

# THE AMERICAN HANDGUNNER

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1978 \$2.00

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE OUTSTANDING AMERICAN HANDGUNNER AWARDS FOUNDATION

67522 T&amp;E

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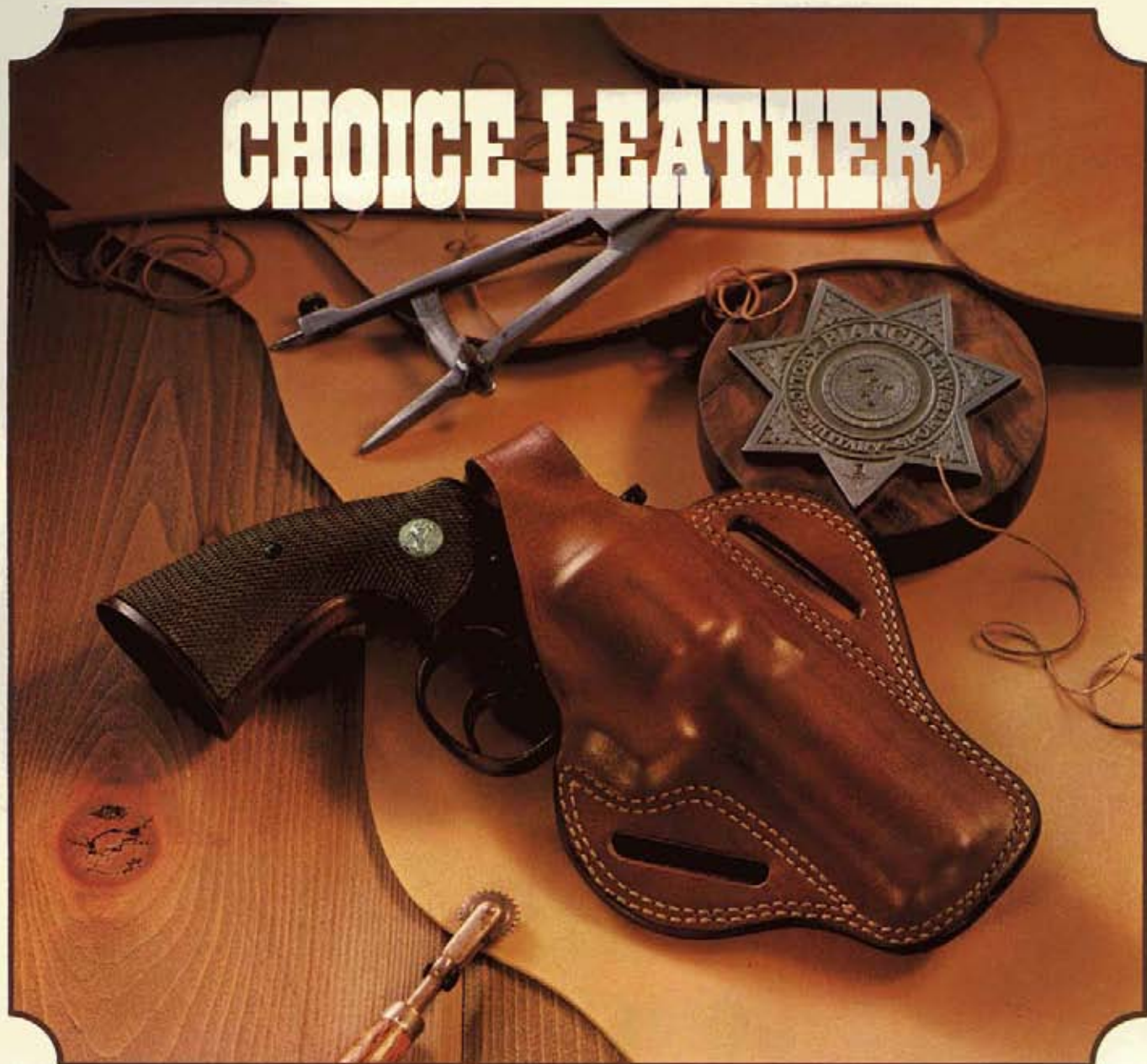
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## NEWSLETTER

Elsewhere in this issue, you'll find an account of the Sixth Annual Banquet; our most successful to date. In the limited amount of space allotted to the foundation here, we felt it only fitting that we pay tribute to those in the industry who made this banquet the success it was. I'm sure that some last minute donors will be omitted — unintentionally. I assure you—but even if you did contribute and you are not mentioned here, be assured that your support was deeply appreciated.

To those who are members, let this list serve as a reminder of the continued interest the firms in our industry show in supporting a multitude of organizations that are working toward the same goal — perpetuation of all of the shooting sports.

The following firms donated prizes:

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To all of these firms, the foundation extends its most sincere thanks for making the evening enjoyable and for your continued support of our endeavors.



This year's Outstanding American Handgunner Award recipient, good ol' Skeeter Skelton (center) is having his ear bent by quiet, modest Bill Jordan (right) and patient listener, Bill Ruger (left).

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# THE AMERICAN HANDGUNNER

September/October, 1978

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GEORGE E. VON ROSEN  
Publisher

## FEATURES

O.A.H.A. BANQUET AWARDS, Staff .....	16
THE TRUTH ABOUT MAG-NA-PORT, Massad Ayoob .....	21
DISCOVERED . . . A RARE 9MM WEBLEY, Gordon Bruce .....	24
SUPERKID OF AMERICAN HANDGUNNING, Massad Ayoob .....	27
BUCKSHOT FOR SNUBBIES, Seth Nadel .....	30
CUSTOM .22 AUTO . . . THE DIECKMANN P-66, Dennis Riordan .....	32
SUPER 4-TEENS, J. D. Jones .....	44
SHOOTING THE P.P.C., J. D. Weller .....	50
HANDGUN PROFILE	
HANDGUN STOCKS, James D. Mason .....	36
STOCK MARKET, Staff .....	40

## DEPARTMENTS

SPEAK OUT .....	6
INDUSTRY INSIDER, Massad Ayoob .....	8
COOPER'S COLUMN, Jeff Cooper .....	12
PISTOLSMITHING, George C. Nonte .....	18
HANDGUNS IN FRANCE, M. H. Josserand .....	48
HANDGUN HUNTING, George Bredsten .....	53
KEEP ON SHOOTING .....	55
HANDGUN HANDLOADING, Dan Cotterman .....	60
TROUBLESHOOTING YOUR HANDGUN, J. B. Wood .....	62

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This month's HANDGUN PROFILE features the variety in handgun stocks. Cover and color photos by James D. Mason. Text begins on page 36.

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**WANTED: MORE RUGER STORIES**

Thank you for your letter telling me that my subscription ran out. It just slipped my mind.

You said that you would try to have an article on what your subscribers would like to see in your magazine.

Why not Rugers? After all, they make a great automatic .22 caliber. And the Blackhawks, in my opinion, are one of the strongest and safest single actions around. I should know; I own one in .45 caliber that digests hot ammo like it was a magnum.

Stuart Simmons  
Blue Grass, VA

**HAPPY WITH OUR STABLE  
OF WRITERS**

I would like to compliment you and your sister magazine **GUNS** for your incredible improvement over the last year or so. Prior to this period, the last **GUNS** I purchased was in 1961. But now, both of your publications are regulars on my shelf. The purpose of this letter is to list a few things I feel you are doing right.

First and foremost is your stable of writers; the best in the field. Cooper leads all others as the only writer that doesn't sound like a S&W or Colt press agent. Thanks also for not hiring the man that can hit a running mule deer at 600 yards with a handgun.

I find your **AMMO SCENE** column to be the single most useful ever found in a magazine. You are to be congratulated for resisting what obviously has to be a truckload of pressure by ammunition manufacturers. Best wishes for success.

J.W. Hicks  
Reno, NV

**.38 CALIBER INADEQUATE?**

In principle, I am in total accord with Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Bosselmann's articles published in **TAKING AIM** in the **American Handgunner** Nov.-Dec., 1977 and May-June, 1978.

After 21 years in the federal law enforcement field, I agree on the inadequacy of issued sidearms of various local, state and federal agencies. The .45 ACP load and firearm is the exception.

To keep everyone happy, there should be a wheelgun like the Chief Special that will accommodate the .400 caliber.

Law enforcement officials are looking towards magazines such as yours to promote our ideas on the issues at hand.

Keep up the good work.

M. Wu  
Federal Special Agent, Ret.  
Harlingen, Texas

**ON THE HONESTY OF  
OUR READERS**

I would like to comment on the honesty of shooters. The National Reloading Manufacturers Association offers several items for sale to shooters; including booklets, brassards, plans, etc. We receive thousands of checks from shooters and



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have had only 3 returned. I cannot think of another group of Americans whose integrity could top that of the shooting public.

Bill Chevalier  
Executive Secretary  
Portland, Oregon

# GUN WRITER CLEARS UP POINT

I have just looked through the issue for May/June 1978, and feel that I must comment upon Mr. Karl Bosselmann's TAKING AIM. In his column he refers to an earlier column that I wrote concerning the need for an intermediate caliber gun for law enforcement and home defense. My solution was a .400 caliber cartridge of my own design with the Model 59 Smith & Wesson pistol being altered to accept it.

He referred to the bullet I proposed as a hollow point. If it shows thus in the illustration, it is wrong. It is intended to be a cup point wadcutter; and was based upon the results of the recent findings of the LEAA study in which the wadcutter was the best performer up through the 700 to 900 fps velocity range. Incidentally, on upward to 1400 fps; the lead hollow point emerges as the clear winner — the soft point is nowhere better than an "also ran."

I love the grand old Government Model, but I recognize that it is just that — old. I submit that if Bosselmann built a 20% scaled down version of the .45 ACP it would cut down an already marginal magazine capacity to 6 cartridges. Secondly I feel it would be a step back in time. The Government .45 would be totally unsuitable for my cartridge as it was designed for pressures in the 18,000 to 20,000 psi range. The Model 59 S&W, however, was built from the start for the 30,000 plus 9mm Parabellum cartridge.

Finally, if you built a scaled-down version of the Schofield for ladies and made to the dimensions of the 36; it could not have more than four chambers and the recoil would be something else. And you'd have to design a new style in half moon clips to go with it and handle extraction of my rebated rimless cartridges. As the Japanese Emperor used to say, "Rots of Ruck."

I enjoyed the column very much and it's good to see that columns are being read.

Claud Hamilton  
Arlington, VA

# A WORD FROM THE AUSSIE POLICE

I enjoy your magazine and have been reading it with much interest over two years. I have derived much in the way of knowledge from this magazine. There is a desperate lack of this type of publication in this country.

However I feel I must increase your knowledge of hand guns in Australia. I refer to your article in the January/February issue on Handgunning in Australia.

I found this article interesting but would like to set you straight on the police situation in this country.

I am a member of the Queensland State Police Force. I am also a member of a very strong police combat pistol club which has been running in this state, as in every other state, for approximately 18 years. Each year there is an annual competition held in a different state every year involving teams from each state in the country (just for the records the Queensland state team has won the last 12 years straight). The Queensland club which is spread throughout the state meets in Brisbane as well, as other centres, twice a week and has competitions with other service, security and civilian clubs regularly. The club is not only involved in the police combat course but also shoots the practical pistol course.

The Queensland police department is engaged in a statewide training program for the officers in the department. This has been taking place for several years and there is a strong emphasis being placed on officers to become proficient with a handgun. In Queensland the handgun proficiency of the majority of officers is average; with some outstanding exceptions (Queensland has had the Australian champion for the last 10 years).

I am unable to give you any other information on other states but I am able to tell you that other states are also engaged in extensive training programs. I hope this has been of some interest to you as I would like my interested American friends to have the correct information on the Australian police situation.

Ian Hall  
Queensland, Australia



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**COMBAT SHOOTING FOR POLICE** (2nd Ed.) by Paul B. Weston, *California State Univ., Sacramento*. The Second Edition of this proven manual presents entirely new chapters on combat automatic pistols, tactics, and handgun selection. The text continues to comprehensively cover such basics as grip, sights, aim and trigger pressure. Service revolvers, off-duty guns, holsters and reloading are also explored. '78, 184 pp., 71 il., 3 tables, \$10.75

**THE DEFENSIVE USE OF THE HANDGUN: For the Novice** by Mason Williams, *Firearms and Ballistic Consultant, Libby, Montana*. Fundamental information is presented on the safe and effective use of handguns by private citizens. The author candidly evaluates the need for handgun ownership and use by the average person for protection. He offers basic instructions for purchasing, loading and firing pistols and revolvers. Information is given on handgun cleaning and care, evaluating the condition of a handgun, and practicing. The appendix contains the regulations of each state with respect to owning and carrying handguns. '78, 240 pp., 106 il., cloth-\$11.50, paper-\$6.95

**BALLISTIC SCIENCE FOR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER** by Charles G. Wilber, *Colorado State Univ., Fort Collins*. The basic laws of physics and the principles that govern the functioning of firearms are presented. Topics include interior, exterior and terminal ballistics; dum-dum bullets; shotguns; and practical considerations. Appendices discuss bullet velocities, technical terms for describing bullets, propellant powder technology, and the standardization of police weapons. '77, 324 pp. (6 3/4 x 9 3/4), 86 il., 26 tables, \$23.50

**COMBAT HANDGUN SHOOTING** by James D. Mason, *Consultant, San Diego County Sheriff's Dept., San Diego, California*. Foreword by Bill McMillan. This handsomely illustrated book covers human and mechanical aspects of shooting, including the shooter's basic mental and body processes. Each chapter focuses on a single aspect of the topic: handloading ammunition, conditioning and maintaining handguns, choice of loads, handgun selection, and others. A discussion of the police handgun is also included, as is a detailed explication of terminal ballistics. *American Handgunner* praised the book: "Jim Mason has explored the entire field of combat shooting as it exists today... a remarkable job." '76, 272 pp. (6 3/4 x 9 3/4), 594 il. (26 in color), 8 tables, \$24.75

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# Industry Insider

By MASSAD F. AYOUB

Big news in handguns right now is centering on the giants, COLT and SMITH & WESSON.

Lots of changes are being made in Hartford, and many industry-watchers tend to think Colt may have made a grave mistake in its now well-known announcement that the D-frame guns will be phased out by the end of this year. This means that such classics as the Detective Special, Cobra, and Police Positive, as well as established favorites like the Diamondback and Agent, and the promising new Viper, will be off the market.

Rumor has it that the little guns are going out because Colt has seen the handwriting on the wall, and foresees a "Saturday Night Special" bill passed into law by the Carter Administration, that will outlaw production and sale of short-barreled, small-frame concealment handguns.

Not so, say the Colt execs. They tell us that the decision to axe the D-size guns is in line with readjusted goals that will allow them to concentrate more on their bigger guns, notably the heavy-duty automatics, the premium Python, and the Mk. III line of revolvers. Also coming with the reshuffling of the product line; high-grade .22 automatics to replace the Woodsman line that was dropped a couple of years ago and has been sorely missed since.

One insider predicts that Colt will introduce a top-flight .22 target auto that will compete directly with the Smith & Wesson model 41 and the High Standard Victor. These are the guns that stole Colt's thunder back in the Fifties; they quickly rendered the Colt March Target version of the Woodsman obsolete as far as the rank and file of competitors were concerned, and that hurt the feelings and the corporate pocketbook of the Colt entity, since the Match Target Woodsman in various forms had dominated .22 target pistol matches since the Twenties.

Colt's proposed new service revolver to supplant the Mk. III series has been

dropped into a file drawer, perhaps forever. The company will stay with the Mk. III line, designated the J-frame. Now in third place behind S&W and Ruger in police revolver sales, it appears that advertising and marketing efforts on behalf of the Colt J-frame will be redirected with renewed vigor towards the sportsman rather than the law officer.

Another silver lining in the dark cloud; chances are better than ever that the much-talked-about Colt stainless steel double-action .45 auto (and high-capacity 9mm.) will finally be put into production as a result of the change.

Why did they do it? No one denies that the D-frame was in many ways Colt's bread-and-butter line. The Detective Special has, for years been their top-selling gun. It and the Cobra were still extremely popular in law enforcement quarters, the only Colts of which that can be said. One insider, who asked not to be quoted, told me, "Colt executives have been telling themselves for years that they could sell every Python they could make. Perhaps they finally decided, 'Why should we be making \$10 a unit on Dick Specials when we could be making \$50 a unit on Pythons?' They may be in for a rude awakening, though. The Python is a very high-priced handgun, and it is a question mark how many more they can sell. They'll certainly increase volume, but probably not enough to make up for the loss of the Detective Special."

A high-ranking Colt executive admits privately that the Detective Special and the Diamondback will probably be put back in production within two years, and that Colt is in fact planning on this. The strong possibility exists that after a two-year hiatus, the reintroduced baby Colts will be received eagerly in the market. This possibility has doubtless not been lost on Colt's decision makers.

Nevertheless, many feel that Colt is making a major blunder with this move. One source at Smith & Wesson told me, "I still can't believe it. It would be like us dropping the model 10. It's going to hurt



Colt financially, and not just in the short run."

Time will tell. So will other factors. Colt is moving out of its Rocky Hill, Connecticut assembly plant and into quarters that have been owned by the firm since their Pratt & Whitney days. The main operation at 150 Huyshoppe Avenue in Hartford is going to stay for the time being, but the rumors are still flying. One source insists that Colt will be out of those leased quarters within a couple of years due to various and sundry reasons; but one official at Colt said that while lease agreements may be renegotiated, no definite move from the Hartford site is seriously contemplated at this time.

Meanwhile, across the river as it were, SMITH & WESSON is contemplating some changes of their own. Rumor is rife that they too fear a Saturday Night Special bill, and will therefore phase out their extremely popular line of J-framed, 5-shot .38 Specials. Not so, says a company spokesman. The Chief's Special and its sister guns have been a Smith & Wesson staple for decades, excess say, and they will stay in production.

One gun may not, however. In the constant search to increase model 29 production and drive down black market prices for S&W .44's (and, perhaps, in anticipation of the .45 Colt caliber double action that the firm is expected to introduce as a standard instead of commemorative item in the next year or so), company planners have been looking up and down the N-frame line at what could be done without, to make production room. A prime candidate for discontinuance: the model 58 Military & Police .41 Magnum. Intended to replace the .38 Special as a standard police gun, the 58 never caught on, and the only lawmen who carry them tend to be gun buffs in private life, which means they're quite likely to pack the deluxe version, the model 57 with four-inch barrel, instead. Since big-ticket items are bigger per-unit profit makers, that's fine with S&W. Nothing definite has been announced, but the future of the 58 is beginning to look dim. It will be the last of the big-frame, fixed-sight service revolvers from that maker, if it is dropped.

News from S&W has a silver lining in its cloud too, however. Reliable sources say that the firm is looking very seriously at a redesigned 9mm. auto with a steel frame, that would augment or replace the model 59. Smith's police automatics have always been controversial, and have never really enjoyed the respect of the shooter or gunsmith to the same extent as Smith & Wesson revolvers. Built originally as a military pistol, to be used with long, heavy, full-jacketed bullets, the 39/59 is getting a bad reputation for jamming with short, light hollow-points as used by most enlightened police agencies that adopt the 9mm. Parabellum round.

The embryonic new Smith auto, I'm

told, is currently designated the model 47. It will be constructed so that the safety won't have to be engaged to prevent accidental discharges when dropped, as is the case with the current 9mm.s. It will be made to feed any 9mm. Parabellum cartridge with aplomb. And certain concepts from the model 52 Master target auto in .38 wadcutter will be applied to tighten the lockup and increase accuracy. Finally, there are said to be some unique design features that will make the model 47 a lot more than a revamped 59.

All this is a way down the road. It should, however, be worth waiting for. At this time, according to my information, a .45 ACP version is not contemplated, but

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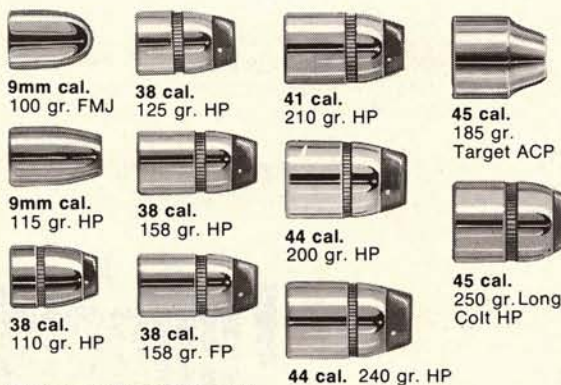


# Performance.

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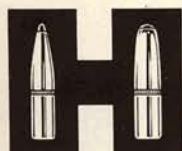
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considering the current revival of the .45 auto in shooter popularity, there is excellent likelihood that such a gun would be offered in that chambering.

Meanwhile, we're waiting and watching; S&W's rumored changes augur well for both the company and the shooting public. Colt's is in a trickier position. If their plans go through, it will mean readier availability of scarce Pythons (though we don't anticipate a reduction in price), and new Colt .22s will surely be welcomed, as will the DA .45 if it comes to production as a result of the company's reshuffling. The recent reintroduction of the Colt Ace, a Government Model in .22 Long Rifle, has been well received by the marketplace. The effect of dropping the fine and popular D-frame line, however, remains to be measured.

**BROWNING UPDATE:** Browning's BDA .380, essentially one of Beretta's new hi-capacity double action autos with some interesting modifications and a Browning stamp, has run into shipping and production problems, and at this writing, only four samples are in the country. Browning is biding its time because it got burned a little bit on some of the bigger-caliber BDAs produced for them by SIG-Sauer. It seems that bearing surfaces on the cast alloy frame were not as well polished as they should have been, causing malfunctions. Explanatory letters have gone out to dealers who sold the early guns, and Al Carver of Browning assures me that a little simple stoning is all that's required to put them straight.

Speaking of the BDA, it will henceforth be available only in .45 ACP. The .38 Super was, one exec confided, "so soft saleswise the dealers couldn't give them away," and the 9mm. Parabellum version was seen as cutting into sales of Browning's own fine Hi-Power.

Speaking of that gun, the strike at the Belgium plant finally ended in late March, so record back orders of Browning Hi-Powers should start clearing up. Demand for the guns is constantly increasing, and is in fact at a record level. A grisly note to add to that: when two police officers were gunned down by a New York City hood with a Hi-Power, the local press played the gun up big, with one scandal sheet making reference to the "Browning assassin's special." In New York gunshops, some observers feel, the publicity is likely to hype Hi-Power sales. It sounds macabre, but look what "Dirty Harry" did for model 29 .44 Magnum sales. Even before the tragic incident, Browning sold all of its Centennial Hi-Powers, fixed sight models with deep mirror chrome finish and special inscription, at \$495 a gun. Speaking of collectible Brownings: the BDA .38 Super mentioned previously should be a beautiful investment, since only seven or eight hundred are around in that now-discontinued caliber. In fact, after learning of the discontinuance, I went out and



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bought one, stowing it unfired in my safe deposit box. No kidding.

A final Browning note: The Challenger II .22 autopistol is selling quite well, and is solidly back ordered. Sporadic ejection problems have cropped up with this gun, and the Browning engineers in the Morgan, Utah headquarters and the main servicing facility in Arnold, Missouri have just about got the problem licked. Modifications, it is expected, will be done on the house.

Browning is still producing fine handguns, even though the above paragraphs may seem to dwell on imperfections. Indeed, the fact that the company admits to a problem is a good reason to buy their product instead of something made by a firm that publicly insists it can do no wrong, even though gun dealers know their guns may have basic faults or a high frequency-of-repair ratio. Browning has a reputation for standing behind their products and taking care of the buyers, and whether or not you're one of those who think a gun is a true Browning only if it's made in Belgium, most of us in the business still think they're doing right by the gun-buying public, with integrity second to none in the industry.

**GOOD NEWS UPDATE: MOSSBERG** has acquired Security Industries, whose continuing plights have been followed in this column like *Edge of Night*. They will market the complete .38 and .357 line, and are looking at a four-inch to complement the Security snubbies. Joe Lee, designer and former SI president, will be coming on board as an advisor. Guns are due in late August, and Mossberg promises that the excellent design features will be complemented by first-class workmanship, the one consistent attribute that had been lacking in the original snubbies.

Also new from Mossberg: they'll be producing Bo Clerke's combat .45 auto. This firm, already into the lucrative police market deeper than ever with their Persuader riot guns on the popular model 500 pump shotgun, looks ready to make a serious commitment to the handgun side of that market as well.

**J-FRAME POSTSCRIPT:** As this column was completed, the writer was advised second-hand that an S&W biggie had confided that the two-inch J-frames would be out of production by August '78. A call to S&W PR man Bill Clede brought this response: "There is no present intention of dropping these popular guns. In fact, our new catalog, which we'll probably be using for the next year and a half, is just going to the printers, and all the two-inch J-frames are listed. We at Smith & Wesson have heard the same rumors you have, but they are unfounded. The small frame snub .38's, along with the outdoorsmen's guns built on the J format such as the model 63 stainless Kit Gun, will continue in production."



# Cooper's Column

## PRACTICAL SHOOTING

The International Practical Shooting Confederation is dedicated to *practical* shooting — obviously. By "practical" we mean those modes and methods of shooting which represent the use of rifle and pistol as useful tools rather than as irrelevant gadgets. We started with the pistol, and since the pistol is essentially a defensive weapon, intended to be a means of saving the life of a person under sudden attack, we called our sport "combat shooting." For reasons that escape me, some people consider "combat" to be a dirty word. Such people evidently do not remember that they are the heirs of Achilles and Alexander and Julius Caesar and Arthur and Charlemagne and Alfred and Gustav Adolf and Andreas Hofer and Wilhelm Tell — to name a few of the first that come to mind. I do not know what is wrong with combat. Without combat — defensive combat — we would all be slaves, and it is conceivable that those who object to the term have just that in mind. Nonetheless I suggest that we take care to refer to our sport as *practical* shooting, and make wide use of euphemism when discussing it with the unenlightened.

## THE PARABELLUM

The matter of power factoring keeps coming up, with many affiliates asking when the Parabellum will be ranked with the major calibers. My personal vote is for "never." The 9 X 19 is not a satisfactory stopper and it should be replaced by the ordnance departments of the free world. (The other people are welcome to it.) I am aware that it is standard. So was one-handed pistol shooting until we found a better way.

## THE CONDUCT OF INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

IPSC is a confederation — that is, essentially a *loose* organization. It may make suggestions but it cannot give orders. It was agreed at Salisbury that all participating nations, regions and clubs should nonetheless avoid holding matches which are not in accordance with IPSC principles. Any club may hold any sort of contest it chooses, but it may not advertise or announce that a match is

an IPSC match unless in fact it is. Accordingly, no contest which is not held in accordance with IPSC rules will count as a mission, by means of which to determine qualifications for senior participation. Any of the standard 20-odd courses may be held to be IPSC-approved as of now. Any course which departs from these should be submitted to IPSC headquarters for approval before it can be counted as an IPSC match. If any two organizations wish to hold a competition between themselves, either in person or by post, the course of fire must be IPSC approved before it can be regarded as official.

As a general guide all member organizations can assume that IPSC approval will be granted to matches which utilize practical targets, require full-power sidearms, balance accuracy against speed, require practical holsters, employ some form of power factoring, allow free style shooting, do not restrict entry by occupation, and do not classify weapons by action type. These rules are now standard in various parts of the world and I will make every effort to have them properly codified in the draft of bylaws which will be submitted to the membership's approval. We strongly recommend that standard IPSC targets be used whenever possible, but exceptions to this can be made for cause.

All member nations should plan now for the determination of national rankings for the year 1978. It is desirable that such rankings be based upon a number of contests rather than one alone. It will be up to each nation to decide on its own who its ranking shooters are.

A course of fire (IPSC #004) will be prepared by this office and published for all nations' use if they so desire. I now feel it was a mistake to use IPSC #002 as a world standard as it did not involve enough variety in challenge. No one course can ever do so, but standardized matches can serve to evaluate comparative skills in all parts of the world.

If we may presume to advise, we suggest that newcomers commence work with practical holsters. While exposed tie-downs were re-instated for IPSC use at Salisbury, we should remember that this is an interim measure, and that by



the time we formalize our constitution and bylaws, practical holsters permitted for practical competition will, in truth, be practical.

We have a great thing here and it will become greater rapidly, always assuming that the Leftist element in our society does not succeed in disarming us. Please remember that the fight against the hoplophobes is everyone's fight. Don't let a week go by that you do not do something which really helps to maintain our right to keep and bear arms. Speak, write, persuade and spend. This is a struggle we may never win; but, if we never give up, neither will we lose.

Aside from the formal documentation and ratification of the principles of practical shooting, the gravest problem we now face is that of technical incompetence in new shooters. Odd as it seems to a veteran, many newcomers enter practical matches not only without training but completely without practice! This is dangerous. As an example, a shooting journalist recently published an article telling how he managed an accidental discharge in a major contest. He claimed that the requirements of the course of fire were "Mickey Mouse," whatever that may mean. (As a matter of fact that particular start was taken from a live confrontation.) In any case, the writer had never practiced that start and he didn't know how to handle it. Fortunately no harm was done,

but the peril is clear. We must devise a way of insuring that competitors are competent to compete. This does *not* mean that we should simplify our challenges in order to permit the untrained to meet them safely. This would indeed stultify our sport. But we may eventually have to put on two contests at each local meeting — one for novices and another for the more adept.

We have devised a simple stage of fire to be used as an element in a practical rifle contest. See how you like it.

Use the IPSC "Option" target, scored 5, 4, and 2 for 7.62 and similar cartridges (except 7.62 x 39), and 5, 3, and 1 for 5.56 and 7.62 x 39.

The shooter starts behind cover, piece loaded and safe, unlooped or bipod closed. Initial range is 300 meters.

On signal the shooter emerges and engages the target, freestyle, with two rounds. Without further command he advances successively to 275 meters, 250 meters, 225 meters, and 200 meters, firing two rounds at each firing point. At 225 meters an opaque screen 50 cm high is placed before the firing point, and at 200 meters the screen is 130 cm high. All firing is freestyle, except that the shoot must shoot over the screens at 225 and 200.

The Comstock Count is used, with a par time of 100 seconds. (Ten fives scores 50, which, divided by 100, equals 1/2. The

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Comstock index so derived is then multiplied by a factor of 200 to bring the adjusted score to 100 for a clean string fired at par.)

All participating regions and sections are encouraged to develop efficient recording targets, which not only disappear when hit, but which may also be caused to disappear without being hit after a selected time interval.

The use of "negative targets," on which the center zone is to be shot *through*, while only a miss strikes the target material, has been found effective for very close range reaction problems. Paper is thus not blown away, and there is no risk of lead splash. Individual supervision of contestants is necessary.

A power factoring system scoring 5, 4, 2 for major calibers and 5, 3, 1 for minor has proven most satisfactory for both pistol and rifle, on the standard IPSC targets, both "Option" and "Item."

At one time I would have thought of Britain as almost the last possibility as a locale for the establishment of practical shooting competition. How wrong I was! The English sporting tradition is evidently so strong that it has largely surmounted a massive positical and social edifice of hoplophobia.

The attraction of practical shooting varies greatly among sportsmen, but in every case it is its realism — its relevance — that sets it apart. It *matters* — as few other sports do. The practical shot, like the practical swimmer, or diver, or boxer, is in truth better able to face a challenging world than other men, and more serene therefore in his outlook.

Thus we grow — throughout the free world. I have been asked if it would not be impossible for the practical shootists of the First World to face the competitive challenge of the "government sportsmen" of the slave states. We all know what a fearful task it is for a private citizen to advance what must be his hobby against the screened, supported, trained, equipped, and scourged professionals of the communist nations. But we need have no fear on this particular point. Only free men own private weapons. It is no more feasible for an ant-man to enter practical shooting competition than it would be for a man to enter a child-bearing contest. Truly those others do well enough in stylized target shooting, which is another matter entirely, but their governments cannot encourage them in *our* game, for it is totally foreign to their philosophy.

You might do well to bear that in mind when you are assailed, as surely you will be, by those who disapprove of your sport.

IPSC will be composed of national groups, and each participating group will cast one vote at the general meeting. Each national group will comprise a "region," led by a "regional director." Regions may be divided into "sections" if geography so dictates, each section to be

administered by a "sectional coordinator." Sections are composed of "clubs," each club to consist of at least 25 active competitors and to maintain a shooting range (or have regular access to a range). A section should be small enough so that an annual shooting program may be scheduled in which clubs may, with reasonable convenience, attend matches at other club ranges within the section.

