

THE AMERICAN HANDGUNNER

JULY/AUGUST 1980 \$2.00

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PREVIEW OF LLAMA'S .45 DA AUTO

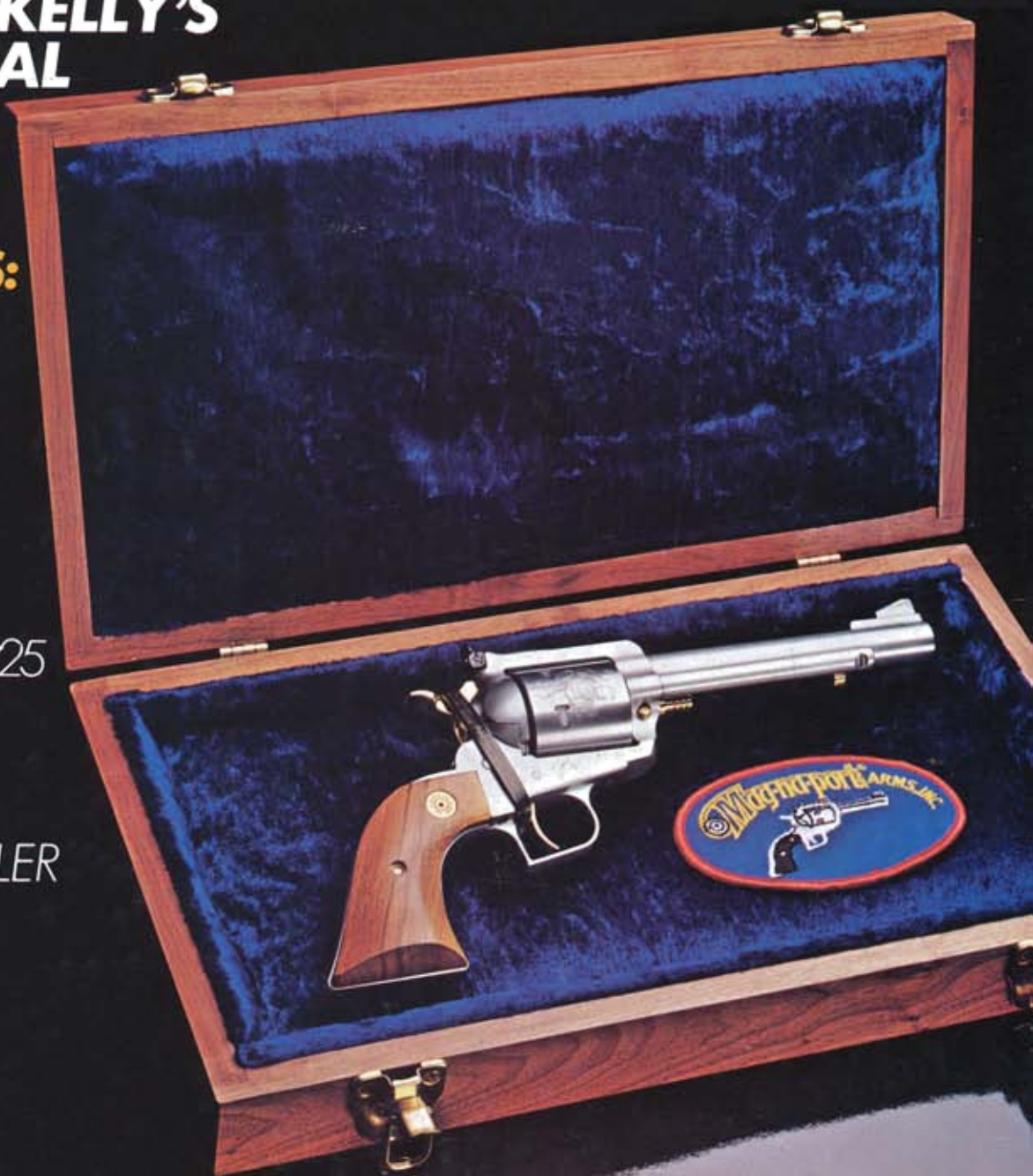
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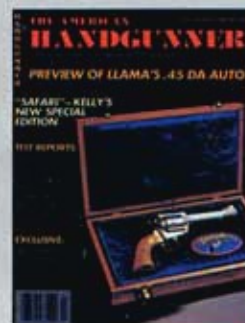
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COVER: Mag-na-port Ruger limited edition "Safari." Photo by Rodney Jones.





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INDUSTRY INSIDER

JEROME RAKUSAN

ALL ABOUT THE LATEST ON THE NEW ARMY PISTOL AND A BREAKTHROUGH IN .38 SPECIAL AMMO

Another setback in the armed services tests of new 9mm Parabellum service pistols to replace the venerable Colt .45 automatic... the test group was to announce the three semi-finalists by February, but rekindled interest among the diverse branches of the military has delayed the deadline until all the brass hats have sagely nodded approval. Best guesses now are for May or June announcement of the semi-finalist Nines.

It's a shame they're boondoggling this long, because in line with the pistol tests have come some startling inventories. Nobody had counted how many service pistols were in the various armories since

feel, rather, that it's the natural attrition of X number of old, worn-out guns being scrapped or cannibalized for parts during the ten or so years since the last count. The government hasn't brought new .45s for issue since the end of WWII.

There are supposedly some 25 different models of handguns currently in use by American fighting men. That includes numerous variations of Colt and Smith & Wesson .38s, four-inch and two-inch, fixed sight and adjustable; S&W Model 39 and 59 automatics (mostly in the hands of special Navy teams like the SEALs), a quantity of Ruger .38 service revolvers, and an assortment of others. It is generally

HANDGUNNER SCOOP

SUPER SCOOP ... The drawing shows a brand new .25 auto pistol that will be offered by Sile Distributors. Ho-hum, you say? Not if you look at the manufacturer's name and see that the gun is being made by L.W. Seecamp, famous for their D.A. conversions. This little D.A. pocket pistol is stainless and, from those who have shot it, smooth as silk. Price, about \$150.

Don't think for a minute that with a full manufacturing facility, Seecamp will stop at this .25. Bigger and better things are in the offing.



the early Vietnam years, but now it comes to light that there's a lot fewer .45s left in inventory than anyone had thought.

The figure we keep hearing is "less than 200,000 pistols in stock," but we can't confirm if that's for all the services, or just the Army. That's 40,000 fewer pistols than there were supposed to have been. The Army is short by 24,000 the number of .45s it requires to issue to soldiers who normally wear it as standard equipment, not counting soldiers and officers (such as helicopter crews) who would normally carry a .38 revolver instead.

Though we hear a lot about pilfered military weapons, our sources doubt that this is the cause of the discrepancy. They

believed that when the new US 9mm service pistol finally is phased in, it will first replace the .38 revolvers, displacing the .45 automatics only when the complete transition is finalized. Thus, ironically, some virtually new Ruger .38s may be getting dumped while decrepit .45s of WWII vintage will still be in use, for a period of time.

No one is sure how the Government will dispose of the "obsolete" service handguns once the new 9mm has been completely institutionalized. In any case, the inventory problems do raise the question of just how much military hardware really has been pilfered, and we'll soon be doing a story on the subject. Personally, we think a lot of that inventory discrepancy can be

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#8 & 8L "SHADOW" REVOLVERS

A very high-riding concealment holster. Widely-spaced slots; provide stability on belt; allow high ride; and pull gun close to body. Thumb-snap design holds gun securely with clean, fast draw. Molded to fit your gun and precurved to match body contours. Fine leather and hand-rubbed finish, with silicone suede lining available for 2"-4" revolvers.



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MODEL #58H & 58HL "THUMB SNAP"

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MODEL #88 "HEVY DUTY BELT"

Top quality leather belt, 1 1/4" wide with creased edge and fine grained finish. An ideal maximum width for supporting the weight of a holstered gun and other accessories. Also ideal as a dress belt. Solid brass buckle, available in chrome finish (standard on black belts) or natural brass (standard on tan belts). Available in sizes 32" to 46". Plain or basket, tan and black.



MODEL #4 "ASKINS' AVENGER"

Named after legendary pistolero Col. Charles Askins. This holster rides high and hugs the body. The fit has been hand-molded for your gun. Stabilizing slot through holster pulls gun butt against body. Molded sight channel protects front sights. Hand-rubbed leather and fine stitching create a long-lasting holster for large autos.



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MODEL #12 "ANKLE HOLSTER"

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explained by attrition of old guns, plus the vast arsenal left behind when Vietnam was abandoned.

We'll soon be doing a thorough technical analysis of the new .38 Special Norma Mag ammo, which according to the manufacturer, turns a .38 into a mini magnum with no increase in pressure. The same 17,000 copper units of pressure that the standard 158-grain lead service round puts out is claimed for this hot number, which is said to clock 1225 feet per second with 367 foot pounds of energy out of a four inch, and 1542 fps/580 ft. lbs. out of a six. Curiously, Norma's initial information does not list the weight of the bullet, nor any performance specs from a two inch. The latter are of particular interest, since from the advertising, this sounds like the ultimate load for two inch Airweight guns, for which the makers say hot +P ammo is verboten. Norma says the secret of their high velocity/low pressure combination is a new progressively-burning gunpowder, a concept which lends itself to long-tubed guns rather than snubbies.

Owners of S&W Model 39s have noted for years that these guns don't always feed 100% with hollowpoints. Those shopping

OUR SEPT/OCT ISSUE WILL FEATURE LAW ENFORCEMENT

for a good expanding-bullet load for these pistols might be interested to know that Illinois State Police recently adopted Winchester's 115-grain Silvertip, after tests in which the round demonstrated flawless functioning and dramatic expansion and energy dump. This aluminum-jacketed hollowpoint has been so warmly received in 9mm Parabellum and .45 ACP that W-W is introducing it in .38 Special, too. Incidentally, those same ISP tests also indicated perfect functioning and acceptable shock power in both Federal and Remington 115-grain JHP 9mm's, with Winchester getting the nod because they were low bidder.

By the way, the recent report in another gun magazine that ISP is dumping their Model 39s for revolvers is untrue. The department intends to keep the gun for some time, and has just taken delivery of some 80 new ones for current recruit classes. They also tell us that despite all the ballyhoo about S&W's "second generation" of 9mm autos, they've been advised by company reps that it'll be at least another year before the new guns are available. Illinois State Police generally gets the straight stuff on such questions, since they're the outfit that popularized the Smith Nine in U.S. law enforcement, and it was their ordnance people who virtually redesigned the original M/39 into its present 39-2 configuration with improved extractor, bushing, feed ramp, etc.



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AMMO SCENE

EVAN P. MARSHALL

JUST HOW GOOD IS EXAMMO'S EXPLODING AMMO AND DOES IT SERVE A PURPOSE?

This was originally to be a three-way comparison between the Velet, Exploder and Exammo exploding ammunition. Unfortunately, it didn't work out as planned. The original samples of Velet that were sent to me didn't perform as advertised. Additional samples were promised by the manufacturer, but were never shipped. The makers of Exploder ammo were unwilling to provide samples for testing. Since neither of these two loads are available locally, I wasn't able to buy samples for evaluation.

The idea of exploding handgun ammunition, of course, isn't new. Handloaders have been making up such loads for years. Georg Enterprises founded by the late Al Georg currently offer a rig to make exploding bullets for the .44 Magnum. Commercially loaded exploding ammo, however, is a new development.

Exammo ammo is marketed by Precision Products, North 311 Walnut Road, Spokane, Washington 99206. They offer loads in the following calibers; .380 Auto, 9MM, .38 Special, .357 Magnum, .44 Magnum, and .45 Auto. They come in a foam-packed 10 cartridge box.

The manufacturer makes some pretty strong claims for its product. I'm not really sure I agree with all of them, but my testing does substantiate their claims regarding penetration and ricochet. It's extremely doubtful that even the .44 Magnum Exammo load would produce thru and thru penetration on a human target. Ricochet danger with this load is extremely small. When these loads impact on a hard surface, they simply blow up. None of the particles resulting from the impact are large enough to cause any serious wounds.

While my testing substantiated the manufacturer's claim regarding penetration and ricochet, I'm not sure I completely accept their arguments concerning the stopping power of these new loads. While these loads breathe new life into inadequate calibers like the .380 and .38 Special, I have some serious doubts about their necessity in the larger calibers. The big bore handgun rounds (.41 Mag, .44 Special, .44 Mag, .45 ACP, and .45 Long Colt) have proven to be capable of providing one shot stopping power 95% of the time. In spite of claims to the contrary, no

handgun load will offer one shot stopping power 100% of the time. I was recently involved in a situation where a cop killer took five rounds of .44 Magnum hollow point before collapsing!

Certainly the Exammo big bore loads would be a consideration for those whose particular situation created extreme concerns over penetration and ricochet dangers. For a court baliff or airport security officer who relies on the big bore weapon,



This frontal shot into clay blocks graphically portray Exammo explosive effects.

these loads could take the worry out of using deadly force. However, in most circumstances the big bore exploding bullet loads would probably create more problems than they'd solve.

I tested the Exammo loads by firing into extremely soft oil base clay blocks. In spite of the slight resistance offered by these blocks, the Exammo loads exploded everytime. I checked velocity on my Oehler chronograph with skyscreens. The results are listed below:

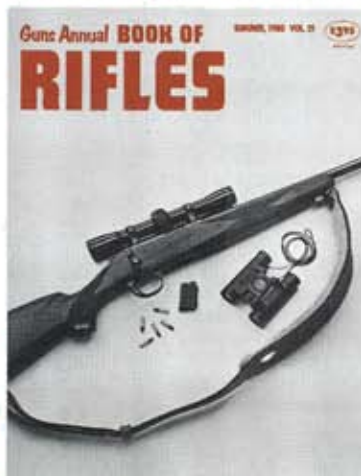
LOAD	BARREL LENGTH	VELOCITY
.380 Auto	3 1/2"	1102fps
.38 Spec	4"	1239fps
9MM	4"	1316fps
.357 Mag	4"	1364fps
.44 Mag	7 1/2"	1478fps
.45 ACP	5"	1046fps

All these loads produced more than adequate combat accuracy. If you depend on a small bore weapon for personal survival, you should seriously consider these new loads from Exammo. They substantially increase the stopping power of inadequate calibers, and reduce overpenetration and ricochet problems.



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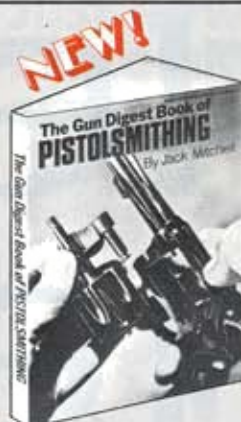
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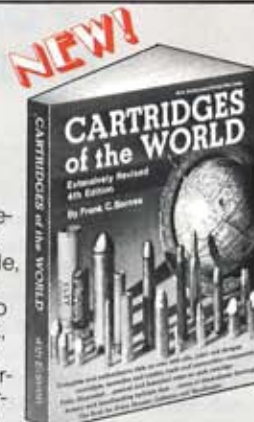
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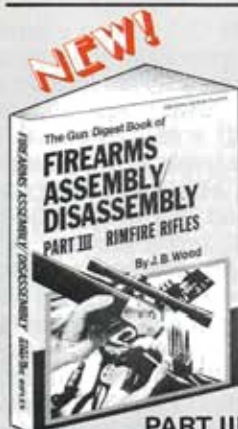
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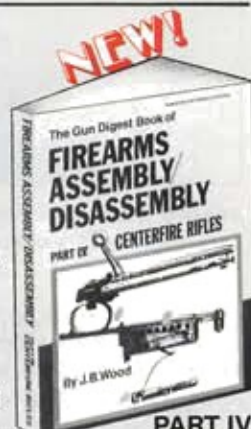
Originally scheduled for four parts, this unique and highly regarded series has now been expanded to five with the final volume on shotguns to be published in the fall. In Parts I and II, the author broke down automatic pistols and revolvers. Here he dismantles and reassembles rimfire and centerfire rifles with the same expertise and detail. He covers most modern guns, includes a broad selection of the older, more popular guns and adds some not-so-popular, tricky ones. Disassembly takes the reader step-by-step to the "field strip" level, cautioning the reader about proceeding further

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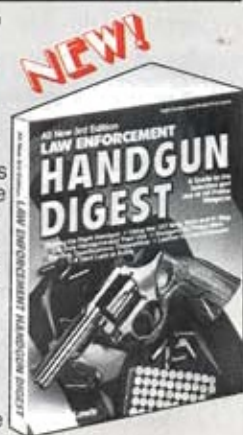
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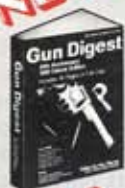
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A SINGLE ACTION AUTO DEVOTEE REVIEWS THE "FAST ACTION" F.N. / BROWNING

The photos show a new attempt by F.N./Browning to solve a problem which, if of scant interest to serious pistoleros, continues to vex the unenlightened. The piece is a prototype but its mechanism is fully developed and ready for production if the demand is manifested.

The pistol is dubbed "Fast Action" (in English yet, not *Action Rapide*) for some obscure reason. Neither the action of the piece itself nor its manipulation are any

faster than normal, yet remember that Browning calls the P-35 a "Hi Power" when its power is no higher than that of any other nine. Belgians are just naturally euphemistic, it would seem.

The weapon is essentially the familiar and distinguished P-35, but sporting an entirely novel trigger mechanism—double-action but not trigger-cocking. It may be fired from full-cock or from half-cock, but in the latter case it just slips off without any noticeable retardation.

Why?

Well, some people in positions of authority just blanch at the thought of a pistol worn in Condition One. ("Hey, man, do you know your piece is cocked, man!") With Browning's new "Fast Action," after charging the chamber the hammer may simply be pushed forward to half-cock with the thumb, so that it may be worn hammer-down and fired by a short, light trigger press without any operation of the safety. This press is incomparably more controllable than that of any double-action pistol which must be fully cocked before firing. The half-cock release is still not as good as the full-cock release, so the feel of the change-over between the first and second shots remains troublesome, though not so much as with conventional double-action autos.

When the hammer is pushed forward to half-cock the piece cannot be fired by dropping it, since the transverse pin at hammer base (visible in the photo of the hammer at full-cock) must be sheared in

order to force the hammer forward to the head of the firing pin. We tried smacking the hammer smartly with steel in order to force it and are satisfied that the shearing impetus necessary for an accidental discharge is quite considerable—a good bit greater may be encountered in careless use. This safety-pin is blocked by a steel shoulder which is displaced by trigger take-up.

One wonders why full-cock is used at all, since the very *double* nature of all double-action ignition systems poses a serious control problem, for the novice if not for the master. Perhaps the manufacturers feel (sensibly enough) that they are offering an action that can appeal both to those who know about gunhandling and those who don't. The drawback to this is complexity. However, much as we may value simplicity as an abstract desideratum in gun design we must admit that some very complicated mechanisms have proven eminently reliable over the years. Only time will tell us about this one.

Possibly somewhat more interesting than the curious trigger mechanism of the



Top: Here is how it looks at full cock and below at half cock.



Note here the safety pin at base of hammer. Note also the clean design of the Southside thumb-safety lever.

"Fast Action" is its nicely designed two-sided thumb safety—the first we have seen on a production gun. While the need for this feature is not evident on a privately-owned firearm (you are not going to win any leatherslaps with your weak hand, Ed. note: although many IPSC-type matches require shooting with your weak hand) it is clearly apparent on an organizational weapon which is to be kept in armories and issued as needed to right and left-handers alike, since this piece may be worn normally in Condition One in complete safety—right or left side. One's sole concern is the possibility of inadvertently pushing the hammer forward (only a slight effort is required) and putting the weapon in an unexpected condition of readiness. Again, only service use can tell us if this matters.

The "ambidextrous" potential of the prototype should appeal to departmental purchasers fully as much as the Condition Two carry it affords. Thus while the piece is in no way tactically superior to the P-35, it may indeed have a promising commercial future.



HEY LUCKY!

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Take hold of the most exciting new handgun on the market...the new Explorer II by Charter Arms!

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The Explorer II features a new adjustable rear sight with square notch, elevation reference line and definite click indication. Has snag-free

blade front sight, convenient thumb safety and heat-cured, semi-gloss, textured black enameled finish.

Accessories available: Explorer II scope mount which accommodates any standard 1" dovetailed ring, extra 8-round magazines, optional barrels (available soon) and handsome black vinyl gun case with humidity-proof padding.

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When calm returned, Elgin, President of IHMSA, continued in his State of the

The good news aside, the members took up the task of discussing and voting on a wide variety of major and minor proposed rule changes. Several of the major proposals had been discussed at the 1978 meeting, and in the end, let slide for another year to see what developed. After a year of jack-and-the-beanstalk growth, it was obvious that many of the changes had to be made to insure the continued growth



Membership in the Metallic Silhouette game has more than doubled during the past year. Here is Phoenix, Arizona's Channel 10 (KOOL) TV covering a match for their news segment.

Association message to the assembled delegates at this evening's annual IHMSA members meeting.

"We had 9,522 members as of September 30, 1979. Our membership has more than doubled in the past 12 months, and applications are coming in at a rate of 500 per month. We have sanctioned matches in all 50 states, save one (New Jersey). There are over 200 clubs holding matches; they have sponsored over a 1000 matches so far this year, with over 40,000 entries."

It's popular for gun scribes to refer to handgun silhouette shooting as the nation's fastest growing gun sport based on limited observation. Well, these statistics bear out the truth of that assumption.

Now that the sport has spread across the nation, it seems only fair that the Internationals should move with the growth to allow silhouetters from around the country to shoot in the big one. The 1975, and 76 national shoots, and the 77 and 79 Internationals were all held in the southwest. All three IHMSA Internationals have been west of the Mississippi. The eastern contingent pushed for, and won, a rule requiring an annual east to west rotation. Efforts to specify that the shoot rotate through all six regions weren't successful, and rightly so. A match of this size and importance must be located at a range and in a community that can provide not only the necessary facilities and personnel, but also is



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readily accessible to transportation routes and in an appealing location for all of the nation's shooters.

IHMSA is the only gunsport sanctioning body that I'm familiar with that doesn't require membership to participate in registered matches. Last year this feeling encouraged new shooters to take up the infant sport. This year the feeling was that too many shooters were taking advantage of the lack of recorded scores by shooting in lower classes. Super baggers as it were. The group voted to make membership mandatory for shooters competing for trophies or prizes in sanctioned matches. New and/or regular non-members would be allowed to shoot for score only, or lumped into special competition classes at the discretion of the match sponsor. Seems like an equitable solution.

With all of the new shooters coming into the fold, and the lack of restrictions on free style shooting positions, it is a certainty that sooner or later someone will have a serious accident. Obviously rules won't stop someone from converting themselves into a handicapped shooter, but it was felt that IHMSA must have some established safety rules, if for no other reason than to set a positive example.

After much discussion it was adopted that a shooter could use any position "...so long as no part of the body is within a 90° cone centered and extending from the muzzle when in firing position." Several other safety rules were adopted, all common sense firearms safety practices—mostly to set an example for the new and untrained shooter. A good move.

Alibis are allowed for most any shooter misfortune, and liberally. They can drag a match out forever. The members voted to quit being responsible for everyone's mistakes by allowing alibis only for unavailable targets. More than likely most match directors won't even stop to reset targets for alibis—the shooter will either take what's available in adjacent banks, or wait till the match is over and shoot on a make up relay.

Theoretically, at least, the accuracy of the single shot pistol is superior to that of any wheel gun. This disparity caused a lot of discussion at Salina, with many wanting to separate the guns into different classes. But not enough to pass it. In Phoenix the matter was voted down with no discussion. Looking at the equipment this year's winners used proves the theory—but as anybody can buy a T/C, I guess it's not an area of concern anymore.

The handgun silhouette sport has grown in three years from a good idea shared by a few guys to an institution. There are growing pains to be sure, as unforeseen problems develop and solutions are sought. The rule book will get thicker with time. But with the dedication to the good of the sport evidenced by the IHMSA officers and members I'm sure it will always be fun. Shooting steel's like that.



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CLAUD S. HAMILTON

A SHOWDOWN BETWEEN TWO GREAT TARGET PISTOLS ... THE S&W MODEL 52 AUTO AND K-38 REVOLVER



The pistol as a target arm is a relatively new thing in this country. Most of us who grew up just before WW II do not remember pistols being used in target shooting other than in .22 rimfire caliber ... Colt's old Woodsman comes first to mind. We were wrong, though, because way back in 1933 Colt had made their first

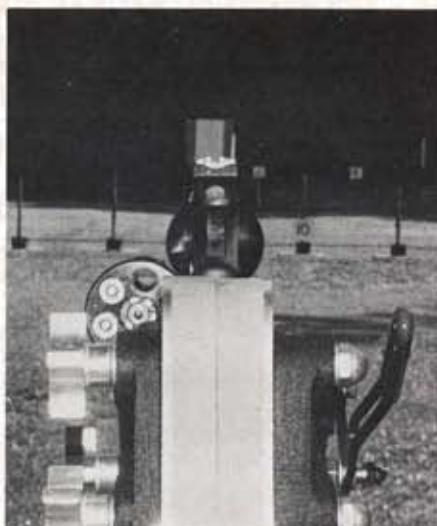
& Wesson witnessed a tremendous proliferation in the number of models offered and finally had to adopt a numbering system to keep them straight. At the same time, demands were growing for improved .22 target pistols, and for target pistols in larger calibers, particularly the .38 Special. In 1957 Colt produced their



Here's a gal who says she likes the "feel" of the Model 52 better than the revolver. However, on the Ransom Rest, the story was a little different.

National Match .45 to meet the demands of the small, "hard core" shooters who frequented Camp Perry in those days. But, in the main, we were right, for Colt made mighty few of the old National Match guns. Pistols just weren't considered target class handguns until after the war.

The decade of the 1950s was a great one in American handgun development. Smith



A shooter's-eye view of the Ransom Rest and K-38 as they go on to demonstrate that the K can outshoot the 52, at least this time.

post-war Gold Cup National Match in .45 ACP and by 1960 a .38 Special version was marketed. This was a real breakthrough; the .38 Special is a rimmed cartridge and although a few custom smiths had made guns to handle it, the major makers had elected not to tackle it.

