt is also available in civilian color choices with hunter's or competitive shooter's accessories.

The *Super Belt Slide* holster is unique and highly desirable on several counts. It is primarily designed to ride either close to the body or very close to the body. This is extremely important when carrying a handgun concealed as an occupational necessity or for personal defense in your daily routine.

Two belt loops, located fore and aft of the gun pocket, allow the holster to follow the curved contour of your waist. With the holster riding outside your belt it is snugged up to your body and quite concealable under a modest jacket. An additional pair of "mirror" belt loops on the outside of the holster allow you to carry the rig inside your belt for an even lower profile allowing for concealment

under even lighter outer garments. My sample is in the large auto size and I find it works quite well.

To make this rig even more desirable, Michaels has not forgotten the 17%, give or take, who are lefties. The *Super Belt Slide* holster is ambidextrous. To utilize it in a southpaw manner you simply reverse the metal-reinforced thumb break safety strap. This operation is simple in the extreme as they are attached via Velcro. The Velcro based strap is also adjustable for various handgun configurations, or can be removed altogether.

As with all Michaels nylon holsters, construction is a sandwich affair featuring an outer slice of remarkably tough Cordura nylon, closed call foam padding, and an inner nylon lining. The difference is the *Super Belt Slide* is an extra thin laminate of these composites. By "thin" I do not mean weak or frail. It is one tough rig, especially since it features the outer layer of DuPont's Cordura nylon rather than the cheaper and weaker ballistic nylon. There is a considerable difference between the two.

Michaels' new Deluxe Holster Belt is much different than their now well known Sidekick® Holster Belt which has the unique seat belt type buckle. The newer belt is two layers of heavy nylon webbing which makes it almost as thick as a policeman's leather uniform gunbelt. This, of course, is one of the markets for which Michaels is aiming.

Optional nylon attachments for the law enforcement officer include: magazine carrier; speedloader pouch, single or double; knife pouch; handcuff case; key holder; baton ring; flashlight ring; loop type cartridge carrier; belt keepers.

In order to test many of the aforementioned Michaels new products, I did something which is neither mentioned nor illustrated in the 1985 Michaels catalog. I mated the *Super Belt Slide* holster, which was designed to fit on the pants belt, with the new Deluxe Holster Belt complete with police equipment holders.

The unusual mating of snug pants belt holster and uniform duty belt did look a little futuristic, due to the holster's pancake-like appearance, but it felt and performed *better than any uniform rig* I have previously worn. The fore and aft belt loops on the holster, coupled with the belt keepers which secure the rig to your two inch pants belt, made possible a super smooth draw with absolutely no "ride up." The draw was as quick as it was smooth and I am sure that with practice it would prove faster yet. The gun, a Smith & Wesson Model 39, by virtue of its "in close" profile afforded by the holster, was both easy to reach and relatively snatch proof.

It appears that Michaels has a whole host of winners with their new introductions. Most of us who have worn and used guns in deadly serious endeavors have acquired an affinity for the feel, smell, and "creak" of leather. There have been times, however, when that familiar creak was definitely not desired. Nylon may not feel or smell like leather—but it is a lot more quiet. And affordable.



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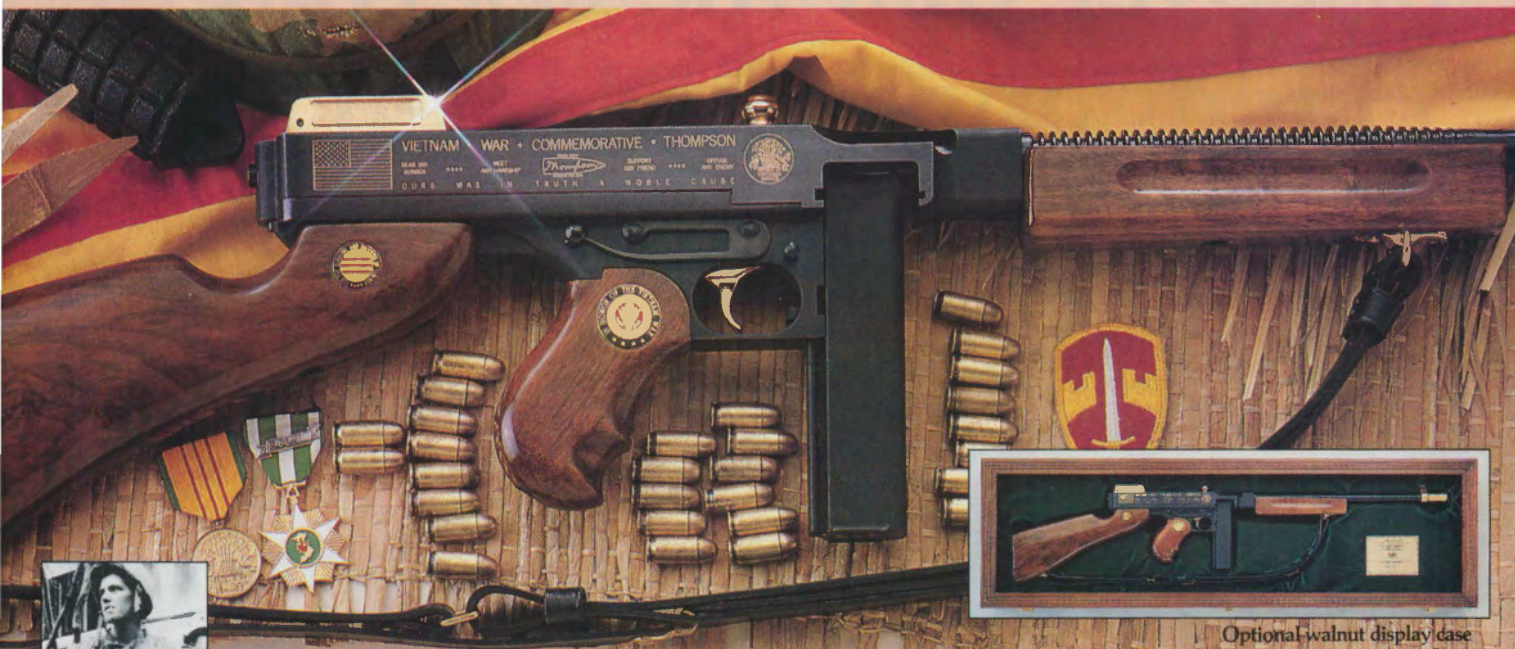


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Support any friend,
Oppose any enemy..."*

JFK, 1961

Like their fathers and older brothers who served at the Bulge, Okinawa and Pusan, our Vietnam Veterans served our nation for the same principles of "duty, honor, country" that have always guided our American fighting men in combat.

And, like many dedicated Americans, the Thompson served proudly in all three wars. In fact, many Vietnam Veterans report that the Thompson was more highly sought after than any other weapon, due to its reliability under jungle conditions and the stopping power of the .45 ammo it fired — two characteristics found lacking in certain other military-issued weapons.

Now, The American Historical Foundation is proud to honor our Vietnam Veterans through the issuance of the Vietnam War Commemorative Thompson.

Limited Edition Of Only 1500

Only 1500 will be made in this strictly limited edition commissioned by The American Historical Foundation and built to the Foundation's specifications by the official maker of the famous Thompson, Auto-Ordnance Corporation. Each is specially serially numbered between 0001 and 1500, with the prefix V (for Vietnam). This serial number is also inscribed on the accompanying Certificate of Authenticity, which attests to the 24-karat gold plating and the edition limit.

The Vietnam War Commemorative Thompson is being produced in a semiautomatic firing version, so no special license is required to own one. Upon special request, full automatics will also be produced and numbered within this edition limit for holders of Class III Federal Firearms licenses (please add \$350; non-refundable). Both versions have already been classified as Curios and Relics by BATF, an acknowledgment of their collectible status. Firing instructions are included.

Special Commemorative Features

This Thompson is a real man's weapon, constructed of 12 pounds of steel and walnut, but hand-built with special commemorative features.

You sight across the 24-karat gold plated rear sight base and through the special, gold plated activator knob with a single rib, symbolic of the DMZ that divided the two Vietnams. The highly polished, gun-blued barrel is cut with 35 deep cooling fins and mounted with a mirror-polished, 24-karat gold plated Cutts Compensator and front sight.

Your finger curls around the 24-karat gold plated trigger, as your left hand and right arm grasp the American walnut stocks — original G.I. production — hand finished with seven coats of hand-rubbed lacquer and polished to a gleaming presentation grade.

The stocks show off the 24-karat gold plated sling swivels, swivel mounts and screws which affix the black leather military sling.

You cradle the precision-milled receiver, which is highly polished to highlight the roll-engraved and gold-gilt infilled commemorative inscriptions. The presentation side bears our Flag, the Vietnam Service Medal, the famous Thompson "bullet" trademark and quotations from both Presidents Kennedy and Reagan. The reverse bears the special serial number, the issuing organization and the Thompson patents.

The shoulder stock is fitted with two, full-color, fired-enamel cloisonne medallions, bearing a gold plated inscription in black — symbolic of the Vietnam War Memorial — surrounding a circularized yellow and red flag of the Republic of Vietnam. The pistol grip is fitted with a matching medallion embossed with the Great Seal of the United States and commemorative tributes.

This Is A Firing Thompson!

This no-nonsense Commemorative is a fully functional, firing Thompson, chambered for the same famous, readily available, .45 ACP ammunition that G.I.s and American shooters have used since 1911. Because it fires in the semiautomatic mode, you do not need a special submachine gun license to own it. Anyone who can own a standard hunting rifle can own this Thompson Commemorative. And because it is a firing Thompson, it could be called upon to defend your home and family in the same manner in which it has defended American lives and freedoms for over 65 years. If you do not have a firearms license, we will coordinate delivery with you through your local firearms dealer after your reservation is received at Foundation Headquarters. If you do have a federal license, send a signed copy, and your Thompson will be delivered directly to you.

Highly Collectible

Because of the extremely small edition limits and their availability as semiautomatics, Thompson commemoratives have become some of the most highly collectible firearms in recent history. Previous Thompson commemoratives have been quickly fully subscribed and now bring significantly higher prices on the collector market.

A furniture-finished walnut display case, green velvet lined and fitted with an acrylic glass lid and three

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- ☐ in six equal payments of \$200.
- ☐ in full.

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Just think, if you don't subscribe, someday you could end up at your local newsstand with your hands out and your mouth wide open when they tell you, "We're all out!"

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INSIGHTS INTO IPSC

CAMERON HOPKINS

USPSA RESPONDS TO POPULAR DEMAND WITH STOCK AND REVOLVER CLASSES

Stock gun class is here! As a part of its Supplemental Shooting Program, USPSA (United States Practical Shooting Association, the parent of IPSC in America) has instituted "Tactical Class" to increase participation and spark interest in local IPSC matches.

A soothsayer I am not, but it is convenient that Tactical Class comes just after the Jan/Feb issues's Readers Question asking, "Should there be a stock gun category in IPSC, and, if so, how would you define stock?" As you can see from the replies at the end of this column, America's IPSC shooters are frothing at the mouth crying, "Give us Stock!"

Tactical (Stock) Class allows for a separate division for stock or moderately modified pistols, and entry fee for Tactical Class at local matches is encouraged to be half the normal fee.

USPSA defines stock as follows:

Any factory produced handgun with an annual production of 500 units or more, caliber of 9mm or larger. Any safe modification will be allowed to the handgun as long as the total weight is not increased more than three ounces over the original factory weight with the following exceptions—no extended barrels, no compensators, no barrel weights or sighting ribs, no porting of any type to reduce recoil.

Also, USPSA has announced Revolver Class as an option at local matches. Here are the rules for Revolver Class:

Any factory produced revolver with an annual production of 500 units or more, caliber of 9mm or larger. Rules for modifications are: sights, as long as the sight radius is not extended appreciably and sighting ribs are not allowed; trigger honing and action work is allowed; grips may be changed; chambers may be chamfered; no heavy barrels, no compensators, no porting of any type to reduce recoil.

You can now compete and enjoy IPSC matches with your favorite handgun, wheelie or auto, without going toe to toe with the Star Wars pistols. Get out there and join the fun! Further information about these and other Supplemental Shooting Programs can be obtained from USPSA, Dept. AH, P.O. Box 811, Sedro Woolley, WA, 98284. While you're at it, ask about the many benefits of joining USPSA, including subscription to the official IPSC publication, *The Front Sight*.

NEW PRODUCTS FOR IPSC

From our "So You Think You've Heard Everything?" Department comes IPSC

champagne. Yes, champagne—that bubbly stuff everyone drinks on New Year's Eve. It's French champagne, and said to be quite tasty. The bottle (see photo) bears the IPSC logo. For more information contact J.P. Denis, IPSC World President, Rue Philippe de Champagne, 3bis/Bte2, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium.



From our "Got the Time?" Department comes the new PACT MkII timer featuring a greatly reduced size and a built-in chronograph. The PACT MkII in its new compact unit features all the goodies of the "old" PACT in addition to new and improved functions. Read a complete test report elsewhere in this issue.

From our "Whatcha Say? Speak Up!" Department comes a sophisticated ear muff with electronic sound amplification which retards the report of gunfire while magnifying casual conversation and other low decibel sounds. Called Wolf Ears, the unit is a dream come true for Range Officers who need to be aware of their surroundings.

Wolf Ears bring whole new dimensions to IPSC shooting. Gunfire noise is blocked out, but you can hear the start signal very clearly. Noted handgun expert Bill Jordan, who is deaf as a post, raves about the Wolf Ears because he can hear range commands. The unit has a handy on-off button in case your mother-in-law happens onto the range.

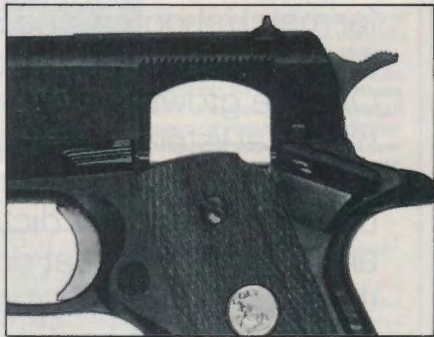
Wolf Ears are powered by a tiny camera battery good for up to 40 hours of continuous

use. There are two models, the Monaural and the Binaural. The Monaural unit has a microphone in only one of the ear protectors. The Binaural model has microphones in both ear pieces thus providing "directional" sound. Both models come with batteries and a one year guarantee.

If you doubt that an amplifying device can muffle loud noise, consider that 70% of sales are to SWAT teams for building entry and search. The boom of concussion grenades used in such work is tolerable for the wearer of Wolf Ears.

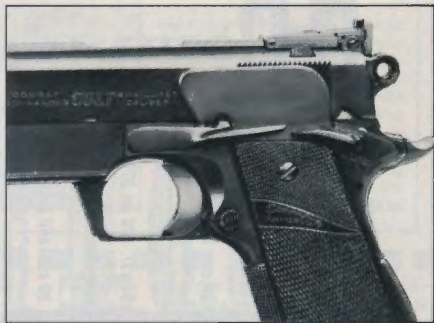
The Monaural sells for \$140 and the Binaural for \$250. For further information write Wolf Ears, Dept. AH, P.O. Box 122, Concord, NH, 03301.

From our "Thumbs Up" Department comes two new, nearly identical products designed to prevent failures to go into battery from a "high thumb" grip. If you ride your thumb on top of the thumb safety in the firing grip, your thumb rubs against the slide and can induce malfunctions as the slide attempts to cycle. Now there are two thumb guards available.



Wilson Thumb Guard

Wilson's Gun Shop offers Thumb Guard for \$14.95 and it is a drop-in installation. Write Wilson's Gun Shop, Dept. AH, Rt. 3, Box 211-D, Berryville, AR, 72616.



Pachmayr Slide Guard

Pachmayr also offers a nearly identical unit called Thumb Slide Guard for \$17.95 which requires minor fitting for installation. Call Pachmayr at 800-423-8704 for ordering or see your local dealer.

READERS QUESTION RESPONSES

In the Jan/Feb issue the Readers Question asked "Should there be a stock gun category in IPSC and, if so, how would you define stock?" Here are some representative responses.

Continued

HORNADY COMPETITIVE BULLETS

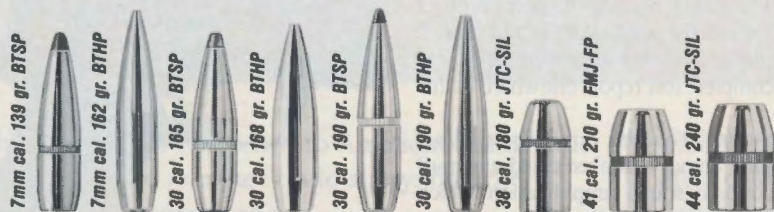
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I feel there should be a "stock" gun category. IPSC should let the average guy compete and not just let "hot dogs" run over everyone.

In IHMSA our "Production" gun rule is our backbone. Without it we would have turned into an equipment game from the start. I think this is what has happened in IPSC.

I've got my share of unlimited bolt guns for silhouette, but I don't compete against production guns with them.

Al Nielsen
Burlington, Iowa

I don't view the Spaceguns as a significant problem for the vast majority of shooters. The advantage offered the starship troopers is not the same degree of advantage the Open Class PPC pistol has over the service revolver. The foundations of IPSC are the flash sight picture and trigger control. The exotic weapons do nothing for this—only practice does.

Frankly, I think course design and match administration pose far greater problems.

William R. Moore
Pittsburgh, Penn.

I am certainly in favor of a stock gun category. I have stayed away from IPSC shooting because the few matches I attended I found that I could not compete with \$800 accuracy jobs. It was my opinion that IPSC was a rich man's game.

My definition of stock would be similar to NRA and IHMSA definitions. The gun should be out-of-the-box allowing only for replacement of grips. No sight replacement or trigger jobs allowed.

Lee Knoell
Jemez Springs, NM

I recommend a stock gun classification. However, in our local club we found we could not come up with a definition of stock because our clever shooters were showing up with stock-looking guns that were heavily modified and compensated through the use of high-tech ceramics, and other special home-brewed tricks. The closest we came to defining stock was trying to fit guns in a certain size box, and weighing them. We came to the conclusion there is no such thing as a stock gun.

These guns pointed out that we're going about it all wrong. I think we should approach the problem with a "concealed carry classification" where you are free to shoot anything so long as it's concealable. Coming up with a definition of concealable is far easier and can be equally enforced for every shooter.

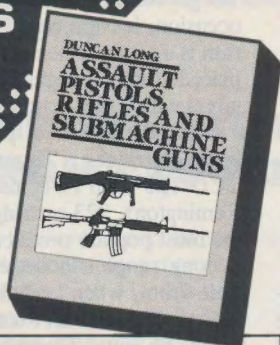
Pete Viceroy
Strongsville, Ohio

READERS QUESTION

This year marks the 10th anniversary of IPSC. Reflect on this question: How has IPSC changed over the years, and have the changes been for the better or worse?

Send your answers to 'Insight Into IPSC', Suite 200, 591 Camino de la Reina, San Diego, CA 92108. Limit your response to 250 words. Answers must be either typewritten or clearly handwritten. The editor reserves the right to edit published answers for clarity or length.

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by Duncan Long

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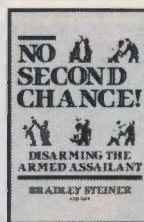
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SILUETAS

BERT STRINGFELLOW

SELECTING A SILHOUETTE CARTRIDGE FOR IHMSA PRODUCTION PISTOL CLASS

Attempting to shoot in silhouette competition with a pistol chambered for a cartridge which is inadequate for the task or which recoils so heavily that you become a quivering mass of flinching nerves before the end of a 40 round match can be very discouraging.

In selecting a cartridge for the production pistol the prospective silhouette competitor should eliminate both the light and heavy cartridges from consideration.

Cartridges such as the 44 Mag. and the 357 Herrett are excellent for hunting, but the recoil they produce in a single shot production pistol is abusive in a 40 round match and brutal in an 80 round championship. The lighter cartridges, such as, the .223 Rem., .256 Win. or .221 Rem will not drop the rams.

A check of the ballistic tables show that these light cartridges deliver a lot of kinetic energy. However, kinetic energy won't knock

over a ram, it takes bullet mass and momentum to do the job. Ten years of silhouette competition have proven that a 140 gr. bullet is the lightest projectile which will consistently drop rams. This 140 gr. bullet should be driven at a minimum of 1800 fps which is 252 foot pounds of momentum.

There are a number of wildcat cartridges in their development stages. Many of these show a good deal of potential, however, for the purposes of this discussion we will only consider those cartridges which have proven themselves and for which commercial reloading dies are available.

The lightest cartridge I would recommend for production competition is the 6.5 TCU (Thompson Center Ugalde), a wildcat cartridge based on a necked up .223 Rem. case. The 6.5mm TCU is capable of delivering a 129 gr. bullet at 2000 fps from the muzzle of a 10 inch barrel. This is close to an ideal hunting round, but, it does not transmit sufficient

momentum to the big bore ram for consistent knock downs. Even when loaded with a 140 gr. bullet, driven at 1800 fps it will, on occasion, leave a hard set ram. (A hard set ram is a target which is not manufactured or placed exactly to regulation. It could also be a target with a supporting wind up-range.)

Next on the list of preferred production pistol cartridges is Thompson Center's 7mm TCU. The 7mm TCU, also a wildcat based on Remington's .223 cartridge case, is currently the most popular production pistol cartridge in long range silhouette competition. This little 7mm, when loaded with 150 to 160 gr. bullets, becomes an excellent choice for the silhouette game. Seven out of the top 10 production class winners at the 1985 IHMSA International Championships were using TC Contenders in this chambering.

My personal favorite is the 30 Herrett, a wildcat designed around a shortened 30-30 Win. case. It produces 30-30 Win. velocities with 10 grs. less of an equivalent powder due to its efficient case design. The 30 Herrett has proven itself extremely accurate and effective when loaded with 150 and 165 gr. bullets.

The next three cartridges worthy of consideration for silhouette are the 357 Mag., its big brother the 357 Rem. Max and the 30-30 Winchester. The 357 Mag when loaded with a 180 grain bullet at 1500-1600 fps will do a presentable job. This cartridge has the advantages of being easy to reload and produces a relatively light recoil. The high trajectory is considered by some to be a drawback, but many shooters do not find it to be a problem.

The 357 Rem. Max is more powerful than its predecessor the 357 Mag. However, it also produces a good deal more recoil. The 357 Max is capable of delivering a 180 gr. bullet at 1800 fps with excellent accuracy. Now *there's* a load which will topple the most obstinate ram. All of the 357 Rem. Max case dimensions except case length, are the same as the 357 Mag which allows the cartridge to be reloaded with standard 357 Mag dies.

The last factory cartridge worthy of consideration is the 30-30 Winchester. Many competitors like the 30-30 because it is easy to reload and very accurate and effective when loaded with 150 or 165 gr. bullets. The large, long 30-30 case is not efficient when used in a ten-inch barrel. It produces a large muzzle flash and a heavy recoil, which are big fatigue factors in a long match.

In summation, there are currently three cartridges which meet the criteria of accuracy, maximum knockdown and acceptable recoil. These cartridges are the 357 Magnum, the 7mm TCU and the 30 Herrett. The choice should be determined by your enjoyment at the loading bench. If reloading is a chore and only done to provide ammo for the next trip to the range, then the 357 Mag tops the list. If, on the other hand, a challenge at the loading bench is enjoyed then the 7mm TCU should be the choice. And, if you are one of those people who likes to spend his spare time at the bench trimming, neck turning and reaming brass to produce your own individual cases, then the 30 Herrett is your candidate.



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PISTOLSMITHING

JOHN G. LAWSON

CONSUMER GUIDE TO PISTOLSMITH PRICES FROM AROUND THE NATION

Once again this year's most popular subject for custom pistolsmithing modifications is the venerable Colt Government Model and its clones, with the Combat Commander a close second. The only difference is the growing trend toward the .38 Super and 9mm versions. And, with many shooters having pistols made up in the latter two calibers in addition to the .45 ACP, it should be another record breaking year for American pistolsmiths.

The chart reflects the high and low average prices charged by 'smiths across the country taken from random samplings of brochures and correspondence.

1986 Pistolsmithing Prices

Hourly Charge, Labor, Bench Work only	\$40-\$55
Hourly Charge, Labor and Machine	
Tool Work	65-78
Minimum Charge per Job	0-25
Check Headspace	25-30
Service Charge for Special Order Parts	10%-15%
Written Appraise Value (each handgun)	25-30
Verbal Appraise Value (each handgun)	0-10

Bullseye Accuracy Work (parts incl.)	150-300
Combat Accuracy/Reliability Work (parts incl.)	350-750
Compensator System (many types and systems)	300-995
Street Gun Reliability, Adj. Sights (parts incl.)	350-425
Fixed High Visibility Sights (installed)	45-60
Low Mount Adjustable Sights (installed)	125-140
Serrate or Stipple Rear of Slide	10-15
Checker or Stipple Front of Trigger Guard	25-40
Square and Checker Trigger Guard	65-75
Stipple Front Strap	30-35
Checker Front Strap	90-125
Tighten Slide to Frame	35-50
Extended Safety Fitted	35-65
Ambi Safety Fitted	65-95
N.M. Bushing (Incl. Fit to Barrel, Slide)	30-45
Commander or Wide Hammer (Fitted)	20-25
Trigger Work	50-65
Trigger Work, Series '80 Colt (Surcharge)	10-30
Funnel Magazine Well	25-35
Magazine Well Funnel (Installed) Metal	35-45
Magazine Well Funnel (Installed) Polycarbonate	10-12.50
Bob or Clip Hammer to Avoid Bite	10-12
Polish Feed Ramp, Throat Barrel	25-30
Lower Ejection Port and Flair	25-35
Adjust Extractor and Stone, Polish	7-10
Wide Grip Safety Installed	45-65
Magazine Release Button (Installed)	20-22.50
Lock Firing Pin Stop to Slide w/Set Screw	15-20
Extended Slide Stop	30-35
Full Length Recoil Spring Guide System	30-115
Custom or Exotic Wood Grips, Combat Reblue (Hot Tank Black Oxide) Standard Grade	50-85
Reblue, Custom Grade	110-140
Hard Chrome Finish (Entire Pistol)	100-115
Hard Chrome (Frame Portion Only)	80-90
Long Ejector (Installed)	25-30
Special Tension Recoil Spring and F.P. Spring	7.50-10
Bead Blasted, Phosphate Finish Entire Pistol	65-80
Bead Blasted, Electroless Nickel Entire Pistol	85-115
Bead Blast, Phosphate, Blue Over	100-115
Surcharge for Work on Aftermarket Pistols	0-65

I asked each shop contacted what their policy was concerning hiring and apprentices. There were, literally, as many different answers as there were respondents. Most seemed optimistic about hiring extra help in the future, so there are still opportunities and openings for pistolsmiths and apprentices. Most shops favored applicants who had completed a recognized course in General Gunsmithing, but no special emphasis was put on "Prestige" schools. There seems, also, to be an increasing number of people who are opening new shops in large and small market areas. All told, the trade seems alive and well and optimistic about the future.



