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This offer may be withdrawn at our discretion by December, 1983

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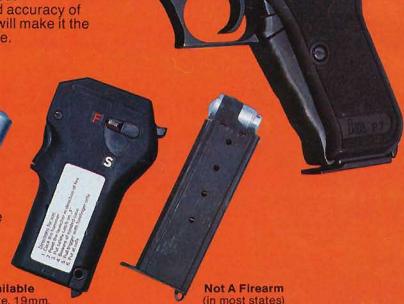
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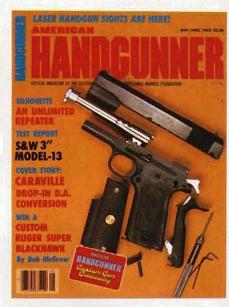
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COVER: Caraville's D.A. unit for the .45 auto and same of their accessories. Photo by Nick Karras

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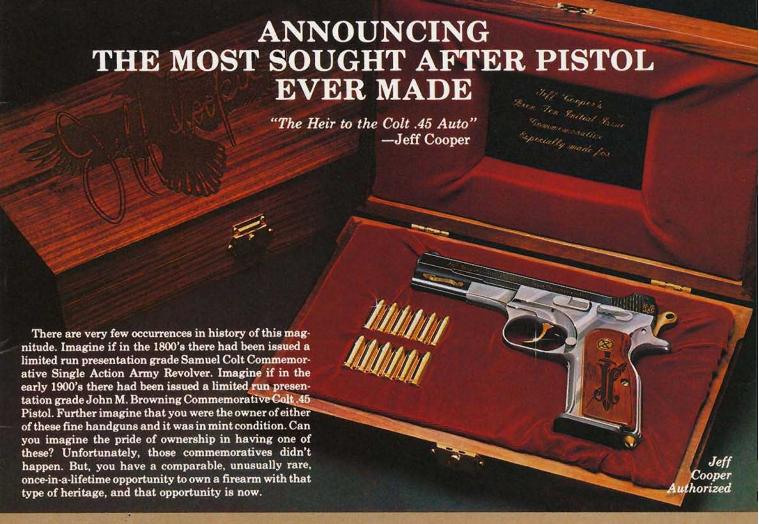












Jeff Cooper: M.A.-UCLA, B.A.-Stanford, writer, college professor, founder and combat master Southwest Pistol League, founder and director American Pistol Institute, founder and honorary lifetime Chairman International Practical Shooting Confederation, former United States Marine Colonel, and the most internationally renowned and knowledgeable combat pistolcraft instructor in the world.

EFF COOPER'S BRENTEN INITIAL ISSUE COM-MEMORATIVE - pays tribute to and honors the distinguished career of the father of modern combat pistolcraft — JEFF COOPER, and marks the kick-off of the production of the most desired pistol ever made -THE BREN TEN 10MM AUTO.

DESCRIPTION

DESCRIPTION

This exquisitely crafted piece is a fully functional, finely tuned, commemorative combat pistol. It has all of the features of a standard production model Bren Ten including selective double, single action, reversible thumb safety, and replaceable front sight, plus all of the custom features that Jeff Cooper has personally and expressly designated for this pistol. The superb stainless steel frame and blue steel slide have been highly polished to a mirror-like finish, with specially selected detailing meticulously crafted in 22k gold plate. To compliment our heritage, this fine pistol is completely made in America. A special manufacturer's seal will be placed on each commemorative after it has been personally inspected and test-fired by Jeff Cooper, with a registered serial number coordinated certificate of authenticity. Each commemorative is presented in its own custom fitted, handrubbed, specially selected dark wood presentation chest, lined with rich, plush, deep burgundy velvet, with the owner's name inscribed on the ensconced custom plaque within. To further enrich this issue, twelve deactivated 22k gold plated, 10mm auto cartridges are included.

AVAILABILITY & SHIPMENT

AVAILABILITY & SHIPMENT

Orders are now being accepted on a first come, first served basis. Requests for specific serial num-bers will be honored if available; otherwise, you

will be assigned a serial number as your order is received. Once the minimum subscription level. received. Once the minimum subscriptor level reached, production will begin. Two hundred of these fine pistols are scheduled to be produced per week, with shipments directly from our exclusive commemorative dealer. Gun Finders, Phoenix, Arizona. Because we have no control over how fast Arrizona. Because we have no control over now last orders will be sent in, we cannot guarantee a specific delivery date. Although we will do everything within our power to deliver the commemoratives in a timely manner, we will not sacrifice quality and care in craftsmanship for a little time.

ASSURANCE & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ASSURANCE & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
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scribers not completing their order, will have their serial numbers reassigned.

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COP TALK

MASSAD AYOOB

QUESTIONS FROM OUR READERS AND STRAIGHTFORWARD ANSWERS FROM...

fficer Survival remains an important issue today, and it engenders a lot of questions. Here are some of the latest we've received that are of general law enforcement interest.

NIGHT SHOOTING METHODS

Our department has just given us authorization to put together a night shooting program. Since you get around pretty much and see a lot of the techniques, what do you favor for (1) best training method of night shooting without illumination, and (2) firing techniques with the flashlight? Also, how good are the self-illuminating night sights on the

Southern Range Officer Taking your questions in order, you'll get the best results in night-firing without a light source if you teach your officers to fire from the McGee Turret (Fairbairn isosceles) position. In this stance, the body becomes a gun turret that rotates at the hips. Both arms are locked straight out in front of the officer, forming an isosceles triangle with his chest. It is important to teach the officer to lock his entire upper body, including the neck.

When the officer hears a sound in the dark (ie, a gunshot fired at him), it is human instinct for him to turn toward that sound. If his neck is locked with his torso, and his arms are locked in the turret position, his eyes will lock in on the sound, and his gun will now be pointed in the exact same place. This hold is devastatingly accurate within seven to fifteen yards.

Flashlights? I teach students in my Lethal Threat Management courses (open to police only, through the Defensive Tactics Institute, Police Firearms Training Division, P.O. Box 122, Concord, NH 03301) five different flashlight techniques. These include the FBI Method, the Cirillo Method, the Chapman Method, the Harries (IPSC) Method, and my own technique. As you might suspect, I favor the Ayoob technique.

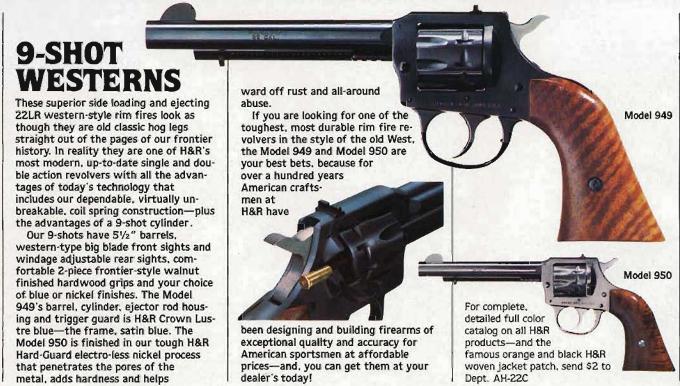
In the Ayoob Method, the gun is thrust forward in one hand and the flashlight in the other; hands meet at base of thumb and are in a symmetrical position. This somewhat reduces recoil, but mainly, it points the flashlight slightly upward, automatically directing the beam into the eyes of a man within fifteen to seven yards, blinding him. The spillover of the beam onto the chest area is more than sufficient to silhouette the sights for a "flash sight picture" if the officer chooses not to fire from a "point" position.

Night sights, typified by the Santiago Day-Nite Site and the T-Sight, are excellent for accurate fire in the dark. However, they do not replace the flashlight, which allows you to positively identify your target before you pull the trigger.

SAFE CARRY OF POLICE ASSAULT RIFLE

I'm a rural police officer, and the more I look at it, the more a .223 assault rifle makes sense instead of a 12-gauge shotgun. In the open spaces where I work, the distance between me and an ambusher would probably

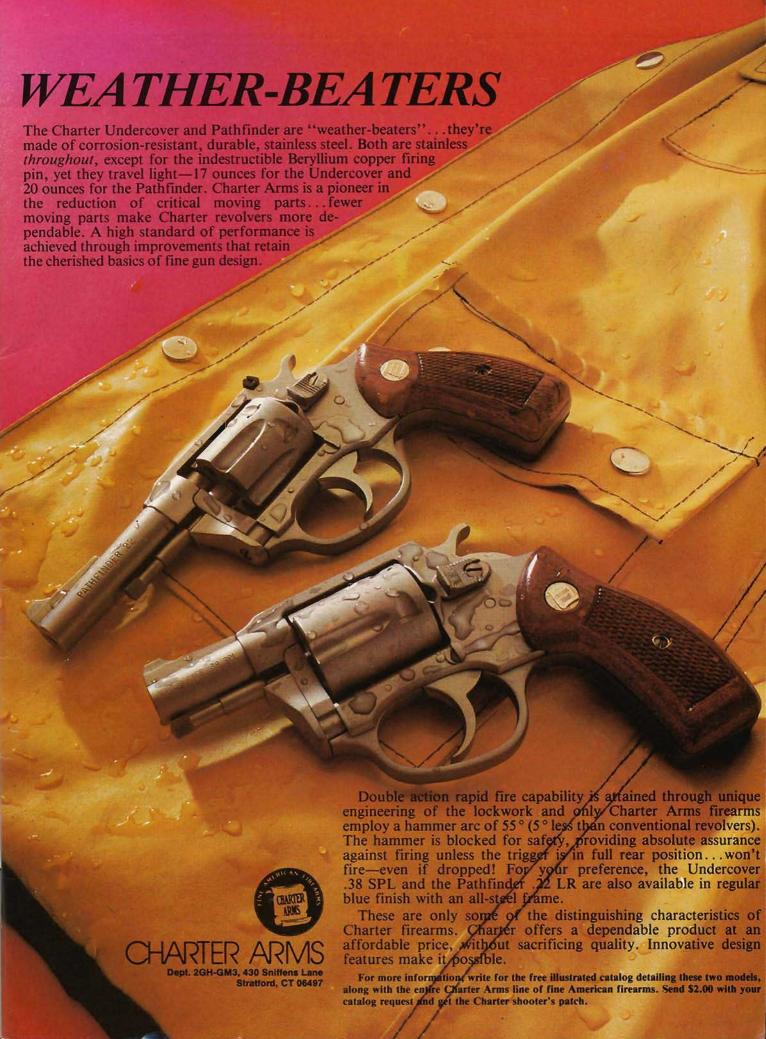
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from the No. 1 maker of rim fire revolvers . . . Harrington & Richardson, Inc.

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Double Action Revolvers

These are the revolvers created by Ruger engineers who started with a fresh sheet of paper and an unlimited budget! There is nothing in the design of these Ruger double action revolvers which is there simply because "it has always been done that way"; nothing which reflects a commitment to outmoded production methods or obsolescent factory facilities. Representing a significant improvement in design, these revolvers incorporate creative Ruger engineering, sophisticated manufacturing techniques, and superior materials.

The Ruger design philosophy of strength, simplicity, and ease of maintenance has been applied throughout the design of these revolvers. Composed of a series of integrated subassemblies, the Ruger double action revolver can be field stripped to its basic components in seconds, without the use of tools. The entire lock mechanism is installed through the bottom of the grip frame as a unit, permitting the use of solid frame side-walls which contribute to the great strength of these revolvers. The complex milled-out frames and delicately fitted sideplates of other double action revolvers, and the difficulties of maintenance and weaknesses inherent in older designs are eliminated entirely.

The finest materials are used in Ruger double action revolvers. Music wire or stainless steel coil springs are used throughout and frames, cranes, cylinders, and barrels are of heat-treated stainless or chrome molybdenum steels. Most of the small internal parts of all models of Ruger double action revolvers are made of stainless steel. In addition to traditional Ruger quality and dependable performance, the shooter enjoys the advantages of the durable stainless steel mechanism parts, even in standard blued models.



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INDUSTRY INSIDER

JERRY RAKUSAN

NO BIG SURPRISES AT THE SHOT SHOW, BUT SOME GOOD SIGNS

If there is little new that we can offer, it's not because of a lack of interesting items. There are some new and exciting developments in the handgun field, but many are stalled because of a lack of start-up capital and some are still in prototype stages of development. We have previewed the Eagle .357 Magnum auto and the Bren-Ten in this issue, but that does not mean that you can run out and buy them.

The recent SHOT Show in Atlanta was the most active I have seen. While long gun activity was surprisingly good, it was the handgun field that bustled like the floor of the N.Y. Stock Exchange. Here are some

highlights:

Colt invited a group of writers to an indoor range near Atlanta to shoot the new Mark V revolver. Colt also announced the return of the .22 New Frontier and the possibility that all Colt black powder guns could be discontinued after 1982. The two newest S&W revolvers are highlighted in this issue. Two outfits showed their own new 1911 frames and slides; Numrich's are rather basic, but Springfield Firearms Corp. has several combat variations available. H&R was showing scopes and mounts for their ribbed revolvers and gunfighter-type grips for their round butt guns. Silver handgun scopes-stainless from Weaver and brushed aluminum from Tasco-seem to be the coming thing to match the stainless handguns. The Aimpoint sight got a lot of attention from handgun dealers. Winning the NRA match helped, and so will a new gripmount designed by Jim Clark that will attach the Aimpoint to the .45 auto.

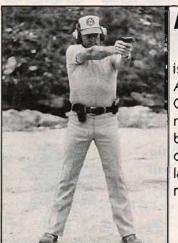
Jim Mongello of Arminex Ltd. (7882 E. Gray Rd., Scottsdale Airpark, Scottsdale, AZ 85260) and his redesigned .45 G.M. with a firing pin lock safety, improved reliability, and caliber interchangeability. Called the "Trifire," it will be available in blue, nickel or stainless.

Charter got a lot of attention with its stainless guns, and there was much interest in the stainless .44. Dan Coonan was there with his .357 Magnum auto—delivery promised in 82. Detonics displayed its .451 Magnum conversion kit and the whole host of accessories it now offers. Charlie Kelsey of Devel had his new 8-shot magazine for the 1911 that should be available by the time you read this. We saw, for the first time, an actual sample of the Eagle (see preview in this issue) and found it interesting. Magnum Research tells us that production, in Israel, is set to go.

There were many other new items at the show, and we'll be covering some of them in future issues, such as the Ruger Mk II .22 auto; the new T/C action; and the

Llama Omni D.A. auto.

Perhaps the most exciting thing at the show—at least to this casual observer—was the Blazer .38 Special ammo from Omark CCI. The ammo is factory loaded in aluminum cases with its own Berdan-type primer. Therefore they cannot be reloaded, but since they are priced significantly lower than other factory loads, who cares. This will be a boon to those who don't reload. The Blazers are available only in .38 Spec. right now, in a 148 gr. wadcutter, a 158 gr. RN lead and a + P 125 gr JHP. Watch for it.



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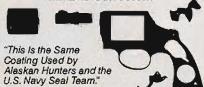
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PISTOLSMITHING

JOHN G. LAWSON

DEALING WITH A PISTOLSMITH FOR A BETTER CUSTOM JOB

You have a general idea of the work You want accomplished on your handgun, based on discussions with other shooters, magazine articles, advertisements, and examples you've seen performing on the range. Your next step is to narrow down your choice of shops listed in the American Handgunner Directory of Custom Pistolsmiths or your list of less specialized shops that appear in the Yellow Pages. The final decision is a very personal choice that might be influenced by performance, esthetics or personalities. Once that choice is made, visit or call the shop, but make certain that you talk to the gunsmith who will actually perform the work; you can't get the information or positive commitments you want from office workers or salesmen.

COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY

You may spend what seems an eternity on "hold"; hang in there until you can speak with your man. Many large shops employ several gunsmiths; some divide the work between two or more, each doing part of the operations. During this conversation, detail the work you want done, ask for advice if you need it, and determine who will actually do the work. Ask if the finished job will be range tested and exactly what kind of tests will be conducted. In short, catalog every small detail, taking notes that you will keep for future reference. If anything the gunsmith describes or suggests puzzles you, now is the time to request an explanation.

DEFINE THE TERMS

Tell him briefly who you are and how you will use the gun. This part of your conversation should be devoted to putting your personality across, and it is a critical phase. Pin down an estimated delivery date. At least one well known shop is three years backlogged and will accept work only from top IPSC competitors on an "expedite" basis for the publicity involved.

Ask for a concrete price quotation and for terms. Some shops require half the amount in advance; others want the entire sum and yet others will wait until the work is completed. Because of inflation, you may find yourself paying more than the price quoted if you don't prepay or make a substantial down payment. By all means fit the terms to your financial position, but be absolutely certain that you understand

your complete financial obligation before you hand over your gun.

DELINEATE THE WORK

When you ship your handgun, include a letter addressed to the 'smith you talked with that exactly lists each operation you want performed, together with a description of any unusual features and the prices quoted. Don't rely on somebody's memory of a phonecon; it is easy to confuse two different projects after a few days have elapsed. Finally, if you have afterthoughts or wish to add anything, your gunsmith is as close as your phone. It's always better to disturb him than to risk a misunderstanding that could lead to hard feelings.

UNDERSTAND CUSTOM WORK

Factory warranties may be voided when you have alterations done on your handgun, or, in some cases, when you fire handloads. You could also forfeit your rights under factory warranty by merely substituting one factory part for another. But, from past experience with warranty claims, I feel you aren't changing the situation materially by having work done on your handgun.

PROBLEMS ARISING

In a recent conversation, a top IPSC competitor told me that, in recent months, he had personally observed an increased number of malfunctions in pistols modified and customized by shops with top reputations. No matter how careful your gunsmith may be, he can't guarantee trouble-free functioning of cast parts in your weapons. Factory quality control concentrates on certain phases of manufacturing, as in the past, but the new systems of production seem to have opened up whole new areas of problems. In IPSC circles, the beautifully made-forged and machined-pistols of the 1950's bring premium prices. They were, beyond doubt, the very pinnacle of state of the art, but would cost a thousand dollars apiece to make today, if the tooling nd technology still existed . . . which it does not. So, how many of a manufacturer's quality control problems you can blame on your pistolsmith will depend, to a great extent, on his supply of available patience. There is no pistolsmith working today who hasn't absorbed more than his share of factory

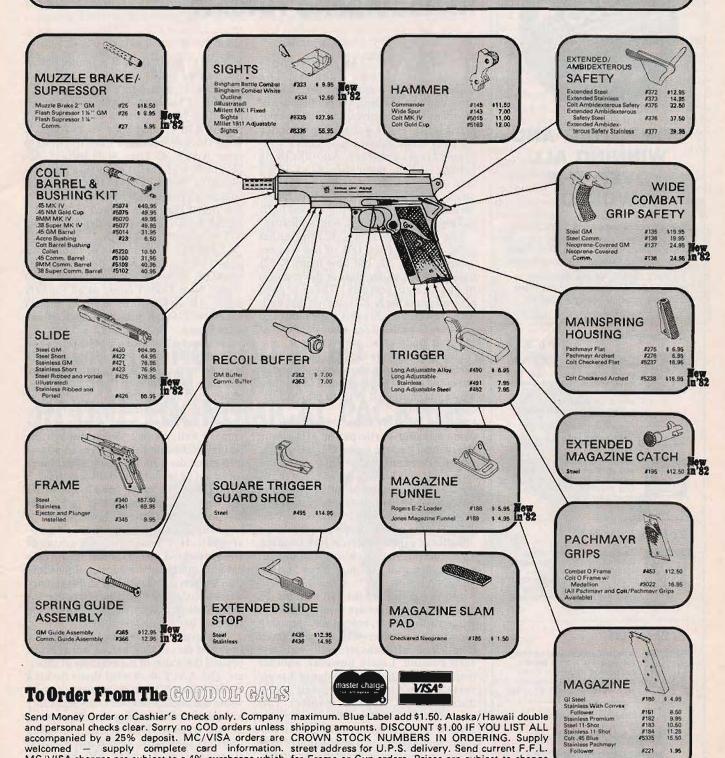
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HANDGUN RELOADING

BY DAN COTTERMAN

IS THERE A .32 MAGNUM IN YOUR HANDGUNNING FUTURE?

The dream of a .32 Magnum revolver may yet become a reality. The unfulfilled power potential of the .32 S&W Long can't be reached, simply because of the many weak revolvers currently chambered for it. That's a shame, because the .32 Long holds untold possibilities for supreme target accuracy. Another thing holding back the popularity of the .32 is a lack of good bullets, either in factory ammo, or for handloaders. There is, for example, nothing resembling a good halfjacketed, hollow-pointed, semiwadcutter.

The Smith & Wesson K-32 revolver has to be excluded from talk of low-key revolvers for the .32; but how many K-32s have you seen under glass in the counters of gun dealers recently? There is good reason to miss the K-32, but even that well-made revolver might swell at the joints and give way to rattles if fed a constant diet of blue pill loads.

Going back to the top line, I know I got carried away talking about the possibilities attending the .32 and neglected to mention why a magnumized version may yet become a reality.

As you probably know, this column became a reader-participation affair long ago, when I became aware that it is impossible for one handloader-writer, no matter how dedicated he may be, to bring to the reader a full showing of information and new ideas. The result of this brainstorm has been nothing short of marvelous!

One of the people drawn into this circle of ballistics experimenters is Jack Imsdahl, an accomplished machinist and devout handloader, who lives in College Station,

Imsdahl picked up the ball with the .32 Magnum, and there are reports that Bill Ruger, at one time, voiced an interest in producing a revolver-with suitable barrel length and sufficient strength-to house such a round. Lately, however, another major manufacturer of handguns has reportedly expressed serious interest in producing the .32 Magnum revolver. This manufacturer shall remain anonymous, for the time being, to avoid embarrassment, should the actual production of a .32 Magnum revolver be deemed inadvisable. It's enough, for now, to say that the .32 Magnum may finally be in the works. It took twenty years of badgering!

We're not as far out on the well-known limb with the .32 Magnum as you might be

inclined to think: there is magnum potential with the much-discussed .45 Auto, too. To prove the idea, here's what Charles D. Melchi, of Midland, Michigan has to say regarding his experiences in handloading for the A.M.T. Long Slide in .45 Auto: "I hope the information I have might help other A.M.T. .45 Long Slide owners. Accuracy is wonderful with this gun, especially the flatness of trajectory, compared to a standard-length .45 auto. I've found that when sighted in for a sixo'clock hold at 25 yards, a dead-bull hold will be spot-on at 50 yards.

"I was experiencing a lot of smokestack jams with my Long Slide, but I traced the problem down to my too-heavy taper crimp. Now, I don't crimp at all (or very lightly if brass fatigue demands it), and my loads run through without a hitch, round after round.

"Hornady 230-grain FMJ bullets are pushed by 9.5 grains of Blue Dot and CCI large primers out of W.C.C. military brass. The slugs pictured, fired from 25 yards out, penetrated the following: a refrigerator door leaning against an old granary, through the four-inch oak planking of the granary wall, another 18 feet through the inside, and buried themselves in a twoinch plank deep enough so that their bases could not be seen. A standard-length .45, a Gold Cup to be exact, tried to duplicate this with standard-load FMJs, (6.5 grains of Unique), but only penetrated the refrigerator door and bounced off the granary wall. Hot loads using 7.8 grains of Unique behind 200-grain cast lead SWCs did only marginally better out of the Gold Cup by burying themselves in the granary wall up to the bases. All this shows that the Long Slide is more or less revolutionary in the long line of .45 autos.

"I know Jim Hoag and others have stretched the old Colt before, but at prices beyond the wallet of the majority of shooters. The A.M.T. does what theirs do for a lot less bucks. It raises the power of our favorite warhorse pistol from only legendary to awesome. When fed properly prepared ammo with a little longer-burning powders than what's been more or less standard (i.e., Unique, 630, etc.), the A.M.T. Long Slide is, in my opinion, the ultimate self-defense pistol available today."

Melchi's information is appreciated. The relationship between barrel length and the quickness of usable powders applies to all handloading. It's also a good idea to apply considerations of bullet weight, crimp, and ignition duration and intensity when choosing a powder on the

basis of its burning rate.

K.I. Morgan of West Vancouver, B.C. says he's never seen mention of Blue Dot in connection with handloading the .45 ACP. Morgan appears to have missed a table of loads that was published here a couple of years back, because among the loads mentioned (25 in all), was 10.2 grains of Blue Dot. This charge was tested in my .45s, both of which have five-inch barrels. I used Remington 21/2 primers and Remington brass. The bullet ahead of this Blue Dot charge was Speer's .451", 200-grain JHP. Average velocity in a series of fiveshot strings was 1010 fps. The comment at the time was that the fps-per-grain yield was about 100.

Regardless, Morgan involved himself in his own experimenting, which is good. "Results in my gun," he comments, "are superb. I have a Colt Gov't Mk IV, '70 to which I have installed Pachmayr grips and a 20-lb. Wolff recoil spring. I've polished the feed ramp, beveled the magazine entrance, trimmed the hammer to eliminate hand-pinch, and modified the sights (still small and fixed) to center-hit for my eyes. In other words, still a basic stock pistol.

"I had determined Blue Dot to be the

best powder for my S&W .44 Magnum four-inch, yielding 1300+ fps with a 240grain SWC. When I bought the .45, I figured I might as well try the powder I had. Speer's No. 10 manual says 10.9 grains for their 200-grain JHP, so for the locallymade 190-grain SWC hard-cast bullets I'd bought, I reckoned 10.5 grains of Blue Dot would be a safe start. It was. Speed was a minimum 1050 fps/465 ft. lbs., and accuracy was excellent: 11/2 to 2 inches for ten rounds, two-hand supported, and 21/2 to 3 inches standing, one-handed, both at 20 meters. Machine resting would probably be about an inch, so I tried varying powder weights, down to 7 grains, and up to II grains. Results became increasingly inaccurate with lighter loads running from 4 to 6 inches, benchrest, at 20 meters, and the action wouldn't cycle with the stock 13-lb. spring. The Il-grain maximum load gave a ridiculous 1130 fps/540 ft. lbs., and was still safe and very accurate! I tried Speer's 200-grain JHP with 10.5 grains and got fair accuracy, but high pressure signs and an 875 to 900 fps reading. Obviously, there was a lot more friction in that jacketed bullet in my gun, so I gave up on them.

"About 95 percent of my shooting is IPSC-style on multiple silhouettes, the rest being bullseye. But if it were legal here to handgun hunt, this Blue Dot load would surely kill a deer at close range. I can easily shoot through four inches of lumber, and

have shot through abandoned junk cars. Any other readers tried Blue Dot with hard-cast bullets?"

Maybe it's just as well that Morgan didn't see anything in print about using Blue Dot; otherwise, he might not have embarked on the interesting testing he's outlined for us!

By the way, Hornady announced a new .45-caliber, 200-grain, JSWC for combat and target shooters about a year ago. Anyone with experience in loading and testing this bullet is welcome to comment.

In the future we'll have more information on the touchy task of proper primer seating, more on the possible (probable?) birth of the .32 Magnum, and other test results from you, the reader.

Readers, I might add, include manufacturers. Yes, friends, they read, and they listen to what we have to say. They're interested in our welfare and how their products are accepted.

The address, if you're interested in taking part in this column, and if you missed it last time around, is Box 222, Pinon Hills, CA 92372.

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SILUETAS

PHILIP C. BRIGGS

BACK TALK ON THE INTERNATIONALS PLUS SOME NEW STUFF FOR SHOOTERS

A couple of issues back I asked readers for their opinions on a permanent site and date for the IHMSA Internationals. Although I didn't get flooded with letters, those I got were thoughtful, and made some good points.

Kurt Williams of Bakersfield, California, felt that a permanent site was needed; he correctly observed that the Internationals have grown too large to allow construction of a new range every year. (There were 16 banks of targets used in 1981, and the minimum requirement for 1982 is 20!)

Danny Reever of Arendtsville, Pennsylvania, agreed with the need for a permanent site, and went on to point out that with the cost of everything, including travel, going up everyday, that any such site should be centrally located in the U.S. so that every shooter would have an equal opportunity to attend.

Dave Jacob of Sheboygan, Wisconsin, agreed that a central location would be necessary for any permanent site and nominated Camp Perry.

Jerry Quinn of Bridgeport, Connecticut, also felt that a permanent site was a good idea, and went on to suggest that the obvious locational problem could be resolved by using two such sites, similar to what ATA and NSSA do with their claybird championships. Jerry suggested one east, one west, with the locations and dates alternated; a winter date in the southwest, and a summer, family affair, in the northeast. This would, he observed, add variety and interest and allow more people to attend in each two-year period than if one site were selected.

Michael Rydquist, whose address escapes me, echoed the thoughts on a permanent site, but urged that a summer date be selected to allow families to attend, as matches are a family event for the Rydquists.

James Maughan of Westland, Michigan, has the best situation regarding the location of a permanent site. Although he's from the midwest, Maughan thinks the Black Canyon would be acceptable since he often vacations in the west.

Good thoughts all, and those that took the time to write will be pleased to know that there are others thinking like you.

I talked about this same question with Elgin Gates, IHMSA president, just before writing this, and found out that Elgin and his Executive Committee are having similar thoughts. The sheer size of the event is forcing selection of a permanent site, but it is also working against one location, as the burden on the host club is awesome-too much to expect any one volunteer group to face annually. Every other year would be better, but not much, as the unpleasant memories might still remain; so they are thinking of four sites, two in the east, two in the west, with the thought that any host club(s) could stay that way on a four year rotation. This would also provide the nation's silhouetteers the benefit of relatively nearby locations.

Black Canyon and Farragut are the obvious western choices; the eastern sites are not as yet known.

The site of the 1982 Internationals will be known by the time you read this, but at this date all that can be said is that IHMSA is reviewing bids for two sites: on the military base of Quantico, Virginia; and at a new site to be constructed near Fortville, Indiana. One of the attractions of the Indiana site at this time is the opportunity to create a permanent 20 bank range. That's three.

HORNADY RAMBUSTERS

If you'll remember back to the column on the 1981 Internationals, you may remember my interview with Hornady's Jim Smith. I asked Jim if silhouette was really a big deal. He responded that it was, and had some bullet sales figures to back up his conclusion. This month's mail brought a press release that backs him up.

Federal Cartridge Corporation has just released two new loadings for silhouette—the first ammunition (I know of) designed especially for silhouette shooting; one intended just for handgun silhouette. In addition after a lot of years in the primer business, Federal has produced a magnum larger pistol primer "of interest to silhouette shooters." Gentlemen, we have reached the big time!