But, time was marching on and Smith & Wesson has never been known for falling

behind the times. By 1961 they had a new .22 target pistol out, the Model 41, and the Model 52 Master in .38 Special appeared the same year.

Unlike the Colt Gold Cup, really a refinement of the old Government Model, the Model 52 is a completely new pistol based in a general way on the lock work of the earlier S&W Model 39 pistol in 9 mm. At first glance the Model 52 looks much like a Model 39. It has the same shape of grip and trigger guard, but there the similarity ends. The barrel and slide are appreciably longer, giving the gun a more slender look, and the trigger has been extensively reworked for single action smoothness.

Like the .38 Colt Gold Cup, the Model 52 will handle only wad cutter ammunition loaded with the bullet completely seated in the case. It likes light loads, too, and one of the first things one notices about the gun is how light the recoil spring resistance is when the slide is pulled rearward.

Roy Jinks, in his excellent "125 Years With Smith & Wesson," states that before the early Model 52s were allowed to leave the factory, each one had to show on a machine rest that it could shoot 2-inch groups at 50 yards.

Neither the Colt Gold Cup nor the Model 52 in .38 Special caliber were commercial successes. Steve Richards of Hunters' Haven in Alexandria, Virginia, one of our largest local dealers, tells me that he has seen only one new Model 52 in the last three or four years. Smith & Wesson's other .38 Special target gun, the K-38 Masterpiece revolver, is well known to most shooters and has earned an excellent reputation not only for target work but as a general purpose revolver able to do well just about any job a six-inch revolver can do.

I've never been a competition quality shooter and thus have had only limited experience with target handguns. I have long wondered, however, if the Model 52 Master is really sufficiently accurate to take over formal target shooting from the revolvers ... and I'll admit I've had suspicions because it doesn't seem to have done so. This past summer, for the first time, I have had access to a Ransom Rest and one of my projects has been to test fire a Model 52 Master against a K-38 to see how they compare for accuracy with the human element reduced to a minimum.

Neither of the guns I used has been fired more than fifty rounds, nor has either been "accurized" or otherwise modified by a smith. Before the shoot I cleaned both carefully then swabbed them out with Breakfree, a solvent-lubricant-preservative which I have found very good at reducing leading, even after the tubes are wiped dry. The ammunition I chose was Winchester-Western, Federal and Remington-Peters 148 grain lead wad cutters, all of "mid-range" loading.

To avoid the heat, I set up the Rest out at

Fairfax Rod & Gun Club at 5:30 a.m. on a hot August morning. Things went fast; after a few rounds to "dirty" the guns I fired three groups with each, using each of the three brands of ammunition. I was impressed by the uniform small groups shot by both guns; they handled the three makes of cartridge with equal facility and the Model 52 gave me no pistol-type malfunctions. The groups averaged, at twenty-five yards:

Model 52 Master— 1.67 inches
K-38 Masterpiece— 1.55 inches

Twelve hundredths of an inch? What kind of a difference is that? This just had to be shot over ...

And so it was, bright and early the next morning. I only had enough of the Winchester wad cutters for a repeat performance and so loaded some home-grown wad cutters to give a little depth. I used two good loads from the past:

148 Grain Hornady w/c, CCI small pistol primer, 2.6 Grains of Red Dot, and

148 Grain Speer hbw/c, CCI small pistol primer, 2.6 Grains of 700X.

For both loads I used Remington brass and added a tuft of polyester pillow stuffing to hold the powder over the primer. Some folks don't like this practice. I can't swear that it adds anything to accuracy but I have a gut feeling that it does.

As I finished up at the loading bench in the basement, the radio reminded me that Hurricane "DAVID" was due to dump rain on us in two days, so the shoot HAD to be done in the morning. Under the press of time all the guns got that night was a good swabbing out with Breakfree.

The weatherman is not always right. The next morning the drizzles were already upon us, but I managed to get the shoot done anyway. I long ago learned to spray my targets and target frame backing with clear plastic ... it doesn't get soggy unless the rain really gets hard.

Either I handled the Ransom Rest a little better or the guns "liked" my loads better than the commercial variety. The results this time were a shade better:

Model 52 Master— 1.60 inches
K-38 Masterpiece— 1.45 inches

Of these two guns, the revolver seems to have a small edge. That does not mean that another pair would turn in the same result, and I am not at all sure that, with this small a difference, these same guns might not give a reversed result were I to shoot it all over again!

There is no doubt that both are fine, accurate guns. On the other hand, neither of them would meet S&W's old standard for 2-inch fifty-yard groups—at least not with any ammunition available to me.

It is clear to me now why the .38 target pistols never "caught on." They're too specialized, and can only handle lightly loaded wad cutter loads. And they simply do not seem to deliver any better accuracy than the fine revolvers they were groomed to replace.



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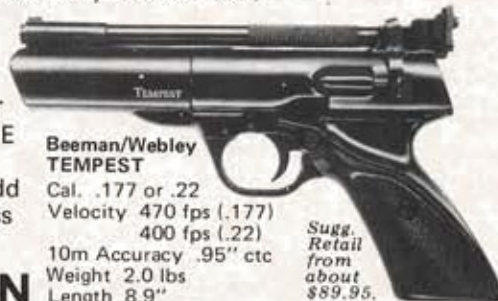
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TEST REPORT:

GUTRIDGE "QUICKLINE"

Now a breakthrough...the quickline system for snap-shooting and distance

By Gene Crum

A new iron sight has been introduced which is unusually effective for both snap-shooting and distance. Already in police duty, the sight is styled the "Quickline" system in trade literature, but probably will be called the "Gutridge Sight," after the inventor, Jack Gutridge, a Dyer, Indiana gunsmith.

The new sight uses basic optical principles to guide the eye along the sightplane to the target, while at the same time holding enough concentration on the tip of the front sight to keep it in focus. Gutridge says his system is "As quick as pointing your finger!" and he is right.

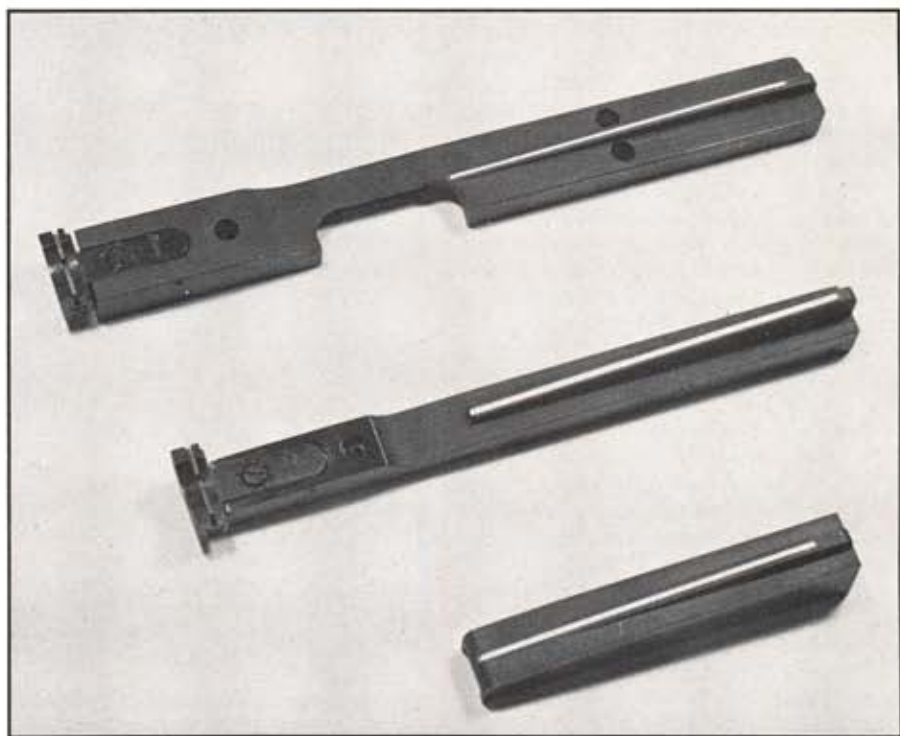
The sight is simple: the front blade is a very long 1/8" black ramp extending the length of the barrel. In the exact center of the ramp is a deep narrow groove, milled full-length. The groove is filled with a contrasting color—usually white, but if the shooter prefers, blaze-orange, yellow, yellow-green, or red.

The rear sight is a conventional adjustable "target" pattern, fitted with one of three choices of blades: normal black, black with two vertical white lines (one on each side of the square notch), and a special pattern using the lines in conjunction with a small white dot set dead-center a perceptible distance below the notch. Gutridge has named this the "Crum-dot" blade.

Particularly when used with the second or third rear blade options, the Gutridge system uses the tendency of the eye to follow from near to far a straight line leading to a "horizon" objective. Perspective is established by using an anchor-point at the near end of vision.

The Gutridge ramp with its central stripe catches the eye much like the center stripe on a highway, holding the focus and directing the gaze up to the tip of the front sight, then on to the target. The tendency of the eye to "prefer" to hold the tip of the front sight in focus helps to achieve a very favorable sight picture while easing the amount of focusing concentration. Normally, part of the concentration then shifts to target definition and more precise alignment.

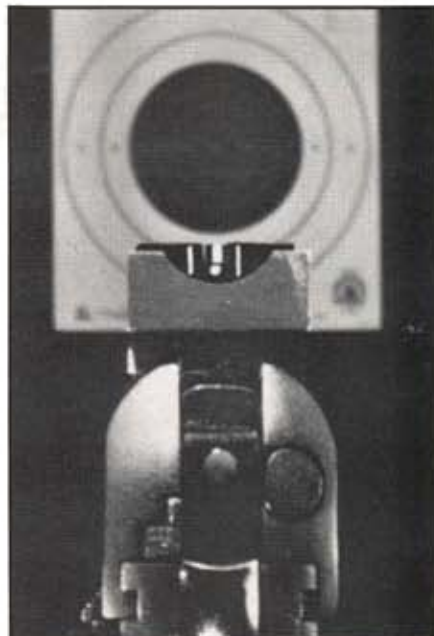
(Continued on page 68)



From top to bottom: Government Model, S&W Model 10 and Ruger Security Six (4"). Note that the Ruger sight is the front blade only.



The Gutridge Quickline linear sighting system is pictured in a prototype version that does not use a full-length rib on a Government Model pistol. It's touted to be as quick as pointing your finger



The sight in approximate alignment with the target. In use, either the line and dot configuration can be employed or the broad expanse of the ramp, depending upon the need for speed.

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TEST REPORT:

LLAMA DOUBLE-ACTION AUTO

Here's a sneak preview of Llama's .45 and 9mm into the fast growing D.A. auto race with some very fascinating innovations

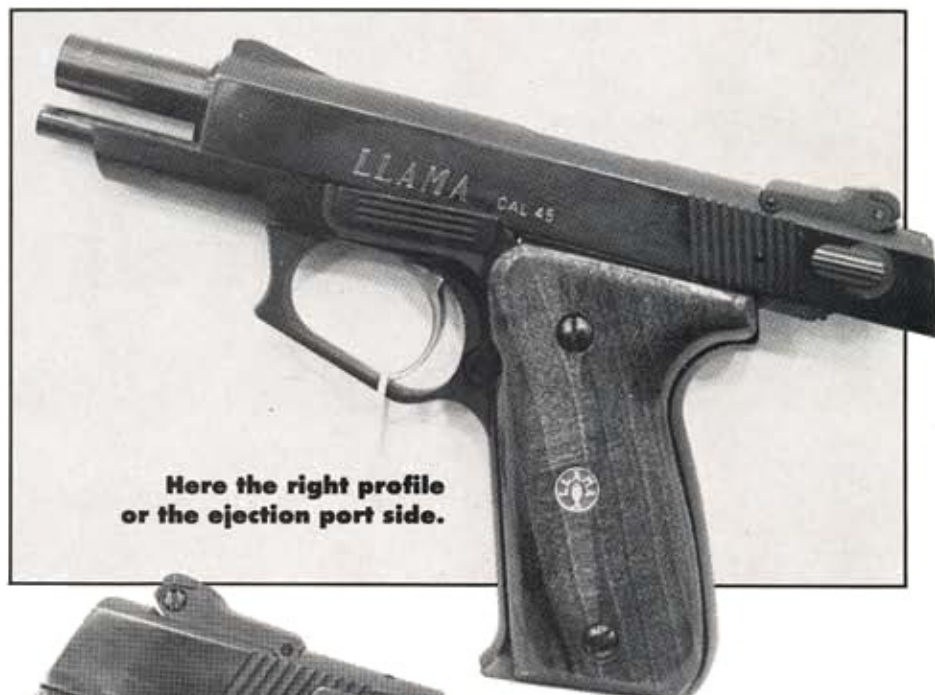
By Larry S. Sterett

Although not yet available (it might be by the time you read this), the slickest handling .45 ACP autoloader to ever come down the pike is the new Llama from Spain. The manufacturer, Gabilondo y Cia, in Victoria, Spain, has been turning out modified copies of the Browning-designed M1911, in a variety of calibers from the .22 rimfire to the .45 ACP, for nearly half-a-century. The new Llama is not a copy of any pistol, although it does resemble a much-modified M1911 with a concealed hammer.

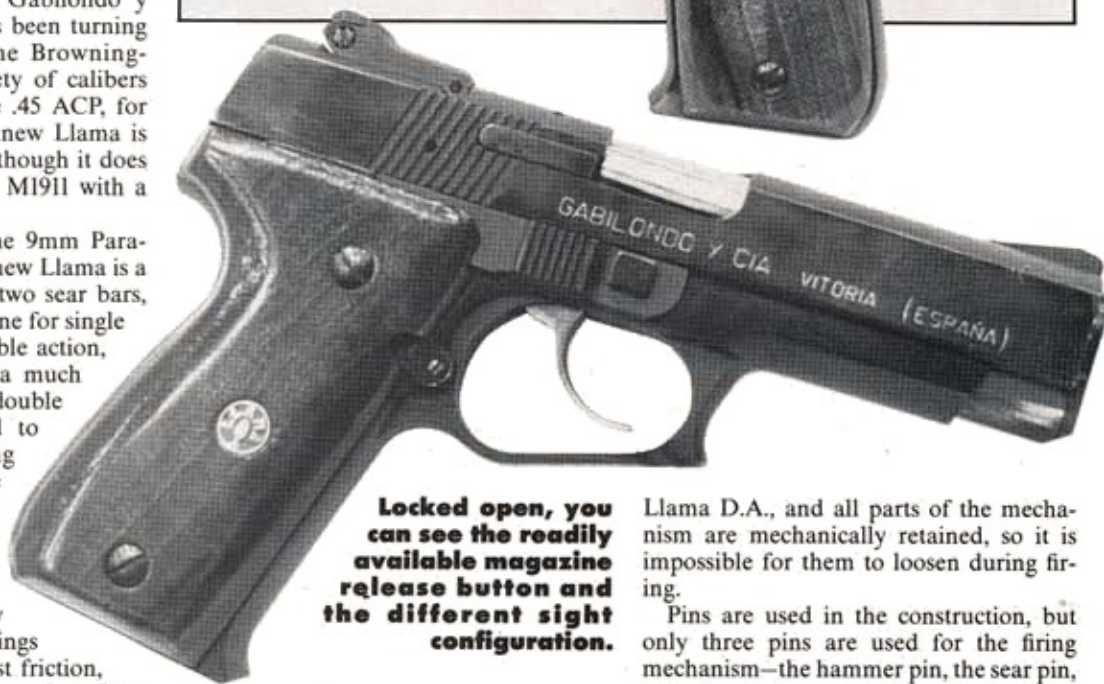
Chambered for either the 9mm Parabellum or the .45 ACP, the new Llama is a double action design with two sear bars, one for double action and one for single action. Labeled a split double action, the new design results in a much smoother pull during the double action stage, and is said to simplify the manufacturing process. In addition, the concealed hammer has a ball bearing hammer shoe, which reduces drag during the cocking process. This is accomplished by the use of small ball bearings used at the point of greatest friction, instead of the two sliding metal surfaces found on most handguns. (During the dry firing of the prototype, the trigger pull during the double action sequence was the best and easiest of any handgun—pistol or revolver—this writer has ever tried.)

Lockup between the slide and barrel in the new Llama is via a buttress design, said to increase the shear area in both parts by 50 per cent. The mainspring, or recoil spring, is housed beneath the barrel, and a solid guide rod is used, somewhat similar to that used on the Polish Radom.

To provide increased accuracy, the barrel and slide are in full contact at the muzzle, when locked, via a special barrel



Here the right profile or the ejection port side.



Locked open, you can see the readily available magazine release button and the different sight configuration.

bushing. Coupled with the muzzle rigidity are the sights. The front sight is a blade, integral with the slide, and serrated to reduce glare. The rear sight is a fully adjustable model of unusual design; it is mounted on the slide by a single pin traversing both the slide and the side base, thus eliminating the dovetail so often found on autoloader slides. The two rear sight screws—windage and elevation—have detents to prevent them from loosening during firing, and are the only screws, with the exception of those on the stocks or grip panels, to be found in the entire pistol. There are no other screws in the new

Llama D.A., and all parts of the mechanism are mechanically retained, so it is impossible for them to loosen during firing.

Pins are used in the construction, but only three pins are used for the firing mechanism—the hammer pin, the sear pin, and the safety block pin. As mentioned, these pins are retained, in this instance by the grip panels, and cannot come out during firing or use.

The release for the single column detachable box magazine is in the same location as on the M1911, and is used in the same manner. So, too, is the extractor pinned into the right side of the slide, similar to the extractors used on the other Llama autoloaders. However, there are at least three additional features not found on previous Llama autoloaders.

The trigger guard has been reshaped to accommodate the trigger shape necessary

(Continued on page 81)



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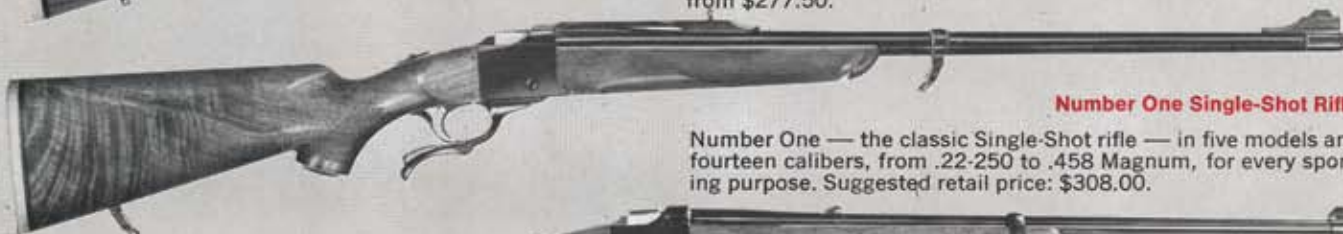
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NEWSLETTER

★ O.A.H.A. FOUNDATION, INC., P.O. BOX 45-70, BLOOMINGDALE, OHIO 43910 ★

As this is written (Feb. 15) it is an awkward time for news regarding the Foundation. There is, however, some good news about the involvement of the membership that may come too late (the 1980 OAHA Awards Banquet will be over by the time you read this) but it will give you some indication of how the foundation wants to give every member a chance to become more involved.

At each OAHA Banquet, a vast array of great prizes are raffled off to those present. This year, members who could not attend are given a chance to win any of the prizes including the grand prize, a Mag-Na-Port Custom revolver.

Invitations to the banquet, and information on how to get in on the raffle, were sent to members early in February, but only to members. If you were looking for just one more reason to join the OAHA Foundation, here it is. J. D. Jones and the entire board of directors are studying new ways to get all of the membership into the workings of the organization and into some of the benefits. The next board meeting should have some interesting news, and we'll report it here in the next issue. In the meantime, if you have any ideas on membership involvement, drop us a note, we are always open to suggestions.

A special note to members: The Officers of the Foundation are considering new ideas for the Trophy. The now famous Handgunner statute, see underprinted on this page, has been around for 8 years, and perhaps it's time to update it. If you have any suggestions, please send them to the Chairman. If you think we should stick with the present statue, let us know that, too. This is your organization, and we want to hear from you on anything pertaining to the OAHA programs.

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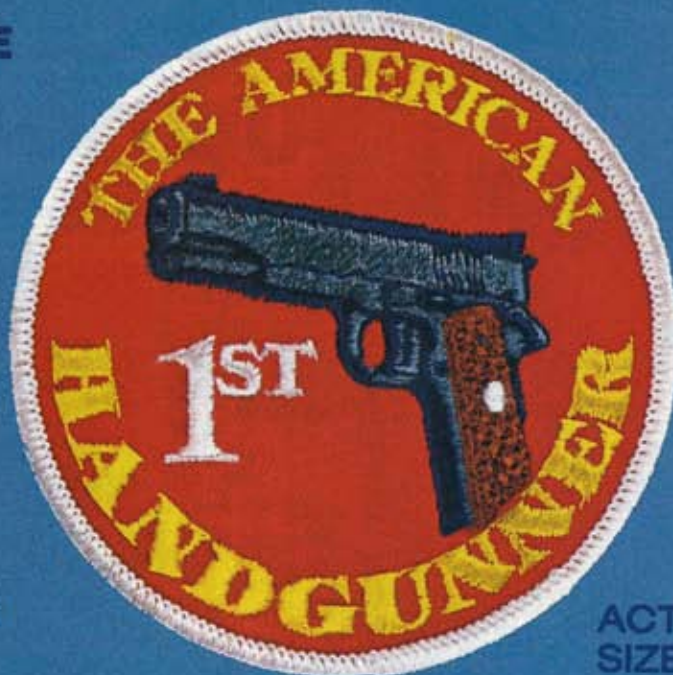
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TEST REPORT:

TARGET BULLDOG .44 SPL

Now Charter Arms has come up with an inch longer barrel and adjustable target sight.

By J. D. Jones

In answer to the demand of an adjustable sighted .44 Special Bulldog, Charter Arms has added an inch of barrel and an adjustable sight to the Bulldog and christened it the "Target Bulldog .44 Special."

Actually, that's an oversimplification. The 3" barrel of the standard Bulldog is a conventional barrel. The Target Bulldog's barrel has a detachable shroud that incorporates a shroud for the ejector rod.

The rear sight is a servicable adjustable unit. The usual grip for the Bulldog is a round butt and the Target Bulldog sports a walnut square butt stock that is considerably more hand filling than its predecessor. The Pachmayr rubber grip is a welcome replacement stock however. This five-shooter weighs in at almost exactly 20 ounces—an ounce heavier than the 3" Bulldog.

The .44 Special cartridge is a mild mannered Clark Kent in a 6" S & W or Colt Single Action. In the 4" Charter it ballistically remains essentially unchanged but even factory loads produce robust recoil in this lightweight gun. Lightweight, .38 Special Snubs kick just as much with many "+p" loads though. Even though billed as a target model, the Bulldog is suitable only for informal target shooting—not competition. As an informal target gun the Bulldog does all right. It isn't a tackdriver—at least the one I have isn't with anything I've run through it. It has an eight groove shallowly rifled barrel that doesn't seem compatible with soft swaged bullets such as those made by Hornady, Speer and Taurus. These soft bullets tend to strip in the rifling and produce only very

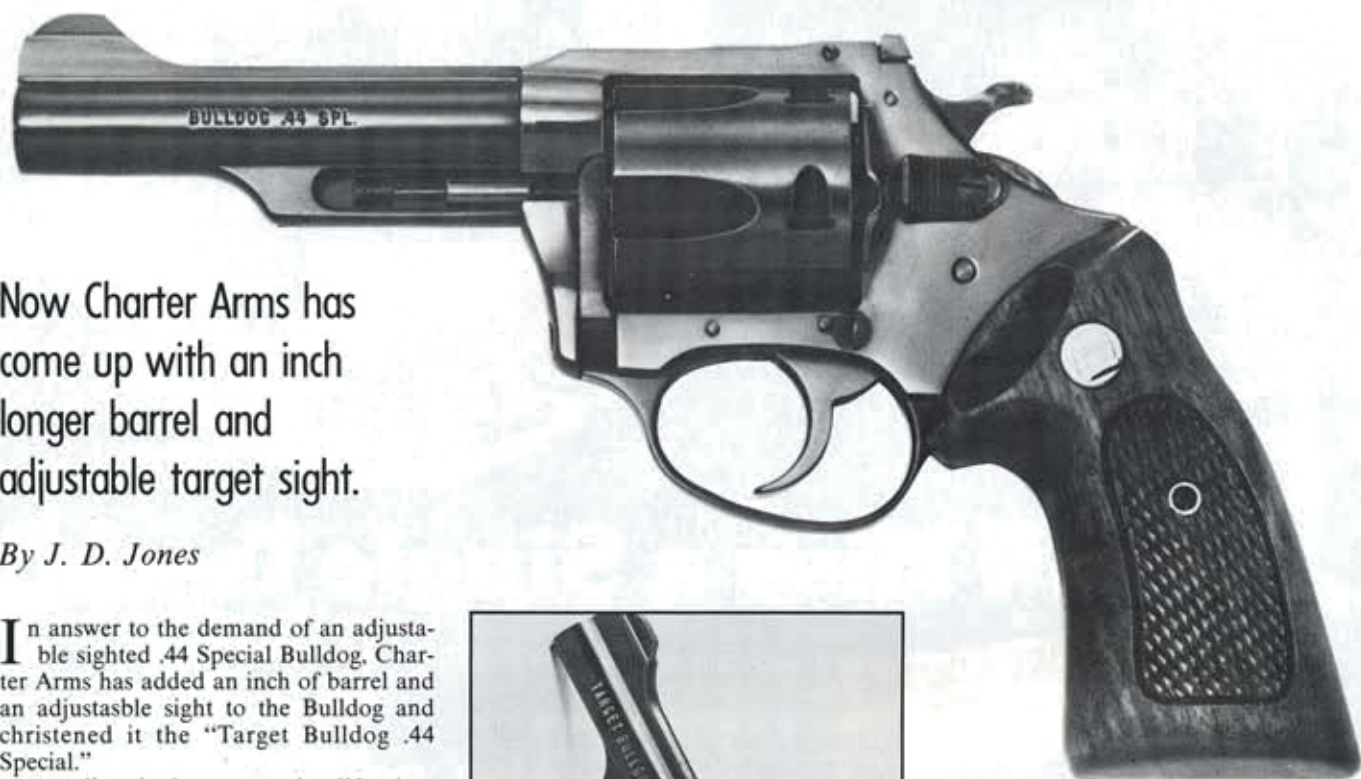
mediocre accuracy and severe leading.