The term "league," signifying a group of clubs, is widely used at this time but should not be applied to new organizations, as its original meaning has become confused.

Club leaders, sectional coordinators, and regional directors should be elected annually by the general membership. This may not produce the ultimate in competence but it may help to avoid the bitter factionalism which is the principle obstacle to our progress at this time.

It has come to our attention that the word "hostage" (*Geisel, reñen, otage*), referring to a forbidden target, can cause great distress to certain kinds of people. As there is no need to give unnecessary offense, I suggest that henceforth we use "no shoot" targets rather than "hostage" in our published terminology.

A point of order has arisen. Traditionally we don't enter a practical match wearing two guns, but suppose a con-

stant wishes to shoot a given course twice — once with one pistol and once with another? Our temporary ruling on this (pending general ratification) is that if one man is permitted to shoot a course twice (i.e., once with an auto and once with a revolver), every contestant shall shoot the course twice, with the same weapon if he so chooses. Score may be the for the second try, the better try, or the average of the two, at the discretion of the course director — as long as it is announced in advance.



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## Sixth Annual Banquet Outstanding American Handgunner Award Foundation

**S**ALT Lake City's Hotel Utah is one of a vanishing breed; a traveler's home away from home that still places value on comfort, service, and taste. Many of us present at the 6th Annual Banquet of the Outstanding American Handgun Award Foundation, held at the Utah on Sunday evening, April 16, felt it was the perfect setting for an occasion that has become, in just a few short years, one of the premier events relating to the shooting sports.

Every year, since 1973, the Foundation has singled out one individual to receive the statue symbolic of his selection as the Outstanding American Handgunner. Past

recipients include some of the best known names in all of handgunning: Col. Charles Askins, at the time an associate editor of GUNS Magazine; Harlon B. Carter, Executive Vice President of the National Rifle Association; Bill Jordan, Associate Editor of GUNS; the indomitable, and inimitable Elmer Keith, dean of American handgun writers; and William Ruger, President of Sturm-Ruger.

Nominated for the 1978 award were: Warren Center, designer of the T/C Contender; writers Jeff Cooper, Dean Grennell, George Nonte, Skeeter Skelton, and Hal Swiggett; competitive shooter, hunter, and author Elgin Gates; Tanya

Metaksa, of the NRA's Institute for Legislative Action; publisher Robert Petersen; and custom gunsmith Jim Clark.

A crowd estimated at close to 300 were on hand for the festivities. Under the skillful and entertaining guidance of Bill Jordan, who served as Master of Ceremonies, the program proceeded smoothly, and professionally. Ted Rowe, President of Harrington and Richardson, welcomed the Foundation's guests, on behalf of the firearms industry. The next speaker was Neal Knox, Director of the Institute for Legislative Action, who brought us up to date on what was happening in Washington, and what the Institute was presently doing to protect the rights of legitimate sportsmen. The featured speaker was Harlon Carter, and his comments concerning the NRA's continued, and diligent efforts on behalf of its membership earned him a standing ovation.

Of course, the biggest part of the evening was the actual announcement of which of the nominees would be named Outstanding American Handgunner. Following the award of commemorative plaques, and souvenir handguns donated by the leading manufacturers, Foundation Chairman Larry Kelly took over the microphone. Speaking to a hushed room, he announced that this year's award was to be given to Skeeter Skelton, Handgun Editor of SHOOTING TIMES. It was a popular choice, for Skelton is as well thought of by his peers, as he is by the 10's of thousands of readers who revel in his writing, both serious and humorous.

Awards were also made to two of the men responsible for the growth of the Foundation over the past two years; Chairman Larry Kelly, and President Steve Vogel.

There was a brief intermission after the award to Skelton, and then more than 150 door prizes were distributed. These, along with 10 more-expensive items donated for raffling, were made available by a generous industry. (NOTE: Foundation officers advise that anyone who did not receive their door prize should contact Larry Kelly, stating what the prize was. The Master List was misplaced, and the Foundation has no way of telling what prizes should be sent, nor to whom they should be sent).

The Outstanding American Handgunner Award Foundation, after several years of struggle, has finally come of age. Membership more than doubled in 1977, and a similar increase is the goal for 1978. Anyone interested in joining should contact Larry Kelly, Chairman; O.A.H.A. Foundation; 30016 South River Road; Mount Clemens, Michigan 48045. The \$15.00 annual fee entitles the member to a 1 year subscription to AMERICAN HANDGUNNER, membership patch, decal, identification card, and oversize Membership Certificate suitable for framing.





# HANDLE WITH CARE:

## Old Style Single-Action Revolvers

### Limitations on Use:

1. Regardless of the position of its hammer, an old style single-action revolver with a loaded chamber under the firing pin may discharge if accidentally dropped or struck on the hammer.
2. The safety notch in the hammer provides only limited protection against accidental blows to the hammer or accidental pulling of the trigger.
3. Ever since the introduction of the famous "Peacemaker" single-action revolver over 100 years ago, it has been generally known that the safest way to carry such revolvers is to load no more than five cartridges and to keep an empty chamber under the firing pin.

### Exceptions:

1. Although many are still in use, we discontinued our old model single-action revolvers in 1973 when we introduced our history-making, patented "New Model" revolvers. The internal mechanism of our New Model single-action revolvers is entirely new and is not subject to the limitations on use listed above for the old model. Both models look alike, but the New Model has the words "NEW MODEL" marked on the frame and has only two visible pins in the side of the frame instead of three screws as in the old model.
2. Some of the other brands of old style single-action revolvers, particularly those of foreign manufacture, have added various manual "safeties" which may or may not be reliable. Even if it functions properly, a manual safety device is no safer than the person using it. It is useless if it is not used, or if it is used improperly by mistake.

### Why Are We Telling You This?

In the last few years, people are apparently becoming more willing to handle firearms, including Ruger single-action revolvers, without *first* receiving proper instruction from a knowledgeable shooter. *No one* should handle any gun without *first* having supervised instruction about the particular type of gun he is using, as well as about gun safety in general. Until very recently everyone, gun users and non-users alike, seemed to be well aware of this obvious rule, and accidents with single-action revolvers, as well as with other types of guns, were limited to those very occasional lapses of common sense against which, unfortunately, there appears to be no real protection. Now, with the growth of consumerism, people who should know better are acting as though guns, like electric toasters, are meant to be foolproof. There is no such thing as a foolproof gun.

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# Pistolsmithing

By GEORGE C. NONTÉ

## REPAIRING MUZZLE DAMAGE

Because of the very nature of their size and design, the way they are carried, and the way they are used, handguns get banged around a good bit. I know; your first reaction to that will be "Well, I never abuse my guns, and I sure as hell haven't dropped any of them on concrete." Well; that may very well be true, but the next time you don't have anything better to do, drop in at a gun shop with a large stock of used handguns and look over the trade-ins. Maybe you treat all of your guns with tender loving care, but that inspection will make quite

clear that a helluva lot of owners don't.

A common type of damage which can reduce handgun accuracy is muzzle deformation. I have found it to be more common in big-bore revolvers than any other type, though it can occur in almost any caliber and design. Centerfire autoloaders don't suffer it too often because in most of them all but a tiny fraction of an inch of the barrel muzzle is enclosed by the slide and/or barrel bushing. Thus, when the gun is inadvertently rammed into something or dropped on a hard surface, the brunt of the impact is usually

borne by the front of the slide. Autos chambered for the .22 RF cartridge normally have exposed barrels, but the fact that the bore is quite small, and the barrel walls usually quite thick protects the muzzle fairly well. Big-bore sixguns don't have these advantages, the muzzle being entirely unprotected and the barrel wall usually relatively thin.

Regardless of the gun type and caliber, any impact damage that distorts the bore at the muzzle is quite likely to reduce accuracy if not destroy it completely. The most familiar types of this damage are dents and burrs on the muzzle proper, caused by the gun being dropped on its muzzle. If a large burr intrudes into the bore at this point it is easily seen, and even the most uninformed pistolero will realize that it damages the bullet as it exits and will reduce accuracy. Unfortunately, more often than that, there will be a simple dent or flat on the crowned portion of the muzzle which does not appear to deform the bore. In spite of appearance, this often results in making the muzzle slightly egg-shaped, or in a slight inward bulging that intrudes into the bore without being readily noticeable. This makes the bore less than perfectly round, and can deform and disturb the bullet as it exits.

Another form of muzzle damage that occurs most frequently in revolvers is that simple but ageless bugaboo of cleaning-rod wear. It's most common in revolvers because by nature of their design and construction they *must* be cleaned from the muzzle. If a guide is not used, nothing less than the most exacting attention will prevent fairly frequent rubbing of the rod on the bore at the muzzle. Couple that with the fact that short pistol rods (particularly those supplied by the manufacturers with the guns) are often made of aluminum and the stage is set for trouble. The soft aluminum rod picks up grit and dirt, and thus grinds away the edges of the muzzle just like abrasive cloth. Damage of this sort almost invariably shows up on the facing edges of adjacent lands. When the rod rubs against the bore, it naturally tends to roll down into one of the rifling grooves, contacting at least the edges of two lands and, depending upon several dimensions, the bottom of the groove as well. When this type of wear becomes severe it is readily visible to the naked eye, but in its early stages — when it really should be caught — a magnifying glass may be needed to see it. Theoretically, if the same amount of wear was produced between every pair of lands, accuracy would not be significantly impaired; however, it's unlikely to happen that way, and damage in only one segment of the muzzle perimeter will disturb the bullet's exit.

Except in the most severe cases where deformation is readily visible, impact damage seldom extends more than 1/16 inch down inside the bore. In such in-

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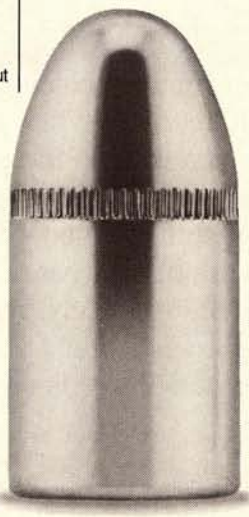
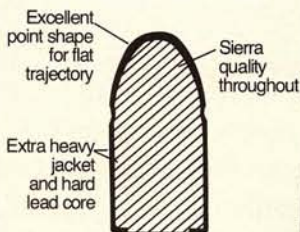
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stances, simply chamfering the inner edge of the muzzle will usually eliminate the problem. Unfortunately, chamfering by hand with an unpiloted countersink (usually the only tool available that is capable of the job) can't be relied upon to produce a new muzzle edge that is entirely perpendicular to the bore center line. However, a hand-held 80-90 degree (included angle) countersink will serve to remove the damaged area down to the truly circular bore. And, if you've been either skillful enough or lucky enough to keep the countersink axis parallel with the bore axis; accuracy should be restored just as soon as you've polished off the wire edge of the bore with a bit of fine-grit abrasive cloth over the ball of your thumb. Lacking any other way to check it, simply shoot the gun — carefully, and with all the marksmanship ability you possess from a rest — to determine if accuracy has improved. If the new muzzle edge is only very slightly out of square, the gun should shoot accurately enough; however, point of impact may have shifted, thus making re-zeroing necessary. If the countersink produces an obviously out-of-square muzzle, or if the damage extends more than  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch into the bore, a piloted cutter of some sort will be needed to counterbore the muzzle a bit deeper and true it up. A cutter  $\frac{1}{32}$ - $\frac{1}{16}$  inch larger in diameter than the bore — either a spot-facing cutter, square counterbore, or an end mill — must be fitted with a pilot that will just slip into the bore on the top of the lands. This pilot will keep it centered, and then the cutter can be advanced into the muzzle, cutting a cylindrical recess slightly over bore diameter until all the damaged area is removed and only virgin rifling remains.

This might require a cut only  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch or so deep, or it might conceivably require going in as much as half an inch. Over the years I have owned two guns which had at sometime in their past been deeply counterbored to remove cleaning-rod wear; one was a five-inch barreled .38 revolver which had been counterbored nearly  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and the other was a Commission 1888 rifle with an astonishing  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches of counterbore at the muzzle. I never shot the '88 rifle inasmuch as the remainder of its bore was in poor shape, but the .38 revolver seemed to shoot just as well as a companion piece with a mint bore of full original length. Keep in mind that counterboring the muzzle has the same affect as shortening the barrel by an amount equal to the depth of the counterbore; consequently, velocity will be reduced somewhat. However, counterboring has the advantage that the gun's external appearance is not changed and that there is no sight relocation or installation problem; and, of course, in an autoloader with a tubular slide, simply sawing off the offending portion of the barrel makes the gun totally

*Continued on page 63*

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**BALLISTIC PERFORMANCE (9 mm: S&W Model 59, 4" bbl; .380: Walther PPK, 2" bbl)**

	Muzzle		25 Yds		50 Yds		Test Barrel
	V	E	V	E	V	E	V
9 mm 100 FMC	1251	348	1109	273	996	220	1225
9 mm 115 JHP	1128	325	1068	291	1019	265	1140
9 mm 115 FMC	1183	358	1112	316	1055	284	1130
9 mm 115 MCSWC	1183	358	1112	316	1055	284	1130
.380 Auto 84 JHP	1013	192	962	173	919	158	975
.380 Auto 95 FMC	875	162	836	148	801	135	924



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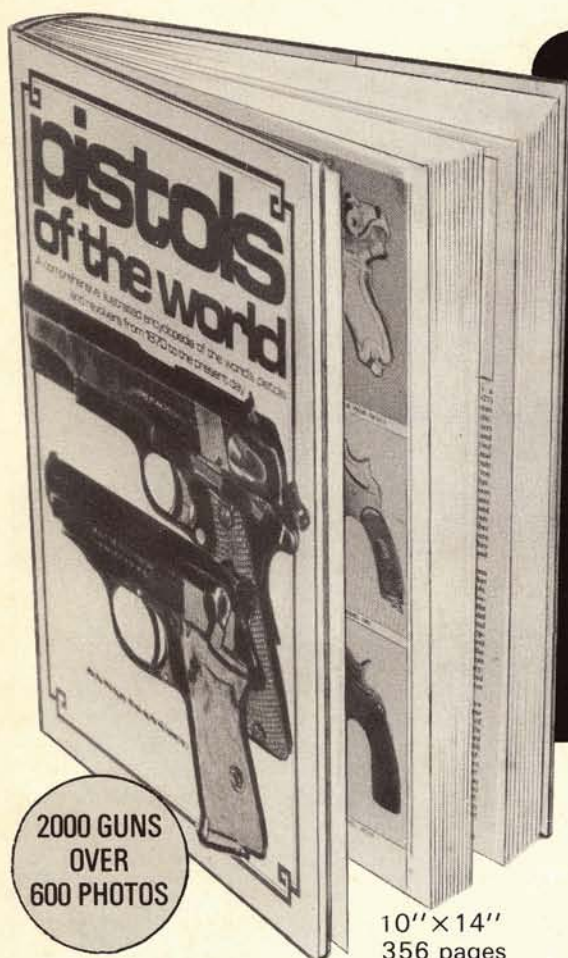


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# The Truth About Mag-na-port

By MASSAD F. AYOOB

Whenever a gun writer attends a match, show, or club meeting, he always gets hit with questions about new products and whatnot. Over the past couple years, the query I've most often heard is, "What's the story on Mag-Na-Port? Is it really any good?"

Yeah, folks, it really is some good, but I figured the man who ought to be answering most of the questions is Larry Kelly himself. Larry had many years in EDM (electric discharge machining) processing, largely as co-owner of Apollo Corp. working on space program goodies. In '59, he took up handgun hunting, and found that his new Ruger .44 Mag "kicked like hell." Larry told me later, "I spent the next two years figuring out how to tame it. My thought was if a metering port could operate a hydraulic valve, it could redirect gases in a gun barrel to counteract the muzzle lift and free recoil."

To make a long story short, the concept worked, Mag-Na-Port was formed, and Larry sold out of Apollo to run it full time. More than 25,000 guns have since been ported. What follows here is a distillation of several in-person, telephone, and letter

question/answer sessions between Larry and me about what Mag-Na-Port will—and won't do for you.

**AYOOB:** Larry, how did you settle on the specific shape and placement of the porting cuts?

**KELLY:** Mass, that's one thing I'd rather not get technical on, because of the great difficulty we've had with people infringing on our patent. To date I have stopped 26 different people. I'll only say that the process is patented, and Mag-Na-Port is a registered trademark.

Some people still think they can get away with infringement, but they don't for long. I have made a lot of friends in the gun world and it usually isn't long before someone calls to inform me of the infringement. I stop them no matter what the cost, because it's not just business; it's highly personal to me.

I will say that finding the right combination of port size and placement was quite a trick. I used up a lot of surplus 30/06 barrels in the early tests.

**AYOOB:** What guns does Mag-Na-Port work best on?

**KELLY:** I like to say that it's best for any firearm the shooter wants to improve his

shooting with. We do it for .22 pistols and .460 Weatherbys. Personally, I think the most dramatic Mag-Na-Port recoil reduction is seen in high velocity rifles.

.44 Magnum hunting revolvers, Auto Mags, and .357 Magnum service guns also have a more marked recoil reduction effect. Barrel lengths vary. Some long barrel guns kick more because of the greater pressure built up in the long tube, so in those models you'll notice Mag-Na-Port's effect more in a 6" or 8" version. Other long-tubed guns kick *less* because of the extra weight up front, so in that model, a 4" will show greater increase in control after porting. There's no hard and fast rule.

Interestingly, match shooters tell me there's a definite improvement in .22



Long Rifle target pistols that are ported. Personally, I can barely see the difference, but these customers are so much in tune with their guns that they can perceive a very real reduction in muzzle jump during rapid fire.

**AYOOB:** Why is it some models will show the effects of Mag-Na-Porting more clearly than others of the same general type, weight, and caliber?

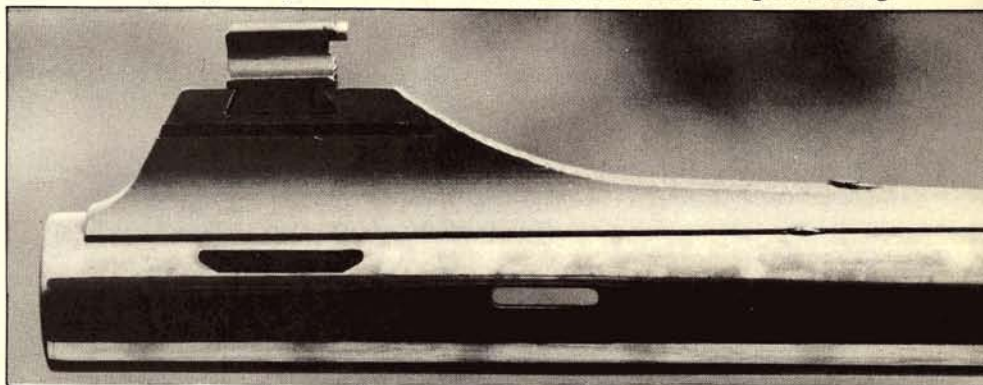
**KELLY:** It's a funny thing. Take the High Standard model 8113 police shotgun. Now, I can very sharply reduce recoil in *any* shotgun we port; but for some reason, the High Standard is especially receptive to porting. All other things being equal, length and weight and load, it will kick less than any other brand after porting, but it is no different from them *before* porting. It's something in the design that I just haven't been able to put my finger on.

**AYOOB:** Larry, are there any guns that *shouldn't* be Mag-Na-Ported?

**KELLY:** You mean, apart from BB guns? I feel the only gun that doesn't need Mag-Na-Porting is one that doesn't have any recoil or muzzle jump.

Seriously, though, there are some guns that are *difficult* to Mag-Na-Port. Certain of the really brutal elephant rifles *need* a lot of muzzle jump to channel the recoil away from the stock. When we first ported .460 Magnums; we reduced the muzzle jump so drastically that the stocks were splitting, so we had to play with the port designs to get it right. On some really

big guns, we've actually ported underneath to create a kind of controlled muzzle jump and divert recoil from the stock. This is along the lines of the upside-down Mag-Na-Porting you whimsically suggested in one of your Contender articles. I think that's a bad idea incidentally; it may make the Contender a little more comfortable on the web of your hand, but you'd very likely be bouncing the muzzle right up into your forehead.



Conventional Mag-Na-Porting works remarkably well on the Contender pistol.

**AYOOB:** Some shooters, including myself, find that on Mag-Na-Ported heavy handguns, there's a very noticeable reduction in muzzle lift, but little difference in felt recoil. A lot of Mag-Na-Port fans got ticked off when I mentioned that in a Contender article. How many of your customers feel as I do?

**KELLY:** Only about one in a thousand, as

far as I can tell from customer contact. Everyone perceives recoil differently. Some appreciate the improvement in shooting comfort and some don't. Some people are very conscious of recoil, and some aren't. You're a professional and a match shooter; you're firing big-bores constantly in high volume, and you've learned to ignore recoil, but someone who doesn't shoot as much will feel more difference after Mag-Na-Porting.

That's why one shooter will say recoil is reduced 35% on a ported 4" .44 Mag, and another will try the same gun and say he only noticed the muzzle jump reduction, because *nobody* can miss that. A lot of it is in the shooter, not the gun.

I never try to oversell or exaggerate the Mag-Na-Port process. I only say that we reduce recoil and muzzle jump, enabling the shooter to fire faster with greater accuracy.

**AYOOB:** Do you promise any given percentage of recoil and muzzle jump reduction with Mag-Na-Port?

**KELLY:** The day doesn't go by when I'm not asked that. People want to hear an answer of 50% to 70%, like they see in ads for other recoil reducing devices. Such claims are not only inaccurate but impossible. If only the shooter realized what an asset a 5% to 30% reduction in free recoil can be!

I'm amused and flattered when someone tells me, "Mag-Na-Port reduced the kick of my .300 Win. Mag. by 65%," but frankly, I find it more satisfying when they tell me, "My Mag-Na-Ported 7 mm. Mag won't lift off the shooting bag, it kicks like a .270. It doesn't hurt my cheek anymore, it eliminated my flinching problem." Something like that. A common remark is, "For the first time I can see bullet impact through my scope because of the muzzle jump reduction."

Comments like that make me feel good, because they're objective instead of subjective, and they show that Mag-Na-Port is doing exactly what it's supposed to.

There are many ways of measuring recoil, and they're all time consuming and very expensive. I find it very difficult to distinguish between recoil and muzzle jump; to me, it reduces both, and guys who say they have X% reduction in kick and Y% reduction in muzzle lift must be a



Heavily loaded .44 Magnum lifts up only slightly with Ad Clark's Mag-na-Ported, heavy-ribbed revolver.



lot more perceptive than I am.

None of the tests come out quite alike, but they all show significant recoil and jump reduction. The most sophisticated was probably one done with electronics using an oscilloscope, in which it was determined that Mag-Na-Porting had reduced the free recoil of a model 19 by 34%.

**AYOOB:** What are the guns most commonly sent to you for porting?

**KELLY:** The model 29 Smith .44 Magnum, the Ruger .44, and the Combat Magnum in both 19 and 66 configurations. We tend to get fairly expensive guns that are used a lot by knowledgeable shooters, and we have an extraordinarily high rate of repeat business and customer referrals.

**AYOOB:** Does Mag-Na-Port have any deleterious effects on velocity or accuracy?

**KELLY:** Absolutely not. It is impossible for the Mag-Na-Port to drain velocity, because the bore isn't being recessed by half an inch as some people would think. What's happening is that the amount of gas accumulated is only directed in a different avenue by the ports.

Machine-rest tests show absolutely no deterioration in accuracy after Mag-Na-Porting. Shooting offhand, accuracy generally improves simply because the gun is now less rugged to shoot.

By the way, I'm often asked if Mag-Na-Porting will reduce resale value. On the contrary, the value of the gun is enhanced, even if it's a standard model, because Mag-Na-Porting is now generally recognized as a desirable custom accessory. Our special guns, like the 200 Ruger Mk V revolvers I sold for \$395 apiece in '76, are currently being advertised for up to \$2,400. I ported all of Lee Jurras' Limited Auto mags that are now premium-dollar collectors' items. One AMP I ported is being offered for \$13,000. I'm now in the process of porting 900 Thompson/Center barrels for SSK Industries; the pistols are going to sell for \$700 apiece.

On a stock firearm, Mag-Na-Port increases the value just as any other custom work, such as custom stocks or tune-ups.

**AYOOB:** Does Mag-Na-Porting intensify report, the way conventional muzzle brakes do?

**KELLY:** Your ordinary muzzle brake gives a much louder blast because there is usually a brake-to-bore clearance on the adapter that is larger than muzzle diameter. A layman might call it an echo chamber effect, though that's not technically the correct term. But conventional muzzle brakes do amplify muzzle blast, no doubt about it. The Mag-Na-Port, being integral to the bore, merely takes the muzzle blast and redistributes it in a different direction.

**AYOOB:** Since a percentage of that muzzle blast is being diverted straight up in

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Mag-na-port's Larry Kelly (left) with Ad Clark moments after the latter winning all the marbles at Second Chance.

front of the shooter instead of out the muzzle away from him, could that account for a sharper sound effect on a Mag-Na-Ported gun?

**KELLY:** There may be something to that, since some people *do* report a very slight increase in muzzle blast on a ported gun, but I have my doubts. I have had decibel tests made, and they have shown no increase at the shooter's ears. You may be hearing a slightly different report, but not necessarily a louder or more harmful one. You can't detect a difference with ear protectors on, and I can't understand how anyone would shoot without muffs anyway.

**AYOOB:** Are certain finishes or barrel alloys harder to port than others?

**KELLY:** Hardness of the metal does not present a problem. We can port stainless barrels as easily as 4140 chrome-

molybdenum. There is no damage done to blue or nickle finishes during the EDM process. And the ports won't rust so long as the gun is fired once every three years or so.

**AYOOB:** What's delivery time running these days?

**KELLY:** We're giving three- to five-day turnaround and delivery. There's no problem shipping parcel post (rifles-shotguns) or UPS, so long as you use some common sense. I suggest double cartons, with the outside carton so large no one can stick it under their coat. Don't, for goodness sake, mark the package "contains firearms." That's an invitation to theft. Strip the firearm as far as you're capable of, over-insure it, and if you send it through the Post Office, go Air Mail Registered. We've only lost six guns in transit over the seven years we've been volume shipping, so those suggestions seem to work pretty well.

**AYOOB:** We understand you've broadened your scope and started underwriting some aspects of the shooting sports.

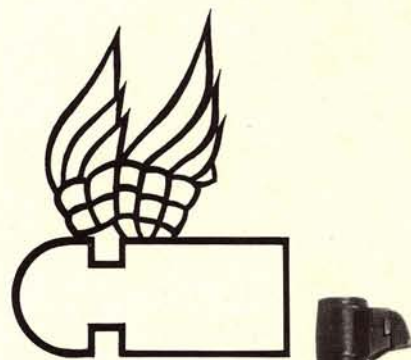
**KELLY:** That's right. Mag-Na-Port is going to co-sponsor the Second Chance shoot in '78, and we're underwriting Ad Clark of Kalispell, Montana to shoot for us. Ad was already an enthusiastic Mag-Na-Port booster when we signed him on. He won the Second Chance shoot in '77, and almost took the National

(Continued on page 58)





# Discovered... A Rare 9mm Webley



By GORDON BRUCE

The firm of Webley & Scott Limited have produced a wide variety of handguns during their long history of firearms manufacture, and are justly famous for the robust quality of their products.

Much of this reputation was inherited from the earlier business of P. Webley & son, which had acquired a virtual monopoly of commercial handgun manufacture in Great Britain since the 1880s.

An unbroken series of contracts for the delivery of service revolvers to the British armed forces had ensured a steady expansion in trade for the Birmingham factory, and provided a solid financial basis for the development of other weapons.

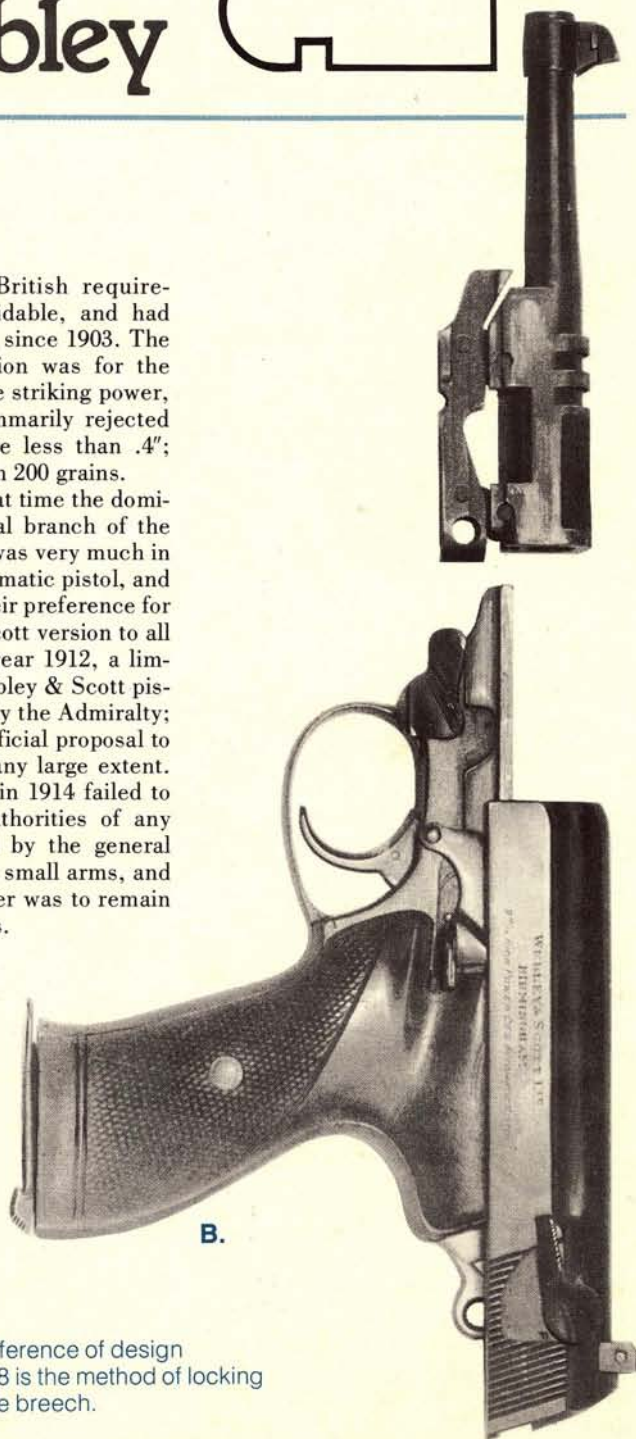
In 1905, the firm began to manufacture a completely new range of automatic pistols, and were engaged upon the monumental task of persuading the British War Office to replace their existing stocks of service revolvers with Webley & Scott self-loading pistols.

Many other nations had already selected the automatic principle for their military sidearms; among the first to do so was Switzerland, who had ordered a quantity of the new Luger Parabellum 7.65mm pistols for their armed forces as early as 1901. It seemed to be only a matter of time before Great Britain, as a more prominent military power, would follow suit.

During the period from 1904 until 1912, the Webley & Scott firm were constantly offering examples of their latest .455" calibre self-loading pistols to the Small Arms Committee in a relentless effort to secure military acceptance for their product. Foreign arms manufacturers were making the same endeavors and a perpetual series of tests were being conducted for the various pistols that had

been submitted. The British requirements were quite formidable, and had been officially laid down since 1903. The most important stipulation was for the weapon to have adequate striking power, and the War Office summarily rejected any pistol with a calibre less than .4"; firing a bullet lighter than 200 grains.

The Royal Navy; at that time the dominant and most influential branch of the British armed services, was very much in favor of adopting an automatic pistol, and had repeatedly stated their preference for the current Webley & Scott version to all others. Indeed, by the year 1912, a limited number of .455" Webley & Scott pistols had been accepted by the Admiralty; although there was no official proposal to replace the revolver to any large extent. Even the advent of war in 1914 failed to convince the British authorities of any advantage to be gained by the general distribution of automatic small arms, and the faithful W&S revolver was to remain in service for many years.



B) Principal difference of design compared P-38 is the method of locking the barrel to the breech.



These prolonged indecisions by Government officials had, meanwhile, exhausted the combined efforts of designers and management at the Webley & Scott factory with the result that no further development of a large calibre military pistol was undertaken.