The handgun loading is for the most popular handgun silhouette cartridge, the .44 Magnum. This is Federal's third .44 loading, and this one is especially distinctive as it's made up in a nickel-plated case. The bullet is the Sierra 220 grain Silhouette, a truncated-cone, heavily-jack-

Continued on page 26

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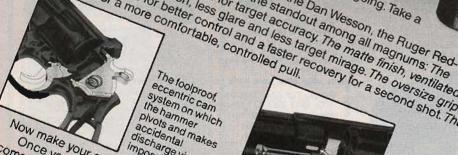
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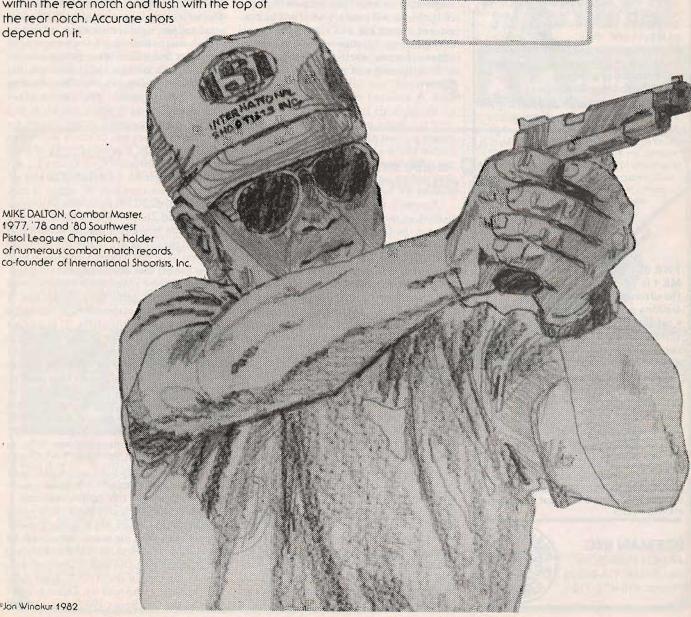
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HANDGUN HUNTING

J. D. JONES

HIGH OR LOW VELOCITY—WHICH IS THE BETTER GAME GETTER?

Which kills best or should we say more efficiently? Further, limit the discussion to handguns and define high and low velocity, then enter the factors of brush bucking ability and variable ranges. Now, we've got a real problem and few answers.

Somewhere along the line someone always injects the variables of hit placement. No doubt about it, it's very important. So let's assume from the beginning that a 50 yard standing broadside clear shot on a whitetail with bullet impact over the heart or lung area will result in what will be considered a clean kill with everything from a .357 Magnum through 458x2". It matters little in this case whether impact is enough to blow his socks off or whether he makes the typical "run till he dies on his feet" dash. A whitetail with any kind of hole at all through his lungs simply isn't going very far. Some occasionally fall without moving; most are down within 50 yards. Some show amazing stamina-or, if the peculiarities of the wound are uncommon-and might make 100 to 200 yards.

Obviously, we want him down and dead as soon as possible. The greater the tissue damage the faster this occurs. A whitetail, in some cover, can be very difficult to find if he can make 100 yards and practically impossible if he gets 200 yards from you. Sometimes, an animal doesn't bleed much, than bleeds profusely. Bleeding stops as the animal is "bledout" but retains enough life to make another few yards. The rule of thumb is, "the quicker he goes down, the easier he is to find."

A deer that lives 30 seconds from bullet impact can cover a lot of territory. With marginal hits, or with cartridges of marginal power, that 30 seconds can be extended to minutes with the predictable result of a lost animal.

I'm a firm believer that the only thing better than a small bore high velocity lightweight bullet is a large bore heavier, higher velocity bullet. Or that a large bore low velocity bullet is bettered by a larger, heavier faster bullet. The harder you hit something the quicker it falls, assuming of course that bullet construction does allow distortion of the bullet, rapid tissue destruction and adequate energy transfer. A .30 spire point F.M.J. that simply punches a .30 (or smaller) hole through an animal isn't an efficient killer.

It boils down to the fact that the bullet must penetrate adequately and, while penetrating, tear up as much tissue as possible. Let's look at a couple of calibers and particular ammo for them. The Remington 125 grain jacketed H.P. is probably the most frangible factory loaded .357 Mag. bullet, a hell of a jackrabbit or groundhog load. In my opinion, it's a lousy game bullet. I've seen some leave the jacket stuck in the hide of a hog at ten yards and others that failed to penetrate over three inches. Fantasic expansion and negligible penetration, just right for varmints.

Silhouette shooting has given the .30 Herrett a real boost. Most .30H ram loads use 150 grain bullets. Great for steel, but they won't open up on game. They are simply pinhole punchers. I'd venture to say I've owned about as many barrels in this caliber as anyone and I simply cannot get the performance out of them that some other writers do. I'm usually shy of their velocities by 200-300 f.p.s. Guess I don't pull the trigger hard enough. The fact remains that an excellent 10" barrel is only going to give 23-2400 f.p.s. with a 110 grain and around 21-2200 with a 125-130 grain bullet. Add in the fact that most bullets in this weight range are made for .30 rifles and you have stiff jacketed, relatively hard cored bullets that do not expand on game. The .30 carbine round nose bullets do not expand well on game from the Herrett; I put one 110 grain carbine RNSP through a Moufflon ram's shoulder. If it hadn't nicked the lower spine he probably would have walked away. Autopsy showed the bullet went above both shoulder blades and simply left a small track through muscle except where it hit the vertebrae. The 110 Speer Varminter H.P. does expand from the Herrett and some of the relatively new 125 grain bullets designed for the .30-30 may well be the right way to go in the Herrett. The new 7mm T/C U will probably be a very poor game cartridge due to its small diameter rifle bullets moving at low (for the rifle bullets) velocity.

Now don't get the idea that simply going to a big bore (.44 or .45) is going to solve the problem. The big bores such as the .44 Special, .45 Colt and .45 A.C.P. simply are not effective on game with round nose bullets. In the case of the .45 A.C.P. it's difficult to safely improve on factory loads such as the 200 Speer, 190 Super Vel and

Remington H.P. loads. Federal loads a semi-wadcutter H.P. for the .45 Colt that is a step in the right direction, but both the .44 Special and .45 Colt only become effective game getters with potent handloads using suitable bullets.

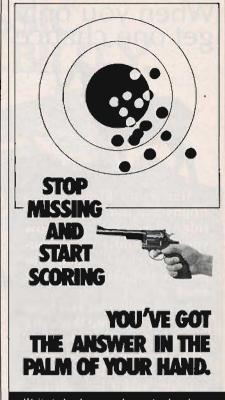
Generally, a loose definition of low velocity ammunition could be applied to straight walled pistol cases and high velocity to bottleneck rifle or rifle type cases. We're obviously not considering cartridges such as the .30 Luger as hunting cartridges.

The low velocity large diameter heavy bullet ammunition in general has adequate penetration for hunting big game although a great variation in ammunition exists. These cartridges are not dependent on bullet expansion to create large, deep wounds. Semi-wadcutter, soft point or hollow point bullets in .44 and .45 caliber do considerable damage as they plow through meat and bone. Naturally, the higher the velocity of the projectile at impact, the greater the amount of damage. Bullet expansion can be considered a bonus.

In the conventional high velocity rounds such as .30 Herrett, .30-30, .357 Herrett and .35 Remington, velocity is usually somewhat higher and these smaller bores are dependent on bullet expansion to create large wounds. Bullet selection in the .30s is critical. The .35s offer a wide variety of bullets that will expand at handgun velocities. A third category consists of

custom barreled handguns, such as the T/C, XP, Wichita and possibly Weatherby, if they decide to build more than a couple hundred bolt guns. The .358 Win. and .308 are probably the best factory cartridges for hunting when chambered in the bolt guns. The SSK Industries, (Rt. 1, Della Dr., Bloomingdale, OH 43910) T/C barrels in .338, .375, .411, .430, .45-70 and .50-70 all generate enough power to take the largest game. In fact, Larry Kelly shot completely through the head of a bull elephant with a 300 grain FMJ from a .375 JDJ T/C.

This third category of guns and cartridges is fast gaining in popularity. Some hunters have little use for single shots in the field; others swear by them. Personally, I use and like both. My choice is usually motivated by the desire to experiment with some particular caliber or bullet. After the past few years of development of high performance cartridges for the single shots and being fully aware of their advantages and limitations, I would choose one of them for game larger than deer. For deer it would still boil down to low velocity woods or high velocity open country cartridges. I would definitely choose a .44 Magnum over a .30 Herrett in the woods and vice versa for open country where I might expect a 150 yard shot. In general though, I like a big hole all the way through and that usually isn't in the cards with small bores.



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SIGHT SETTINGS

LUCY CHAMBLISS

AT LAST! MEDIA RECOGNITION FOR **AMERICAN SHOOTING CHAMPIONS**

recently heard a popular radio commentator tell this story: A songwriter mentioned to Jerome Kern that he had a good theme for a musical. It was about Annie Oakley and the writer called it "Annie Get Your Gun." Kern's negative comment was, "Who wants to see a story about a girl and a gun?" Later Kern died and the determined songwriter took his idea to Irving Berlin where the musical about a girl and a gun became one of the most successful plays and movies of all time. I thought about this story several times as I listened to John Acquilino, NRA's Director of Public Affairs, and to representatives from the advertising firm of Ackerman and Mc-Queen outlining their proposed campaign. The occasion was a joint meeting of the NRA Public Affairs and the Women's committees.

Finally, in October 1981, I was hearing all the hopes, ideas, and suggestions of the past 30 years being presented. Anti-gun lies could, at last, be beaten with the truth that nice people, famous personalities and outstanding Americans enjoy hunting and gun collecting. In addition, the long neglected world class athletes who compete in the sport of shooting would receive recognition. I remember my hopeless frustration in 1978 during an NRA Pistol Committee meeting, a month after the 42nd World Shooting Championships where Kim Dyer had won the World's Women's Pistol Championship! I could not believe this honor, which had come to the U.S. through the shooting of an attractive female, hadn't been blazed across wire services for newspapers and radio; or why she wasn't being paraded across TV interview shows that hosted other sports celebrities? As I asked why the NRA wasn't doing something to capitalize on such good publicity, some directors on the committee stared at me as if I were speaking in a dialect from southern Mars. One very old thinker(?), who has since retired, suggested we all go home and tell our local newspapers about Kim. Several times before I had received such "creative" advice; on the occasion of Margaret Murdock's Olympic triumph and when numerous male International winnings were being ignored. I won't waste the publisher's paper and ink by dwelling on such absurd thinking. A national and international sport being promoted by its participants telling their local newspapers! It's the

NRA Public Affairs Department (governed by directors) responsibility to educate the public and make the shooting sports appeal to a national audience.

This new leadership in the person of John Acquilino has grasped that responsibility with enthusiasm, ability and understanding not seen around the NRA in decades. Beginning and sustaining such a campaign has long been one of our best means of refuting the lies promulgated about shooting.

I hope at this writing the campaign has survived the Finance Committee and the Board of Directors and is in operation.

NRA shooters received another bonus in the appointment of John Grubar as Director of Competitions. John's knowledge, patience, and energy can finally be fully utilized as head of NRA Competitions. NRA staffers are long suffering experts who rarely get the thanks due them.

I enjoyed Walter Leonetti's article in the January/February issue of A.H., "Flying with Handguns." Ol' Lucy told you in the summer of 1980 your firearms had to go in checked baggage. One airline captain replied to my column, saying he takes shooter's guns on his flight deck and I just wasn't riding the right airline. Getting firearms through the security check made the captain's suggestion unrealistic and he probably meant well, but you ain't legally taking those guns anywhere around an airliner except in checked baggage, and you'd better declare them then. As Walter pointed out, most airlines now put the vivid orange-red tab labeling your valuable guns inside the suitcase, where it is not screaming "Take me!" to every baggage handler. Perhaps paying off a few thousand dollars in theft claims prompted that common sense.

Near the end of last summer I drove to Ft. Benning, Ga., and shot an excellently conducted Preliminary Tryout, sponsored by the base rifle and pistol club. The vast range facilities made it possible to shoot air pistol on the indoor range in the morning, my .22 match at 1:00 PM and start my twohour trip home at 3:30. These tryouts were run for about 6 months under the directorship of Capt. John Smith, a member of the USAMTU and International team. His eagerness to get a competitor scheduled to shoot, instead of sitting around for a twoday match, while the expense "meter" runs, should be copied everywhere. Hopefully, John will continue these tournaments in '82. It's getting back to the former policy that lets civilians use these beautiful tax built military ranges. Such ranges are well located throughout the U.S., and, if used, can cut down on travel expenses.

This mere mention of the air pistol brings me to my next column, "Why Do I Hate the Air Pistol? Oh Let Me Count the Ways." I have seen strong men, wearing a Ranger insignia, shoot 590 over the International Rapid Fire Course and then beg their team captain, with tears in their eyes (small exaggeration, perhaps), not to make them shoot that "damned air pistol match!" Why is this popgun so disliked? Some say it has all the warmth, understanding, and forgiveness of your mistakes when shot in the offhand position. If a handgunner enjoyed that kind of brutality, he'd be a rifle shooter. My views won't be those of a World Champion Air Pistol shooter, but those of one who has some trouble with the intolerable Feinwerkbau. After slugging away with it for ten years, I see little relief in sight from its demand for perfection. Also, I will go over the Daisy Power Line .177 pistol. I recently tried one and my findings probably won't surprise you.









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LIFE SAVING LESSONS FROM THE LETHAL FORCE INSTITUTE

After the incident, I went to the men's room, washed out my pants, then went home for a clean uniform." This ended a hair-raising story a deputy sheriff from Virginia told us at Massad Ayoob's Lethal Force School in New Hampshire.

The officer in question always unloaded his weapon before escorting prisoners into the courtroom, and he does carry a backshown, with some modifications, only as a refresher course in those positions deemed necessary in close combat. What you are here to learn is how to protect yourself and your loved ones not only in your home, but also on the streets. Aggressiveness is taught, only to a reasonable degree. There are times when it's best to retreat, Yes, retreat, especially when your wife and chil-



up piece, but let's get back to the story.

As the other deputy turned his back, a prisoner grabbed this officer's weapon. Pointing it at him at point blank range, he said a few unmentionable words, then dropped the hammer! One helluva scary situation, even if the gun was empty.

The other nine fellows in the class remained silent for what seemed like minutes. Everyone, including myself, put himself in that confrontation. How would you have handled it or, worse yet, what would you do if that gun were loaded?

All ten students had come to Ayoob's school to hear the answer to that and hundreds of other questions pertaining to advance techniques of lethal self-defense.

Termed the Gravest Extreme Training Program, the course is an extensive forty hours of training in basic self-defense skills. It is designed to prepare the individual for the proper reaction when the time comes to protect himself (or his family) from the ultimate threat; then do so by returning deadly force via his firearm.

Let's make it clear that this is not a pistol craft school. The basics of shooting are

dren surround you and there is a real danger of putting their lives in jeopardy.

It wasn't five minutes into the course when Ayoob stated, with fists banging on the table as if to drive the point home, that the taking of a human life is a totally "unnatural" act. "You are not here to learn how to 'shoot thy neighbor,' but how to 'protect thy self from thy neighbor."

Students are taught that the gun is a piece of emergency equipment to be used only in time of mortal danger when the situation cannot be reversed. Then, and only then, the way out is an armed conflict.

Massad sprinkled the lectures with some statistics: "14 out of 15 times the criminal will retreat at the sight of a gun, however you might be that 15th time. You have to be prepared to stand your ground and neutralize him on the spot. No warning will come, your assailant has no moral code to fight clean. He will try every dirty trick in the book, and you had better be ready."

The men then learned that all situations could be boiled down into four conditions. Mental Attitude was first, and was nothing more than your own positive attitude and

determination when facing a difficult situation. Tactical Understanding was next, and dealt with your movements, cover, knowledge of the house layout and the correct approach. Combative Handgun Skills came third and demonstrated how you should handle your gun in a tense moment. Last, Weapons, Ammunition and Accessories were covered for a general understanding that all parts now come together to equal a whole.

Fifty percent of the course is classroom work. This accounts for all lecture time, question and answer sessions, and audio/visual presentations. Slides and movies are shown with great detail emphasized in all phases. Gun handling, various positions and Shoot-No Shoot movies are shown to demonstrate quick but cautious reaction

time

Ten percent of the time is spent on tactics. Cover, concealment, and home search techniques are covered so you are not caught off guard by the intruder.