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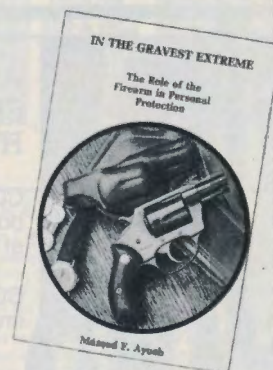
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HANDGUN HUNTING

J. D. JONES

YOU PAY WITH MORE THAN MONEY AS A HANDGUN HUNTER—ASK ABRE STEYN

One way or another it's going to cost you. Equipment, transportation, guides, license fees, guns, ammo, boots and all the rest of it add up to a really tidy sum.

It's foolish to "economize" on equipment although most of us are tempted by the less expensive stuff rather than the more expensive. It doesn't always follow that the most expensive is the best—but you usually get about what you pay for.

But what about the rest of it? What do we pay physically and mentally? And are you ready to pay that highly individual price? Can you hack the thought of going home empty handed? Can you have a successful, enjoyable trip without firing a shot? Can you handle the pain and exhaustion that comes with a really tough hunt? Can you stand the heat or intense cold all too frequently encountered? Can you pass on a shot you're not sure of during the last hour of the hunt? Can you successfully endure the thought that the trophy you worked so hard for is still 100 yards out of range, but would be a simple shot with a rifle?

If your answer to all of the above questions is "yes," you are a very, very experienced hunter or you just don't know what the sport of handgun hunting is about.

Certainly handgun hunting is not the sport for everyone. Neither is ping pong, football, drinking, wrestling or automobile racing—or anything else. All of us like some things or find them an irresistible challenge while others

leave us cold. But once we are hooked on something we will go to almost any length to do it.

The guys at the in-between stage of deciding if they want to pursue the sport are the ones who seem to be the least prepared to make that decision. If you are going to be a

your head you don't belong in the field hunting anything with anything—much less with a pistol. Sometimes most of us have easy hunts and sometimes they are hard. Most fall in between. Sometime I hurt so damn bad I'd sit down and cry if I thought it would help. And I've looked at a lot of other guys in the same shape or worse. The guys that keep on going are the ones with mental determination and discipline. Sure, they get disagreeable, sometimes downright pissed off—but they get over it—and keep on going. They are paying and paying in the most important way. But most of them know the next hunt is going to be better. But not all of them.

Abre Steyn is a *Handgun Hunters International* member from the Republic of South Africa. I had the pleasure of meeting him and



handgun hunter you must first and foremost be mentally prepared. That includes knowing part of the reason for your participation in the sport is the fact that your quarry might just escape. If you can't handle that little fact in

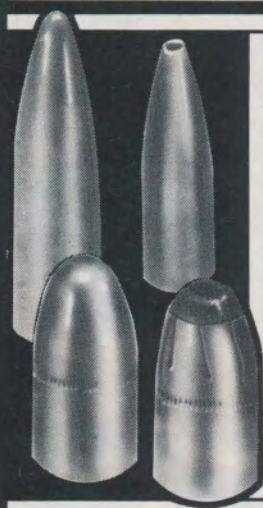
being a guest in his home and for a hunt last summer. Abre is an unusual individual in more ways than one. He is middle aged with a devoted family. He is in charge of the *Cwaka* (means tranquility) Game Park and has quite a collection of skull mounts with .22 caliber holes in them. He "pays" every time he hunts.

As a child Abre suffered a severe bout with crippling polio. After something on the order of forty operations Abre's legs are somewhat more than useless—but not much. Abre is a handgun hunter. Says pistols are more of a challenge to hunt with than rifles. Thinks hunting with a rifle is just too easy.

Prior to the time I met him, Abre's weapon was a XP-100 221 Fireball and he killed a lot of game with it. Only hunting pistol he had. Abre's method of hunting is to drive into the bush; get out and, leaving his crutches, pull himself along with his hands and arms with the XP slung under his chest. He does the rest of it like most other people. He follows the tracks, finds the game and kills. Except with that little 221 he risks wounding an animal which in the part of the world he hunts in could definitely be a health hazard. He also has a high regard for the animals he hunts and would go to almost any length to avoid wounding one. At the conclusion of his hunt he prefers to close to as little as 15 feet of the animal and as it looks at him—brain it with the Fireball. Friends, that's paying.



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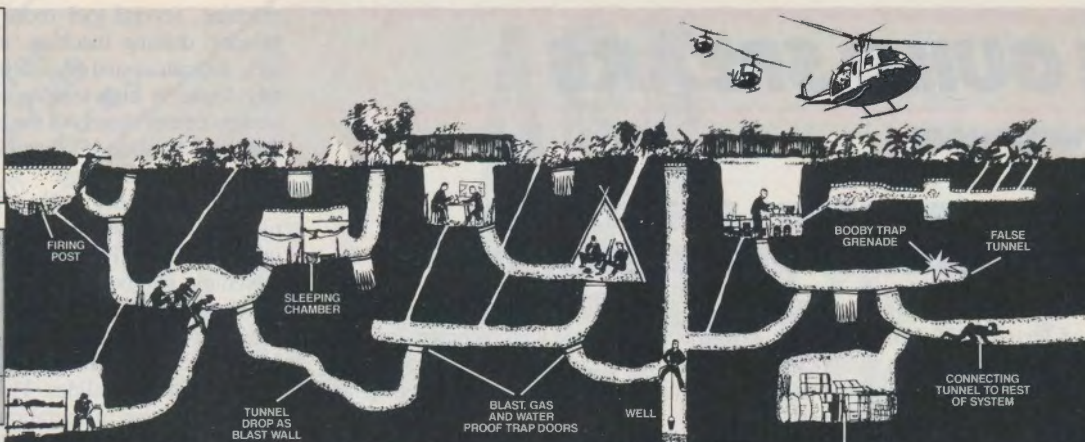
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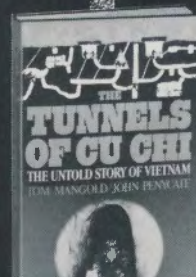
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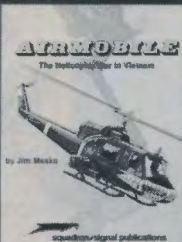
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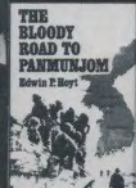


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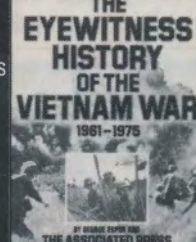
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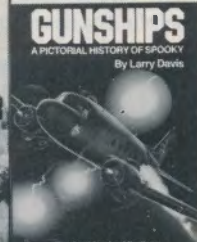
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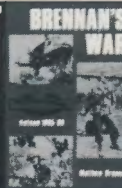
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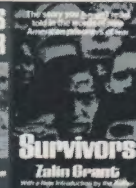
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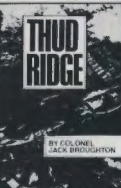
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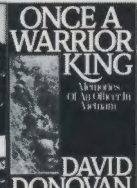
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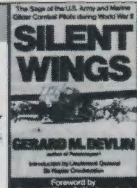
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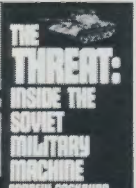
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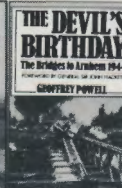
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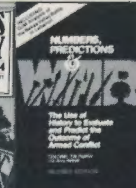
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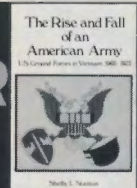
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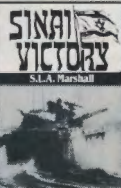
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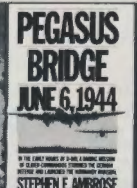
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THE GUILD SPEAKS

GEORGE WESSINGER

AL MARVEL BUILT HIS REPUTATION OVER 20 YEARS OF PISTOLSMITHING

Al Marvel of Jarrettsville, MD, is one of the earlier members of the American Pistolsmiths Guild and is one of the top pistolsmiths in the country. He is presently Treasurer of the Guild and held the office of Secretary for five years. Al has been a driving force within the Guild and is responsible for a great deal of its growth.

Al has been employed by the Maryland Air National Guard since 1951. During this time he has gained valuable experience with competition handguns. He worked with some of the best pistolsmiths in the trade and received the bulk of his training from Master Sgt. Nelson Lute. Al says Lute was very helpful and never tired of his many questions.

He was always free with technical information. Al tries to pattern himself after this fine pistolsmith and is always willing to help new talent.

Over the past 20 years Al has become a precision machinist. He has the background and experience necessary to operate the precision machine tools and measuring devices used for the precise fitting required in a match pistol. Top quality match pistols require top quality parts which are assembled by a pistolsmith who knows and cares about fit and function.

Al operates one of the most modern pistolsmithing operations in the East. A complete machine shop with a Bridgeport milling

machine, several tool room lathes, surface grinder, drilling machine, many micrometers, indicators and measuring devices usually found in high-tech tool and die shops occupy center stage. All the heli-arc welding done on long slide 45's, barrel hoods and lugs is done in this fine shop.

Al is not only a fine machinist and pistolsmith but also is an engineer and inventor as well. He has designed and built an incredible number of fixtures and jigs used for working on Colt, Hi-Standard, Smith and Wesson, and Ruger autos and revolvers. Included in these fixtures is a hydraulic press used to tighten 45 slides. This press is really something to see in operation.

The shop manufactures National Match barrel links to government specifications and sells them to most of the top pistolsmiths in the country. He also designed and manufactures a front sight for the Colt style autos that is held on with a roll pin and screw. This sight can be made in many different shapes and heights and replaced by the shooter in a matter of seconds, if desired. The nice thing about this sight is no silver solder is involved, and yet it stays on.

Another specialty of Marvel Custom Guns is the conversion of the Smith and Wesson K-frame revolver to the 32 Smith and Wesson long (and 32 Magnum) for centerfire and international competition. This conversion has become very popular.

The shop spends quite a bit of time developing highly accurate match ammunition in 45 ACP, 38 Special, and 32 Smith and Wesson long. Al learned long ago that it was necessary to determine the accuracy of the ammunition before you could check the accuracy of a match pistol. After Al builds a pistol and completes the firing test, you can be sure of one of the most accurate and dependable firearms available.

Al is an outstanding competition pistol shooter in his own right. He has competed for years as a member of the National Guard Pistol Team, as a civilian in numerous league matches and in the local police pistol competition. His knowledge, experience and talent as a shooter has made Al aware of the necessity for the best equipment and he has been building it for a long time.

While the primary product of Al Marvel's shop is the conventional (bullseye) auto in 45 ACP, 38 Special, and 22, Al also builds fine IPSC and PPC pistols. He even finds time to do a little general gunsmithing and refinishing. His shop is equipped with a modern bluing setup. In order to get high quality finishes of all types he has the most modern polishing and glass beading equipment available.

The American Pistolsmiths Guild is proud to have Al Marvel as a member. We are especially honored to have him as an elected officer, and hope to have his many talents and energies available to the pistolsmithing fraternity for many years.

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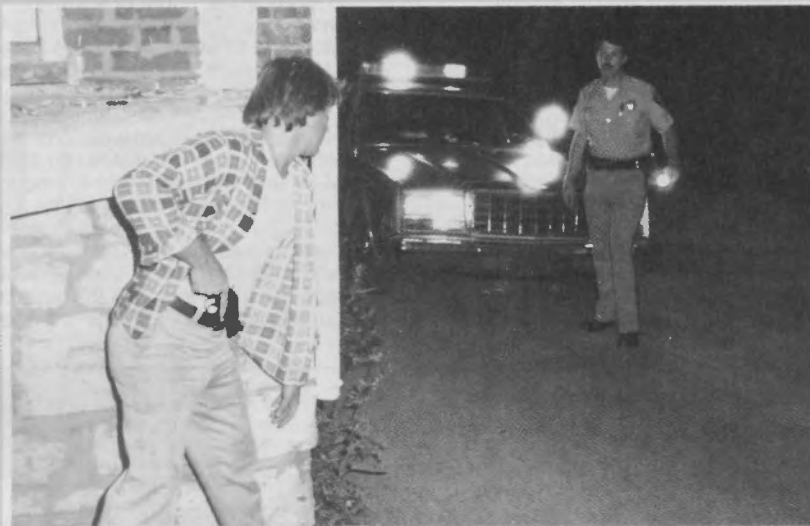
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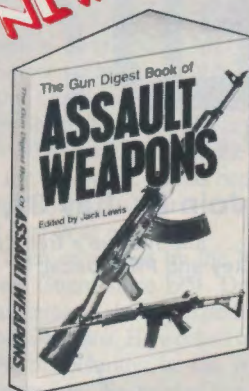
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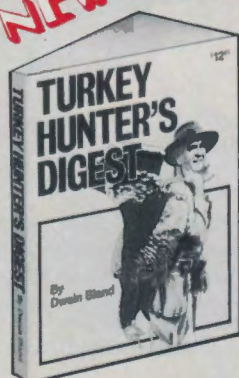
The Gun Digest Book Of ASSAULT WEAPONS

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reviews of specific models and a preview of the future of full-auto weaponry. Testfire reports on the Aug/Steyr, the Enfield System, the Beretta M128S and 93R, the H & K and Viking systems. The semi-auto section looks into the growing consumer popularity of these legal-to-own weapons. Testfire reports on the AR-15, AR-180, Barrett M-82 and Ruger's Mini-14, among others. The practical use of the 22 rimfire by law enforcement, home defense and the military is debated in its own section, complete with testfire reports. Full coverage of the assault shotguns is included. 256 8½" x 11" pages.

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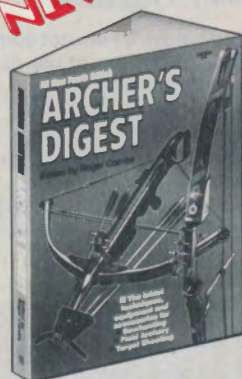
TURKEY HUNTER'S DIGEST

By Dwain Bland

Dwain Bland is a turkey hunter par excellence. He has hunted all four subspecies across the country and the Gould's Turkey in Old Mexico. He would rather hunt turkey than do just about anything else. And he does, too, at the drop of a hat! His knowledge and skill are recognized as unparalleled by those qualified to judge. For expert and novice alike, to hunt with Dwain Bland is an unforgettable experience. Now Bland shares this knowledge with all of us in this truly complete handbook. In a folksy, readable style, he discusses the wild turkey from descriptions of the subspecies, habits and habitats, to call-

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and the compound crossbow. All the arrow types are covered including wood, aluminum, fiberglass and the new fluted aluminum shafts from the Far East. Full coverage is given to each of the archery specialties: Target, Field, Flight shooting and Silhouette. The large bowhunting section covers deer, elk, bear, antelope, sheep and goats, exotics and small game. Brief biographies of the leaders in the U.S. archery movement, lots of product information and a great do-it-yourself chapter round out the new fourth edition. 256 8½" x 11" pages.

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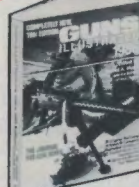


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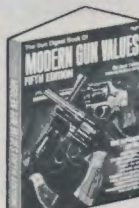
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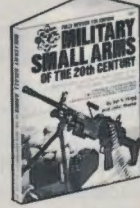
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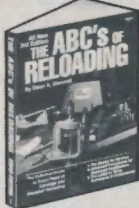
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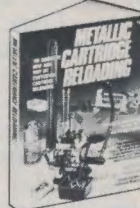
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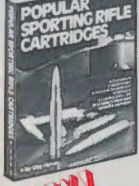
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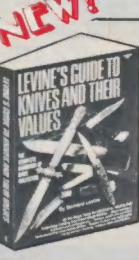
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DAN COTTERMAN

QUIT BADMOUTHING THE 9MM LUGER! MORE ON BLUE DOT AND .38 SUPER

Get a load of Robert Moore's swanky ammo-making set-up, a color photo of which can be seen on page 44 of our January/February issue. If you've been wondering how to move your reloading operation into the living room without objections from She who must be obeyed, follow Moore's idea and make it look pretty.

But something's missing—not only from Moore's bench, but also from all the others in the "Mystery Reloading Bench" contest—probably because it wasn't available when the photos were taken. I'm referring to Lee Precision's handy new shellholder sets. A set of 11 in a small green plastic box handles over a hundred different cases and fits almost any reloading press. Another set, in a red box, is especially for use with Lee's Auto Prime. Attached to the back of each box is a card that shows you which shellholders to use for different cartridges. It's one of the neatest innovations that's come along in a long time, because it eliminates the hassle of pawing through your pile of goodies to find shellholders and because, by spending \$19.98 for

Lee's set of 11, you'll save a few bucks.

Contributing to the pool of knowledge we share here is Allen Dyer, of Phoenix, Ariz., with information on reloading the .38 Super. "My gun is a Colt Government .38 Super," he writes, "and I'm using a five-inch Arminex barrel, because it headspaces on the case mouth. All loads were checked on an Oehler 33 chronograph. I used PMC cases, Remington-Peters standard primers, and 11.0 grains of Blue Dot behind 115-grain Speer jacketed hollow-points for an average velocity of 1468 feet per second. No swelled case webs. No problems. The primers, after firing, look about like what you would see in fired .357 Magnum factory ammo.

"Remington cases and primers and 158-grain cast round-nosed bullets, sized to .356", produced the following results:

6.0 grains Blue Dot,	938 fps (average)
6.5 " " "	1026 fps "
7.0 " " "	1115 fps "

The 7.0 grain load makes IPSC major caliber without any of the swelled case or blown primer problems I've heard about. R-P

and new PMC cases weigh more and expand less than W-W cases with top loads.

"The more I experiment with the .38 Super, the more I am impressed with the 9mm Luger with bullets of 115 grains or less. My standard 9mm Luger load for years has been a 115-grain JHP, usually Sierra, with 7.0 grains of Herco, using various cases and primers. This load has averaged between 1399 and 1406 fps in three different guns checked on two different chronographs. No blown cases or pierced primers, and super-accurate for me."

As long as we're on a 9mm roll, we'll include a few notes from Penn Valley, Pennsylvania's own B. Ted Zogrotzki, who hails in with an objection about the way gun writers and manufacturers shortchange our new service handgun round. It's all wrong!

"This is especially true," Zogrotzki complains, "when the 9mm Luger is compared to the .45 ACP for accuracy and ease of reloading. I reload both calibers and like both, but tend to shoot the 9mm more due to its lower cost, higher velocity, flatter trajectory, and better accuracy over longer distances.

"Let's start with the often-heard comment that the 9mm is inaccurate. In my experience, it can be very accurate, but only when it's loaded down for plinking and target shooting, or hot for hunting and defense. The 9mm operates at twice the pressure of the .45 ACP, and requires hot loads to upset the bullet so it'll firmly engage the rifling. (Most bullets are .354" to .355", while most 9mm barrels

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I've measured have bores larger than .355"). As opposed to the .45 ACP, I have been able to develop a medium load with outstanding accuracy, but most domestic factory loads unfortunately fall in that range and give fair-to-poor accuracy in my gun. Handloading is the answer, and I use three loads that shoot 1" to 1½" groups at 25 yards in my Browning Hi-Power (hand-held using a rest, W-W cases and primers).

Plinking and target shooting: Speer 125-grain swaged lead/3.3 grains of Red Dot/880 fps. Very accurate and an inexpensive training and small-game load with minimum recoil. In my gun this load requires a shortened recoil spring for reliable functioning, but any increase of the powder charge destroys accuracy.

Defense: Sierra 115-grain JHP/6.7 grains of Herco/1250 fps/overall cartridge length 1.100". This is the most accurate and reliable load in my gun, but it's too destructive for small game.

Defense: Speer 125-grain JSP/8.6 grains of Blue Dot/1200 fps/overall cartridge length 1.110". This is a hot load with good expansion and deeper penetration than the load with the 115-grain Sierra. It is *not* recommended as a steady diet for any gun. This load also requires help for totally reliable feeding. After loading, I wet a patch with Dry-Slide and wipe the exposed lead tips of the bullets to avoid smearing them on the feed ramp.

Moreover, Zogrotzki contends, the 9mm is not at all tricky to reload, as much of the current badmouthing would have it. "However," he continues, "the case of the 9mm is tapered and requires a different approach to expansion than a straight-walled case. Most reloaders probably over-expand and over-crimp the case mouth, and so have problems maintaining proper neck tension and head-space. I use the excellent RCBS four-die carbide set and give the loaded round a slight taper crimp. I also replaced the expander with a Lyman expander (that fits the RCBS die perfectly), ground down for an expansion step of only ¼th of an inch, with a .355" diameter than increases to .357" for bellling of the case mouth. With these dies properly adjusted, I get perfect neck tension for all my bullets, and the reloading process is as simple as it is for the .45 ACP or any similar cartridge."

Terry Murbach, the Maumee, Ohio, gunscribe, raises a question: "Why can't we load .38 Specials to equal the 9mm? It should be easy with the much larger powder capacity of the .38, but loads approaching 9mm ballistics in my K-38 tie up extraction something scary. Why should that be so? Is .38 brass that much weaker than 9mm stuff?"

Excessive powder capacity, not necessarily case strength, is the problem. The efficiency of the .38 Special round is vastly improved when case length is whittled back to about .900", which, in effect, creates a full-rimmed .38 Super for revolvers. The result is higher velocity for equal—even lower—powder charges, and less gripping area to cause difficult extraction. This round that, for want of a more imaginative name I

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called the .357 Short, was enough to blow the woolies off any handgun buff.

Gordon Payne, of Mexia, Texas, picked up on our revelation of the benefits of using 5.2 grains of W-W 452AA behind the H&G #68 in the .45 ACP. Then he jacked the charge up to 6.0 grains of the same mix for shooting in his ported Clark Pin Gun. Taper crimped, the 68s averaged 965 fps at a chilly ambient of 40 degrees. The load is comfortable to shoot and very clean, he adds.

The address for cogent comments, helpful hints, and outright bullying is Handloading, Rt. 1, Box 7, Llano, CA, 93544. Anything you have to say about turning out better ammo will be used as soon as there's room to get it in print. If you have a question and want an answer, include a stamped envelope.



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...Mickey Fowler

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The MKII is about as easy to use as your pocket calculator. For example, to enter a stop beep or "par time" at 4 seconds, simply push "PAR". The timer will tell you "ENTER PAR TIME AND PUSH SET" so you push "4", "SET". Want to change it to 6 seconds? Just push "PAR", "6", "SET", it's that simple!

GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE:

Let's say you fire six shots, reload and fire six more shots. Here is an example of what the Timer will display:

#012 .27 6.67
FIND SHOT 7

- You have fired 12 shots.
- Your twelfth shot came .27 seconds after your eleventh shot.
- Your total time was 6.67 seconds.

#007 1.54 4.07
FIND SHOT

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MASTER TIPS

Collected by Jon Winokur

Bowling Pins

In the Second Chance Five-Pin Event, the shooter stands 25 feet from a 4 by 8 foot table on which regulation bowling pins are placed 18 inches apart and 12 inches from the front of the table. Timing begins with the report of the starting gun and ends when all the pins are off the table. Starting position is gun touching the wood rail directly in front of the shooter. Here are a few pointers based on my experience:

1. DON'T PEEK: There's a strong temptation to look at the pins as you shoot, especially after you've made two or three good shots. Avoid it. Ignore the pins and focus on the front sight. (You stop hittin' 'em when you start watchin' 'em.)

2. DON'T RUSH: Don't try to shoot fast. Speed comes from smoothness, not effort.

3. GO FOR ONE-SHOT HITS: Consistency is the key to shooting bowling pins, and to be consistent, you have to shoot at a one shot per pin pace.

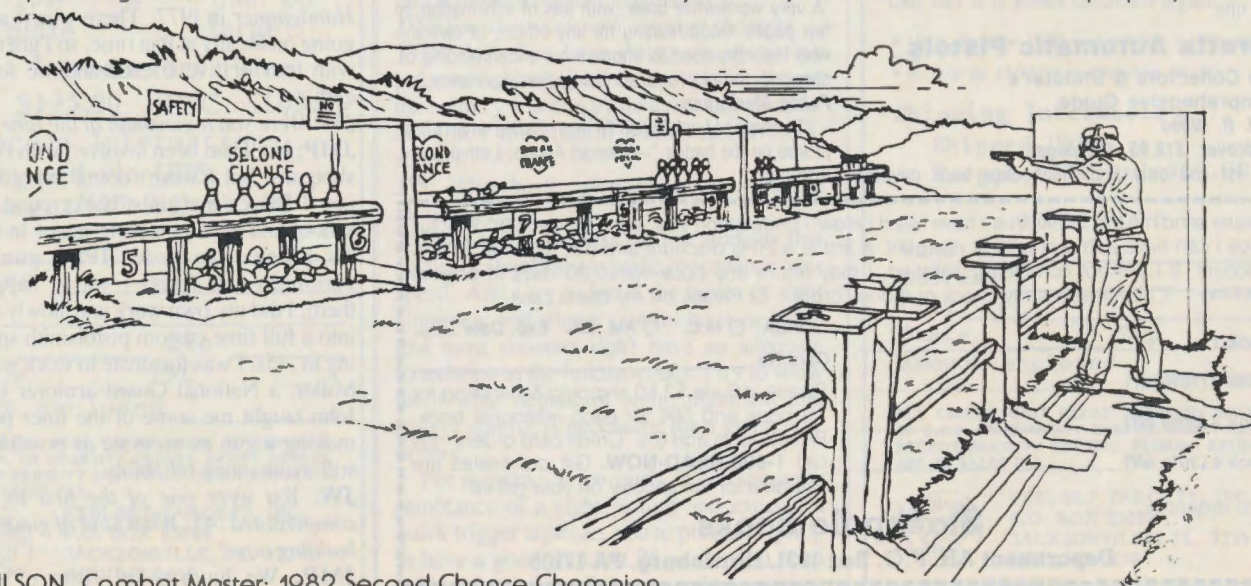
4. LEFT TO RIGHT OR RIGHT TO LEFT?: Do what's comfortable for you. I shoot from left to right, but many top shooters do the opposite.