This situation had still not improved by 1935; when all major armed forces of the world had been equipped with automatic sidearms. The sole exception seemed to be Great Britain; whose military leaders remained steadfastly bonded to the revolver, while Messrs. Webley & Scott Limited had only the consolation of knowing that it was, at least, *THEIR* revolver which was so favored. However, this rather intransigent attitude gradually began to change over the course of the following years, and was accelerated by a second involvement with modern warfare between 1939 and 1945. Large purchases of Colt automatic pistols from the United States during the war had shown the dependability, and superior firepower obtainable from such weapons.

Undaunted by their earlier setbacks and frustrations; the Webley & Scott firm once again prepared to make their bid for this potentially lucrative market. As events transpired; it was to be their final attempt.

The brilliant designer of the earlier W&S automatics, William Whiting, had been dead for many years and there were few, if any, technicians at the Birmingham factory with either the incentive or experience to begin work on a new pistol.

An opportunity presented itself in the late 1940s; when a 44-year old Polish immigrant named Marian Jurek joined the technical staff at Webley & Scott Lim-



W&S Tool Room from his original drawings; while the smaller parts, many of which were quite intricate, required the extra care in manufacture and fitting that only the designer himself would bestow.

All negotiations between the Webley & Scott firm and the Ministry of Supply were handled by the Company Secretary, Eric Bewley, who had been with the firm since 1925, and was well experienced in such matters.

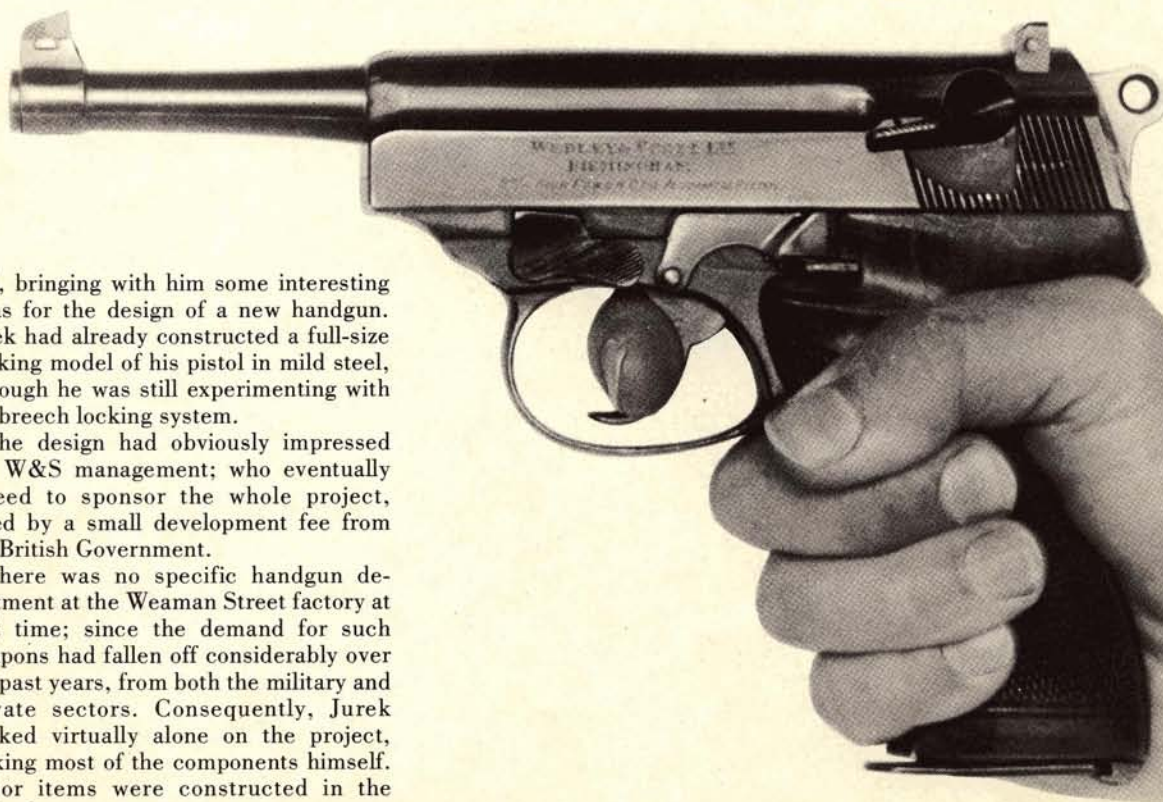
By the Summer of 1953, the new 9mm High Power pistol had been constructed and was being test-fired by the designer and other members of the W&S staff at the 40-yard range, located on top of the Weaman Street factory premises. The weapon was then prepared for a more thorough trial and duly submitted to the Royal Small Arms Factory range at Enfield, about ten miles north from the center of London.

During these preliminary firing tests, the British Service 9mm Mk.2z. cartridge was used. This round has a 115 grain

A.

A) Notice twin recoil springs—one of the similarities to the Walther P-38.

The rare Webley & Scott poised for action.



ited, bringing with him some interesting ideas for the design of a new handgun. Jurek had already constructed a full-size working model of his pistol in mild steel, although he was still experimenting with the breech locking system.

The design had obviously impressed the W&S management; who eventually agreed to sponsor the whole project, aided by a small development fee from the British Government.

There was no specific handgun department at the Weaman Street factory at that time; since the demand for such weapons had fallen off considerably over the past years, from both the military and private sectors. Consequently, Jurek worked virtually alone on the project, making most of the components himself. Major items were constructed in the





ing and thereby reduced the wavy effect over the front sights. The barrel of the Belgian model, on the other hand, was totally enclosed within the breech slide.

Several hundred rounds were fired by the Webley & Scott pistol during the brief test programme; although the weapon was not subjected to the usual rigors of a durability trial.

An experimental version of the Belgian F.N. pistol was known to have used a light alloy frame and it was naturally desired that a model of the W&S weapon, composed of similar material, should be supplied for comparison. The authorities glibly suggested that an alternative specimen might also be produced for .22 calibre. At that stage of the proceedings; however, the Webley & Scott firm must have sensed the futility of continuing with

the venture, since no further development work was undertaken and the entire project was discontinued.

The final outcome of the British army trials in the late 1950s was a decision to replace the current .38 Service Revolver with the 9mm Belgian Model 1935 and Britain became the last of the major nations to adopt an automatic pistol for military use.

It was a heavy blow for the Birmingham gunmaking industry, as the choice to adopt a foreign product had delivered the 'coup de grâce' to any future aspirations of the Webley & Scott firm in that particular field.

It was inevitable that the British weapon would have proved more expensive to manufacture than the Belgian pis-

(Continued on page 56)

bullet and a charge of 5 grains N.C. powder, to give a velocity at 60 feet of 1300 fps with a chamber pressure of between 26,000-28,000 psi.

Following the initial examination and firing of the prototype; the army authorities suggested that certain alterations might be made to the mechanism, specifically to improve the double-action trigger pull. They also requested the addition of a magazine safety.

None of these criticisms presented any special technical problems for the designer, who was encouraged by the thought that his efforts might yet achieve success. Another prototype was constructed, incorporating most of the modifications that had been recommended.

The second pistol was not quite so heavy as the first model; since the length overall had been reduced by some 33mm (1½") and a slight overhang at the rear of the frame, above the handle, was removed to give the weapon a more compact appearance. The barrel on the earlier version had been 6" long; whereas that of the later pistol measured only 4.85". At an empty weight of 33.5 ounces, the weapon compared favorably with the Belgian F.N. pistol, which was then a major contender in the search for a new British sidearm. The F.N. model had been widely acclaimed as a military weapon since being introduced in 1935 and had proven reliability in service during the Second World War.

Despite this formidable competition, the Webley & Scott High Power pistol possessed a number of design features which, on the surface, appeared to be superior and therefore still worthy of serious consideration. In addition, it had the advantage of being an indigenous product.

The positively controlled movement of the barrel; plus guaranteed alignment at the muzzle, seemed to provide the W&S model with a greater accuracy potential than the F.N. version. It was also apparent that the exposed barrel length of the British pistol induced better cooling, especially after a prolonged period of fir-

#### COMPARISON CHART

	Webley & Scott 9mm	Walther P38	Browning HP
Overall length	212mm (8.35")	214mm	202mm
Barrel length	123mm (4.85")	125mm	120mm
Height	135mm (5.3")	136mm	127mm
Weight	3.35 ounces	33.75	32.5
Magazine capacity	8 rounds	8	13



C) A disconnecter is positioned at the right hand side of the frame, just above the trigger bar.



A lot of gun-owning parents get their kids into shooting, but few really seriously. The last real "child prodigy" of handgunning was Thell Reed, back in the late Fifties, who dominated fast draw (pure speed) and quick draw (speed and accuracy) events in the Southwest for years. Today, Reed remains an active, topflight competitor. But once he grew up, nobody came along to fill the small shoes he left behind.

Until now. If you haven't got the word already, the annual Second Chance Street Combat Shoot for '77—an event that mixes speed and accuracy with raw power, and has become almost a cult thing among America's police gun experts and civilian combat masters—was won in the individual fastest time class by a 13-year old.

His name is John Robbins, and for the past four years, he and his dad have been "batching it" in a "work without play is pointless" kind of life that would be the envy of any kid, or for that matter, any adult. Only part of young John's story is his shooting prowess, which as you'll see extends to rifle and shotgun as well as the pistol. On meeting him, the thing that most impresses you is his aura of total, mature, eloquent cool; here is a kid who is more together than most adults, let alone your average pre-adolescent.

Firearms are part of his life because they're his father's career: Jack Robbins, 39, is the senior weapons researcher for the Air Force in Florida. His son has absorbed much of his father's shop talk. He knowledgeably debates the merits of the Fairbairn-Sykes vs. the Gerber Mk. 1 vs. the Filipino bali-song as fighting knives, and enjoys making his own fireworks out of drugstore components. His skill with firearms speaks for itself; his safety habits are automatic, and anybody who knows him would feel safer to have John standing behind him with a full-loaded MAC-10 set on full auto than most adults with a single-shot .22.

The kid is a wizard on a dirt bike, holds his own in adult conversation on any subject, and is getting ready to apply the same judgment and taste to other facets of life that face a 13-year old.

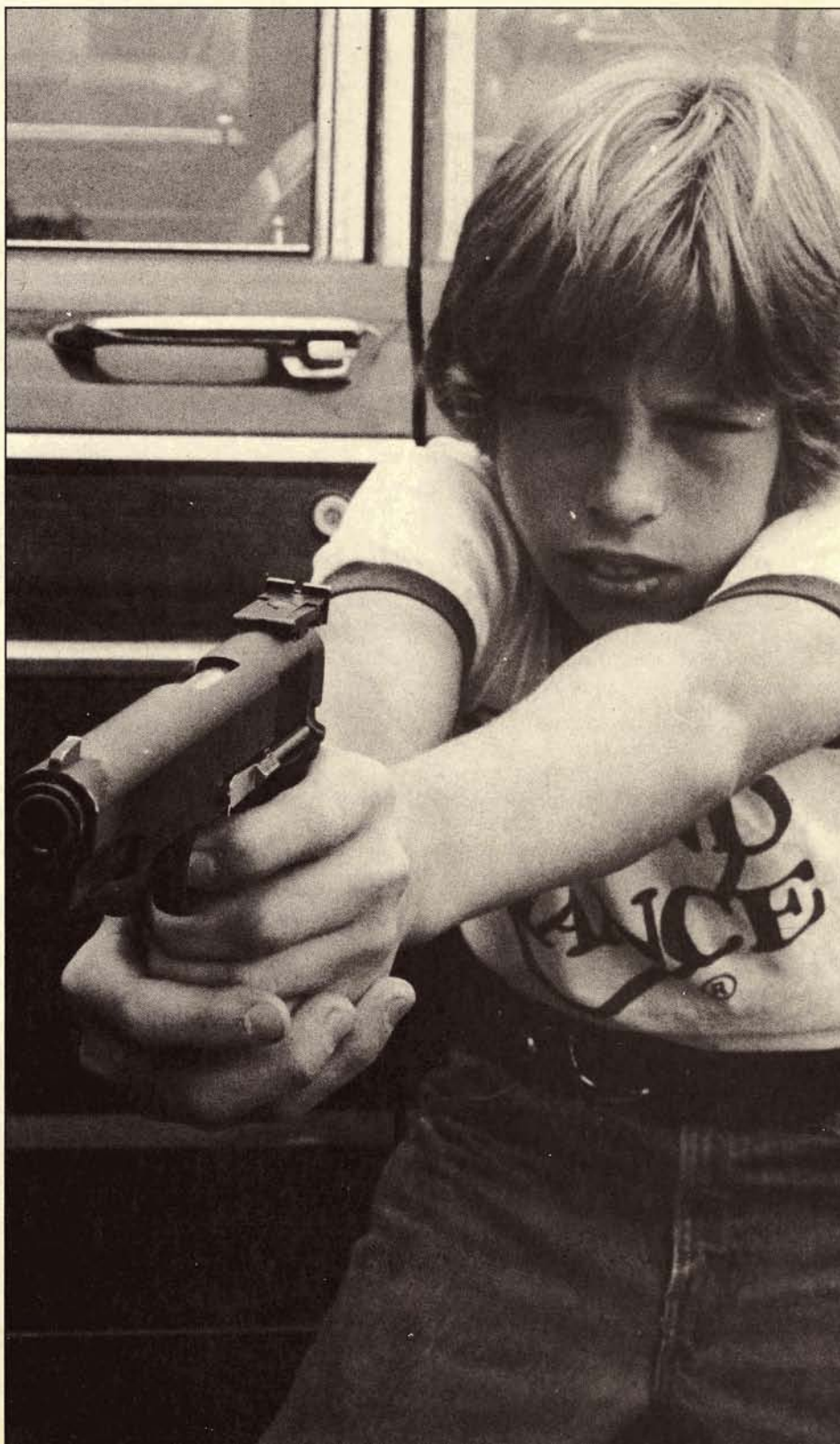
During the Second Chance Shoot, with the guns still echoing in the background of the tapes, we interviewed John about his outlooks and philosophies of life, shooting, and what-all. Afterwards, we just edited the interviewer out of it. John is more interesting on his own.

John shot a record 3.9 second time over the Second Chance course, which requires a heavy handgun to blow five bowling pins off a table 25 feet away. He beat 202 adults, almost all of them at or near Master level and three of them past or present holders of various National Champion titles in other handgun disciplines.

Here is John Robbins' story, in his own words, answering the questions thrown at him by the magazine.

# John Robbins: Superkid of American Handgunning

By MASSAD F. AYOOB





My dad and his friends used to go out and shoot all day, and when I was about three years old, he started taking me with him. The first thing I remember about it, I was about three or four, and they let me shoot a Smith & Wesson .44 Magnum. When it went off, the barrel came up and the front sight hit me in the forehead and split my head open. Left a heckuva knot.

I kinda messed around with my dad's guns over the years. He's got quite a collection. He says that the guns I shoot a lot are mine, but I don't really think of any of 'em as my own personal guns. It's a mutual thing. He bought 'em, so I figure they're his, but he lets me use any of 'em any time I want, so I guess they're more "ours."

I shot mostly rifles, sometimes .22s, mostly centerfires but nothing too powerful. If I shot a really powerful gun, it was usually off a rest or something like that, cause I was barely big enough to hold the thing up. We didn't shoot pistols that much. We did some handgun shooting with .22's, but mostly it was .38's or .357's.

It's only the past year or so I started shooting in competition. My very first match was over in Mobile. Some policemen there got together once in a while and shot a modified PPC. My first time, I used a Smith & Wesson .357 with .38 wadcutters. I didn't do too hot in the regular match—it was new to me, and I was pretty nervous—but they had a side match where you drew from the holster and shot at five steel plates that were balanced on a metal rod. It was sort of like the Second Chance shoot with the bowling pins. I was the last shooter up, and the top guy had 8.3 seconds. I did it in 8 seconds flat, and won. They split the entry fees between the winner and the sponsors. It wasn't much—there were only about 16 shooters—but it was enough to make me feel pretty good.

That was about November '76. A little later, my dad set up a match for the Rod & Gun Club he belongs to in Dayton, Fla. It was a combat rifle shoot. You started out running to the 600 yard line and shooting a round at each of 10 silhouettes. Then you ran to the 300 yard line and put 2 shots each on 5 silhouettes, one of which was half blocked out. Then you ran up to 200 yards and did the same thing. After that, you ran over on an angle to the sandbags laid out on the 100 yard line, and shot at each of the 10 silhouettes, 5 of them half-targets. I shot an AR-15, but I was only second high on points, 'cause my dad outscored me with his Garand. But the way they figured the final score was dividing the time it took you to shoot into your basic score, and I had the fastest time, about 6 minutes 5 seconds. After it was all figured out, I beat my dad out by 5 points and won the open. I was the only kid shooting in that one.

I figure I've shot in about ten competition events, and I didn't do too well in all



of them. A friend of my dad's, Archie Kirschner, ran a combat pistol match with 25, 50, and 100 yard targets at the Rod & Gun Club, and I came in about 3rd from the last. But I've at least placed pretty good in most of the other ones. I've gotten a few trophies over in Mobile for shooting a .22 rifle.

I haven't done very much in strictly Junior shooting. The only Junior match I ever entered was a skeet shoot in Mobile. I won the over-all but I don't think I'll shoot in Junior matches anymore. Most of the other kids have hardly ever touched a gun before, and it's like I've got an unfair advantage 'cause I've been shooting all my life. I feel funny about it. It takes the fun out of winning. I'd rather shoot against grown-ups.

My dad and I pretty much go where we want, so I miss a lot of school, but we keep up on my studies when we're travelling so it doesn't hurt my marks any. I've got an "A" average in math. That's my favorite subject.

We started practicing for the Second Chance shoot about a month ahead of time. We didn't actually shoot at bowling pins. We used the cardboard practice targets Second Chance sends out. I didn't fire a .45 until about two weeks before

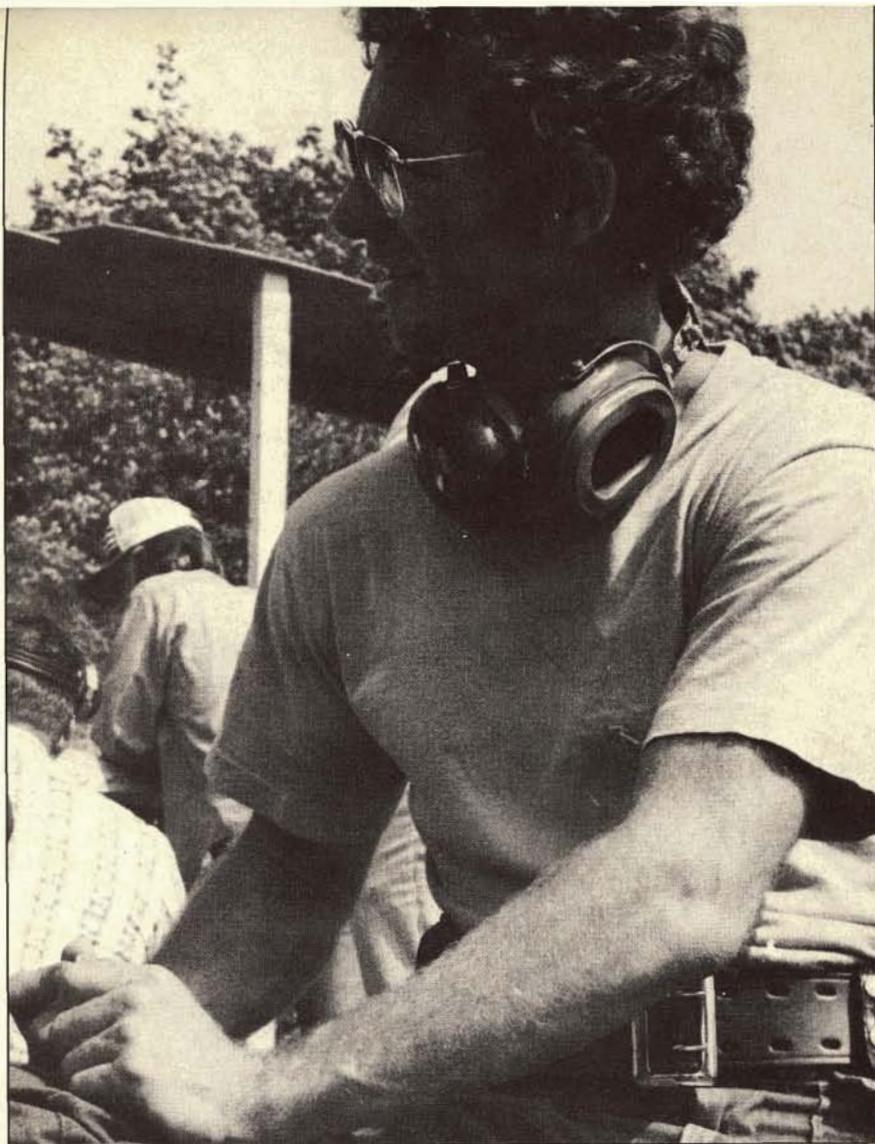
that. My dad made us up a couple with Essex frames.

I used hardball at the Second Chance match. It kicks some, but not that bad. I'm four-feet-eleven and weigh about ninety pounds. If I take a deep crouch position and kinda lean into the gun, I can handle the recoil OK.

Being shorter than the grownups and using the crouch position kinda helped in a way, 'cause I didn't have as far to bring the gun up before I could start shooting. But it really hurt when I had a pin down and had to shoot it again. See, they've got that bulletproof cloth all over the table to prevent ricochets, and when you hit low and put the bullet into the cloth, it bunches up, and what you've done is put a bulletproof shield in front of your target. All I could see over it was just a sliver of the bowling pin, and when I hit it there, it just rolled back a couple inches and right out of sight. On one string, I did that, and I had to kinda wear a hole in the bulletproof stuff with about three or four shots before I could hit the pin and knock it off.

The next time I shot after that, my dad picked up a log and put it in front of me to stand on. Everybody laughed. I guess it did look kinda funny. But when I shot, and I had 'em all off the table but one that





I couldn't see because of my height, I just jumped up on the log and blew the pin off with my next shot. I turned around, and everybody was clapping and yelling, "all right." But it wasn't any big thing. I just had to get up there to where I could see the darned pin. I'm not five-eight or six feet like the grownups, so I had to get up there *somehow*.

I scratched my first time up. And my second time. And my third time. I just didn't get them all off the table inside the 15 second limit. I was knockin' 'em all down in about 5 seconds, but 3 or 4 were staying on the table, and I just couldn't blow 'em all off. That 4th time, I just did like I was doing before, and they just all went off the table instead of lying down. I was using the sights, and just firing when the sights came down on the next pin. There wasn't time to hold and squeeze. I just kept firing.

Most of the grownups kinda got a kick out of it. A lot of 'em dropped their jaws at first. But they were really pretty nice about it. There was only one guy that really resented getting beat by a kid. He was a guy in a cavalry hat, and he came up to me and said, "I'm going to beat you," and he didn't take a joking attitude to it. After he shot, he left real quick.

A lot of people asked me how it felt to be 13 and beating grownups and national champions and all. I'll tell you right now, it feels *great*! But while I was up there, I sure had some butterflies. It was the biggest match I ever shot in, and I didn't know anybody, and when I got up on the line for the first time, I was just scared out of my wits. I tried to pretend that I was at home just shooting targets.

Anyway, I'm going to keep shooting in matches. It's about the only thing I've done seriously in competition, except skateboarding, and that got boring after a few times. I never could get interested in school sports, and even though I like dirt-bikin', I never got into it in races.

You asked me about my favorite guns. In pistols, I like the .45 auto about the best, and also the 9 mm's like my dad makes for the Air Force. (Editor's note: John is talking about an accurized model 59 S&W with enhanced reliability that his father has built experimentally for the USAF, in cooperation with S&W. Watch for an article on it soon.)

Hey, what can I say? Shooting is fun. My dad and I have a lot of fun together, and shooting is part of it. As far as I'm concerned, I'm just gonna keep having fun.



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** You've just read half of the John Robbins' story. The other half is his father, who created the young superstar (or who, some of his older Second Chance competitors believe, created a trophy-gobbling monster). Ayooob cornered Jack Robbins and asked him how he groomed what looks to be the child prodigy of handgunning for the next few years.

**JACK ROBBINS:** He and I have always done everything together. We just liked the same things. We were into dirt bikes for a while, and if you think he's good *shooting*, you ought to see him on something with a motor. He becomes a part of it. He was running a Honda 60 at 6, and Honda 70 when he was 7.

I never kept track of how much ammo he shoots in a year. We usually shoot together, but he's got carte blanche to shoot anything he wants to by himself in our backyard range when I'm not home. Sometimes, we'll be shooting intensively for a couple of months, and the next two months, we slack off and get into something else.

He has complete access to all our guns and ammo, whether or not he's alone. You've seen his gun handling. It leaves nothing to be desired.

(Continued on page 59)



# Buckshot For Snubbies?

By SETH NADEL

The usual response of John Q. Citizen to a noise in the night is to grab his house gun, and that gun usually is a 2" .38 Special. Despite repeated articles in this, and other magazines about the over-penetration and lack of stopping power of the .38, it remains the principal sidearm of the homeowner, storekeeper, and off-duty lawman. Over the years, I have encountered many that were armed with such weapons and now want to increase the stopping power while reducing the penetration—a seemingly impossible task. Yet, a solution has come about as the result of a casual rap session.

Starting with the big question, "What if a way has been devised to turn that .38 into a .90 caliber handgun, with almost as much stopping power as a .45 ACP GI Hardball with only about 1/3 of the penetration?" The answer got started when someone noted that 00 buckshot would fit down the barrel of his .357 Magnum. Of course, pure lead at useable velocities would lead the bore smooth with one shot—and I hate cleaning lead out of barrels. Also, the .38 case only has room for one ball—no great improvement. But at the time, I was holding a box of Speer .38 empty shot caps intended for some anti-rattlesnake loads. A few hours later, it was discovered that 3 No. 1 Buckshot would fit nicely into the cap. The next questions were: what powder, how much, and what would it do?

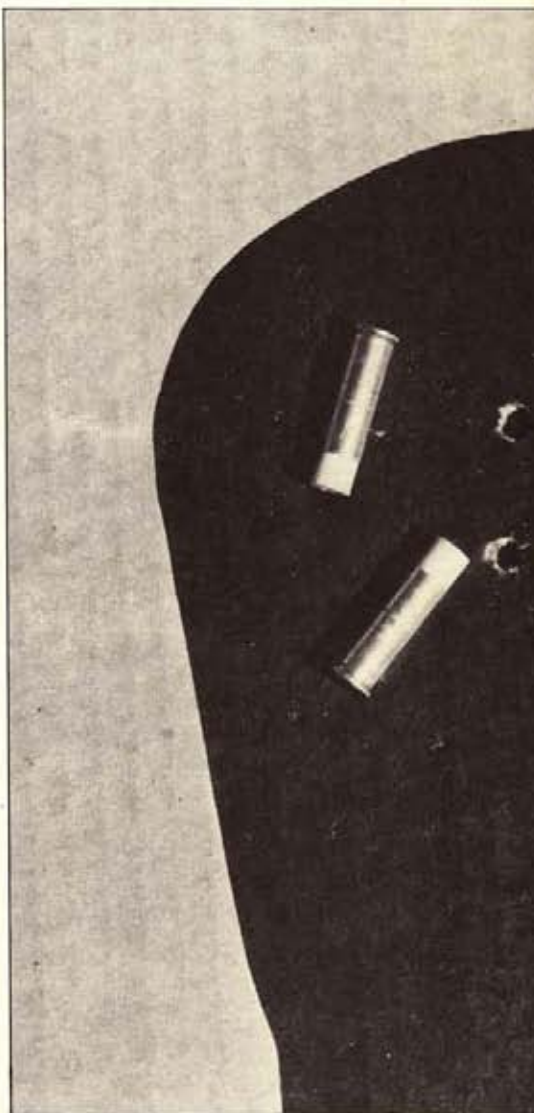
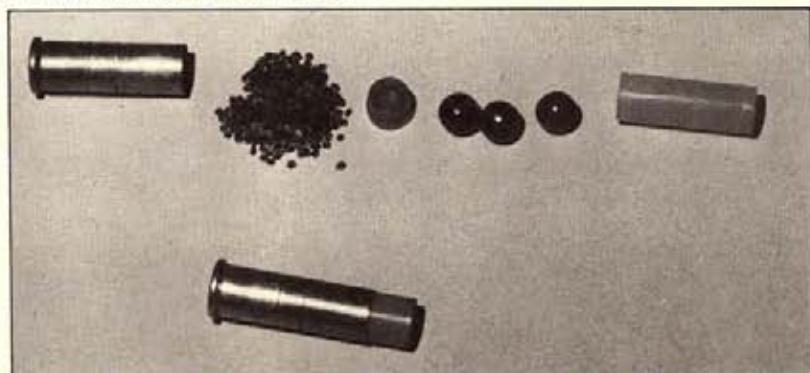
The extreme length of the shot cap means a dense powder is a must. I found that Unique powder was the best choice, and kept the round short enough to chamber. As the assembled "buck cap" weighed 120 grains, data for the 125 grain bullet was adopted, and 5.5 grains of Unique was dumped into the cases. The next step, of course, was off to the range. For safety reasons, this untried load was fired from 7 yards in a 4" M19 .357 Magnum (why tempt fate?). With the first shot, the X-ring disappeared. It was replaced by 3 overlapping .30 caliber holes. From a 2" M60; groups spread to 1 1/2" at 7 yards, still centered in the X and 10 rings. Thus at combat distances; you pay no accuracy penalty by using this load. I dubbed it the 3-1 for 3 balls of No. 1 buckshot. At 7 yards all pellets were centered from all of the guns tested.

Now that I knew that I could hit the target; I wondered what was being delivered by these rounds in stopping power. Some scrounging produced a number of telephone books in their natural dry state. Several shots resulted in an average penetration of 600 pages at 7 yards; while standard 110 grain and 125 passed clear through 2000 pages. But most impressive was the appearance of the pages between the pellets. They were broken like boards. That meant the load was delivering lots of shock with reduced penetration; just what I was looking for. A bit of

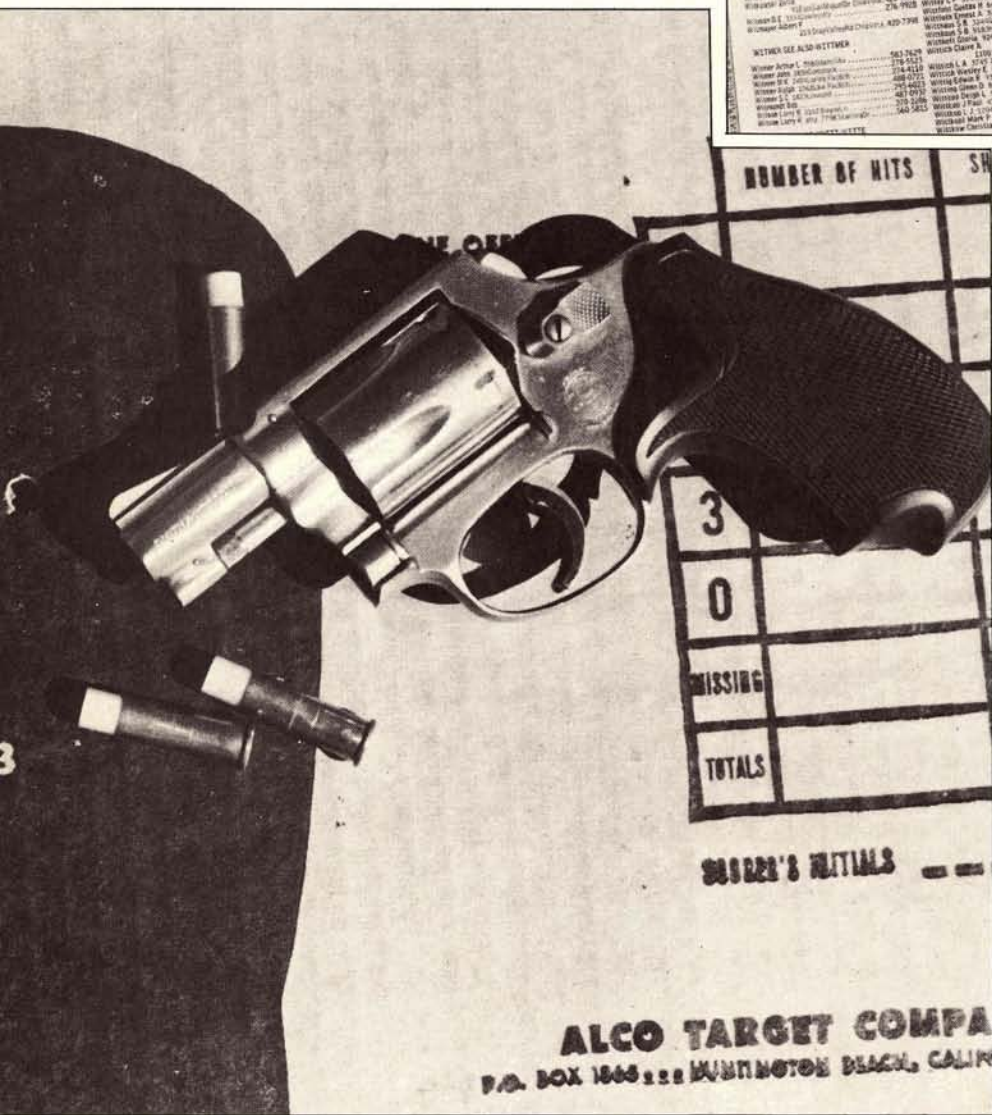
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*New 3-1 load makes  
ideal first shot  
stopping power.*

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research in some police shotgun manuals showed that three pellets of buckshot are normally considered enough to stop a man.