The last forty percent is range shooting which includes rapid fire techniques, night shooting, and isometric positions for quicker, more accurate return of fire in any encounter. There were many interesting topics covered and this short report will attempt to outline only a few of them.

One that I found particularly interesting was on the subject titled "The Principles of Situational Dominance." Here, Massad gave us the simple and fast rules of tactics: Hold your ground; the defender (you) has the advantage. Wait your turn, the intruder will eventually come to you. By going after him you not only blow your cover, but you are falling into his plans to take your "castle." Remember, he can hear every move you make; he will hide and wait, then pounce on you when you get into range.

This type of a feeling puts you in complete control of any situation. Not only do you feel better about it, but your confidence level jumps 100 percent! Remember too, if this fellow broke into your house and knew it was occupied, there has to be something wrong with this man and chances are pretty good he is there to do you harm and go for broke doing it. Then, and only then, deadly force can be used as this situation is now utterly

grave.

Other little tidbits of info were also offered: that a gun used wrong will (or can) get you into more trouble than one used the right way; that a gun without extra ammo is not a gun anymore when emptyget two guns for the bedroom; what to say on the phone when calling the police; the words to use when confronting this intruder; the moral decision you must make when the intruder goes down.

Other subjects included the choice of arms, calibers, shooting positions, holsters, post shooting trauma, legal matters, custom guns, etc. At the completion of the course a test is given before any student receives a certificate.



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Was I impressed with Massad Ayoob's presentation? In one word, yes! This man has studied hundreds of gun fighting cases and interviewed many eyewitnesses to such encounters. He knows his ground and covers it well. Massad is a good teacher and keeps his class enthralled the whole forty hours.

This type of course should have been offered years ago but now it's here and I urge all of you out there who can afford the time to attend it. Besides the time, you'll need \$250.00 for the tuition, a good quality handgun, concealment holster gear, 500 full power loads, extra magazines or speedloaders, and a strong flashlight. Finally, a letter of reference is needed from a police official or practicing attorney as a prerequisite to the course.

For detailed information contact Mr. Massad Ayoob, Director of the Lethal Force Institute, P.O. Box 122, Concord, N.Y. 03301. Classes are kept small (10 to 12) to promote individualized instruction, so plan early and give alternate dates where possible.

SILUETAS

Continued from page 16

eted bullet with a small lead exposure on the flat point. Use of somebody else's bullet is unusual for ammo manufacturers, but Federal has been using Sierra bullets for some time in their premium ammo. That they selected this bullet for this loading means they are serious about this offering.

The load is reported to deliver 1,510 fps from the muzzle of a 10½ inch revolver barrel and, out at 200 meters, to have retained 1,050 fps. For the 220 grain bullet that figures out to a momentum of 1.03 pound-seconds on the rams, which far exceeds the reliable knockdown level of .6-.7 p-s, and should be ample for these tough targets. I've not shot any of the new ammo yet, but if it's as accurate as Federal's current 180 and 240 grain offerings, it should be a winner.

The other loading is for a cartridge I expect may well become the most popular handgun silhouette cartridge, the .22 Long Rifle. The load is not aimed at pistol shooters only though, as 22LR rifle competition is growing, and the publicity photos include a rifle. Even so, this is a round the rimfire handgun guys should look at.

Federal says the round is "designed to provide the optimum balance between accuracy and energy (energy? energy!—I thought everybody knew momentum was the measure of knockdown) for the growing sport of small bore metallic silhouette shooting." The cartridge is of standard velocity (1150 fps) and uses a 40 grain lead bullet.

NRA RULES CHANGE

The IHMSA members made some relatively minor changes in their rules for 1982, but the NRA silhouette committee this past October really set its version of the long range match on a new course—and I'm not so sure the changes are for the better.

Standing is now open to any pistol that weighs 4.5 pounds or less and has a barrel length and sight radius of 15 inches or less. Scopes are allowed at club option.

Conventional Freestyle is limited to essentially unmodified conventional (production) pistols as before, but the freestyle positions are limited. All supine positions, Creedmoor, sidewinder, or your favorite, are prohibited. In addition, if you shoot prone your hands aren't allowed to touch the ground!

Unlimited continues as before—all positions are allowed. (As long as the barrel length exceeds 12 inches?)

If that's not enough, the half-size, hunters-pistol targets are to be used for Conventional and Unlimited pistol competition. The full size targets are still OK for standing

Looks strange to me: The committee has made standing easier and the freestyle classes harder. There are now two different kinds of freestyle (Conventional and Unlimited) and two different kinds of targets (Standing and the rest). You'll have to have a funny gun to be competitive in standing and be a top shooter to bust many targets in the other two classes.

Looks to me like a solution to a problem that didn't exist.

What do you think? Write to me at P.O. Box 22074, Phoenix, AZ 85028 and let me know.

PISTOLSMITHING

Continued from page 12

problems for customer good will or to expedite matters. But, don't take advantage of this; today, this is an industry-wide problem, though everyone seems to pretend it doesn't exist.

BOTCHED JOBS

Tread lightly here. After WW-II, the American Rifleman ran a blacklist of 'smiths whose obvious incompetence could cause NRA members problems. Today, a large lawsuit could result from just telling a friend about what you consider bad gunsmithing. Always call your gunsmith, tell him about the trouble, and ask him to explain or correct the problem.

BLUNT TALK

A pistol may function flawlessly with test loads in the hands of your pistolsmith, but be subject to jams, malfunctions and scattered groups in yours. Always suspect the quality of your ammunition first. Less



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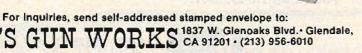
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than specified load levels, the wrong sizing die for your barrel diameter, lack of a taper crimp or use of the wrong bullet alloy may be the real culprit. Top-notch shooters have to be top-notch handloaders. Most of the accuracy complaints today, in a properly accurized pistol, are caused by use of bullets cast from modern wheel weight metal; it contains contaminants that don't fill out a mold. The result is a bullet that gyrates in flight.

TAKE A PRINTER TO LUNCH

Linotype metal, or better still, foundry type, makes the best cast autoloading pistol bullets. Now that printers have changed over industry-wide to computer set cold type, print shops can often be persuaded to part with obsolete metal type, elrod and lino slugs, and they all cast up into accurate bullets.

COP TALK

Continued from page 6

put him out of range of my buckshot through an Improved Cylinder or Cylinder

My supervisor says I can carry a .223 that will be rendered safe in our Lecco dashboard locks. As you know, the Lecco puts steel jaws between a pump shotgun's slide handle and its receiver, and if the chamber is empty, the slide can't be racked and the gun can't be fired inside the lock. The .223 rifles, with their receiver-mounted operating handles, could be fired while in the lock. Does anyone make a dashboard lock in which a .223 rifle could safely be carried in the patrol car?

Cop in the Sticks

I know of no one who makes a dashboard lock for .223 or 7.62mm. assault rifles. However, you might want to try the 5.56mm. HK93 in an existing Lecco or S&W dashboard lock. The operating handle on these Heckler and Koch rifles folds up alongside the left of the fore-end instead of the right side of the receiver, and could be blocked by the steel jaws. Some modification to the fore-end, or to the jaws of the lock, might be necessary.

COMPACT NEOPRENE GRIPS

I agree with you that Pachmayr Compacs give far superior controllability of my S&W Bodyguard .38 snubby. However, they're just big enough to catch on the inside of my pants cuffs when drawing from my ankle holster. Any suggestions?

Vermont Bellygunner You can either grind your Pachmayrs flat on the sides and take a little off the bottom (being sure to wear a filtration mask to protect against the black dust), or invest in a set of the new Sile grips. They are flatter and more compact than the Pachmayr, still comfortable, and have quasi-finger grooves that a lot of shooters like.

BERETTA VS. BROWNING

I understand that the Beretta 84 in .380 is the same gun as the Browning BDA .380, I like the idea of a compact, 14-shot off-duty gun. Does one brand have any advantages over the other?

Bay State Cop If you're happy with a .380, you certainly want the 14 shots either of these guns give you. Both are superbly made by Beretta. The one they build for Browning has an S&W-type safety, which allows for a safe hammer drop when you want to carry in double-action mode with a round in the chamber, while Beretta's own has a Colttype safety. I favor the latter since I'm into Colt-type guns, but for most people, who carry in the DA mode, the hammer-drop feature is highly desirable.

Both guns have phenomenal accuracyprobably the best available in .380 caliber-plus superb reliability and recoil that reminds you of a .22. If you don't mind the bulk of the fat grip, it's hard to go wrong with either. Select on the basis of which safety is more natural for you-the Beretta if you carry cocked and locked, the Browning if you'll be carrying hammer down on a live round.

CONTROLLING .357 RECOIL

My duty gun is a 4" S&W Model 66.357 Combat Magnum. I carry it with 158-gr. jacketed hollowpoints. My problem: I can't qualify with the Magnum load. Any suggestions?

Mississippian

First, get some rubbery stuff between your hand and the gun: Pachmayr's neoprene Presentation grips, or Mustang's even softer (and finger-grooved) Rangefield. It softens kick more than a recoil pad does on a shotgun. There's no rough checkering to tear up your hand, and the grip isn't shaped to crawl downward in your hand with each shot the way the factory Combat Magnum stocks are. Take a solid hold, and you can fire six Magnums without having to re-grip your gun, something most men have to do when firing with factory wood stocks.

Also, the use of 125-grain jacketed hollowpoint .357 ammo (if your department allows it) will cut your recoil considerably compared to 158-grain. It also delivers a much more potent anti-personnel per-

Finally, if your agency allows it, go to the 4" S&W Highway Patrolman Model 28-a much bigger .357 that absorbs Magnum recoil much more comfortably, and with more gun stamina.

GUN SIZE?

I'm appalled at your reference to issuing K-frame revolvers to a department because it has women and small men on the job who can't handle big guns. I think the big S&W M/28 is the ultimate service .357. If somebody isn't big enough to handle the issued equipment, he should get out of the job!

Southern Cop Affirmative Action hiring is a fact of life in law enforcement. The M/28 is my

Continued on page 46



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By Karl Bosselmann

Shooters have, for years, been plagued with the problem of lubricating their firearms. Some have found relief with the myriad of greases and liquid oils offered, but even the best of these have drawbacks; if nothing else, they must be reapplied with regular frequency.

But now there exists a (dry) solid film lubricant which promises that, after its application, the gun "... may never require lubrication." The substance is Electrofilm #5306. It is offered by Electrofilm, Inc., 27727 Avenue Scott, Valencia, CA 91355.

The process, applicable to all gun metals, is a combination of old and new. The base coat is the familiar phosphate (Parkerizing) which offers corrosion resistance (in excess of 240 hours in a salt fog exposure). This builds up a .0003-inch coating. It provides an excellent surface for the adhesion of the top coat. The lubrication coat, applied to the phosphate, is a combination of lubricating pigments, low-temperature curing resin and molybdenum disulfide.

Electrofilm claims the following for their Lubri-Bond gun treatment:

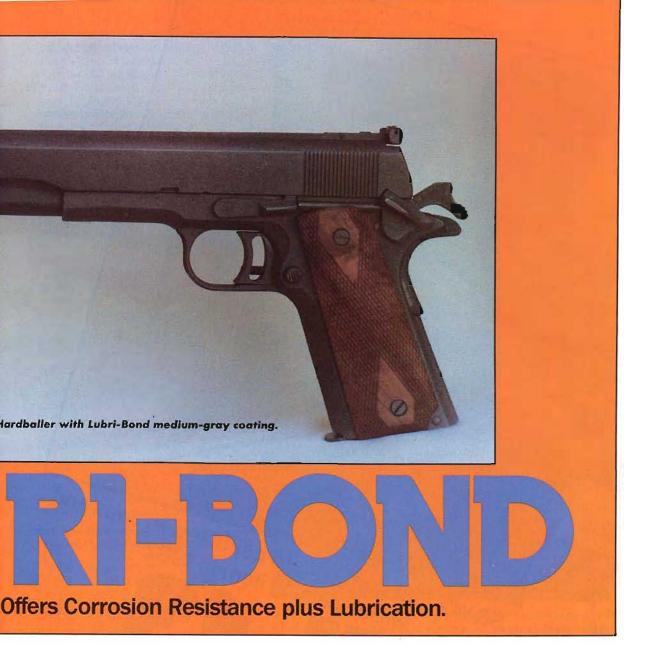
- Super smooth action on all mechanisms.
- Dust and dirt will not stick.
- Permanent lubrication without the use of oil.
- · Corrosion resistant that meets military specs.

Our tests were conducted on two .45 auto pistols. The first gun was an AMT long slide Hardballer, purchased new in February of 1981. The gun had 590 rounds through it with the lubrication provided by a combination lithium/vegetable mixture.

The second gun was a Colt Gold Cup, purchased new in April, 1981. It had been touched up and altered for defense, per my article "Gold Cup to Combat" (Sept/Oct, 1981, American Handgunner). Both the Colt and the Hardballer were assembled, after the Lubri-Bond application, without wiping or smoothing any of the surfaces.

I had checked the force required to hand-cycle the slide of the Hardballer before the application and found that it required 171/2 lbs. (hammer down, no magazine and empty chamber). Immediately after the Lubri-Bond treatment, the force went up to 22½ lbs. But after 400 rounds and some hand cycling, the force required settled down to a comfortable 16 lbs.

Shooting the Hardballer, now covered with the medium-gray coating, proved to me that as good as this coating may be, some attention to the feed system must be given by the shooter. Using a load consisting of a 230 gr. round nose, hard cast bullet and 5.7 grs. of #231, we found that there were continual feeding failures. Using fine steel wool on both the barrel and frame ramps, we smoothed them to the point where, while none of the coating was removed, consistent feeding was achieved. By the 104th round, we noticed much smoother functioning, and the metal contact points were polished bright. At 150 rounds, the action was very smooth, and no galling implications were noted. At 200 rounds the pistol was dismantled and ex-



amined for wear. The only evidence that the gun had been fired was a burnishing of the Electrofilm coating.

The following day the pistol was buried in a waterhole, after mud was poured into the mechanism, and left submerged for one hour. The gun was field stripped, sloshed about in muddy water, re-assembled and hand-cycled 25 times in the puddle. The gun was then fired and submerged after every 15 rounds. The cycling was rougher because of the grit in the mechanism, but after 455 rounds there were no malfunctions. I was impressed.

To gauge the resiliency of the Electrofilm coating, the Hardballer was run in and out of a very tight, rough leather holster 250 times. Only slight low-key burnishing was noted on the contact edges. (A similar test with a factory blued Colt Government Model showed the bluing wore completely off of the same contact edges—with only 90 runs in and out of the holster!)

The firing test of the Gold Cup

developed several problems with feeding, sear slipping and binding of the collet barrel bushing. We noticed a slight build-up of the Electrofilm finish on the full-cock notch, and as soon as this was smooth, the problem was solved. We then replaced the collet-type barrel bushing with a solid type, and all of the slide sticking was gone. At about 200 rounds the operation of the pistol, was smooth, easy, and positive.

The Colt was then hand-cycled 100 times—50 times dry and uncleaned, and 50 times after being submerged repeatedly in water. These firing tests used 200 gr. Speer HP, 230 gr. Hornady FP and 230 gr. Federal RN ammo. After a total of 350 rounds, the Colt was functioning without a bobble.

All of our testing was stopped at this point. The serviceability of the Electrofilm process will be discovered in military tests now being conducted, and by the long time use of shooters.

We found that before application of the Electrofilm finish, all working (mating)

surfaces should be well polished, and all stippling or checkering should be done before the finish is applied. After the application of Electrofilm, the working surfaces must once again be polished with a fine steel wool—not enough to go through the surface, but enough to take off any excess film and smooth out the surfaces.