Switching to hard cast bullets that are more resistant to skidding in the rifling, accuracy improved considerably. Jacketed bullets also worked well.

Accuracy of the .44 with hard cast Lyman 429421 and various jacketed bullets in a velocity range of from 700-900 feet per second probably averaged around 2-2½ inches at around 25 yards. I'm not much of a paper puncher and little time was spent measuring groups. In fact most groups were estimated from lead splashes on rocks. I fooled around with it on the silhouette range a little and managed to knock down a few 100 meter pigs just to prove the Bulldog could hit occasionally.

It didn't seem to make much difference what bullet weight was used—accuracy was relatively constant. Obviously the 180s recoiled less than 240s and there seemed to be a tendency for accuracy to improve a little as velocity increased. Otherwise, everything was constant—no surprises were encountered. The gun didn't loosen up in around 400 rounds but I did crack the grips with a few hot heavy bullet loads that were a little heavy in recoil.

My impression is that the lightweight (20 oz.) gun is fairly hard to hold steady without a rest of some sort and that I would occasionally "throw" a shot due to



Here's the barrel shroud of the Target Bulldog partially removed. The gun weighs in at 20 ounces, only an ounce heavier than the 3" model.

SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber:	.44 or .357 Magnum
Action:	Double action
Capacity:	5 round cylinder
Barrel:	4" or 6 inches
L.O.A.:	9"
Weight:	20 ounces
Sights:	Front: 9/64 inch Partridge on serrated ramp Rear: Fully adjustable
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the very light weight of the gun. On the plus side, the light weight makes it an excellent trail gun, gun for a rifle hunter or backpacker. It doesn't happen often, but occasionally a four-legged animal becomes bellicose and needs to be calmed down at a relatively close range as do two-legged animals. In a legitimately defensive role—range measured in one digit feet; power, not inherent accuracy, is of paramount importance. Even moderately loaded, a hard cast of soft point jacketed bullet will have sufficient penetration to break through most bears skulls. At a true defensive range of a few feet, the Bulldog is sufficiently accurate to fulfill this need.

The action of the Charter after several hundred rounds smoothed up considerably. I would consider it quite adequate for the guns intended purpose and very reliable. Single action pull dropped the hammer at a consistent 66 ounces on my gauge. (S & W M-29s usually run about 50 oz.) Double action is smooth and I would guess it at 11-12 pounds. Sights are low and rounded in view of the gun's defensive capabilities. They are also wide and fast to pick up and use. With 240s this one shot to point of aim at about 50-75 yards with the sight at its lowest elevation.

The Bulldogs are easily carried and concealed on one's person. The .44 Special round is not particularly powerful or difficult to handle. It compares very closely

"The .44 Special is not particularly powerful or difficult to handle."

with the .45 ACP round in power. It's not a world-beater but is a relatively easily controlled defensive round with good penetration capabilities. Handloaded, the .44 Special can be pepped up considerably. As power goes up so does recoil—and at a faster rate than velocity. The Charter is adequately strong to handle moderately strong .44 Special loads. Anyone really serious about maximum defensive capabilities of ammunition should be aware there are some really potent loads to be concocted that are entirely safe in the Charter.

Obviously, at \$170.00 the Target Bulldog isn't as well constructed as a \$400.00 brand X. It does lock up properly and has minimal end play in the cylinder. Construction is strong and adequate for its intended purpose. As far as durability goes, the Charter won't last as long as a Single Action Ruger without developing excessive looseness in important areas but I would expect a Bulldog to go 10,000 or so rounds of factory or factory equivalent handloads without getting too "shook" up. The Target Bulldog is not the type handgun many individuals will ever wear out.



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HANDLOADING

DAN COTTERMAN

THIS VENERABLE OLDIE CAN HOLD ITS OWN AGAINST THE BIG MAGGIES IN THE RIGHT GUN

The greatest challenges and satisfactions of handloading are discovered in our efforts to assemble ammunition that will outperform the mass-produced factory product. Nowhere is this effort more profitable than with the .45 Long Colt. Its large case and range of heavy bullets provide one of the best hand-loading situations ever to attend a cartridge.

As an efficient big-bore, the old brass whiskey jigger has never gone begging for a reputation. Its purpose over a century ago in Sam Colt's remarkable Peacemaker was sheer power: a full stoking of sulphur and charcoal (the 40-grain black powder charge for which it was originally designed) would shoot a 250-grain slug at better than 900 fps. That's sufficiently formidable to satisfy even today's outlandish demands.

But that 900-plus, whether fact or fable, must be associated with times long gone. Nowadays it's been trimmed to a more conservative 860 as we note a kinship to the .32 S&W Long whose factory-loaded

velocity has been reduced a full 90 fps over the years. In each example the obvious goal is to keep chamber pressures safe for aging firearms.

Granting the use of a stronger gun, such as Colt's SAA New Frontier or the Thompson/Center Contender, the han-

"As an efficient big-bore, the old brass whiskey jigger has never gone begging for a reputation."

dloader need not be saddled with the responsibility of downloading this most capable round.

Before going any further it is important to realize that aging firearms are not alone responsible for squelching the potential of the .45 LC. It has, in fact, been held back as a result of good intentions from at least one of handloading's loftier places. I refer

to comment seen in Speer's Reloading Manual No. 7. This respected book, in listing loads involving no powder other than Unique, sternly suggested "very erratic results" should any other powder be used. The daunting effect of those words was cold water on the spirits of many who might otherwise have chosen to experiment.

Somewhat beyond plausible explanation Speer's Reloading Manual No. 9 lists 16 different powders for four bullet types ranging in weight from 200 to 250 grains. There remains, however, the persistent suggestion that "All factors considered, Unique powder remains the best choice for normal loads in the .45 Colt cartridge."

Meanwhile, Winchester-Western's booklet on ball powder loading (the 1976 version) listed but a single charge for the .45 LC. It calls for 7.1 grains of W-W 231 behind a 255-grain lead bullet which exercises at 875 fps following a chamber pressure of 13M CUP. Tolerable for most smokeless powder revolvers in good condition, yet moderate for the likes of Colt's flat-topped New Frontier or the T/C Contender.

The Ruger Blackhawk should also be mentioned among modern revolvers capable of higher chamber pressures. Looking again at Speer's No. 9 we note that more potent loads are listed for the Ruger as well as the Contender. The commentary accompanying these loads includes a warning against using them in anything but the strongest guns.

Neither should the heavier Speer loads, nor the ones I have tested in the New Frontier and the Contender, be used with early .454-inch diameter bullets or in semi-balloon-head cases. Larger than .451 to .452-inch diameter bullets will raise pressures dangerously while balloon-headed cases will fail to withstand all but the most nominal pressures. Even today's .45 LC hull will be found to be a bit thinner in the web area when compared to that of the .44 Magnum. Regardless of this minor difference I experienced no trouble with observable pressure signs or incipient cracking on either Remington or Winchester-Western .45 LC cases after six to eight heavy charges had been set off in them.

Here are the loads I tested. I know this has the ring of a lecture but I must caution that they worked satisfactorily in the test guns I had on hand and that results in your gun or guns might be different. It is therefore recommended that you reduce these charges by at least ten percent at first. If no signs of excessive pressures are seen, you can then work up slowly by increasing the powder charges in small steps.

Velocities shown for the 7½-inch barrel represent results from the New Frontier revolver while those under the 10-inch heading are for the Contender. The absence of a flash gap plus the added barrel length in the case of the latter accounted for an increase of about 12 percent in velocity although a much greater increase

BULLET: 170-GRAIN JACKETED HOLLOW POINT

Powder Type	Grains Weight	Velocity (7½-inch barrel)	Energy	Velocity (10-inch barrel)	Energy
AL-7	20.0	1570	930	1880	1330

BULLET: 175-GRAIN JACKETED HOLLOW POINT

H-2400	22.0	1640	1040	1830	1300
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BULLET: 190-GRAIN JACKETED HOLLOW POINT

AL-8	20.5	1380	800	1540	1000
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BULLET: 200-GRAIN JACKETED HOLLOW POINT

H-240	21.0	1460	950	1630	1180
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BULLET: 250-GRAIN SEMI-WADCUTTER BY SPEER

2400	19.5	1040*	600	1160	750
2400	21.0	1240	850	1380	1060
2400	21.5	1250	870	1400	1090
2400	22.5	1350	950	1510	1190**

**CAUTION: Don't use .454 bullets

*Speer's No. 9 lists a velocity of 1200 for their 250-grainer ahead of 17.7 grains of 2400 from the Blackhawk's 7½-inch barrel. This velocity figure represents 40 fps more than my tests indicated for a 19.5-grain charge from a 10-inch barrel and 160 fps more than my tests indicated for a 7½-inch barrel. There seems to be neither "right" nor "wrong" in these test-to-test variances since notable differences often occur, regardless of the care exercised in the conduct of the tests and the accuracy of the electronic equipment employed.

in energy can be noted. Both V and E figures have been rounded off to the nearest ten since, indeed, shot-to-shot and gun-to-gun velocities from identical loads result in variances that render the listing of exact figures both pretentious and unnecessary.

More uniform and complete combustion will be realized through the use of a firm crimp. Magnum primers are recommended with H-240 and 2400 loads, while the quick-burning properties of AL-7 and AL-8 powders allow the use of standard primers. A sturdy crimp, by the way, also helps prevent bullet loosening in the revolver cylinder.

The .45 LC is not easily confused with the new .45 Winchester Magnum. It is larger in exterior dimension and will contain between 11 and 12 percent more powder, depending on the fineness of the powder itself. It has, however, equal—if

"More uniform and complete combustion will be realized through the use of a firm crimp."

not greater—potential for magnum performance, provided the use of a gun of sufficient strength.

In addition to exploring the power reserve of this most neglected cartridge, I explored—not for the first time, but again and with pleasure—the merits of Bonanza's Co-Ax loading press and dies. To say simply that the Co-Ax is a slick performer would be to short-change the reader. To say that it is extremely well made and therefore among the finest of the dozens of presses I have tested over the past 18 years would be to deal in terms of a well-known generality. It is more practical to take note of its handiness, a fact that exists in the tool's truly unique design. For example, changing dies amounts to no more than snapping (not twisting) them into place, a good, time-saving feature. Neither is it necessary to change shell holders when moving from one cartridge to another. Shell and bullet alignment with the Co-Ax are inherently better and easier, too, owing to the tool's vertical (as opposed to slanted) operation and floating guide rods. And, of course, there is the matter of tremendous mechanical leverage: Bonanza claims it is possible to full-length resize with nothing greater than the pressure you can exert with your little finger. Not willing to take anyone's word on such a claim, I tried it and they ain't just woofin'... it's as easy as they say it is.

I can therefore recommend the Bonanza Co-Ax, along with Bonanza dies, as well as a good complement of loads for the .45 LC. Choose bullets and powders carefully, then load them with as much caution as you use when aiming.



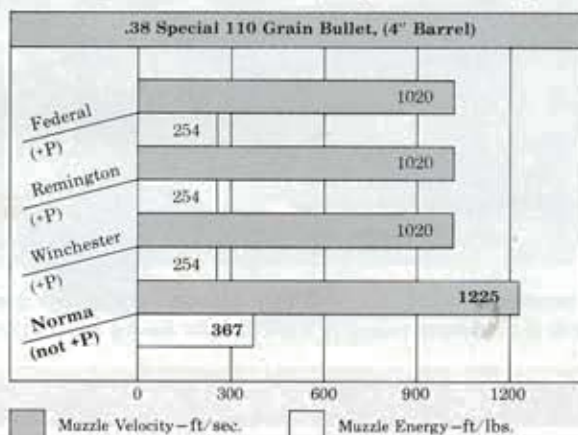
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Norma has 20% more muzzle velocity, and more than 45% higher energy. The Norma .38 Special, with 110 grain jacketed hollow point, is a true *magnum*. Its performance approaches that of a .357 magnum.

Yet, the .38 Special Norma *Magnum* does not develop higher pressures. It's not even rated +P. It can be used in handguns that safely handle regular .38 special loads, small frame revolvers included.

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798 Cascadilla St., P.O. Box 30-06, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

THE SIG P-210

Beautifully Made... But Not The Gun For Combat Competition

By John Robinson



SIG P-210 .22LR 4³/₄" BBL.

AMMO

Remington Hi-Vel 40 gn
Winchester Super X HVHP 38 gn
RWS HVHP 38 gn
Sterling HV 40 gn
Sterling HVHP 38 gn
RWS target 40 gn
Winchester X Pediter 29 gn
Winchester X Pert 40 gn
Winchester Leader 40 gn
Winchester Super X Match 40 gn

VELOCITY

955 fps
1,057 fps
991 fps
1,030 fps
1,061 fps
957 fps
1,252 fps
926 fps
922 fps
904 fps

Anyone familiar with Swiss firearms will know they are synonymous with top quality workmanship and premium price tags. The Hammerli line of target handguns, for example, start at around \$700 for the .22 lr Hammerli 208 auto, to around \$1,000 for the Model 150 Free Pistol.

The SIG P210 is basically a military pistol, produced by Swiss Industrial Company, Neuhausen Rhine Falls, Switzerland. The company was established in 1853 and have specialized in military weapons up to the present day. In the last few years, SIG have been involved in joint firearms ventures with Hammerli (with the SIG-Hammerli P240 centrefire target pistol) and with J.P. Sauer & Sohn of Germany to produce the SIG Sauer P220 and P230. How much manufacturing presence SIG brings to bear on these projects is not known.

It is certain however that the SIG P210 is the sole responsibility of the Neuhausen works and has been manufactured there for over 30 years. The official sidearm of Swiss armed forces from the turn of the century was the great Luger Parabellum in .30 Luger (7.65 mm), and this was in use up to the Second World War.

A Swiss by the name of Charles Petter who worked for the French Company SACM, held patents on an improved Colt/Browning autoloading pistol design. This gentleman was responsible for the development of the French M1935A pistol, which was chambered for the 7.65 mm Long cartridge—a cartridge unique to France firing an 88 grain bullet at around 1,000 fps, and generally held in low regard as a military round.

SIG obtained a license from SACM to develop the patent designs of Charles Petter, and as WWII drew to a close, SIG came up with a design called the New-hansen 44/16—a 9 mm Parabellum pistol

Here's the SIG P210-6; note the miniscule dimensions of the safety catch. On these target versions, the barrel, frame, slide and trigger all have same serial number.



with a 16 round capacity. An 8 shot version was also produced and in 1948, the SP47/8 appeared. It was from this beginning that the SIG P210 developed and like the original pistol it is still available with conversion units for 7.65 Luger (.30 Luger) and .22 Long rifle. How much longer it will be available is a moot point, in view of its high manufacturing costs and the availability of suitable replacements.

Currently there are several models of the P210. The P210-1 is the standard model with commercial blue finish and wooden grips. The P210-2 has plastic grips and a matte finish which looks like Parkerising on the one sample I have seen. The P210-5 is the 9 mm target model with an extended (6") barrel and adjustable sights, carrying the foresight on the barrel. The P210-6 is also a target model but has a standard 5" barrel.

The 'creme de la creme' of SIG P210s is the subject of this article and is rare even by SIG owners' standards.

How I got this treasure is a long story. Suffice to say that a long wait was part of it. The object of this dedication is a P210-6 conversion unit. This outfit consists of the standard 9 mm barrel and slide, a 7.65 Luger barrel and recoil spring to suit, and a .22 Long rifle conversion unit incorporating barrel, slide, recoil spring and magazine. All these components are precision fitted to deliver target accuracy and micro adjustable sights are fitted to both the centrefire and rimfire slides.

This latter component is unusual. All literature on the subject, including the manual with the outfit, indicates that the .22 lr unit is available with fixed sights only. The adjustable sight fitted is identical to the SIG centrefire sight. The SIG P210 design is in some ways similar to that of the Browning Hi Power. The barrel lockup is accomplished using a cam slot under the barrel instead of a swinging



Author firing the prone section of Service Match course at 50 meters. SIG's accuracy and good sights and trigger make it a dream to handle

SIG P-210 7.65MM

BULLET	POWDER	VELOCITY
93 gn Norma	factory	1,272 fps
93 gn Norma FMJ	4.8/Green dot	1,186 fps
100 gn Hornady HJ	3.0/Hi Score	882 fps
100 gn Hornady HJ	4.0/Win. 231	1,113 fps
100 gn Hornady HJ	4.5/Bullseye	1,180 fps
85 gn RCBS cast	3.0/Hi Score	1,008 fps
85 gn RCBS cast	4.0/700X	1,156 fps
85 gn RCBS cast	5.0/Green dot	1,236 fps
85 gn RCBS cast	4.5/Red dot	1,258 fps



P-210

SIG P-210 9MM

BULLET	POWDER	VELOCITY
115 gn FMJ	Winchester factory	1,114 fps
125 gn RCBS cast	3.0/Hi Score	895 fps
90 gn Hornady JHP	5.0/700X	1,294 fps
90 gn Hornady JHP	5.5/Unique	1,061 fps
90 gn Hornady JHP	5.0/Bullseye	1,210 fps
100 gn Hornady FMJ	5.5/Win. 231	1,138 fps
125 gn RCBS cast	4.0/Win. 231	980 fps
115 gn Hornady JHP	5.0/Green dot	1,135 fps
115 gn Hornady JHP	4.5/Red dot	1,103 fps
125 gn RCBS cast	4.0/Red dot	1,075 fps
125 gn RCBS cast	3.0/Bullseye	858 fps
90 gn Hornady	4.8/Red dot	1,260 fps

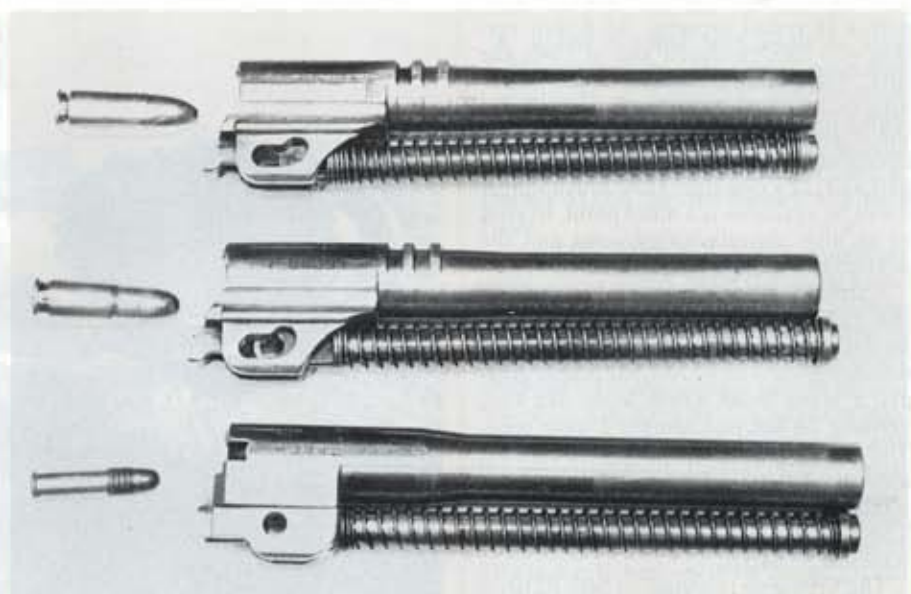
link, and the slide recoils **INSIDE** the frame instead of outside like the Colt M1911.

Unlike the Browning, the SIG's rails run the full length of the frame, giving the slide full support. The SIG has its sear/hammer assembly combined in a removable unit which slips into a recess in the rear of the frame. This unit allows adjustment in trigger pull by increasing or decreasing the tension on the hammer spring, exposed at the rear of the unit. The manual indicates that adjustment from 3.3 to 4.5 lb. is possible with this arrangement.

On the target version, a trigger stop is provided in the frame and can be adjusted with the grips and magazine removed. The trigger movement is unusual and takes some getting used to. There is a small amount of takeup, a long first pressure and a crisp release. It is a good trigger for deliberate shooting but may not prove so good for combat style competition. After shooting with deliberation for over a decade, I found the SIG trigger OK.

The sighting equipment on the SIG is excellent. The rear sight moves with precision and without any backlash in the adjustments. At 50 metres, one click moves the point of impact 48 mm vertically, and 16 mm horizontally. Rear sight notch is 1/8" wide and provides a good sight picture for the Partridge type sights although sights could be wider for my taste. They are not very well adapted to holster work on the target model because of the high (6 mm) and sharp edged foresight.

The SIG design has a number of safety features—some good, some not so good. In fact, most not so good for a service-type pistol. The safety catch is on the left side of the frame, positioned similar to that of the Colt M1911 but of such vestigial proportions that it is quite hard to get on and off. There is a lot of tension on the safety itself and this combined with the very small



thumbpiece makes it slow to operate. The pistol is also fitted with a magazine safety. These are utterly useless appendages, in my opinion, that have no place on a service type pistol. A pistol that cannot be fired with the magazine out is not a good thing to have around in a difficult situation. Fortunately the magazine safety on the SIG is easily removed by unscrewing the disconnecting lever from the right side of the frame under the right grip panel.

The firing pin on the SIG is an inertia type, so the pistol can be carried with the hammer down and a round in the magazine, with a degree of safety. The half cock notch on the hammer will prevent it reaching the firing pin should the hammer be inadvertently snagged backwards.

Unfortunately, the difficulty of operating the safety one-handed makes the 'instant readiness' condition difficult to achieve unless the abovementioned load-carrying arrangements are made. There is an

Three barrels for the SIG. (Top) 9mm, (center) 7.65mm and (bottom) the .22 rimfire.

element of risk though small, with the pistol in such a condition. Another design feature of the SIG that is less than good is the magazine release. This device is a large catch at the bottom of the grip, which means two hands are needed to get the magazine out—one holding the pistol while the other is used to push the catch back, remove and replace magazines. It is not difficult to work up a technique of quick changing magazines however, and the magazine release lever is big and handy.

The precision with which the SIG is made, complemented by the excellent Petter design, makes the auto one of the most accurate out of the box pistols available.

(Continued on page 64)

TEST REPORT:

SIG / SAUER P-225

Now... A Reworked,
Smaller, Lighter And More
Compact P-220 To Follow
The Requirements Of Police
Work Worldwide

From the folks who brought you the precision-made SIG P-210 and 220 ... presenting the new P-225. The police forces of many countries were in need of a new and up-to-date service pistol in caliber 9mm Parabellum. To go along with this need, the P-220 was reworked to the exacting specifications.

The SIG-Neuhausen P-210 which was introduced in the Swiss Army in 1949 and was considered by many experts as one of the finest 9mm's in the world. When here and there a demand for a more up-to-date pistol became apparent, the design department of SIG started the development of a radically new pistol. Various reasons led to the fact the Sauer Company in Eckernforde, Western Germany was entrusted with the manufacturing of the new auto pistol P-220.

But, time marches on. So, in the German Federal Republic and many other countries, a need was established for yet a third SIG. This would be updated even more and be a little lighter and a little more compact ... thus the P-225 was born. Deliveries have already begun, and in this country Mandall Shooting Supplies of Scottsdale, Arizona is the distributor of all three ... the 210, the 220 and the new 225. (Their address is: 7150 4th St.—85251.)

It's a little lighter, as we said ... a little shorter (O.A.L. is 7-3/32") weighing in at a hair over 26 ounces. That's really light when you consider that the Beretta .380 is 23 ounces. You can get 9 shots of 9mm ... 8 in the magazine plus 1 in the barrel. There are 6 interchangeable sight blades that should take care of most needs. It's a very safe gun with the DA trigger, an automatic firing pin safety lock and a decocking lever. Assembly and disassembly are easy and the slide stays open at the last shot. The magazine release button is where it should be, too ... ready to hit quickly with your right thumb.

Its grandfather and father are of proven lineage. So big things should be expected of SIG's newest born ... the P-225.



It might not win a beauty contest by American standards but with 9 shots and 6 sight blades, it has some great potential.



SAFARI

J. D. Jones

**This Custom Ruger Will Probably Become A
Legend In Its Own Time...A Collector's Item
Before Most Everyone Else Sees One**



American ingenuity will always come up with a new design and name for a gun. Bill Ruger's American ingenuity gave us a fine S.A. Larry Kelly's adapted the EDM process to Mag-na-porting and the series of limited edition (200 per series) M-N-P guns.

The Safari is the latest of this series of collectors' guns. Yep, collectors' guns. They didn't start out that way, but anyone that would shoot an unfired one of them now has more money than brains.

You obviously like the looks of the Safari or you wouldn't be reading this. OK—the finish is Metalife SS—a stainless steel appearing industrial hard chrome. Barrel length of #1 is a hair under six inches on my Lufkin. Muzzle crown is full radius. Front sight insert is yellow. Those funny things in

the barrel beside the front sight are Mag-na-port slots. Ejector housing is stainless. Ejector, base pin, base pin retainer, grip screw, trigger and hammer are gold plated. Rear sight is a two bar peep. I'll let someone else tell how that came into being. The M-N-P logo is engraved on the topstrap. A Cape Buffalo decorates the cylinder and the M-N-P number is under the Buff on the frame. The grips appear to be refinished with a Super Vel fired .44 case inset in place of the Ruger emblem. The action is sealed and M-N-P will absolutely not reseal any action. This seal positively prevents the action from being worked and lessening the collector value of the individual gun. The action has been tuned just in case someone wants to shoot his gun sometime. The Safari is one hell of a package and comes in one hell of a package. It's a custom made highly

(Continued on page 80)



Photo by Rodney Jones

Rumors and long wait ended recently when the first model 717 and 722 air pistols began to flow from Daisy assembly lines. Described as a Target Quality Pneumatic Air Pellet Pistol, its notable features are a single pump stroke and low price.

Daisy has ceased distribution of the German made Feinwerkbau match pistols and the Spanish made D62 target grade pistols. The new 717 was enthusiastically received when first field tested at the Police Combat Pistol Matches in October, 1978, producing groups under one half inch at 33 feet. Further evaluated at Fort Benning

hand grips, but left hand will be available for both models.