5. POINT OF AIM: I aim at the logo, about two-thirds of the way up the pin. Shooting at the Forrest part of the pin doesn't allow enough margin for error. If you hit a little low, the pin might not go off the table. If you're a little high, you'll probably miss the pin altogether.

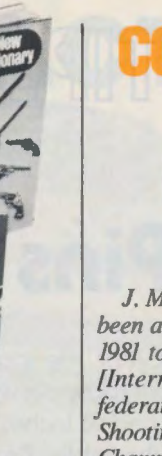
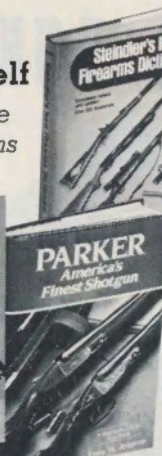
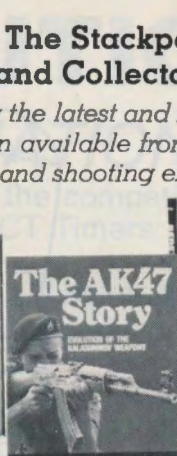


6. GO BACK FOR THE DEADWOOD: Watching the pins as you shoot and trying to "pick up" deadwood as you go along wastes valuable time on pins that might have rolled off the table anyway. And stopping for deadwood along the way disturbs your rhythm: it takes a very careful shot to hit a pin that's on its side, so you have to slow down to make the shot. Then you have to speed back up for the standing pins. It's better to fire one shot per pin, re-assess the problem, and then go back for the deadwood.

7. DOUBLE TAP THE LAST PIN: The clock stops when the last pin hits either the back wall or the ground, so if you can speed it up with an extra hit, you can shave one or two tenths of a second off your time. But you really have to be "on" to do it properly.



BILL WILSON, Combat Master; 1982 Second Chance Champion.



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CONVERSATION WITH A CHAMPION

By Jon Winokur

J. Michael Plaxco is a Combat Master, has been a member of the U.S. Gold Team from 1981 to the present, is the 1982 U.S. IPSC [International Practical Shooting Confederation] Champion, 1982 World Speed Shooting Champion, 1984 Second Chance Champion, 1985 Soldier of Fortune Champion, and has won numerous state, local and regional titles. He's a top custom gunsmith and a respected coach and teacher of the game. Add Mike's pleasant, outgoing personality, and you have a prime candidate for this column:



JW: Mike, how did you get started in practical shooting?

JMP: I started reading about it in *American Handgunner* in 1977. There wasn't anything going on locally at that time, so I got together with four or five friends and we formed a club.

JW: Were you a gunsmith at the time?

JMP: No, I had been involved with rifles and shotguns, but I wasn't doing any gunsmithing. I have a machinist background in high school and an engineering major in college. As I began to order IPSC guns from gunsmiths and found I wasn't happy with them, I did my own work and slowly evolved into a full time custom pistolsmith specializing in .45s. I was fortunate to work with John Miller, a National Guard armorer in Ohio. John taught me some of the finer points of making a gun as accurate as possible while still maintaining reliability.

JW: You were one of the first to offer a compensated .45. What kind of guns are you building now?

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JW: What's the shop time on one of your full-house competition guns?

JMP: Right now we're running three to five months.

JW: One of the biggest complaints about custom gunsmiths is the lack of personal involvement in the work. How do you handle it?

JMP: I do all the work myself. I take the same approach that Curtis Mathes does with televisions: it may cost you a little more, you may have to wait a little longer, but the end result is a quality product built and tested by me personally.

JW: What's the greatest change you've seen since you started competing in the late '70s?

JMP: When I first started competing, especially on a local level, if you hit the target with every shot and your gun didn't jam, you'd win the tournament. It didn't really matter what kind of equipment you were using. That's changed drastically, and now you can't win without state-of-the-art equipment and technique, even in local matches.

JW: In conversations with Lee Cole and Jo Anne Hall, they mentioned working with you prior to big matches. Have you coached any other top shooters?

JMP: I've worked with Tommy Campbell, Bill Rogers, Bill Wilson.

JW: What is it about your approach that makes you so popular with other pros?

JMP: I think my success as a teacher is due to my engineering background. I have an analytical mind and try to break everything down into small steps. The idea is to work on one area at a time, to go from A to B to C and then put them all together into a sound technique, rather than trying to tackle the whole alphabet at once. I try to be scientific, to recognize that everything we do with a handgun is either a liability or an asset.

JW: You also work with average shooters.

JMP: Yes, I've been doing classes at my place in Arkansas and at local clubs all over the country. I normally do a two day seminar in which the student shoots about 1,000 rounds.

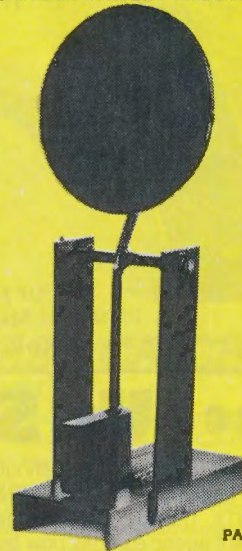
JW: What basic approach do you take in these classes?

JMP: I try to impress on my students that accuracy should always take precedence over speed. And I try to instill the basics of sight alignment and trigger control because I find that most shooters don't have an adequate foundation in the fundamentals. I try to show them what degree of sight alignment and trigger control is necessary for a given type of shot.

For example, at ten yards, if you see some semblance of a sight picture and execute a quick trigger squeeze, you're probably going to have a good shot. At 25 yards, you need fairly refined sight alignment and trigger con-

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trol. And at 50 yards they have to be perfect. In addition, you have to learn to change gears in mid-string depending on the shot required.

I also try to convince my students that the sights should dictate the cadence of fire. Again, accuracy takes precedence over speed.

Another teaching technique I find helpful is to bypass the double tap and go into the "triple tap." I try to impress on students that it's three one-shot strings, not vice versa. Then when they go into an assault course with, say, 19 rounds, each of those 19 rounds is a world championship.

I also try to get them to think about trigger control in terms of *pushing* the trigger rather than *pulling* it. When you reach out and pull something to you, you do it quickly; when you push something, you gradually apply pressure until you overcome the force of friction or gravity. As you push the trigger, the pressure should gradually increase until the trigger breaks.

You should also release the trigger at the same rate as you push it. If you're shooting a very precise shot, you should push it slowly and release it slowly. If it's a double tap, push and release at the same speed. The reason shooters tend to stutter on the second shot of a double tap is because they think of it as one two-shot string rather than two one-shot strings.

I teach one class to all levels of shooters. As long as they know the basics of safe gun handling, I put "D" class shooters and "A" class shooters on the line together. We start with the basics and go all the way up to the advanced techniques.

JW: Do you teach an advanced class?

JMP: Yes, but it's advanced only for my former students. In other words, just because you're an "A" class shooter you can't go right into an advanced class; you have to have taken my basic class first. It's a system I've developed that works well.

JW: What's the most common mistake you see in average shooters?

JMP: A lot of people try to overkill the weapon. You actually want to apply a sensible amount of grip control and let your hands recoil with the gun rather than put a vice grip on it. If you lock your grip too tightly, the gun tends to recoil right out of your hands.

Another common problem is bad practice habits. Students don't seem to know what to work on. They go out and set up next Sunday's match and do nothing but shoot the match ten times rather than work on one specific area like the switchover from strong hand to weak hand, holster work, double taps, etc. You should have a goal for each practice session and you should work on it until you master it.

JW: What if there's a big match next week and you only have one day to practice?

JMP: Start the practice session with accuracy work. Shoot the first two or three magazines with emphasis on feeling the trigger and watching the sights carefully. Then move into the particular techniques involved in the upcoming match. If it's an assault course, set up the props and barricades and

work around them until you feel comfortable in the various shooting positions. Figure out which side you want to shoot from, which foot you want to land on, etc. Work on transitions from one part of the course to another and try to figure out how to eliminate excess motion. Then run through the entire course of fire two or three times—more than that and you're going to burn yourself out.

You don't have to run flat out to do well on an assault course. If you've ever watched Rob Leatham, he doesn't look like he's moving fast. He's very fluid, all the motion is extended toward the shooting, and when he stops he's instantly ready to shoot.

You'll find that the shots are pretty easy on most assault courses. You beat yourself by overrunning shooting boxes, dropping shots and hitting hostages. The actual shooting is usually pretty basic.

JW: *How much of a factor is luck in practical pistol competition?*

JMP: You can never predict when a gun's going to break. I don't care who you are, eventually the "bullet fairy" is going to bite you and cost you a tournament. You can have the best gun in the world and perfect ammo, but if a speck of dirt gets in the wrong place or if you ride the slide release with your thumb, it can cost you the match.

You make your own luck to a certain degree—the better you prepare the better your luck is—but there's so much competition in the sport now, you not only have to shoot well, you also have to have Lady Luck on your side.

JW: *What percentage of practical shooting is*

mental, and what is your basic mental approach?

JMP: The more proficient you are, the more important the mental game is. When you first start out and work your way up in the ranks, the mental aspect isn't as important as it is at the highest levels of competition, where it's probably 90 percent mental. We all have essentially the same shooting skills; the problem is execution on demand.

Going into a tournament, I try to practice enough so that I feel confident. It's kind of like doing your homework: you go into the classroom with a smile on your face and hand the teacher your paper knowing you've done your best to get a good grade.

JW: *What's your biggest asset as a competitor?*

JMP: I think it's my motivation. In 1981 I had been shooting well at the local and regional level, and the one thing that helped me become competitive on a national level was the fact that I was "hungry." You've got to have a certain amount of athletic ability and hand-eye coordination, but the bottom line is motivation.

The teaching has helped me a lot too. I've learned *why* I do what I do because I have to verbalize it to my students. If I can instill in them the ability to think for themselves after going through the fundamentals and exposing them to modern techniques, I've accomplished my goal.



For more information about Mike's classes or custom guns, readers can contact him at Route 1, Box 203, Roland, Arkansas 72135



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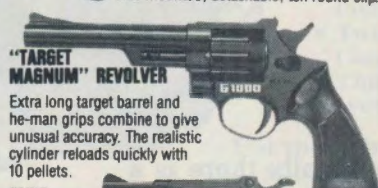
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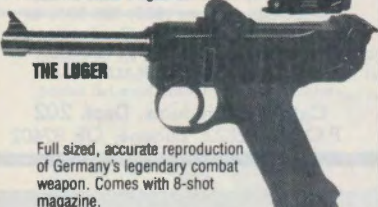
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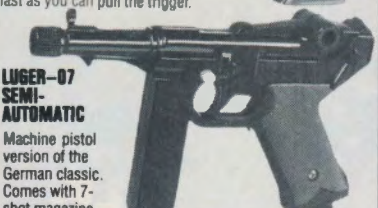
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TEST REPORT

C & H 444-X

By Dan Cotterman

A year or so ago when we began this series I decided to take a hardboiled attitude toward product quality, design, and user convenience. I set myself up as a fault-finding committee of one—you know, the paper-capped fearless crusader with no apples to polish. A champion of the consumer.

In that role, I've taken a few healthy cuts at products when shortcomings cropped up, and I've offered suggestions for improvements. I'm still tough to please, but if I'm going to be honest about shortcomings it's only fair to be just as honest about advantages.

Which brings us to the C-H Tool and Die Corporation's (106 N. Harding St., Dept. AH, Owen, WI, 54460) 444-X Pistol Champ. It can be used to handload anything from the tiny .25 Auto to the outsized .50 Sharps, with optimal user control of every phase of operation; yet, if you're into quantity production, it can turn out ammo at the rate of about 200 rounds per hour. That's with the C-H Pushbutton Powder Measure, which, with its complement of 17 bushings, will dispense 200 or so different handgun charges. If, however, you've a mind to swap a little production speed for greater versatility, it's easy to thread a fully-adjustable, crank-type measure into the 444-X's upper platen. So equipped, this press can be used to reload just about anything on the sane side of the .50 MG cartridge.

This is a four-station press; three across the front side and a fourth centered on the back side. Standard procedure calls for resizing and decapping at the back station. (The spent primer will drop into a small plastic catcher.) While the case is still in the resizing die, you push the button on a spring-return carrier bar, which moves a fresh primer from a feed tube and sets it into the cup on the priming punch at the front left station. Move the handle upward just enough to withdraw the case from the sizing die, then move the case over to the left station. Raising the handle all the way to the top of its travel will seat the primer. Seating depth can be controlled, because the priming punch's height is adjustable.



At this point, you'll have a resized, re-primed case. Lowering the handle will take it up into the bottom of the powder measure, where it'll be balled. Before you raise the handle again, you'll dispense a powder charge by pushing the button on the powder measure's charge bar. Like the carrier bar on the primer feed, the powder charge bar will return to its original position. This done, you'll be ready to raise the handle just enough to remove the case from the shellholder at front-left and move it over to front-center. This is where the bullet will be seated.

I used C-H's .38 Special Speed Seater die in my testing, because it makes reloading a lot easier, especially when you're seating wadcutters. This die has a funnel-shaped hole that is tapered toward the seating stem. A wadcutter, because it is cylindrical, will be seated in good alignment with the case, even if you happen to tip it a bit as it enters the die; the taper simply sets it right as it travels upward. Other bullet shapes also can be seated with the Speed Seater, but the greatest advantage is realized when you're seating wadcutters. In addition to the .38 Special, this seating die is available for 9mm Luger, .20-M1, .357 Magnum, .44 Magnum, .45 ACP, and .45 Colt.

The final move is from front-center to front-right. Lowering the handle will taper-crimp the case mouth onto the bullet. The advantages of using a separate crimping die certainly include not deforming the bullet nose by shoving it up against the seating stem, as can happen with an incorrectly adjusted combination seat-crimp die, and that advantage is appreciated here. Just to set the record straight, however, we should note that a properly adjusted combination die will seat bullets without deforming them.

Continued on page 63

COP TALK

MASSAD AYOOB

SPEEDLOADER CARRY METHODS POINT AYOOB TO FAVORING ROGERS SIXPACK

We all know speedloaders are the way to go if you carry a revolver with anticipation of someday needing sustained firepower. The question is where to carry those bulky cylinders with comfort, discretion, and accessibility.

It is generally conceded that your best bet for speed under stress is to carry them on the front of your belt on the gun-hand side. Under life-threatening pressure, the dominant hand wants to perform the dextrous act of operating the quickloader, and it's closer and more natural to reach on the strong-side front.

There are times, however, where this won't always be possible. Back when I shot a lot of PPC competition, I wore my open-top triple speedloader pouch on my left front, even though I'm right-handed. The reason was that it was much more comfortable when I dove into the rollover position for prone shooting stages. Because I became accustomed to reaching there for spare ammo, I carried my duty speedloader pouch in the same place.

This opposite front carry does have certain advantages to the uniformed officer, depending on his equipment and uniform. While some police jackets have straight zippers down the front, others button to the left in the normal male fashion, and if your garment is hip length or even waist length, it will be easier to get the loader out from under the hem on the left or "open" side.

There is also a symmetry of appearance, instead of all the equipment seeming to be clustered to the starboard side—one reason LAPD officers are told to carry their issue speedloaders to the left of the belt buckle if right handed. And, if you've been tactically wise enough to duck behind cover while reloading, you're probably in an edge-wise position that brings the right hand to midline of the body anyway.

On the other hand, with my present uniform, the weight of the aluminum PR-24 baton and Motorola radio on the left side of my belt make it actually more balanced to wear the speedloader case on the right of the belt, in front of my holster. Many other officers, probably a majority, agree. Comfort now combines with speed and maximum accessibility.

At first, it would seem logical to have the revolver on the right hip, the loader on the left, and reload with the left hand so the firing hand need never leave its firing position. In uniform, this would put the loader pouch in the way of the radio and baton. Besides, trying to perform a dexterity act with your least dextrous hand is an attempt to fool Mother Nature. Only the most highly skilled

pistoleros can do it smoothly under stress, PPC whiz Roger Burgess and Bianchi Cup ace Brian Enos being the only two that come to my mind right now. For the rest of us, not in that category, the strong hand should be doing the loading, and the left hip is not easily accessible to the right hand, or vice versa. Unlike a gun in a crossdraw holster, the speedloader doesn't have a forward-protruding pistol grip and is extremely hard to reach.

The best carriers? The Rogers Six-Pack and Double-Sixpack are the best in my opinion, equalled only by the Safariland copies manufactured under license from Rogers. With three rounds inside the belt and three rounds out, they bulge no more than streamlined dump pouches, yet because they're cut away on the sides to allow a firm hold before the snap is released, they are the fastest anywhere. The snapped flap keeps the loaders securely in place.

Safariland's open-top metal loader carriers have a place. The Rogers-style one is the most compact on the market for concealment, and the outside-belt type is the fastest made and comes on and off the belt smoothly and easily for off-duty carry. However, loaders can be lost from each during exertion. The flap on the plainclothes version of the only slightly slower Rogers Sixpack prevents this.

In plainclothes, I carry a Rogers or Safariland single unit just ahead of the right hip. It's where I'm used to reaching, and conceals fairly well. Several speedloader carriers have been designed for shoulder rigs, and in my opinion the best by far is the one produced by Alessi.

What about carrying the loaders behind the belt on the gunhand side? I carried my spares there in PPC competition, finding the right rear of the belt easier to reach from sitting and prone positions, and I know a handful of foot patrolmen who wear them there on duty. For most, though, it's uncomfortable when sitting, being more protruberant than the flat handcuff cases most of us put in that position instead.

A final solution for many is the jacket pocket, when in plainclothes or when working for departments that don't allow the loaders on the belt (yes, many such unenlightened agencies still exist that place appearance above survivability). I find the jetloader particularly good for this carry, since its large handle is easily reached through folds of cloth. Still other officers carry clip-on Safariland metal belt clips, so they can either put the loaders on their belt when going into danger—or get them off quick when the Captain pulls a surprise inspection.



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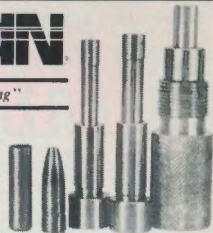
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IHMSA 1985 Championships



By Bert Stringfellow

Over 1,200 entries braved unseasonable winds to compete for 244 trophies at the 9th Annual IHMSA Championship.

The contest was held at the organization's new one-half million dollar Western range at Idaho Falls, Idaho, on August 5th thru the 11th. The 100 acre range facility, which is located in the sand dunes 5 miles south of Idaho Falls, features a three story range office, a 900-foot long covered exhibitors row, more than ample parking and camping area and a 960-foot long covered firing line with 80 firing points. Downrange there are 20 sets of silhouettes plus sighter targets for the competitor's convenience. Steel targets, 420 in a row, have color coded dividers to assist the contestants in defining their targets. An impressive sight.

In spite of winds which gusted to 30 knots, 35 Unlimited shooters went into the Sunday morning shoot-off with perfect 80 x 80 scores. Six production shooters also fired 80 x 80 scores and one revolver entry fired a perfect 80 x 80.

The shoot-off, designed to test the shooter's skill and his pistol's accuracy, consisted of a big bore chicken followed by a 22 size ram, then a 22 size pig and two 22 size turkeys all set on the 200 meter line.

Unlimited Competition

Four relays and three rounds of shoots were required to determine the 10 Unlimited International Class trophy winners. Darrell Crofford of Texas took the first place winner's position in the first round by dropping eight out of 10 of the little shoot off targets and Ronald Cottriel of California took 2nd place with seven out of 10. The next eight places required two more firing rounds to establish the winners. It is interesting to note that eight out of the 10 winners were firing 7mm wildcat cartridges and all the pistols were built on the Remington XP-100 action.

UNLIMITED MATCH RESULTS

Place & Class	Name	State	Gun	Score
1st U-Int	Darrell Crofford	TX	XP 7BR	80
2nd U-Int	Ronald Cottriel	CA	XP 7SWIFT	80
3rd U-Int	John F. Wilke	MT	XP 7-308	80
4th U-Int	Ted M. Krauss	WA	XP 7 Int.	80
5th U-Int	Gary Huwa	OR	TOPHAT 7/5	80
6th U-Int	George M. Dirgo	CT	XP 7/45	80
7th U-Int	Dr. Tom Clinkscales	TX	B/T 7U	80
8th U-Int	Thomas J. Small	PA	Brown XP 7 TCU	80
9th U-Int	Eric King	CA	XP 308	80
10th U-Int	Cathy Logosz	ND	Ugalde 6.5	80

Production Competition

Ted Krauss of Washington fired the first 80 x 80 early on the first day. Five more perfect production scores were fired during the course of the match. The six 80 x 80 International Production contestants shot off for first through sixth place and four contestants who had each missed one turkey for 79 x 80 scores shot off for seventh through tenth place trophies.

Seven out of the first ten places were taken with Thompson Center Contenders, six of them in the 7 TCU chambering. One Merrill is in the winners list and two of Wichita's new International Pistols made their appearance in the top ten.

PRODUCTION MATCH RESULTS

Place	Name	State	Gun	Score
1st	Lon Pennington	CO	TC 7TCU	80
2nd	John R. Weston Jr.	ID	TC 7TCU	80
3rd	Ted M. Krauss	WA	TC 7TCU	80
4th	Harvey S. Benoit	CO	Merrill 7mm	80
5th	Gary Huwa	OR	TC 30 Her.	80
6th	Gary Clark	GA	TC 7TCU	80
7th	Jerry W. Zimmerman	CA	TC 7TCU	79
8th	Ronnie Page	MT	TC 7TCU	79
9th	Gary J. Wrigley	IL	Wich. 7R	79
10th	Craig Zimmerman	UT	Wich. 30/30	79

Revolver Competition

Lon Pennington of Colorado demonstrated his skill by scoring the only Revolver 80 x 80 with his 8-inch barreled Dan Wesson in 357 Super Mag. Lon's 80 x 80 gave him the distinction of being the only competitor to win the International Revolver Championship three years in a row. The category was dominated by Dan Wesson revolvers with eight out of the ten winners shooting 44 and 357 SM heavy frame Dan Wessons. One each Ruger 357 Maximum and Seville 357 SM were also in the winners circle. Kenneth Lane of Tenn. and Jim Jonasen of Calif. shot off for 3rd place, the remainder of the places being clearly defined.

REVOLVER MATCH RESULTS

Place	Name	State	Gun	Score
1st	Lon Pennington	CO	DW 357SM	80
2nd	Ronald Cottriel	CA	DW 44	79
3rd	Kenneth D. Lane	TN	DW 44	79
4th	Jim Jonasen	CA	DW 44	79
5th	Ted M. Krauss	WA	Rug. 357SM	78
6th	M. W. Kahl	TX	DW 44	77
7th	Chase E. Childs	WA	DW 44	77
8th	George M. Dirgo	CT	Sev. 357SM	76
9th	Duane Morrow	CA	DW 44	76
10th	Charles Eberle	ID	DW 357 SM	75

Home on the range in their splendid new facility, over 1,200 silhouette shooters gathered to compete. When the last ram toppled, Mike Averre emerged as the 1985 Champion.



Dave Whitman (left) won Standing Match. Mike Averre won High Aggregate.



Lon Pennington (center) receives congratulations from Elgin Gates (right) and Bob Barnett. Lon shot 80x80 in revolver.

Standing Competition

Southern California's David Whitman (Darlin Dave) IHMSA #19 posted the winning score of 62 x 80 early in the match. Forty-one competitors attempted to push him out of his first place position with no luck. The end of the match came with Dave's 62 x 80 score a three target leader over his nearest competitor Jimmy Mitchell of Texas who had posted a 59 x 80. The standing category winning places were determined by the wind and natural selection with no shoot-off required to determine the trophy winners.

STANDING MATCH RESULTS

Place	Name	State	Gun	Score
1st	David R. Whitman	CA	TC 7TCU	62
2nd	Jimmy Mitchell	TX	TC 30/30	59
3rd	Mike Averre	WA	Mer. 357	59
4th	Mike A. Lange	CA	TC 7TCU	58
5th	Dave Slade	ID	Sev. 357SM	56
6th	Michael F. Stimson Sr.	TX	TC 7TCU	55
7th	John R. Weston Jr.	ID	TC 7TCU	55
8th	Lewis E. Gates	ND	TC 7TCU	55
9th	James F. Rock	CA	Mer. 270 RO	55
10th	Andy Maluke	OH	TC 7TCU	54

Aggregate Competition

Every competitor who enters all four categories of the competition is automatically entered in the aggregate competition to determine the best all around shot for the year. Three aggregate trophies are awarded each year: High Aggregate, High Lady and High Junior for those competitors under 16 years of age.

Winners

High Aggregate—Mike Averre (WA) 289 x 320
High Lady—Dana Rock (CA) 271 x 320
High Junior—J J Barlett (CA) 272 x 320

Region Seven's four member team of Ted Krauss, Weston Horne, Mike Averre and Ben Cook emerged victorious in the team competition with a total score of 1136 x 1280.

Annual Meeting

A highlight of each year's championship is the annual delegates meeting. These meetings review the rules for the coming years competition and on odd years elect officers. Led by its President, Elgin Gates, the IHMSA has become a stable, secure competitive organization. President Gates, Vice President Stringfellow and Sec. Treasurer Barnett are committed to an amateur shooting sport, shot primarily with across the counter production pistols. It was evident that the 168 delegates felt the same as only two rules were clarified prior to the unanimous re-election of the officers.

The clarifications are as follows:

1. A semi-auto fired in the production category must be loaded with 5 cartridges in its magazine and fired as a semi-auto.
2. Any pistol or revolver fired in the Unlimited category may be a single loaded and fired as a single shot.

The range is silent now. It will remain so until the second week in August 1986 when the IHMSA will celebrate its 10th Anniversary. The *American Handgunner* salutes the IHMSA competitors and wishes the organization 10 more successful years as together we celebrate our tenth birthdays.