Through the courtesy of Bob Hodgdon of the Hodgdon Powder Company; several rounds were chronographed at a velocity of 1100 FPS from a 2" barrel. This high velocity must be the result of the soft plastic engraving the rifling much easier than lead or jacket-metal. The cases showed no signs of pressure. They extracted easily, and bore residue cleaned up with little effort.

At this point in the testing; I was the recipient of several "What the hell?" looks as 15 holes appeared in my target for each 5 shots, and the distinctive odor of burnt plastic drifted down the firing line. Shooter's comments were favorable; with most wanting to know if I could load some up for them. The round gives little recoil, but the muzzle-flash, typically of Unique, was brilliant.

My original concern had been with close-in combat shooting at 10 yards or less. This would be a situation that a householder or store owner would likely

encounter. Within 10 yards; all pellets stay in the 6-ring of a standard 25 yard target—centered around the point of aim. Additional testing on the Treasury Department silhouette showed that on this narrow drawing of a man; 2.6 pellets hit on the average at 15 yards. At 25 yards this average drops to 1 pellet per shot; thus limiting the 3-1 to short range confrontations. This range can be extended by using heavier powder charges. (Editor's note—be sure to check loading manuals before increasing charges.)

I found that recovered pellets were cylindrical in shape due to the stress on them in firing. Increasing the powder decreased the separation at close range. At some point, no doubt, they would fuse into a single projectile. But my concern was the close combat ranges.

I said that 3-1 ammo gives almost the stopping power of .45 ACP hardball ammunition. This was based on Jeff Cooper's short form of the Hatcher formula. Here, bullet weight times velocity times bore sectional area equals stopping power or a relative number, and thus a way to compare different loads from different guns. Example: .45 GI is  $230 \times 850 \times 1.6 = 31.28$  (bore area takes the .38 or .357 bore as 1). The 3-1 load has 3.30 caliber projectiles that turn the equation into  $120 \times 1100 \times .75(3) = 29.7$ . Not bad for a 2" barrel. Factory 125 grain loads are traveling at a true 976 FPS from the gun for  $125 \times 970 \times 1 = 12.1$ . Therefore, you have more than twice the stopping power of the 125 grain load. The key is in that .90 caliber surface hitting the bad guy all at once. The delivered shock is fantastic.

The worst thing is what happens if you miss? With conventional ammo that 125 grain slug goes through a wall and bounces down the street. But the three soft lead balls of the 3-1 lose velocity in the air due to their poor aerodynamic shape. Secondly, when they hit the wall; they are 3-40 grain items with much less momentum, and thus reduced penetration. Being unwilling to punch holes in my

Continued on page 57





## Custom .22 Extraordinary ...the Dieckmann P-66



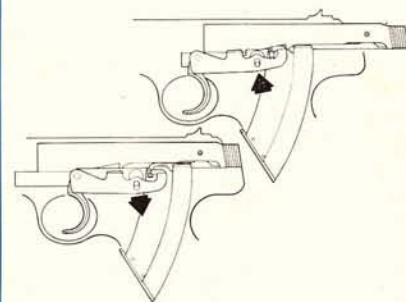
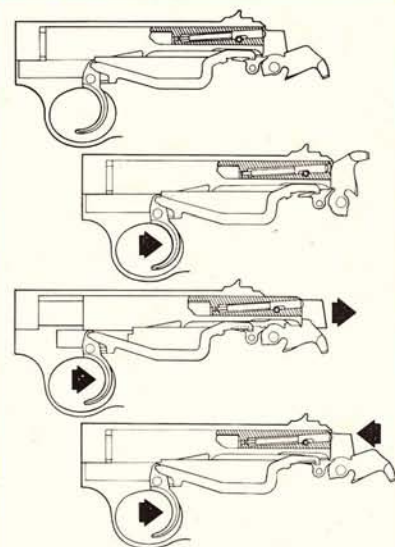
By DENNIS RIORDAN

*“More than a decade of developmental work has gone into this uniquely different automatic.”*

It looks very like a second coming of High Standard's venerable Model H-A, but the quasi-familiar outlines of the Dieckmann pistol enclose a host of surprises. Its maker, young designer Ralf E. Dieckmann, calls it the P-66 because the most salient features of the gun were birthed in his experimental pistol of that year. However, a full decade's development has gone into that early effort, and resulted in the polished and practical version he exhibits today.

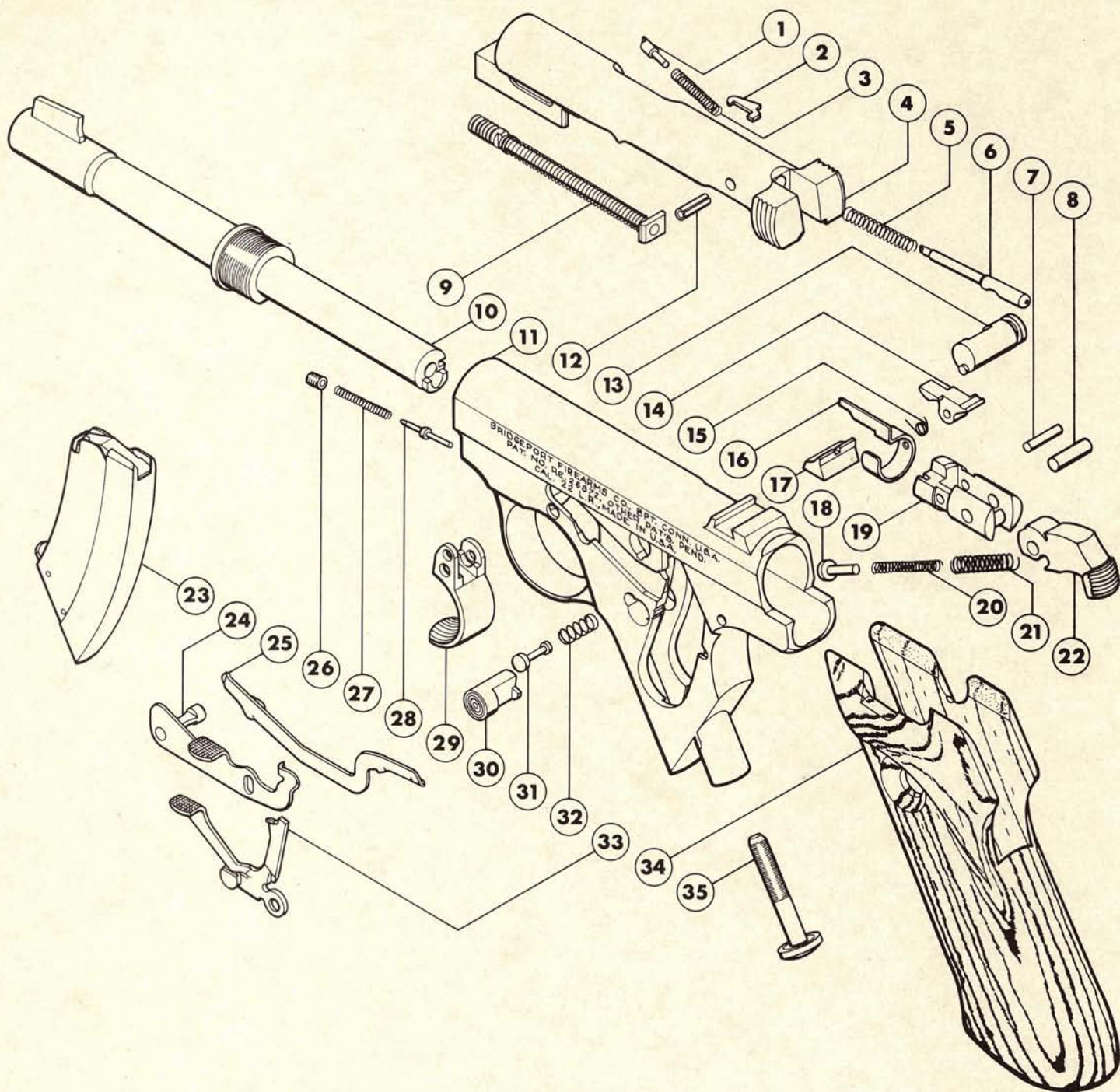
A custom made .22 pistol of very limited production, the clever and unique design features of the P-66 merit the close attention of handgunners of every persuasion. It is a hammer-fired automatic whose basic idea has remained pure from the very beginning; increasing the barrel length of a normally sized handgun by telescoping the barrel's breech within a hollow bolt, and mounting a tightly curved magazine through the front, rather than the underside, of the grip. Its receiver is bobbed just below the magazine well, and a single screw retains the one-piece stock.

Controls of the P-66 are uncomplicated and logical. The rear of the bolt extends beyond the receiver and is provided with vertically serrated gripping surfaces at either side. The external hammer operates in a normal manner and is equipped with a serrated spur. Of the two checkered levers located atop the left grip, the foremost is used to manually apply or release the bolt holdopen, while the rear lever is the manual safety. The wide, serrated trigger and the fixed patridge sights are completely conventional. The push-button magazine release is unusual in its



Author believes P-66 to be a solid, well conceived and well constructed pistol of fascinating design.





- |                         |                           |                            |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Extractor plunger    | 13. Bolt stop             | 25. Trigger bar            |
| 2. Extractor            | 14. Sear                  | 26. Trigger spring screw   |
| 3. Extractor spring     | 15. Sear spring           | 27. Trigger spring         |
| 4. Bolt                 | 16. Ejector               | 28. Trigger plunger        |
| 5. Firing pin spring    | 17. Rear sight            | 29. Trigger                |
| 6. Firing pin           | 18. Hammer spring plunger | 30. Magazine catch         |
| 7. Sear pin             | 19. Lock housing          | 31. Magazine catch plunger |
| 8. Hammer pin           | 20. Hammer spring, inner  | 32. Magazine catch spring  |
| 9. Return spring assy.  | 21. Hammer spring, outer  | 33. Safety                 |
| 10. Barrel              | 22. Hammer                | 34. Stock                  |
| 11. Receiver            | 23. Magazine              | 35. Stock screw            |
| 12. Firing pin retainer | 24. Holdopen              | 36. Stock screw escutcheon |

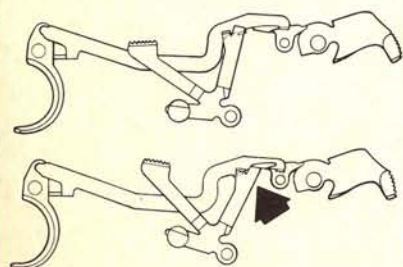
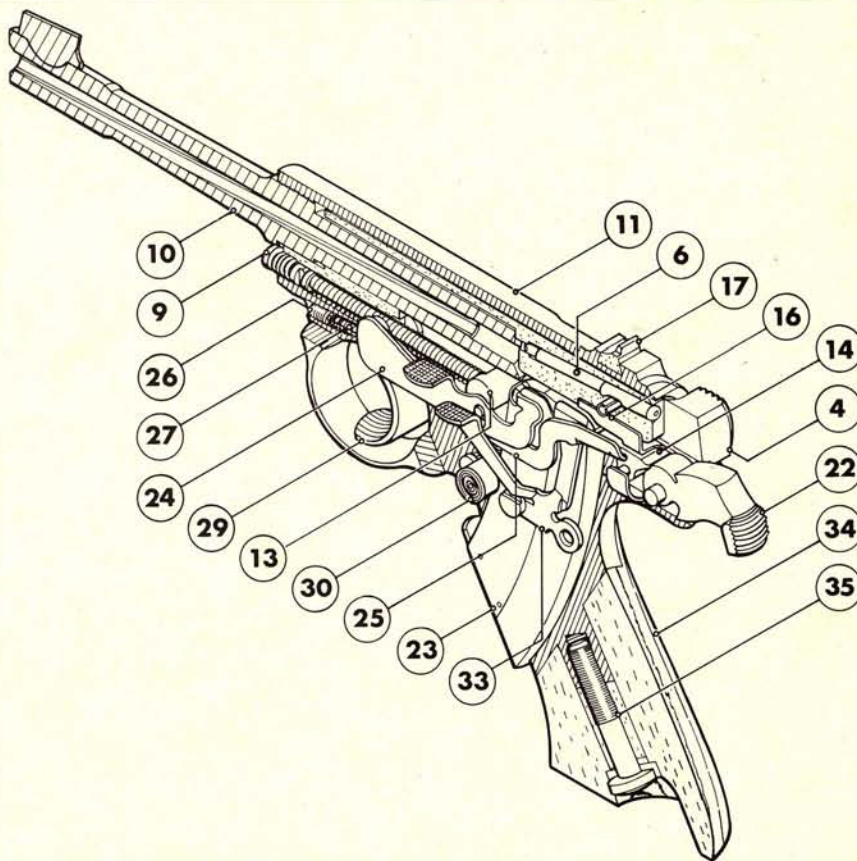


placement near the center of the left grip. This location is dictated by the unconventional mounting of the magazine. The catch is deeply recessed below the walnut stock, and its surface is roughened by a series of annular grooves. The magazine floorplate extends slightly beyond the magazine's body to provide a gripping surface for manual removal, should it stick in the gun. Likewise, the receiver has been undercut at this point to allow finger purchase on the magazine's lip. Fully inserted, the magazine floor-plate lies flush with the fore of the grip.

To load, the magazine is charged with one to nine rounds and inserted within the grip, the bolt drawn fully to the rear and released. The P-66 may be carried with hammer cocked and safety applied, or with hammer down and safety off. After the last shot is fired, the bolt locks open automatically, signalling an empty magazine.

While the Dieckmann pistol is assembled on only a semi-production basis, the materials and methods of construction employed are remarkably sophisticated. The major parts are steel investment castings of great precision, requiring a minimum of hand finishing. The extractor is the only stamped steel part. The sear spring is a round wire torsion spring, the return spring a very unusual coiled steel ribbon. Other springs employed are round wire coils. The magazine follower is molded in Delrin, a soapy plastic whose surface offers little friction either to the magazine box or the cartridges it feeds. A steel surface molded into the follower bears against the holdopen when the magazine is empty, preventing wear at this point. The one-piece stock is machine inletted and smoothly finished, and is provided with a thumb rest. An inset nylon washer prevents the stock screw from loosening. The ejector is formed of stainless spring steel, somewhat akin to the extractor collar of a Mauser rifle. Other metal parts are finished in black/bluing, with exterior surfaces highly polished beneath the blue.

The Dieckmann's primary safety device is the manual safety. This lever is retained in either of its two positions by a spring loaded detent. Separate limbs of the safety perform two distinct functions:



The P-66 may be taken down without tools and does not require removal of parts under spring tension. While assembled on a semi-production basis, the materials and methods of construction employed are remarkably sophisticated. Major parts are steel investment castings of great precision.



to disconnect the trigger bar from the sear; and to block the sear's movement, locking the hammer as well. The latter function distinguishes this safety as a positive device, the former ensures that trigger pressure cannot be applied against the safety. It can be engaged whenever the gun is cocked, whether the bolt be open or closed.

The hammer is not equipped with a safety notch; if it should slip during thumb cocking, the gun would fire. This misfortune is very unlikely, however, and the absence of a safety notch prevents carrying the gun at half-cock, which could lead to accidental discharge through a fall or blow upon the hammer.

The firing pin is an inertia type whose forward movement is sufficiently limited as to prevent its striking the barrel breech in dry fire. The pistol may be safely carried with hammer fully lowered over a chambered round; a gap still exists between firing pin and cartridge case, and the pin is held out of contact by the firing pin spring.

The outside hammer reveals the state

ribbon construction is stiffer and stronger than a wire coil. The exposed end of the spring guide is serrated to provide a good gripping surface during takedown.

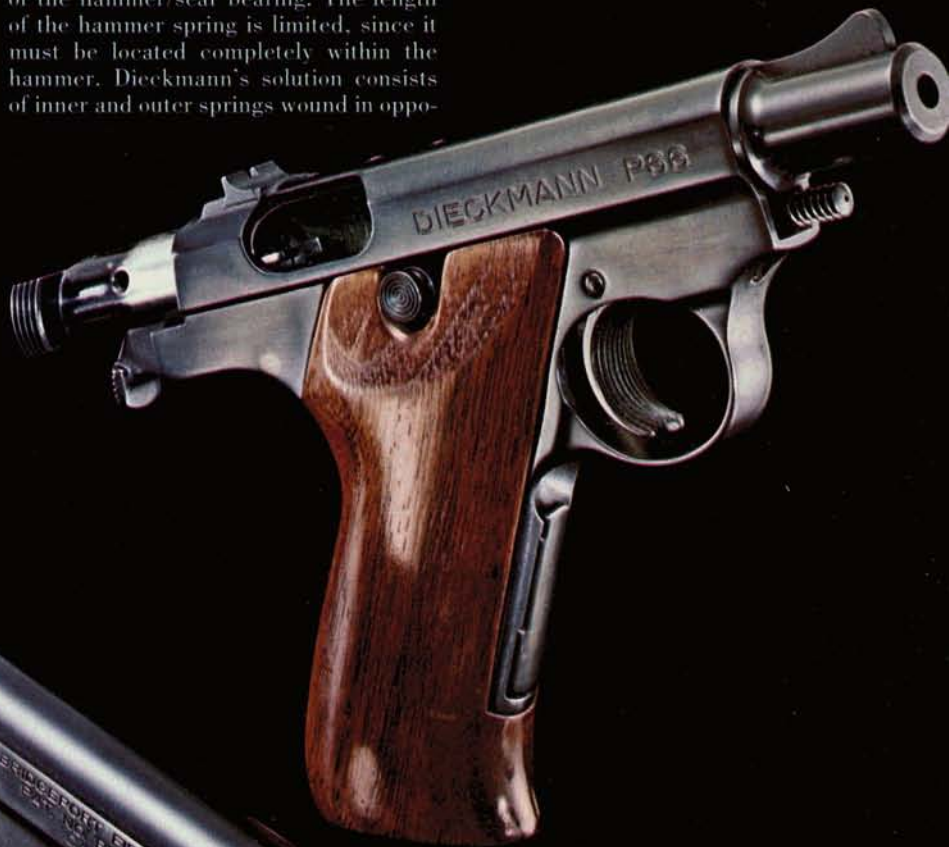
The ejector, hammer, sear, and their springs are all mounted upon the lock housing by two pins. The entire assembly is physically removed from the gun during takedown, and once removed eliminates all danger of discharging a chambered round. The design of the assembly allows easy examination and gunsmithing of the hammer/sear bearing. The length of the hammer spring is limited, since it must be located completely within the hammer. Dieckmann's solution consists of inner and outer springs wound in oppo-

site directions so that they do not bind.

The pushbutton magazine catch encompasses just three parts: the catch itself, a spring, and a plunger. These simply shaped parts interlock and are self retaining, yet can be removed at will.

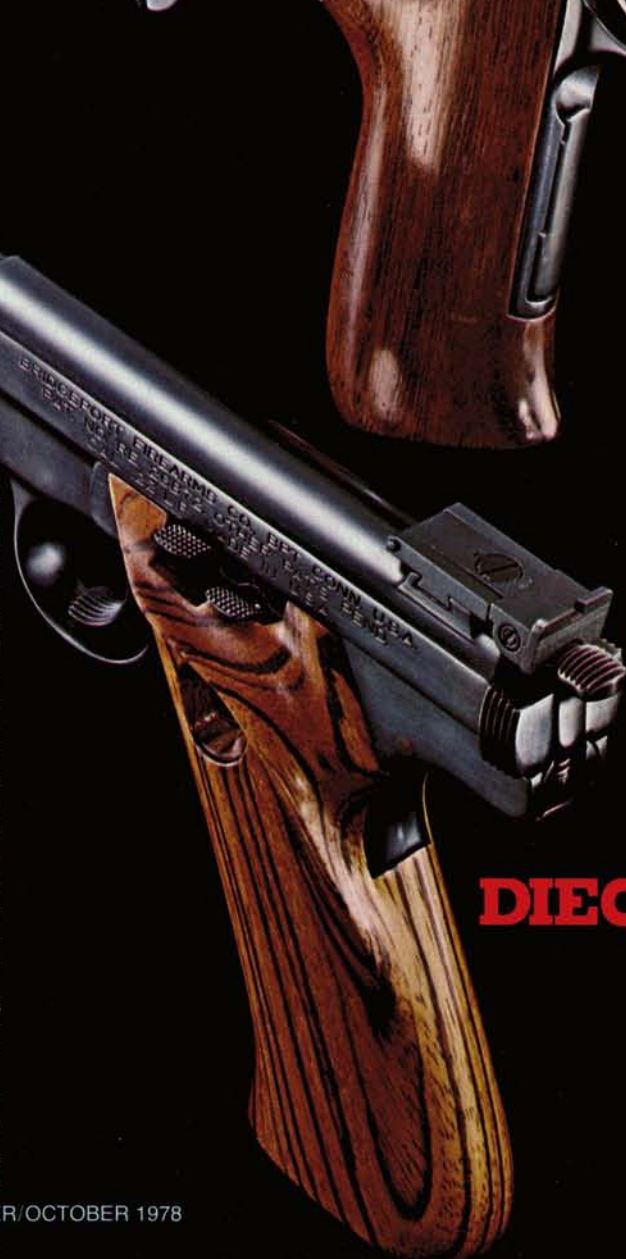
Other features of the Dieckmann pistol are more conventional, but generally well chosen. The holdopen is a separate part, operated automatically by the magazine follower as the last shot is fired. The bolt

*(Continued on page 64)*



of cock instantly, both by sight and touch. The combination of inertia firing pin and positive safety allow the gun to be carried either cocked and locked or uncocked and unlocked. The P-66 abounds in unusual features, the most obvious being the rearward location of the barrel breech and the placement of the magazine. The long barrel design allows a substantial increase in muzzle velocity over conventional pistols without an extension in overall length. That means a more efficient handgun for hunting small game. The curved magazine required by the barrel design also has advantages; because its floorplate is actually grasped by the fingers during discharge, it must be fully home and cannot fall out, eliminating malfunctions from either cause. Its placement also permits the stub frame, which is amenable to a great variety of grip lengths, shapes, angles, and construction materials.

The recoil spring is held captive upon its guide, making it extremely easy to handle and protecting it from kinking, distortion, or other damage. Its coiled



**DIECKMANN  
P-66**



One of the hottest selling shooting accessories is "custom" stocks for handgunners. Reasons for this popularity range from a need to produce better scores to the desire to individualize the gun. Nothing dresses up a handgun more easily than a distinctive set of stocks. This fact might be comparable to the custom touch provided by "mag" wheels on the family Pinto.

While the irrational notion of a dressed-up handgun is not to be knocked (I rather like a snappy looking pair of handgun stocks, too), there are several other good reasons why handgunners should replace the factory wood. The critically important interface between the shooter and the handgun is in the gripping area. Trying to optimize the fit is important as much as to reduce irritations or inconveniences associated with factory stocks.

The notion may hit a thinking consumer as to "Why the hell doesn't the factory put on quality stocks in the first place with the prices they are charging?" The proposition of fitting all the varied tastes, whims, hand sizes and shapes would be a frustrating effort. The factory must produce an *adequate* stock that may not fit well all the hands of consumers. In recent years, the quality of factory stocks has improved as to functional standards and most makers now offer several types of accessory stocks to please the discriminating shooter. Some stocks provide a very good basic shape, requiring only some minor detail attention to fit the average handgunner quite well.

Without trying to cover the whole field, there are several handgun stock product lines that provide insights into what is available in the market. Many standard configurations are duplicated in nearly

Here's Hogue's new MONOGRIP in stunning Coco Bolo wood. Notice no screw holes to detract from the overall aesthetic appearance.

every commercial catalog. Some useful, unique features are offered by the best makers; no single producer covers the whole market; some of the biggest commercial makers come close to this goal, however.

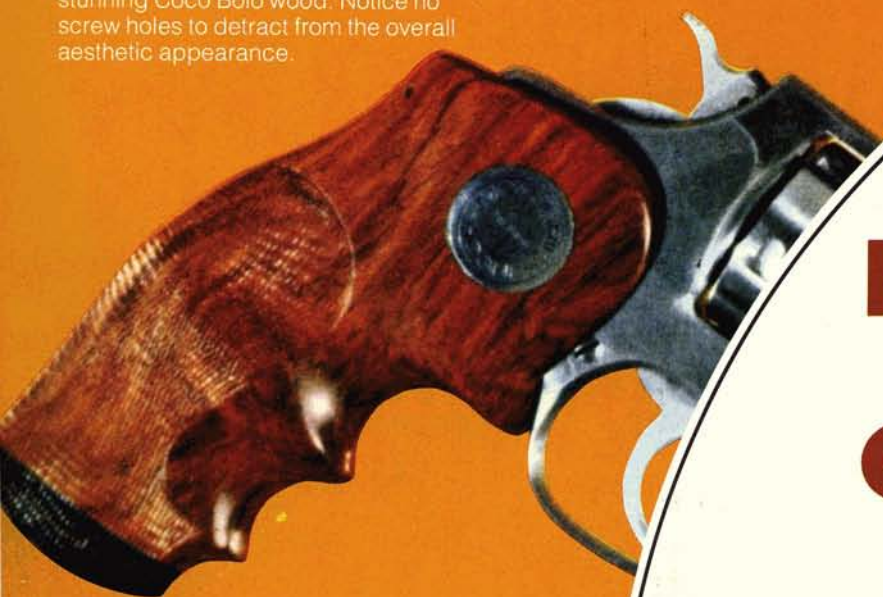
The distinction between "custom" and "production" stocks has become a fine one. Nearly all makers adapt machine operations to a greater or lesser degree. The amount and quality of hand finishing operations probably is the best means of separating the two distinctions. The actual changes in configurations of the so-called "custom" maker to compensate for hand size are quickly and routinely made by an experienced stock shaper.

The notion that a stock is custom-made to the exact specifications of the customer on a one-of-a-kind basis is strictly wistful thinking on the part of the consumer. Costs for this type of grip would

be sky-high and could be offered only on the most expensive guns. Few makers can follow this practice today and stay in business for very long. Most of the truly "custom" work is done occasionally by the most creative stock makers for personal friends and close business associates, usually as part of product development for new grip designs.

The most important aspect of good stock fit relates to the control of the handgun both before and after discharge. The stock should promote even hand contact and even gripping pressure from the hand. Insufficient girth for middle fingers allows looseness, while too much girth for the little fingers detracts from full

The new Signature stocks from Pachmayr offer a fool-proof, non-slip design of molded black rubber



Text and photos by:  
JAMES D. MASON

# HANDGUN STOCKS CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



stabilizing power of the smallest digit. The little finger exerts great influence on recoil stability and recovery since it acts through the lever of the handle. Uneven gripping pressures on the palm of the hand become subtle distractions that promote inconsistent holds and letoffs, particularly with DA revolvers.

The trigger reach (that distance measured from the yoke of the recoil shoulder

to the midpoint on the trigger face) should be short enough to allow full finger retraction power in a DA pull; normally this measures about 2¾ to 3-inches for the average size male hand. Some women and adolescent shooters may need shorter reachers. Large men with hands like a gorilla may desire a backstrap filler (recoil shoulder), but the 3-inch trigger reach is a good nominal even for quite long fingers. The design of the recoil shoulder on some custom stocks can be adverse for good DA shooting. Recoil shoulders are designed to spread the recoil energy of heavy field loads; on a hunting handgun, where most shots are fired in the single-action mode, trigger reach

Custom Wood Inc. features matched graining and clearance for speed-loaders. Model shown is Rosewood but available in 4 other woods.

problems are negligible. Recoil shoulders serve no effective purpose on a combat DA revolver, however, unless the shooter's hands resemble those of King Kong.

Autopistol stocks generally involve no innovational trends. The slab-sided nature of autopistol handles don't provide the need or opportunity for contoured-shape designs. Pachmayr has come out with a material improvement for autopistol stocks molded from supple rubber material. Grip shape is maintained by rigid inserts placed in the mold prior to injection. The shape of these grips is not radical, but the rubber surfaces provide a nonslip, comfortable and stable interface with the hand. Use of these grips is a revelation and their popularity attests to their effectiveness on the gun! An integral front strap band carries the textured rubber surface to this important area on an autopistol grip. There is now no need to undertake expensive grooving, checkering, or metal stippling on the front strap to secure favorable recoil control. On some designs, notably for the M39, M52

Another Hogue MONOGRIP, this time in Goncalo Alves wood. Uniquely, they have no seams and no screw holes showing. No panel slippage.

## HANDGUN PROFILE

"With an almost endless variety of fine handgun stocks ..... There's probably one that's just right for you."





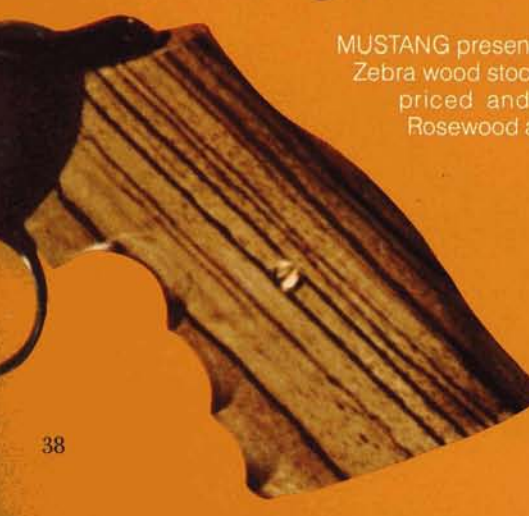
HERRETT'S Shooting Star is the home of the Jordan stock, still one of the best combat configurations ever.



SCHIERMEIER offers beautiful exotic woods and delicately cut laser designs that must be actually seen to believe.



PACHMAYR molded rubber grips are the last word in non-slip, combat-styling. Designs are for autos and revolvers.



MUSTANG presents their combat Zebra wood stocks. Moderately priced and available in Rosewood and Walnut too.

and the Browning Hi-Power, a slip-on textured rubber cover is provided for the spring housing, completing the encirclement of the handle with rubber. The result must be experienced to be fully appreciated.

Problems created by inadequate revolver stocks are more easily remedied by design solutions. And, since many more revolvers are sold than autopistols, the market opportunities in revolver stock making justify the greater commercial efforts. When we talk about custom stocks, we really mean revolver stocks. Design features are so prolific, they become a source of confusion to the average handgunner. To better understand how and why the modern handgun stock has evolved, we shall look at the factory stocks available on today's revolver.

An important consideration for any grip used on a combat revolver or tournament gun is speedloader use. These devices need extra clearance on the left hand side without reducing effective recoil shoulder width. Hogue combat stocks have had this relief for years, while many custom makers have only recently begun to recognize the need. Even some factory stocks are beginning to show signs of reform. A speedloader clearance must do two things: first it must allow unobstructed manipulation of the speedloader during a recharge; second, it must not allow empty cases to hang up on the wood ledge of the stock. Merely saying that the stock is "fully" relieved does not guarantee positive functioning. Caveat Emptor! Try before you buy!

Revolver stock shapes traditionally have been dominated by the shape of the metal frame straps on the gun itself. The stocks are made like two slabs to mount over these frame straps. Gun handle frames carry over a traditional flavor which developed during the last century. The straps are flaired at the bottom in a kind of bell shape for nearly all the leading production revolvers. This configuration produced too small a girth at the top of the grip and too great a circumference at the bottom. In the early days, revolver shooting involved all kinds of bent wrist stances that were inadequate so not too much thinking was done regarding the shape itself. As formal, scientific handgun target shooting developed in the second quarter of this century, the inadequateness of stock shapes produced a spate of adaptor shoes designed to fill the area between the trigger guard and the upper front strap. These hard rubber adaptors increased middle finger girth and lowered the front finger hold, allowing realignment of the web of the hand higher on the backstrap. A high hand grip is desirable for recoil control and stability of the hand hold; among other things, this hand set lowered the effective boreline vis-a-vis the hand. This technique increased overall efficiency and handling control.