Taking practice aim through the generous sights, one sees that they are target grade, consisting of a $\frac{1}{8}$ " wide blade and ramp front, with fully adjustable square notch rear. The micrometer rear sight is easily adjusted with coin or screwdriver and includes position indicator markings. Sight radius is $12\frac{3}{4}$ " while overall length of the pistol is $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Remarkably, my pistol shoots "right on" with both adjustments centered.

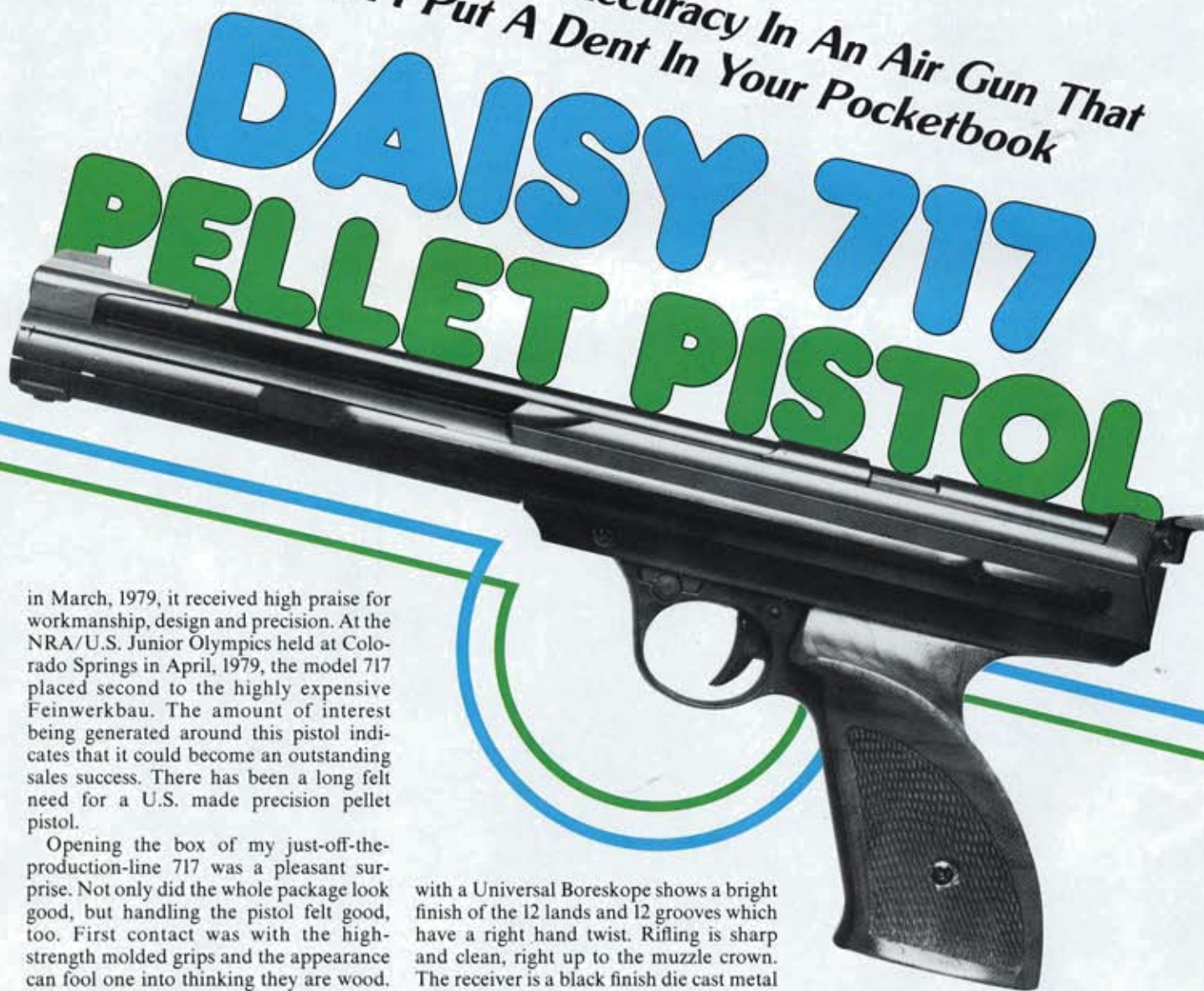
Close scrutiny of the rifled bore insert

(to lead) and being impervious to rusting from condensation, which is a possibility in pneumatic air arm designs.

An easy, clean-breaking trigger pull is important for all forms of rifle and pistol shooting. The non-adjustable trigger on this 717 has a measured pull weight of 3.4 lbs. and feels like more, but is lower than the factory specification of 4.0-4.5 lbs. Release is sharp with only a minimum of over-travel. The factory spec. on trigger travel is .10 inch, including free travel. Mine goes around .130", which matters not a bit in view of the nice let-off.

At Last... Target Accuracy In An Air Gun That
Won't Put A Dent In Your Pocketbook

By Ladd Fanta



in March, 1979, it received high praise for workmanship, design and precision. At the NRA/U.S. Junior Olympics held at Colorado Springs in April, 1979, the model 717 placed second to the highly expensive Feinwerkbau. The amount of interest being generated around this pistol indicates that it could become an outstanding sales success. There has been a long felt need for a U.S. made precision pellet pistol.

Opening the box of my just-off-the-production-line 717 was a pleasant surprise. Not only did the whole package look good, but handling the pistol felt good, too. First contact was with the high-strength molded grips and the appearance can fool one into thinking they are wood. They have wood graining, checkering and contoured thumb rest. Mine has right

with a Universal Borescope shows a bright finish of the 12 lands and 12 grooves which have a right hand twist. Rifling is sharp and clean, right up to the muzzle crown. The receiver is a black finish die cast metal and the brass insert method offers advantages such as better coefficient of friction

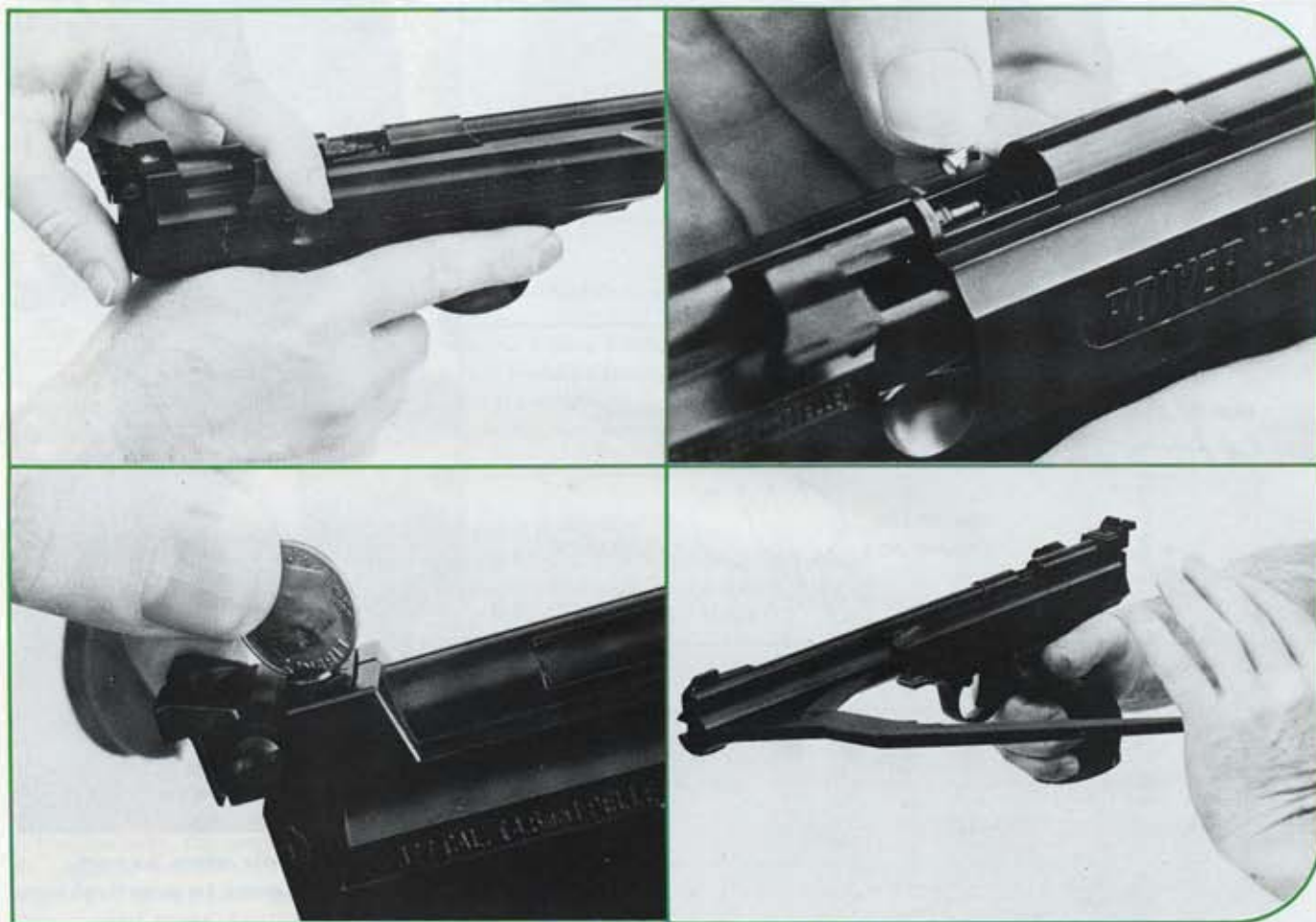
Although the instruction booklet doesn't mention this pro or con, one can work the cocking bolt without charging or loading the 717 and practice dry-fire.

The model 717 is the newest in Daisy's "Power Line" series and intended for adults, 16 and up. It discharges with considerable force and all Safe Gun Handling rules should be observed. This pistol has a manual cross bolt trigger block safety with red indicator. Operationally, the 717 is single shot, manual loading, pneumatic (compressed air) by single pump of a side operating pump lever. Weighing a well

balanced 2.8 lbs., it has a desirable heft for target shooting. Operation of the pump side lever is rated at 17 lbs., but mine pushes the scales to 22 lbs. before the side lever is pressed into battery (firing) position. In any case, women who were asked to test fire the pistol had no difficulty with the pump manipulation.

Operation of the 717 is straightforward. First, put on the safety. Next, open the bolt by lifting up the bolt handle and pulling backwards. Although this sets the trigger, the gun cannot fire with bolt open. Then, with the side-lever, you pump the gun only

once to achieve maximum velocity. Any additional pumping will not increase the velocity and may damage the gun. The well illustrated Operation Manual cautions one not to attempt to pump again or open pump lever as the lever is under pressure and could fly open. To load, you place one pellet, nose forward, on the feed track. There is no need for chambering the round manually, although if the pistol is held muzzle down, the pellet will more or less slide into the chamber. When the bolt is pushed forward and handle down to closed position, a projection on the bolt



Clockwise from top left: Opening bolt by rotating upward and sliding to the rear. This cocks the mechanism and must be done before the pistol will accept pump charge; Simple loading is accomplished by placing a pellet on feed track in front of bolt tip or dropping into breech if pistol is tilted down. The projection, or

tip, on the bolt always seats the pellet into correct firing position after bolt is closed; Power for the gun is provided by a computer optimized single pump via side operating pump lever; Rear sight adjustment of windage and elevation has position indicator markings and can be done with either coin or screwdriver.

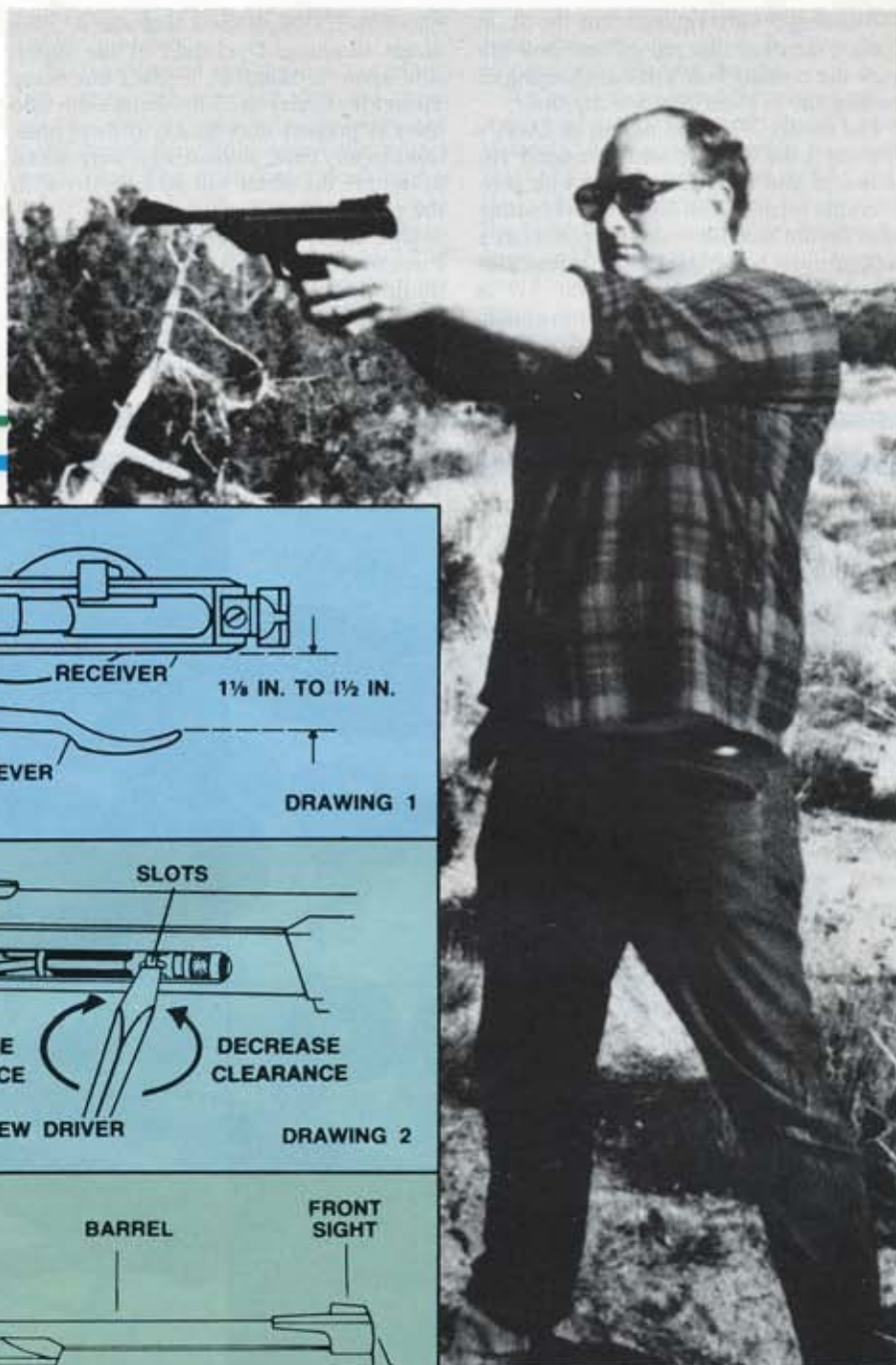
automatically seats the pellet in the chamber the same way each time for optimum accuracy. Now all one need do is take off the safety by pushing the convenient button above the trigger from right to left so that the red is showing, aim, and fire.

Front sight assembly, trigger, part of rear sight and loading bolt of the 717 are synthetic. The front end of the bolt has no "O" ring for sealing against the chamber as is frequently done with pneumatic and

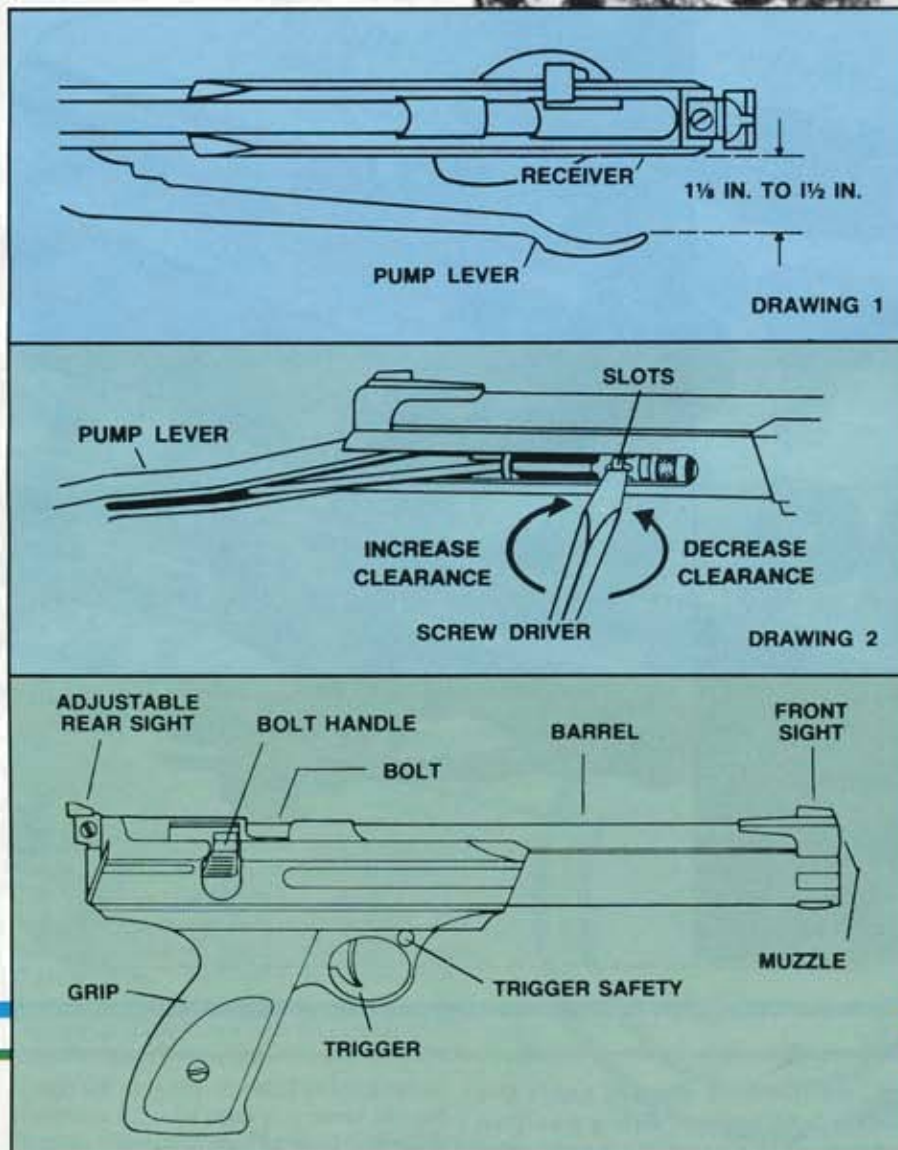
717

CO2 designs, but rather depends on the built-in sealing qualities of the synthetic material itself. Fit at this point is good, as evidenced by a bright circular contact area and no discernible leakage.

The 717 has a muzzle velocity of 360 f.p.s. and the 722 a muzzle velocity of 290 f.p.s. An official 10 meter test target



Jeff Loefer, air arms expert, puts all his guns to practical use.



included with my pistol had a 10-meter, 9/16" center-to-center 5-shot group and a muzzle velocity logged as 380 f.p.s. In comparing power by penetration into Duxseal, my Daisy D62, rated at 390 f.p.s., produced only slightly deeper penetration than the 717. The 717 comes impeccably

packaged in a molded box which also contains the 14 page Operation Manual, test target, caution tag and a generous (500 round) box of pellets made by Daisy. These pellets are a fairly new item, labeled "Superior Match Grade" and are very uniform.

Aside from normal owner maintenance, the operation handbook does not show internal parts or diagrams and any major repair should not be undertaken by the individual. Daisy has a reasonable, fixed-fee policy for complete repair, if ever needed after the warranty period, at their Service Depot in Rogers, Arkansas.

Unlike conventional pneumatic air arms where 1 or 2 pumps into the reservoir are

(Continued on page 69)

TEST REPORT:

ABILENE SILHOUETTE

56 ounces of brute strength, this 9" bull barreled single action gets a workout under a blistering sun... and here's what happened.

By Philip C. Briggs

The handgun silhouette game is booming, and the demand for high quality, accurate pistols created by the sport has not gone unnoticed by the manufacturers. The first few of what will become a host of pistols built for the silhouetters' special needs have become available this past year.

United States Arms is one of the first to build a pistol for the production shooter, introducing, this past spring, a silhouette/target model (AB-T) of their Abilene single action. The big single is an upgrade of the standard Abilene, which was described in some detail in an earlier article by J.D. Jones for "Guns" (May, 1978).

The new pistol is much like the standard version J.D. described, with the same high quality fit and finish. The main differences are: a nine-inch, non-tapered bull barrel that has a recessed muzzle and serrations along its entire length (non-functional, but attractive); longer, fatter, wrap-around grips, with a palm swell (both sides); Elliason fully adjustable target-style rear sight; and a nearly hundred dollar increase in list price. All this adds up to a large, heavy (56 ounce) pistol that hangs nicely in the hand.

Mechanically, the pistol is the same as the standard version that J.D. tested. The trigger pull is crisp and somewhere in the three-pound range. Further, the pistol functions as smoothly as an old-style Blackhawk, yet incorporates the mechanical safety of a transfer bar.

Unfortunately, the Abilene I had for testing was timed a little too quickly; when the hammer was pulled only slightly past half cock, the cylinder stop was partially released to pop up enough to touch the cylinder—but not enough to lock it. Result—ring around the cylinder. And, after about 800 rounds, the ejector rod housing shot off half-way through my last match. The screw holding housing finally sheared from holding the weight of the ejector assembly against the substantial recoil of the 44 mag. The recoil also shook

(Continued on page 81)



Here's the Abilene and some of the fodder that went through it. Bullets went from 180 to 265 grains. Author's Abilene seemed to like Federal factory loads best.

The CH Pistol Champ made the testing a lot easier. The handloads used up a good quantity of #2400, #296, H4227, and H110.



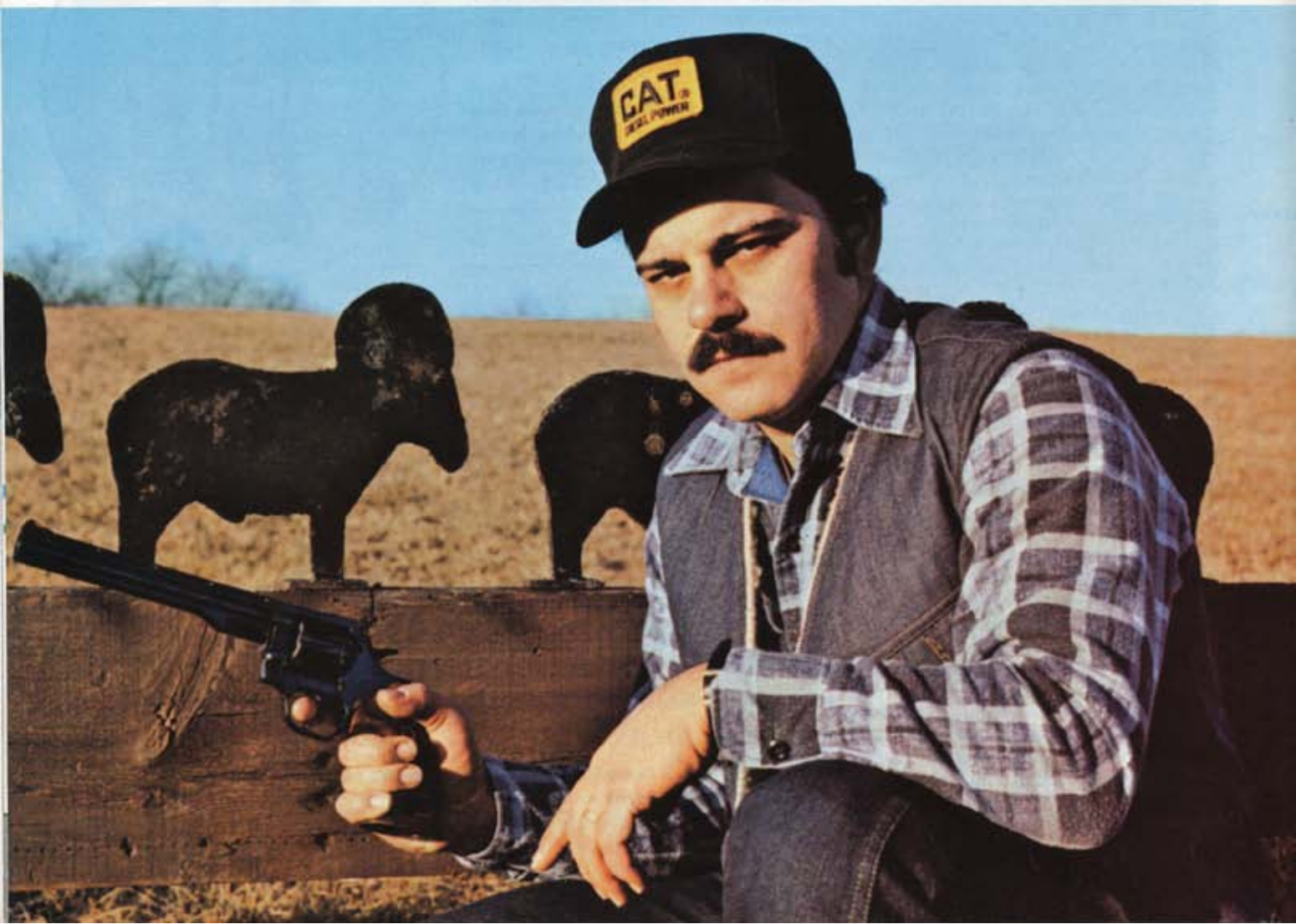
Author likes the Creedmoor position which can be a little hard on the clothes, thus the leather knee cover. 110 degree heat didn't make for perfect testing conditions.

DAN WES



For hunting, plinking or silhouette . . . unusual versatility makes this combination one of the most appealing .22 rimfires of all time.