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Alloy frame and stainless steel slide combine with the 669's compact shape to make a handy service pistol.

By Mark A. Hipes

It has been most gratifying to see Smith & Wesson's apparent interest in expanding product design over the past few years. Witness the rebirth of the .44 Special, production modified runs of unique L-frame and K-frame revolvers, introduction of the Model 645 .45 caliber automatic, and the expansion of stainless steel construction through more of their product line. The Model 669 9x19mm pistol is a prime example of this latter emphasis applied to the existing Model 469.

The Model 669 9x19mm (9mm Parabellum) pistol is the latest progeny of the Model 39 evolutionary line which began back in 1956. In the 1960's and 1970's a trend evolved in the handgun customizing fraternity to "chop and channel" service size pistols into trimmer configurations in an attempt to make service grade cartridge power available in a more compact package. In 1983 Smith & Wesson legitimized this process in a factory produced item—the Model 469.

The Model 669, like its predecessors, is a short-recoil operated autoloading pistol featuring a double-action trigger mechanism and a staggered column magazine with a 12 round capacity. It retains all of the basic safety features incorporated into the Model 469; i.e. a hammer dropping safety (available in ambidextrous configuration), a magazine disconnect, and a trigger actuated firing pin lock.

The trigger actuated firing pin lock blocks movement of the firing pin until the trigger is pulled fully to the rear in the firing cycle. This device effectively prevents accidental discharges resulting from dropping a pistol with an inertia type firing pin.

The magazine disconnect renders the trigger-sear linkage inoperable when the magazine is removed from the pistol.

The hammer dropping safety lever locks and shields the firing pin when rotated to the down, or safe, position while dropping the hammer if it is cocked. Applying this safety additionally disconnects the trigger-sear linkage regardless of the initial position of the hammer.

The slide stop/lock lever and the magazine release button are retained in the familiar Browning design locations.

My first impression on opening the pistol's shipping carton was here is a neat, clean,



compact stainless steel working piece. Picking up the pistol belies the stainless steel construction. The aluminum alloy frame has a sandblast finish effect to match the finish of the slide and other stainless steel parts. The black pebble grain plastic grips add a minimum of bulk to the already wide frame.

Checking the feel of the pistol and the initial acquisition of the sights, it was encouraging to find a black finished rear sight that was generally well rounded side to side for a snag-free draw. The front sight, while being machined integral with the slide is well sandblasted, heavily cross-serrated, with a groove cut the length of its face that is impregnated with a red paint. The white outline rear sight in conjunction with the red groove front sight immediately gets your attention.

The frame has a modified hook-type trigger guard that is heavily checkered. The front strap has rather fine line vertical grooving, while the lower 2/3 of the backstrap is made of heavily checkered plastic. The slick black plastic of the detachable mainspring housing/backstrap substantially reduces the ability of this checkering to "bite" for a non-skid grip.

With my initial grip of the pistol I wished for the non-skid bite of the checkering on the face of the trigger guard to be on the front-strap and the backstrap of the frame. With the substantial girth of the frame, it feels insecure to the torque of recoil in my hand.

A test of the trigger pulls yielded readings of 7 to 7½ pounds for the single-action pull and 13½ to 14 pounds for the double-action pull.

original lubrication appeared to be a molybdenum-di-sulfide agent. When attempting to reassemble the pistol, it was found that the slide would not pass over the levers protruding from the frame (firing pin safety lever). It was necessary to invert the frame assembly and use a probe through the magazine well to depress the firing pin safety plunger in the slide while pushing the slide the rest of the way over the frame. This problem was not evident on three other over-the-counter Model 669s that I examined.

After cleaning and lubrication, the trigger pulls were re-checked. Single-action pull registered a consistent 7 lbs. and the double-action pull registered a consistent 13 lbs. Cycling the trigger through the firing stroke seemed to burnish the mating surfaces. To break the pistol in, 200 rounds of various full metal jacket round-nose ammunition were fired. Generally the pistol grouped about 2½" high-right of the aiming point at 25 yards. The point of impact was easily corrected by drifting the rear sight to the left in its lateral dovetail. Hand held groups ran from 1½" to 3½". There were no stoppages encountered during the break-in session.

At the end of the initial break-in session, the pistol was disassembled into its major components and inspected. Noting that there were no unusual wear characteristics, the pistol was reassembled, again encountering the previously mentioned assembly difficulty. No further disassembly, cleaning, or lubrication was performed during the test.

Technical evaluation regarding functioning, accuracy, and chronographing was then undertaken. Sixteen types of 9x19mm ammunition were tested from seven manufacturers: CCI/Lawman, CCI/Blazer, Hornaday/Frontier, Federal, PMC, Winchester, and Remington. The aforementioned manufacturers were most courteous in supplying ammunition for an in-depth test of the Smith & Wesson Model 669.

The first phase of the testing consisted of firing 25 rounds of each type of ammunition over the chronograph screens. The pistol was initially loaded with 13 rounds of ammunition (one in the chamber plus a fully charged magazine) with the second magazine fully charged. The two magazines supplied with the pistol were marked so that any stoppages that might occur could be distinguished between them if the need arose. These two magazines were used alternately throughout all test sequences.

Test ammunition ranged from 90 gr. to 125 gr. in bullet weight. Bullet styles encompassed FMJ-RN, FMJ-FP, JSP, and JHP. Velocities ranged from an average high velocity of 1246 fps for the Hornady/Frontier 90 gr. JHP to an average low velocity of 1013 fps for the CCI/Lawman 125 gr. JSP-RN.

All chronographing was done at 15 feet from the pistol muzzle at 75° F. A comparison to previously tested 9x19mm ammunition from a four-inch Smith & Wesson Model 39 indicates a general average velocity loss of 60 fps to 75 fps from the 1/2"

S & W 669 CHRONOGRAPH RESULTS

MAKER	BULLET	VELOCITY
CCI/Blazer	115 gr. FMJ	1081 fps
CCI/Blazer	115 gr. JHP	1093 fps
CCI/Lawman	125 gr. JSP-RN	1013 fps
CCI/Lawman	100 gr. JHP	1173 fps
Hornady/Frontier	90 gr. JHP	1246 fps
Hornady/Frontier	115 gr. JHP	1136 fps
Hornady/Frontier	124 gr. FMJ-EP	1068 fps
Federal	95 gr. JSP	1205 fps
Federal	115 gr. JHP	1076 fps
Federal	123 gr. FMJ-RN	1042 fps
Winchester	115 gr. FMJ-RN	1047 fps
Winchester	115 gr. JHP "Silvertip"	1112 fps
Remington	124 gr. FMJ-RN	1066 fps
Remington	115 gr. JHP	1092 fps

shorter barrel of the Model 669.

Evaluating the accuracy of the test pistol was performed initially over sandbag rests at 25 yards. Average group size for the various ammunitions was 2½" to 3½". These group sizes compared favorably with companion groups fired from a stock Browning Hi-Power, Colt Commander (9x19mm), and a Smith & Wesson 459.

In a comparative analysis utilizing experienced shooters, shooting freestyle, two handed, unsupported, their results tended to support the sandbag rest test. Most shooters would have preferred a better trigger action



Compact size of 669 (center) is evident compared to Colt Gov't Model (top) or Commander (bottom).

Before test firing began, the pistol was disassembled per Smith & Wesson's instructions to be wiped clean and lubricated. The



Test included many 9mm loadings.

with the hammer cocked as compared with the Browning and Colt. However, most shooters felt the stock sights on the 669 were superior to the issue sights on the Colt and Browning pistols.

The functioning quality of the pistol can be termed excellent. During the first 550 rounds of testing, including the break-in period, there were two malfunctions noted. That the first magazine, as if the nose profile of the bullet bumped the slide-stop up as the round

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Charge! Brian Enos barges through door in search of more targets.



Peek-a-boo! Tom Campbell spies targets from around barricade.

1985 IPSC National Championship

By Cameron Hopkins

Our mouths gaped open and we looked at each other with stunned surprise. "He's human after all," I gasped, "Rob Leatham hit a hostage!" Don, a shooting buddy and fellow competitor, smiled and gestured as though he were turning a lever. "Flushhhh! Bye Robbie, you just went down the toilet!" Don joked.

It was no laughing matter for the defending National and World IPSC Champion. Rob Leatham hit a "no shoot" (hostage) target and incurred a heavy penalty on the first stage of the first day of the 1985 IPSC National Championship.

Could it be that the 1985 Steel Challenge and Bianchi Cup champion is not a shooting machine? Maybe he's not the Terminator of IPSC after all.

"I'm just here for fun now," Rob laughed after hitting the hostage. Eyes quickly turned to keep track of other leading contenders such as Brian Enos, John Shaw and others in the "Super Squad," a relay of the best shooters put together for spectator appeal.

"Close, but no cigar. There goes the Grand Slam," I commented to Don.

"Grand Slam? What's that?" Don inquired.

"You know—the Triple Crown of handgunning. No one's ever pulled it off. Rob could be the first man to win the Steel Challenge, the Bianchi Cup and the IPSC Nationals in one year. Mickey Fowler won them in separate years, but no one's ever done it in the same year," I explained.

Don offered another of his incredibly brilliant responses: "Oh."

Back at the action, we noticed only two competitors in the Super Squad fired .45 ACPs and the rest fired .38 Supers. The *American Handgunner* broke the story of the "new" .38 Super at the 1984 IPSC Nationals, but some of our coverage indicated the Super was merely a passing fad for chronic gadgeteers. However, several major developments in the past year solved most of the problems inherent in shooting hot loads in Supers, and now at the 1985 Nationals the Super shooters proved they are more than just trendy.

The .38 Super is now viable, for the most part, because of advances in barrel design to incorporate a fully supported chamber. Previously, the .38 Super suffered from the dangerous problem of case head separation due

to lack of chamber support in the web area. Barrels are now available from Bar-Sto, Wilson's Gun Shop and Jim Clark that eliminate this problem.

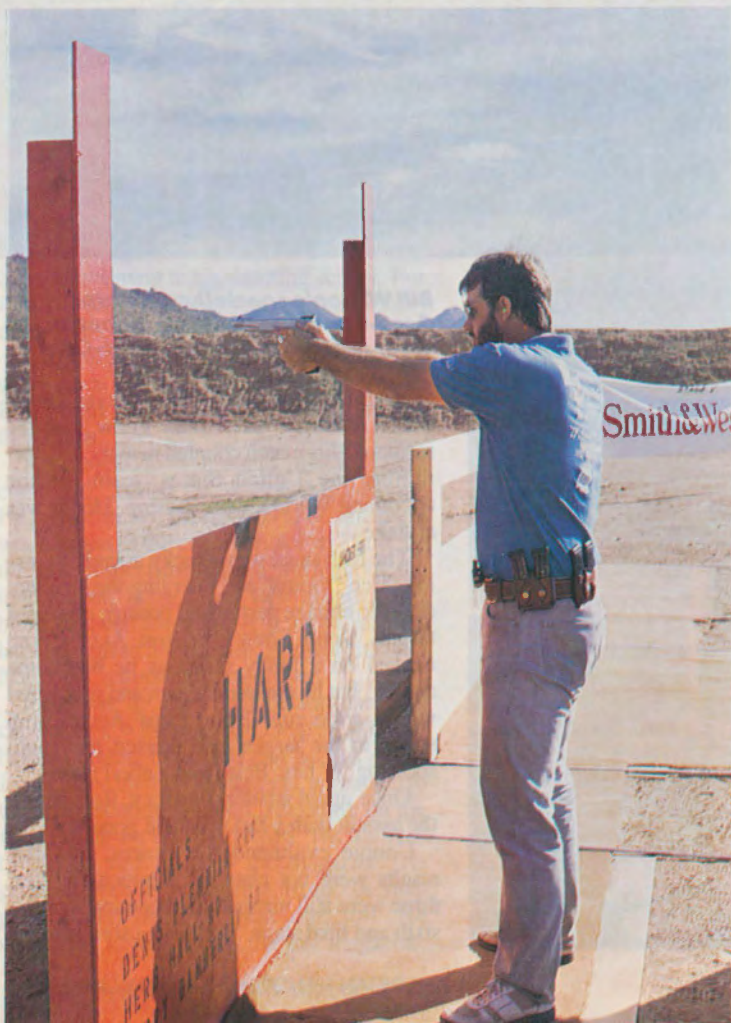
The other drawback to the .38 Super, as of last year, was reloading in the dark. There was no data on loading Blue Dot powder, the favored propellant, other than experimentation. But 1985 saw Winchester run a series of pressure tests on .38 Super IPSC ammo supplied by Bill Wilson. The results show that major .38 Super loadings are within SAAMI specs, assuming that the new barrels are used. Lot-to-lot variation of Blue Dot may alter data, and anyone interested in reloading Super should work up carefully with each new can of powder opened. (Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of this pressure test can write to Denise Lombard, Winchester Group, Olin Corp., East Alton, IL, 62024.)

Five of the six stages of the match were won with .38 Supers, and the top three finishers fired Supers. The top four fired Wilson Accu-Comps.

Representatives from the Republic of South Africa, the Philippines, Venezuela, Canada and Belgium competed. Top Interna-



Brad Butler (above) shoots through window with Wilson Accu-Comp. Rob Leatham (below) shoots Isosceles Stance. Everyone knows you can't win with that stance, right?



The match site of Phoenix was appropriate. Like the phoenix, Rob Leatham rose out of the ashes of a dismal start to win his third national crown.

tional Shooter went to Claud Salassa of South Africa. Claud showed up at the match without a "slot" to enter and without any ammo. "I was ninety percent sure I wouldn't shoot," Claud said, but the organizers allowed him to shoot in place of someone who canceled at the last moment. But Claud had no ammo.

Lamenting his problem, Claud ran into Jerry Jenson of Dillon Precision. Jerry invited Claud to tour the Dillon factory and while he was there Dillon Precision tumbled his brass for him, supplied all the components and reloaded his ammo on a Dillon RL-550 press. They loaded 500 rounds for Claud for \$21.50. "I couldn't believe it," Claud told the *American Handgunner*, "Dillon reloaded my ammo for me so I could shoot the match!"

Meanwhile, Rob fired his next stage with his patented formula for success—shooting "A" zone hits at the speed of light. But others in the "Super Squad" also shot very well. It appeared that Rob would have a tough time crawling out of the commode.

On the second day of the four day match, the Tidy Bowl Man gathered ground. Shooting his Wilson Accu-Comp in .38 Super like

a crazed demon, Rob posted a blistering time on an assault course and won the stage. Could he come from behind? People began to wonder.

Checking the scoreboard on the third day revealed that Rob had not only won the assault, but also the previous stage. Today would be decisive when Rob shot the standard exercises counting 28% of the tournament.

As the "Super Squad" gathered for the standards, the crowd of spectators was buzzing. The National Championship was on the line for all the Master Blasters at this crucial stage, and the pressure was intense.

Don and I bumped into each other in the crowd. "Hey, fool, ya think he's gonna do it?" Don queried. It was my turn for a brilliant response: "Do what?"

"Win the standards, and make a comeback. He's picked up a bit of ground already, but he better hose 'em down here or," Don gestured again as though pulling a lever, "or it's flushhhh, bye Robbie!"

The Super Squad was ready and the first shooters approached the firing line.

Bill Wilson, firing a specially weighted .38 Super Accu-Comp (see photo) dropped six rounds off the targets. I felt Don's elbow dig me in the ribs as he giggled, "Flushhhh, bye Bill!"

Tom Campbell, firing his famous "Super Gun II," dropped four hits. Again the jab on the side: "Flushhhh, bye Tom."

Chip McCormick, firing a custom .38 Super, fought three gun malfunctions on the timed standards. I was ready this time and lowered my arm to protect my ribs. The nudge came: "Flushhhh, bye Chip!"

Brian Enos turned in an excellent performance on the standards as did 1980-81 National Champion John Shaw. Mike Plaxco, 1982 Champion, was hampered severely with a broken shoulder in his shooting arm so he had to fire the strong-hand portion weak-handed, an obvious handicap. Mike survived the standards.

Rob stepped to the line and a hush fell over the crowd. This was it, do or die. Like the Dallas Cowboys in their two-minute offense, Rob had to overcome tremendous pressure to recover. He needed a big play. Dorsett up the middle for a 30 yard gain wasn't enough; he needed a touchdown. He needed the bomb.

Don exploded. "He did it, he did it! I told ya so!" Don danced a little jig in jubilation. Once again he jabbed me in my now tender ribs. "What'd I tell ya? He pulled it off—five points down in 28 seconds! He's back in the game." I didn't recall any such prognostication, but I let it slide.

Two stages remained, and Rob had already pulled himself back into contention. The unofficial scorekeeper, Connie Dardin of Arkansas, hammered away at her calculator while runners brought her the latest scores from the official, but untabulated, score board. Connie's unofficial scores showed that John Shaw, Brian Enos and Rob were all neck-and-neck coming into the last two matches. The National Championship was up for grabs, and it would take flawless shooting to win. One mistake, and you're out.



Chip McCormick stuffs in fresh mag (above) while John Shaw (right) bobbles mag change.



Bill Wilson's specially weighted Accu-Comp in .38 Super. Roberta Geer (left) won Ladies Shoot-Off.

And if the pressure of the national crown wasn't enough, each man knew that the results of this match counted heavily in determining the United States Team for the upcoming World Championship. Honor was at stake.

The fifth stage was a tricky assault involving three "rooms" and charging through two doors to engage partial and hostage obscured targets. John Shaw's Wilson Accu-Comp choked on a faulty bullet as he began the assault, but he cleared the jam and recovered with a good run. Brian Enos' Accu-Comp spoke to the targets and coaxed them into showing "A" hits. Brian had a good run.

Once again smelling victory, Rob blazed the assault with a fast time and good hits.

Connie evaluated the scores, and the results were not changed significantly—the three were still virtually tied coming into the sixth and final stage. Rob held a slim lead.



Eight-time Canadian IPSC Champ Murray Gardner uses unorthodox stance.



Tommy Weston shoots through port in awkward "scrunch position."

Don ambled over to watch the Super Squad. He beamed his usual greeting, "Hey, fool! The fat lady's about to sing," he giggled. Fearing another onslaught of Killer Elbows, I excused myself on the pretext of taking some pictures.

The last stage was straightforward, no hostages, no tricks, no traps. However, Rob could not relax because his lead was unofficial and the three contenders' scores were so close that any slight error could affect the results, the national championship.

The tension was palpable. More than just the title of National Champion hinged on the sixth stage. Winning the National Championship translates into big bucks in product endorsements, sponsorships and, for John Shaw, enrollment in his shooting school. For Rob, the win would guarantee excellent sales of his first book due out shortly.

The Range Officer shuffled the shooters' score cards to determine the shooting order. Rob would shoot first followed by John and then Brian.

Rob stepped to the line and, under the RO's command, loaded his Wilson Accu-Comp. He press checked the weapon to be sure there was a round in the chamber. A Pro-Timer II, the electronic timers used throughout the tournament, beeped and Rob erupted in a blaze of speed shooting. A scant 14 seconds later he cleared his weapon. For Rob the 1985 National Championship was over.

John was up next, and he too carefully checked his Wilson Accu-Comp in .45 ACP before nodding to the RO that he was ready. John blitzed the first few targets, screamed to the next shooting position, reloading on the way. Rather he tried to reload. He fumbled his reload and dropped the magazine. He grabbed another magazine from his mag pouch, and dropped that one too. He scrambled in the dirt for the lost magazine,

and finally jammed it into the pistol. But precious time had been wasted.

I could hear Don like he was standing next to me: "Flushhhh, bye John."

Brian prepared himself on the line. Satisfied his Accu-Comp was fully charged, he indicated he was ready to begin. Brian attacked the targets moving aggressively and firing with authority. He shot marginally better than Rob, but his gain was not enough to surmount Rob's lead.

Back at Connie's unofficial scoring table, the results showed Rob won his third championship by a scant 10 match points out of a possible 600. Later, the official scores showed Rob won by 14 match points.

Like the phoenix, Rob had risen from the ashes. His disastrous beginning proved that he can rebound and maintain his composure

to pull off a stunning comeback. That is the mark of a champion.

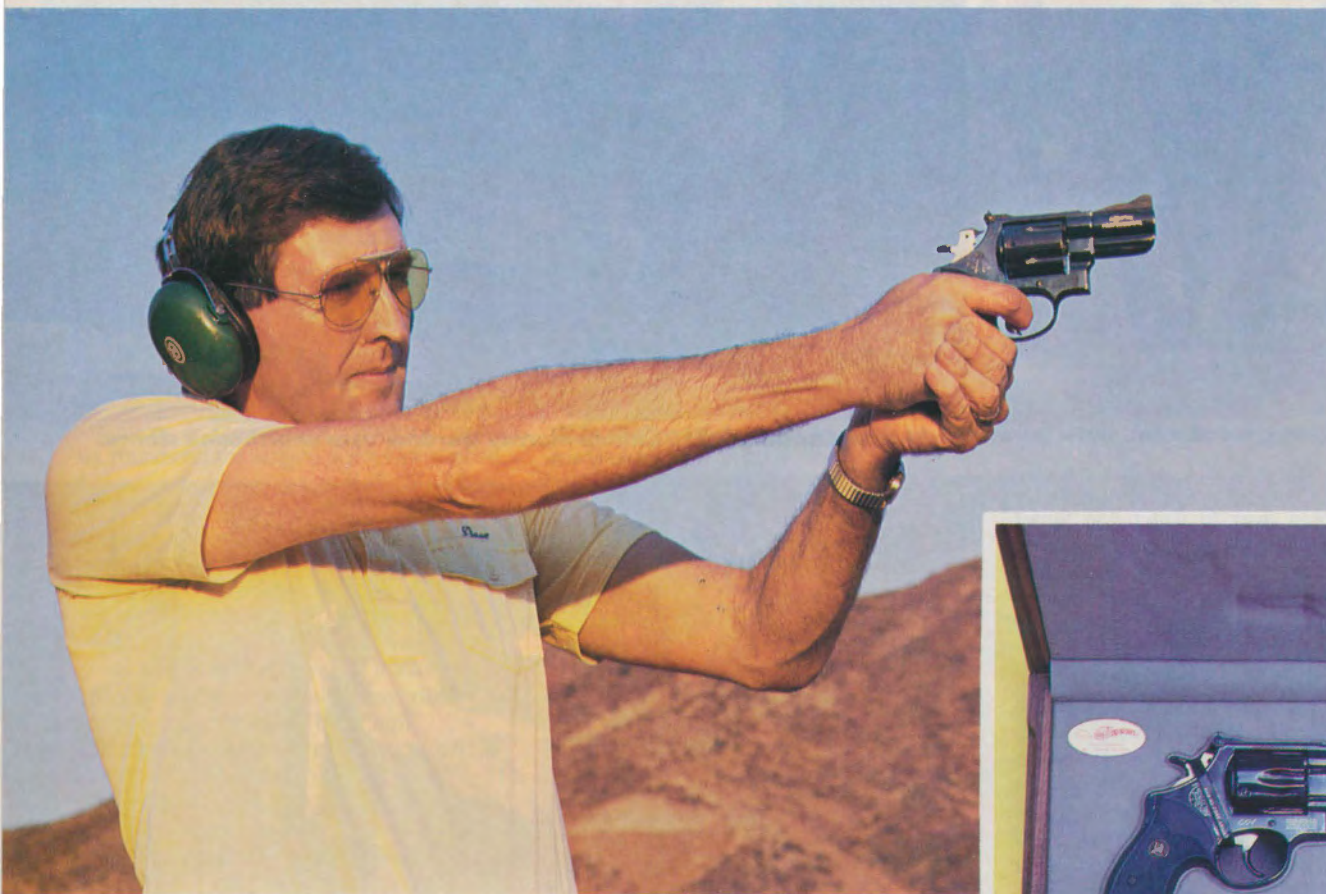
Leather and Lace

While Rob was gallantly fighting back on his way to victory, the ladies of IPSC conducted their own war for top honors. Everyone watched defending champion Jo Anne Hall as she was the odds-on favorite. Smart money kept tabs on Lee Cole who was enjoying the best year of her shooting career. Lee won Top Lady at the '85 Steel Challenge and Bianchi Cup, and now she had the chance the complete handgunning's Triple Crown by winning the IPSC Nationals.

But the elusive Grand Slam eluded Lee. Canadian Kerry Lathwell, 1985 IPSC Canadian Ladies Champion, won Top Lady with her Nastoff compensated Hoag .45 ACP

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Mag-na-port's Professional .44 Magnum



Gun comes in gorgeous case.



By Dave Arnold

Mag-Na-Port International has, for a number of years, been offering customized snubby Smith and Wesson N-frame revolvers in large calibers like .44 Magnum, .45 Colt and .45 ACP. Apparently there is quite a market for such handguns, especially among law enforcement personnel assigned to undercover work and narcotic duties. In such hazardous assignments it seems many officers feel the need for something with a little more punch than the usual issue 9mm or .38 Special.

While few would argue that "biggest is best" when it comes to knockdown power, revolvers chambered for the big calibers like the .44 Magnum generate a lot of recoil, especially if the barrel is less than four inches in length. This makes them difficult to control when fired rapidly. In addition, these revolvers are large and difficult to conceal.

Mag-Na-Port has dealt with the recoil problem by using their unique muzzle venting process that is marketed under the same

name. It can be applied to rifles, handguns and shotguns and is intended to reduce muzzle lift and felt recoil. When applied to handguns, Mag-Na-Porting consists of two trapezoidal vents electrically etched into the top surfaces of the barrel muzzle. During firing, these vents allow some of the gases driving the bullet down the barrel to escape upwards, creating a jet effect that helps reduce muzzle jump.

Another advantage of Mag-Na-Porting is that it does not change the external dimensions of the gun. You really have to look hard to see the two ports unlike some of the other recoil reducing devices like compensators and barrel weights, which are often bulky and unsightly. This, of course, is an important feature of any handgun designed for concealment.

Mag-Na-Port's latest custom snubby is the *Professional*, which comes with a fitted wooden case. It is chambered for the powerful .44 Magnum cartridge, has been given a

highly polished blue finish and is identical to previous revolvers produced by the company in every respect except for the grips. Instead of the Pachmayr "Gripper" rubber stocks that fully encase the backstrap, the *Professional* has the new "Presentation Compact" grips. These leave the backstrap exposed rather than covered which, of course, makes the revolver even more compact and concealable.