Finally, formal target grips evolved replete with thumb rests, dramatic flairs, handfilling swells, and front strap adaptors built in. The idea for these stocks was to create an envelope shape molded to the hand. These grips solved many hand-to-gun interface problems, but created many other problems of their own. These "thumbrest" stocks were not really practical for field use or duty situations where the gun had to be holstered and handled quickly and efficiently. Also, they were not designed for two-hand shooting stances. Police and sportsmen were still out in the cold with no effective replacements for the factory stocks.

Steve Herrett was one of the first makers to bring out a line of handgun stocks suited to the practical pistol shooter's needs. A form-follows-function theme produced a look and feel that has been popular over several decades. Herrett's (Box 741, Twin Falls, Idaho 83301) has one of the most extensive lines of off-the-shelf specialty stocks. Herrett's two main lines are the



Shooting Star and Shooting Ace designs. Shooting Stars are full-sized designs that feature a "memory groove" that gently separates the trigger finger from the middle finger. A filler behind the trigger guard provides a big girth for the middle finger while over-sized back strap coverage gives a handfilling, recoil absorbing section. This style comes with an open back which is preferred for combat and service handguns.

Herrett's quality has always been high. The stocks are precision made and a good deal of machine processing is evident in profiling, inletting, shaping, and checkering. There is very little variation among over-the-counter stock sets produced by Herrett's. Frame fitting is accurate and consistent, woods are selected for straight grain and color. A presentation



Pachmayr Signature stocks are checkered for a really secure grip. Wrap around stippling eliminates gun fumbling when coming out of your rig fast.

The squarish recoil shoulder could cause bruising of the large joint of the thumb if you happened to have small hands. Check out — don't buy on looks alone.



grade is available with a smooth finish and fancy wood grain.

The Shooting Ace stocks introduced a few years back are compact and concealable with full fields of fine line checkering. The closed back, compact design is especially well adapted to small frame guns, providing a solid handhold and a good configuration for point shooting.

Herrett's is the home of the Jordan stocks, still one of the best combat configurations available. The custom touches available in this style render it well suited to most any hand size. Bill Jordan's original design remains unaltered through the years, mute testimony to the integrity of both the design and the maker.

Mustang Grips (Box 214, Temecula, Ca. 92390) has been a growth company since it started in Al Lang's garage in 1954. Success is measured by a recent move into a new 20,000 square foot factory space, just double the size of the former structure that was occupied only a few years ago. Mustang has provided a simple, functional, straightforward set of designs to meet the shooter's needs. Following the trend toward "dehorning" target grips, Mustang's shapes reveal functional values and an understanding of what a stock has to do to work in the shooter's favor. Basic revolver styles include closed back and open models with or without finger grooves. Stocks come with or without bottom flairs; no flairs are on concealment small frame stocks or combat grips for the larger frame guns. The Mustang line includes a selection of slab side autopistol stocks. All models come in either rosewood, walnut, or zebrawood. Prices run in the moderate range from \$22.00 to \$30.00, depending on wood selection and checkering options.



Schiermeier has revived the traditional thumbrest to produce a very functional two-hand grip for the Contender. These are primarily for field use, not combat.

Pachmayr Gun Works (1220 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, Ca. 90015) has introduced their Signature line of molded rubber stocks for autopistols as well as revolvers. These are unique, providing nonslip checkered surfaces and are especially comfortable to the hand because of a slightly resilient quality imparted by the molded rubber. These stocks are adaptable to a number of handsizes and shooting techniques. They make the best stocks for autopistol combat use; duty officers will appreciate the jet black color. A variety of shapes and sizes fit most all gun frames. The revolver stocks are all closed back design and may cause a change in point shooting impact; shooters should note this since some compensation in wrist set may be needed to center groups on the target.

Custom Wood, Inc. (Box 117, Westbrook, Conn. 06498) recently introduced a line of combat style stocks that come with closed back or open back and recoil shoulder designs. Samples came in walnut and rosewood and were attractive, well-finished pieces, with a durable looking satin finish. These designs have understated finger grooves with simple, handfilling shapes. The bottom butt shape is tapered; the center area of the grip has a handfilling generous palm swell of continuous arc. Recoil shoulders are squared with rounded corners; these are surprisingly comfortable, but may cause some smaller shooting hands grief with lots of heavy loads. The vulnerable place is where the large joint of the thumb engages the corner of the recoil shoulder. My medium-sized hands had no difficulty, but it's something to check out on any grip configuration before buying.

Schiermeier Grips (Box 704, Twin



Shoulders are designed to spread recoil force, but may only be necessary for hot field loads. Very large hands may need the extra wood.



Falls, Idaho 83301) recently started business with a contoured, thumb rest, two-hand stock for the Thompson/Center Contender. This very functional two-hand grip shape designed strictly for field shooting is complemented by a stylish schnabel forend piece. These stocks will soon be offered with optional laser carved scenes, a first in the industry. Ted Schiermeier is one of the innovators in this business and has adapted his contoured stocks to several of the guns most frequently used by handgun hunters (e.g., Ruger Blackhawk, Colt Python, and the N and K frame Smith and Wesson revolvers).

Hogue Combat Grips (Box 460, Morro Bay, Ca. 93442) has enjoyed a reputation as the premier combat stock maker in terms of functional shape, finish, and aesthetics. Hogue ranks at the top of the industry in terms of innovational ability and his line has evolved into a sophisticated set of stocks that answer most all of the problems of hand fit. His stocks are recognized by many serious competitors in the PPC circuit as well as combat league shooting. For duty use, there is no more functional grip than those furnished by this firm.

Hogue has now surmounted the problems associated with two-piece stock de-

signs. He has changed over his design pattern to a new one-piece variety called MONOGRIP<sup>TM</sup>. These one-piece designs slip on the butt from below and are secured by a screw into a special stirrup adaptor device. There are no holes in the sides of the stock. There is no seam, no grip slippage or annoying panel displacement. "Monogrip" is the biggest thing for the handgunner since sliced bread and it is another "first" from a long line of innovations by Hogue. The whole idea is patented and will be making big news in handgunning in the near future. A special article is in progress describing the whole system in detail.

Hogue's stocks are available in both handmade hardwood and molded models made from reinforced Nylon. The famous Hogue orthopedic hand fit is now available in a rugged, quality Nylon line furnished at competitive prices.

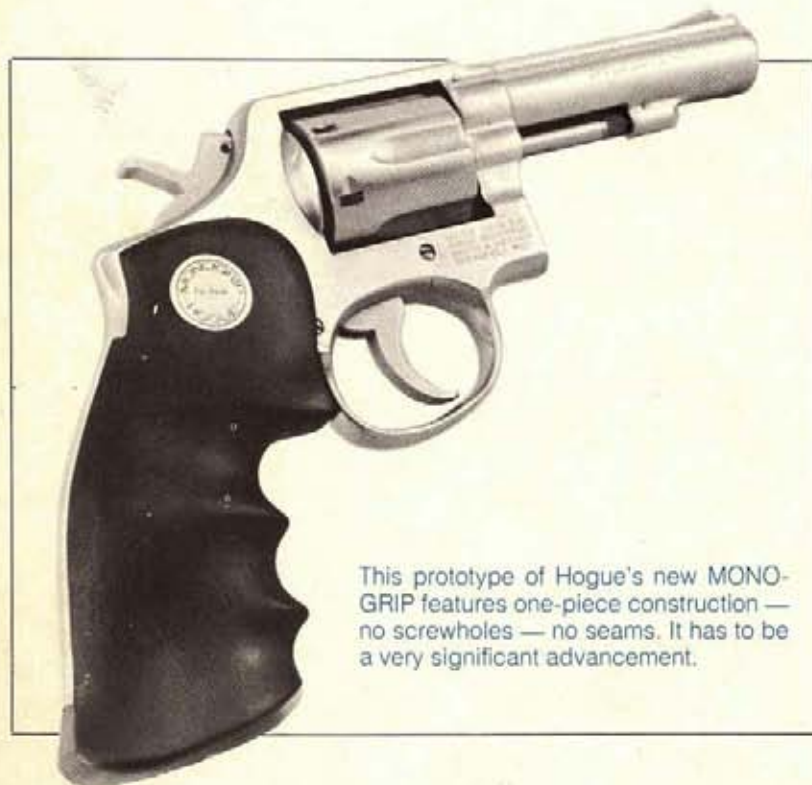
Readers often complain about being confused by the different makes of handgun stocks. What features are really important? How does one judge quality? Why should the extra money be spent for "custom" stocks? In answer to the last question, many buyers merely want to personalize their gun with an attractive or exotic wood set; a point of pride. But along with this rationale, the shooter

should gain some improvement in performance to fully justify the purchase.

Hand fit is paramount. The stocks should fit the contours of the hand without high spot sensations. Even gripping pressure is important for confidence and control, repeatability of gripping, uniform gripping pressure, follow-through, etc. It is not so much a matter of making a "perfect" stock, but eliminating distractions. Many stock designs can accomplish this goal if they are fitted properly to the individual hand. However, some designs are so universal in their application they do a better job of fitting on nearly *all* hand shapes and sizes.

Among other things, the trigger reach must be comfortable. This is especially important for DA shooting. Purchase of a stock with a recoil shoulder design may increase the reach and reduce the effectiveness during DA shooting. Don't buy a recoil shoulder just to have the thing. A properly designed open back stock will distribute recoil forces adequately for all but the most powerful field and game hunting loads in large magnum revolvers.

Check out how well speedloaders function with a custom stock. Clearances must be ample so that no ledges interrupt the mating of the speedloader and the cylinder. Wood shape should not provide



This prototype of Hogue's new MONOGRIP features one-piece construction — no screwholes — no seams. It has to be a very significant advancement.



Herrett's Diamond D-45 with high relief checkering.



a hangup for ejected case rims as the cylinder is emptied. While this feature is especially needed for combat and duty stocks, field handgunners increasingly use speedloaders.

If finger grooves come on the stock, make sure that they fit the fingers and are not obtrusive during the grasping phase of the draw. Many makers offer the option of no finger grooves, but most shooters like the look of this design feature which is distinctively different from factory stocks. Not all makers know how to proportion and position finger grooves to minimize interference during the draw. Check out this feature critically so as to avoid disappointment.

Check also the quality of inletting and notice how solidly the stocks fit the frame. Loose tolerances and gaps around the frame straps will invite slippage later after only a few weeks of use. Not all makers' systems for inletting provide the optimum dimensions necessary to fit variable factory tolerances and still provide solid mating to the frame. Don't judge inletting merely by the smooth, clean cut router marks on the inside surfaces. Lots of short cuts can be taken in the inletting process that are not in the consumers' best interest for the long haul. Buying Hogue's new one-piece MONOGRIP

eliminates concern over frame fit.

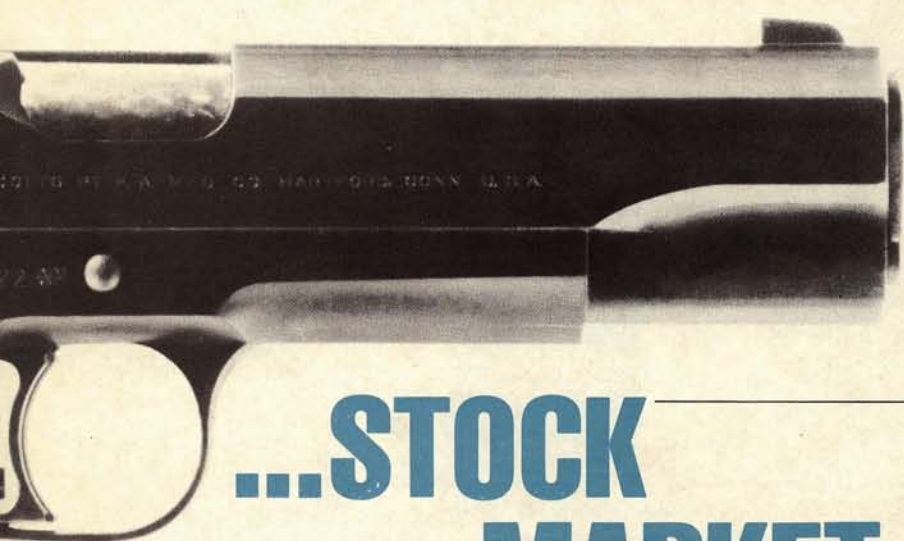
Checkering should be of good quality and located in functional patterns. Sharp cut checkering always looks good but may not be desirable when it contacts the hand. Checkered stocks on heavy recoiling guns can chafe and irritate the palm skin. For this reason, many magnum handgunners prefer smooth stocks, depending on the fundamental good shape to provide the needed stability. The best checkering designs for handgun stocks are either very fine line shallow patterns, skip line, or "English" checkering, where lines form flat top checkering intersections. Stipple designs are not generally available on handgun stocks, but provide a very functional surface pattern that can be attractive as well. Hogue's new Nylon combat stocks are a case in point.

Wood quality is an integral part of the aesthetic value of a stock, particularly in an expensive line. But much of the beauty of wood is in the eye of the beholder. Such things as the closeness of grain, pattern or figure in the wood, coloration and uniformity are things to look for in judging wood quality. The surface finish of a wooden grip should enhance the wood grain and provide a durable functional covering, and the wood surface should be free of sanding marks. All of

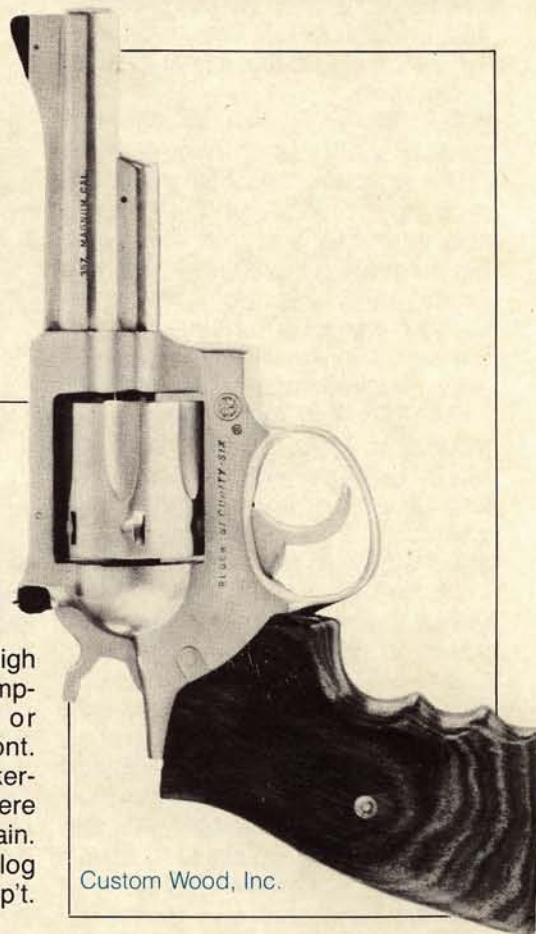
these qualities will be present in a high-grade stock.

Purchase of replacement stocks is a growing trend among serious shooters. The variations in choice seem mind-boggling. However, consumers gain confidence as they realize how to classify and judge the various stock styles and functional features. The actual tryout of several stock designs before making a purchase is recommended, so each handgunner can decide what features work best. Contacting friends and dealers who have various designs in stock is a good way to get grounded in the fundamentals. Advice of well-intentioned people may not be what will please the buyer personally. Most people are missionaries for their own choices hoping to influence other people, thereby reinforcing their own judgments. Always try a new stock on a gun similar to the one the buyer will be using. Some designs work very well on a Colt, but maybe not so well on a Smith and Wesson, etc.

The right choices made for custom stocks will lead to a satisfaction in shooting unmatched by most other kinds of shooting accessory purchases. It is all a matter of taking a little time to seek out the right alternatives and knowing what is wanted and needed.



## ...STOCK MARKET...



Custom Wood, Inc.

Variety's the very spice of life, that gives it all its flavour. So said William Cowper in the 18th Century. Though we may become jaded in our gripes about today's products, never let it be said that we don't have variety in our choice of handgun stocks. Pistoleros of yesteryear, eat your heart out.

HERRETT'S: Genuine walnut with exotic names like Shooting Stars, Camp Perry, Shooting Ace head the AMERICAN HANDGUNNER • SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1978

list. For Rugers, Colts, S&W's, High Standards, Charter Arms, or Thompson Contenders. Revolvers or Autos—they cover the waterfront. What's your pleasure? Skip checkering, high relief, or smooth, and there are round butt and square. Like plain. Like thumbrests? Ask for Catalog 316, HERRETT'S, Box 741, Dep't. AH, Twin Falls, Idaho, 83301.

ROBERT H. NEWELL: These fine presentation-grade stocks use fancy



American and exotic woods. You can have either right or left hand outlines; automatic or revolver in rich Ebony, Walnut, Coco Bola, Burl Maple, Circassian or Madrone. If you like finger rests or thumbrests, split-pattern checkering, skip checkering just ask. Or does the palm swell (both sides) turn you on? For their catalog write: 55 Coyote Street, Dep't. AH, Los Alamos, New Mexico, 87544.

FITZ: Remember this company's very popular Duramite stocks? Well the big news is a new "Accu-Riser" stock of tropical hardwood made to ISU specs. The line includes Smith & Wesson, Colt, High Standard and Ruger. Other makes on special request. Just send stamped self-addressed envelope to P.O. BOX 49697, Dep't. AH, Los Angeles, Ca., 90049.

SCHIERMEIER: What about Laser-engraved handgun stocks? This new breakthrough gives the artist the ability to create intricate, beautiful designs never before possible. Elegant hand-craftsmanship for the Contender, Smith & Wesson, Colt, and for Single Action Rugers. The top American Walnut with high relief makes a great gripping surface. Send a dollar bill to: Box 704, Dep't. AH, Twin Falls, Idaho, 83301 for their fine catalog.

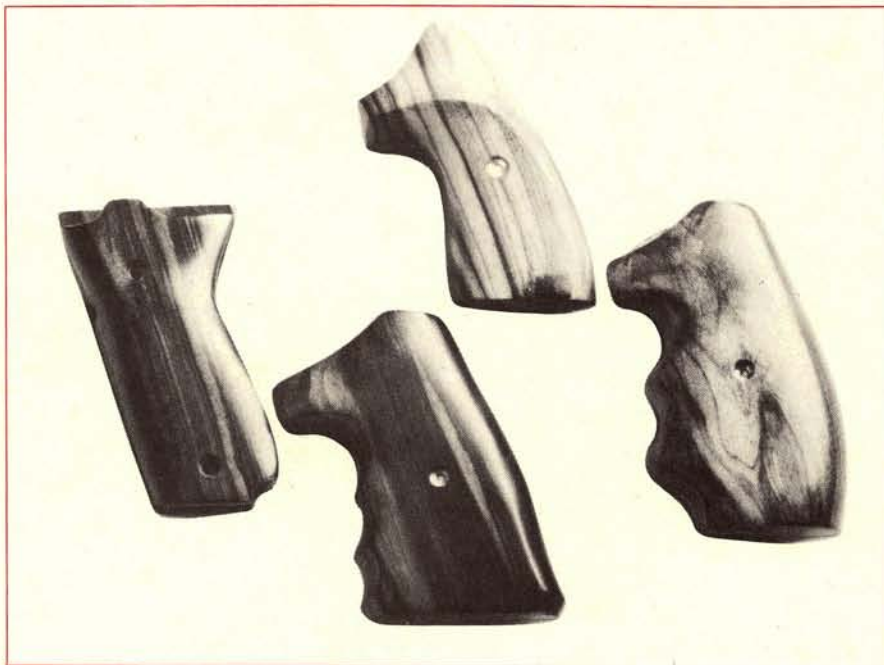
CUSTOM WOOD, INC.: Want to really beautify that "K" frame S&W, your Ruger Security Six or Charter Arms revolver? Take your choice and select from Zebra, Goncalo Alves, Rosewood, Fancy Walnut or Walnut. All stocks will accommodate most speed loaders on the market today. For catalog write: P.O. Box 117, Dep't. AH, Westbrook, Conn., 06498.

GALEF: Now the exclusive distributor for a new and extensive line of Monte Carlo pistol stocks, Galef can promise you handsomely grained, exotic Philippine Bolong wood that is oil finished and rubbed to a fine glow. You can choose target, combat round bottom and square bottom models. For Smiths, Colts and Ruger's Security Six. Write 85 Chambers Street, Dep't. AH, New York, N.Y., 10007.

ART JEWEL ENTERPRISES: As if Ivory wasn't scarce enough. How about hand-carved Ivory? No machines-handcrafted including animal scenes are now available. Or maybe you like Rosewood or Teakwood in relief or plain. Grips are hand-fitted to frames. Write P.O. Box 819, Dep't.



This Mustang model on the S&W 19 gives support at top where it is most needed.



Target, combat-round and combat square by Galef.

AH, Berkley, Illinois, 60163.

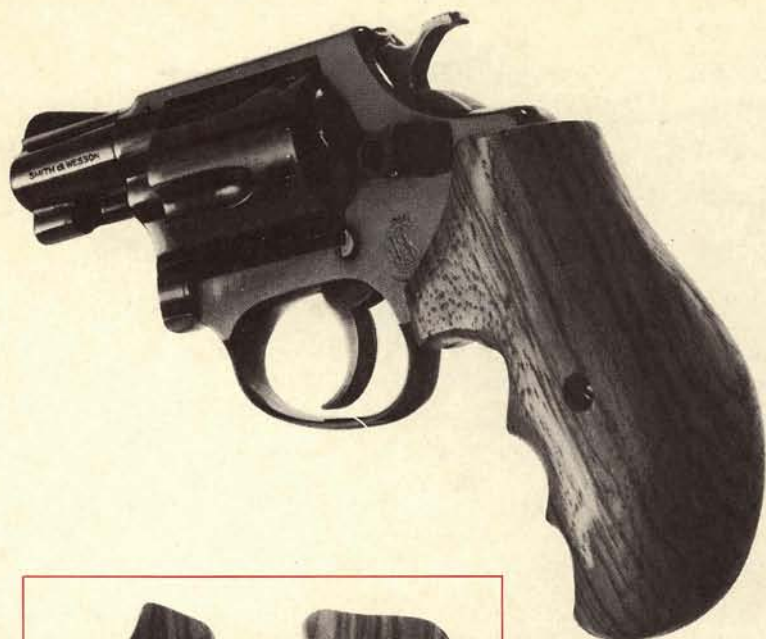
FUZZY FARRANT: For the custom trade—the pistoleros who insist on practically designing the stock to his exact specs. Coco Bolo, Rosewood, Goncola Alves and Pau Ferro are offered with palm swells in plain or checkered designs. Designed to keep your hand from climbing during recoil. Write 1235 W. Vine, Dep't. AH, West Covina, California, 91790.

MUSTANG: The variety is endless for Colt, Ruger, Dan Wesson and Smith & Wesson. Rosewood, Walnut

and Zebra-wood. Checkering, smooth, finger grooves for square and round butt designs. They've got your number if it's Single Action, Double Action or an Automatic. Top shooters like Jerry Doyle, Tom Gaines or Bill Davis are there to help. Write P.O. Box 214, Dep't. AH, Temecula, CA, 92390.

SOUTHERN GUN EXCHANGE: Formerly known as "Outrider," here's a company that specializes in genuine stag. Designs for Autos, Single and Double Actions is the





Above: Mustang's Zebra Wood on a Chief's Special.

Left: Fuzzy Farrant's the guy for custom stocks that control recoil.



Laser-engraved for fantastic gripping surfaces by Schiermeier.

Grip" is comfortable and convenient and winning acceptance everywhere. For Colt, S&W and Charter Arms revolvers. No leather; you just hook it inside your pants' waistband. Write 6250 E. Seven Mile Road, Dep't. AH, Detroit, Mich. 48234.

PACHMAYR: If you're looking for the ultimate in a non-slip stock for getting that handgun out fast with no fumbling—you're looking for Signature or Presentation stocks from Pachmayr. For most Charter Arms, Colt, S&W, and Ruger double actions. Or in Autos there are models for Colt, S&W, Browning and Walther. Write 1220 So. Grand Ave., Dep't. AH, Los Angeles, CA, 90015.

SILE DISTRIBUTORS: Here's the biggy if you realize that they sell some 1½ million grips a year. A truly extensive line, and proof of this is that besides covering the usual name brands, they also have the Luger and Walther replacement grips. Thumbrests, finger grooves, you name it; to quote a Sile executive, "If we don't have it, it probably isn't made." To make them prove it write: 7 Center Market Place, Dep't. AH, New York, N.Y., 10013.

SPORTS, INC. has been supplying replacement stocks for handguns for longer than most can remember. Their Franzite brand of plastic stocks are made for just about every handgun manufactured. Write: Sports, Inc., Dep't. AH, P.O. Box 683, Park Ridge, Ill. 60068.

JAY SCOTT, now a part of Colt Firearms, offers a wide variety of handgun stocks. Their Armarc laminated grips make excellent replacements. Their wood grips, offered in walnut or Zebra, checkered or plain, come in Gunfighter, Trophy or Expert styles to fit most popular handguns. Write: Colt Firearms, 150 Huyslope Ave., Dep't. AH, Hartford, CT 06102.

name of this game. For those of you that have been waiting, here is your chance. Ivory grips also available. Write 4311 N.E. Expressway, Dep't. AH, Atlanta, Doraville, GA., 30340.

HOGUE: Extremely functional grip for PPC or duty use. Available in handmade hardwood or molded Nylon models. Their one-piece MONOGRIP™ slips on the butt from below. There are no holes in the sides of the grip. There are no seams and no grip slippage. Write Box 460, Dep't. AH, Morro Bay, CA, 93442.

ROGERS: For sport or law enforcement, these combat stocks are hand-rubbed with the beauty of wood and the strength of space age synthetics. They are checkered and designed for better recoil control. No alterations are necessary for speed loader usage. Write 10601 Theresa Drive, Dep't. AH, Jacksonville, Fla., 32216.

BARAMI: This is the one made of high-impact plastic that hooks to your belt by just having an elongated grip panel. A clever innovation, the "Hip

At the last minute, we received samples of some new laser-engraved walnut stocks from Custom Design, 256 Vera Dr., Redwood City, CA 94061. Now available for the .45 Auto, there will soon be versions for the Smith 9's and large frame S&W revolvers. There are three different designs available, and prices run from about \$24 to \$35. Groups who want their own design can contact this firm for details.





After extensive testing I can safely say Thompson/Centers new Super Fourteen guns are just that: Super! The guns were designed for the Metallic Silhouette market and will fill the bill for that usage nicely. In addition, they will find extended usage on varmints and big game. They put out. The only handguns that will stay with them on the scores of accuracy, velocity and energy are custom guns built on either the T/C frame or the excellent Remington XP-100 action.

The initial calibers offered are .41 Magnum, .44 Magnum, .30 Herrett, .30-30, .357 Herrett and .35 Remington. Accuracy wise, all of them are capable of being 40 target guns. That is, they are all accurate enough to hit all targets of the 40 target Handgun Metallic target course. Powerwise—I have my doubts about some of the calibers being 100% on “hard set” ram targets.

Essentially the Super 14 is a standard T/C Contender frame. Add Herretts “Controller” stocks, a 14” untapered bull barrel, wide beavertail fore end and a terrific set of adjustable sights, and you have a Super 14.

Handgun Metallic Silhouette shooting is a relatively new sport and has been growing at a rapid rate. The governing body is the International Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association. (John Adams, Box 1458, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266) It costs 12 bucks a year for a membership.



For your 12 bucks you get: a membership card; a set of scale templates for making full size official targets; a handsome patch with the symbol of IHMSA and a year's subscription to the Silhouette. The Silhouette is a bi-monthly paper (last issue 28 pages) to keep you advised of matches, match results, rules, guns, loads, bullets etc. It is strictly devoted to handgun silhouette shooting.

Targets are made of steel. Chickens, shot at 50 meters and Pigs (100 meters) are one-half inch thick. Turkeys (150 meters) and Rams (200 meters) are cut from three-eighths inch thick steel. Ten shots at each distance (usually in two series of five) comprise a 40 shot match. Targets must be knocked down to count as a hit. Merely a bullet splash on the black painted target and the resultant

14" T/C		.30-.30 Primers 8½-120		Temp. 35-40
Powder	Amt.	Bullet	Vel. (FPS)	Variation
WW-748	36.0	150 WW	2045*	45
WW-748	38.0	150 WW	2185*	44
RE-11	36.0	130 Speer	2195*	59
RE-11	32.0	150 WW	1980*	26
RE-11	36.0	150 WW	2248*	1 shot
RE-11	38.0	150 WW	2408*	54
N-200	33.0	150 WW	2309**	91
N-200	36.0	150 WW	2635**	54

\*WW cases

\*\*Remington cases

“smack” counts as a miss. Any position you want to shoot from except the utilization of an artificial rest is OK.

The classification system has been set as follows:

#### *Production gun*

Class AAA 30+

Class AA 21-29

Class A 11-20

Class B 0-10

#### *Modified Production*

Open Class

#### *Unlimited*

AAA 35+

AA 34 and under

Plenty of competition is available in any category with any gun.

# Super “4 Teens”

By J.D. JONES

*“An in-depth look at the Thompson Contender with 14” barrel. Here’s the metallic silhouette shooter’s dream.”*

Anyone interested and having a .357 Magnum or larger caliber pistol should give it a try. .357, .41 and .44 Magnum revolvers can be competitive, and a lot of fun to shoot the silhouettes with—and some guys are shooting some fantastic scores with them.

The Super 14 however is a gun designed for the metallic silhouette game, and is a more competitive gun than any revolver can be. It can be shot in “Production” class, and stepped up to “Production Modified,” and “Unlimited,” and be competitive in all categories.

I’ve shot the .44 Magnum, .30-30, .357 Herrett and .35 Remington a great deal. I’ve no experience with the 14 inch .30 Herrett and .41 Mag as yet, and must draw my conclusions about them from the 10 inch guns.

First—the .30-30, .357 Herrett and .35 Remington are the most competitive factory guns now available because they have the necessary combination of inherent accuracy; sights to make the inherent



### .357 Herrett

14" T/C	Cases Rem.	Primers 8½-120	Temp. 30-40°
Grains	Powder	Bullet	Avg. Vel. (FPS) Variation (FPS)
29.0	N-200	200 WW	1743 95
31.4	N-200	200 WW	1862 85
34.0	N-200	200 WW	2049 12
34.0	N-200	200 Hornady Spire	2074 18
35.7	N-200	200 WW	2131 Max 3
35.7	N-200	180 Speer	2179 Max 10
32.5	H-4227	125 Hornady HP	2492 13
32.0	H-4227	140 Speer HP	2455 17
29.0	H-4227	158 Hornady SP	2251 10
27.0	H-4227	158 Hornady SP	1918 Fire form 53
27.5	H-4227	180 Speer	2042 55
27.5	H-4227	180 Speer	2088
31.0	4198	180 Speer	2089
30.5	WW-680	180 Speer	2189
30.5	WW-680	180 Speer	2033—My 10" 54

Temperatures warmer  
T/Cs gun &  
chronograph.