By Mike Barach



WESSON .22

The long awaited arrival of the double action .22 revolver from Dan Wesson Arms is finally here and it's been worth the wait! Dan Wesson's .22 Pistol Pac retains all of the unique features of its big-brother, the .357, with some refinements to boot.

Unexpected problems prevented the .22 from becoming available to the dealers this past summer, however at the time of writing the Dan Wesson is becoming more readily available. By the time this article is being read, you should have no problem in obtaining a revolver.

Since the Dan Wesson .22 is identical to the model 15-2, .357 Mag., the frame, shrouds, and grips are all of the same dimensions. The barrels and cylinder are modified to accommodate the .22 L.R. cartridge. As a safety precaution, the .22

barrels have a smaller diameter thread on the end that screws into the frame. This makes it impossible to inadvertently place a .22 barrel on a .357 frame or vice-versa.

After receiving the .22 Pistol Pac and casually inspecting it, I proceeded to take aim on various objects in my gun room. I immediately noticed it had a pleasing muzzle-heavy feel with the attached 8" barrel. While testing in the field for accuracy, I later found the 6" barrel was also muzzle heavy. In fact the gun has a hefty feel with the shorter barrels too, which I personally like in a handgun. The weight of the Model 22 varies with the type of shroud assembly but will tip the scales at anywhere from 36 to 54 ounces.

If you've ever taken a good look at a Dan Wesson revolver alongside another

make, you'll find no sharp edges on it that would drag, scrape, or gouge when either placing the gun in a holster or in drawing out in the field. The rounded edges are also helpful when firing in both D.A. and S.A. modes, as the recoil of the gun could cause a cut on the hand if it came in contact with a sharp edge. In this respect, the Dan Wesson design is both practical and attractive.

The quality of the .22 Pistol Pac is all that is expected of a Dan Wesson revolver. The bright-blue finish is deep and lustrous, with no tooling or polishing marks evident. This includes those areas that are difficult to reach with a polishing wheel and aren't easily seen. Fitting of the sideplate to the frame is very well done, with no jagged edges or gaps to detract from the gun's appearance. The top strap and ribs on the shrouds have the conventional blue-black matte finish to reduce glare and aid sighting. Overall, the finish of the Model 22 compares favorably to either a Smith or Colt.

One of the unique features of the Dan Wesson handgun is the interchangeable front sight. This makes it possible to easily change the standard ramp sight blade with a red insert to the optionally available yellow or white insert blades, an all-black square-cut target blade, or the all-black ramped blade. I've used all the blades at one time or another and under certain lighting situations such as dimly lit areas or shooting towards dusk, I prefer the yellow insert blade. For daylight shooting I still like the all-black ramped blade. Both the yellow and white inserts enable the handgunner to pick up his sights quicker and give good contrast on dark backgrounds such as the body of an animal, but I've always had a problem with them glaring in

(Continued on page 70)

Opposite page: Author Barach feels that the best feature among many good features is the ability to quickly change barrel lengths. Above left: Four different styles of barrel shrouds makes it very appealing. Below left: For long range or as a snubby, this vent rib model is a good length for hunting.

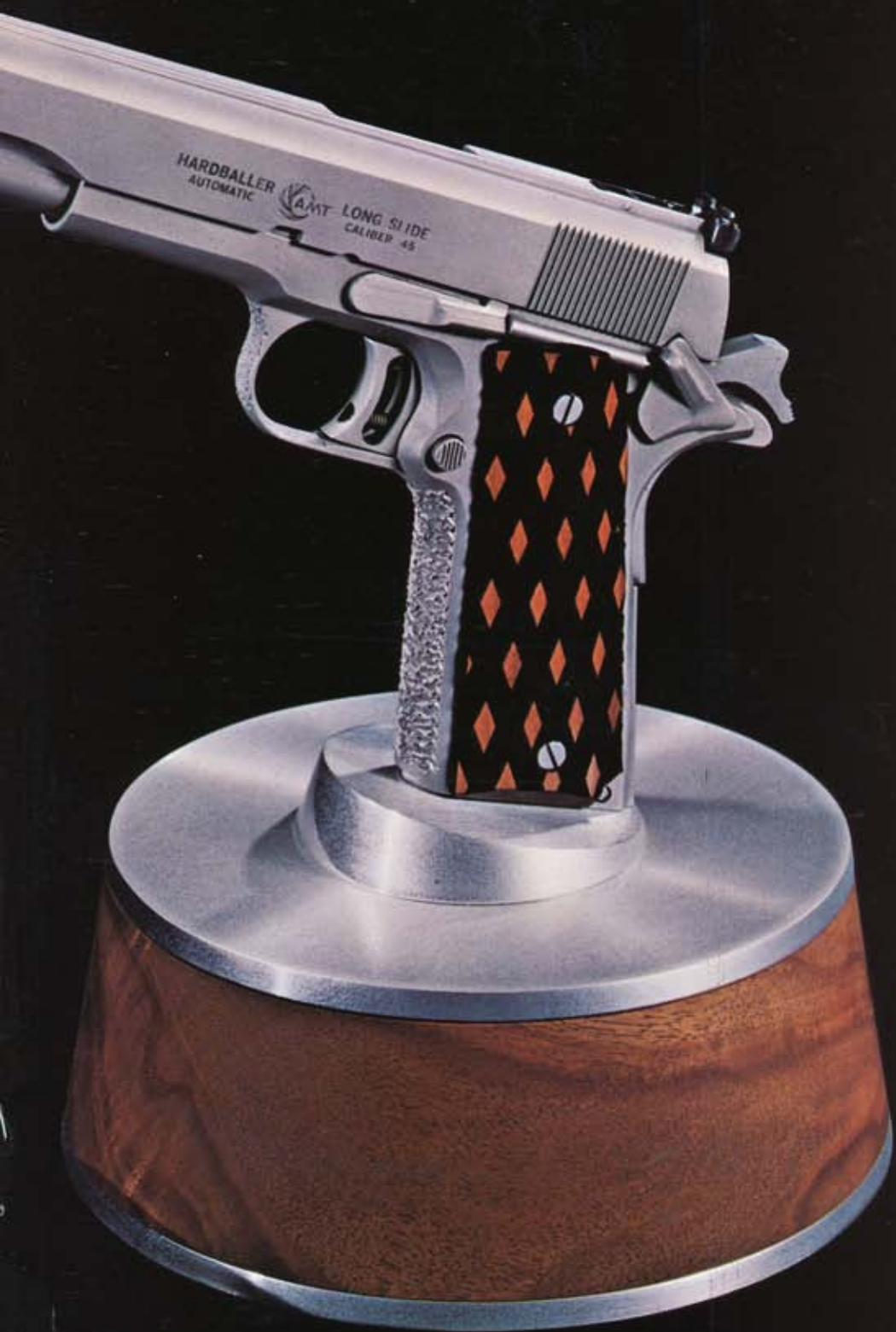




A.M.T. HARDBALLER LONG SLIDE

Photo by Karl Bosselmann





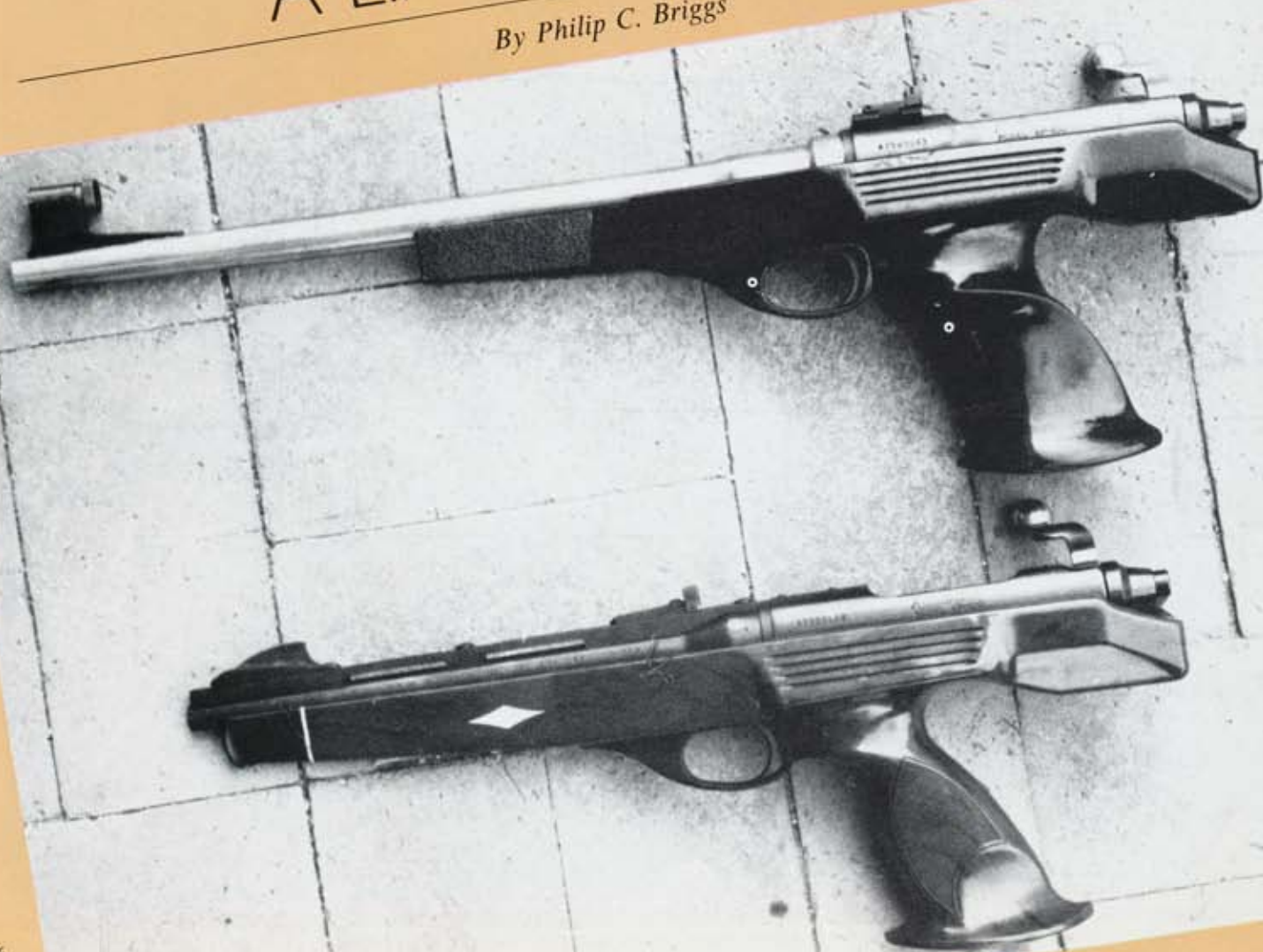
*Stocks by Herrett. Cartridges by Frontier/Hornady Flat Points. Stand executed by John Martz of Luger fame.
From the AMERICAN HANDGUNNER Classic Centerfold Collection*

BUILDING AN

IHMSA UNLIMITED

SILUETAS UNLIMITED GUNS...
OR HOW TO GET THOSE 40'S ON
A LIMITED BUDGET

By Philip C. Briggs





Top: Here's the improved, altered grip—in the raw, so to speak. But this is a step towards a lot less recoil pain. **Middle:** Here's the basic package. It includes the barrel, dies, gauges and, of course, the stock. **Bottom:** Before and after. The modification to the factory stock's forend to accept the larger barrel can be seen through comparison.

The unlimited silhouette gun. More rifle than pistol. More ominous than the broomhandle Mauser. More difficult to come by than the Model 29. Yet there's a large, unmet demand for the Star Wars weapon. Why? Well, I'd guess it's because you can hit things with it.

Whatever the reason that shooters want them, they're in the minority at the average shoot, and I've yet to see one in the field. Why? Well, because they're hard to come by. You don't just walk into your friendly local dealer's, plunk down a wad of bills, and walk out grinning. The only practical way for most of us to get one is to have it built. That can be a real hassle, besides expensive, and/or disappointing. There are only a few smithies around the country that know what it takes to build a workable, winning pistol. The fellows that specialize in this sort of smithing don't work inexpensively.

It's possible to spend more than the cost of a Wichita or Weatherby for a first-class custom. On the other hand, the neighborhood smith may cost you a lot in mistakes, even if you don't have to buy him tools. Then, there's always the possibility the home-smithed pistol won't work. Besides shooting poorly—imagine finding out at the first match that the little beauty is too heavy to be legal! What is a poor pistolero to do? Well, the subject of this article is a way out of this predicament.

The competition sanctioned by the International Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association has been the major factor in the development, and the demand for, unlimiteds. Elgin Gates, Executive Director, was keenly aware of the above problems, and the shooter's unfulfilled demand for a low cost, but effective, unlimited. After some months of negotiating, dealing and organizing, he's put together a nearly hassle-free and inexpensive solution—and it works.

The basic premise was to develop a standardized conversion in a family of adequate cartridges, and use the mass buying power of the organization to secure barrels, reamers, gauges, stocks, brass, dies, actions, and complete XP's as inexpensively as possible, and pass the savings on to the shooter in a package that can be quickly assembled by his local smithy. There are a lot of options in the package, so that you can order as much as you need/want to build your baby. I'll not go on any further about this here, save to suggest you contact IHMSA headquarters (P.O. Box 1609, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401; 208-524-0880) for arrangements, availabilities and prices.

Like most of you, I'd been hankering for an unlimited, but was undecided on where and how to turn. When Elgin's package was ready to go, I said, "I do."

The man in the brown truck shortly delivered a medium sized box of unlimited parts. The box held a barrel, contoured,

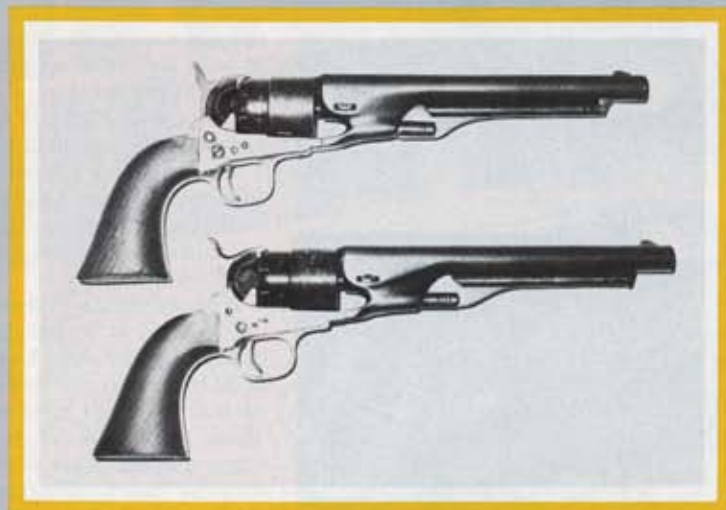
(Continued on page 60)

By E. Dixon Larson

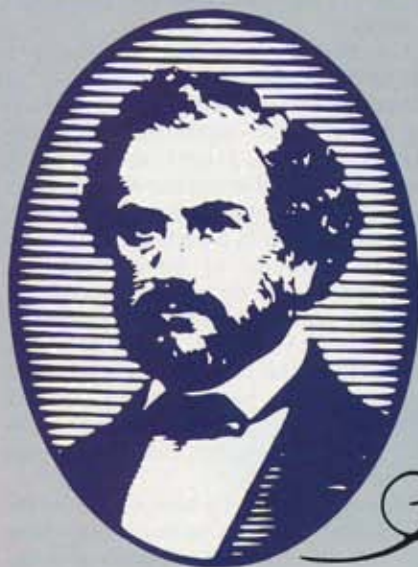
When Colt announced the production of the 1860 Army Model revolver, many collectors were immediately interested in previewing this model. The 1860 Army Revolver is being billed by Colt as one of the "Authentic Series," and is typical of Colt's usual high quality. The arm is serially numbered in sequence with where the first series of production was ceased in 1873, or Serial Number 200500. The New

the Mexican Navy with the inscription, "Engaged 16 May 1843," following the outer edge of the cylinder. Under "Colt's Patent" on the cylinder is "Pat. Sept. 10th 1850." There is, however, some basic differences from the markings of the old and new models, namely: under the "Colt's Patent" on the frame is stamped, "US" much in the motif found on old martial 1851 Navy Models and rarely appearing on the original martial 1860 Army Models, the desirable, "Engaged 16 May 1843," noted on the periphery of the cylinder, has been moved slightly inward and boxed into the cylinder scene. This difference is very apparent to a dedicated collector. The basic serial number dies used are not of the customary unique Colt die stampings employed on the original models prior to 1873. Perhaps the obvious minor differences from the original were done deliberately to prevent their becoming falsely aged and promoted by an unscrupulous seller to an unsuspecting buyer as an old model. Few novice collectors would readily recall the serial number range of the old models or the typical die stampings used on the older serial numbers. It has also been purported that the models are being produced in Italy and finished in the United States which would account for the serial stampings closely resembling those of well-known imported replicas.

It does not seem fitting to refer to the Colt New Model 1860 Army Revolver as a replica, for in reality, it is a continuation of the original model; as is, for example, the



the return of the COLT 1860 ARMY



Model 1860 Army Model is also serial numbered throughout all major parts of assembly, as was the original Civil War Model, which began in 1860.

Markings are also typical of the original production models, namely: the customary barrel markings of "Address Sam'l Colt New York City—U.S. America," Colt's Patent on the left side of the frame and the 44" cal. on the left side of the trigger guard. The cylinder scene is the original design of W. L. Ormsby, which is the same as was rolled on the older models, depicting the battle of the Texas Navy and

continuation of the popular Colt Single Action which is certainly not referred to as a "replica."

The two-pound 20 oz. Colt New Model Army Revolver has the well-done case hardened frame, satin blue finish, brass trigger guard, and the steel backstrap. Grips are well fitting, one-piece walnut, unvarnished, as were the originals. Naturally, there are no inspector's initials on the models which is out of character for martial marked arms and this may bother some purists. Frame is the desirable 4-screw model, which is found in much less numbers than the 3-screw model of the old originals. Four-screw, meaning the frame is provided with a stock locking stud on each side which was found to be unnecessary during the manufacturing of the Civil War models and thus eliminated. Recoil shield is cut for the shoulder stock, as is the backstrap notched. The model comple-

Sam Colt



The New Model weighs in at 2 lbs., 20 oz. and with the case hardening and deep blue finish, it truly is a landmark of beauty.

ments any collection, both of old and new arms, offering the opportunity to unite the original old model with the new model.

It almost seems sacrilegious to load and fire such a symbol of history but a laboratory Quinivac analysis shows that the steel in the new model is superior to that of the old model and this fact, united with its

excellent mechanical functioning, certainly is capable of satisfying even the most critical of shooters.

The model retails for slightly under \$300. The new models of the 1848 Dragoon and 1851 Navy, since resumption of production, have increased in value over 80% which obviously makes them a good investment. There is no reason not to preclude this too will apply to the New Model 1860 Army Revolver.



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HANDGUN HUNTING

J. D. JONES

LARGE OR SMALL VARMINTS... IT DOESN'T MATTER, IT CAN BE THE SAME HANDGUN

Spring has sprung and varminting is in full swing. My mail reflects a high degree of interest in three areas of handgunning. The #1 seems to be medium or big game. #2 is without a doubt varminting and surprisingly (at least to me) there is quite an amount of interest in small game hunting. I figured a lot of people hunted small game, but I wasn't aware they wanted much in the way of guns and ammo info for small game hunting. I was dead wrong in thinking the vast majority of small game hunters put meat on the table with a .22—although of course, thousands do.

Since we're in the varminting season, let's concentrate on varmint guns and ammo, keeping in mind the idea that varmint-small game rigs can be the same gun.

Essentially the equipment necessary to have a good time varminting can be anything. A number of years ago I had a bet with a friend on who could make the longest shot and kill the biggest animal—with S & W Chiefs Specials. Well, he beat me on both counts because he went somewhere where he got into sharks and people. Next time I'll be smarter about qualifying my bets. But, I've sure had a good time over the years with fooling around trying to get an accurate, effective varmint load for a .38 snub and hunting with it. Now if you're good enough in both the ammo and ability departments, you can kill a bunch of groundhogs out to around 50-75 yards with a .38 snub. Its accuracy from a well tuned gun (including loads), will surprise you. That same .38 stuffed with wadcutters or RN loads is a nice, lightweight sitting rabbit popper for the shotgun hunter. With wadcutters it'll do a creditable job on squirrels. Most of the time you'll probably have to do some sight filing or load fiddling to get them to shoot where you want them to. Changing grips also sometime changes point of impact. Generally, light fast bullets shoot lower than heavy, slower loads with the same sight setting. Lowering or increasing the velocity sometimes changes both horizontal and vertical point of impact. I used to have a few Chief Specials around with sights filed for different loads and distances. Won a good bit of money with one set up for about 200 yards.

Guys with .45 autos and .357s aren't in

bad shape for varmints or small game either. A wide variety of ammo is available for both. The .357 is undoubtedly the more versatile of the two, but in recent years the .45 ACP ammo situation has improved a lot—and the 230 grain RN or any of the target loads will center punch a cottontail



Bianchi's new Model 101 Contender holster rig. A super 14 fits just fine.

without screwing him up too badly as will low velocity cast bullets or slow moving factory loads in any of the big bores. 'Course if you like to eat shoulders, don't shoot through the shoulders. Most of the big bores will kill a rabbit instantly with a chest shot without making a mess of things.

The high velocity factory loads in any of the Magnums will do a job on most varmints from revolvers out to around 100 yards or so. The T/C will stretch that a little.

The more specialized guns for varminting are one shooters. The XP-100 is the most accurate. Topped with a Redfield, Leupold or T/C 1" diameter scope. They will reach out to 200+ yards effectively. The T/C is of course more versatile, offering so many calibers as to be astound-

ing. I like the little 5"—5 ounce Hutson scope for T/Cs because it is so compact and easy to mount. (JMP Sales Box 593X, Mansfield, TX 76063) This little rig is very light and quite durable. In addition to the excellent T/C barrels SSK (Rt. 1, Della Dr., Bloomington, OH 43910) offers some 14-inch tubes in ordinary calibers such as .223 and also some exotics such as .17 Ackley Bee and .17 Remington on custom order. Big Boomers such as .375 JDJ, .45-70 and .50-70 are also available for big varmints.

Enjoyment of the sport has little correlation with success in hunting and those unsuccessful days make the successful ones sweeter. In most areas of the country there are some kind of varmints. Just about any old pistol you have lying around is enough to get you started—or hooked.

Carrying some of the bigger rigs like a scoped Super 14 is somewhat of a problem.



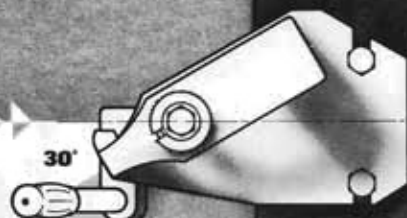
Holster with scope cover removed will let SSK and Bo-Mar sights clear easily. How about this .375 JDJ?

T/C has a rig and I've been using a Bianchi crossbreed—sort of a crossdraw with a strap over the shoulder to more evenly distribute weight. It won't work with all scope set-ups, but works with all iron sights that I'm aware of. The "scope" cover unsnaps to trim the rig down for iron sight use. It's quite comfortable when walking for extended periods, and proves the rig is well designed. Materials and workmanship are top notch as always with Bianchi.

Handgun Hunters Int'l members had quite a successful season on deer and bear. Some of the big stuff—Cape Buffalo and Lion also fell to pistols. To get the straight skinny from the guys who drop the hammer and write it up themselves in the SIX-GUNNER—join HHI, P.O. Box 357 Mag, Bloomington, OH 43910. Annual membership \$12.50.



A new way to look at reloading!