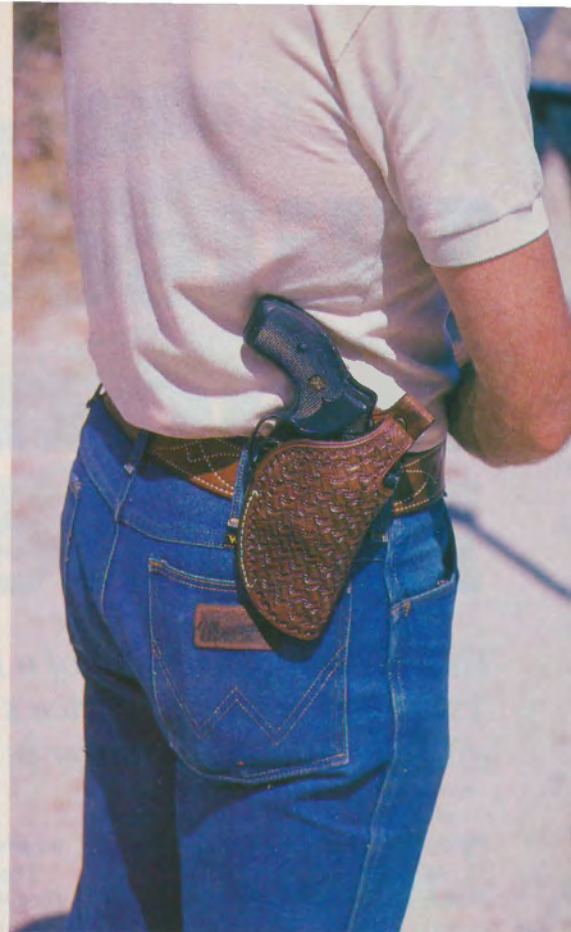
In addition to shortening the barrel, Mag-Na-Port has made what is normally a big revolver more compact by changing the size of the grips to that of the smaller K-frame profile. This not only makes the gun smaller but also reduces the distance between the trigger face and the backstrap making it easier for shooters with small hands to shoot double-action. All of these revolvers have Pachmayr rubber grips, which also help in absorbing recoil.

To compensate for the shortening of the barrel, an alternate front locking device has



Handy size of Professional is apparent next to six-inch Model 29.

Mag-Na-Port offers a classy conversion of a Model 29 with K-frame butt, snubby barrel, action job and other goodies.



Custom holster for custom pistol.

been added. The face of the muzzle has been crowned and the forcing cone has been re-cut to an 11 degree taper. To avoid snagging with clothing, the hammer spur has been bobbed and the trigger re-contoured to a smooth polished radius for fast double-action work. To complete the package, the lockwork has been worked over to produce a smooth honed trigger action.

Appearance wise, the *Professional* is an extremely attractive handgun and production is being limited to only 200 units. The *Handgunner* received Number 001 of these presentation models for evaluation. It came in a fitted wooden case lined with a grey baize material that not only protected the gun but also showed it off. All the markings on the gun had been filled with white paint which contrasted nicely with the deep polished blue/black finish. As some will buy the *Professional* as a collector's piece or an investment, the honed action has been sealed with a plastic cord which can be cut if it is desired to use the gun. Mag-Na-Port has offered limited editions of some of their products before, but, until now, these have always been customized Sturm Ruger .44 Magnum single actions.

Having evaluated some of the earlier Mag-Na-Port snubbies, I was interested to see try out the *Professional*. The former were models with 2½- and 3½-inch barrels in .44 Magnum, .45 ACP and .45 Long Colt and all have given a very impressive performance. They were accurate, had superb trigger actions and were easy to control even when full house .44 Magnum loads were fired.

Although much bulkier than a S & W Chiefs Special or a Colt Agent, they were also quite concealable.

There is no doubt that the Mag-Na-Porting had much to do with the taming of muzzle lift for I did compare them with an unmodified 4-inch Model 29. The latter jerked more sharply and the factory grips made the gun quite painful to shoot. In this respect, the Pachmayr rubber grips also played a vital role in soaking up some of the recoil and eliminated the jarring effect that I felt with the factory Model 29.

The *Professional* proved to be a little easier to conceal, thanks to the smaller Pachmayr grip. I had custom holster maker Bill French (P.O. Box 11043, Dept. AH, Burbank, CA, 91510) make me up a holster for the *Professional*. He produced one for a strong side draw that carried the gun with the conventional butt forward rake that kept it snug against my hip. The holster carried the *Professional* comfortably, concealed it well when a jacket was worn and kept it secure with a thumb-break snap across the back of the hammer. Most important, I was able to get the gun into action quickly and easily. I did not try some of his other cross-draw or inside-the-pants designs, but I am sure the *Professional* would have worked equally well with them.

On the range the *Professional* was put through its paces by shooting a variety of factory and reloaded Magnum and Special ammunition. The former included batches of ammunition made by Federal and Winchester while the .44 Magnum reloads

were of reduced velocity. When loaded with Magnums, there was definitely more felt recoil than the earlier Mag-Na-Port snubbies which was obviously due to the skimpier grips. Even so, the muzzle lift was still manageable, especially at the closer ranges, which is exactly what the gun is designed for. However, if I were going to shoot a steady diet of Magnum ammunition, I would fit one of the larger Pachmayr rubber grips that cover the backstrap. By contrast, the Magnum reloads and .44 Special, which the majority of shooters will probably use anyway, were very mild with recoil hardly perceptible.

Accuracy, with both Magnum and Special ammunition, was good. I was able to shoot some tight groups all grouped in the ten ring of an NRA pistol target from an improvised bench rest at a distance of 15 yards. Much of the credit must go to the fine trigger action. The single-action pull was crisp while double-action was light and smooth.

Taking everything into consideration, Mag-Na-Port's new *Professional* is every bit as good as the previous models I have shot. While virtually identical, it is even more concealable, thanks to its small grip. The finish and workmanship is superb and the fitted wooden case certainly makes a nice display. The *Professional* is priced at \$995 and enquiries should be directed to Magnum Sales Ltd, 41302 Executive Drive, Dept. AH, Mt. Clemens, MI, 48045-3448. Phone (313) 469-7534.



You can win this

Wilson Magnum Hunter



This custom conversion of a Ruger Redhawk .44 Magnum was tested and proven in Africa's game fields, yet designed with the American hunter in mind.

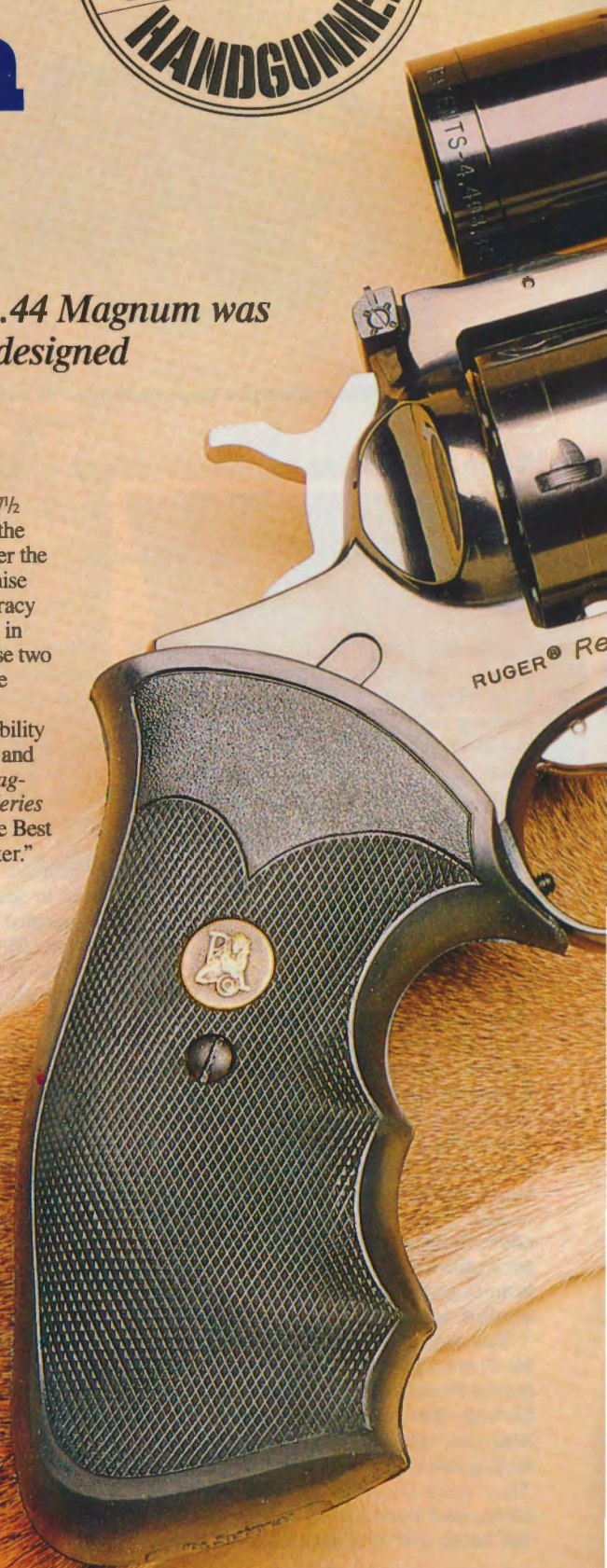
The Wilson Magnum Hunter Series is an exciting new concept in hunting handguns designed for the American handgun hunter. Extensive research and development went into the Magnum Hunter Series including in-depth testing of loads suitable for hunting. Particular

attention was devoted to the sighting system of the Magnum Hunter Series resulting in the first reliable and accurate detachable scope mount allowing the handgun hunter the option of immediately switching to iron sights or replacing the scope with no change in the

scope's zero.

The Magnum Hunter Series chose two fine quality handguns as the basis of further custom work—the Smith and Wesson Model 29/629 and the Ruger Redhawk. The .44 Magnum was selected as the ideal handgun hunting cartridge. Barrel lengths of 8³/₈

(Smith and Wesson) and 7¹/₂ (Ruger) offer the handgun hunter the best compromise between accuracy and handiness in the field. These two handguns have proven their strength, reliability and accuracy, and the Wilson Magnum Hunter Series is "Making the Best Handguns Better."





TO ENTER CONTEST: Use a postcard, follow sample; include name, address, HOM-M/J, local dealer name and address. Mail before May 1, 1986. Send to AMERICAN HANDGUNNER, Box 16025, San Diego, CA 92116.

Other than handguns do you own any other firearms: ie; Shotguns, Rifles, Blackpowder.

☐ Yes ☐ No

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If I win, please ship my gun through the following dealer:

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Contest void where taxed or prohibited by law. No purchase necessary. Winner must comply with all federal and local laws. Employees and agents of Publisher's Development Corp. not eligible.

SPECIFICATIONS

Action: complete single and double-action hand honing with all contact points smoothed and precisely fitted to insure a smooth, snag-free double-action stroke and a crisp, creep-free single-action pull. An adjustable over-travel stop serves to eliminate excess over-travel.

Mag-Na-Porting: the tested and proven Mag-Na-Port process is featured to reduce felt recoil and muzzle jump for faster and more accurate follow-up shots.

Sights: high quality 2x EER Leupold handgun scope (with option for 4x EER Leupold scope) mounted in the custom *Wilson Quick Detach* scope mounting system. This system offers high quality Leupold optics for those precise long shots with the option of iron sight use by simply flipping two thumb levers for those close shots in thick cover. The scope can be re-mounted by simply re-tightening the two thumb screws without loss of zero.

Grips: Pachmayr "Gripper" stocks are installed to give the handgun hunter the most secure grip under all field conditions and to absorb most of the recoil instead of the web of your hand.

Case: The finished *Magnum Hunter* is supplied in a Gun Guard hard handgun case to protect your fine handgun while transporting it to and from hunting areas.

Price: These prices apply to either the Smith and Wesson or the Ruger handguns.

blue: \$895.00 for complete gun with all options.

stainless: \$960.00 for complete gun with all options

blue: \$495.00 all options on customer's gun

stainless: \$525.00 all options on customer's gun

Delivery time is currently quoted at six-weeks.

How to Order: For further information or for placing your order for a Wilson *Magnum Hunter*, write or call:

WILSON'S GUN SHOP, INC.

Rt. 3, Box 211-D

Dept. AH

P.O. Box 578

Berryville, AR 72616-0578

(501) 545-3618

PIN BUSTER



RS



The 1985 World Championship saw Stu Mullins emerge as the top bowling pin shooter. The event was a showcase of exotic custom handguns.

By Cameron Hopkins

Photos by Ichiro Nagata

The 1985 Pin Busters World Championship, sponsored by *Bumble Bee Wholesale*, was a showcase for the latest pistolsmithing technology designed with a view to taming recoil from the powerful loads necessary to send bowling pins head over heels. Offering over \$40,000 in cash and prizes, Pin Busters might just as well be called "Bowling for Dollars" as all the shooters—not just the "big boys"—had a chance for some stunning prizes because the shooters competed in classes in the main event based on their skill level. The single finest prize of the match, based on dollar value, was a full-house Pachmayr pin gun offered to the winner of "C" class.

The sophisticated custom pistols of Pin Busters surfaced in the main event, *Detonics Power Alley*, which is open to any centerfire handgun, but dominated by .45 autos. Some exotic revolvers of the PPC genre turned up in the DA revolver event, *Smith and Wesson's Pinwheeler*, but there was a noticeable absence of custom guns in the SA revolver event, *Ruger's Crank and Yank*. One space age 9mm auto, a highly customized HK P7-M13, saw action in the 9mm event, *Santa Anita's Seven For Nine*, joined by a radical conversion of a SIG 210.

The .45 autos for *Power Alley* had two things in common to reduce recoil—compensators and added weight. The compensators played a secondary role to the added weight which seems to reduce the recoil of powerful loads more effectively than a comp. Brian Enos shot a Wilson Accu-Comp identical to the one he's used in IPSC matches with the notable exception of a heavy hunk of steel, rectangular in shape, added to the frame just in the front of the trigger guard.

Cal Eilrich found a way to add weight to his compensated .45—add a scope mount on the left grip panel and secure a steel rod in the scope rings. Primitive, but effective.

Angelo Spagnoli fired the only .45 auto specifically built for bowling pins. Other custom pistols were, essentially, IPSC autos with slight modifications. But Angelo's auto, well, you need to glance at the photos to appreciate its radical design. A full-length Bo-Mar rib rides atop the slide and more weight is added by welding up the frame with copious quantities of steel. The pistol does its job well as Angelo posted the single fastest run at the pins, 2.12 seconds.

Double-action wheelguns ranged from stock, to stock with Mag-Na-Porting to full-house PPC types with bull barrels, full length

Stu Mullins sends pins spinning with his Plaxco compensated pin gun.



Compensated SIG 210 for 9mm event.



That's not a scope, just a steel rod for extra weight.



Aimpoint sight on heavy ribbed S&W .38 Special.

ribs and, in a few instances, Aimpoint sights. Brian Enos won *S&W's Pinwheeler* with a stock Model 629, Mag-Na-Ported. Ruger's single-action event saw mostly stock Ruger Blackhawks, and Rob Leatham won the event with a stock Blackhawk in .44 Magnum.

Heckler and Koch has decided to give action shooting matches like Pin Busters and IPSC some serious consideration. To further their share of the lucrative market, they sponsor pistolsmith Bruce Gray who created a

magnificent conversion of the HK P7-M13 for the 9mm event. The pistol is fitted with a six-inch barrel with a "Double D" compensator invented by Jim Boland. The safety is enlarged to facilitate rapid release. The grips are made of steel and are finely checkered by Bruce who is renowned for his flawless metal checkering. Bruce also built a SIG 210 with a six-inch barrel and "Double D" compensator. Both the SIG and the HK have custom adjustable sights. It will be interesting to see how Bruce performs with the custom P7 in IPSC

because Bruce claims he can load up safely to make "major" caliber with the 9mm round.

MULLINS WINS MATCH

Stu Mullins of the San Francisco Bay Area is the 1985 Pin Buster World Champion. Stu won *Detonic's Power Alley*, the main event of the match. *Power Alley* is an open event for any handgun action or caliber. Colt .45 ACPs dominated in the event. I noticed only one pistol other than a Colt .45 in the event—Mike Dalton's Detonics .451 Magnum.

Power Alley, like the other events, asks the contestant to clear four regulation bowling pins from a table top as quickly as possible. Five pins perch atop the table, but the fifth pin is a steel stop plate to indicate the contestant's time. (Time is the score.) Quickest time wins. The pins are set three feet from the rear edge of the table, and the pins must fall off the table. The range is 25 feet.

The stop pin rested atop an electronic sensor connected to a Pro-Timer II electronic timer. Time stopped when the connection was broken, immediately as the steel pin fell.

Stu won *Detonic's Power Alley* with a time of 8.72 seconds for three runs at the pins, an average of 2.90 seconds per run. Shooters were allowed four runs at the pins with the best three runs scoring. Stu fired a customized Colt Government Model in .45 ACP.

Stu won the main event, but Arizonian Rob Leatham won three of the six events in Pin Busters. There was a total of nine events, but Rob was, for some reason, ineligible for the ladies event and the junior event. He competed in the team event with shooting partner Brian Enos.

Rob won *Omark Industries' Falling Pin*, the event featuring the pins set at the rear edge of the table to be shot with only .22LR caliber handguns. His time for three runs was 8.76 seconds. He also won the event for single-action revolvers, *Sturm, Ruger & Co's Crank and Yank*, with a time of 14.17 seconds. Those thumb-busters sure make you slow down! Rob won with a Ruger Blackhawk in .44 Magnum.

Rob also won the event reserved for 9mm caliber handguns. Called *Santa Anita Firing Range's Seven for Nine*, this event featured six regulation pins and a stop pin set one foot from the rear edge of the table. Handguns in .38 Super (9mm bore) were not allowed to compete in this event—9mm Parabellums only! Rob won with a Colt Government Model in 9mm Parabellum.

Brian Enos won the event for double-action revolvers, *Smith and Wesson's Pinwheeler*. He fired a six-inch S&W Model 629 in .44 Magnum. His 629 was Mag-Na-Ported. His time for three runs was 11.15 seconds.

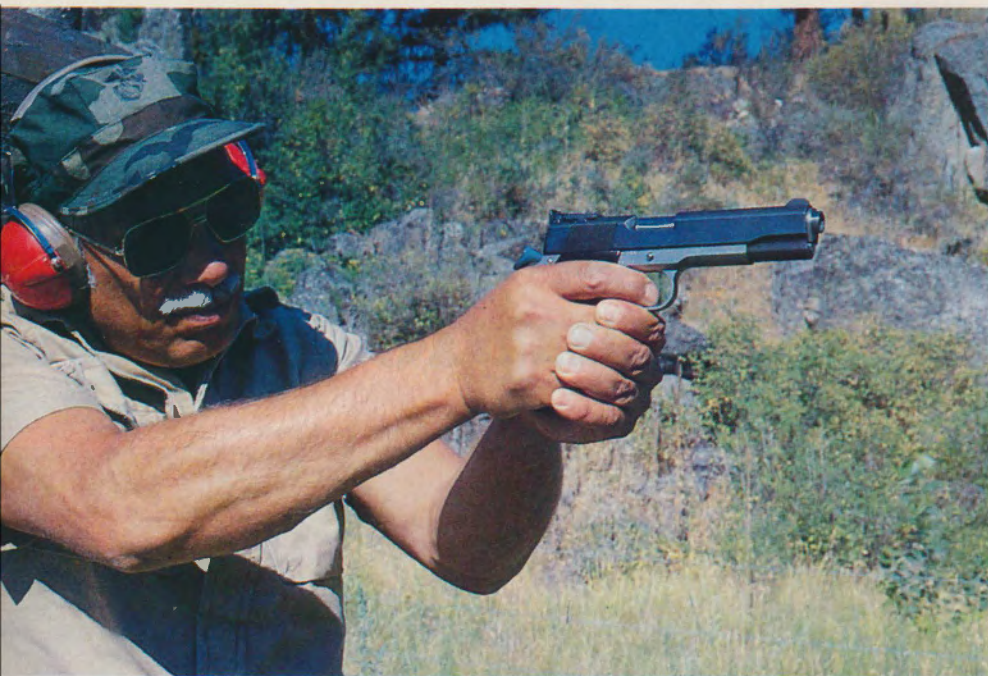
The event which brought on the famous Spagnoli-Enos duel for the single fastest run at the pins in last year's Pin Busters was not as exciting this year. Last year, Brian and Angelo took turns posting faster and faster runs until Brian finally ended the exchange with a sizzling run of 2.19 seconds. That time, this year, would not have made the Top Three.

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Angelo Spagnoli's pin gun is missing only curb feelers and nodding dog on rear sight! Bo-Mar rib, welded up dust cover add weight to reduce recoil. Mike Dalton's Detonics .451 Magnum (left) sports Boland Double-D compensator. Note "mud flap" to prevent thumb from rubbing on slide.





A Practical Pistol from the Lone Star State

By Al Pickles

Sometimes, when testing and evaluating a really excellent custom handgun, you get some insights into the abilities and limitations of both yourself and the makers of fine firearms. Details of this observation, however, are best left for the end of the story.

The Browning designed Colt Model 1911 autoloading pistol is probably the most remarkable handgun the world has ever seen. In the hands of men like Sergeant Alvin York, it is a personal defense service handgun without peer. Claims of inaccuracy with the service Colt 1911 or 1911A1 are nothing more than open admissions of inability.

The commercial Colt .45 ACP, in my own hands while serving as an Inspector/Narcotics in Southern California, is a police handgun of choice when men know for certain they will be in harm's way.

The highly customized and personalized Colt .45 ACP design, in the hands of combat and bullseye shooting competitors—men like Jeff Cooper, Ray Chapman, and those that followed—is a must if one expects to be a serious contender. There are not many guns that can satisfy all these needs, plus many more. Time will certainly tell if the military's

new Beretta 92SB-F can match the long 74-year reign of the Colt pistol.

Glenn Martin, of Martin Custom Gunsmithing (514 E. Main, Dept. AH, Robstown, TX 78380), builds a custom .45 autoloader that should prove a serious contender in future IPSC combat matches. My sample test gun, more or less made to my specifications, is a perfect example of simple and functional beauty.

In building his custom .45 autoloaders, gunsmith Martin starts with a basic copy of the Model 1911 pistol made by Caspian Arms in all steel. I must admit that I was not familiar with this manufacturer but, after a detailed examination, cannot fault it in any way. Maybe it would be better to say that I cannot fault what it has become under the hands of Glenn Martin.

For functional beauty, the gun is a two tone affair. The frame is electroless nickel plated for maximum protection from those hot and sweaty hands, and the slide is blued with a sand blasted top and rear to prevent reflection.

The front strap is stippled in a manner which I find both exceptionally pleasing to the eye and most practical in its ability to assure a good solid grip no matter what the weather or elements. Close examination proves that well executed stippling can almost be artistry in itself. A checkered mainspring housing with 20 lpi rounds it out with both pleasing appearance and practical grip security fore and aft.

The stocks themselves are, by my specific request, executed by master handgun stock-maker Russ Malone of Russwood Custom Pistol Grips (604 Hillside Dr., Dept. AH, Colleyville, TX 76034). These are the exotic Macassar Ebony and are as practical as they are beautiful. Were I to have my way, all my guns would be fitted with Russwood Grips.

The author, a former Narcotics Inspector, knows a quality street pistol when he sees one. Here's what he sees in a Glenn Martin custom Colt .45 auto.



Martin custom with stock Gov't.



Martin mag well dwarfs stock well.

Continued on page 67

1985 PPC National Championships



By Fred Romero

Sgt. Aranzo Milbourne (left) won the National Championship. Corp. Mary Januszkiewicz won women's title.

If you have been keeping pace with PPC competition for the last four years, then you know how miserable weather conditions have been at the NRA's annual National Police Revolver Championships now held at Camp Dodge in Des Moines, Iowa. Every year there have been promises of more sun, less rain and no wind. But true to form, Mother Nature always found a way to turn this exciting event into a sour experience for many beleaguered police shooters, and a few even felt that one time there was more than enough to satisfy their curiosity. Well, for those of you who decided to stay home, you missed a made-to-order pistol match where clear skies and sunshine were the order of the day and lucky competitors could finally get down to some serious shooting.

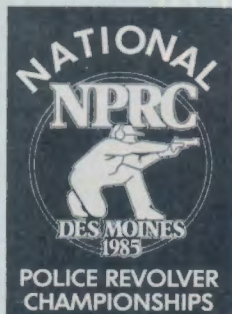
The 1985 edition of this time-honored match saw nearly 700 law enforcement shooters from all over America (and several

foreign countries) come together for four days of non-stop competition utilizing a variety of courses and police type weapons, including: an unaltered six-inch service revolver match, four and two-inch revolver matches, a 12-gauge shotgun match, as well as the traditional .38 caliber "bull barrel" PPC course. By the time the last shot had been fired, everyone felt that they had indeed gotten their money's worth and they had the callus on their trigger finger to prove it.

This year, the smart money was saying that Kerry Hile, the amazing young shooting wiz from Columbus, Ohio, would no doubt win his *fourth* national title. But for reasons unknown, Hile decided to stay away. That fact didn't seem to bother the field because from the first day of shooting, the "big guns" set a fast and furious pace. As in past matches, this one went down to the wire, and spectators and fellow competitors had to wait

until the front-runners had fired their last shot in Match 5 before the winner could be determined. Even then, it wasn't until around the seventh or eighth relay that a familiar name emerged on top of the heap.

Standing in the winner's circle for the 1985 National Police Revolver Champion title (his second time since 1981) was Sgt. Aranzo A. Milbourne of the U.S. Secret Service, Washington, D.C. Milbourne fired a score of 1495-108X and was also a member of the winning Secret Service four-man team. Second place honors went to Douglas A. Young of Albuquerque, NM, an officer with Wackenhut Services, Inc. who scored a close 1494-103X. In the ladies' category, Corporal Mary "Mickey" Januszkiewicz, an officer with the Charleston City Police Department and a resident of Mt. Pleasant, SC, won the women's national title. Her score of 1490-94X was enough to beat out defending



Match #1: 24 shots from the standing without support position at seven and 15 yards. First, Bruce N. Curtis, U.S. Secret Service of Germantown, MD, score: 240-24X.