The Performance of Electrofilm #5306 during my test program was well beyond my expectations. As of this writing I can recommend it highly. I am especially elated over the fact that this lubricant can be applied over stainless steel.

Editor's Note: The current price for application of Lubri-Bond to a owner-disassembled handgun is \$39.00, with a 5-6 day turnaround. Those who would prefer to do their own guns may try the same process without the phosphate base, by using the Lubri-Bond kit; it contains the solid film lubricant (air-dried) and a degreaser, and is available at retail gun shops or directly from Electrofilm, Inc.



By Richard Aaron

tence on carrying them as opposed to longer-barreled personal defense weapons has been more a decision of the heart than the head-at least that's what the armorers tell us.

The fact is that while the two-inch .38 Spl. revolver can be a very effective weapon at short ranges, its accuracy is relatively poor and its modest loads are far from the most potent aggressor-stopping ammunition.

Most European law enforcement and

and larger frames.

In the 1960s, for example, the French government ordered a batch of 3-inch S&W Model 19s for government agencies and the U.K. followed with orders for 3inch Model 10s.

These agencies had discovered two basic truths: (1) Adding an extra inch to a twoinch barrel makes a three-incher produce a quantum jump in accuracy and muzzle velocity; and (2) A three-inch revolver is no more difficult to conceal than its two-inch

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counterpart because cylinder bulk and grip design, rather than length, are the primary factors in concealment.

In the late seventies modest stirrings toward 3-inch, medium frame handguns were felt in the U.S. Ruger made significant inroads with its 2\(^4\)-inch Security Six, probably because some plain clothes law enforcement types with their traditional two-inch, small-frame .38s were beginning to feel a bit out-gunned by the bad guys who were carrying all sorts of big-bore, long-barrel hardware.

For some departments (and individuals) the pendulum swung completely. Fourand six-inch, large frame .357s began to appear under ill-fitting sport jackets and

suit coats.

About this time the FBI was exploring the idea of a new, more powerful, issue revolver and its armorers stepped into the two-three-four inch controversy. Smith & Wesson had already produced limited quantities of a three-inch version of its Model 13, round-butt, K-frame .357 on special order and showed it to the FBI. (The 3-inch Model 13 had never been listed as a "production" gun in the Smith catalog.)

Both the FBI and Secret Service liked the short Model 13 and the government orders for the weapon began. Public announcement of the "new FBI gun" orders came last summer and a flurry of interest by other law enforcement agencies and the general public led Smith to add the

gun to its 1982 commercial line.

Specifications 3-INCH S&W MODEL 13

Caliber: .357 Magnum; .38 Special Action: Double-action revolver

Capacity: 6-shot
Barrel: 3-inch bull
Weight: 32-oz
Sights: Fixed

Grips: Checkered walnut Finish: Bright blue

Price: \$190.50

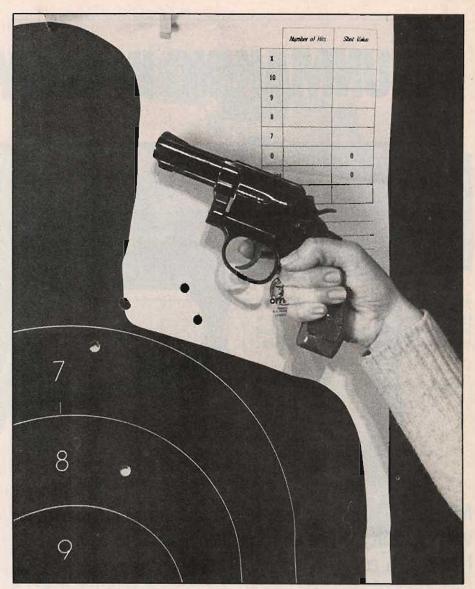
WORKING WITH THE MODEL 13

We had the opportunity to work with the 3-inch Model 13 for three months. During that period it was tested by over 30 police officers in three Connecticut departments, and another dozen or so PPC shooters who used it for range practice and, in two cases, for local competition.

Our "FBI Gun," as it came to be known, digested over 1500 rounds. About 500 rounds were factory-load .357 SWC and the rest covered the full range of available .38 Spl. loads from S&W 95-grain Nyclads to a variety of jacketed + P loads.

Smith's basic design concept for the Model 13 was to produce dependable, accurate, concealable power. To this end, we think, the Springfield armorers were totally successful.

The Model 13 is a round-butt, K-frame with a 3-inch bull barrel, shrouded ejector rod, and fixed sights.



Don't be deceived, this is not an N frame, but the Model 13 in the hands of a petite young lady. Heavy 3" barrel lessens muzzle lift in recoil.

Our Model 13 came out of the box with an action that was custom smooth, although Smith assured us that it was "right off the line."

When cocked, there was no detectable play in the cylinder or trigger. Timing was perfect and there was no detectable aft movement of the trigger after hammer release.

After 500 rounds of standard load .38 Special 158 grain ball ammunition and 200 rounds of factory loaded .357, the cylinder had loosened slightly to produce a barely perceptive movement and the action had lost some of its buttery smoothness. In other words, the hammering it took during the initial test had reduced its action to what we'd consider normal out-of-the-box S&W performance.

The Model 13's internal workings seemed to settle in at that point and showed no further deterioration even after the 1500th round.

The factory grips are standard "service" checkered walnut grips. Their design creates maximum concealment, but most

shooters simply didn't like them. The most common comment was that there wasn't enough grip to keep the gun from rotating in the hand with rapid double-action fire.

About halfway through the test we replaced the factory grips with Pachmayr round-butt combat grips, and they did the trick.

Average double-action, rapid fire groups at 50 feet shrunk from eight inches to five inches and single-action groups ranged from two to three inches.

The heavy, bull-barrel and the relatively light frame create a somewhat nose-heavy feel, but that turns out to be an important plus. Recoil with full magnum loads seems to have a large rearward action rather than a strong rotational movement.

The only negative comment we received on the 3-inch Model 13's accuracy has to do with the round-top rear sight. The sight is rounded, of course, to keep it from catching on clothing. (Besides, in combat, the shooter rarely has the opportunity to take a careful bead on his target.)

Continued on page 70

GUNMAKING IN LLAMA LANL



By J.D. Jones

I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to visit Llama-Gabilondo Y Cia. S.A. (Llama, pronounced YaMa) in Vitoria, Spain recently. To say that I was impressed with this modern factory, employing the latest technology in manufacturing, would be an understatement.

Llama markets a full line of revolvers and auto pistols from .22 through .45 Auto and as large as .44 Magnum in revolvers. Stoeger Industries, 55 Ruta Court, Dept. AH, S. Hackensack, NJ 07606, is the sole importer/distributor of the Llama line.

Llama has imported an extensive line of revolvers and auto pistols and that market has been well established for years and is growing daily.

Of major interest personally during my factory visit were the new design revolver and auto pistol. First though, here's a look at the factory:

In today's market you simply can't compete without an "edge" in manufacturing. With today's technology this means investment casting of parts suitable to this manufacturing process. Highly sophisticated X-Ray and measuring equipment to maintain high standards of quality control in parts examination is necessary. New, accurate tape and electronic controlled automated machining equipment is necessary to provide the high output of parts of iden-



Gabilondo plant in Vitoria, Spain has modern manufacturing facilities.

tical size required to compete in today's mass production era. Modern heat treating facilities are a must.

Final assembly of the Llama pistols is done by a large work force on a one-at-atime basis. I was impressed by the fact that each individual assembler-gunsmith had almost exactly the same set-up and tool arrangement as Pachmayr Gun Works gunsmiths have. Observation of these highly skilled individuals indicated they work as they should-assembling, checking, testing as required to put together a gun within the range of tolerances provided for that particular firearm.

The production facility was impressive. Not being very familiar with the actual processes of investment casting, I found this area particularly fascinating.

Frankly, quality control was awesome. I had the distinct impression that here was a quality assurance program that meant business. Obviously, a photo of an employee gauging a hammer isn't startling, but it is overwhelming to see it happening on a continual basis all over a plant the size of Llama.

On display was production capability for several hundred thousand handguns annually. Manufacturers don't keep on making guns if they aren't selling them.

I found the U.S. is, by far, Llama's largest market for sporting handguns. The backbone of this firearms firm—as with the great majority of handgun-oriented plants—is with police and military markets. Llama is one of the largest producers of military and police handguns in the world. This is a tough, competitive market, requiring exceptional quality. Llama prefers the U.S. sporting market and does not try to compete in the U.S. in police or military sales. The list of countries whose armies and law enforcement agencies have adopted Llama pistols is staggering.

Llama has a new revolver and auto pistol of conventional, yet progressive design, a subtle melding of time-proven basic principals of reliable firearms design with a touch of modern upgrading. The revolver has, for example, the general appearance of a S&W with a vent rib. The action, however, employs both conventional revolver parts and a new hammer that operates on an eccentric, which allows it to move up and down in the frame as well as back and forth. A new safety feature, incorporated into the action, achieves a lighter double-action pull without sacrifice of lock time or reliable ignition.

The bore is drilled, reamed and rifled with three broaches. This results in an extremely smooth bore. A new machine was in the process of being installed to further lap or hone (translation problems) the bores to achieve the smoothest surfaces of any handgun made in the world, according to a factory spokesman. Prior to this operation, the Llama bores appeared at least equal to any I've ever seen in a handgun.

The auto pistol is a new, racy appearing gun of essentially conventional, proven design. The gun looks fast—sleek in appearance, nothing to drag or snag on clothing, double-action, external hammer, barrel to slide lock-up, decent combat type sights—and is available in 10- and 14-shot versions. The 9mm version will be produced first, then the .45.

Two notable features are the single-row feed or even the 14-shot magazine which will aid in functional reliability and the positive lock in place by a latch of the slide stop. The positive latch slide stop is important. I've had it work out under recoil causing malfunctions in Colt 1911s. This cannot happen in the new Llama design. It's slick.

Shooting the new guns at a 20-meter indoor range doesn't tell much as far as I'm concerned, but it does give a general impression of what to expect in handling of the guns

The revolver is slightly larger than a M-29, but not so massive as a Dan Wesson or Redhawk. It appears to be put together

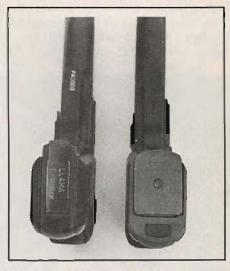
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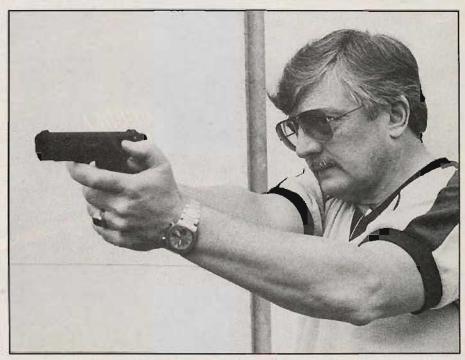
Large frame Super Comanche revolver is available in .44 Magnum or .357 Magnum, in three barrel lengths. It has an eccentric cam safety device.



Autoloader frames show configuration of 14-shot, above and 10-shot below.



Unusual grip design accomodates both 10 and 14 shot magazine capacities.



Shooting the Llama 9mm, the author found it surprisingly compact for a military-police handgun. Watch for full test report in a future issue.

HANDGUNNER PREVIEW

\$2,000 on Cooper to Win

Dornaus & Dixon Enterprises, Inc. appear to be committed to producing Jeff Cooper's dream gun—a l0mm combat auto pistol that he hopes will be the heir apparent to the Colt .45 auto. Production guns are not in the immediate future, mainly, I assume, because it takes a lot of money to tool up for a new gun.

Thus, the recent announcement of a special edition of the Bren Ten. The price, \$2,000. Delivery dates to be announced once a minimum number of orders are received.

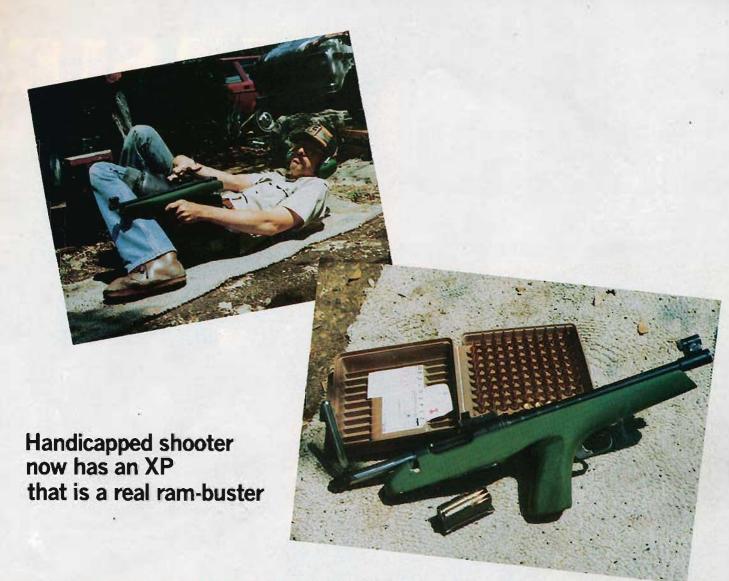
To those unaware of the features of the Bren Ten, it is a selective SA/DA with a stainless frame, owner reversible thumb safety, and 12-round capacity. The proposed 10mm

cartridge is said to deliver a MV of 1100 to 1200 fps and a muzzle energy of 538 to 640 ft. lbs with a 200 grain JTC bullet.

The special edition, or "Jeff Cooper's Bren Ten Initial Issue Commemorative," as Dornaus & Dixon call it, will be all gussied up with a high polish finish; 22k gold lettering; laser-engraved stocks; two high-polish stainless magazines, and much more. All of this in a custom case. Included is a scroll signed by Chairman Jeff.

The ordering procedures are too complicated to detail here, but full information can be obtained by contacting: Dornaus & Dixon, 16718 Judy Way, Cerritos, CA, 90701





AREPEATING UNLIMITED? By J.D. Rader

For these past few months I've been shooting and getting acquainted with a new Unlimited pistol. It's a center-grip, clip-fed five-shot, bolt-action which, as far as I know, makes it the first of its kind.

I have been shooting Unlimited Class since 1977 with a S&W Model 29 with 8%-inch barrel because I have full use of only one hand and can't load a single-shot pistol fast enough to get off five shots in 21/2 minutes. Although I have a few trophies to remind me of lucky days, matching a revolver agaist a full-blown unlimited is "a hard fight with a short stick."

Over the years, I've considered a number of possibilities. Perhaps a customized, unlimited version of a revolver or Automag. However, neither has the accuracy potential offered by a bolt action. The

optimum seemed to be a clip-fed, boltaction repeater in some reasonably efficient caliber. I'm uncomfortable with a rear grip, so a center grip was required to accommodate my regular reclining shoot-

ing position.