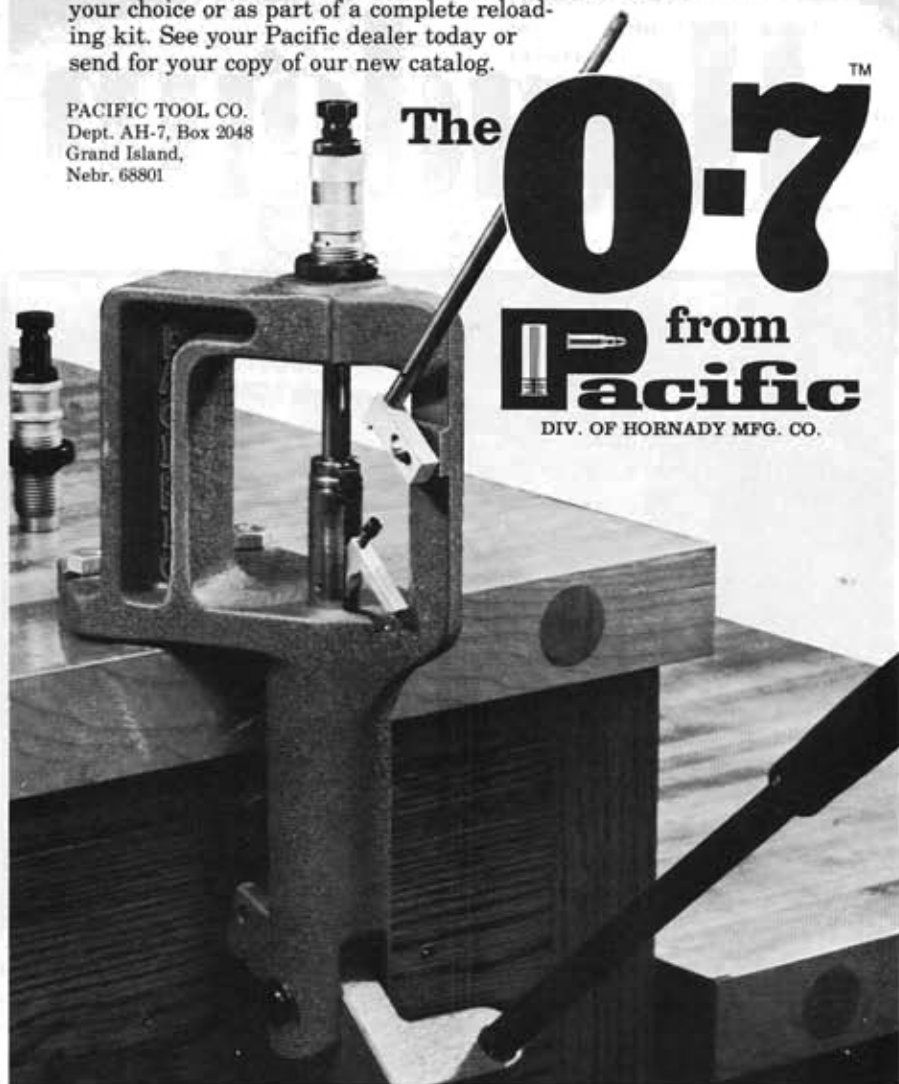


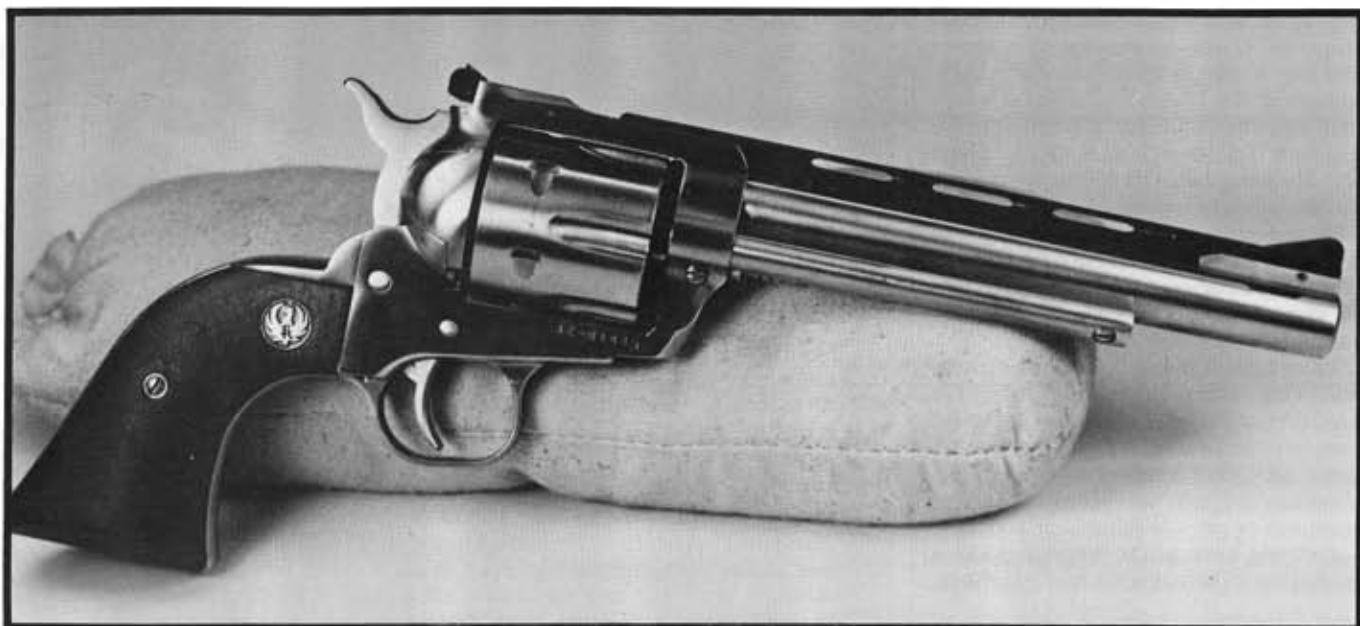
When Pacific decided to improve "O" frame press design, we went all the way. We angled the frame 30° to one side so that you can have a clear view of the entire reloading operation. You don't have to do things by "feel" anymore — and better still, there's nothing to reach around since the front of the "O" frame has been moved out of your way.

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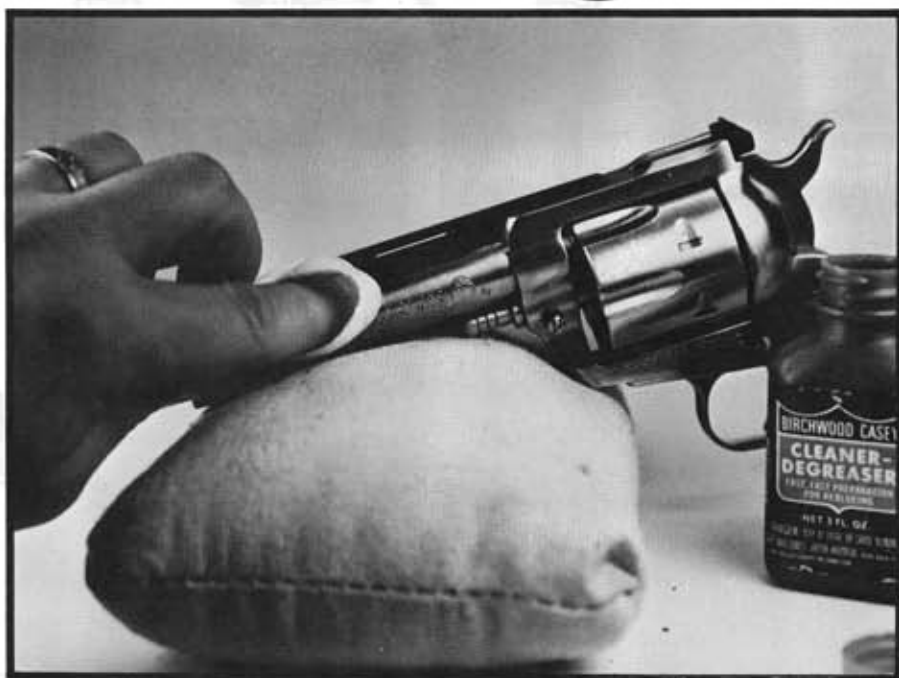
The **O-7**TM
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POLY-CHOKE'S Handgun Ribs

By Mike Barach



Thorough de-greasing of the top of the barrel is important first step. Also clean the underside of the rib so that the epoxy will adhere.

If you fancy the notion of a ventilated or solid rib on your pet Ruger or Smith & Wesson, Poly-Choke's handgun ribs may suit your needs. It's a do-it-yourself kit that takes all of fifteen or twenty minutes to install.

The kit comes complete with everything you need to do a professional looking job without fitting, cutting, or machining. Included in the kit are: raised rib constructed of aluminum alloy and hard anodized to prevent marring from wear, special adhesive, mixing stick, cleaning tool, and complete instructions.

After writing Tom Wotherspoon at Poly-Choke, the test samples were sent and arrived a few days later in the mail. After unpacking them and reading over the literature, I sat down and read through the instructions a couple of times before attempting to install the ribs. The procedure for installing the rib is very simple providing you've gone through the step by step instructions. There are a total of six steps in applying the rib to the barrel. The instructions are very clear and no one should encounter any difficulty following them. Briefly the installation goes as follows: clean both the barrel and underside of the rib thoroughly with alcohol. Next, mix the two tubes of adhesive together

completely and apply it liberally to the underside of the rib only. Position the rib on the barrel and squeeze it firmly to barrel. Wrap the tape that's supplied around the barrel and rib in three places and set the gun aside to allow the adhesive to cure. The adhesive remains workable for approximately 25 minutes, so there's no need to get in a big hurry. I should also mention that the installation of the rib should be done with the gun in a solid rest such as a padded vise. After the adhesive has dried, clean off the excess and you've got a good-looking rib sitting atop the barrel for a fraction of the cost of having a gunsmith install it.

After doing the job on a stainless S.A. Ruger .357 I later put another rib on a 7½" barreled S.A. Ruger in .45 Colt in the same fashion. This one took even less time.

A week or so later I made a visit to the shooting range with both the handguns and some other goodies for testing. I ran an assortment of hot hunting handloads and milder plinking loads through both revolvers with no signs of the ribs loosening at any point. All told, I must have shot a couple of hundred rounds through each gun and both barrels were heated up considerably so I'd venture to say the ribs are on to stay or until ready to take off.

The advantages of having a vent rib atop a barrel have been thrown around since they were first thought of, but I think it's generally agreed upon that they do dissipate heat, aiding the sight picture, but to what extent I really can't say. Some like them, some don't, as for me, I always have

liked the clean looking lines of a ribbed barrel. As for function, a rib works but doesn't clear up the sight picture 100%. Then again nothing short of a fan off to one side of the barrel will dissipate the heat waves completely and even then you'd most likely pick up some distortion. While on the subject of the sight picture, the Poly-Choke rib sets below the line of sight as with any of the other factory installed ribs. That is unless you're shooting at 200 or 300 yards and then the additional holdover of the front sight brings the front portion of the rib into view, which again is no different than any other factory rib.

Since the rib does sit below the sights, it won't have a tendency to drag on retrieving the gun from its holster. The same applies to the width of the rib. I've had both Rugers I installed the ribs on in Roy Baker's Pancake holsters and drew the guns without feeling a hangup due to the rib.

Overall, I feel the Poly-Choke Handgun Rib is well worth the asking price. The completed job is easily accomplished without a great deal of preparation and the results are satisfying. I should also mention that the rib may be removed at any time by merely placing the rib in the padded jaws of a vise and rocking the gun back and forth in a three to five degree arc.

Poly-Choke will be offering the following handguns ribs soon, however at this time they are still in the works—Ruger's Security-Six in 4" & 6" lengths and S & W's model 10 in the four and six-inches with front and rear sights already installed

on the rib. Tentative price is \$24.95 complete. The following are available as you read this: Ruger single action in 6½" & 7½" barrel lengths, the Ruger Super Single Six (.22 cal.) in 6½", and Smith & Wesson models 15, 18, & 19 in 4" length only with solid rib 9/16" wide. The vent rib is also available for Colt's New Frontier. Cost of any of these ribs is \$14.95.

If you're interested in installing a Poly-Choke handgun Rib on your revolver contact Poly-Choke Co., Inc., P.O. Box 2496, Hartford, CT. 06101 for more information on their ribs and an up to date list of models available. They're attractive, functional, and modestly priced.

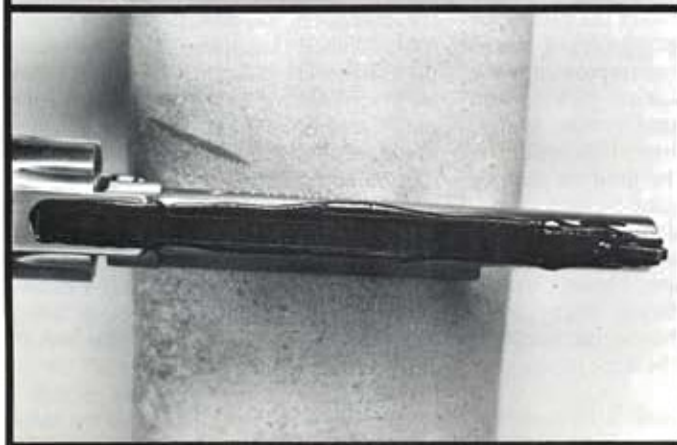


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SIGHT SETTINGS

LUCY CHAMBLISS

ALL ABOUT WHAT THE ICC IS DOING... AIRGUN ACTIVITY, AND EVEN HOW TO GET \$5,000 FROM YOUR NRA

Handgunners have several valuable representatives on the NRA International Competitions Committee. Among the better known ones are Sallie Carroll, E. W. "Bill" Hilden, Bill McMillan and Jimmy Dorsey, all International medal winners. The committee's big responsibilities are sponsoring, scheduling and conducting team tryouts, regional and national championships, where U.S. International Teams are selected for rifle, pistol, skeet and trap, and running target.

The major accomplishments of the committee since March 1978 have included selection of a National Training Center

Shooting Union type matches and certifying that 250 people per year would attend such matches, would receive \$5,000 from the NRA for use in developing and upgrading an International range, the money would be given without strings and would not be repaid. A good investment and I'll work for it, but we'll have to have shooters asking for it, before we can get it through.

A subcommittee recommended the U.S. bid for the II World Air Gun Championships. Unfortunately, I saw this defeated at the October 1979 NRA board of directors meeting, for the want of a small (as some expenditures go) outlay of money. There was too little preliminary groundwork done to get finance committee and board approval. Let's get better organized for III.

The technicality of separating our U.S. International National Championships from the U.S. Team tryouts in order to

A budget for a 5-year plan has been approved for shooter development

site, establishment of the National Training Team and National Development Team concept, the International Shooter Development Fund, a budget for priority training program and the beginning of a 5-year plan for shooter development. Specifically, it got an indoor air gun range built at Black Canyon (Arizona). Now the scorching canyon's gusts can't blow those little pellets out of the ten ring.

The ICC and its subcommittees have in recent meetings: proposed shooting one course of fire for the National Championships in 1980, an elimination cut based on percentage, then a day of practice then the 3rd day would be once over the course for team selection for Free Pistol and Rapid Fire. Because the 1980 championships are concerned primarily with picking the Olympic team, the non-Olympic events, Standard pistol, Center Fire and the Ladies Match would be fired on the 5th and 6th day, once over the 60-shot course. If range space is available, I think twice over the course, if one day would be popular with competitors. Phoenix has always needed consolidating. Many more serious shooters would enter the matches, if more shooting could be done in less time than past schedules.

A subcommittee passed a motion that any club conducting ten International

Just what is an amateur... a long- time misunderstood item is cleared up

qualify for U.S. Olympic Funding to reimburse shooter expenses for the tryouts, was referred to a subcommittee. The Pistol subcommittee recommended yes, on the separating. I think there are numerous ranges, and more would follow, that could host the U.S. International Pistol Championships. I can't think of a better stimulant for the sport than one year to hold the matches in Maine, the next in Oregon, the next in Kansas, etc. When the championships were moved to Phoenix in 1969, all disciplines were shot there. Then Running Target, Skeet and Trap, found other ranges more suitable and that would draw more shooters. It has worked well for them and I hope Pistol relocates.

The ICC subcommittee on Shooter Eligibility is helping to determine what is a pro and what is an amateur, long a misunderstood subject among shooters. Eligibility rules printed now in the NRA's Tryout Information Bulletin (yours for the asking), state an amateur may receive a total of \$625 in prize money in the same week. (Who has ever seen that much in

NRA sanctioned pistol matches?) This much is considered and rightly so, as compensation for shooter's expenses. Any over that, you have to give to your "national federation or club." Prizes not exceeding \$3,125 in value in one year are OK, but amateurs cannot sell such prizes. I am thinking what size "police force" that would take to enforce... selling a pistol here, a scope there, a rifle over here. However, there have been great improvements in clarifying eligibility and if you want the fine print, write for the mentioned pamphlet. The ICC has determined two individuals who sold and modified match grade guns were not violating amateur rules.

The Olympic Job Opportunities report shows that 104 companies now support this program and shooters are urged to consider the prospect of applying to USOC for job placement. USOC is asking major airlines for a reduced cost fare for Olympic or World class athletes.

All through ICC's work you can see them recognizing the civilian shooter's basic problem—money. Perhaps eventually they can remove some absurd restrictions thereby allowing civilians more income leeway and put us on a more equal basis with the military shooter.

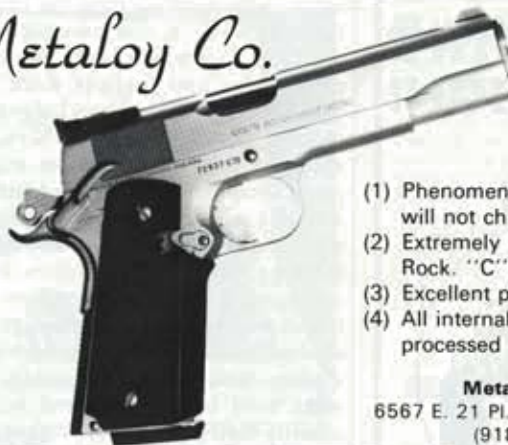
Women's pistol events will probably be included in the 1984 Olympics for the first time in history. Much more about this and what it can do for handgunning in my next column.

Bill Pullum, chairman of the ICC, and probably the world's best rifle coach states, "As long as I am Chairman of this Committee, there will not be any closed sessions, under any set of circumstances." All NRA committee meetings are open to

"Recognize and understand there is more than one way to train and to compete for different individuals."

visitors, but it's reassuring to hear the policy so positively stated. This committee usually meets during the U.S. International Championships in Phoenix each June. The many handgunners living in the southwest area should try to attend these meetings. Or, write the committee chairman, c/o the NRA and send a S.A.S. envelope for a copy of the minutes. Everyone owning a firearm should have a current Official NRA Directory; it lists names, addresses and phone numbers of all directors and committee members. Send \$1 for its costs to Warren Cheek, NRA Secretary at Washington headquarters. Find out who is looking after your particular interests and correspond with that person di-

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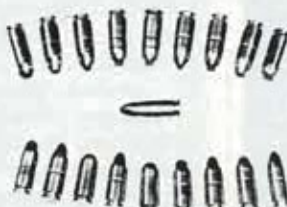


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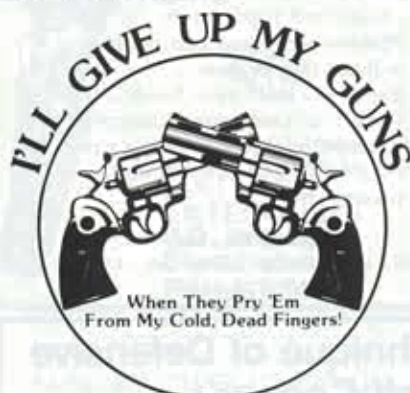
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rectly. You have no idea the impact you have. Believe me, you have plenty!

I have mentioned some of the ICC's progressive and fearless work, accomplished by a very knowledgeable, respected group of people. Now, let me speak to this committee for many U.S. pistol shooters. Don't make International shooting too complicated. Respect and always have room in matches for the free thinking, non-groupie shooter who does not want to be regimented into summer training camps, winter think-tanks or psychological one-on-one tell me what to do studies. Welcome the individual who resents even being numbered with social security digits, who would rather not have the training money than be militarized or

totally controlled. Some of these "loners" are damned good shots and many of that type have set world records and won gold medals. Your system has yet to prove itself with the unique *American* pistol shooter.

Recognize and understand there is more than one way to train and to compete for different individuals. Always keep space in the U.S. International Championships, even if it means building more ranges, for the shooter who wants to shoot International because they enjoy the good course of fire and who may not want to become a "professional" at it. We need every shooter's vote, understanding, and total participation in International shooting if it is to eventually become our Number 1 handgun sport. Lucy

THE MAGNIFICENT "8"

THE IDEAL IHMSA CARTRIDGE IS SOMEWHERE BETWEEN PISTOL AND RIFLE



Here are the Gates-designed family eight. As time goes by, IHMSA shooters are finding that "eight is not enough." From left to right: IHMSA .25, 6.5mm, .270, 7mm, .30, 8mm, .338 and .35.

Development of the IHMSA Unlimited silhouette pistol for long range handguning has necessitated parallel development of cartridges to give optimum performance.

Handgun silhouette, unlimited style, hadn't been on the scene long before it was realized that existing cases were not quite the ticket. Commercial handgun cartridges were sadly lacking in performance while full length rifle cartridges generally were of excessive

case capacity, something not preferred by the exacting competitor.

Elgin Gates, one of the Founding Fathers of IHMSA, and now President, made the original suggestion that led to the development of the unlimited pistol, and simultaneously designed the first unlimited cartridge based on a shortened 7.62 NATO case necked down to 7mm in October of 1975.

It was obvious that the ideal cartridge was somewhere between the

existing pistol cases and the full-length rifle cases. Making a scientific study of the desired results, including extensive computer analysis, Gates designed and developed a family of eight calibers. Brass was manufactured on contract by Federal, including the Gates designed IHMSA headstamp with the unique ram.

Overall trim length of the International case is 1.860, slightly shorter than the .300 Savage, and .055 shorter than the .308, for comparison. Body length is considerably shorter, 1.410 for the INTERNATIONAL as compared to 1.650 for the .300 Savage and 1.710 for the .308. Shoulder angle of the INTERNATIONAL is 38 degrees as compared to 30 degrees for the .300 Savage and 20 degrees for the .308. Head size of .470 is the same for three.

The most attractive feature is that all eight INTERNATIONAL calibers are on the same common case, something never attempted on this scale. The eight calibers are: .25, 6.5mm, .270, 7mm, .30, 8mm, .338 and .35

Computer approval or not, the acid test would be in the shooting. Of the four original 7mm INTERNATIONAL prototypes, Scott Lindley IHMSA's office manager, and Randy Sampson of Pocatello, Idaho, shortly shot the magic 40x40. The INTERNATIONAL passed the acid test with flying colors. Gates had done his homework, and the computer had told the truth.

Within three months of the introduction of the full INTERNATIONAL series, unlimited guns on XP-100 actions using brass, barrels and dies supplied from IHMSA Headquarters, had accounted for over 45 perfect scores fired by competitors from one of America to the other. At this writing, perfect scores have been fired with seven of the eight IHMSA calibers, mostly with the founding caliber of 7mm. Only the .25 IHMSA, which is a bit light for silhouette competition—but a perfect varmint cartridge—had not scored the 40x40, mainly because only a few were in competition, mostly by women shooters who prefer light recoil.

IHMSA provides barrels chambered for all INTERNATIONAL calibers in Douglas Premium Chrome Moly, and most calibers in Shilen Custom Chrome Moly and Stainless. RCBS and Bonanza have manufactured dies, both full length and neck sizing sets on contract. Reamers and gauges and the full line of barrels, brass, stocks, XP-100 actions and all other necessary components for building unlimited pistols are available from IHMSA Headquarters, Box 1609, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401.

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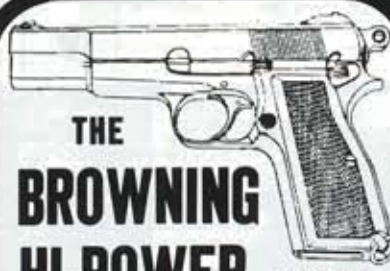
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John G. Lawson

You remember John G. Lawson's name if you've been in the shooting game for a while. He was gunsmithing editor of *GUNSPORT*, and it was a mark of Ken Warner's editorial genius that he drafted Lawson for a column.

Lawson knew his guns, pulled no punches, and wrote with a blunt yet sardonic wit. (Reader: "I carry a gun I can't get a permit for. If I shoot a felon in self defense, where does that leave me?" Lawson: "S.O.L., but that's a cut above D.O.A. in my book.")

When *GUNSPORT* died, Lawson was getting busier with other things, including his small gunsmithing parlor, The Sight Shop. He retired from the gunwriting scene, and is now best known to savvy gun owners in the Washington state area.

Lawson was among the first to "bobcat" .45 autos, and the first to show readers how to do it step by step with clear pictures and illustrations. He also does damn nice work. His specialties are .45 automatics and sights.

About the time our paths crossed, I had been thinking about building a Colt Combat Commander into an IPSC gun. That was because I had rediscovered a point I had learned a decade before from John's old column: that much of the felt recoil in a .45 auto is due to the movement of the slide mass. It stood to reason that the shorter,

lighter slide of the Commander would reduce recoil. Of course, for match work, an accuracy job would be in order, too. "Besides," I told John, "If it doesn't work out, I'll still have a nice little carrying gun."

"Send it to me," he said.

I did, and a couple of weeks later I got back one of the nicest and most functional .45s it has been my pleasure to own. John's philosophy on .45 work is simple: make the gun work flawlessly, make it shoot accurately, give it a nice, crisp trigger, and let somebody else make it look fancy.

John took the creep out of the trigger, and by altering spring, disconnector, and hammer notch gave me a nice, crisp, 4 pound trigger. If I'd wanted to go much more than half a pound under that, he'd have refused anyway. He fitted the trigger to its mortise in the frame (which he good naturedly calls the gun's "raceway" when the customer wants it for fast shootin').

For more certain feeding, he changed the shape of the frame mortise to accommodate stubby match wadcutter ammo, and polished barrel and frame mirror-smooth around the feeding track.

I had ordered a gun that would sometimes be used on the street, and John thinks the best medicine for that is as low profile a sight system as you can get. On mine, he left the factory front

mine, he left the factory front ramp in place, and mounted a super low profile S&W "J" frame revolver sight. This gives you a snag-free profile while saving the cost of a new front sight, and the expense of the heavy milling you need to get a bigger sight to ride that low on the slide.

Some gunsmith readers will cry, "'J' frame sights are no good for .45s! They're too fragile, they don't hold their adjustments, and the clicks are unacceptably mushy!" With almost 1,000 rounds through the gun now, mostly hardball plus a couple hundred Super Vels, the little sight shows every indication of staying there forever. After the initial sighting in, there was no sight wander, and the clicks are actually more distinct than in any of my K-frame sights.

How does John manage what other 'smiths find impossible? He is painstakingly careful about fitting the thing in there solid, uses a stout hold down screw, and mainly, he fits a clicker for the elevation screw.

John gave my gun a complete tightening for accuracy, polishing all contact surfaces ultra smooth to prevent any resulting compromise in reliability if the gun got dirty. I've deliberately fired hundreds of rounds through it without cleaning, and the only malfunctions have been with one batch of especially wide-mouthed hollowpoints. Everything else, from mousy 185-grain mid-range loads to steamy Super Vel JHP, has been digested without a bobble. Yet the gun is still tight enough that it won't go into battery if you let the slide forward slowly by hand. That, to me, is as nice a balance between accuracy and reliability as I can ask for. In a recent match, 22 out of 24 shots were in the X-ring from 50 yards, the other two just outside.

In addition to the factory 4 1/4" barrel, I sent John a standard 5" tube to fit to the gun, which I later had Mag-Na-Ported at the overhanging muzzle for improved muzzle jump reduction. The concept worked superbly, by the way. It's interesting, but of the several gunsmiths I discussed this with, only Lawson flashed on the fact that the lugs were cut differently on a full length barrel, and couldn't be expected to last long inside a Commander slide.

After honing the inside of the slide, John fitted two sets of bushings and tapered plugs, one for each length barrel, and mated them with meticulous honing. The long barrel was then reshaped aft until it fit Commander dimensions. It was mated to the Commander slide, and a relief groove was cut to allow a freer extraction cycle.