Match #2: Six shots fired from kneeling, six shots fired standing barricade with the left hand and six shots fired standing barricade with the right hand from 25 yards. First, Officer Gerald R. Nisbit, Detroit Police Department, of Detroit, MI, score: 180-18X.

Match #3: Six shots fired sitting, six shots fired prone, six shots fired standing barricade with left hand and six shots fired standing barricade with right hand from 50 yards. First, Lt. Clifton K. Dunlap, Mississippi Highway Patrol, of Clinton, MS, score: 239-16X.

Match #4: 24 shots fired standing without support at 25 yards. First, Agent John C. Poole, U.S. Border Patrol, of Fresno, CA, score: 240-21X.

Match #5: The NRA National Police Course, consists of 60 rounds fired from standing, kneeling, sitting, prone and right and left hand barricade position. Distances vary from seven to 50 yards. First, Gary R. Stone, a trooper with the Texas Department of Public Safety, from Katy, TX, score: 600-40X.

Match #6: National Individual Police Revolver Course, an aggregate of Matches 1-5. First, Sgt. Aranzo A. Milbourne, U.S. Secret Service, of Washington, D.C., score: 1495-108X.

champion Elizabeth Callahan (1488-100X) from the Washington, D.C. Police Department.

As you can see by the statistics (see box), PPC is alive and well, thanks to the efforts of the NRA and the many devoted police shooters who have helped to make the sport a success through the years. And although some shooters walked away with fame and glory, the real winners of this year's match are the countless unnamed officers, agents, deputies and troopers who gave of their own time and money to attend the match for the experience alone. Hopefully, their exposure to PPC will pay back dividends on the street when they need it the most. If just one man or woman survives because of what they learned in Des Moines, then it will have all been worthwhile. *American Handgunner* salutes the police shooters of the 1985 NPRC!



Match #7: NRA National Police Court 4-man Team Match, same course of fire as Match #5. First, U.S. Secret Service (Officer George W. Foley, Officer Bruce N. Curtis, Sgt. Aranzo A. Milbourne and Sgt. James W. Gilleland), score: 2385-164X.

Match #8: NRA National Police Course 2-Man Team Match, same course of fire as Match #5. First, Washington, D.C. Police Department (Officer Elizabeth Callahan and Sgt. Gary Nelson), score: 1195-97X.

Match #9: Shotgun Match, consists of both skeet shooting and practical shotgun courses, including, firing from the hip at 15 yards and from the shoulder at 25 yards. First, Roger B. Lowry, Colorado Division of Wildlife, from Cedaredge, CO, score: 569.

Match #10: NRA Police Distinguished Match, same course of fire as Match #5, with the exception that the weapon used must be an unaltered factory equivalent gun and the ammo (full-charge "ball") is issued on the line. Only the top ten percent of participating shooters receive "points" toward earning the coveted NRA Police Distinguished Badge. First, Officer Charles E. North, U.S. Secret Service, from Laurel, MD, score: 595-35X.

Match #11: President's Match, an aggregate of scores fired in the NRA National Police Course (Match #5) and the NRA Police Distinguished Match. First, Charles R. Grabbatin, an inspector with U.S. Customs, from Massapequa Park, NY, score: 1190-79X.

Match #12: Service Revolver Match, course of fire consists of 42 rounds fired at distances ranging from 3 yards to 25 yards and using various PPC positions, including a one-handed phase. The weapon used must be a factory equivalent .38 cal revolver with a barrel no longer than four inches. First, Officer Charles D. Smith, St. Louis Police Department, from Overland, MO, score: 420-35X.

Match #13: Off-Duty Revolver Match, course of fire consists of 40 rounds fired at distances of 3, 7, 15 and 25 yards. The weapon used must be a factory equivalent .38 cal revolver with a barrel no longer than 2¾ inches. First, Dale W. Holmes, U.S. Secret Service, from Arnold, MD, score: 400-31X.

Match #14: National Individual Service Revolver Course Championship, an aggregate of Matches 10-13. First, Jerry P. Eason, Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, from Grass Valley, CA, score: 1410-95X.

Match #15: World Police Revolver 4-Man Team Match, an inaugural event. Course of fire used is the same as that used for the regular team event. The World Team Match pits the top American team against the top non-U.S. team for the title. First, U.S. Secret Service (Foley, Curtis, Milbourne and Gilleland), score: 2373-160X.

Match #16: World Police Revolver 2-Man Team Match, an inaugural event. Course of fire used is the same as that used for the regular team event. The World Team Match pits the top American Team against the top non-U.S. team for the title. First, Washington, D.C. Police Department (Callahan and Nelson), score: 1182-63X.

LADY COP SETS PPC RECORD

By Seth Nadel



The shooting sports are macho sports. There are women who compete, but they are accommodated by a "High Female" or "Top Woman" award, always followed by a notation such as—"The High Woman placed 16th overall." Well, gents, hold onto your hats, because this has all changed. A lady has, for the first time, won a PPC Regional Match.

The competition was the Atlanta PPC Regional Match, and the course of fire was the demanding 1500, fired at 7, 15, 25, and 50 yards. The winner was Corporal Mary Januszkiewicz—Mickey to one and all. The winning score was a 1491-94X out of the possible 1500-150X, one point better than second place. The firing line included at least three former National Champions, among them Aronzo Milbourne, who went on to win the National Individual Title again at Des Moines in August of this year. To top it off, Mickey fired her record score in the worst weather I have ever encountered, a dark, rainy, windy day. It poured all day, so hard that when I took the sideplate off my revolver to clean it that night it looked like I had dunked it in the motel pool. In these conditions Mickey fired her best score, to the chagrin of the rest of us macho cops.

Continued on page 72

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CROSSFIRE

A Debate Forum Featuring Experts

PRO

By Massad Ayoob

In 30 to 50% of cases, those who've killed in self-defense in American society experience a period of impotence.

Do I believe in post shooting trauma? I recall the attorney who was asked, "Do you believe in divorce?" He replied, "I not only believe in it, I've seen it!"



Since I was trained in recognizing and managing the symptoms of Post Shooting Trauma by Dr. Walter Gorski in the early 1980's, I've incorporated it into my Officer Survival and Threat Management training, which has since encompassed several thousand personnel, most of them police. I've published widely on the subject in the police professional journals. As a result of both activities, I'm now doing peer counselling on an average of four cops or armed citizens who suffer from the syndrome, every month. All of them would be bitterly amused to find there are experts who believe their suffering is imaginary.

The first thing to understand about post shooting trauma is, *it is not so much your reaction to having killed, as your reaction to society's reaction to your having killed!*

If gunfights took place in the desert and you could just walk away from the dead Bad Guy and leave him to the dust and the vultures, Post Shooting Trauma (PST) would be greatly ameliorated if not entirely eliminated. You have a condition close to that on the battlefield, which is why so many men whose background is the military instead of the police service scoff at the PST concept; heck, *they* killed men and weren't forced to suffer for it psychologically, right? What they don't understand is, every time a cop or armed citizen kills, it's treated like My Lai.

I want to barf every time someone says, "Can't Ayoob and the other bleeding hearts admit that sometimes, after you kill a scumbag, you just go home and get a good night's sleep?"

Let's analyze that. You've just got home after the incident and your wife says, "Have a nice day?" Are you really going to reply, "Well, a man tried to kill me. He was going to make me a dead thing on the ground for the worms to suck on. I never would have seen you or the children again. You were almost a widow, and the children were almost fatherless.

"There was only one way to survive. I had to shoot the man who attacked me. I watched him die with his blood running into the gutter. Afterwards, the police arrested me and held me on a \$100,000 bond pending the outcome of the investigation. They took my gun away from me, and confiscated my gun permit, and they say the DA's office might try to indict me for murder or manslaughter.

POST SHOOTING TRAUMA: DOES IT EXIST?

CON

By Mark A. Moritz

A dangerous criminal tries to kill you, and you kill him first. There is no reason to feel bad about that.



Post shooting trauma is a fad. This is not to say that it never occurs, nor that it is not serious when it does occur. But the problem gets more press than it deserves; it is

much more apparent than real.

Two other recent fads come to mind: missing children, and "cop-killer" bullets. The leader of the national movement to fingerprint all children warned "This country is littered with mutilated, raped, strangled little children." Littered? Even one is too many, and there is nothing more horrible than to have a child missing, but if you suggest that maybe there is a little exaggeration going on here, you will immediately be accused of being a child-hater, and probably a child-molester.

If you point out that no cops have ever been killed with "cop-killer" bullets, and that there is a lot of noise being made with very little reason, you will be accused of being a cop-hater, and a potential cop-killer yourself.

Similarly, if you point out that post-shooting trauma is not worthy of all the attention it has been getting lately, you risk being accused of having a Dirty Harry complex, or a Charles Bronson Death Wish, or an overdose of testosterone.

Certainly if you don't identify your target and wrongfully kill a 3-year-old, you will feel bad about it. We are assuming a "righteous" shooting: a proven dangerous criminal tries to kill you for no good reason, and you kill him first. There is no reason to feel bad about that.

Let us also note that we are discussing the psychological results of the *shooting*, not of legal actions or press reports. Litigation and unfavorable press are always stressful, whether they result from a shooting or a landlord/tenant dispute. Yet people manage to deal with them successfully every day.

Somebody tried to kill you. You saved your own life. How will you feel? Some people think you should feel awful. You will wet the bed, and your wife will leave you, and your kids will hate you, and your dog will bite you, and you will have ring around the collar.

Maybe those things have happened to other people. The world is filled with different kinds of people and we must make allowances for that. But they have by no means happened to all people, or even most people.

It has been reported that some police officers have committed suicide in the aftermath of a shooting. Like missing children, one is too many, but it is not the norm. Police officers have very high rates

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This high-tech computerized timer does far more than count seconds. It's a complete chronograph and much more.

Pact MK II: The Portable Shooting Coach

By Cameron Hopkins

The PACT Timer is to shooting practice what a progressive press is to reloading. You can endure with a Rock Chucker instead of a Dillon just as you can survive with a stop watch instead of a PACT Timer. But once you've reloaded on a progressive you wonder how you ever lived with a single-stage. And once you've practiced with a PACT you wonder how you ever got by without it.

The PACT Timer rides on the cutting edge of high-tech shooting science, and now there is another major advancement from PACT. The new PACT Mk II Championship Timer features a built-in chronograph in its sophisticated microchip technology. Complete with a wide array of computer functions, the PACT Mk II is self-contained in a handy, compact unit weighing 23 ozs. in a box measuring 5 x 5 1/4 x 2 1/4 inches.

The PACT Mk II Timer is a portable shooting coach. The PACT will stick right by your side (literally, with the convenient clip to hang on your belt) and monitor your practice for you. It's a friend on the range, it never complains, and you never have to buy it beer.

The chronograph function in the PACT Mk II is powered by the same rechargeable battery used in the timer mode of operation. The PACT in chronograph mode gives you all the information offered by the famous Oehler 33 including high and low velocity, number of shots fired, extreme spread, average velocity and average (standard) deviation.

Rather than "extreme spread" to show the difference between the highest and lowest velocities in a string, the PACT displays EV for "extreme variation." Same thing. Rather than "standard deviation," the PACT computes MAD, Mean Absolute Deviation which is the average amount the shots deviated from the average velocity. The smaller

the MAD, the more consistent your lot of ammo, just like S&W on an Oehler.

In a head-to-head test with the same ammo, the PACT and the Oehler showed the following results:

Oehler	PACT
lo=880	lo=893.5
hi=902	hi=897.9
ex=22	EV=4.4
Av=891	Av=895.7
Sd=8	MAD=2.2

This chronograph function, called Chrono-Mod, is optional. The circuitry required can be incorporated for an additional \$49 over the base price of the PACT Mk II of \$329.

PACT claims that Chrono-Mod continues to function flawlessly even in bright, direct sunlight. Also, muzzle blast doesn't seem to be a problem in giving false readings. The testing session therefore was purposely conducted at mid-day in bright sunshine. There



New PACT Mk II (right) has even more features than previous model.

This information shows the PACT and the Oehler to be within one percent on "Average Velocity." Variation in the ammo, although the same load, could account for one percent deviation. Also, note the PACT gives velocity readings to one-tenth fps while the Oehler does not. The PACT keeps updating the average velocity on the display with each shot fired. Like the Oehler, if you get a weird reading that you know is wrong, you can cancel that shot from the data banks.

was never a screwy reading from the bright light. Also, maximum .44 Magnum loads were tested with the revolver held quite close to the PACT so that the muzzle blast could do its stuff. The PACT was unaffected by the muzzle blast.

Chrono-Mod "counts" at 8 million cycles per second, eight times faster than the market's best selling chronograph. Chrono-Mod does not include skyscreens. Chrono-Mod

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The AYOOB Files

By Massad Ayoob

THE SECOND COMBAT CROSS

Situation: Shooting arm disabled by a 9mm bullet, the cop returns fire weak-handed—with no effect.

Lesson: The .38 Special lacks stopping power. Despite numerous hits, the felon stayed in the fight.

New York cops who survive shootouts win an award called the Combat Cross. You can't say it's a coveted medal, because none of the 25,000 men and women working "the Job" in the Big Apple look forward to such confrontation. It is better to say that it's respected rather than desired.

There are very few NYC cops who have two such awards. One is Al Hofman. He earned the first on a blood-splattered, bullet-shattered night in December of 1973. He was working the midnight shift with his partner, John Dennis, when they received a report of a shooting. Minutes later, they saw a man matching the description of the perpetrator, walking with three other individuals. Al and John pulled in to intercept, and saw another police radio car glide to a stop to back them up.

Al had time to call "Halt" before the night erupted into high-powered gunfire. The officers dove for cover and returned fire with their .38 Special service revolvers as the bullets ripped past them. They were outgunned—the suspects had a 9mm auto, a .45 ACP, a .357 Magnum, and a .32—but their skill and training made the difference. The four gunmen broke and ran in different directions, all still deadly dangerous, but some of them now dripping trails of blood.

Unlike some of his brother officers, Hofman refused to violate the regs and carry hot hollowpoints, but he was reassured when, shortly after his shooting, the city issued 158-grain standard velocity semi-wadcutter loads. But that is irrelevant. Time passed, and by 1978 Al Hofman felt comfortable with 158-grain SWC loads in the two-inch, square-butt model 36 Chief Special Smith & Wesson that was now his duty weapon. He had been assigned to the 75th precinct's "anti-crime" unit, scruffily dressed officers who worked the street without pretending to be undercover. They were (and are) the real life counterparts of Belker on *Hill Street Blues*.

Hofman was responding to a "man with a gun call" in a *bodega*, one of the mom n' pop general stores that proliferate in the Hispanic parts of the city. He knew enough to have the .38 in his hand. In the five years since that wild Brooklyn shootout, he had seen too many brother officers buried, and seen his partner Dennis retire early on a 100% service-connected disability. His new partner, Al Molinet, also drew. The following comes from the account of the shooting that appeared in my article "The 75th Precinct: The House of Daily Courage."

"Entering the (*bodega*) cautiously, Hofman saw wallets on the floor, indicating that someone had lined up the patrons and systematically robbed them. He didn't realize that one perpetrator was still inside, and was watching him through the shoplifter's mirrors near the ceiling.

"The suspect knew that the only way out was through Al. He lunged into an aisle of the *bodega*, firing a 9mm automatic. Al shot twice at the attacker, who was only a few feet away. He had time to think, 'I can't believe I didn't hit him,' before he was hit in the arm with a 9mm bullet from the perpetrator's gun.

"Hofman didn't feel the pain of the bullet wound at first, but suddenly, his ears were ringing so loudly that he couldn't hear anything, and his legs gave way. He fell to the floor, his gun arm numb and dead. The gunman stepped over him and through the doorway.

"Hofman grabbed his snubnose .38 out of his dead right hand and, with the gun held in his left fist, emptied it at the robber. He saw the man shudder, as if seized by a terrible chill, and then dart out the door. At that moment, another NYC officer fired six shots. Three-fourths of a block away, the gunman dropped, dying. A reconstruction of the incident indicated that, of the eight bullets that struck the would-be copkiller, four or five were fired by Hofman.

"Both the officer and the perpetrator were rushed to Brookdale Hospital. By then, Al was in agonizing pain, and he was having great difficulty breathing. A doctor casually told him he had a minor wound of the arm. It seemed that all the medics were swarming around the perpetrator. No one seemed to have time for the bleeding policeman.

"Other officers of the Seven-Five rushed into the Emergency Room. 'What's going on here,' they demanded. 'Why aren't you treating the officer who was shot?'

The doctors continued to ignore the wounded officer, and in disgust, his brother officers had Al transported by ambulance to King's County Hospital. There he received immediate attention. An X-ray of his arm showed no bullet, so a chest series was done. The doctors quickly located the bullet in his torso. It had entered his arm and coursed into the shoulder, ricocheted off a shoulder bone, passed through a lung, and lodged in his lower back, just above the

Continued on page 65

.41 magnum



Smith & Wesson Model 57s in .41 Magnum: 4, 6 and 8 inch barrels.

By Bill Clede

The hottest thing in magnum handguns this year isn't anything new. In fact, it's been on the market for a decade. It languished in the shadow of its big brother. Yet if it weren't for the scarcity of that big brother, the .41 Magnum just might not be with us today.

By the time the .41 Magnum came on the scene in 1964, "The World's Most Powerful Handgun" had eight years' headstart. The S&W Model 29, .44 Magnum, was in great demand by handgun metallic silhouette shooters and Alaskans. Because it was the most gun you could carry, the factory couldn't make enough to supply the demand. The company took all sorts of abuse because guns were in short supply and selling at inflated prices. It didn't matter to the complainers that a manufacturer is prohibited by law from influencing prices once he sells to his distributor. "Dirty Harry Mania" didn't help matters.

But, had it not been for this unsatisfied demand for the mighty .44, the .41 Magnum may have died a lingering death. It came close as it was. But a funny thing happened on the way to the range.

With a two-year wait for a new Model 29, some silhouette shooters bought Model 57's instead. And they discovered that the .41 Magnum dropped as many targets as the .44 with less noticeable recoil and a flatter trajectory. Their scores may even have been better toward the end of a shooting day because the shooter took less punishment over the course.

In ballistic chart comparisons, energy figures (in foot/pounds) for the .41 Magnum are 788, 630 and 526 respectively at the muzzle, 50 yards and 100 yards. For the .44 Magnum, the chart says 741, 623 and 543. Hardly enough difference to notice. Mid-range trajectory for the .41 at 50 yards is .7 inch and at 100 yards, 3.2 inches. For the .44, it's .9 and

3.7. Both comparisons are with a four-inch vented test barrel.

With a gun that does just as well as the big .44 and is easier to shoot, the silhouette shooters who turned to the .41 Magnum decided it was all the gun they needed.

Most handgun hunting experts admit that the .44 Magnum is more gun than you need for most game.

"But what about Alaska?" you ask.

A hunter in Anchorage wrote to a popular gun magazine, "I moved to southeast Alaska 14 years ago. I had used a .30-06 for hunting. But the thick brush and steep hills of Alaska quickly converted me to a handgun. I couldn't find a .44 Magnum so I settled for an S&W Model 57, .41 Magnum. Now, I see no need to ever consider trading the .41 for a .44."

If the largest adversary you're likely to face is a whitetail deer or black bear, the .41

Continued on page 62

*In 1964 it was the "Magnum of the Future."
It still is.*



WHAT'S NEW



Hungarian Hi-Powers

Kassnar Imports now has available Hungarian Browning Hi-Powers featured in the Nov/Dec '85 issue of *Handgunner*. The Hungarian copies of the Hi-Power are identical to the Belgium-made Brownings with the exception of a few changes related mainly to cosmetics such as a vent rib.

Further information is available from Kassnar Imports, Dept. AH, P.O. Box 6097, Harrisburg, PA, 17112, (717) 652-6101.



T/C Offers New Finish

An exciting innovation in the Contender Shooting System for 1986 is the introduction of Armour/Alloy II plating, a technologically advanced plating process.

Armour/Alloy II is more stain (rust) resistant than most stainless steels which means less corrosion of the chamber and throat when firing. The surface hardness of Armour/Alloy II is 59 Rockwell compared to 42 Rockwell for 410 stainless steel. Also, the plating features greater lubricity (smoothness) than stainless producing a smoother action and cleaner barrel.

All parts, internal and external, come plated from the factory on the 10 and 14 inch barrels in the eight most popular TC calibers. The receiver is also available with Armour/Alloy II. Prices vary with model and barrel.

For more information, write TC for their catalog at Thompson Center Arms, Dept. AH, P.O. Box 5002, Rochester, NH, 03867.

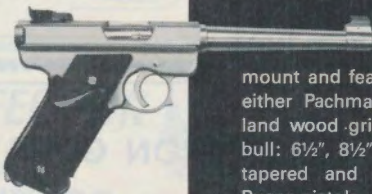


LIGHTNING

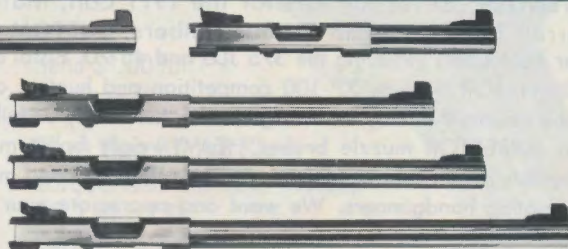
.22LR AUTO PISTOLS: SLEEK BEAUTY, HIGH PERFORMANCE



The Target Model, shown on top, is the latest addition to this alluring array of stainless steel pistols. Ventilated matte rib with Millett sights presents a superior sighting picture. Elegant wood grips, Clarke fine pull trigger and superb balance make this pistol a delight for the serious target shooter.



Standard Models, tapered and bull barrel, are shown at the left. These pistols have grooves for scope mount and feature Clarke triggers, Millett sights, and either Pachmayr wrap-around rubber grips or Wayland wood grips. Barrel length selection, tapered or bull: 6 1/2", 8 1/2", 10" and 12 1/2"; also 5" bull barrel. All tapered and bull replacement extensions will fit Ruger pistols. (Only bull extensions are shown.)



TEMPTING SELECTION by AMT



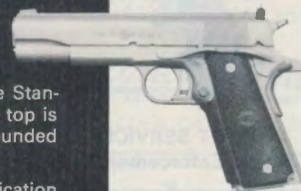
.45 ACP MILITARY WORKHORSE

This venerable automatic weapon, for years the inseparable "IRON MISTRESS" to thousands of United States' combatants, remains the singular, ubiquitous pistol among shooters and gunowners. Designed for combat and security, its modifications provide a superior, high performance pistol for sport and competition.

AMT offers 3 versions of this fine weapon: The Standard .45 ACP Government Model shown at the top is manufactured with regular fixed sights and rounded slide top.

To the right, the .45 ACP Hardballer, a modification of the Government Model, features adjustable combat sights and matte rib. A Longslide version of the Hardballer, below, adds 2" to the overall length providing less recoil, added muzzle velocity, longer sighting plane and better balance.

Features common to all three .45 ACP models: Long grip safety, wrap-around Neoprene grips, beveled magazine weld and wide adjustable trigger.



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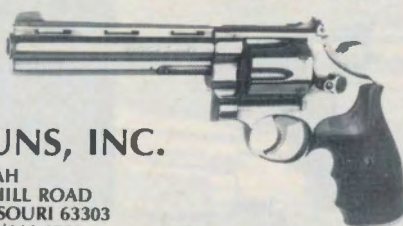
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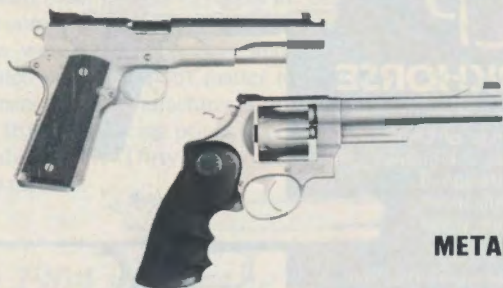
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Three new jacketed bullets are available from Hornady including a .30 caliber 150 gr. boat tail spire point designed for silhouette calibers like .308, .30 Herrett and .30 Merrill.

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For more information, see your dealer or call Hornady at (308) 382-1390.

CROSSFIRE PRO

Continued from page 49

"The dead man's widow was at the police station. She tried to claw my eyes out. She was screaming about *her* children that I made fatherless, and about how she's going to sue me for everything I own. One of the cops said they're going to be getting a warrant to confiscate all my other guns, to cover themselves on liability until it's proved that the shooting was justifiable. They read me my Miranda rights like a common criminal. The TV news team stuck a camera in my face as I was leaving the police station and asked me what it felt like to kill.

"But other than that, I've had a nice day, and I think I'll get a good night's sleep."

If you think it's going to go down like that, my friends, you have no idea what it is to shoot a man in self-defense in America today. If you're a cop, they'll still take your gun, and you might find them taking your badge and suspending you for a while, perhaps putting you on the "rubber gun squad" in a back room. You may be made to relive the shooting again and again for multiple investigation teams.