### .357 Herrett 14" T/C

Primers CCI Magnum Large Rifle.			Cases Remington.	Temp. 45-50°
Powder	Amt.	Bullet	Avg. Vel. (FPS)	Variation (FPS)
4198	32.0	200 Hornady	2043	63
4198	32.0	180 Speer	2099	39
4198	28.0	200 Hornady	1792	82
680	32.0	200 Hornady	2152	47
680	33.0	180 Speer	2308	30
680	35.4	158 Hornady SP	2461	79
680	30.0	180 Speer	2150	30
680	30.0	200 Hornady	2010	121

O.A.L. 158 — 2.160  
180 — 2.330  
200RN — 2.410  
200SP — 2.515

14" T/C	W-W cases				Temp. 30-40°
Primer	Grains	Powder	Bullet	Avg. Vel. (FPS)	Var. (FPS)
CCI	30.0	4198	200 Hornady RN	1785	91
Magnum	34.0	4198	200 Hornady RN	2015	95
Large	34.0	4198	200 Hornady Spire	2085	106
Rifle	37.5	4198	200 Hornady RN	2255	43 Max
	38.5	4198	180 Speer	2361	38 Max
	34.0	4198	158 Hornady SP	2149	79
	34.5	WW-680	158 Hornady SP	2355	41
	37.0	WW-680	158 Hornady SP	2547 Max	20
8½-120	42.0	RE-11	200 WW	2028 Max	55
8½-120	30.2	WW-680	200 WW	1865	32
8½-120	32.5	WW-680	200 WW	2078	54
8½-120	35.5	WW-680	200 WW	2249 Max	40
8½-120	40.0	H-4895	200 WW	1835 Max	11
8½-120	30.5	N-200	200 WW	1681	30
8½-120	34.0	N-200	200 WW	1985	63
8½-120	39.5	N-200	200 WW	2224 Max	29
8½-120	40.5	N-200	180 Speer	2334 Max	14
	WW Factory		200 P.P.	1752	28
	Federal Factory		200 SP	1655	17

O.A.L. 180 — 2.510"  
200 RN — 2.575"  
200 Spire — 2.765"  
250 S.T. — 2.830"

accuracy useful, high enough velocity to enable the shooter to use one sight setting for *all* distances, and possess enough punch to knock down the ram targets with *any* full caliber hit—provided a proper load is used.

A great deal of variation exists in target steel, weight, support (stand) and placement of the target on the stand. At this point it's necessary to "hit 'em hard" to be sure of a knockdown. For example, a ram placed on a splintered railroad tie and hit low on the leg is an entirely different target to knock down than the same ram set on flat steel plate. The foot of the ram may hang up on a splinter and not slide where the "steel on steel" target may slide easily.

Bullet selection also is of a serious nature. A 150 grain thin jacketed .30-30 bullet is just the ticket for the short targets as it comes apart quite easily with little target damage. For the rams it comes apart *too* easily. A tough 165 grainer such as either the Hornady flat base or boat tail spire point holds together much better and provides considerably more push against the ram before it essentially vaporizes.

.30-30—*Extremely competitive.* It's a good choice for recoil sensitive individuals. It can be loaded to velocities that create excessive target damage on soft steel targets. You'll find it very positive on hard steel rams with the 165 grain Nosler Partition bullets at a muzzle velocity of about 2450 F.P.S. Unfortunately, this load almost penetrates mild steel rams and wouldn't be allowed. It's very positive on chickens, pigs and turkeys with 150 grain .30-30 bullets at about 2050 F.P.S. 165 grain high velocity rifle bullets at about 2250 F.P.S. (suggest 165 Hornady) are very positive on rams, and do not do excessive damage to targets. Factory 150 grain loads give excellent performance. I like the Remington 150 grain Core-Lokt factory load for rams slightly better than Federal or WW (tougher bullet). All factory 150 grain loads (Federal-Rem-WW) essentially do an excellent job. The factory 170 grainers start giving me misses on turkeys that I don't feel should be misses. The current T/C barrels have a 1 in 14 inch twist and I have never maintained top accuracy with bullets weighing over 165 grains. T/C is in the process of evaluation of the 1-14 twist and may possibly change it for better performance with 180 grain bullets. The factory 170 grain loads knock the rams down well—but I have too many misses with them. My particular barrel favors the 150 grain Federal load for accuracy. The .30-30 is probably the *only* barrel that is capable of being very competitive with factory ammo, and should be #1 for non-reloaders.

.357 Herrett—*Extremely competitive.* The recoil is considerably heavier than the .30-30 with heavy loads but should not be objectionable to seasoned shooters.



### .30-30

Primers CCI Magnum Large Rifle Cases WW Temp. 45-50°

Powder	Amt.	Bullet	Vel. (FPS)	Variation (FPS)
4198	33.0	125 Speer	2538	92
4198	35.0	125 Sierra	2684	48
4198	33.0	150 Speer	2438	64
4198	33.0	150 Hornady FMJ	2439	23
3031	35.5	168 WW HP	2238	57
3031	37.0	150 Speer	2334	71
H-4895	40.0	150 Speer	2442	27
H-4895	40.0	168 WW HP	2445	33
H-335	41.0	150 Speer	2504	70
H-335	38.0	168 WW HP	2332	27
Factory Loads				
Remington	170 gr.		2014	53
Remington	150 gr.		2029	80
Federal	150 gr.		2064	61
Federal	170 gr.		1890	22
W-W	150 gr.		2008	100
W-W	170 gr.		1972	179

Cases must be made from .30-30 brass by shortening and fire-forming. Fire form loads with 27.0-H-4227-158 Hornady S.P. are decent loads for chickens, pigs and turkeys. Heavy loads will do excessive target damage to many short targets. Max loads are positive on *hard set* rams with proper bullets. Accuracy is easy to come by with just about any load. 200 grain bullets seem slightly better than 180s for knockdown punch on rams. Sight in dead on at 200 meters, and hold 6 o'clock on shorter targets. No need to adjust sights for distance. It is ballistically about the same as the .35 Remington barrel with slightly less recoil due to burning less powder.

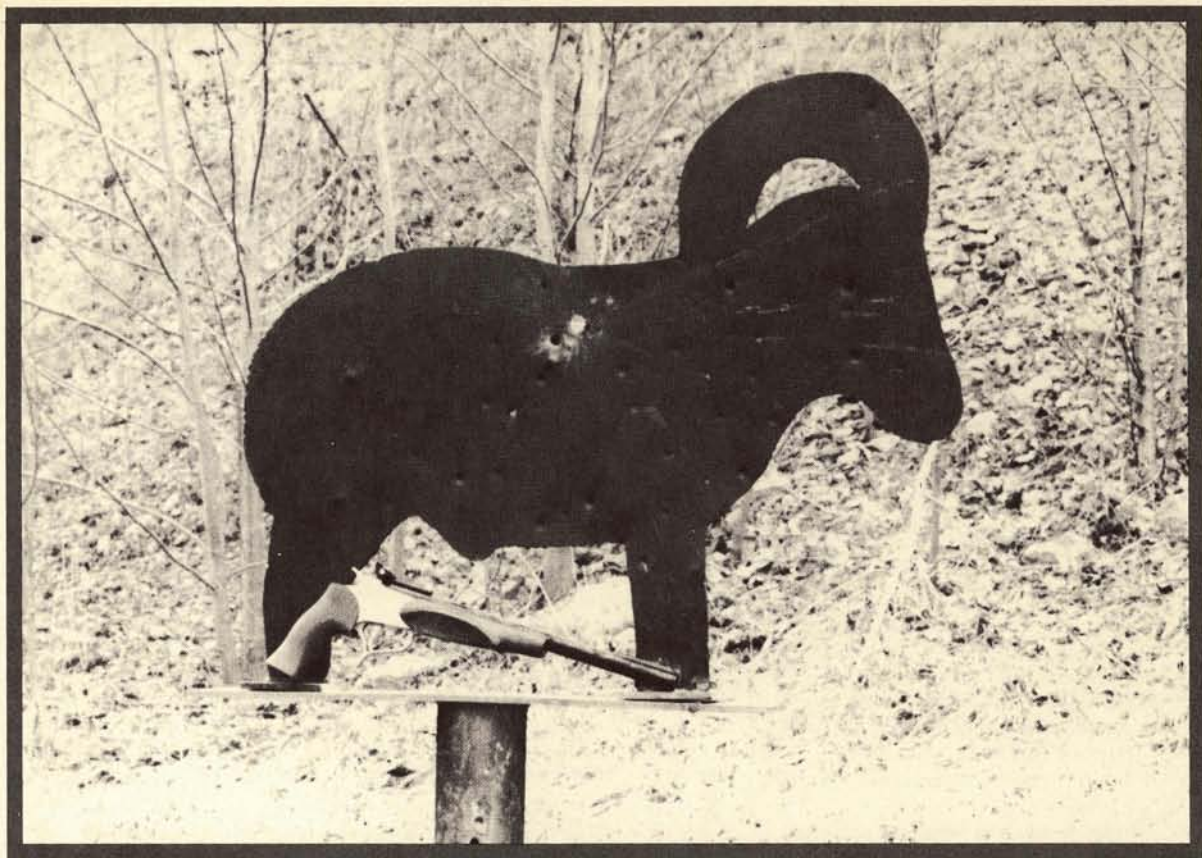
.35 Remington—*Extremely competitive*. This is much the same on the range as the .357 Herrett. Factory loads effective on normal targets. It will occasionally not knock down a *hard set* ram with a poor hit with factory loads. Factory loads are excellent on all other targets. In fact hand loads for the short targets should duplicate factory loads in order to avoid excessive target damage. Best three shot groups at 200 meters—200 grain WW Power Point—3 $\frac{3}{8}$  inch—witnessed. Personally prefer the Federal or WW load for all targets except rams. (Less target damage) Remington 200 grain Core-Lokt more positive on rams due to tougher bullet.

Best combination—Factory load or

Steel silhouettes, varmints or big game—the T/C will handle them all.







It's not enough to merely hit these steel silhouettes, they must be knocked down. Your remaining muzzle energy is critical as well as construction of your bullet.

equivalent on everything but rams—200 grain Hornady Spire Point with heavy load sighted dead on at 200 meters. (Ditto for .357 Herrett) Hold 6 o'clock on shorter targets.

The .44, .41 and .30 Herrett can be covered when enough experience is gained with them to make it worthwhile. The .44 is effective—particularly; promise is shown by the Hornady 240 grain full meter jacket prototype bullet, and a healthy dose of WW-296 pushing it.

Bullets for use in Silhouette shooting are somewhat critical in nature, and a lot more will be learned as time goes on. In the .30-30 I've settled on (at least for the time being); factory loads when I've got them except for the rams, or the 150 Hornady R.N. .30-30 bullet for the short target at about 2000 F.P.S. and either the 165 Hornady Flatbase or Boattail at about 2250 F.P.S. for rams. I'm currently favoring H-4895 powder but constantly experimenting.

In the .35s; the 200 grain Hornady R.N. seems about the softest bullet, next the WW-200 Power Point, then the 200 Remington Core-Lokt, but the 200 Hornady Spire point seems to be the toughest of them all. I've had a couple hits with the 200 grain Hornady R.N. on hard set rams from the Herrett that just left a lead splash on the ram without knocking it down. At equivalent velocities, the Hornady 200 R.N. does slightly less target

damage on short targets and I favor it for them. The W-W 200 grain factory load and Federal 200 grain factory load will occasionally splash on a ram without knocking it down. I can't comment on the Remington factory load as I haven't shot enough of them. The 200 grain Remington Core-Lokt was my favorite bullet for the rams until I tried the 200 grain Hornady Spire point. It shoots flatter than the R.N. bullets and hits harder. Sectioning the bullets after having shot a lot of them places jacket thickness order in the same order as their reliability on the rams. The same powder charge behind each of these bullets shows the Hornady 200 grain R.N. to give the lowest velocity; the W-W slightly higher, the Remington slightly higher, and the 200 Hornady Spire gives the highest velocity. Obviously as velocities go up; so do pressures. It follows that in absolute max loadings; the 200 grain Hornady R.N. can be driven faster than the others—but no one has the equipment to load in this manner. The velocity difference is only on the order of 70 F.P.S. anyway.

The T/Cs are tough guns. I loaded them progressively heavier with various powder charges and bullets until I ran into the maximum load for the combination of components for that particular barrel. All powder charges were thrown from a measure, and not individually weighed. Some powders showed a high

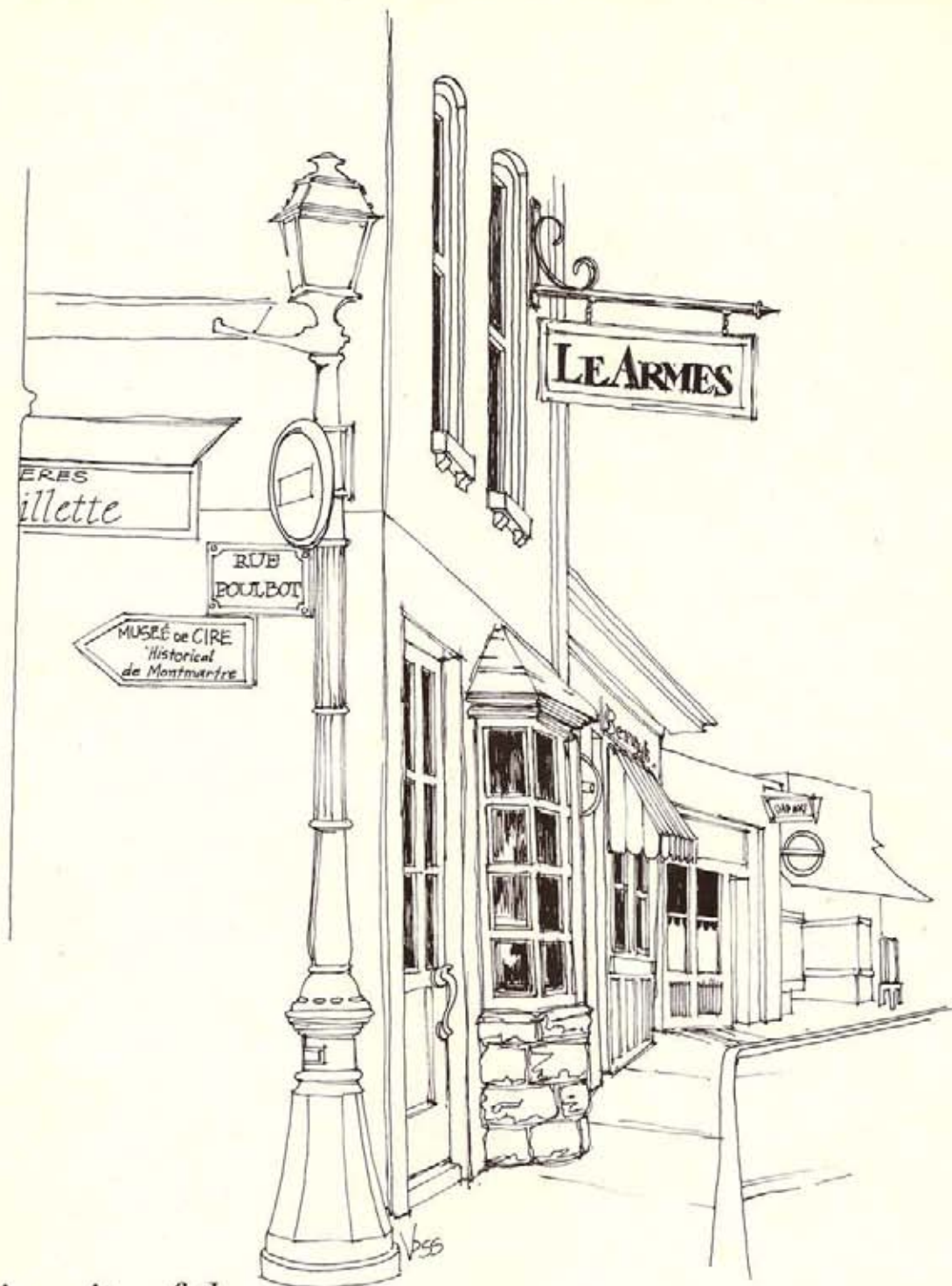
variation from shot to shot and some of it can probably be blamed on two things. (1) The powder doesn't drop from a measure very uniformly. (2) The ammo was relatively cold and barrels became too hot to touch. The guns were closed by laying the barrels across my leg. A couple seconds difference in the amount of time a round lays in a chamber that hot could have significant effect on its velocity.

*Maximum* was considered as: (1) Action sticking when an attempt was made to open the gun. (2) Excessive case sticking in the chamber i.e. The action opens part way and stops as the extractor attempts to lift the cases requiring considerable pressure to extract the case. (3) The powder charge would be *excessively* compressed by seating the bullet.

The same action was used in firing every single test round without malfunction or breakage of any sort. The only modification was the replacement of the original T/C trigger return spring with one marketed by SSK Industries (Dept. AH, Rt. 1, Della Dr., Bloomingdale, OH 43910) for \$3.65 prepaid that reduces the T/Cs trigger pull to approximately 10-16 ounces. This trigger return spring is not recommended for anything but competition. It is very easily installed by anyone. SSK also markets a heavy duty hammer spring (\$4.65) for T/Cs made prior to 12/1/77 that will reliably kick off rifle

(Continued on page 66)





*"...in spite of the  
archaic French  
handgun industry,  
imported guns,  
when available, sell  
rather well.  
American handguns  
come first;..."*

## American Handguns in France Today



Dear Jerry,

French shooters have from old time found American handguns attractive, yet these are not very common in France. The right to keep arms is strictly limited and was severely restricted in August 1939.

Until 10 years ago, target practice was considered as a pastime for nitwits. Things have improved in the past 10 years; yet target shooting is not really popular. 50,000 shooters are members of the United Shooting Clubs (F.F.T., *fédération française de tir*), but game shooters are far more numerous: there are 2 million of them, out of a 50 million population. In fact there are a lot of unregistered target shooters who, living in quiet out of the way places, have their own private shooting ranges, or do some plinking in lonely fields or forests. These men just hate the idea of their names being filed by the police. The very idea citizens may own firearms has been giving the French police nightmares for centuries. The French police consider there may be one million illegally owned firearms in France; I think there must be more.

It is quite reasonable to expect French firearms control to influence the gun import trade. Under this legislation; all revolvers are considered as defensive firearms, so are semi-automatic pistols including .32 ACP and excepting larger caliber (1). A license to purchase them is not easily obtained. Larger caliber are considered as "war material," and getting a license to purchase them is extremely difficult.

Each target shooter may apply for license to buy 3 large bore C.F. and 3 .22 RF handguns. This may appear fair enough, but just think of all the forms to fill and horrified faces to confront. This license to buy a handgun is not valid after 3 months and must be renewed if the holder has not found just the handgun he wanted. A license allowing shooters to keep what firearms they have legally bought is granted at the same time; but this must be renewed every 3 years, and the poor shooters have to start the whole proceedings all over again, if their shooting club, the United Shooting Clubs and perhaps the local police station have no objection. If any license holder has complained of loud T.V.'s, barking dogs, or Black & Decker drill used after midnight, he may be considered as potentially dangerous and lose his license. He then has to sell his handguns within three months. Lots of men and women too, just give up.

One of the consequences is the decline of the French gun making industry. However, within the past 10 years, two French handguns have appeared: an automatic pistol M.A.B. P.15 (15 rounds, 9mm luger) and a revolver—the Manurhin 73. But the different French police forces absorb most of Manurhin's production, and as a consequence, gun dealers' orders are kept waiting. So that in spite of the archaic French handgun industry, imported guns, when available, sell rather well. American handguns come first; among them, Colt and Smith & Wesson are most in demand. Here as everywhere else, Colt fans look askance at S&W devotees. I certainly would not like to choose between those two favorites; as I own a war-time 1911 A1 Colt Pistol, a Smith & Wesson 22/32 Kit-Gun, and a .357 Magnum Border Patrol Colt.

Hi-Standard and Ruger are not much in demand over here; probably for financial reasons: importing anything is such a problem. Modern Iver Johnson and Harrington & Richardson are practically unknown.

Smith & Wesson sell more revolvers than Colt in France, for two main reasons: 1st, S&W revolvers are less expensive than Colts, 2nd they are more available. I should like to quote an

example: a friend of mine had ordered a 4" bbl. Colt Python revolver from a French gun dealer; he had to wait for a whole year for delivery and renew his license 3 times. Worse still, the price had gone up. As a consequence; many prospective buyers purchase whatever handguns are available, whether from Brazil, Italy or Spain.

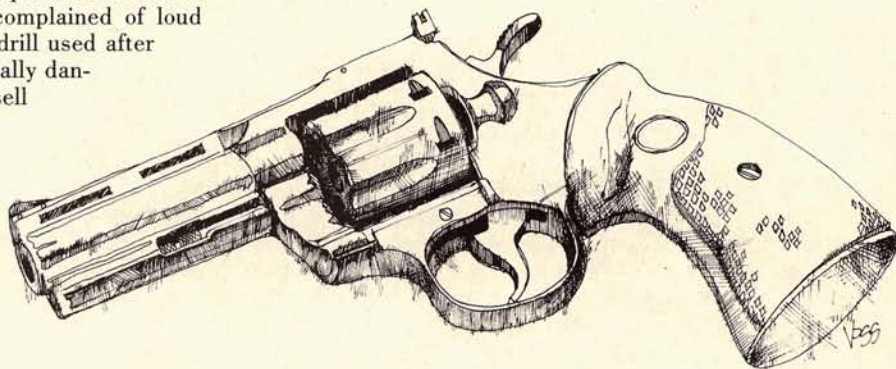
A few important shooting clubs purchase handguns for members' use. The two I know most about are the Police clubs in Paris. One is a strict Smith & Wesson addict (K.38, K.22 revolvers, M.41 pistols). Colts and Colts only are offered by the other club (Officer's Model Match, .22 LR and .38 Special). Some of the .22 have fired over 100,000 rounds and will fire more.

A growing number of shooters now buy 4" bbl., large caliber revolvers; they consider a 4" barrel handgun is more handy as a defensive weapon than a 6".

Let us now take a look at a French price list and convert prices back into dollars (1 dollar = 4.90 francs at the time of writing):  
Colt Python ..... FF 3,375 = 688 (US price 1977: 307.50)  
Colt Diamondback ..... FF 2,060 = 420 (US price 1977: 195.95)  
S&W Combat Magnum .... FF 2,198 = 488 (US price 1977: 176.00)  
S&W 14, .38 Master ..... FF 1,701 = 347 (US price 1977: 143.00)  
S&W 17, .22 Master ..... FF 1,768 = 361 (US price 1977: 143.00)  
... and Brazilian Taurus .38 special revolver, from FF 750 = 153  
Colt Government Model, .45 ACP: FF 2,190 = 447 (US price 1977: 213.50). Gold Cup National Match, FF 2,930 = 598! If they bear in mind the French price of a single .45 ACP or .357 Magnum round (50 cts), American readers may understand why comparatively few French people can afford target practice.

Reloading was practically unknown in France until five or six years ago, but things are improving in that quarter too.

Some handguns like the Auto-Mag are



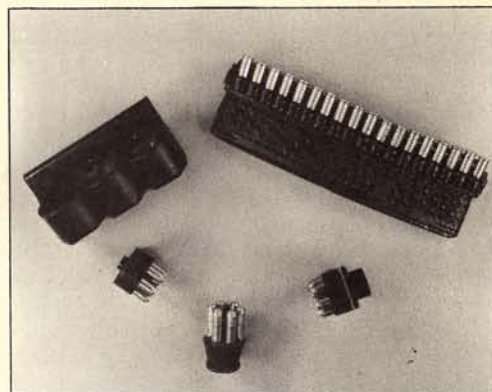
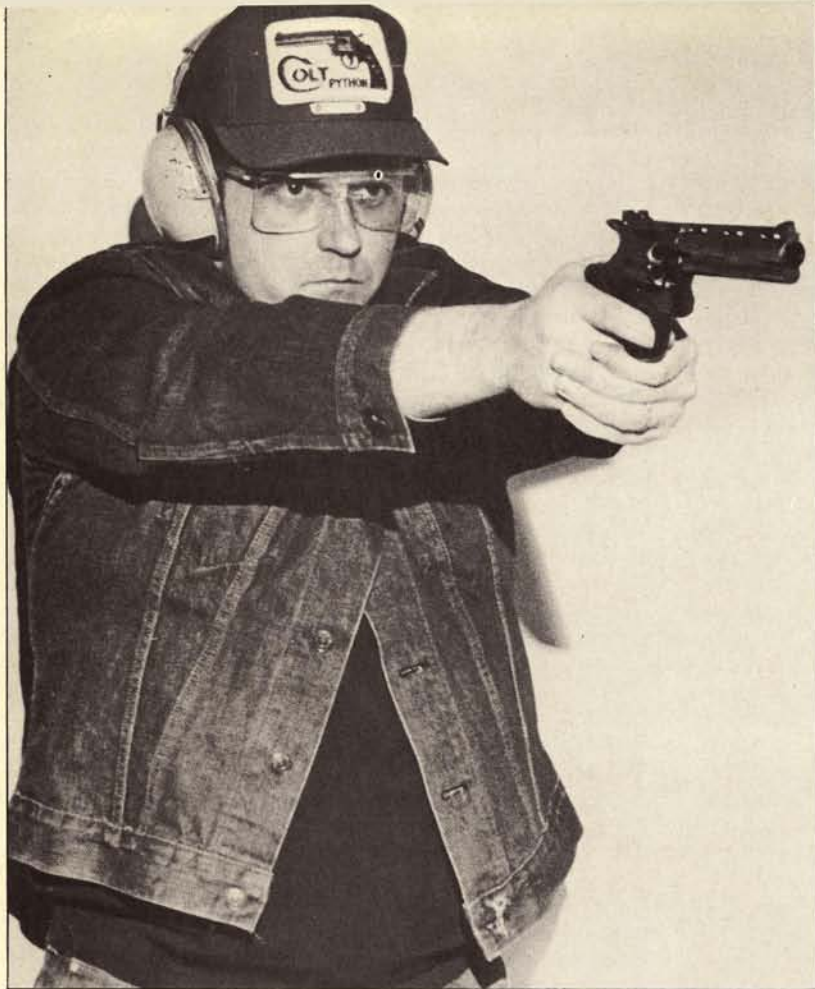
known in France only to readers of gun magazines; as a large and interesting oddity, though German and Swiss shooters might have a different attitude. The first Auto-Mag I have examined was for sale in Switzerland; the second one had been seized by Paris Police. In my opinion the A.M.T. Hardballer will not sell easily where the .45 military round is expensive and hard to come by.

Most European countries have strict gun laws but American handguns might be less expensive. France certainly holds world championship for high-priced American handguns. . .

(1) Under this obsolete classification, a .380 Beretta M. 34 is considered as war material, and a .44 Magnum as a defensive firearm.

Sincerely Yours,  
M.H. JOSSERAND  
Paris, France





Author prefers a 6" barrel. His choice is the .357 Colt Python. Speed loaders are a must and run around \$4 to \$5.

## So You Want to Shoot the PPC?

*Author tells all about equipment, costs, and where to find a range.*

By J. D. WELLER

**H**ardly a month goes by anymore without one shooting magazine or another printing at least a few words on the PPC, or Practical Pistol Course. Without taking the time to go into its good and bad points, let's just say that it is probably one of the fastest growing shooting sports around today. Like it or dislike it, it still teaches the basic fundamentals of good combat shooting. While it's true that a Hogan's Alley or IPSC course of fire may be a lot more realistic in terms of presenting a situation the police officer may encounter on the job; the fact remains that without the good basics learned in the PPC, your endeavors into the other two might turn out to be just a little embarrassing.

In spite of all the articles I've seen on the subject, I haven't seen any attempt to explain the basic equipment needed to get started; how to go about finding matches, and just how far your bank account will shrink in getting you outfitted

correctly. Well all you would-be competitors out there despair no longer! Read on—fellow shooters, and I'll try to lend a helping hand.

### Basic Equipment

A pistol, holster, belt and loaders are all you need to get started. Simple—no!

If you're a police officer, as you must be to enter NRA sanctioned matches, you probably already have most or all of the above listed items. However, it may not be the best equipment for the job of allowing you to compete, at least somewhat successfully, in the game of PPC shooting.

Let's look at the gear one item at a time, and try to get an idea of just about how much of that long green it will cost you to get started.

### There Is No Best Choice

There are many makes of revolvers on the market today, but the only ones worthy of consideration are those of major manufacturers. Colt, Ruger, S&W, and Dan Wesson, all make revolvers that can be used right out of the box with a minimum of modification.

Forget about the heavy barrel and custom goodies for the time being, unless you're a lot better heeled than the majority of us. Besides, this discussion is for beginners, remember? After learning the correct way to shoot the PPC and you

have the scores to show for it, the pistol you started with can be trundled off to the pistolsmith of your choice for the whole custom treatment. This, incidentally, is going to cost you anywhere from \$160 and up depending on who does the job. Some custom builders charge that much just to install the bull barrel and rib. That still leaves you the rest of the gun to be worked over at extra cost. Just remember, it's going to take a lot of work and range time before you're ready for that full house custom job anyway.

Try to start with a 6" barrel. This isn't to say that you can't compete with the shorter tubes, but unless your name happens to be Collins or Cirillo, the shorter tube will be somewhat of a handicap over its longer brethren.

A stock K-38, (\$153); Security-Six, (\$140); Dan Wesson 15VH-2, (\$225); or Colt Python, (\$387), will allow you to work your way into the Expert category. If you're really super-swift, you might even reach Master class.

My own personal choice is the Python. This is possibly the only one of the group that will allow you to compete against the custom pieces without too much work being done to the gun itself (i.e. heavy barrel, etc.). The only drawback to the Python is that if you have the current retail price of one just burning blisters in your hot little hand, you can purchase an entire custom PPC pistol from most of



Dan Wesson, Python, Ruger or Smith & Wesson. The choice is yours.  
Ruger is the lowest price.

#### **PISTOLSMITHS:**

Jim Clark, Rt 2, Box 22A, Keithville, La.  
71047

Greg Roberts, 305 Soquel Ave., Santa  
Cruz, Cal. 95060

Behlerts Custom Guns, 725 Lehigh Ave.,  
Union, N.J. 07083

Bill Davis, 3440 LaGrande Blvd.,  
Sacramento, Cal. 95823

#### **HOLSTERS:**

Rogers Holsters, 10601 Theresa Dr., Box  
8028, Jacksonville, Fla. 32211

Lou Reno Enterprises, Box 253,  
Okeechobee, Fla. 33472

Don Hume Leather, Box 351, Miami,  
Okla. 74354

Joe K's, 500 High St., Perth Amboy, N.J.  
08861

#### **SPEED LOADERS:**

HKS "Failsafe" Products, 132 5th St.,  
Dayton, Ky. 41064

Dade Screw Machine Works, 2319 SW 7th  
Ave., Miami, Fla. 33127

Griffis Second Six, Box 215, S. Laguna,  
Cal. 92677



the big name builders in the country, and have enough left over for the extra equipment you'll either want or need. (Bill Davis, Sacramento, Cal. offers a complete gun, built on an S&W frame, with more goodies than you can shake a stick at, for the price of \$279 complete and ready to win the Nationals.) Colt also offers a "factory tuned" model from their new custom shop at the rather stiff price of \$475.00. I was fortunate enough to obtain mine at a time when the price was reasonable; but if I were to start over again, I would probably choose another make, but only for monetary reasons.

All of the aforementioned pistols have something going for them; so I suggest you try to look at and fire one of each, then decide what's best for you.

### **Modifications**

First on the list should be a good action job. This can run anywhere from \$25 and up, depending on who you choose to do the work. Keep in mind also, that some 'smiths will charge more for a slick job on a Colt than they will on an S&W. For instance, Austin Behlert prices his action work on S&W at \$25, while the Colt goes for \$75. The Colt job includes one of his custom-made smooth combat triggers, that is a definite improvement over the standard one. The action work alone is \$50.

If you think you can skip the action

work, you'd better think again. None of the handguns of recent manufacture have what could be considered as a great trigger pull, at least none that I've seen anyway. Most of them have what I suppose could be considered a smooth DA, but they are just too damn stiff. The average pull, DA, is around 12 lbs. for most revolvers of current manufacture. Any good 'smith can get this down to around the 6-7 lb. range.

I recall a match I attended last year where a shooter was attempting to shoot his DA stages from the 25 yard line with one of the more expensive models of a major manufacturer. I say attempt, because the DA pull was so bad that the poor guy's hands actually shook while attempting to squeeze the trigger through the DA cycle. An action that stiff, in an expensive gun, is absolutely unforgivable!

Next, take a good look at your stocks. The only maker that offers an optional pair of stocks that are suitable for PPC shooting is Dan Wesson. The rest of them amount to fancy eye-catchers, good for slow, deliberate single action fire, but an abomination to the serious DA shooter. One possible exception to this is rumor of a new style of grips from S&W, which will be made with the DA shooter in mind, although I haven't seen any of these being marketed as yet.

There are many companies offering

custom combat stocks, made of wood, plastic, and God knows what else. These can run in price from \$12 to as high as \$50 in some models, depending on the maker, and what kind of wood and checkering are desired. Probably the most popular grips seen on the PPC circuit these days is the Pachmayer Presentation Model. These are made of rubber covered steel with the checkering molded in, and they retail for \$12 in most shops. I have a set of these on my Python and I wouldn't trade them for anything. (See article on handgun stocks in this issue.)