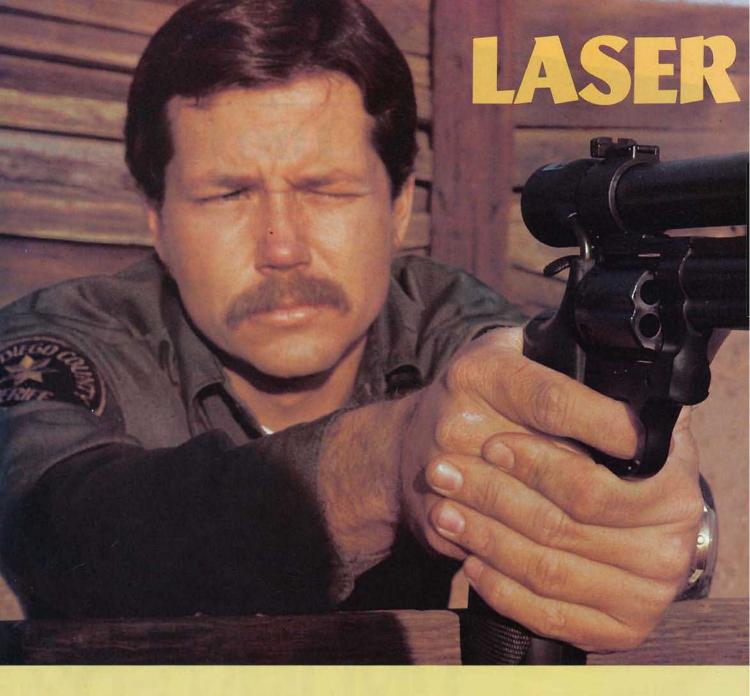
Finding a gunsmith interested enough to attempt such a project wasn't much of a problem. I'd met Richard King back in '76 at one of Elmer Keith's bull sessions. He had invited me to my first silhouette match-the second ever held at Arlington Sportsman's Club-and we've been shooting buddies ever since. Besides being a pretty fair handgunner and one of the Southwest's leading rifle silhouette competitors, Richard is a well known silhouette gun builder. He always has a stack of gun orders. But he was willing, as a

friend, to devote countless hours helping me design and build a pistol that suited my needs. Now that it's built, he has the distinction, along with veterans of the Great Depression, of having worked for less than a dollar an hour.

We began with an X-P 100 action. I liked the Winchester Model 100 clip. It's built to handle five .308 rounds staggered, so it's fairly compact. Richard milled out the bottom of the action for this. A magazine floorplate was made of 1/4-inch aluminum plate. Push-pull levers hold the magazine

Addition of the magazine caused a problem. It interrupted the linkage from the trigger to the firing pin. Also, because of the magazine, it was necessary to move

Continued on page 76



The Laser Products Corporation (LPC) Model 7 is, to the best of my knowledge, the first handgun factory-equipped with laser sighting. As accompanying photos show, the helium neon laser unit rides in a tube above the barrel and cylinder. The battery module is in the butt extension, and the laser is activated by cocking the hammer or placing pressure on the double-action trigger.

The base gun is a Colt Trooper Mk. III. LPC tested both Colt and S&W, but found the former to have (1) much more room in the grip area for the battery attachment, and (2) an internal mechanism better suited to the laser hookup. A 6-inch barrel is necessitated by the length of the laser module; .357 Magnum was chosen as a versatile caliber that lends itself to the laser system's long-range accuracy.

Dry reading so far, huh? Okay, here's

By Massad Ayoob

something thought provoking: it costs \$4,000 and LPC won't sell it to ya! Does that pique your interest? Read on.

Health, Education and Welfare's Bureau of Radiological Health strictly controls ownership and operation of laser products. The agency requires all manner of key locks and other safety devices and, if you think the gun in the pictures looks Buck Rogersish now, picture it that way. LPC president John Mathews explained to HEW that, look, the thing is a weapon anyway, and the bureau gave him a variance to sell it—but only to military and police agencies. There's no way I could keep this sample, even if I did have the \$3,895 purchase price, unless I bought an island, incorporated it as a town, and

declared myself chief of police. (Even working cops can't buy one; agencies only, and a Class III Federal Firearms License won't help either.)

won't help either.)

"Fine," says the reader. "You have an expensive, non-ownable piece of spaceage gun gadgetry. So what's it good for?"

I was hoping you'd ask.

When you touch the trigger, a red dot is projected forward. The weapon arrives from the factory sighted for point-of-aim/point-of-impact with 158-grain Magnum loads. Even out to 200 yards, though, it allows you to put a bullet into a man-sized target by holding the dot high.

This requires no "sighting." In fact, this handgun is amazingly quick when fired from the hip. Because the red dot the shooter sees traces gun wobble, it allows him to ease up on the trigger until the shot

is perfectly ready to break.



Law Enforcement gets a new training and duty tool that eliminates sighting problems

Folks, what we're talking about here is rapid hits on a Colt Silhouette target at 75 and 100 yards, from the hip, in the dark. That's right, in the dark. In fact, in bright sunlight the shooter is lucky to see the red dot at all, even at 25 yards. This is a dim light shooting tool, par excellence. For daylight, an excellent pair of Micro sights is mounted atop the laser tube.

It's natural for hip and "instinctive" shooting. I tried a "Second Chance" practice on five beer cans at 25 feet, and was able to zap them all in 2.9 seconds, a full second faster than the record at Second Chance, a record established on much

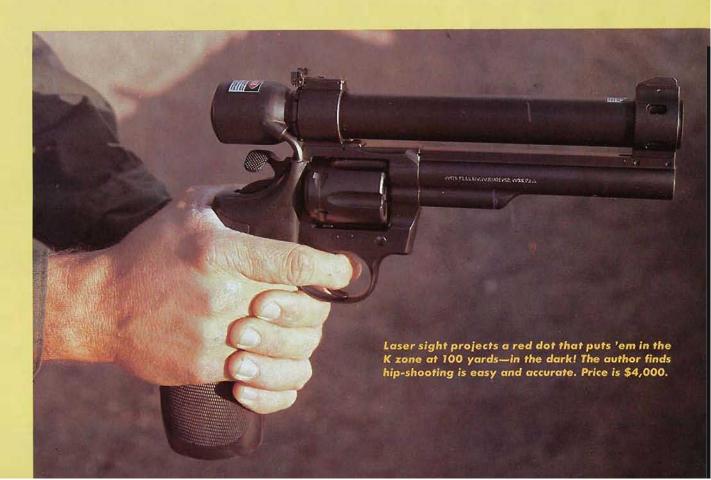
larger bowling pins. The secret was that, with the gun down in the start position, you cock the hammer to activate the laser, and the dot is already on the first target. At the signal, you simply raise the gun a fraction of an inch and cut loose, and your first target is spinning before your opponent with a conventional handgun even has his sights to eye level.

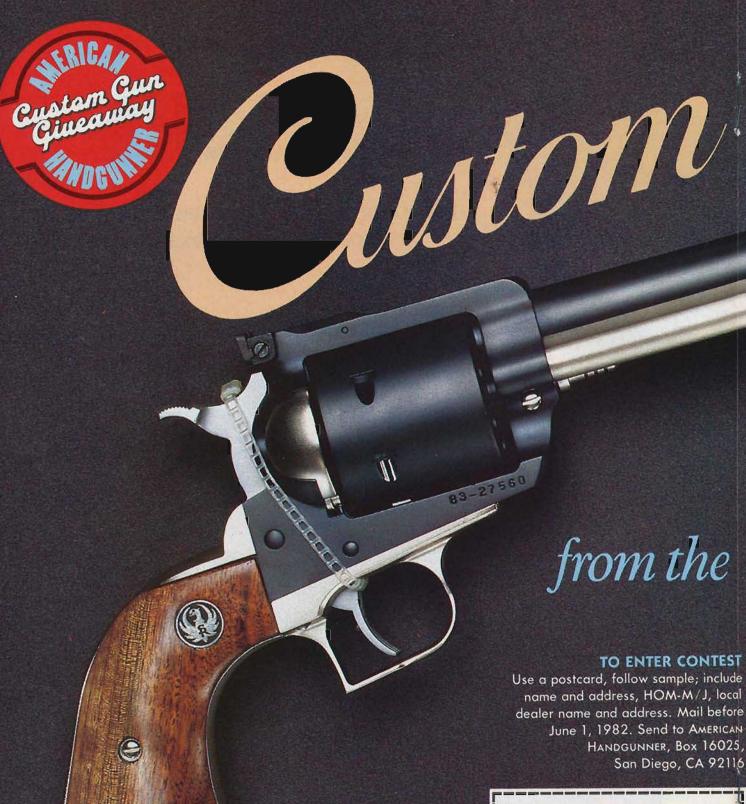
That's just the first half of the secret. The second is that the device is actually easier to use from the hip than from a raised position. From the hip, recoil in any caliber is much more controllable, because the arms are bent and each joint becomes part

of a shock absorber system. A hot .357 load's recoil is a mere blip. With the test gun's smooth action, unusually nice for this model Colt, the rest was easy.

"Hello, Michigan," I sang to myself, reaching for the telephone. I called Central Lake, Michigan, for a ruling on whether I could use this gun in the Second Chance \$50,000 purse event this year. Dave Kotwick sighed, "Mass, I thought you were a martial artist." "All right," I told him, "you can brand a 'G' on my head for 'gamesman."

A phone call the following week from Continued on page 71

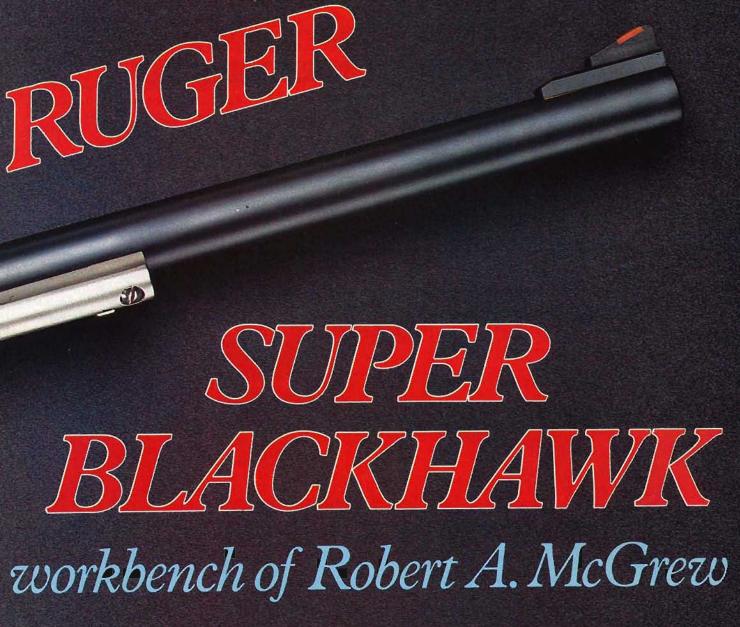




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Most people will agree that the Ruger Super Blackhawk single action revolver is quite a gun as it comes from the factory at Southport, Connecticut. But Bob McGrew, custom pistolsmith of Colorado Springs believes that it needs just a few finishing touches to make it even better. He offered to make one up just for the readers of The American Handgunner, and here it is:

Externally, the gun shows a two-tone finish in satin blue and satin nickel, the execution of which is flawless. While the overall appearance is one of quiet elegance, a nice touch has been added by the mirror bright blue finish in the indexing funnels on the cylinder.

The rear sight is deeply notched with a white outline, and the front has a bright orange insert. The original ejector rod housing has been replaced by a stainless steel Blackhawk housing, again finished in satin nickel. The trigger and hammer were first polished bright, then glass beaded for a satin finish. The right side of the trigger guard has been relieved for easier access to the trigger.

Not visible is the action job, offering a butter-smooth, nocreep trigger pull of 1½ lbs. A trigger stop has been installed to eliminate over-travel.

This 10½" barreled beauty is not only good looking, but it is a shooter. Bob test fired the gun before the final finish was applied, and again after completion. Yet the lucky winner will receive a gun in pristine condition, as evidenced by the nylon strap which has prevented the editorial staff from playing with the action.

The gun will come to the winner in a handsome solid attache-type case; on the cover a satin-finished plaque, engraved, "American Handgunner Giveaway, Customized by Robert A. McGrew."

Bob McGrew's custom work is varied; we have examined two fine .22 Ruger auto pistols that display his refinishing talents and his excellent action work. If you'd like to check out his work, send a large self-addressed stamped envelope to McGrew, 3315 Michigan Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80910.

These Colts provided target shooters with the ultimate in big bore accuracy Service Target S

By Bob Murphy



The Colt New Service revolver was manufactured from 1898 to World War Two. About 200,000 .45 and .455 New Service revolvers were furnished to the U.S. and British armies, and to many other military and police agencies. The New Service is described in more detail in the September, 1979, GUNS magazine.

The target model of the New Service was produced in small quantities from 1900 until World War Two. It differs from the standard New Service in many details. The topstrap is thicker and flat on top. The

rear sight slides in a transverse dovetail cut. The front sight blade, inserted in a sight base, is adjustable for elevation. The front and rear grip straps on the frame are hand checkered. Machine-checkered grips were introduced in about 1928. The triggers were checkered from the start in 1900, although standard New Service triggers were not routinely checkered until about 1928. The standard target barrel length was 7½ inches. All the target models were carefully hand-fitted and polished for a velvet action.

The New Service Target revolvers were numbered in the same series as the standard New Service. This article is based on a survey of guns observed over the years. The survey covers 139 New Service Target revolvers and 90 Shooting Masters. This survey sample may comprise an estimated 3% of the total production. The survey results are summarized in the chart which accompanies the article.

OLD MODEL (1900-1909)

The earliest New Service Target revolvers were made in mid-1900 in .44 S&W

Russian, beginning at about serial number 4,500. The .44 Russian was then regarded as the most accurate American cartridge for target pistols. The other caliber in this model, .455 Eley, began to appear in volume in late 1901 or early 1902 at about serial number 8,000. The .455's differed from the .44 Russians in several respects. The .455 target sights were not adjustable for windage and elevation. Windage was corrected by tapping the rear sight in its dovetail cut. Elevation was adjusted by firing light .450 Eley ammunition at 20 yards, and heavier .455 Eley at 50 yards. Also, the insert front sight blade could be replaced in the field with a higher or lower blade. English match rules did not permit adjustable sights at that time. Also, the .455 target models had unusual Metford-style rifling with round-bottomed grooves. Barrel markings for these two target model calibers were the same as the markings on the standard model.

NEW SERVICE 44 RUSSIAN CTG. NEW SERVICE 455 ELEY

Very few variations or changes are noted in the target models between 1900 and 1909. Extractor rod tips at first were smooth and color case-hardened, later changing to checkered. Early specimens bear the 1884 and 1900 patent dates on the barrel. The 1901 patent date (covering the adjustable sights) was soon added to the .44 barrels. The firing pin at first was fixed rigidly into the hammer. At about serial number 10,000 the firing pin was pivoted.

In 1905 at about serial number 13,800 Colt began to stamp its proof mark on the left forward web of the triggerguard, showing that the arm had been carefully inspected and test-fired with a hot proof load.

Forty-one of the Old Model Colt New Service Target revolvers have been noted in this survey, of which 22 (54%) are in caliber .44 Russian, and 18 (44%) are .455 Eley. One target model in this range was noted in .45 Colt, a caliber which was not catalogued by Colt during this period in the target model. This survey sample of 41 guns may represent about 3% of the estimated 1500 New Service Target revolvers built on the Old Model frame.

TRANSITION MODEL (1909)

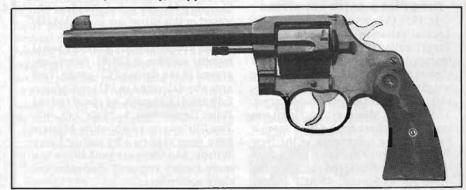
In 1909, at serial number 21,000, Colt added its famous Colt Positive Lock to the New Service. This is a steel bar that slides between the hammer and frame, preventing accidental discharge if the gun is dropped. The bar slides down out of the way when the trigger is pulled. Revolvers incorporating this lock bear the 1905 patent date on the barrel. Colt, with its customary thrift, converted about 1000 to 2000 Old Model New Service frames to accept the Positive Lock. There were other minor changes, such as replacement of the twopiece rebound lever with a redesigned onepiece lever. These transition revolvers on the Old Model frame appear in the serial number range of 21,000 to 23,000. The sideplate was stamped with a rampant



Old Model, .44 Russian, shipped in 1902.