Oh, did we mention about the newspapers? In the Midwest, a State Police SWAT team was forced to kill a crazed, self-styled survivalist who opened fire on them with an illegal fully automatic weapon. One headline read, "Debt-Ridden Farmer Slain by



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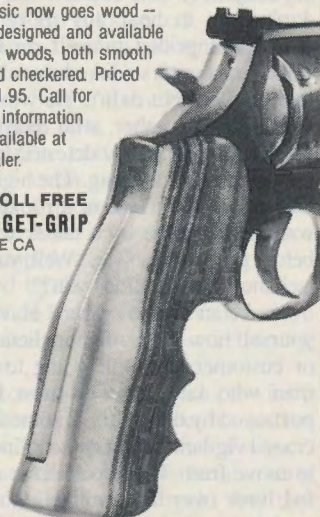


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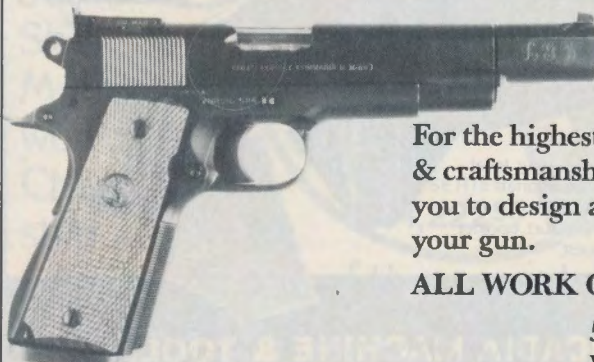
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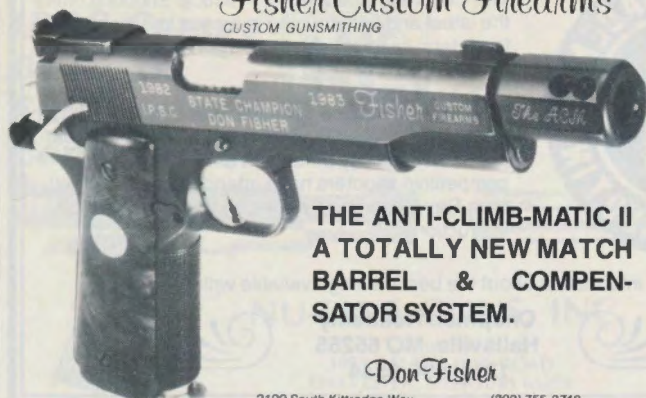
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Nebraska Police." An outlaw biker suspected of murder opened fire on two cop friends of mine; all emptied their guns, and the attacker was slain. In the course of a long news conference, their commander mentioned in passing that, like all police shootings, it would be routinely investigated by internal affairs. The next day's headline read, "Investigation Ordered in Slaying by Troopers." One officer's wife broke down in tears when she read that innuendo-ridden headline. Another friend has been in multiple gunfights in his city, and the local newspaper lists a "box score" of his shootings every time he's involved in an incident, even though all of them were clearly righteous. It reached the point where his teenage daughters were saying to their friends, "No, that's not our dad in the papers, that must be some other Detective John Doe."

I don't like that. I don't like groping for words with a man who was forced to kill in self-defense six days ago, and is crying as he talks to me because he had to take his 9-year-old son out of school. The other children were tormenting him with, "My daddy says your daddy's a murderer. My daddy says your daddy should have died instead of the man he killed." And I've not yet come up with a satisfactory answer for the police wives who have to field the crank calls after their husband has had to shoot in the line of duty.

Yes, the family shares the trouble, too. The shooter's family, cop or civilian, has always seen him as a Good Guy. Now, perhaps with his badge or gun permit suspended, being sued, possibly facing criminal charges, having been read the Miranda, he is treated by the press and consequently by the public as a criminal. For him and his family alike, it is a wrenching identity crisis.

Divorce is high among police. It is said to be twice as high in cases of police who've had to kill. There is estrangement from other relatives, too. One officer told me, "I called my mother the morning after I killed the gunman. She just screamed, 'You didn't kill anybody! My son couldn't kill anybody! I don't want to hear any more!'" Another friend had prided himself on having controlled encounters where he could have justifiably killed, but didn't. He was single, and lived with his father, who didn't like police work and particularly detested his son's specialty, weapons training. The night my friend had to kill in defense of a rookie officer, he was met at home by a father who sneered, before turning his back, "Well, you finally got a chance to do it, didn't you?"

You're an armed citizen? Have you asked yourself how many of your clients or patients or customers are still going to patronize a man who kills, who is most likely to be portrayed by the media as some sort of semi-crazed vigilante? A friend of mine was forced to move from Texas to Indiana after media-fueled furor over his justifiable homicide case made it impossible for him to make a living in his home town.

The symptoms of PST are very real. Some are almost universal: sleep disturbance, caused partially by the adrenalin overload of the kill-or-be-killed encounter you just sur-

vived, part of it from the aftermath that's going to prey on your mind for up to five years or more until the last civil suit arising from the incident is finally adjudicated. Nightmares: these typically take the form of a re-enactment of the shooting, only this time, your gun is likely to jam or fire bullets that have no effect. And if you carry a gun routinely, I shouldn't wonder if you've had that one already, even if you haven't yet fired on the street. Wait 'til you have the dream where the man you killed is standing over your bed, or your child's crib—it's among the most frequently reported.

"Mark of Cain Complex" is also nearly universal, because it's sociological and not psychological in function. It's the feeling that people are no longer seeing you as Officer Friendly or Joe Goodguy, but as "He who killed." They *do* see you like that. In a recent class of 14 police instructors, one was introduced to me in whispers by no fewer than four of his colleagues as a man who "had to do it" six weeks ago. He showed me the T-shirt his well-meaning friends had gotten him, which reads "1st Place, Quick Draw Contest," and another souvenir: the three bullets dug out of the man he'd had to slay, which someone had thoughtfully cast in Lucite. This man was already seen as a "supercop" among his peers before the shooting, and he was seeing his whole image transformed into simply "a cop who killed a guy." At the end of the course, on the part of the critique that asked "What parts of this training are you taking back to your department?" he replied, "I'm going to do whatever I can to help other officers deal with post shooting trauma."

Other symptoms include a sense of isolation (friends and peers stay away from you either because they don't know what to say, or they think you want to be alone, or because they don't want to be tarnished by the investigation you're inevitably going through). There's a period of depression (who *wouldn't* be depressed at being treated like a criminal?) and this in turn can lead to appetite disturbance, behavior changes (which range from sullenness to garrulousness), substance abuse, and mood swings. Pharmacological cascade may occur: you've been two nights without sleep and a friendly doctor prescribes sleeping pills, which increase the depression you've been feeling, so another well-meaning doctor gives you uppers. In 30 to 50% of cases, those who've had to kill in self-defense in American society experience a period of impotence. They are simply too overwhelmed by the incident and its aftermath to relax enough to have sex. There are numerous other symptoms seen frequently, but less often.

Should those who carry guns lawfully even know these things? I've been accused of attempting to "create a generation of conscientious objector policemen" by familiarizing officers with PST. That's a crock. Any cop with a conscience knows it's going to be an unpleasant thing to kill a man, and when his instructor pretends it's not, the new cop thinks, "My God, it's so bad the Sergeant won't even talk about it!" In my training, I show the officer what may happen, and how

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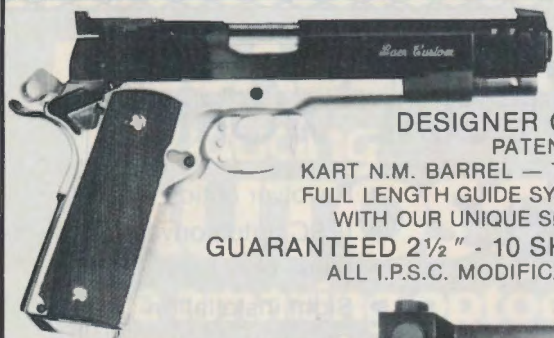
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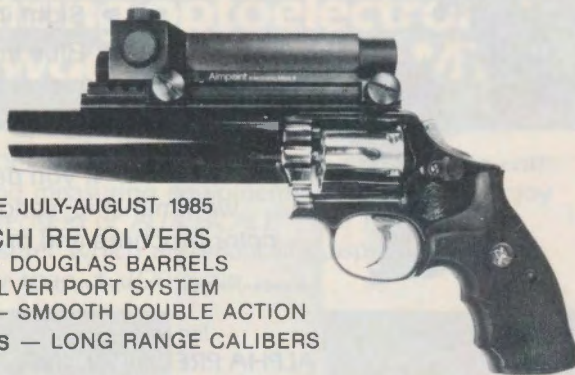


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to deal with it.

Many of my police graduates, and one or two of my civilians, have had to kill after taking my class. Each has said that the PST training "inoculated" them to the things they were feeling and helped them to better come to terms with them. And no student leaves my class without knowing that it is better to wear the Mark of Cain than the Mark of Abel: all of us active in the PST field agree that those who perceive themselves to have won the violent encounter suffer far less than those who perceive themselves to have lost it.

Anyone who tells you there's no such thing as PST has dwelt too long at the typewriter or on the training range. Time on the street or in court will show you the suffering this society visits on those who use guns in self-defense. Ironically, some who scoff at PST unknowingly admit its existence. One such authority writes that after you kill an opponent, "Your beer tastes colder and your bed feels warmer." This is euphoria response, but it doesn't come from having killed, *it comes from having survived*. You stood at the edge of death and looked down into the abyss, and now, because you shot the bad guy before he could shoot you, you're alive. For days you'll taste the air you breathe, and muslin sheets will feel like the finest silk Marco Polo ever touched, but that's because you had your life back after almost losing it, *not* because you killed.

We see the same thing in survivors of disaster, or cancer patients whose disease is in remission. Ironically, the person who has killed is preoccupied with having done so, and feeling that Survival Euphoria may think, "What sort of person am I, to feel so terrific about having killed another human being?" This tends to aggravate the identity crisis and depression problems of PST.

I believe, finally, that PST training is critical for the lawfully armed person because without it, one cannot truly make The Decision to use deadly force in necessary self-defense. A person who cannot face the real-world aftermath is a person prepared only in fantasy for defensive shooting on American streets.

CROSSFIRE CON

Continued from page 49

of suicide and alcoholism anyway (right behind dentists). Suicide is usually the result of long-term problems, not a one-time occurrence. Saying that so-and-so killed himself *because* of the shooting is like saying that World War I started because of the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand. There is a difference between the "cause" and the "precipitating event."

Back in the 1950's, psychologists Homes and Rabe published their standard scale of stress measurement. They recognized that stress can be caused by good things and bad things; that getting married is as stressful as getting divorced; that getting a new job could

be as stressful as getting fired. They determined that the most stressful experience in a person's lifetime is the death of one's spouse. While some (very few) people go off the deep end when their spouses die, there are literally millions of widows and widowers to testify that life goes on. The drastic reactions of a few should not be a behavior guide for the rest of us.

Ah, but what about those psychologists? Doesn't Doctor Whatshisname say that you will surely crack up if you shoot the son of a—excuse me—"alleged perpetrator" who tried to kill you? Of course. There are psychologists who will tell you that you are crazy because you own a gun. You don't have to look very hard to find a psychologist who will say *anything*. (Followed any "insanity defense" trials lately?) Plus, the dream of every psychologist is to have his name on something (like the Homes-Rabe Stress Scale). So, if you ask Professor Finkledorf if "Finkledorf's Syndrome" is important, he is not likely to say "It's no big deal, really; it only occurs in rare situations." Instead, he will tell you it's the most important development in psychology since Sigmund Freud was potty-trained. Besides, it's even money that Doctor Finkledorf just coincidentally will be happy to sell you his book, or his tapes, or his "sensitivity training" seminars.

Surviving a gunfight can be compared to surviving an automobile accident. When you walk away from a smoking, twisted wreck, many things will race through your mind. There will be fear. (I could have been killed!) There will be elation. (I wasn't killed! I'm alive!) If your life was saved by skillful driving, rather than mere luck, there will be pride. (I played that sucker like a fine violin.) If there was another driver involved there may be anger. (What was that drunk maniac doing on my side of the freeway?) If that drunk maniac dies, you may feel some pity, but it will be tempered by the thought that he should have considered the consequences before he drank all that tequila.

You will be so excited that you will not get to sleep that night. For a couple of days you will think of little else. But eventually, you will get over it.

If you are in a shooting, and it is "righteous," and you win, you will feel those same things. "I could have been killed!" "I'm alive!" "What a great shot!" "What did that crazy S.O.B. think he was doing anyway?" "I'm sorry I had to kill the poor slob, and I'm sorry for his family, but he should have thought about that before he tried to kill me."

You probably will not get to sleep that night. You will be able to think of nothing else for a little while. In most cases, you will get over it, and go on with your life.

You probably will not do a "Dirty Harry" and immediately order a hot dog. Or you may. I spoke with one SWAT sniper who killed a horrible criminal, and immediately ordered a hamburger. His was a special case; he had been on stakeout for seven hours without food. He was hungry.

When I was in junior high school, we used to play a cruel joke. We would approach a

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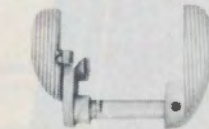


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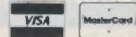
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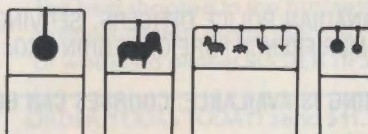
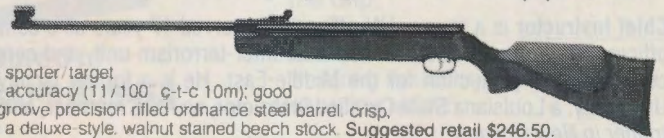
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victim, and ask "Are you all right? You look terrible." "I feel fine," he would protest. "That's funny. You look awful."

Later, another person would do the same thing. "Are you sick or something? You look kind of green." Each time, the victim would protest less and less, and at the end of the day, he would be truly, literally, physically ill. That's "the power of suggestion."

It's easy to imagine a similar situation after a shooting. "Hey, Joe, I heard you shot a guy. You must feel pretty bad, huh?" "Bad? No, I feel great. The turkey got hold of Bob's gun, but I did a Mozambique on him before he could pull the trigger." Later, another says, "Hey, Joe, you must be real shook up. Why don't you take a couple of days off and go see the shrink?" Joe says, "Actually, I was thinking I could use a bacon cheeseburger."

If this goes on long enough, eventually Joe will think "Gee, maybe I should feel rotten . . ."

I have no objection if you want to tell people that they *may* have severe problems if they win a gunfight. What I object to is the implication that one *will* and *should* feel bad. "What, you feel good because you saved your own life? What are you, Rambo?"

I don't mind that there are few positive benefits from the hysteria about post-shooting trauma. I do worry about the negative effects, though. People are beginning to get the idea that having a nervous breakdown is the normal response to a shooting. One police officer I talked to recently confessed that his biggest problem was a feeling of guilt, because he didn't feel particularly bad after shooting the man who tried to kill him. He told me "I thought I must be some kind of heartless animal, because I didn't feel any remorse."

One side effect of the missing children hysteria has been to create a generation of terrified children. God help you if you see a neighborhood child walking through a sudden rainstorm, and offer him a ride home.

One side effect of the "cop-killer bullet" hysteria, according to Second Chance president Richard Davis, has been to create a generation of criminals who shoot for the head. Thank Representative Biaggi for that.

One side effect of the post-shooting trauma hysteria may be to create a generation of police officers and gun-carrying civilians who think that they *will* go crazy, that they *should* go crazy if they win a gunfight. If they worry about it enough, some of them may hesitate just long enough to avoid the problem of post-shooting trauma the hard way: by getting killed.

The bottom line is, surviving a gunfight is *good*. If you don't think so, consider the alternative. But, surviving a gunfight is not less stressful just because it is good. We can make allowances for those who suffer from severe problems. Their pain is real, and serious, and tragic; however it is the exception, not the norm. Most people deal with the stress and get on with their lives.

Now, can we get on with our lives? Can we stop making such a big hysterical deal over what is really a very limited problem?



PACT TIMER

Continued from page 50

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The PACT Timer's functions are controlled by a keyboard on top of the unit, and its information is displayed on an LCD on the front of the unit. The various modes of operation are extremely "user friendly" in that all the operations require simple responses punched into the keyboard. The unit features a handy belt-clip so it can hang on your waist for easy access.

PACT provides a starting GO beep either delayed or instant. In the delayed mode you have the option of a fixed delay or a random delay. You set the upper and lower limits of the random delay for the GO signal. From there the unit counts the shots fired and the time interval between shots as well as the time from the GO signal. This is accomplished with a sensitive microphone.

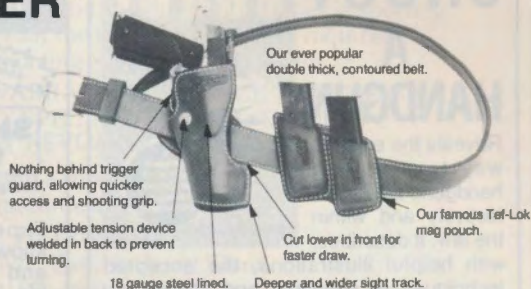
Furthermore, the PACT Timer provides for signals at intervals you set when practicing shooting that requires a precise cadence such as the Falling Plates at Bianchi Cup or the Rapid Fire in bullseye. This is accomplished with either the KEYED BEEP or BENCHMARK functions. The Benchmark is an audible signal, a beep, which sounds after a set time period from the GO signal. You set the Benchmark time. Keyed Beeps are essentially the same except that numerous signals sound at varying times from the GO signal. You program the Keyed Beeps onto the keyboard.

The PACT Timer offers you the option of a Stop Beep. You set this by entering the timer under the LMT (time limit) key. If you happen to exceed the time limit, the PACT keeps right on counting shots so you know how much overtime you used.

With any of these functions the display will tell you three things: 1) the number of shots fired 2) the time difference between the last and next to last shot and 3) the elapsed time from the GO signal. In addition, the display asks, "FIND SHOT:" as an option. If, for

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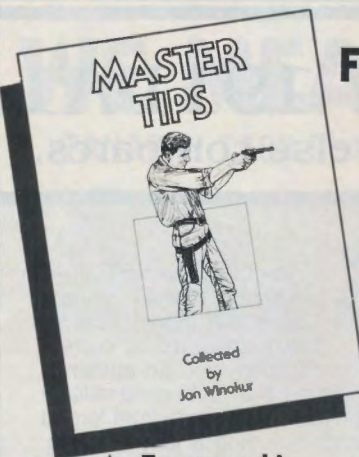
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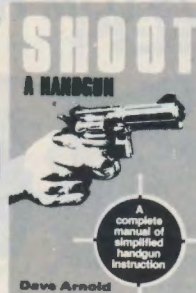
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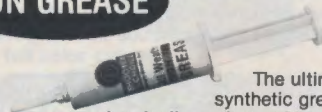
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instance, you wish to know the time it took to fire the fifth shot in an eight shot string, you punch 5 for FIND SHOT and, presto, there is the time of the fifth shot.

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.41 MAGNUM

Continued from page 52

Magnum does the job just fine.

The actual bore size of the mighty .44 is .429 inch. The .41 is a true .410 inch. So what's the big deal over .19 inch? There's a little of Dirty Harry in all of us, I guess, and what would you have thought of him if he had used a .41 rather than the "World's Most Powerful" .44? The macho mystique of the Model 29 and the .44 Magnum was too much for the mere .41 to overcome.

Few people know it, but the gun Dirty Harry used in the early scenes of his first film—the one that really popularized the big .44 Magnum—wasn't a .44 Magnum at all. The studio property man called the factory one day, reached then vice president for marketing Dick McMahon and said, "In two weeks we start shooting a film about a cop who uses your .44 Magnum. Could you ship a gun out to us right away?"

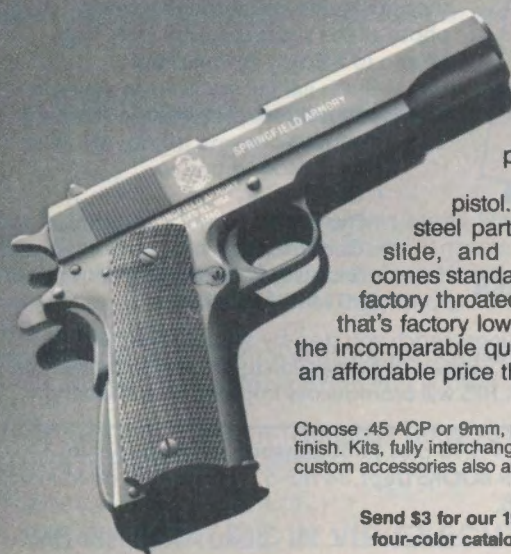
Well, that was like asking Ayatollah Khomeini for a Christmas present. There just weren't any to be had. It would be several months before any Model 29s were due off the production line. So a Model 57, .41 Magnum, was shipped with a caution not to shoot any scenes showing the muzzle end until the gun could be replaced with a 29.

One reason the .41 Magnum was so long a wallflower is that it apparently offered nothing new.

The hunting load is listed with a muzzle velocity of 1300 fps and 788 ft./lbs. of energy at the muzzle. The .44 Magnum with a similar 240 grain bullet is listed with 1180 fps and 741 ft./lbs. Energy potential of the .41 is only slightly better than the big .44.

The .41 police load, using the 210 grain bullet, is loaded to only 965 fps and 434 ft./lbs. at the muzzle. The .357 Magnum with a 158 grain similar bullet design claims 1235 fps and 535 ft./lbs. Or compare it with the popular 125 grain JHP police load that steps out at 1450 fps with 583 ft./lbs. of energy. On this basis, you could argue that the .41 was no better than the .357. So why use a larger gun?

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Available ammunition made the .41 Magnum a duplicate of two popular calibers. But the ammunition makers are showing new interest this year. Winchester-Olin introduced last year a middle-range 175 grain *Silvertip* HP load in their *Super-X* that claims 40 percent less recoil than their full power .41 Magnums. From a four-inch vented test barrel the muzzle velocity is listed as 1250 fps and muzzle energy is 607 ft./lbs. Mid-range trajectory when sighted in for 50 yards is .8 inches. In ordnance gelatin, the new load demonstrated "outstanding energy deposit" with consistently reliable expansion, minimum weight loss and penetration of about 7½ inches.

Winchester also loads three 210 grain bullet loads with a bit of choice. There's a SWC low-velocity load, and JSP and JHP full power loads. Remington offers the two loads it started with, both 210 grain JSP bullets in light and full power loadings. Federal introduced a 210 grain JHP full power load at 1300 fps and 790 ft./lbs. at the muzzle; residual energy at 100 yards is still a respectable 495 ft./lbs.

And these loadings just might be where the .41 Magnum belongs. It's a better .44 Magnum than the .44 Magnum. It offers the performance of the big gun in a more comfortably shooting package. As handgun hunters and silhouette shooters discover the advantages of the .41, its popularity is bound to grow. 

C&H 444-X PRESS

Continued from page 28

Also that, unlike most multi-station presses, the 444-X doesn't restrict the hand-loading operation to the use of a special kind of dies, and, as already noted, a crank-type powder measure can be used. And, although full-bore operation calls for having four shellholders you can, in an emergency, get by with just one by using the 444-X as a single-station press.

The only restriction with the press is that full-length resizing has to be done at the back-center station, at a point midway between and in line with the guide posts, where there is no torque on the platen. And priming has to be done at front-left, because that's where the priming punch is. Otherwise, you can pretty well have it your way with the 444-X.

This outfit, completely set up for any one of several pistol calibers, sells for a base price of \$255. That's with steel dies. If you want carbide (no lube) sizers, it'll be a few dollars more. If you have no ambition to crank off a loaded round every 18 seconds, though, you can pass on the pushbutton primer feed and the jazzy powder measure, and get into a plain 444 for \$158. You'll still have butter-smooth operation and all the versatility any handloader could ask of a press, and you'll be able to use two, three, or four-piece die sets. It's just the kind of thing you're likely to feel at home with right off the bat.

That's dandy, but I've yet to find a set of instructions with any reloading tool that's completely accurate, or that makes sense all

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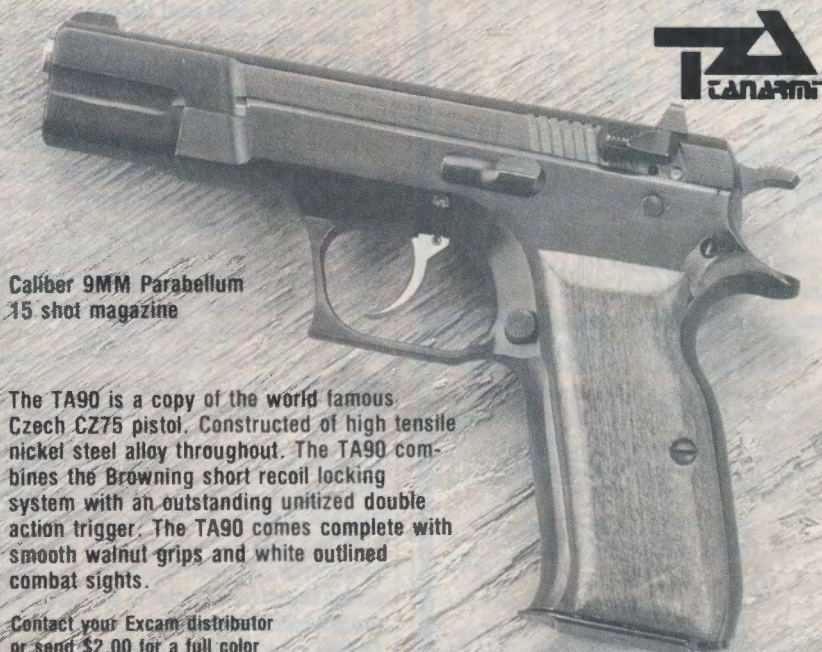
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the way. I thought we'd be in good shape with C-H, but no: whoever wrote the poop sheet said that priming could be done at any of the three front stations. That couldn't be so, because, as I observed earlier, the priming gizmo is at front-left. This minor sin, however, takes nothing from the value of the products; the 444 and 444-X definitely are highly recommendable.



IPSC NATIONALS

Continued from page 37

Colt. Kerry also won the Ladies Qualifier match held prior to the Nationals.

Christie Rogers finished second behind Kerry with her Devel Gammon .38 Super. Christie is the 1985 IPSC Ladies National Champion.

Jo Anne finished a disappointing third. Lee finished ninth among the ladies.

The winner of the Ladies Shoot-off, held after the Nationals, was Robertta Geer shooting a Nastoff Supercomp in .45 ACP. She beat Jo Anne Hall in the final, best of seven bout. Robertta won the prestigious *Prix du President* awarded by IPSC World President Jean-Pierre Denis for her victory in the shoot-off. This was the first time the president's award has gone to a female.

Men's Shoot-off

Last year's shoot-off was a battle of the blue with Rob and Brian squaring off in the finals in their blue Dillon Precision shirts. This year neither made the quarter finals.

Pin Buster World Champion Stu Mullins eliminated Rob on his way to winning the shoot-off. Chip McCormick eliminated Brian and met Stu in the final bout. The best of seven final bout came down to three wins each for Stu and Chip. Stu won the final bout and the shoot-off with his Plaxco .45 ACP.