This gave me a convertible gun. I can drop the Commander length barrel and its bushing back in anytime, and I have the longer, ported barrel with its impressive recoil reduction for match work. In fact, I'm carrying it all the time with the 5" tube anyway.

While John gruffly describes himself as a meat and potatoes gunsmith, he's got a



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little fancy streak: he's one of the few people anywhere doing the old Ten Day Bluing, a demanding cold rust system few gunsmiths have the time, skill, or patience to offer anymore. John explains, "I've never liked the hot caustic oxide 'bluing,' which is really a gaudy, overpolished black." He charges \$60 to \$85 to thus refinish a standard pistol, up to \$150 for a blue/straw finish on an early Luger or Nambu, the restorations of which are another of his specialties.

To duplicate the superb job he did on my .45 auto will cost you about \$150... a stone bargain if you've been shopping for custom .45 work lately, and his delivery time is ridiculously short compared to

what some others are quoting. He manufactures front sights for pistols and revolvers, but will do custom work if you like. To put higher, more visible sights on a .45 like mine will go another \$25, rebluing extra if needed.

A professional gunsmith since 1946, this crusty old pro should be near the top of your list when you start shopping for somebody who can do a no-bullkitten tune-up for a working .45 auto, and if you're into restorations or are working on some custom sighting ideas, he's also very much worth talking to. The address is John G. Lawson, The Sight Shop, 1802 East Columbia Ave., Tacoma, Washington 98404.



IHMSA UNLIMITED

(Continued from page 47)

threaded and chambered; go and no-go gauges, stock and dies. I already had the Remington XP. The brass came separately, as it had to be sent to a FFL holder. With the box under my arm I headed for the only local smith that's been actively building unlimiteds.

Dan Carey (Carey's Competition Guns, 6717 N. Black Canyon Hwy., Phoenix, AZ 85015; 602-242-6643) is a skilled bench rest shooter and smith, who's recently been caught up in silhouette fever. He built his first unlimited gun for himself, and has been at it steadily since then. The blend of bench rest smithing and silhouette shooting experience produces some first-class unlimiteds.

With my camera looking over his shoulder, we spent a couple of evenings putting together the basic unlimited. It's fairly simple, with the right tools and equipment.

Begin by disassembling the XP. Remington uses a sealant on the barrel threads, so that removing the barrel from the action takes a good barrel vise and lots of armstrong on the action wrench. Persevere.

The bolt face on the XP is too small to fit the rim of the International family of cartridges. It will either have to be opened up, or exchanged for a large faced bolt from the Model 600 rifle. We opened up the bolt.

The next step depends on the extractor to be used. We went with one for the model 700, which looks just like the original. Installation requires duplicating the original rebated cut in the walls of the recessed bolt face. Tricky. Other choices are the model 722 and M15 extractors. Machining differs for each, and each works well. If you don't abuse the model 700 extractor by blowing primers/cases, it will provide satisfactory service.

The next step is to check how much the barrel shoulder will have to be set back to achieve the proper head space. Screw the barrel into the action, insert the bolt, and chamber the no-go gauge. (Don't forget the recoil lug.) There should be several thousandths to trim off. If there is, use some of it up in squaring up the front of the action. With the action screwed on to a mandrel (made from a discarded 221 barrel) and the mandrel in the chuck, face off the front of the action in the lathe. Don't take too much off—just enough to clean it.

Fit the barrel to the action again, and check the headspace with the no-go gauge. (You could use a new case, rather than the gauge—it's not as precise, certainly, but then, who shoots gauges?) After you've approximated the amount to be removed, set the barrel in the lathe, with the muzzle in the chuck and the chamber centered on the tailstock. Carefully remove the required amount from the shoulder with

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several light cuts. A dial gauge on the carriage will allow you to keep track of the amount removed. Try the barrel in the action a time or two as you do this, to keep from cutting too much off. Keep cutting and trying till the bolt drags lightly on the go gauge, or a new case.

In the interest of haste we decided to go with the nylon factory stock. Besides, utilization of the stock stock would provide the ultimate low back blaster. The only modification necessary to the stock was altering the forend for the larger barrel.

Start by sawing the schnobler off at the white line spacer. The stock is solid here and can be sanded, filed and polished back to factory spec's if you so desire. Cut it off a little farther back, and it's hollow, which will aid in cooling the barrel. The barrel gets wider than the forend in front of the diamond, and some just chop it off there to keep from ending up with an odd looking feather edge after inletting. I wanted some stock to rest against my leg (I shoot Creedmoor) so we solved that problem by sawing off a quarter of an inch strip along the top of the stock; starting at the last inflection point on the side of the stock (behind the diamond). You could eliminate the step in the top edge of the stock we left by starting the cut at zero there, and sawing at an angle down to about three-eighths of an inch removal at the abbreviated tip. Complete the modification by opening up the forend to free float the entire length of the barrel.

When you assemble the barreled action in the stock be sure that you haven't lost those little nylon washers. If you do, the front screw will bottom out against the barrel threads before the action is snug in the stock.

Sights are next. Most everyone goes with a Williams Fool Proof or Lyman 57 peep mounted on the receiver, and a Redfield 68 or Lyman 17A globe on the front. I don't like peep sights—they don't work as designed that far away from your eye, and I'm not comfortable with the restricted view of the target you get. Maybe I'm traditional, but I like open sights. Most use apertures up front in the globe, although narrow and wide blade inserts are available. When shooting with an aperture at both ends of the pistol, all you see of the target is a black circle. Not for me.

My choices were a standard pistol rear sight, the Micro 6R, and a Lyman 17A up front, so that I could easily experiment with different blade widths. (You can make up different width rear blades easily too.) Mounting the sights requires a base on the rear, and a ramp up front. A base can be quickly made from a Weaver 40A front scope base (it's for the Model 700). Cut a dovetail between the mounting screws, and mill off the excess that extends beyond the Micro to keep things neat. If all this sounds like too much trouble, the simple way out is to buy the sight package offered by SSK Industries (Route 1, Della Drive, Bloomingdale, Ohio 43910).

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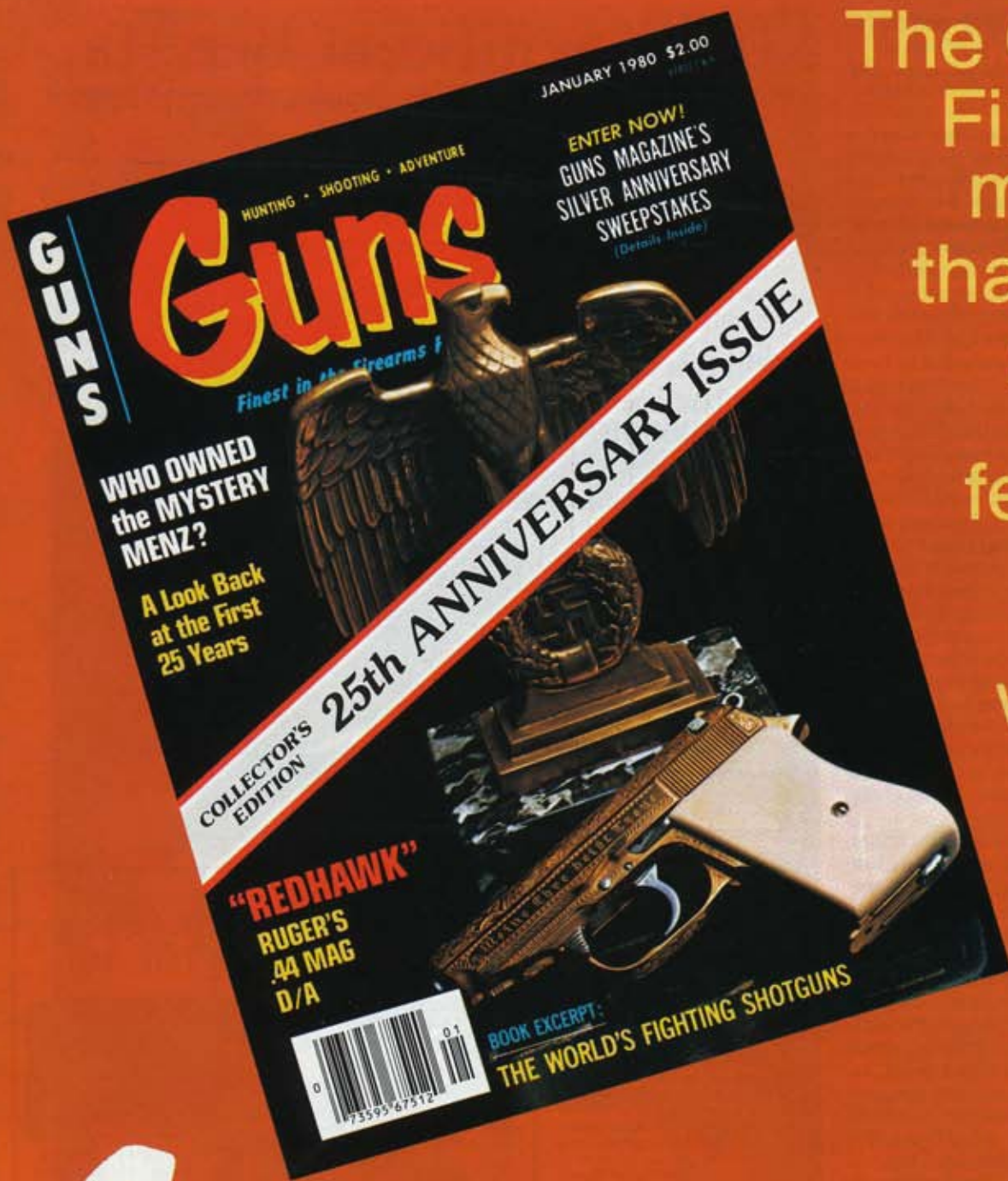
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With the Micro perched up on the front ring on its base, you'll need a fairly high ramp/front sight. How high depends on how hard you hold the pistol, and what cartridge you're trying to hang on to. I ended up with the highest 17A and left over ramp off a model 700. Overall this arrangement is 1.2 inches from bore center to sight center. You'll have to start some place in picking a sight height—just be sure the line from the top/center of the rear sight blade/peep to the top/center of the front sight is at least parallel to the bore. Dan's found that .2 inches higher at the muzzle is in the ballpark. Depends a lot on you—but it worked fine for me.

The rear sight base screws on (don't forget the loc-tite), and the sight is a press fit in the dovetail. There's a little locking screw in the Micro to hold it secure. The ramp must be soldered or glued on—there's not enough meat in the barrel to screw it down. We used soft silver solder to hold down the heat input, yet provide a solid attachment. Dan's is fastened on with Devcon. Up to you.

The bolt stop must be modified to provide more bolt travel to allow ejection of a loaded round. Extending the notch on the existing stop rearward to the point where the top edge of the stop angles downward will allow ejection of loaded rounds shorter than two and a half inches overall. Ejection of longer loaded rounds will require installation of a different bolt stop. Accessory stops are available, but the simplest modification is to simply drill and tap a horizontal hole in the rear extension of the receiver, and insert a thumbscrew that extends through the receiver wall to stop the bolt. Leave the screw finger-tight to allow ready removal of the bolt.

Tuning the trigger is the last step. Just a careful polishing of the contact surfaces of the sear helps a lot. Trigger pull can be reduced by shortening the factory spring, or by replacing it with something lighter. Depth of engagement and over travel can be adjusted with the screws provided. A couple of coils and careful adjustment produced a light, crisp trigger for my gun. Don't go too far though, as the trigger/sear becomes unreliable below about a half a pound pull and/or if the engagement is set too shallow. (It won't go till you open the bolt—or, worse yet, it'll go on closing!) Be advised that once you tamper with the trigger mechanism you are responsible for trigger-induced accidental discharges. You're on your own.

Shooting the pistol provided an unpleasant surprise. Top loads swing the pistol in a 90° arc. The Remington stock just doesn't handle that sort of heavy recoil. Obviously designed more for looks than function, this grip is smaller at the top than at the bottom, so that even with a determined hold the pistol slides through your hand till it stops with a crash as the second knuckle of your thumb strikes the stock's horizontal tail piece. Hurts.

With more modest loads the pistol stays

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put in your hand, but as the grip's shape isn't the same as the shape of your hand it slams backwards, squeezing the fleshy parts of your palm aside (till it does fit). That bump on the lower rear corner of the grip is a case in point. Your hand turns red there in a few rounds—after that it gets worse.

Obviously, the way out of this situation is to fit the pistol's grip to yours. One could start with an unfinished woody and a rasp or a fiberglasser and some epoxy putty, but the idea was to build a budget gun.

Determined to keep shooting with a minimum investment in time or money, I resolved to modify the stock stock. Epoxy putty would work here too, but I was close to the weight limit, and didn't want to get involved in a sticky mess. The answer was a wood dough, like you'd use for plugging nail holes. I used Duratite by DAP Inc., which is supposed to adhere to most anything, fill up to a half-inch thickness in one pass, sand, saw, drill and hold paint. Oddly enough—it will. Worked great.

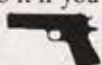
I wanted to add a palm swell, a thumb rest and generally fatten the grip. Outlining the probable limits of the filler, I drilled a bunch of small holes in the stock to strengthen the bond, and then built the grip up a gob at a time. Once I had what looked like enough material in place, I laid down, positioned the pistol in my hand and squeezed gently.

The Duratite was dry the next day, and the rough spots were easily smoothed with a fine rasp. I added a little more dough after another shooting session, and then sanded the whole mess smooth, and finished all of the stock, using primer, lacquer putty and an epoxy enamel.

The wood dough is still on after a couple of thousand vigorous rounds, but best of all, it's a dream to shoot now. Recoil still flicks the pistol vertically, but there's no longer the associated discomfort.

So that's the story of the IHMSA unlimited gun. For the cost of a Gold Cup, from a box of goodies to a functioning pistol in a day at the smithy's. From there to the first match in a week or so. From the first match to a forty in a ... well, actually the correlation is not that direct. But I can promise you that the gun will do it if you can.

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SIG P-210 (Continued from page 34)

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The recoil springs on each conversion unit are captive on their own guide rod. This and the fine fit and finish give the SIG a silky smooth action that I have never experienced on any other locked breech autoloader, including some very good customized handguns of the same persuasion.

The P210-6 weighs around 36 oz. with the centrefire barrels and 32 oz. with the .22 conversion unit. Each barrel is 4 3/4" long. The 9 mm has 6 grooves and the 7.65 mm has 4 each with a one-in-ten right hand twist. The 6 groove rimfire barrel is rifled with a one-in-eighteen twist. All magazines are 8 round capacity. The rimfire magazines are noticeably different from those of the centrefire (apart from the feed lips) in that they are made of stainless steel with an aluminum follower. The 9 mm and the 7.65 mm can be used interchangeably in the centrefire magazines.

A recently purchased additional magazine came with an interesting gadget—a magazine loading aid. This plastic device slides on the back of the magazine and an integral prong depresses the magazine follower. This allows the cartridge to be dropped into the magazine without any pressure being exerted to overcome follower pressure. Once the round is between the feed lips, the loading aid is raised with the thumb, the cartridge pushed home, and then another downward movement of the loader engages the cartridge rim and pushes it down, allowing the process to be repeated until the magazine is full. It sounds complicated, but by simply moving the thumb up and down in its normal position when loading, while it rests on the thumbpiece of the loading aid, filling magazines is effortless. Its value for speed loading is negligible, being just another item that has to be manipulated—makes for relaxed loading at a more leisurely pace however. The design could easily be adapted to any auto magazine.

The SIG was shot extensively with numerous handloads and factory loads and its accuracy is proved best with loads close to factory ballistics and with jacketed bullets over the cast types. The action is very strong and its design is such that it could handle maximum loads all day, every day without strain. The standard wooden grips on the pistol are poor. For some reason, my SIG was not fitted with the checkered plastic grips. Coarse horizontal grooving on each grip panel is the only concession to a non-slip contact. It does not work. Oh for a set of Pachmayer Signatures as are on my .45. This problem notwithstanding, the SIG is an easy pistol to handle, and is well



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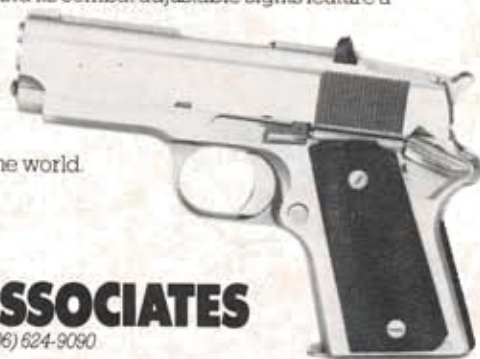
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behaved with heavy loads. The relation of barrel axis to grip position is low, and this tends to keep muzzle jump down.

The loads used in the pistol in 9 mm were Winchester factory 115 gn full metal jacketed and handloads using 90 gn JHP, 115 gn JHP and 100 gn FMJ Hornady's, along with cast RCBS No. 82027 flat conical pointed projectile, cast hard, sized to .356 and lubricated with RCBS bullet lube. The 7.65 mm was tried with NORMA 93 gn factory loads, and handloads using 93 gn NORMA FMJs, 100 gn Hornady half jackets, 110 gn Hornady FMJ's and 85 gn RCBS No. 82012, cast hard and sized to .308".

The loads with these components are shown in the table. I tried some experimental target loads in the 7.65 mm using .311 calibre 85 gn Wadcutters projectiles, normally used in my Walther GSP .32 S & W Long target auto. The aim was to produce a light service match load that would cut easily visible holes in the target, and have minimum recoil. The principle worked in that the load/bullet combination was OK, and with the .22 recoil spring installed in the 7.65 mm barrel, the loads cycled the action with no trouble. Unfortunately a 'Catch 22' situation arose. I could not seat the bullets out far enough to prevent the bottlenecked 7.65 mm cases nosediving in the magazine occasionally. The chamber throat, cut for the round nosed 7.65 factory bullet, would not allow the wadcutters into the chamber when seated out far enough to feed reliably.

Some 1,000 rounds were put through the SIG during the various test programmes. The 9 mm outfit was by far the most reliable, without a single malfunction during the tests. The 7.65 mm was happiest on factory fodder, and occasionally failed to feed with some of my lead bullet handloads. The rimfire unit was happiest on higher velocity ammo. The very soft target ammo gave some feeding and ejection problems. I feel that some of the rimfire's feeding problems are related to the magazine lips, and adjustments in this area should rectify the problem. The pistol was used to conduct an interesting experiment to test the significance of bullet design in the 9 mm, in enhancing the performance of a cartridge that some experts claim lacks power for adequate defensive application.

Loads were worked up on my Oehler chronograph to give equivalent velocities for both Hornady's 90 grain hollow point and their 100 grain full metal jacketed projectile. Both these projectiles were shot into a series of steel beer cans filled with water at a range of about 15 metres. The explosive performance of the hollow point bullet on these containers was significantly better than the full jacketed projectile, as can be seen in the photographs, given their similar energy levels.

With factory loadings in both 9 mm and 7.65 mm running at pressures around 30,000 psi, it is unlikely that much im-

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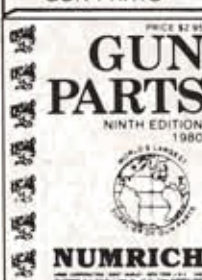
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provement in straight out velocity can be had by handloading. The extra duty falls to the projectiles to enhance the performance of both these 'old timers.' This is perhaps one of the most appealing aspects of the SIG P210 for me. Its various conversions make it a versatile 'ballistics test bench' and just about any combination of projectile and powder can be made to work in the pistol.

As a service handgun, I believe it leaves a lot to be desired in design and handling, as detailed above. The Colt Government leaves it for dead in those areas. As an example of precision handgun design and manufacture, however, there are few autoloading pistols that approach the SIG. The silky smooth action, the crisp 3 1/2 lb. trigger that feels half that weight, the beautifully made and solidly machined parts, the precision sights—they all go to make up a special kind of pistol whose days, unfortunately, are numbered by its own exclusive price tag.

(The SIG P-210 is distributed in the U.S. by
Mandall Shooting Supplies Inc., 7150 E.
Fourth St., Scottsdale, AZ 85252)

QUICKLINE SIGHT

(Continued from page 22)

The twin-line rear blade amplifies the highway effect much as a road having white edges aids the nighttime driver. The effect is more pronounced since Guttridge does not connect the lines.

The third rear blade uses the small, low-placed central dot plus the side verticals to gain a very precise sight picture when shooting at small or distant targets. The dot is aligned with the stripe, while the broader part of the front sight is mostly ignored. The effect is to have two sights in one system: one broad and quick, one fine and precise, and both compatible.

The concept of this "dot-and-line" idea came from the author's experience and his suggestion to Guttridge.

I wasn't happy with coarse factory sights: it was necessary to pick a spot on the expanse of the front sight and try to return the target to that same spot for each shot. That was difficult; I could see why old-time shooters favored fine front blades. However, it took the experiments with the Guttridge sight to discover that the shooter can have both broad and narrow sighting combinations at once, and without confusion.

In using the "dot-and-line" system, the greatest advantages seem to occur when shooting at small targets at closer distances, and in deliberate aimed fire at longer ranges. In fast shooting at close range, the dot largely is ignored, although there is a fleeting impression of its being

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helpful in some cases. Other people have reported the same, and so far, no one has been critical.

Fast shooting with the Guttridge system is easy: just look at the target while quickly raising and pushing the gun toward it. As this movement occurs, the line of the front sight comes into the peripheral vision. As the whole gun comes into the direct gaze, the sights will be in good alignment with the target. Precise alignment occurs with so little effort that, at first, there is a little tendency to overcorrect. The author eventually learned to channel that tendency into more concentration on the target and on trigger-control.

Guttridge builds his sights for rough service: they are milled from solid stock (72,000 psi steel bars), the front blades being interchangeable by removal of three 1/16" roll pins. The sights are matted, then hot-blued to dark-black.

Currently, Guttridge is concentrating on making sights for the Government Model service pistol. Eventually, Guttridge will be marketing his patented system for the Commander pistol, the Browning High-Power, the S&W Model 10 (and certain other S&W and Colt revolvers), and the Ruger "Security Six."

The Guttridge "Quickline" system for the Government Model costs \$64.95 for the sight alone, plus \$19.50 for installation. It is necessary to send only the slide. Owners of other guns may go onto a waiting-list, to be notified as sights come available.

Write: Guttridge, Inc., 533-214th Street, Dyer, Indiana, 46311. Telephone inquiries to: 1-219-865-8617.



DAISY 717

(Continued from page 40)

recommended before storage, the 717 should be discharged when stored away. In fact, the handbook warns not to leave the gun in pumped condition for more than one hour or the release valve may be damaged. A supplemental sheet with the Operation Manual tells the owner how to adjust the pump rod length if power drops (DWG. #2) and how to check compression stroke clearance at pump lever (DWG. #1). The owner is warned not to exceed the given limits by attempts at increasing power.

A big plus for the 717 is that as a pneumatic, it is recoilless in discharge, thus inherently possessing a key feature of very expensive spring powered air arms. Since it has fixed maximum power output, it can be sold without a firearms permit in England, for instance, where a limit of 6 ft. lbs. muzzle energy for air pistols is in effect.

Conclusion. This pistol is bound to fill a place for many airgunners who do not



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wish to pay an exorbitant sum for a recoilless import. One can nit-pick minor points on it but should never lose sight of what all is presented at such low investment. I've had many people handle and shoot the 717 and reception has ranged from varying degrees of exuberance to disbelief at the low price. Perhaps the compliments can be summed up from the 717's encounter with Jeff Loefer, my colleague and air arm entrepreneur who has a large working collection at his desert foothills ranch overlooking the vast Mojave desert. It's a shooting business holiday for me whenever I visit there; gaining valuable insights from his field test programs and my shooting tends to improve in just trying to match his awesome skill. And so it was that I brought the sample 717 with me and when it was time to leave, we watched Jeff putting the little gun through its paces. Shot after shot, he hit our tricky fun target and finally turned to me grinning: "You're going to leave it here, aren't you?!"

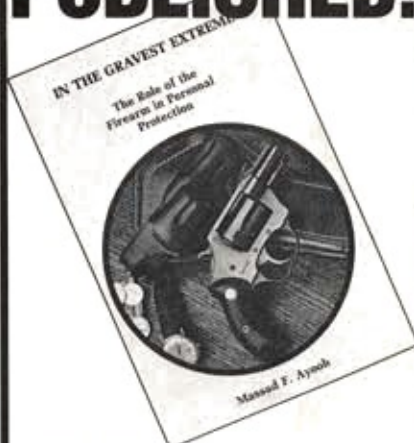
DAN WESSON 22

(Continued from page 43)

the bright sunlight of midday. I wouldn't hesitate to use the yellow insert if I was planning to hunt in the heavy timber where lighting was less than favorable and an all-black blade was impractical. I haven't mentioned the red insert mainly because I dislike it and rarely, if ever, use it for either hunting or target work.

The rear sight on the new Wesson Arms .22 is micrometer-click adjustable with a white-outline sight notch. The older model sight I have on my .357 isn't click adjustable, so this is a welcome improvement. It is, to say the least, a pain trying to re-zero the old type sight when switching barrels or loads, as you had no reference point to work from. I use an Allen wrench with one of its sides painted white for use as a reference point. This works fairly well, providing you remember which direction the painted side faced when first inserted into the elevation screw. Another method, although inconvenient, is to use a feeler gauge. The new micrometer click has solved this problem to an extent, however I can't feel the clicks as well as I'd prefer. Trying to count the clicks to move the sight up or down while testing in the field was rather difficult. This condition doesn't seem to be as noticeable when elevating the rear sight, but when moving the sight down the clicks become less distinct as the sight is moved closer to its bottoming point on the frame. This may not be the case with all the new click sights, but regardless, it should be mentioned. Here in the quietness of my gun room, with no distractions, the clicks are more distinct than they were

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when testing in the field, but I'd still prefer a more definite engagement. As for strength, the sight should certainly be able to handle .22 and .357 recoils without coming apart, as it appears to be very sturdy. Maximum adjustment is broad enough to cover the necessary sight adjustment when switching from the 8" through 2½" barrels. The windage adjustment screw has no click-type engagement, so you're on your own with it. The factory setting is very close to dead-center, but depends mainly on your eyes. Some adjustment will more than likely be necessary, but this presents no real problem. It doesn't take much movement of the windage screw to change the bullet's horizontal point of impact. The white outline around the sight notch looks good and gives good contrast, but I personally prefer solid black. It's distracting to me to see a white hair around the rear sight, but then again, to each his own.