Transition Model, .455 Eley, shipped to London in 1909.



Improved Model, .44 Special, shipped in 1913.

(prancing) colt, encircled with a stylized "C." The Old Model sideplates had been stamped with the words "Colt's New Service" in a circle around a rampant colt. Only four target models have been observed on the transition frame, all in .455 Eley. Other calibers may turn up. The Transition Model New Service Target revolvers are regarded as quite scarce.

IMPROVED MODEL (1909-1917)

The Improved Model of the New Service is identified by a wider, more streamlined triggerguard, which flows forward to cover the bottom of the crane hinge. The Improved Model, incorporating the design changes described under the Transition Model, was produced in several variations from 1909 to WWII. Production of the standard frame began in 1909 with the .45 Model 1909 revolvers for the U.S. Army, Navy and Marine Corps. Limited production of target models continued during this period, in .44 Russian, .45 Colt and .455 Elev.

In 1913 Colt finally offered the New Service in .44 S&W Special. The .44 Russian was discontinued, the latest target model noted in that caliber being shipped in April 1913 to Abercrombie & Fitch, New York, in the 58,000 serial number range. The earliest .44 Special noted was shipped in December, 1913, on the factory loan account to dealer Phil Bekeart, in San Francisco, in the 59,000 range. Colt, apparently feeling sensitive about chambering its arms for another Smith & Wesson cartridge, used this barrel marking on their New Service and New Service Target .44 Specials.

NEW SERVICE RUSSIAN AND .44 S&W SPECIAL

The stylized "C" on the sideplate was dropped in 1913 in the 57,000 range, leaving the rampant colt prancing all by himself. Beginning in 1913 a deep-set brass medallion of the rampant colt was set in the hand-checkered grips.

Production of New Service Target revolvers was suspended in 1917 for wartime production. The highest serial numbers observed on prewar target models are in the 120,500 range. Serial numbers leap frog in this period because of the huge military orders for the New Service.

The Shooting Master



SHOOTING MASTER REVOLVERS

In 1931 Colt announced a new .38 Special variation of the New Service Target, called the Shooting Master. It featured a 6" tapered barrel, narrow ("round") butt, and a hefty 44-ounce weight, 10 ounces heavier than the popular .38 Special Officers Model Target. The Shooting Master cylinder latch was smooth, uncheckered. Otherwise, it had all of the refinements of the New Service Target of the same period.

By 1934 Colt offered the Shooting Master in .44 Special, .45 ACP and .45 Colt, as well as .38 Special. Very few were sold in the .44 and .45, and they are now considered rare. In 1935 Colt added the .357 S&W Magnum with square butt. A few .38 Special Shooting Masters were converted to other calibers. A letter to the factory will confirm the original caliber from the shipping records. Colt's .357 cylinders of this period bear a small star on the forward face, usually struck obliquely so that it does not look like a star, to denote the use of an improved steel in the Magnum cylinder.

Colt later offered both Shooting Masters and New Service Target with choice of "round" or square butts. There was no longer any substantial difference between the two models other than the cylinder latch, the barrel marking and the price: \$50.00 for the Target, and \$52.50 for the Master.

Large serial number blocks were reserved for the Shooting Masters. Serial numbers appear to start at #333,000 and run in about nine blocks of 50, 150, 200, 150, 650, 350, 1100, 800 and 100, for a total of about 3550 guns. The highest

Shooting Master serial numbers observed in this survey are in the 348,000 range, circa 1940.

The lowest Shooting Master serial number noted is #328185, factory engraved in the deluxe "C" grade. This arm was delivered in 1931 to Captain Edward J. Langrish, of the Hartford Police Department, by "Fitz" of Colt's. Two "B" engraved Shooting Masters have been reported by author Larry Wilson, and there are probably a few more factory engraved specimens out there somewhere.

An experimental .22 Shooting Master was made in 1933 with a short cylinder, for the .22 Long Rifle cartridge. This gun proved to be too heavy for a .22, and the idea was shelved. Another Shooting Master was built with an experimental front cylinder latch, consisting of a spring plunger at the front of the frame, to latch the front of the cylinder. This was also dropped.

A special-order .455 Eley Shooting Master was shipped in 1936 to a customer in Nova Scotia, proving again that Colt used to comply with any reasonable request for a custom gun. This is the only New Service variation in .455 Eley of post-1916 production to be noted in this survey.

The author is continuing his search for information on the Colt New Service Revolver. If you wish to help, write to Bob Murphy, C/O American Handgunner, 591 Camino de la Reina, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92108. Information needed: model, serial number, barrel length, frame, finish, grips, butt markings, latest patent date, and factory shipping data.

This survey has noted 43 improved target models in the period from 1909 to 1917:

.44 Russian 4 (9%) .44 Special 5 (12%) .45 Colt 9 (21%) .455 Eley 24 (56%) .38 Special 1 (2%)

These 43 guns comprise an estimated 3% of target model production during this period.

The .38 Special New Service Target mentioned here was reportedly shipped in 1911 on special order to S.J. Palmer. The .38 Special was never a standard catalog caliber in the New Service Target. Three rare, factory-engraved target models were shipped in 1912-1916, one to the legendary pistol expert, Ed McGivern, of Montana.

IMPROVED MODEL (1919-1928)

When target model production resumed after WWI, the most noticeable change was the use of a tapered barrel, swelling up to a large diameter bolster where the barrel met the frame.

The .455 caliber was still listed in the catalog, but no postwar .455 New Service revolvers have turned up in this survey. From 1919 until the next changes in 1928, 30 target models have been noted:

.44 Special 13 (43%) .45 Colt 16 (53%) .44-40 <u>1</u> (4%)

The non-catalog .44-40 was shipped on special order in 1921 in bright, unblued condition, to be engraved by a custom engraver. Another factory-engraved New Service Target was shipped in 1927, in .44 Special.

The postwar finish was not as beautifully polished and blued as before. Prewar Colts were smoothly polished and blued to a deep, brilliant blue-black that appeared to have depth like a mirror. The screw heads and triggers were given a brilliant fire-blue finish. The finishes after WWI, although of high quality, lacked the brilliant depth of the prewar polish and blue.

Colt production practices seemed to change after WWI. Before the war, the target models had been given serial numbers in small, scattered groups. This survey shows that after WWI there were large serial number groups of target models that did not appear to have any standard model New Service revolvers numbered within the groups. For example, seven target models are noted from #307015 to #307142, with no standard-frame guns observed in this serial number group. It seems reasonable to conclude that Colt made up about 150 target frames in this group in about 1920, and stored them in a bin to be assembled later into completed target models. A similar group appears in serial number range #307198 to #307490; however, this range seems to be too large for a realistic assembly group of target models. Shipping dates for revolvers

Continued on page 68

INFLATION AND THE HANDLOADER

The high cost of shooting can be chopped by those who load their own

By Claud Hamilton

M ost Americans are aware of the soaring cost of living with today's double-digit inflation. I had it brought home to

me once again recently.

I have a friend who lives near Clifton, Virginia. Over recent years we've formed the habit of once a month or so going out to the ranges at the Fairfax Rod and Gun Club. Not long ago, after a particularly unproductive session, during which none of my test ammunition showed any promise at all, and a .41 revolver shot itself to

eted hollow-points—wonderful ammunition, but at nearly \$80 with tax, Wow!

I was vaguely conscious of the overall impact of inflation, but I wanted to know more precisely what my shooting costs. Several days spent going through my old records, and a look at old invoices and current shelf stock at Hunters' Haven in Alexandria, gave me enough data for a picture to begin to form. Prices change with frightening frequency these days, and they do so by individual manufacturer. Also, there are some differences in prices between

components shape-up today for comparison with prices of factory ammunition:

| COMPONENT | AVERAG | E COSTS | % CHANG |
|-----------------------|--------|---------|---------|
| | 1975 | 1980 | |
| Primers, pistol (100) | \$0.66 | \$1.25 | 89% |
| Powder (pound) | 5.83 | 8.50 | 45% |
| Bullets (100) | 4.91 | 7.25 | 48% |
| Cases (50) | 4.54 | 6.75 | 48% |

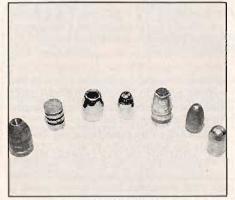
To have meaning, this sort of estimate requires reduction to something more specific. For the shoot at which my friend brought up the question of cost, I made up 60 rounds of .41 Magnum and 60 rounds of .357 Magnum loads. I wanted to look at



High quality unprimed brass cases are available in all the popular calibers.

pieces, my friend asked how I can afford to go on doing "all of this shooting." I laughed and explained that probably 50 percent of what I shoot is handloads, and another 40 percent is older ammunition that I have accumulated over the years. Not more than 10 percent of what I shoot these days is new factory ammunition.

Later I got to thinking again about his question and realized that, were I dependent upon commercial loads, I couldn't afford to shoot! I became aware of this all too clearly when I compared a group of 9mm pistols for accuracy. The shoot required four boxes of new Federal 115-grain jack-



A broad variety of lead and jacketed bullets is available to the reloader.

various parts of the country, and even between dealers in the same area, so that my figures are only valid here and for the specific items checked-out.

Commercial ammunition prices came as a real shock. For handgun calibers, quality loads, per 50-round box, seem to run in the \$15-plus range, and Norma's famous .38 Special Magnum load, so widely advertised a year or so ago, was selling for more than \$26 per box! Factory-loaded ammunition, in 1975, averaged about \$8.72 per box of 50. By 1981, that price had climbed to more than \$15, a change upward of 72 percent. Here's how loading



The bullet just seated, a .45 cartridge, is withdrawn from the press.

different powders for each caliber, and several loads of each. I was looking for a good combination of both powder and accuracy. Here's what I figure the .41 Magnum ammunition cost:

| 630 Ball Powder | \$0.02 |
|---|---------|
| R-P Large Pistol Primer | 0.0105 |
| Baker LSWC 220 grain Bullet | 0.0735 |
| W-W case (used third time) | Free |
| Cost per round, (Round off to 11 cents per round | 50.1040 |
| Cost per 60 rounds | \$6.60 |

The .357 Magnum ammunition was slightly cheaper:

Continued on page 67

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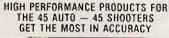
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COP TALK

Continued from page 29

favorite street .357 too, but I have long fingers. In the barrio, give me a 5'6" Hispanic partner who's street-smart and can handle his K-frame to back me up.

I've seen some women who should be on the job, and some who shouldn't. I've also seen tough, fearless, bright, straight-shooting, .38-packing women who were career cops and whom I'd pick for patrol partners long before I rode with an insecure guy who wore a gun too big to control because he thought he was compensating for lack of skill with muzzle blast. The job isn't guns. The job is people.

WANTS HOTTER LOADS

In my department we buy our own revolvers, which must be: .38 Special caliber (not .357), blue steel, four-inch barrel, fixed sights. How can I get the department to let us use .357s, since their argument is that "the average cop can't handle magnums, and if the least of us can't then none of us can." What is the best gun within that listing to go for, paying out of my own pocket?

East Coast Cop Talk to your PBA (Police Benevolent Assn.) and see if they can't push for optional magnums for those of you who can qualify. If worse comes to worse, guys on your job who want to carry magnums can buy their own qualification ammo at department cost, which won't hurt the department's budget no matter what they tell you. And don't believe that bunk about, "If we let you guys who qualify carry Magnums, the guys who can't qualify will earry them too." I see very few departments that restrict ammo to .38 in which the sergeants don't have to frequently do spot inspections of duty ammo anyway.

If I carried by your rules, my choices would be: S&W model 10 with a 4" heavy barrel or Ruger Police Service Six for general issue, to all troops. These are the easiest guns to service; Dan Wesson model 14 (fixed sight .38 Special) if buying my own gun out of the box. It gives you a lot more options in terms of fixed sight configurations and grip shapes, to make sure your puny service 158-gr. solid .38 loads hit dead center-good action too.

If money were no object, I'd get a second-hand, old-model Colt Official Police, have a heavy Douglas barrel installed on it, and send it to Jerry Moran (now taking orders again, and the best of the Colt customizers, at 2275 E. Farrand Rd., Clio, Michigan). That would give me the smoothest possible DA revolver that fired 100% of the time with full power loads, and recoil that almost sneaks down to .22 level so I could deliver maximum fast, precision accuracy with what firepower I had.

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|--|--|-------|
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One thing I can't accept from you "gun experis" who recommend .45 autos for cops is that you recommend carrying "cocked and locked." As soon as that safety is off, you've got a cocked gun, and that's a reckless act. If the bad guy gets shot by accident, you're legally liable!

Another Southern Cop The literature of firearms indicates that the cocked and locked automatic is less likely to go off under stress than the double action revolver, especially if there is a scuffle over the gun.

In a recent case in the Northeast, I was part of the legal Defense Team for a police sergeant who was charged with second degree assault after an incident in which a driver he had pursued and been forced off the road by, grabbed his gun. The pistol

went off in the suspect's face.

The seriously injured suspect's advocates maintained that the officer was reckless in approaching him with a drawn and cocked Colt .45 Auto. In pretrial, we were able to prove that this was the normal method of carry for a pistol of this type, and actually safer in terms of risk to officer. suspect, and bystanders alike; after trial, the jury quickly and unanimously found my client, the police sergeant, not guilty.

A cocked revolver truly has a hair trigger. A cocked automatic has a substantially harder go-button, and a safety or two to boot. Bear in mind that someone who grabs your gun is exerting 120 to 140 or more pounds of pressure just when he grabs

If the bad guy gets himself shot grabbing for the cop's gun, there is a large body of established caselaw that supports the officer. I would never cock a revolver on a suspect, but I would never approach a dangerous suspect with my .45 automatic in any condition but hammer cocked, safety on, and finger and thumb both ready to press the proper metal if deadly danger reared its head. At this writing, to my knowledge, court decisions are supporting that, so long as due care, reason and caution are exercised by the "good guy with

the gun."



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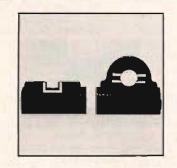
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New safeties fit Browning Hi-Power

The Cylinder and Slide Shop is making two new items, an extended combat safety and an extended ambidextrous safety, for the Browning Hi-Power. Both are designed to fit without modification. The extended safety costs \$29.95; the ambidextrous safety is \$74.95 with exchange of the standard safety. For more information write Cylinder & Slide Inc., Dept. AH, P.O. Box 937, Freemont, NB 68025.

Tune-up kit adjusts trigger pull

A tune-up kit that lightens the single and double action trigger pull is now available for Ruger Redhawk owners. The Ruger Redhawk spring kit #14, which is equipped with three different weight springs, is a product of Trapper Gun Inc., Dept. AH, 18717 E. Fourteen Mile, Fraser, MI 48026.



Compensator System reduces recoil

For the .45 auto enthusiast, J. Michael Plaxco's new "Plaxco Compensator System" reduces recoil and redirects recoil vector, while giving him the benefit of a custom fitted, 6-inch Match Barrel and Bushing. The Compensator System can be easily removed, allowing the shooter to reinsert the original barrel and bushing. The system can be fitted to a pistol in four weeks at a cost of \$250. Write J. Michael Plaxco, Rt. 1. P.O. Box 203, Dept. AH, Roland, AR 72135, for more information.

Crane lock ball jig aids pistolsmiths

The crane lock ball jig is designed to hold the S & W K-frame securely while the pistolsmith drills a precisely positioned hole for the ball and spring. For more information contact Maryland Gun Works Ltd., Dept. AH, 26200 Frederick Road, Hyattstown, MD 20730.