Bits and Pieces

The *Handgunner's* Loyal Reader Award goes to Range Officer Jim Webbert of Phoenix who inquired if *AH* will be around in the year 2000. Yes, we will. Good, Jim replied, explaining that his sub expired in 2001.

Kudos to Match Director Terry Allison and the Cactus Combat Match League for hosting a magnificent match. All potential problems were foreseen, and eliminated. For the second year in a row Terry presided over a match with not a single protest filed. That must be some sort of record.

Terry offered some interesting stats on the Nationals for trivia freaks. The match utilized, at varying times, between 60 and 80 officials; over 50,000 target pasters; \$2,500 in scoring forms; 500 flag stakes; 30 acres of land. Terry, aided by a computer, estimated one ton of lead went downrange.

The Nationals attracted 317 shooters, the largest turnout ever. The 1986 Nationals are tentatively set for Dallas in July. Competitors are advised to bring speed loaders full of salt tablets, and plenty of canteens. Sweltering comes close, but doesn't adequately describe Texas heat in July.

Rob Leatham won an unprecedented three championships in a row. Can he

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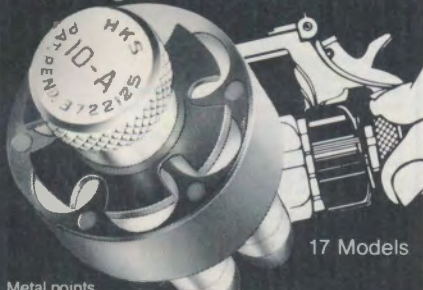
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THE AYOOB FILES

Continued from page 51

beltline. The King's County doctors did what
 had to be done to save the wounded officer's
 life, with little time to spare.

"Today, Al Hofman has 80 to 85% use of
 his wounded right arm. He works full duty
 and tells young patrolmen coming on the job,
 'Listen to what they tell you at the outdoor
 range. They know what they're talking about.
 Don't think of it as a day off with target
 shooting. What they taught me kept me alive.'
 Hofman also wears his PBA-furnished bal-
 listic vest, without fail. 'I'd sooner go to work
 without my pants on,' he says."

Let us now, in 1986, analyze the lessons of
 Al Hofman's second shootout. He had
 awareness enough to have the gun in his
 hand. Even though he was not expecting his
 opponent to be street-smart enough to be
 watching him through the shoplifter mirrors,
 he was able to react to the ambush quickly
 enough to shoot first, and twice. Note the
 tachypsychia effect, that is, things going into
 slow motion. He had time to mentally ana-
 lyze the situation and be thinking, "I can't
 believe I didn't hit him," in the instant
 between when he fired and when he was
 himself shot.

Hofman emptied his Chief Special, and
 investigators believe four or five of the five
 rounds he fired hit home. This was excellent
 80% to 100% hit potential, compared to the
 average 17% to 22% hit potential in NYCPD
 gunfights annually, some 60% of which
 involve full-length four-inch service .38s that
 are easier to hit with. It is safe to assume that
 several of Hofman's 158-grain SWCs struck
 the suspect, yet the man showed absolutely
 no reaction and was able to fire back.

Note that Hofman, struck in the arm with a
 supposedly impotent 123-grain 9mm hard-
 ball, was instantly put down. Note also that
 he was stunned by the blast effect of the
 gunfire. This is an interesting factor: while
 some officers report that they didn't even hear
 the shots, others comment on how stunningly
 loud the gunfire was, sometimes even immo-
 bilizing them. Accounts of battle by first time
 soldiers almost always include a phrase like,
 "I had no idea how *loud* a battlefield was."
 Interestingly, this reaction had not occurred
 in Hofman's first shootout, which involved
 much more gunfire but at a somewhat greater
 distance.

Hofman's first reaction after being hit, he
 told me, was to try to continue shooting. His
 right hand with the Chief in it would not
 respond. Lying prone, even in the chilling
 moment when the gunman who had left him
 for dead stepped directly over him, Hofman
 had the survival instinct and the presence of
 mind to reach over with his left hand, literally
 peel the model 36 revolver out of his unre-
 sponsive right hand, and then aim and fire
 from a prone position.

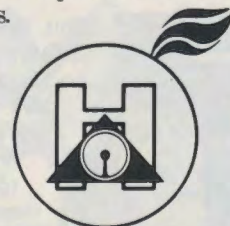
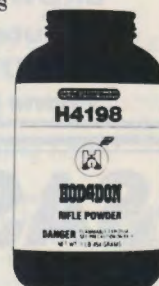
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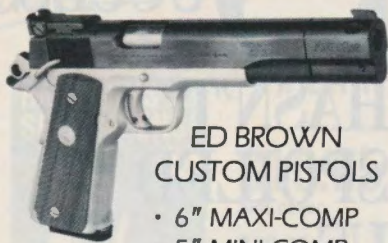
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NEXT ISSUE

SMITH AND WESSON
645

three bullets in the back, his only response was to shudder. The man kept moving and was totally viable as a fighter, and it is believed that the only reason he did not stop and shoot back again at Hofman was that he realized he was now facing other officers outside. Even so, after the brother cops opened fire and the suspect was hit a total of eight times, the man was able to travel three-fourths of a city block before he collapsed. This counterpoints the real-world experience with the semi-wadcutter bullet in caliber .38 Special at standard velocity: even when a mortal wound has been delivered, the bullet carries too little impact to be a decisive fight stopper. This is why professionals almost universally recommend expanding hollow-point bullets at +p velocity, or exotic specialty ammo like the Glaser Safety Slug, for any .38 Special revolver that is used to protect human life from homicidal gunmen.

Finally, in terms of weapons, note that if the gunman *had* turned in the doorway and fired back, Hofman would have been helpless. This underscores the need for officers to carry instantly-accessible second weapons, as Hofman had briefly done after his first shootout. (In fairness to NYPD firearms and tactics unit, while they had given Hofman the impression that he probably wouldn't need a backup, they are also the only major unit of their kind in the country that keys a good bit of their firearms training around a backup revolver, which they tacitly suggest to their officers to carry, since regulations permit.)

Never underestimate the importance of backup. While Al's partner was not in a tactical position to cover him at the moment the wily gunman came out shooting, it was the presence of well-placed, highly trained brother New York cops outside that kept the suspect from shooting back at Hofman by engaging him instantly with gunfire. Smart, tough cops also saved his life by making the decision to race him to another hospital—normally an extremely unwise thing to do, but in this case, a proper decision. Remember, doctors' sympathies and attention tend to go to the most badly injured patient, not necessarily to "the good guy who also got winged."

Al Hofman's courage, training, and skill carried him through his second encounter and won him his second Combat Cross. There is no doubt that he would trade the medal for the full use of his right arm again, but that is irrelevant. Instead, let us consider the lessons learned: 158-grain solid bullets in .38 Special caliber are woefully feeble man-stoppers; while overdoses of courage can get you killed, courage can also allow you to prevail and survive; training will carry you through in most cases; an accessible second weapon is the fastest reload after an intense gunfight; plans should be in place to rush wounded participants to a hospital competent to treat gunshot trauma.

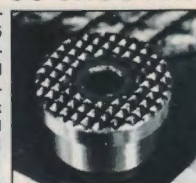
Hey, folks, real life doesn't always come out like the textbooks, *does it?*

The author wishes to thank Al Hofman, NYPD Deputy Inspector John Menken, and Phil Caruso and Ray Leshinger of the New York PBA, for making this article possible.



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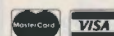
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LONE STAR PISTOL

Continued from page 45

The magazine well is beveled in a unique manner that is certainly easier illustrated than described (see accompanying photo). The wide flare took three years development on the part of Martin and he is so pleased with its utility and reliability of design that he will do no other style of magazine well bevel. I have always been of the school of thought that while a bevel is a "must" modification that insures fast and furious magazine changes, it should be a rather modest affair. After extensive work with Martin's design, however, I feel that it assures hitting the well with a fresh magazine every time without taking your eyes off an elusive target.

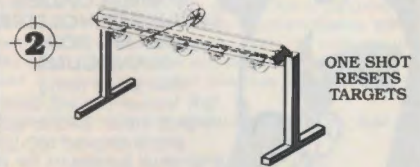
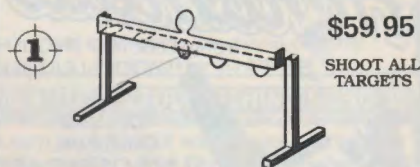
The safety and slide release levers are normal. I find extended slide releases are far more trouble than they are worth, as are oversized magazine release buttons. If you know your gun, as you should, they just aren't needed. I also have no real need for ambidextrous safeties; since I shoot a handgun right-handed. In a pinch, forced to fire port sided, there are several other ways to brush off a safety.

Gunsmith Martin has installed a wide grip safety to eliminate hammer bite and provide greater comfort and control. While I have never suffered hammer bite with a .45 auto-loader, I agree on the comfort and control points. At my request, again, the grip safety has been cancelled. I have proven to myself, over and over again, in matches as well as "on the street," that time does not always afford you the best grip before the action begins and you may or may not deactivate the grip safety. Grip safeties, in my opinion, are great for target guns but present a potential problem with carry pieces.

Sights are Bo-Mar BMCS low mounted adjustable and are silver soldered to withstand up to 25,000 psi, both front and rear. Martin has found these sights are highly preferred on his regional IPSC circuit and I have no argument with their durability and precision. Personally, however, I would have preferred Millett Series 100 Custom Combat Low Profile in the Marksman Speed Combo with blaze orange front. It is all a matter of druthers.

Externally, Glenn Martin has presented a masterpiece with the eye of an artist. Internally, he has applied the skill of a physician. The gun has been fully accurized. Slide and frame are expertly mated around a precision fitted match grade barrel and bushing. The extractor has been "tuned" and an extended ejector has been fitted to assure 100% reliable functioning.

The feed ramp has been modified and polished to accommodate the "non-standard" bullet nose configurations, as well as the standard round nosed bullets. The ejection port has been opened and relieved to assure clearance of ejected cases without case mouth deformation. Trigger pull is a requested 3½ pounds and crisp as breaking glass.



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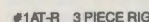

In a letter that accompanied the gun, Martin stated he fired my ammunition of preference, Frontier 230-grain Flat Point, in a Ransom Machine Rest and obtained a one-inch, 10-shot group at 25 yards. Although I own a machine rest myself, I have never thought that they proved too much in gun testing, although they are great for gun/ammunition problem solving. When working with good ammunition, factory or reloads, it is what you personally do with the gun/ammo combination that really counts—and this is where we came in.

Ammunition tests showed that Frontier 230-grain FMJFN (Index 9098), Winchester 185-grain Silvertip HP (Index X45ASHP), Federal 185-grain MCWC (Index 45B), and GECO 230-grain FMC were all capable of delivering 25 yard groups of 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 inches firing hand held Weaver stance or sitting with back to the wall. Frontier seemed to have a slight edge in the 1 1/2 inch groups but I fired more of it than I did other brands. One brand, Custom Ammunition Co. 230-grain Hard Cast RN (Index U62) performed uniformly excellent with 1 3/4 inch groups being the norm. I don't even remember where I picked up a sampling of this ammo but you can be sure that you will be hearing more about it.

In order to expand the testing, I matched the Martin Custom .45 against a new Colt Government Model MK IV Series 80, a vintage Colt National Match .45, and a new Colt Peacekeeper .357 revolver loaded with Federal Nyclad .38 Special 158-grain RN (Index N38B). This is where I learned something about my limitations and those of four fine handguns.

When all the gunsmoke had settled, and when all the mathematic computations had been entered, I knew only that 1 1/2 to 2 inches was the best I could expect from *myself* at 25 yards, Weaver stance. All four guns were apparently capable of doing better than that! Even the "out of the box" Colt Government pumped out 1 3/4 inch groups with regularity, as did the Peacekeeper. None of the guns used in the test malfunctioned even once out of the many hundreds of rounds fired, which speaks as well for the basic Colt/Browning design as it does for customizing.

Does this mean that it is unnecessary to spend \$875 for a Martin Custom .45, sans special Russwood Grips? Well, yes and no. It seems to me that Martin gives you just a little extra assurance and peace of mind, plus a very large extra in good looks. And the beauty, in this case, is more than skin deep.



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PIN BUSTERS

Continued from page 44

Pin Buster World Champion Stu Mullins set the pace for *B&B Sales' Slick n Quick* in the early goings of the two-day match with a time of 2.21. This time held throughout the first day of the match. Then Angelo began entering—you could enter as many times as your wallet allowed in an attempt to fire the fastest single run.

Angelo's first few runs were just to get his feet wet. Nothing earth shattering. Then the crowd's attention began to perk as they saw Angelo kick in the afterburner. In a blaze of gunfire, all four pins sailed in the air as the stop plate went down. Time: 2.12 seconds.

And the race was over. Cal Eilrich of Nevada tried to beat Angelo's time with his unusual Colt Government Model featuring a steel rod in scope rings for added weight. Close, but no cigar. Cal fired the third fastest run of 2.17 seconds, only five hundredths of a second slower.

A winning time of 2.12 and third of 2.17? You mean there's something in between? Yup, Rob Leatham managed to insert a 2.15 to take second place. When the top three times are separated by a total of only .05 seconds, well, you know the competitors are evenly matched and must pull every drop of talent from their hands.

The ladies event, *Pony Express Gun Shop's Rolling Pin*, was won by Carol Gratzke of Los Angeles. High Junior went to 13-year-old Jana Lyn Lightbourn. The team event, *Ray Bahn's Blast for Cash*, went to Stu Mullins and Cal Eilrich. Rob and Brian were second.

Pin Busters received over 200 individual entries for the 1985 World Championship. The beauty of bowling pin shooting is simplicity—anyone with an old, used door for a pin table can host a match—combined with pure, unmitigated fun. The bowling pins are marvelous targets because they're unpredictable. Those pins dance everywhere!

Because the range is quite close—25 feet—bowling pins serve as an excellent training vehicle for young shooters. The bouncing, prancing manner in which the pins react to big bore hits is also enticing for the veteran shooter. And shooting bowling pins makes it easy to learn the basics of marksmanship—sight picture, trigger control.

For information about the 1986 Pin Busters—rumored to feature more exciting events and a higher prize purse—write to Pin Busters, Dept AH, 8955A Sepulveda Blvd., Sepulveda, CA, 91343.

Don't be bashful if you're a beginner at shooting against the Master Blasters, because you won't. Shooters are put in classes based on their skill level, and the class prizes are virtually equal. "C" or even "E" class shooters stand to win cash and a valuable firearm. Second place "C" class this year offered a Bar-Sto Barrel, a Smith and Wesson 629 and \$100. The prizes will be even better in your class in 1986.

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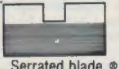


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cocking' in this context, but 'double-action' seems to be the commonly understood use, even if it is incorrect.) The results of this double tap exercise were compared to the double taps starting with the hammer cocked. While the groups printed with the hammer cocked for both shots ($1/2"$ to $4 1/2"$) were superior to those groups printed with the first shot fired double-action ($1/2"$ to $10"$) it was observed that the more practiced one became with the double-action/single-action transition, the less the dispersion between the first and second shot became. I believe that with practice, good results at close range (10 yards and under) are reasonable from a double-action start.

Of the people who shot the pistol during this testing, all commented on the pistol's tendency to torque to the left (right-handed shooters) during recoil. All participants felt that the girth of the grip combined with the lack of significant radiusing at the edges of the grip/grip-frame accentuated this tendency. Recoil was brisk, but quite manageable. In comparison with other pistols of this size firing service grade ammunition, felt recoil was on par with that of the competition. Recoil was noticeably less than recoil perceived from 45 ACP caliber pistols of the same size, which is to be expected.

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SMITH'S CHOPPED 9mm

Continued from page 33

moved forward in the magazine under recoil. The second malfunction occurred on the 7th round of the second magazine when it lacked $3/8"$ of slide travel to fully chamber. The slide was easily pushed closed with thumb pressure and the round fired. These two malfunctions occurred midway through the 550 round series. In test firing the CCI/Lawman 125 gr. JSP-RN there was a definite 'bump' in equates to a 99.64% reliability factor. Both malfunctions occurred with the CCI/Lawman 125 gr. JSP-RN ammunition. The slide locked back with the last round remaining in the feeding cycle not noted during the testing with other ammunition. No other stoppages occurred during the balance of the evaluation. The remaining quantity of the CCI/Lawman 125 gr. JSP-RN functioned through the 669 with no problem.

A test was conducted firing double taps (two shots fired in rapid succession) at 7 and 10 yards starting with the hammer down. The first shot was double-action and the second shot was single-action. (Yes, I know the term 'double-action' is properly called 'trigger-

One virtually unanimous comment from those who tried the Model 669 was an expressed desire for the same treatment to be given to the Model 39 series of pistols. Most participants felt that the reduction in bulk afforded by such a configuration would make an effective 'inside-the-belt' pistol. On trying the Model 669 carried inside the belt, most felt the extra width of the grip-frame to be a significant drawback.

A final stripping and examination of the test 669 was performed to examine for wear and possible part failure. Nothing, other than light normal wear, was observed.

In the two thousand rounds-plus testing that was performed the overall evaluation of the mechanical functioning was excellent. Fresh from the box, this pistol performed virtually without a hitch. The only refinements suggested for improvements noted were subjective in nature and based upon individual shooter preferences for specific applications (i.e. checkered frontstrap, removal of the magazine floorplate finger extension, deactivate the magazine safety, etc.)

It is encouraging to know that it is still possible to walk into a sporting goods emporium and purchase a sidearm that is ready for immediate service.



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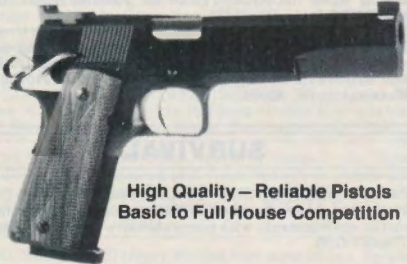
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LADY COP

Continued from page 47

Mickey has been a police officer for 10 years with the Charleston, South Carolina, Police Department, and is married to a Sergeant on the force. Her husband, by the way, shoots a bit, but is not a competitor. Mickey mentioned that her mother talked her into becoming a police officer—now that's a switch! After serving in the patrol division she applied for and became the first lady in Charleston's Mounted (horse) Patrol. She has now moved over to the training division, where she teaches—what else?—shooting. In 1978, before moving to training, she was encouraged to take up PPC shooting with the support of Chief Ruben Greenburg, and her scores have been on a steady rise with no top end in sight.

Practice time is limited to once a week, about 300 to 400 rounds, or about two times through the course. Her shooting gear is about standard for the sport: a Davis Grade III revolver with a Davis rib, Pachmayr grips, Safariland speedloaders, and a Lou Reno holster. She shoots Winchester .38 Spl. match wadcutter ammo, uses a head hold at the 50 yard line and a center hold at 7, 15, and 25 yards. All pretty basic stuff (so why doesn't it work for me ???), except for her ability to concentrate. At Atlanta it rained so hard there was a stream along the 50 yard line. When we fired prone, it ran in my rain jacket collar and out my pants legs. I dropped more points at 25 yards than Mickey dropped in the entire match! Shooting a 1491 in these conditions is a real tribute to Mickey's ability to concentrate on sight alignment and trigger control.

One hundred and twenty four shooters (including four other females) rose to a standing ovation at the awards ceremony when Mickey was presented the Match Winner Award. I travel and shoot quite a bit, and that is one bit of history I'll never forget. To the list of female champion shooters like Jo Anne Hall and Lee Cole in IPSC and Cathy Graham in Olympic shooting we can add Mary Januszkiewicz—Mickey—in PPC. Ladies, welcome to the winner's circle.

P.S.: At the NRA National Championships, Mickey lived up to our expectations and claimed the National Womens Title with a 1490—only five points off the overall winner's score. She confided to me that she would like to be the National Overall Champion—and I see no reason why she couldn't.



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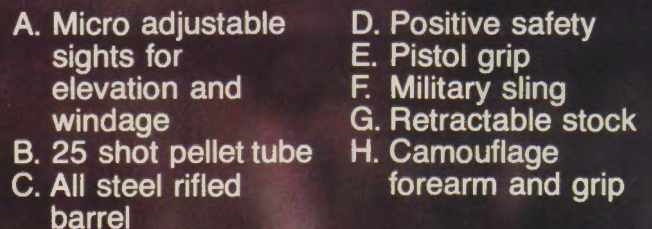
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The local ABC affiliate aired portions of the handgunning match which served to demonstrate the legitimate sporting value of handguns. Score one for the Second Amendment.

Nearly \$1,000 generated from shooters went to the Muscular Dystrophy Foundation.

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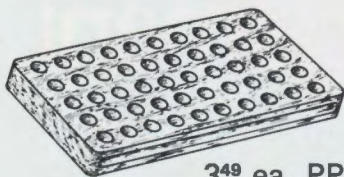
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The Masters features three separate events, each counting a third of the overall championship. The match requires three handguns, one for each of the events. All of the events utilize steel plates of various dimensions for targets. All plates must be knocked down to score in all events.

The Precision Event is bullseye shooting at Olympic Biathlon steel discs of 4.5 inches and 1.7 inches at 25 and 50 meters with fixed time limits. A total of 45 rounds of .22 rimfire ammo is called for with each plate scoring one point for a possible score of 45 points. Only .22s are allowed.

The Long Range event follows IHMSA equipment rules. The course of fire includes standing and freestyle shooting positions. Targets are 6, 9 and 12 inch round steel plates at 75, 100, 150 and 200 meters. Time limits range from 60 seconds for five shots to 90 seconds for 10 shots. All action types compete equally. There are 45 rounds for 45 points possible.

The Action Event follows the Steel Challenge rules for equipment. Three stages call for different size plates at varying distances. Time is score, with low time for knocking all plates down winning. Winning time gets 45 points, to equal the other two stages, and others get a percentage of the winning time's point score.

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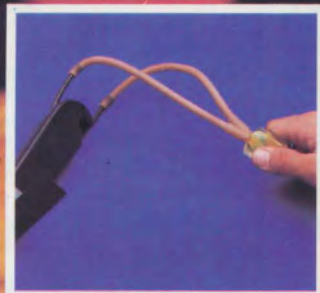
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SHOT SHOW SCOOPS—NEW REDHAWK .44; S&W 645 GOES S.A.; COLT MAY GO 10mm

As this is written (Jan. 20) we have just returned from the SHOT Show. While there were no great surprises—especially for *American Handgunner* readers—the show did offer some interesting guns and accessories.

The S&W Model 745 single-action version of the Model 645 auto was shown, and brought many plaudits from visitors. S&W also exhibited several commemorative guns. The first is actually a pair of 50th Anniversary .357 Magnum revolvers to be sold at auction, with the entire proceeds to go to the U.S. Olympic Shooting team. Bidding closes on March 31, and we'll report on the winning bid in a later issue.

For the consumers, S&W has a Model 27 Limited Edition commemorative .357 Magnum. Only 2,501 of these will be offered, so you better see your S&W dealer now. To help celebrate the Texas Sesquicentennial, S&W has a Texas Wagon Train Commemorative Model 544, in caliber .44–40. Handsomely engraved with the Texas State logo and cased in a branded “barnboard” presentation case,

only 7,800 of these will be offered. For Elmer Keith fans, there is the Elmer Keith Commemorative Model 29. This will be offered in a standard and a deluxe version, with prices at \$850 and \$1,300 respectively. Your dealer will have information on all of these special edition guns. And, for fans of the .41 Magnum and stainless steel, there is the new Model 657 with 4”, 6” or 8¾” barrels.

We pretty much covered the new Colt guns in our last *Insider* report, but missed the new .45 Combat Elite with blue carbon slide and stainless receiver; actually a revised version of the Combat Government Model. There is also the stainless Gold Cup National Match and some other goodies from the Colt Custom Shop. We promised Colt that we would not mention their response to our question, “When will you bring out a 10mm auto?” If the 10 is your cup of tea, I’d suggest you start saving your pennies.

Ruger has finally released their new .357 Magnum double-action revolver, the GP-100 (Come on guys, I like guns with names,

what’s wrong with Redhawk, Security Six, etc?). Anyway, the GP-100 has a full length ejector housing, the strong Redhawk cylinder locking system, and a rugged frame which Ruger says is, “designed for the unlimited use of all factory .357 loads.” The GP sports a grip frame especially designed for wrap-around stocks, and the stocks themselves are of live rubber with Goncalo Alves wood panels. Both 4” and 6” barrels will be offered. If the Redhawk was not big enough for you, watch for the “Super Redhawk,” a real handful that looks a bit as if it had its genesis in a bank vault. We’ll cover these new guns in future issues.

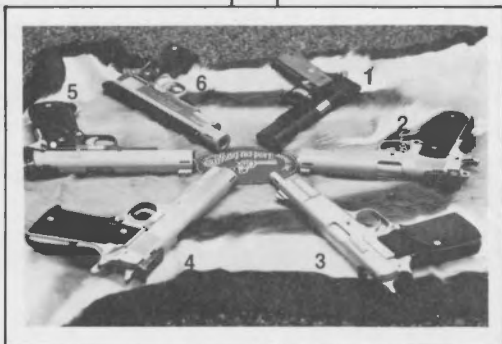
SHORT NOTES

Safariland announced their International Shooting Team, consisting of top guns Bill Rogers, Bill Wilson, Mike Plaxco, Scott Carnahan and Christie Rogers. They will compete in many of the major matches.

Springfield Armory, whose Model 1911-A1 pistol is a sell-out in their first several production runs, was showing their new Officer’s Model; a short barrel .45 with alloy frame and Commander-type hammer.

Advantage Arms of St. Paul, MN, had their 4-barrel derringer at the SHOT Show. Even if you’re not a derringer fan, you had to admire the workmanship on this little .22.

Watch for the name Falcon Firearms. This Granada Hills, CA, outfit will soon offer their stainless 1911-style .45; it appears that the left hand models will be first off the line.



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The Colt 380 Government Model (top). Available in blue, nickel and electroless nickel. The new Colt Mustang 380 (bottom). Available in blue.

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Be a safe shooter—never chamber a round until you are ready to shoot. Always read and follow the instruction manuals, which accompany each firearm. Ask your local Police Department about gun ownership and personal defense laws in your area. Free Colt catalogs and instruction manuals are also available from the factory on request.

*Based on Hatcher's Table of Relative Stopping Power.

Actual size



The new, smaller
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