### **Good Sights Are Important**

All the pistols I've mentioned have adjustable sights, some a little better than others. While there is one standard set of sights on the Ruger and Dan Wesson, both Colt and S&W offer you a choice.

On the Python, you can opt for the Eliason rear and post front, instead of the standard Accro rear and serrated ramp front. S&W offers a variety of front sight options as well as plain or white-outlined rear blades. Behlert also makes a replacement rear sight for the Dan Wesson which offers more positive sight settings and can be ordered with the white outlined rear also. Cost is \$32 plain, and \$35 with the white outline.

Once you are hooked on PPC shooting, you can add a few points to your score with the installation of a Bo-Mar Combat





Author does not guarantee these kind of groups if you choose a Colt Python.

Rib. These are offered with the "winged" front sight and allow the shooter the option of using either the head or neck hold from the 25 and 50 yard lines. This produces a much better aiming point than trying to hold dead on the X-ring. If you've never shot at the NRA B-27 silhouette, then you can't really appreciate how difficult it is to try and locate that X-ring from the 50 yard line. The scoring rings become almost invisible at that distance unless the sun is shining directly onto the target face. This makes the high hold the only way to fly. Bo-Mar makes these ribs to fit directly over the existing front sights on all brands of revolvers mentioned. They also make one that will fit over the vent rib on the 6" Dan Wesson and Colt Python. (AUTHOR'S NOTE: The ribs for the DW and Colt Python and Ruger are awfully hard to come by at present. I have been looking for one for my own gun for two months now without success, although they are being made.)

In the matter of selecting a holster, practically any holster will do for a weapon using the standard sights. I prefer one that swivels so you can swing it out of the way while shooting from the sitting position. Special holsters are made just for PPC shooters who are using the heavy barreled guns, and you may find

that this is the route you have to take if you put a rib on yours. Rogers, Lou Reno, and Don Hume all make custom PPC holsters, and you'll find their addresses at the end of the article. These are somewhat expensive, with the Rogers being the lowest-priced model at \$26.50, and the most expensive one made by Joe K's in New Jersey topping out at around \$50 even. There used to be an old saying among the drag racing fraternity that went, "Speed costs money, how fast do you want to go?" The shooting game is no different.

One other small modification might be mentioned here. If the shooter is using wadcutter ammo, then it will be well worth the time to have your favorite gunsmith chamfer the rear of the chambers to facilitate loading the blunt rounds. Those little devils seem to take great delight in catching on the rear of the cylinder just when you're in a hurry to get them chambered. Cost for this is around \$7 or so, and well worth it.

### Speed Loaders

We now have the pistol, holster, and maybe a new set of sights. This leaves just a couple of other articles I consider a must.

It goes without saying that you should have a good set of hearing protectors. If you value your hearing, don't get caught without them. 'Nuff said!!

Last, but certainly not least, you're going to need at least three speed loaders. As with the choice of revolver, try to look at two or three different ones, and try them out if possible. Loaders by Dade, HKS, Second-Six, and Safariland are all top quality products. You'll need a belt holder also, with several companies making special competition pouches if you desire. Cost is around \$4-5 each for the loaders, and about \$12 for the pouch. Once in a while, you might run into a match where the use of speed loaders is not allowed, and you must load either from the belt or pants pocket. For matches of this type, I highly recommend the "Matchmaker 18" by Don Hume. Once this type of carrier (loop) gets broken in, it's quite easy to grab two rounds at a time and stuff them into the cylinder the same way. It isn't as fast as the speed loaders, but with a little practice you can come close. Note too, however, that the quick-loaders will not make you an automatic champion at recharging pistol cylinders, either! Like anything else, they take a lot of practice to become proficient, but this will pay off in the long run. It stands to reason that the faster you can reload, the more time you will have to get off ACCURATE shots.

### Match Information

Now that you've spent your hard-earned pay and incurred your wife's wrath, you might be wondering where you can find a place to compete. Assuming that you're a member of the NRA (if you're not, shame on you—20 lashes!), each issue of the American Rifleman lists all upcoming NRA sanctioned matches, where they're held, and who to contact for entry information.

A second source is the Police Marksman Assoc., 200 S. Hull St., Montgomery, Ala. If you're a cop and a shooter, I consider this organization a must! They publish a quarterly magazine with a smaller newsletter between issues that no PCC shooter should miss. Along with some great shooting articles, you'll find advertisements from just about every major pistolsmith in the country and more accessories than you can imagine. They also offer postal matches several times a year with a chance for some great prizes, plus lists of all regional and state matches for the upcoming year. Dues are \$15 per year and I highly recommend it.

Finally, if you can't find any matches near your home and you don't feel like driving a great distance to shoot, why not start a club or league of your own? Both of the organizations mentioned will affiliate your club with them, and the PMA will even pay part of the cost of holding your tournaments. Contact them for further details.





# Handgun Hunting

By GEORGE BREDSTEN

## WHAT'S AVAILABLE TO HUNT AND WHERE — PART I

Although the ignorant and inexperienced tend to view any handgun as an item having questionable sporting value, and few aspiring handgunners give serious consideration to the idea that a handgun can be an effective and practical primary sporting arm for hunting; the fact remains that all States, but one permit some type of handgun hunting. However, since experienced handgun hunters are not in complete accord as to which species should be hunted and what; if any, barrel length/calibre/load restrictions should apply; it should be neither surprising nor difficult to understand why there is considerable disparity between the handgun hunting regulations of the different States.

Granted, a variation in field conditions and/or other factors can undoubtedly affect the practicality of a given handgun/cartridge combination, but it is most unlikely that such conditions can vary to the extent that the extremes in State handgun hunting regulations can be objectively supported. For example; what rationale is used by State "A" which permits deer to be hunted with handguns that are chambered for the 22 Rimfire cartridge, or State "B" which permits handgunners to use only the 44 Magnum revolver with a barrel length of at least 6½-inches?

Are we to believe the deer in State "A" are so anemic, undersized/underweight and in general unaffected by any and all hunting pressure that the responsible handgun hunter can, with clear conscience, intentionally select and use a cartridge best limited to the taking of small game at short range? Are the deer in State "B" of such size and temperament that only a 44 Magnum can be depended upon to bring about a quick and humane kill? Hardly!

It is not appropriate that this column be used to voice what is but personal criticism against those States having illogical handgun hunting regulations. To do so without also suggesting possible corrective action resolves nothing, it merely adds to the already abundant bureaucratic confusion. To be both effective and meaningful, any such corrective action ought to be initiated by responsible resident handgunners of those States having negative discriminatory handgun hunting

regulations. Some of you may think such action would be pointless and perhaps even a waste of time. Not true! During the last couple of years, a few States have made important changes in their handgun hunting regulations. For example, the States of Kentucky, Tennessee and most recently Nevada now permit big game to be hunted with the handgun. These changes — for the betterment of handgun hunting — were largely brought about by the active involvement of responsible resident handgunners in the political arena.

Except where Federal law applies, there is little uniformity between the States as to how animals are classified. Such classification of animals can be as big game, small game, upland game, non-game, fur bearers, protected and/or unprotected. Thus, what is small game in one State may or may not be small game in another State. Furthermore, a species may be legal to hunt in one State while in another State it is totally protected, and in another State the same species may be hunted on private lands only! With the foregoing in mind, a capsule unofficial summary of what can be hunted with the handgun in the U.S.A. follows:

**ALABAMA:** In those counties where deer hunting with dogs is prohibited and in those counties where deer hunting with dogs is permitted, handguns may be used. In those counties where turkey hunting is permitted, handguns may be used. All other game birds and animals not otherwise provided for by regulation may be hunted with handguns.

**ALASKA:** Handguns, using centrefire ammunition, are legal for big game. Handguns are also legal for small game. Excepting beaver, furbearing animals may be taken with a handgun, if the taker is in possession of a valid TRAPPING license. No handguns may be used to take migratory waterfowl.

**ARIZONA:** Big game may be legally taken with handguns shooting 357 magnum, 38-40, 44-40, 44 Special, 45, 41 magnum or 44 magnum and all other handguns shooting centrefire rifle ammunition. Except that buffalo may not be taken with handguns. Cottontail rabbits and tree squirrels may also be taken with any handgun not prohibited; e.g., full automatic and/or tracer ammunition. Non-

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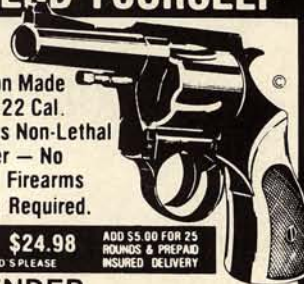


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game mammals and nongame birds, predatory and furbearing animals, except beaver, may also be taken with handguns.

**ARKANSAS:** Handguns with barrels four inches or longer in length and bore of .357 calibre or larger may be used to take deer. Handguns using ammunition larger than 22 calibre rimfire are not lawful, except during open gun deer seasons, for coyotes and bobcats. Furbearing animals may be taken only during daylight hours if using a handgun larger than 22 calibre rimfire. Migratory waterfowl may not be taken with solid ball firearms.

**CALIFORNIA:** .357 magnum, .41 magnum, .44 magnum, and other pistols or revolvers firing bullets having muzzle energy of not less than 695 foot pounds in factory loaded ammunition may be used to take only bear and wild pigs. Pistols may be used to take rabbits and squirrels — except that the use of pistols is prohibited in Los Angeles County for taking rabbits. Furbearers may be taken with handguns under proper permit from the Department of Fish and Game. Raccoon may be taken at night, but pistols no larger than 22 calibre rimfire may be used. Nongame animals may also be taken with handguns.

**COLORADO:** Handguns in 22 rimfire may be used for hunting cottontail rabbits, snowshoe hares, blue grouse, and squirrels. Handguns, using centrefire cartridges only, may be used for turkey. Any handgun may be used for non-protected game animals and nongame animals.

**CONNECTICUT:** Handguns, for raccoon or opossum, must use ammunition larger than 22 calibre. All other small game may be taken with handguns as long as hunter has a valid hunting license and permit to carry a handgun.

**DELAWARE:** Handguns not permitted for hunting protected game species, but handguns may be used to hunt unprotected species — if hunter legally possesses the handgun.

**FLORIDA:** Legal methods of taking game. Shotgun, rifle, pistol, bow and falcon. Full jacketed bullets or any rim fire cartridge prohibited for taking deer or bear. Pistols not permitted for taking migratory game birds.

**GEORGIA:** Handguns are not authorized for taking deer, but handguns are permitted for small game hunting.

**HAWAII:** Handguns are not permitted for any hunting on public hunting grounds, but handguns may be used on private land, if permission of land owner is obtained.

**IDAHO:** Handguns (larger than 22 calibre rimfire) may be used to hunt big game. The use of any 22 calibre rimfire handgun is prohibited on any game animal except cottontail and pygmy rabbits. Except as provided by regulations for the early chukar season, forest grouse and

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BY  
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turkeys, it is unlawful to use handguns for hunting upland game birds or waterfowl.

**ILLINOIS:** Species which may be taken by means of a rifle, may also be taken with a handgun — except that a muzzle loading handgun cannot be used to take deer, even though a muzzle loading rifle can be used. Non-protected wildlife may be taken with a handgun, and protected species which may be taken with a handgun are squirrel (black, gray, and fox), rabbit, raccoon, opossum, skunk, groundhog, fox and coyote.

**INDIANA:** Handguns are legal for hunting except for migratory waterfowl, deer and wild turkey. Indiana recognizes handgun permits from other States, possessed and used by non-residents under the stipulation of the permit.

**IOWA:** Handguns are not permitted for big game (deer) hunting. All other game animals and game birds (excepting waterfowl) specified in the Iowa hunting regulations may be taken with a handgun.

**KANSAS:** Handguns are illegal for taking big game, but can be used to take small game and / or predator species. Furbearers may not be hunted with a pistol larger than 22 calibre. Only 22 short or 22 long rimfire cartridges can be used; long rifle cartridges are illegal.

**KENTUCKY:** Only cartridges of the following calibres may be used in handguns for hunting deer: 30 Herrett; 357 Magnum; 357 Herrett; 357 Auto Mag; 41 Magnum; 41 Auto Mag; 44 Magnum; 44 Auto Mag; 44/40; 45 Colt (long); 45 Auto Mag; and 45 ACP. Barrel length must be 3.90 inches or longer and no full metal jacketed bullets may be used.

**LOUISIANA:** It is illegal to hunt or shoot deer with a rifle smaller than 22 calibre or shotgun loaded with anything other than buckshot or rifle slug. Handguns may be used for hunting, except that handguns are prohibited for taking turkey.

**MAINE:** Legal to hunt deer with handguns; in deer hunting, the 22 calibre rim fire magnum cartridge may be used but not the ordinary 22 rim fire cartridge. It is unlawful to hunt with or possess in the fields or forest any automatic firearms, or any auto-loading firearms whose magazine will hold more than five cartridges. Larger capacity magazines must be permanently altered to restrict capacity to five. This does not apply to 22 calibre rimfire cartridge guns or to any auto-loading pistol with barrel less than eight inches long. Raccoons may be hunted at night using a pistol or revolver of no greater power or calibre than one which uses the 22 calibre long rifle ammunition.

**MARYLAND:** Handguns are legal hunting weapons. However, may be used to hunt deer only in those counties where the use of rifles is permitted. The only handgun legal for deer is a 44 Magnum revolver having a barrel length of at least six and one-half inches.

**MASSACHUSETTS:** Handguns prohibited for use on State operated wildlife management areas during upland game bird season. Pistols and revolvers larger than 38 calibre between the hours of one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise prohibited. Pistols and revolvers not permitted for deer hunting.

**MICHIGAN:** When legally carried, animals, not protected by law, during their open seasons and in accordance with the statutes.

**MINNESOTA:** It is unlawful to use a

pistol or revolver for taking big game animals except by a disabled person possessing a permit. It is also unlawful to use a pistol or revolver for taking protected animals except by a disabled person possessing a permit. Unprotected animals may be taken with handguns.

**MISSISSIPPI:** A handgun may be used to hunt deer, squirrel, rabbit, raccoon and opossum — any calibre is legal. During the archery season on deer, no handguns may be used. To be concluded in the next issue of The American Handgunner.



# Keep On Shooting

Dear Mr. Carter:

Thank you for yr congratulations, I am proud to be an NRA Director. Some smart young men in Ohio took a survey of us nominees before the election and it told them our average age was 59. That's about right, I feel like I've aged 12 years in the 2 months I had the job. Now I know what makes them directors look so old.

Sombody on our Pistol Committee sure must have killed a ladybug to bring all this bad luck down on it con cerning just thinking about doing away with that X ring and trying a bit of International shooting. The committee's studying was just to get the Shooter's opinion. Know yr use to having things blow up in your face like this, guess the NRA's run into sech arguments ever since Mr. Hottindon (he's senior member of the Executive Council at 89, I understand) was a shirt tail boy.

Doc Sanderson, chairman of the pistol committee, is encouraging me to make me think there's some hope. But its unknown what goes on in shooter's heads. You remember your friend Luke Hall use to drown his misses and bad score at the Island House, and sell all his guns, box and scope the next morning on the line. He'd stay off shootin six months, then buy new guns at twice the price and be back at Perry the next summer.

What I want to know is can you think of anything we could do to explain this 2400 match better to them shooters? Never mind. I am gonna make peace with my soul and vote for the idea. I'm gonna leave out before middle day tomorrow for Wimauma and will tell Doc of my tenshuns of votin with him. I am goin to a funeral there and that is just what mood I'm in. It is my sister-in-laws 3rd cousin, but still makes me feel bad like it was somebody. Did you get the pineapple upside down cake my wife mailed you? Read about the problem you been having with your mail getting lost.

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## 9 MM WEBLEY

(Continued from page 26)

tol, and a relatively high price would be required in order to recover all of the development costs. Nevertheless, it is reasonable to suppose that a much healthier small arms' industry might still exist in Birmingham had the decision gone instead to the Webley & Scott Company.

No attempt was ever made to broach the commercial markets with the British 9mm pistol; as such a venture would have been very expensive for the Birmingham factory, besides which, competition from other European arms manufacturers was far too severe.

Dr. Marian Jurek remained as Development Engineer with the Webley & Scott Company for about six years; after which time he decided to establish his own workshop in Birmingham. A great deal of his later work was concerned with general gun repairing, and in constructing a series of highly accurate target pistols, many of which were designed by himself.

## DESCRIPTION

A remarkable similarity exists between the general appearance of the Webley & Scott pistol and that of the German P38, which also employs a double-action firing mechanism. The resemblance extends to certain internal features; some of which would appear to have originated with the Walther design. Most noticeable is in the use of twin recoil springs, (See photo A) housed along opposite sides of the frame. In this particular instance; the W&S components are identical to those of the Walther and measure 5mm in diameter. both weapons employ 30mm-long guide pins at the front of the springs.

A small plate above the breech block is also reminiscent of the German pistol, and in similar fashion, conceals the loaded indicator pin, firing pin safety lock and firing-pin retainer. Operation of the safety lock is common to both weapons; wherein the sear arm trips the hammer and then moves an auxiliary member to raise the lock from a notch in the firing pin.

Comparing the firing action of these two weapons displayed a certain harshness in the trigger mechanism of the Webley & Scott pistol. This was especially noticeable when firing the weapon 'double-action' style; as the trigger pull seemed to be excessively prolonged, with a tendency for the firing finger to be pinched against the base of the trigger guard. On the other hand; 'single-action' firing was quite sudden and insensitive

when compared to the more subtle movement of the Walther mechanism.

The principle difference in design, however, is with the method of locking the barrel to the breech, which in this instance, borrows heavily from the ubiquitous Browning system. (See photo B)

The upper surface of the barrel is provided with a typical arrangement of locking lugs; designed to correspond with a series of transverse grooves, cut into the breech slide. The chamber end is mounted upon a special cradle; to which it is attached by a pair of links, positioned one behind the other. Although the cradle is held positively within the pistol frame; the barrel remains free to rock back and forth on the links, thus engaging and disengaging with the breech slide. In the foremost position; the barrel rests firmly against a ramp at the front of the cradle and is then at the highest point, locked into the breech slide. When the slide is moved back; the barrel is carried down and away from contact with the locking grooves, thus allowing the breech to open.

The original Jurek prototype had only a single locking shoulder above the chamber to engage with the slide; although this arrangement was later augmented by a lug, positioned slightly ahead of the shoulder. At the final stage, it was decided to improve the locking capabilities even further by providing a total of three locking faces.

The hammer is actuated by a 28mm-long coil spring; that is vertically housed within the hammer body and is supported upon the shoulder of a guide pin. Attached to the lower part of the guide pin is a small link, that is pinned to the frame below the hammer axis.

The firing pin measures 69mm in length and has three notches in the rear-most section. (See sketch) A long cut-out at one side is provided for engagement with the safety lever stem; while adjacent to this, there is a semi-circular notch for the firing pin retainer. On the opposite side is a small, rectangular, cut-out for the firing pin lock.

Removal of the firing pin is a tiresome procedure, and one that must surely have evoked criticism from members of the Test Committee. It requires the complete dismantling of the rear sight; that is held in position by a long cover plate at the top of the breech block. A retaining pin, passing laterally through the rear sight, must be punched out in order to free the plate and allow it to be withdrawn from the rear. Removal of the cover plate also permits access to the loaded chamber indicator; that is a long pin extending from the firing chamber to the rear of the breech block. When a cartridge is chambered; the pin is forced through the back of the pistol, above the hammer, where it is exposed to the person holding the weapon.



There are three external operating levers, each located at the left-hand side of the pistol:

1. The **BARREL CATCH LEVER** is positioned directly above the front of the trigger guard, where it is retained by a plunger and spring within the frame. Removal of the barrel and breech slide is relatively simple; merely turning the lever down and forward permits both units to be withdrawn from the front.
2. The **BREECH STOP LEVER** is located immediately behind the barrel catch lever on a stem that also serves as a pivot for the trigger. When the last cartridge has been fired from the magazine, the breech remains open to indicate an empty pistol. The breech may then be reclosed by depressing the lever.
3. The **SAFETY LEVER** is mounted at the side of the breech, where it can be turned down and back to lock the firing pin. In the 'safe' position, neither the hammer nor the trigger can be operated.

The magazine has a capacity for eight cartridges, and there are seven counting holes provided at the side of the casing. The whole assembly can be easily dismantled by sliding the baseplate forward.

When the magazine is removed from the handle, both hammer and trigger are completely locked. This is due to the positioning of a specially cranked lever behind the magazine reservoir, where it is forced outwards by a spring to engage the hammer tail. A front portion of this lever protrudes into the reservoir and remains there until a magazine is fully inserted; whereupon the spring pressure is overcome and the hammer tail released, allowing the weapon to be fired.

A disconnecter is positioned at the right-hand side of the frame, just above the trigger bar. (See photo C) It is comprised of a small metal piece which is moved vertically by action of the breech slide; as the slide moves back, the disconnecter is forced down to move the trigger bar away from the sear. As will be seen in the photograph, the grip plates have no retaining screws and are held in place by the use of internal latches.

Both sides of the breech slide carry the address: **WEBLEY & SCOTT LTD. BIRMINGHAM**

Below the address (on the left side only) is the title:  
9m/m **HIGH POWER CTG.® AUTO-MATIC PISTOL**

There were just two pistols of this type constructed for the Enfield tests, and both weapons are still in existence. The first model is currently the property of Messrs. Webley & Scott Limited, while the second version is retained in the superb collection of pistols at the Royal Small Arms Factory. It is mainly through the courtesy of the Director and the kind co-operation given by members of the latter establishment that this article was

constructed.

Material Copyright **GORDON BRUCE 1977**

Photographs taken by the author with the kind permission of the Director, Pattern Room, R.S.A.F. Enfield



## SNUBBIES

Continued from page 31

walls; the exact degree of reduction in penetration has not yet been tested. I would speculate penetration is minimal.

The load is easy to assemble. The shot is the most difficult part to obtain. Three No. 1 buckshot fit into the shot cap and still allow the use of the red cover enclosed by Speer. Any .38 case can be used but cap seating is much easier in cases that were originally loaded for wadcutters as the cannellure is pressed in far down the case body. Use caution in seating the caps; as too much pressure tends to bulge the plastic and the round won't chamber. Overall length with the long cap is critical. The first rounds assembled should be tested for chambering before loading any quantity of the ammo. When firing; it's not uncommon to have the end of the cap next to the one fired blow off. This is due to the inertia of the pellets during recoil. For this reason; as well as for tactical considerations, the 3-1 is suitable for the first round only.

The net result is a load with a high potential for taking the fight out of your opponent with reduced risk to passersby. It also offers low recoil; a relatively light charge, it's inexpensive for training, yet it is almost as effective as a .45 ACP. Several local storeowners are presently carrying this ammo, and the local Marshal's office is considering it for use by courtroom bailiffs who are at close quarters in crowds, and may need immediate stopping capability. Some members of the U.S. Border Patrol have been thinking that 3-1 would be suitable for the first round in their work. They feel it offers shot spread without the bulk. In an age of multi-use items; the 3 in 1 could be the answer.



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**MAG-NA-PORT**

(Continued from page 23)

Shooters League \$15,000 purse match in Laramie, Wyoming last year. He went this year too, and made a fine showing despite the fact he'd been seriously injured in a motorcycle accident a short time before. I'm hoping to send him to the next IPSC nationals with his ported, ribbed Smith .44 Magnum. I think he'll surprise a few .45 auto buffs!

There it is, group: answers from the horse's mouth, so to speak. A gun writer can fall into the dangerous trap of measuring everything by his own reaction to it. While I personally find that Mag-Na-Port definitely reduces muzzle jump in a .44 Magnum, the impact in my palm feels the same, but a lot of folks I talk to figure the kick is reduced all the way around.

Competition shooters I've talked to in both PPC and bullseye agree that Mag-Na-Porting not only increases rapid fire control, but has absolutely no effect on accuracy.

With 25,000 guns out, you should have no trouble finding one to try to see what Mag-Na-Port will do for you, how it will relate to your own shooting habits and tastes. My bet is, you'll find it worthwhile. I certainly do. The effect, as Larry says, is especially noticeable on heavy handguns, high-power rifles, and shotguns.

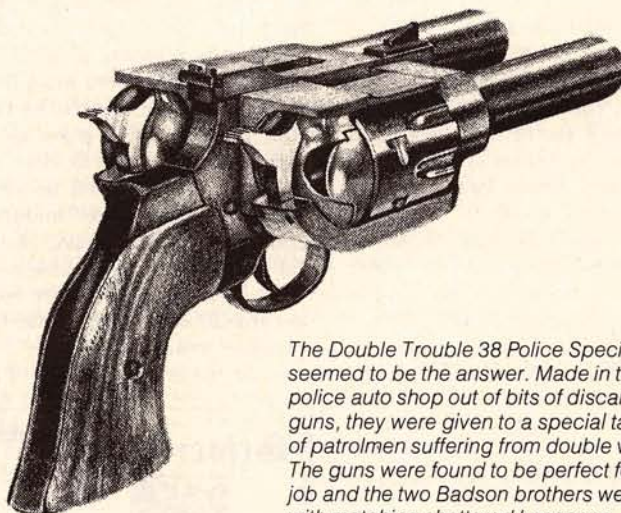
After seven years and 25,000 guns, Mag-Na-Port has proven itself to be a highly desirable modification on almost any firearm where recoil and especially muzzle jump are a problem. If for thirty some odd dollars you can increase your delivery of rapid fire and/or your accuracy with an already familiar gun, it's hard to think of any recommendation on Mag-Na-Porting your firearm except: "Do it to it!"



# RARE GUNS

**DOUBLE TROUBLE 38 SPL.**

In 1954 jewelry wholesalers on Philadelphia's South Street were rapidly being driven out of business by the blood-thirsty Badson brothers. Police officers, when confronting the notorious pair, could not decide which one to shoot at first. They were extremely ugly. They were also Siamese twins. A solution had to be found.



The Double Trouble 38 Police Special seemed to be the answer. Made in the police auto shop out of bits of discarded guns, they were given to a special task force of patrolmen suffering from double vision. The guns were found to be perfect for the job and the two Badson brothers went to jail with matching shattered kneecaps. The officer who caught them was promoted to auto detail but retired shortly after driving up the City Hall steps.

*- Rob Rare*



## SUPERKID

(Continued from page 29)

When John was young, I had guns all over the house, and I realized I had to take one of two approaches. I could have hidden them, which is what I suppose you have to do if you've got a kid you don't trust. But I took the other tack. I taught him to treat guns like the butcher knife in the kitchen drawer: "Look, the knife is there and it has a purpose that I'll explain to you and teach you to master, but keep your fingers off the blade edge." He went along very well with that.

The gun handling as I taught it to him was very basic. I think the "Ten Commandments of Gun Handling" are a little flowery. I got by, concentrating on two things: The gun is always loaded. Never point it at a human being unless you are mentally prepared to end his life, which is a rare but conceivable situation I've taught you to recognize and analyze and react to, in defense of yourself or your family. It worked. He follows these rules, and they make sense.

John and I have a fairly relaxed lifestyle. My feeling is that so long as he acts responsibly, there's no reason to lay down a lot of rules. He's pretty much a 13-year-old adult. We communicate on an adult level.

He doesn't get any rewards from me when he turns in a performance like he did today at Second Chance. We'd both have had as much fun if he'd come in dead last. The reward he's got is the one he earned: \$300 cash prize, and the knowledge that he can compete successfully with anybody he wants to compete with, in any arena in which he wants to compete.

I'll confess to a little fatherly pride, though. I knew he was good, and I knew that he'd have done better his first three tries if he'd been big enough to see the pins once he had them down. When he shot the record 3.9 second string, I think I felt it more than anyone else, even him. All I could think was, "You did it!"

John's going to hit some more matches. He's going to win some of them, and lose some of them, and it's all going to be part of his life. He'll cope with it like he can cope with anything else. I'm going to have to cope with the fact that every place we go from now on, I won't be Jack Robbins, I'll be "The Kid's father."

But mainly, we'll just travel on down the road together.



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# Handloading

By DAN COTTERMAN

## Charge Weights: A Measure Of Success

There are handloaders who weigh each charge because they're afraid not to and there are those who set up by checking the first few charges and thereafter pay no more attention than to make an occasional spot-check. The question is whether constant monitoring of charge weight is necessary.

It is possible to gain some insight — and a flicker of controversy — by recalling a conversation between the writer and Ferris Pindell, one-time world record holder in benchrest accuracy competition. Pindell testified that he seldom transferred powder charges from measure to scale. He simply dropped charges directly from a little Lyman *Ideal* powder measure into his .222 Remington cases. The powder, as I recall, was 4198.

Controversy arises from the fact that, although the practice described worked for Pindell using a sub-maximum load, it is not good practice when pushing the upper limits with charge weights. However, since the great mass of handloading uses diminished loads, the question bobs up again: Is weighing each charge worth the effort? Consensus opinion would seem to hold that it is not since, in fact, a minimal variation in weight from charge to charge is not generally of sufficient importance to affect accuracy.

If, then, we are to defer to the practice of passing the scale in the hope of collecting consistent performance we're going to find ourselves dependent on a powder measure. There also is an incidental, though no less important, dependence on spherical or flake-type powders because these types tend to yield the best results in the matter of volume-weight consistency from one charge to the next.

The first of several measures to be tested is the Bonanza Bulls-Eye Pistol Powder Measure. The unit sells for \$18.95 as of this writing and comes equipped with one measuring rotor. There are a total of ten 5/8ths-inch by two-inch, solid brass rotors that are factory-cut to meter varying amounts of the several handgun powders. The rotors, which sell for \$3.25 each, are numbered according to the weight of Bullseye each will drop. Beginning with 2.5 (grains), they are successively numbered 2.7, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, 5.3, 5.5 and 8.4. The numbers, I

discovered, are somewhat theoretical. In fact, since when using other than Bullseye, the numbers serve as no more than a general reference, they might better be lettered.

The more or less theoretical nature of the stampings came to light as each rotor was checked for charge weight. Series of ten charges were thrown using Bullseye.

Rotor Number	Hole Diameter	Hole Depth	Average Weight of Test Charge
2.5	.312"	.230"	2.1 grains
2.7	.312"	.255"	2.5 grains
3.0	.312"	.280"	2.7 grains
3.5	.312"	.320"	3.1 grains
4.0	.312"	.375"	3.7 grains
4.5	.312"	.415"	4.1 grains
5.0	.312"	.465"	4.5 grains
5.3	.312"	.480"	4.7 grains
5.5	.312"	.500"	4.9 grains
8.4	.375"	.550"	7.7 grains

The dimensions involving hole diameters and depths is academic unless one considers the availability of an unmarked blank rotor that can be holed by the customer to accommodate some special powder charge. It is, in the foregoing regard, a good idea to note that the factory-cut holes are flat-bottomed, as though they were finished with a mill end. A drill bit with some degree of conical cutting tip will produce a slightly different result as far as volume is concerned. The dimensions shown may be of some value to you, nonetheless.

The actual test weights were taken to emphasize the importance of a note included on the Bonanza instruction sheet: "... different lots of powders sometimes have different densities." I might add that the age of the powder can affect its density since, in fact, the Bullseye I used in my testing is what remains of a quantity I acquired almost twenty years ago. Different lots of older or more recent vintage or varying storage conditions could have produced other variances in weights. The same rule would apply to the use of powders other than Bullseye. For example, the chart included with the Bonanza indicates that the bar marked 4.5 will throw 7.7 grains of Winchester-Western's 296. The 4.5 bar throws 7.9 grains of the W-W 296 now on hand. Variations prevail throughout the entire

chart, not because of any laxity or inaccuracy at the manufacturing level, but, as noted, because of lot-to-lot inconsistencies in volume-weight ratios and because of the storage and age factors. It is therefore worthwhile to keep a written record of charge weights for each rotor.

W-W's more recent 231 is not shown on the Bonanza chart. The powder in question is the evolutionary series that began as 230P and had a brief intermediate emergence as 230. Checking test charges of 231 against the weights shown for 230, I found variances slightly less than those noted for Bullseye which, in fact, reveals nothing in the way of differences between the two powders. The check does, however, reinforce the advisability of laying out one's own list of rotors and charge weights.

Once the charge weight is checked for a particular powder the need for additional scale-checking is blissfully nil, unless, as mentioned earlier, the maximum light is being nudged. I found charge-to-charge weight variations averaging an insignificant three to four percent whether the hopper was topped up or a quarter full.