The Dan Wesson .22 also boasts interchangeable Walnut grips. Presently there are four types offered—the standard target in either smooth or checkered (also available in Zebrawood), a smooth combat-style grip with finger grooves; the Sacramento with reverse taper, palm swell, and finger grooves in a smooth finish, and the traditional grip in either smooth or checkered finish. If you find that none of these fits your hand properly and you enjoy whittling, Dan Wesson Arms continues to offer the fully inletted Walnut stock blank. Out of the four styles, I like the combat and reverse taper Sacramento with barrel lengths up to 6". Since the standard target grips are too large for my hand and the traditional grips just don't feel comfortable, I prefer to use Pachmayr's Signature grip with the 8" barrel. Although I'm pleased with the feel and control of the two factory-style combat grips, the Pachmayr Signature is one of the best all-around sets of grips I've used, regardless of barrel length. I am partial to finger grooved grips, especially for shooting double action, and this is when the combat and Sacramento are very useful.

The trigger on the Model 22 is well designed, being 3/8" wide and smooth, void of any vertical grooves. The finish is of a matte texture and is nicely rounded to prevent any chance of cutting the trigger finger in recoil. It likewise allows complete control in both S.A. and D.A. modes of firing. The trigger also has an adjustable over-travel screw located at the top rear portion of the trigger and engages the upper rear portion of the trigger guard to completely stop any movement after the hammer falls.

The 3/8" wide hammer spur is also a good feature of the Dan Wesson .22, having deep cut lateral grooves for positive single-action cocking. One of Dan Wesson Arms' trademarks is the hammer's short throw. If you're not accustomed to the feel of a Wesson action, the first time you

(Continued on page 74)

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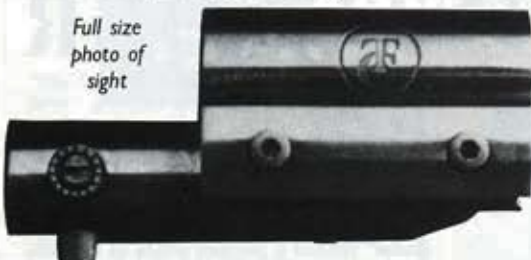
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(Continued from page 71)

thumb back the hammer you'll look to see if it cocked or jammed. This design not only makes it faster and easier to cock without disturbing the hold on the grip, but it also results in faster ignition time and less chance for movement—thus better accuracy.

As with the .357, the Model 22 has a partially recessed cylinder face. The individual chambers are not recessed for the rims, but the recessing of the entire cylinder and extractor star gives this appearance.

The location of the cylinder release latch has been a controversial subject since the introduction of the Dan Wesson revolver back in 1968. Conventional positioning of the latch is on the left rear side of the frame, but Dan Wesson had an innovative mind and positioned the latch on the crane in front of the cylinder, to direct additional strength where it's needed the most. Many shooters felt this drastic change in revolver lock-up wouldn't take the continued abusive recoil of magnum handgun loads without falling apart. Well, Dan's point was well taken and the skeptics more or less ate their words of criticism. The design has withstood twelve years of use in the field by handgunners and has proven itself to be a better system of locking the cylinder into the frame.

Single action trigger pull of my test gun was a crisp, but slightly heavy, 58 ounces. I don't particularly care for this weight pull, so I'll have it taken down by a smith to around 2 1/2 pounds. Out of curiosity, I checked the S.A. pull of a new .22 Colt Diamondback. It averaged a very heavy 69 ounces, so I don't consider the Dan Wesson .22's trigger pull way out of line. I don't believe that a handgun needs this heavy a pull in order to be safely used for hunting. I've used the 2 1/2-2 3/4 pound pull for a good many years and have yet to have a round go off accidentally.

Double action pull on the Model 22 is short and the fastest available, but very heavy at 13 pounds. Being this tough, it's just about impossible to shoot the .22 accurately in the D.A. mode. Some good pistolsmithing is needed here to bring it down to an acceptable weight.

Thus far I've covered some of the unique traits of the Dan Wesson revolver, but I believe the most outstanding feature of the handgun, and that which sets it apart from all other revolvers, is the ability to quickly and easily interchange barrels. The concept of barrel versatility has become very desirable to handgunners that want one basic frame to serve multi-purpose duties requiring different barrel lengths. The four most popular lengths of 2 1/2", 4", 6", and 8" are quickly and easily interchanged in a matter of minutes. Complete instructions are given in the booklet that accompanies each gun, but it's as simple as unscrewing the muzzle nut with the tool supplied, removing the shroud, unscrewing the barrel and replacing it with

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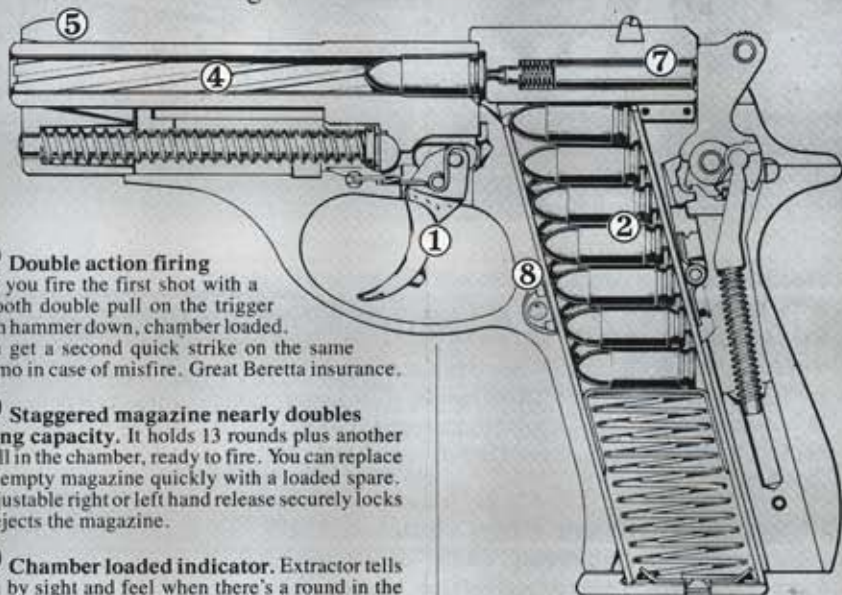
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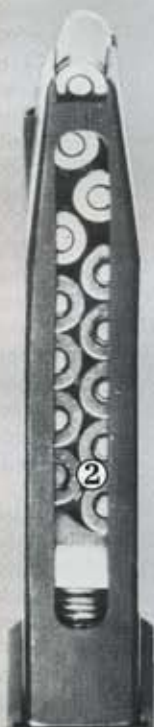
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your choice of the others, check for barrel/cylinder gap, replace the respective shroud, and tighten down the muzzle nut. Sighting in is necessary after each barrel change.

The accuracy of the Dan Wesson revolver is attributed to the barrel being under tension and secured at both ends with the cylinder release latch located close to the barrel/cylinder gap. The gun has proven itself to be very accurate, but like any other has its preferences of ammo it will digest and spit out into a neat cluster. Accuracy tests were conducted at 25 yards, using a sandbag as a rest. Inclement weather conditions made testing unpleasant as did drastic changes in lighting, but nevertheless, as long as the shooter did his part, the Model 22 delivered excellent accuracy. At least two five-shot groups of each of the six brands of ammo used were fired, and in some cases four to five groups, to insure the gun didn't care for the particular brand of ammo and not the fault of the shooter's sighting or trigger squeeze. Thanks to the help of a friend, Jeff Jolly, accuracy tests with all four barrel lengths and the various brands of ammo took far less time than if I'd done it alone. With both of us shooting, and taking into consideration the effects of the bitter cold, I felt that the likelihood of one of us having shot a poor group and attributing it to the gun/ammo was minimized. For the most part, the group sizes were close. If excessive, the ammo was shot again by both of us. The most accurate brands of ammo with each barrel ran as follows: With the 8" barrel—Winchester's Super-X 1¼", Remington Standard Velocity 1¼", the 6" barrel—Remington High-Speed 1½", Remington Yellow Jacket 1¼", Remington Standard Velocity 1½", the 4" barrel—Remington Hi-Speed 1¼", Remington Standard Velocity 1¼". The 2½" barrel surprised me as I didn't think it'd hold its own with the longer tubes. It shot the Remington Hi-Speeds into 1¼" and the Winchester Super-X into 2". Remington Standard Velocity duplicated the Super-X group. This is very good from a snubby. The other brands of ammo shot from 2¼", which is fair, to 4", which is pathetic. CCI's Stinger ammo shot a 4" group out of the 2½" barrel and Remington's Yellow Jacket ammo did the same out of the 8". To the other extreme, with the 6" barrel the Yellow Jackets delivered very good accuracy with a 1¼" group. As you can see, ammo brand is very important in obtaining the best performance from the handgun.

Overall, I rate the Dan Wesson Model 22 very highly in comparison to similarly priced .22 D.A. revolvers. There's always room for a high quality, accurate .22 such as the Dan Wesson. The ability to convert the Model 22 from a 2½" through 8" barreled gun for use as a kit gun while fishing, backpacking, etc., to a hunting or target gun, makes it a very versatile piece.

(Continued on page 80)



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Even when tested in shorter barrels as other brands are, .38 Special Norma Mag ammo still holds its Magnum edge. In a 4 inch barrel revolver, muzzle velocity averages 1225 fps, developing 367 ft/lbs of muzzle energy. This is still substantially higher than other brands, and they all require +P designation limiting their use to special handguns.

The powder in .38 Special Norma Mag ammo is highly progressive, creating even more advantage in longer barrel guns. In a 7.7 inch (including chamber) test barrel, muzzle velocity is a sizzling 1667 fps, developing a whopping 679 ft/lbs of muzzle energy. And, of course, the pressure remains at the standard level.

.38 Special Norma Mag ammunition is a true ballistic breakthrough in line with Norma's historical innovations in the ammunition industry.

VELOCITY/ENERGY SUMMARY

Barrel Length	Muzzle Velocity	Muzzle Energy
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6 inch test	1542	580
7.7 inch test	1667	679

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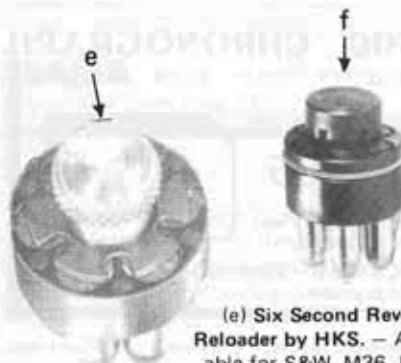
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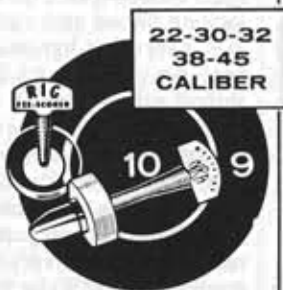
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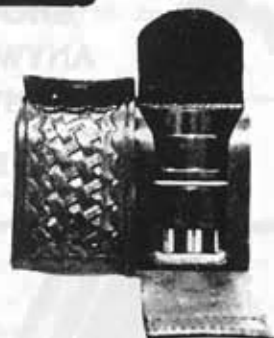
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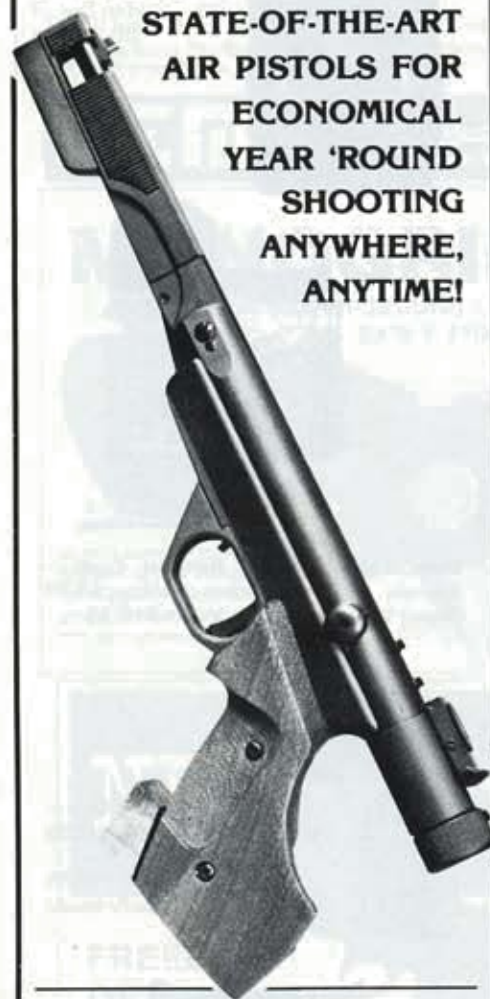
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(Continued from page 76)

In addition, four different styles of barrel shrouds make the gun even more appealing. The model 22 is the lightest with a trim looking shroud and a solid rib. The model 22V is the same lightweight shroud with a vent rib. The model 22H has a heavy shroud with a solid rib and it's also available as the model 22VH with a heavy shroud and vent rib. Each model is available in the Pistol Pac or separately in all barrel lengths. The selection is complete and should cover just about anyone's needs. The prices vary with the models—retailing at \$232.90 for the Model 22 with a 2½" barrel, \$276.85 for the 6" Model 22V, to \$310.00 for an 8" Model 22VH. The Pistol Pac starts at \$444.70 for the Model 22 to \$606.80 for the Model 22VH. The Dan Wesson .22 isn't cheap, but if you're after a rugged, accurate, and versatile handgun it'd be worth your while to look it over.



SAFARI

(Continued from page 37)

decorative Walnut box complete with dark blue-velvet lining. The Safari is a one-grand item that requires a \$350.00 deposit to reserve. First offer goes to purchasers of the previous "Classic" who may want to match the Safari with their Classic's number.

Why "Safari"? Why not? These designs and features sometimes evolve in strange ways. This time it was simply because Kelly had been on Safari and was quite impressed with the Cape Buffalo. The individual features of the gun just fell into place. The 1980 Gun Digest carries an article describing several of the M-N-P limited editions and their original cost and current values—at least they were fairly accurate in February '79 when the article was written.

Actually, all of the M-N-P guns except the Charter Backpacker have appreciated tremendously in value. What happens with the Safari remains to be seen. There is no doubt the price will go up immediately. I would guess the first trades will occur around the \$15-1700 area. I'm not totally into the collector stream, but far enough into it to keep current with prices. I own most of the #1 M-N-P guns and some others for investment purposes and frankly it would take a real bundle to part me from them. Historically, "collector" guns have been one of the better investments over the long haul.

The ultimate values of these guns will simply be set by supply and demand.

Obviously, not everyone can afford or even wants a limited edition collector's gun. M-N-P is now offering custom gunsmith services to dealers and the public. A dealer can have a gun customized and sell it over

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.22LR in .223 Rem	.22WBR in .223 Rem	.3007 Carls in .308 Win
.22LR in .223 Rem	.22WBR in .223 Rem	.3007 Carls in .308 Win
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the counter. An individual may send his gun to a gunsmith by UPS and have it worked on and returned legally. (For info: 30016 S. River Rd., Mt. Clemens, MI 48045.) In addition Mag-na-port has licensed Joe Undik (1861 Burrows Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada RZX ZV6) to perform M-N-P in Canada.

Frankly, I don't see any end to the desirability and increasing value of the M-N-P Limited Edition Customs. Attitudes and values change. Inflation makes real goods a better deal than money. Somewhere—sometime the economy and values have to level off. Yeah, sure, that's been said since a few years after the depression ended, but the fact of the matter shows that sometimes things slow down a little, but "real" goods of collectable value just keep getting more valuable.



LLAMA

(Continued from page 24)

for the double action operation of the pistol, plus the front of the bow has been redesigned to permit a more secure two-hand hold. A two-piece firing pin is used to reduce the possible breakage of such pins, and thus prolong firing pin life. Two-piece

firing pins have been used in rifles previously, but not, to the best of this writer's knowledge, in handguns. The new firing pin design consists of a long slender front part ending in a ball joint where it abuts against the rear portion; the rear portion is the part struck by the face of the concealed hammer.

Three safeties on a pistol are not that unusual, but one such safety is often a magazine safety. Not so on the new Llama. The standard manual safety is a lever design mounted on the slide, and when "on," it prevents the hammer from touching the firing pin. Even when the manual safety is "off," the pistol is still in a safety mode, due to two automatic safeties—one which blocks the hammer until the trigger is pulled, and the second, which blocks the firing pin until the trigger is pulled. As has often been proven, safety mechanisms are mechanical devices subject to failure, regardless of whether the arm is a handgun, rifle, or shotgun, but the new Llama combination of safeties has to be one of the best designs yet to appear. (As with most autoloaders, the new Llama D.A. is intended for use by right-handed shooters, and the ejection of fired cases is to the right.)

Although no actual firing of the new Llama was possible due to the time, other than dry firing, this writer was impressed with the feel of the pistol, the ease of the double action operation, and the overall

design of the pistol. (The slide stays retracted after the last shot is fired; release of the slide is via a rather modernized slide stop in the standard manner.) Sizewise, the new Llama is a bit large for a pocket pistol, but there are no sharp corners or surfaces to catch or cause a hang-up in a jacket pocket. Metal finish on production guns may vary or differ, but on the prototype the frame and slide sides were a highly polished blue, while the top of the slide, including sights, and the other frame surfaces, had a sand-blasted non-glare matte finish for increased durability. Hence, the new Llama D.A. looks good, feels good, and has several good design features. Now, it only remains to see how the production pistols actually function, and if accuracy has been increased by the new design.



ABILENE

(Continued from page 41)

loose the screws holding the back strap to the frame. This was more an annoyance than a problem, as it takes but a few drops of Loc-tite or shellac to keep them snug. Ruger has had similar problems with their 44 Blackhawk, but they've been cured.

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Hopefully US Arms can also find solutions. J.D. encountered both of those problems; they were to have been rectified last year.

As the pistol was intended for the silhouette shooter, I felt the testing should include not only the normal bench rest accuracy firing, but also enough match shooting to evaluate how well the pistol would perform in more realistic situations.

With the latter requirements in mind, a stock of components and ammo were laid on from Federal, Frontier, Hodgdon, Hornady, Sierra and Speer, along with a CH Pistol Champ progressive loading tool and a RCBS mold for a 240 grain SWC. The usual pistol primers and powders were selected for the test loads, as were the heavier versions of the available bullets.

I picked the Pistol Champ, as, like a lot of you, my loading time is limited. Besides, I'd rather be shooting than loading. The tool is available from J&G Sales, Inc. (442 Miller Valley Road, Prescott, Arizona 86301) ready to go for one cartridge for less than a hundred dollars. Conversions to set up for another pistol cartridge are available for about forty dollars a set.

The Pistol Champ incorporates an interchangeable bushing charge bar powder measure on top of the second die and, in keeping with my desire for speed and simplicity, I picked through the bushings for close approximations of my favorite 44 mag loads. Not very sophisticated, but I didn't have time to sort through a lot of loads to find this particular pistol's favorite fodder. If you're fussier than I am, it's not too hard to file out a smaller bushing till it throws just exactly what shoots best. Once you settle on a bushing, loading is a snap. The dies are factory adjusted and the tool is easy to operate. Once your arm muscles get built up, I expect you could average 200 rounds an hour.

The results of the shooting tests are summarized in the accompanying table. First off, you'll note that small groups and low velocity variation didn't go together in this case—in fact, the opposite condition is more strongly correlated. You'll also note that the group sizes shown are not outstanding. Remember, though, that these were shot from a hand-held rest, with open sights. I'm sure a good bullseye-tuned Colt auto would cut the mean group sizes in half—but it would take a machine rest or scope to tell. I'd guess that the best that could be expected from this pistol, if fired from a machine rest with a carefully selected load would be around an inch and a half. On the range, from a solid freestyle position, I'd expect good shooters could average two to two and a half inches.

Now when you compare that to target dimensions, out there in the distance, you'll begin to get an understanding for the problems facing the wheel gun shooter. The chicken will enclose a six inch circle. This pistol/ammo/good shooter combination will only shoot four to five inch groups at 50 meters. Ignoring head,

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tail or leg shots, there's not much room for error. It's possible to click ten chicks—but I only did it once in nine matches. Sevens and eights are more likely. As the chicken is the biggest target (as far as angle subtended goes), things get worse farther down range. The four to five inch group on the chickens equates to eight to ten minutes of angle. Compared to the chicken's

eleven minute girth, the turkey is tiny, as the body is but six minutes tall. The other two fall in between in size. In those nine matches I only cleaned one bank of any of the other animals—and that was five turkeys.

Looking back through my records for those nine matches, I find I did worse than one would expect from simple trigonometry.

The problem wasn't due to limited knockdown. Save for a couple of rams tagged with the 180 grain Federal loading, every target hit went down.

As far as the mechanics of shooting go, the pistol handled well; the crisp trigger, big grips, and long sight radius are definite aids to good scores. The long barrel helps in another way as, with a leather blast

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BULLET	POWDER	CHARGE GRS	GROUP SIZE—INCHES+			VELOCITY—FPS*		BRASS	REMARKS
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180 HP	Federal factory		2.92	1.25	2.01	1730	91	—	cases fall out—doesn't take rams down well.
200 Hornady HP	H4227	24.4	2.83	1.63	2.28	1391	44	Federal	cases fall out.
240 HP	Frontier factory		2.73	2.06	2.40	1331	43	—	cases fall out.
240 HP	Federal factory		2.04	1.24	1.68	1355	36	—	same.
240 Speer SP	2400	22.2	2.55	1.32	1.88	1424	50	Frontier	cases fall out.
240 Hornady FMJ	296	22.2	2.21	1.92	2.09	1336	37	Remington	ejects easily.
240 Sierra HC	H4227	24.4	3.37	1.90	2.83	1472	33	Frontier	compressed load—couldn't crimp properly.
265 Hornady FP	H110	22.6	2.85	2.11	2.47	1404	24	Frontier	same.
240 Cast SWC	H4227	24.4	2.72	1.62	2.03	1514	58	Frontier	ejects easily; RCBS mold 4-240-SWC.

+ Three five-shot groups fired at 25 yards from a sand-bagged rest using open sights.

*Instrumental at 10 feet, measured with Oehler M33 and sky screens.



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shield, I was able to shoot my usual Creed-
moor position and eliminate a lot of
shooter error.

At my first match this spring, I managed
a 29x40 with a 200 grain load and, as I
missed three chickens and a pig, I figured a
little attention to details would put me in
the thirties in short order.

It didn't happen. Try as I might, my
scores got worse as summer moved in—
even a half dozen practice and sighting-in
sessions tossed in between the matches
didn't help. I don't think it was me, as even
after shooting my worst ever with the
Abilene (16x40), I went 38x40 with my
unlimited.

I still don't know for sure why my match
performance was so much below what one
would expect from the pistol's pedigree
and the bench test results, but I think I
know the cause.

Summer. It just gets damn hot out here
and the pistol seemed to go berserk as it
got hot. Now I don't mean touch it and say,
"That's hot" hot, but smoking, "blister-
you-if-you-touch-it" hot. On one pleasant
110° day I was shooting two to three foot
diameter groups down on the rams. Yet, in
cool weather, or if allowed to cool, as when
testing from the bench, it was alright.
Perhaps the tremendous expansion from
the high temps put the pistol in some sort
of a bind—I don't know.

I do know that after the ejector housing
fell off, I cleaned that aforementioned
bank of turkeys and, according to my
spotter, I was shooting nice tight groups
down by the rams. Unfortunately, they
weren't all on the animal.

I sent the pistol back to its owner after
that. I can't compete in my class out here
with that sort of performance. What
should you do? Well, the pistol has a lot of
promise ... Maybe it was just the one I
had—or maybe it's cooler where
you shoot.



*Editor's Note: Since this was written,
Mossberg (through their AIG division)
has taken over the Abilene. Ron Fine of
Mossberg tells me that they will be
producing a Silhouette version, but the
exact barrel length had not been deter-
mined as yet.*



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COMMENTS ON COOPER

In regards to your Sept/Oct 1979 issue; I enjoyed it very much. There are a couple of things though. I take exception to a few things on Jeff Cooper's .45 Myths article. First, the accuracy part. Most people can't obtain satisfactory accuracy with the .45 ACP. The Colt Government models have poor sights. I feel that this point was glossed over too quickly at the end of the article. As they come from the factory, the sights are inadequate. Secondly, I think that Mr. Cooper is out to lunch on his modification requirements. You're supposed to get an ambidextrous safety and an extended slide release. At this stage of the game, it's about all you can do to shoot it. For a decent competition gun, a few other accessories are nice. The following is a price breakdown in Canadian money. A 1911 A1 is \$250 for the gun, \$20 for the Pachmayr grips, \$75.00 sights, \$40 for the ambidextrous safety and \$35 for the slide release. You can add a lot more if you're going to do that to a Gold Cup. A whole lot more outlay because the Gold Cup already costs a lot. Trigger, new bushing, etc. and you've got \$500 or more in the thing. Add spare magazines, etc. and it goes out of sight. No, I must respectfully disagree with Mr. Cooper. There are still a few things wrong with the .45 that have to be remedied... they're not myths... they're realities.

Bill McChesney
Downs, Ontario

GEORGIA CLUB GOING IPSC

First, let me say thanks for a great magazine. As a subscriber, I eagerly await each issue. Would it be possible for you to print the following announcement for me? The Georgia Practical Pistol Association is now forming an affiliation with IPSC (International Practical Shooting Confederation). Interested clubs or individuals should contact: D. Noel Cook, 1806 Normandie Lane, Albany, GA, 31707. The phone is (912) 439-1790 after 7:00 p.m. I believe this would be of interest to readers in this part of the country. I am currently president of the Albany Regional pistol club and have been in contact with Jeff Cooper. Your cooperation would be a great help to us as we'd like to see practical pistol shooting grow.

D. Noel Cook
Albany, Georgia

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