Capacity of the hopper is roughly 2150 grains, using 231 as a standard of measurement. Using the "2.7" rotor, it is possible to load in excess of 500 .38 Special target (or plinking) rounds using 3.1 grains of 231 with a 148-grain wadcutter by filling the Bonanza's hopper approximately three-fourths to the top. I never load 500 rounds of anything at a single session, but it's good to know such a project could be worked without the additional bother of stopping to feed a powder measure.

The recommended practice with the Bonanza is to hand-hold it while moving from one case to another as they stand in a loading block. If you have to stop charging for a moment the measure will stand upright on the loading bench until you're ready to use it again. This system works well for quantity loading. However, when loading a few each of experimental rounds, I prefer to use the small mounting bracket that is supplied with the measure.

As the various rotors are interchanged it is necessary to use an allen wrench to adjust a threaded guidepin. The guidepin serves the purpose of limiting the turn of the rotor to approximately 180 degrees as well as keeping the charge "pocket" in line with the bottom spout of the hopper. Occasional changing of rotors will pose no difficulty. In the numerous changes encountered during testing, however, I found it advantageous to cut the allen wrench and attach a small toggle grip so that the guidepin could be spun in or out with a twirl of the fingertips. There is no need for the leverage advantage provided by the "L" shape of the allen wrench since, in fact, it is only necessary to adjust (not tighten) the guidepin. If you



choose to make this small modification and later decide you'd rather use an allen wrench in its conventional shape you'll have no difficulty since 3/32nd allen wrenches are in common supply.

The hole in the body of the measure — the one into which the rotor is inserted — is .625-inch in diameter. The rotors, therefore, are nominally .624-inch in diameter, give or take a few tenths. I found that constant turning of the rotor (which is rolled between the thumb and forefinger) caused some minor, though not prohibitive, binding with Bullseye powder charges. The difficulty would occur as thin flakes of powder would work their way in between the rotor and the wall of the hole in the body of the measure. No problem was encountered with any of the W-W sphericals or, for that matter, with the Hodgdon handgun sphericals. The Hercules Red Dot and Green Dot offerings, though of the flake-granule type, caused no difficulty. Neither did Unique, also flaked. Nor was there any binding with Blue Dot, which is a mingling of flake and cylindrical particles. Also on the subject of rotoring, I should note that small cylindricals such as 2400 worked with flowing ease. We can find some reason in all this by recalling that Bullseye is a fine "grind" with extremely thin particles that are capable of working their way into tight places.

The body of the Bonanza measure is machined steel and, so being, should successfully resist wear as the result of continuous brass rotor action. The condition of disproportionate hardness also creates a situation wherein the relatively soft rotors can be scored as they are inserted or removed. Therefore, for obvious reasons, some amount of care is recommended when rotor changes are made. A minor degree of "satin" scratching is to be expected and won't hurt anything. However, it might be possible to ruin a rotor by attempting to use force during changes. If, as I discovered, one or two rotors offer resistance to entering the hole, a touch of re-working with fine emery cloth is necessary. It's a work-and-try proposition. There is a caution to the effect that every effort should be made to keep the abrasive working as evenly distributed as possible so as to maintain the roundness of the rotor. And there is, of course, no need to advise against the use of other than dry lubricants. For that matter, it should be enough to remember that the powder itself is enhanced by a coating of graphite.

The Bonanza Bulls Eye Pistol Powder Measure has established its usefulness in handloading. The little tool is easy to use and is capable of dropping satisfactorily consistent charge weights with a variety of fine-grained handgun powders. However, regardless of trust, it is still a good idea to bring in the use of a scale when changing powders or rotors.



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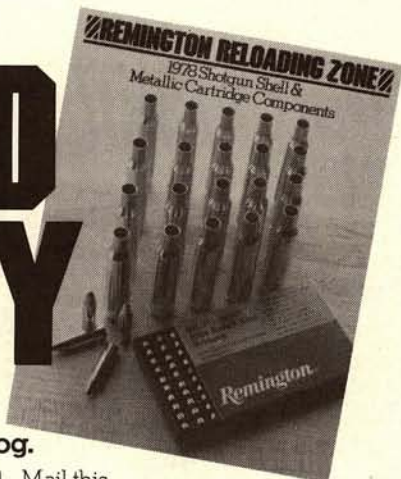
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# Troubleshooting Your Handgun



J. B. Wood's book, *TROUBLESHOOTING YOUR HANDGUN*, is available from GUNS MAGAZINE Book Department, Suite 200, 591 Camino de la Reina, San Diego, CA 92108, for \$5.95 postpaid. The book gives similar details on 87 American and foreign handguns. These monthly columns are all new material, and are not included in the present edition of the book.

By J. B. WOOD

## THIS MONTH:

## The RUGER SECURITY SIX

Sturm, Ruger and Company, long known for an excellent line of single action revolvers and one of the best medium-priced .22 automatic pistols, entered the field of double action revolvers in 1971 with a beautifully-designed gun called the Security Six. In 1974, they added a snub-nosed round-butt version named the Speed Six. Both guns are available in .38 Special and .357 Magnum chambering. More recently, they have offered a model designed to use the 9 m/m Luger cartridge.

In comparison with automatics, the revolver in general is a delicate beast. There is nothing in the mechanism of an automatic that requires the precise adjustment that is necessary to the proper timing of a revolver. An automatic can be, as the cliché goes, loose as a goose, and it will still keep working. When a revolver gets this way, it stops. In this respect, owners of the Ruger double action guns have an advantage — the internal mechanism is as rugged as a truck, and this is accomplished without sacrificing good looks and precise fitting. In all of the internal engagements, there is ample allowance for both strength and wear.

By using a package trigger system, removable from the bottom of the frame, the Ruger does away with the side-plate, the frame being solid on both sides. The firing system uses a transfer bar which is only aligned between the hammer face and the frame-mounted firing pin when the trigger is fully to the rear. With this system, it is perfectly safe to carry the gun with all chambers loaded, as there is no way the hammer can touch the firing pin when both hammer and trigger are at rest.

If you have a coin to remove the wide-slotted grip screw, the Ruger can be disassembled without tools. There is even a small pin in a hole inside one grip panel to fit an opening in the hammer strut, capturing the hammer spring for disassembly. The hammer strut can then be used to trip the latch that holds the trigger guard subframe in the gun. When the gun is being reassembled, there is one tricky point in the operation. There is a small tab that protrudes from the back of the cylinder hand, and as the guard unit is eased back into the frame, you must take care that the cylinder hand is all the way to the right, in its track inside the frame. Otherwise, the tab will bind on the rear edge of the hand recess, and if any force is used, there could be damage. It is an easy matter to position the hand during reassembly by inserting a tool (here, again, the upper end of the hammer strut will do it) through the hammer slot to guide the hand into place. While the grips are off, take care that the little disassembly pin is not lost.

There is one occasional difficulty that the Ruger shares with the Smith & Wesson — loosening of the ejector rod. When this happens, the rod end will bind inside the ejector shroud on the barrel, and cylinder rotation will become stiff. Checking for this is a simple matter. If you grip the rod tightly with the fingers, and can't unscrew it, it's probably all right. If it does need to be tightened, use a piece of thick leather to protect it from marring, and clamp the rod lightly in a vise. Put empty cartridge cases in the chambers, to ease the strain on the ejector spline, and turn the cylinder by hand to snug up the rod. Be very careful not to overtighten, as the threads on the shank of the rod are very fine. If you have not had some experience with this sort of thing, leave the operation to a gunsmith. If the ejector rod has not been removed since factory installation, it is unlikely that it will loosen in normal use.

The springs of the Ruger are all of round wire, with a weakening allowance in their dimensions. They are not likely to be the source of any difficulty. The grips are of walnut, and are well-fitted to the frame. They are not prone to breakage. For the Speed Six, an optional spur-less hammer is available, and the one at my bedside is so equipped, making it impossible for the little people to operate the gun. (My own youngsters know better than to touch it, but I have to keep their little friends in mind . . .) In the unlikely event that some part does become damaged or broken, replacements are readily available at most gunshops, and from the factory, of course.



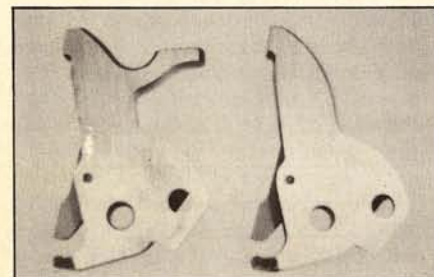
Here's the Speed Six field stripped. Internally, it's as rugged as a truck.



Arrow shows lobe on back of hand. This is critical during reassembly.



When spring and plate are captured by takedown pin — spring assembly can be used for further takedown operations.



An excellent optional feature of the Speed Six is factory spur-less hammer.



## PISTOLSMITHING

Continued from page 19

useless because it can't function.

If you're fortunate enough to be equipped with a lathe and are able to remove the barrel from the gun (no problem in autos) then counterboring the muzzle is easily done with a small boring bar. It is essential that the barrel be very carefully setup in a four-jaw chuck and centered precisely; and, if the barrel is eccentric (as in a ribbed revolver barrel) so that a steady-rest can't be used to support it, then it shouldn't overhang the chuck very much. Once the barrel is set up in the lathe; light cuts may be taken with the boring bar to the depth of the damaged area, making the counterbore at least 1/32 inch greater in diameter than the bore proper, though larger is perfectly alright so long as the barrel walls are thick enough to allow it.

If you should find yourself in the position of having several barrels of the same caliber to counterbore — perhaps you've bought a half-dozen police trade-ins or military-surplus guns — then it's probably worthwhile to make up a special cutter. Have a length of drill rod ground and polished to a slip fit on top of the lands, then grind a relief ring as shown and slot the rod to accept a small double-ended cutter blade. Pin or silver-solder the cutter in place after grinding and stoning the cutting edges properly, install a t-handle. With this setup, you can counterbore the muzzle of any barrel of that caliber in only a few minutes without resorting to any power tools. Just clamp the gun in the vise, muzzle-up, insert the pilot in the cleaned bore, and crank away on the handle; but be sure and remove chips frequently, or they'll score the rifling. If you encounter a bore damaged to the point that the pilot won't enter the muzzle, go back to the countersink and clear up the worst of it first so the cutter can be used.



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Gas escaping through the gap between the cylinder and face of the barrel is inherent in revolver design. Particles being blown through this gap are always a possibility, especially with larger calibers. The common term for this condition is "particle spitting."

The growing use of large caliber, high powered revolvers in handgun hunting and competitive shooting has currently brought this problem more into focus.

The Smith & Wesson Model 29 .44 Magnum revolver is designed for use with ammunition meeting industry standards.

While Smith & Wesson cautions against the use of any ammunition not loaded in accordance with industry standards, the Research and Development crew has devised a way to precisely modify the forcing cone, where the bullet enters the barrel from the cylinder, whereby particle spitting is significantly reduced. This change has been incorporated into present S&W production.

This is a modification requiring a degree of precision best left to qualified S&W Factory Service Facilities.

"There is really no practical way to totally eliminate particle spitting in any high power revolver and still maintain accuracy," says S&W marketing vice president Richard H. McMahon. "We can assure Model 29 owners that our modification will not reduce the accuracy of their revolvers."

Any Model 29 owner who feels his revolver evidences such particle spitting, may ship his gun prepaid to his nearest S&W Factory Service Facility for modification. There is a nominal charge of \$5 which includes return transportation and insurance. Allow about 20 days for return.

While postal regulations prohibit mail shipments, United Parcel Service tariffs provide for gun service shipments by owners.

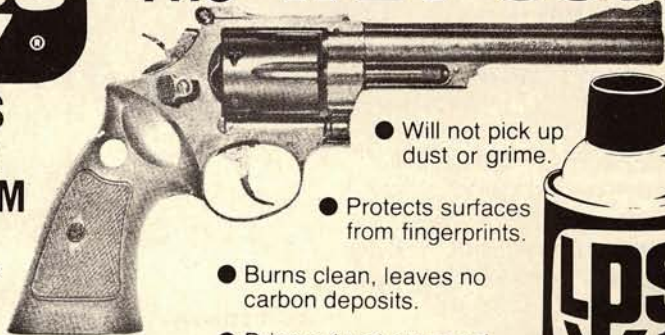
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## DIECKMANN P-66

(Continued from page 35)

is held open by the device as magazines are exchanged, and it may be released by thumb pressure. This allows the gun to be reloaded and brought into action very quickly, especially in view of the push button magazine release. The holdopen may be manually applied at any time, a feature quite as useful in clearing a jam as it is in demonstrating a cleared piece on the firing range.

The standard sights are fixed, the front press fitted into a barrel groove, the rear a friction fit in a dovetail, cut in a raised boss at the rear of the receiver. Windage adjustments can be accomplished with the aid of a brass drift, elevation with a file. These are very sturdy sights, ideal for a camp gun, but the rear dovetail permits installation of a fully adjustable type.

Because of the internal bolt, the sight bases remain always in perfect alignment. Any type or length barrel could be installed to the receiver, any type of sight rib attached.

The pistol may be taken down without tools, does not require removal of parts under spring tension. Field stripping exposes all moving parts for easy cleaning and lubrication, allows the bore to be swabbed out from the breech.

The curvature of the grip, hammer shape and location, and the configuration of the bolt are such that injury to the firing hand during recoil is nearly impossible.

Five pins are employed in the design. The firing pin retainer and the two magazine floorplate pins are all self retaining roll pins. The sear and hammer pins are mechanically retained within the assembled pistol. The trigger pivot pin is an integral part of the holdopen.

The lines of the P-66 are smooth and tasteful from every angle, the balance of the piece excellent. The finish of the externals and the fit of the parts are equally

beyond reproach.

The gun is not without its drawbacks, though none appear to be particularly serious in nature. In company with the great majority of automatic pistols, the controls are oriented towards the right-handed. Again, like most .22 autos, there is nothing to indicate the presence of a chambered round.

The safety is easily released with the thumb of the shooting hand, but it is somewhat difficult to engage, and this cannot be accomplished with the thumb.

The hammer is located so far to the rear that it cannot be cocked or lowered with the thumb of the firing hand. At the same time, it should be noted that both operations are much more safely accomplished as a two handed effort.

While the bolt is well enclosed against the entry of foreign objects, dust, and moisture, openings exist in the trigger region, about the return spring guide extension, holdopen lever, and the hammer. A fully enclosed holster would be a reasonable precaution when carrying the gun in the rough.

Takedown is not difficult, but it is somewhat involved and must be accomplished in a definite sequence. Also, the bolt stop is small enough to present a danger of loss while it is detached from the gun.

I have not attempted to trace the evolution of the Dieckmann pistol because it is so unlike any existing design. It is easy to point out similarities to individual parts of other guns, but such comparisons are unprofitable because the P-66 is unique when taken as a whole. All of the gun's vital systems integrate perfectly, to the extent that several parts are functional in more than one system, a not unusual bonus of a one-man design.

By my lights, Dieckmann's P-66 is a solid, well conceived and well constructed pistol of fascinating design. I believe it to be a safe and practical firearm as well as an unusual one, an excellent value as a custom gun.

Ralf E. Dieckmann, 17 Church St., Rochester N.H. 03867, will consider serious proposals for manufacture of single guns or quantities.

### P-66 FIELD STRIPPING PROCEDURE

Depress magazine catch (30) and remove and unload magazine (23). Move bolt (4) fully to rear and clear chamber visually, then close bolt, leaving hammer (22) cocked. Roll hammer back beyond



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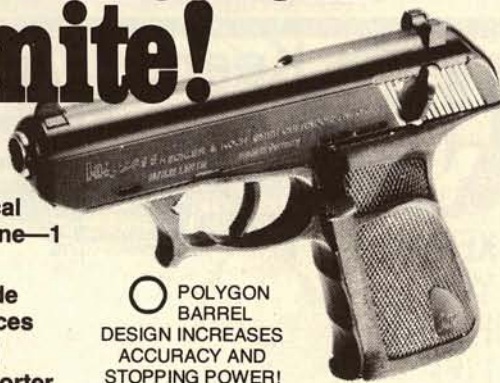
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full cock, as far as it will go, and rotate 90 degrees to the right. Remove entire lock assembly by drawing hammer straight back. Pull exposed, serrated end of return spring guide (9) forward, while removing bolt stop (13) to the right. Apply safety (33) by lifting its lever. Invert the gun and keep holdopen lever (24) depressed against stock (34), while removing bolt and return spring assy. from rear of receiver (11). To detach stock, unscrew and remove stock screw (35) with coin, hold magazine catch fully depressed and slide stock downward and off receiver stub. Routine cleaning and lubrication may be performed without further disassembly.

Reassemble in reverse, with these cautions: 1. Safety must be engaged and holdopen depressed while installing bolt. 2. Holdopen must be placed in up position and notch in bolt stop shank facing muzzle as the bolt stop is replaced. 3. Release safety and ensure that flat bar of ejector (16) remains 90 degrees from side of hammer when installing lock assembly.



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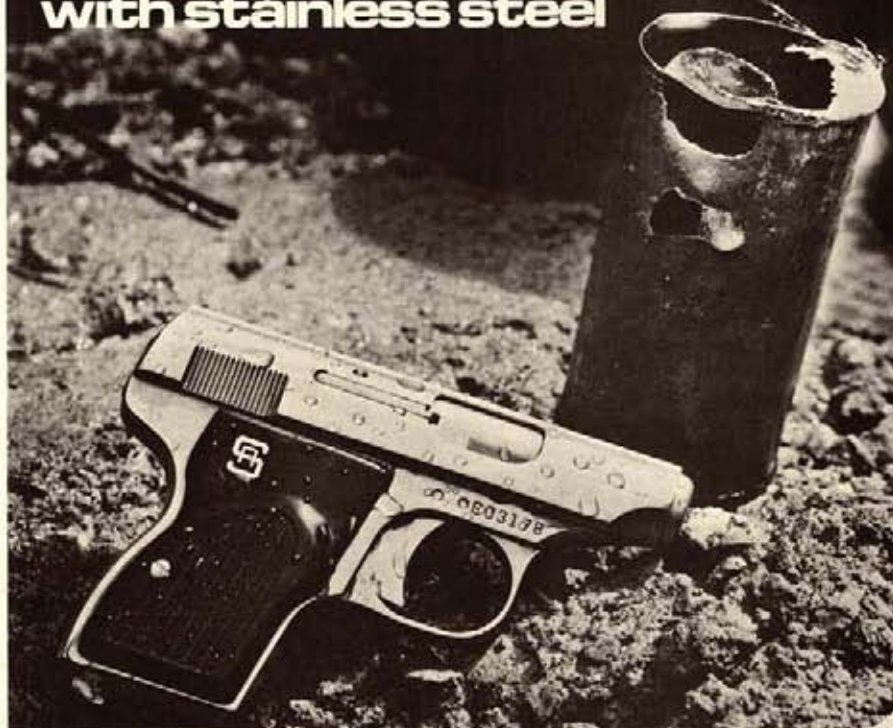
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## SUPER 4 TEENS

(Continued from page 47)

primers (also used in the test gun). T/C made after 12/1/77 don't need it.

The enclosed charts show *only* what I achieved with the 14" T/Cs, and in relatively cold weather conditions. Warmer temperatures will raise pressures and velocities. Neither the American Handgunner nor I recommend any of the listed loads. They are merely presented for informative and study purposes. Many of them are *hot* enough to cause severe problems in rifles.

Some interesting things were revealed by the experiments though; Norma 200 powder is tough to beat for uniformity in the .30-30, 30 Herrett and .35 Remington in loads that were Medium-Heavy in my particular guns. RE-7 powder looks as if it has good potential in the .35s but I couldn't locate any for inclusion in the tests.

I previously stated the T/Cs are tough guns and I'll stand on that statement.

But—the loading velocity-data accompanying this article was stressing the guns to absolute maximum in many cases with the carefully selected components I was using. Top data was merely an experiment to find out what could be attained with these barrels.

I do not use loads over 34.0-4198-200gr. in the .35 Remington myself. I've heard of guns that were at max with 32.0-4198-200. I also feel that this particular load with continued usage will result in bent pins at least, due to the heavy recoil resulting from the load. 29.0-4198-200 is as strong as any of the loading manuals go.

Continued use of heavy loads will result in greatly reduced gun life and if you are not competent in loading for the T/C in these calibers, you can quite easily endanger yourself or others. Compare the data with that of recognized loading manuals and you will see many of these loads are *hot*. And I've found data in loading manuals that was dangerous in some of my guns with the components I was using. All of the listed top loads must be reduced 25%.

Hornady and Sierra have respectively introduced a 160 grain FMJRN and a 170 grain FMJRN in .357 diameter usable in .38 Special, .357 Magnum, .357 Herrett, .357 Auto Mag and .35 Remington as well

as several other calibers that will go a long way to increase the effectiveness of the smaller .35s without using excessively heavy loads.

No difficulties were encountered with excessively flattened primers or expanded primer pockets after repeated firing with any of the listed loads. In light and medium loads in the .357 Herrett, WW 680 and H-4227 seem to work exceptionally well. (I have had ignition difficulties in the .35s with WW 680 in cold temperatures.) H-4895 seems exceptional in the .35 Remington case with a 200 grainer at around 1800 F.P.S., and is excellent in the .30-30. All of the loads included were accurate enough to hit all targets consistently. (Except the 158 Hornady S.P. at velocities above 2300 F.P.S.—it tends to come apart before it gets to the target.)

The chickens, pigs and turkeys go down easily, and a .357 revolver is considered reliable on them with 158 grain bullets. The rams are now the only targets that are difficult to knock down. A .357 will down them—with a good hit. The .41 and .44 are more positive but still not 100%. The T/Cs are not necessary to enjoy the sport or to enjoy competition. It's the guy behind the gun that wins—not the gun.



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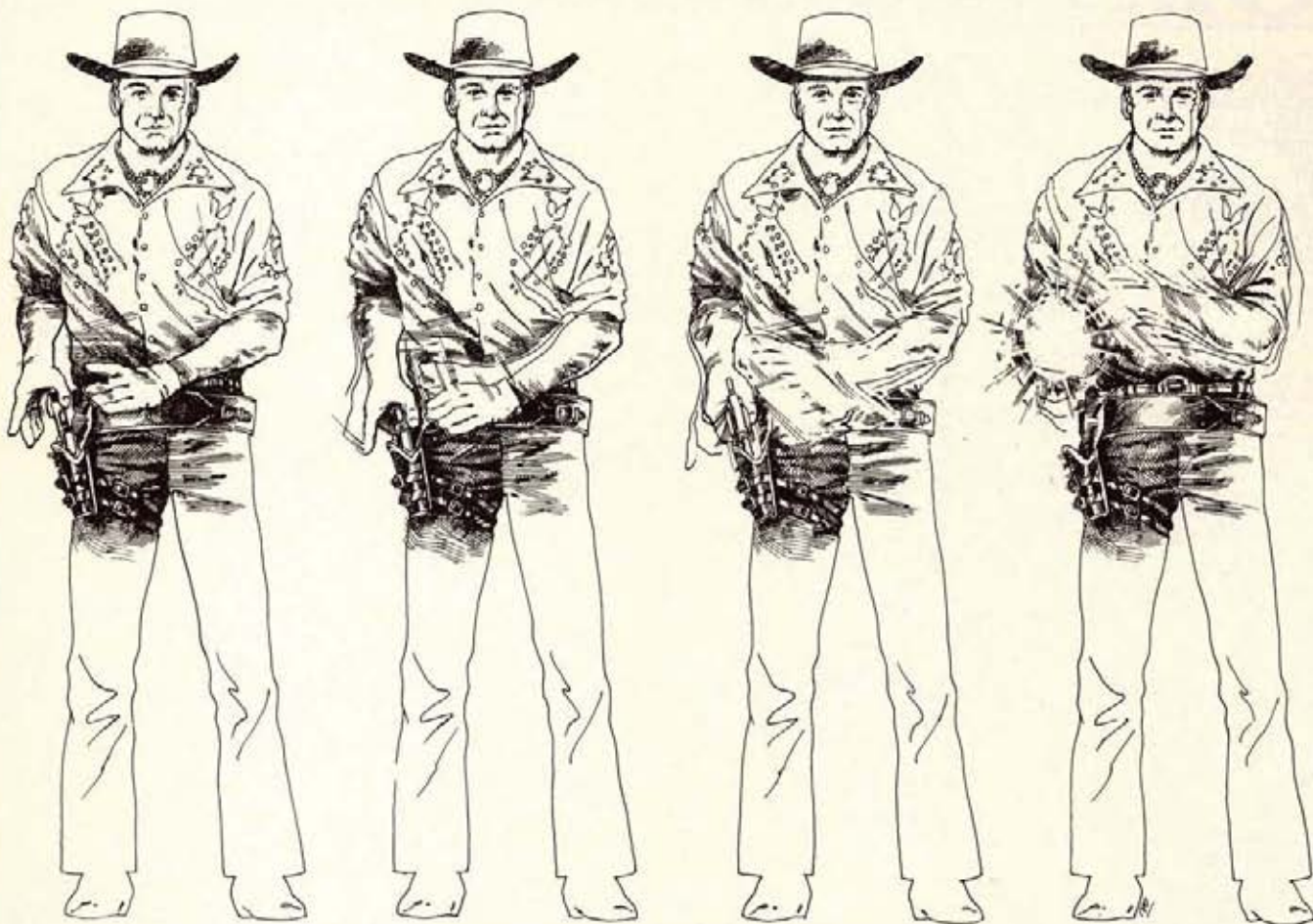
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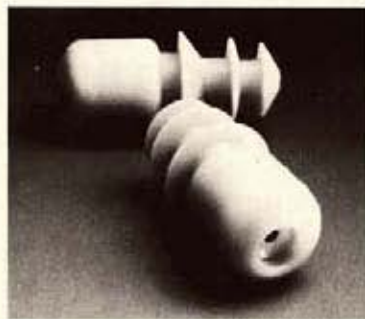
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Really incredible when you realize that three years ago, doctors told Bob if he continued not to use hearing protection, he'd be functionally deaf in six months.

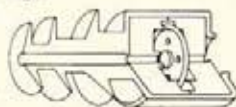
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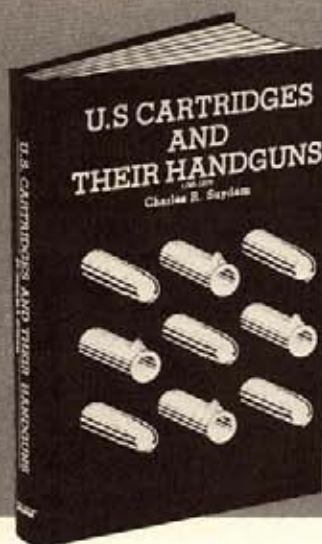
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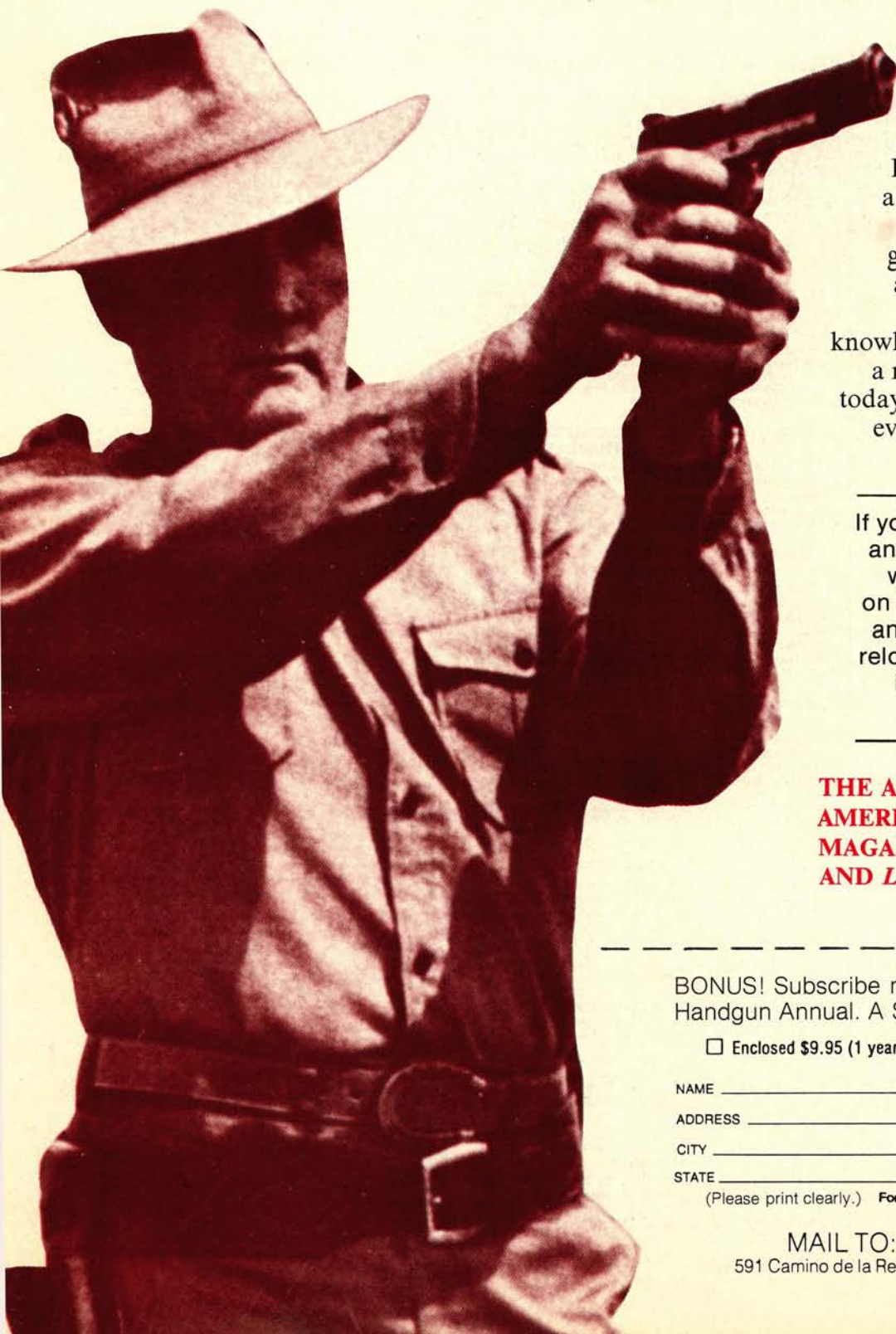
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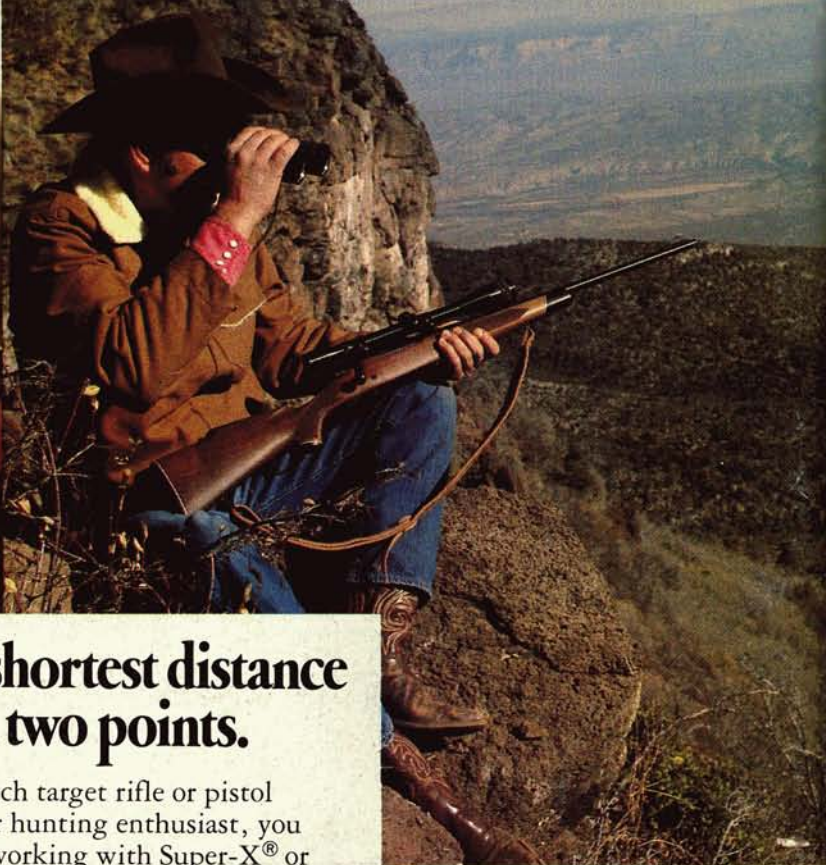


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