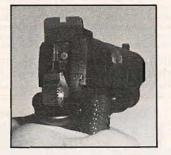


Collar protects extractor rod

Fred's Gun Shop. 5904 Signal Hill Road, Dept. AH, Mechanicsville, VA 23111, has an extractor rod removing collar for Smith & Wesson, Colt, and Ruger handguns. The cost is \$10.

Nu-Line Guns, Inc. converts wheelguns

Nu-Line Guns, Inc., 1055 Caulks Hill Road, Dept. AH, Harvester, MO 63303, is a specialist in the production of the Smython, the hybrid formed when the Python barrel is connected to the N frame Smith and Wesson.



Pistolsmith designs new fixed sight

Pistolsmith Richard Heinie has designed a new combat competition fixed sight for all 1911 automatic pistols. Made of fully machined 4140 steel, the sight adapts to other large frame auto pistols. Its suggested retail price is \$28.50. Heini can be reached at 821 E. Adams, Dept. AH, Havana, IL 62644.

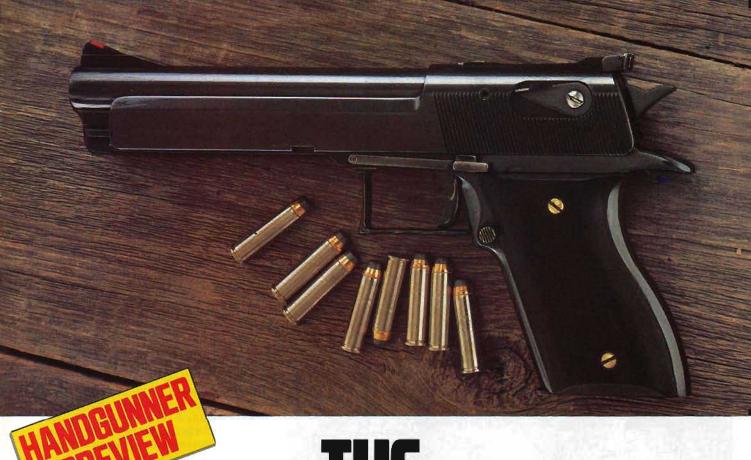
New latch simplifies cylinder release

Firearm Technology Company has designed a new replacement cylinder release latch. The easy-to-install Speed-Latch is made to fit both the Smith & Wesson "K" frame (Model No. 102) and the Ruger double-action revolver (Model No. 212). The suggested retail prices are \$29.95 for the Smith & Wesson Model and \$24.95 for the Ruger Model. For more information write Firearm Technology Company, Dept. AH, P.O. Box 266. Massapequa, NY 11758



Wilson .45 magazine is durable

The body of the Wilson Combat Match 45 Magazine is made of 304 stainless steel and designed to eliminate cracking. The follower and base, both molded parts, are made from a new, rugged synthetic material. The follower has a rounded design and a positive slide stop operation; the base can be easily removed for cleaning. The suggested retail price of the 7-round magazine is \$19.50. For additional information write Wilson's Gun Shop, Dept. AH, Route 3, Berryville, AR 72616.



EAGLE IS LANDING

While there are some who will question the need for a .357 Magnum auto pistol, the people at Magnum Research, Inc. (877 Grand Ave., Saint Paul, MN 55105) believe that such a need does exist, and that the market is there.

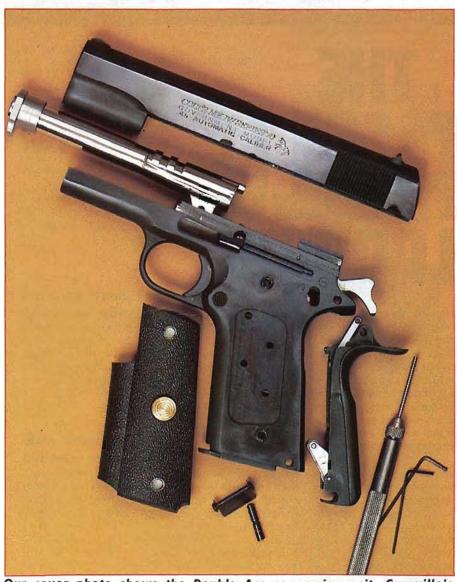
The Eagle is not just a conversion of an existing gun to handle the hot revolver round. It is a new design that incorporates a gas-operated action and a six-lug rotating bolt. Preliminary design data indicates that the Eagle will offer quick disassembly without the use of any tools; a trigger adjustable for pull weight; 7-shot magazine capacity, and an ambidextrous safety that locks the firing pin and disconnects the trigger. It appears that the only feature the Eagle does not have is double action capability.

The first prototypes were shown at the S.H.O.T. Show in Atlanta (still several weeks away as this is written). Delivery date of production guns has not yet been determined, as the actual production is rumored to be done outside of the U.S., with Israel mentioned as a possible site.

The Eagle promises interesting shooting, and perhaps a new era in firearms design and manufacture. We at the American Handgunner are waiting patiently for our test sample to arrive. A full report will appear as soon as testing is completed.

DOUBLE ACE BY CARAVILLE

New life for the .45 auto with drop-in accessories for the do-it-yourselfer



Our cover photo shows the Double Ace conversion unit, Caraville's barrel and bushing and their wrap-around rubber grips; all owner-installed.

by Greg Moats

The last thing that the police officer expected to see was the suspect holding a rifle. (Fortunately this police story doesn't end with such a sentence of terminal fore-boding.) As the rifle-wielding belligerent caught a glimpse of the officer in his peripheral vision he started to swivel on the bar stool bringing his weapon to bear on the policeman. (I'm told that such scenarios do not occur in slow motion like in a Sam Peckinpaw movie; they just appear that way to the participants.)

In the millisecond-decision that dictated life or death for this particular drunk, the officer drew his duty sidearm as the suspect continued to turn towards him. When the drunk had completed his swivel and had almost swung the rifle around, he found himself looking down the sights of the officer's .45 Auto from the wrong side. As the Officer tightened his grip on his handgun, the Caraville "Double-Ace" conversion automatically cocked the weapon, making an audible "click." Upon hearing the sound, the drunk fainted, collapsing in a heap on the bar room floor. When the drunk regained consciousness he explained that when he heard the "click" he thought the hammer had fallen and he knew that he was dead!! Perhaps truth is stranger than fiction.

I must admit from the start that I don't like double action auto pistols, and in fact I like double action auto conversions even less. However, the Caraville Double Ace is not really a double action conversion and does have some redeeming characteristics.

l). It's the only currently produced conversion that does not affect the trigger pull of the weapon, thus eliminating the uncontrollable deviation commonly found between the first and second shots from standard double action autos.

2). It pre-empts the use of the slide safety while maintaining a standard of mechanical inability to fire until the weapon is securely gripped. Like the H&K P7 (PSP) it cocks itself when gripped, unlike the P7 it does not de-cock itself when the grip is released.

3). Since it pre-empts the use of the slide safety, it negates the need for an ambidextrous safety.

4). It alleviates the need for a beavertail grip safety. Since it requires no altering to the frame and can be installed without recourse to a gunsmith, it is cheaper than having a gunsmith install an ambidextrous safety and a beavertail grip safety.

5). With practice, a shooter could become pretty fast with the conversion; however, with practice a shooter could become pretty fast with almost any handgun.

6). One nice feature about the Caraville Double Ace is that it's sturdy; it's not a new invention and its sturdiness has been time proven. The folks at Caraville said that the Baldwin Park, California, Police Dept. had them installed as SOP seven years ago and that their first accidental dis-

charge occurred after six and a half years. When they asked the officer how it happened, she claimed that she didn't know. However, the weapon subsequently proved to be 100% functional.

Now for some highly subjective, bad

1). The Caraville Double Ace is a bulky piece of gear that "feels funny" while you're gripping the handgun. For close, fast shooting this is not as severe a problem as it is for long range precision work. I was therefore thoroughly surprised when I was able to shoot a seven inch offhand group at 50 yards with the conversion added to a .45 Auto. While it feels a little like someone. taped a popsicle stick to the backside of your .45, the Caraville Double Ace is not something that a person can't get used to. In fact, a new shooter might not notice it at all. Although I dislike extended magazine release buttons, I'd be inclined to have one installed on my .45 if I were to use a Caraville Double Ace; the bulkiness of the conversion makes dropping the magazine in a hurry a matter of chance.

2). For some, the only inedible fly in the soup is that it requires the handgun to be carried in a "stand-by" (slightly past halfcock) position. Those of us who have been nurtured in the modern school of practical shooting have been taught that double action conversions are an "ingenious solution to a non-existing problem." While my law enforcement experience is very limited, I can understand how public pressure is brought to bear on a Police Department by paranoid civilians seeing their local Peace Officers carrying "cocked" guns (I have great faith in the naivete of the human race). If the Double Ace made it possible to carry the handgun with the hammer fully down, it would at least be a logical solution to a non-existing problem; it would also require about 24 lbs. of force



Carrying the .45 auto in half-cock position may be unnerving to some, but with the Double Ace unit in the gun, it is mechanically safe.

to cock the pistol. If a city, county or state government would not allow its Peace Officers to carry a handgun in Condition One (cocked and locked) it doesn't seem logical that it would allow them to carry the same handgun in a "stand-by" position; however, governmental decisions frequently defy logic. While safety is a paramount virtue for law enforcement administrators, everybody's perspective changes when shorts are fired. While the Double Ace requires between eight and nine lbs. of force to cock the pistol, it only takes about ¾ lbs. to hold the housing in, and this action is

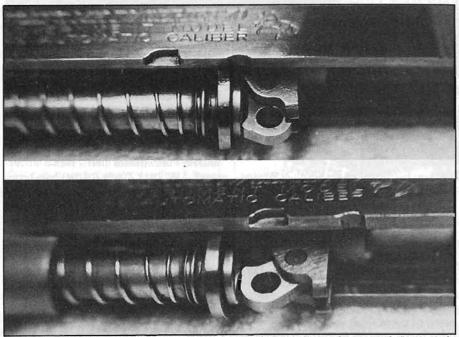
accomplished by the normal grip of the hand on the pistol. Since the slide safety does not need to be disengaged, it is theoretically faster and realistically simpler to shoot the first round with the Double Ace than from the traditional Condition One position.

If I were on a Department that required that I either carry a wheel gun or a .45 with a Caraville cocking device in the "stand by" position, I'd opt for the .45 every time. It demonstrates a note of engineering intellect that pre-dates the H&K P7 by over a decade. In my opinion it's a device that's not for everybody, but for what it's designed to accomplish it is vastly superior to the alternatives.

In keeping with its engineering intellect, Caraville has developed a number of "drop-in" accessories designed to enhance the accuracy, reliability and longevity of your 1911-type self loading pistol.

If someone claimed to produce a recoil buffer that would hamper muzzle-rise, decrease the wear on the frame caused by the slamming of the slide, increase the accuracy of the handgun, aid the feeding reliability while at the same time boosting the velocity of the round, it would sound like a bold-faced claim potent enough to make a consumer advocate's mouth water. That's exactly what Caraville claims. This is not simply a standard spring guide with a spring loaded metal projection on the front, as most of the currently marketed buffers are. This is an entire system that incorporates a new barrel link, a nitrogen injected buffer/spring guide, a stainless steel recoil spring and a new recoil spring plug.

Let's start with the barrel link. At a glance the Caraville barrel link looks simi-



Top: in battery, bottom of barrel link forces barrel up and forward. Bottom: With slide to rear, barrel is forced down for better feeding.

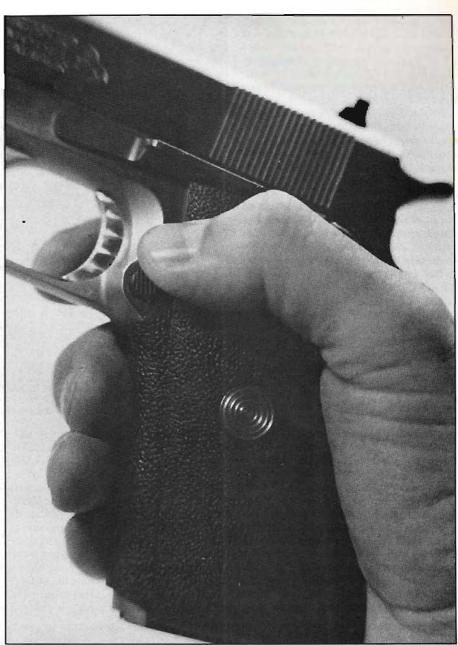
lar to the Dwyer "Group-Gripper" which has proven merits. The Caraville people explained the difference to me. The metal projection on the lower, forward side of the link indexes on the backside of the spring guide. This action keeps a steady upward and forward pressure on the barrel into the locking lugs while the slide is in the forward position. This extra pressure delays the unlocking process just long enough to let the bullet pass farther down the barrel before the slide starts to move to the rear, thus accounting for Caraville's claim of increased accuracy and velocity. However, when the slide is to the rear, this projection is rotated up causing a counter-camming action on the barrel back and down against the frame, thus accounting for Caraville's claim of increased reliability of feeding.

The spring guide, barrel link and recoil spring plug are made of stainless steel. The chamber of the spring guide is injected with 50-70 lbs. of nitrogen which gives it a very smooth action compared with standard spring loaded buffers. It appears to be extremely well made and looks more like a precision instrument than part of the guts

of a .45 Auto.

The recoil spring plug incorporates a unique concept. The forward portion of the cap that pushes forward against the barrel bushing is oversized and tapered. This means that some of the forward pressure caused by the recoil spring is directed upwards against the barrel bushing. This upward pressure will take any "play" out of the bushing/slide, fit and further enhance the accuracy of the pistol.

The folks at Caraville said that if this systems is installed in a gun that shoots four inch groups at 25 yards, two and three quarter or three inch groups will be attained and I believe them. Although a new Mk IV Series 70, .45 ACP is generally more accurate than the average shooter who fires it, I decided to try Caraville's buffer system in one to see if there would be any "out of the box" effect. With a brand new Mk IV that had no modification and had never been fired before, the best I could do was a two inch group offhand at 25 yards. Although the fixed sights were fine on elevation, they shot about three inches to the left. Then I installed the Caraville buffer system. Although it is a "drop in" alteration, I expected to have a number of malfunctions until the system "shot itself in." I was not disappointed. The first seven shots failed to eject. I fired 200 rounds of ammo through the pistol and shots #8 through #200 functioned flawlessly; the buffer system had to "seat itself." The best group that I shot offhand with the buffer was one and one half inches at 25 yards. Although the windage was still three inches to the left, the elevation now was a full three inches higher than without the buffer, no doubt due to the upward pressure exerted by the tapered recoil spring plug. It's difficult to try to compare amounts of muzzle rise; the buffer made the pistol seem more controllable and it definitely cushioned the



Double Ace conversion adds bulk to grip, and author feels that one should Install an extended magazine release button for quick unloading.

recoil and make it feel more comfortable. All things considered, I think it's an excellent system; if it proves that it can withstand many thousands of rounds of ammunition, it will be the ideal piece of "addon" gear for the practical shooting competitor who shoots more in a week than most people shoot in a year.

If you happen to own a Smith & Wesson Model 39 or 59 that won't group inside a three foot washtub at ten yards, cheer up, there's hope! While the 9mm Smith's have gained a modest following, it's no secret that accuracy is not exactly their forte. The Caraville engineers have designed a couple of barrel bushings, one for the .45 Auto and one for the S&W 39 & 59, that are truly unusual. They incorporate a small teflon "O" ring that lines the interior diameter of the bushing and provides a "zero clearance" contact with the barrel. Labelled the "Exacta Ace Bushing," Caraville

claims that among other things it dampens harmonic vibration, eliminates outside barrel wear, seals out dirt and moisture while in battery, saves wear on the lugs, and improves accuracy. They recommend that the outside diameter of the barrel be turned to a diameter of .578", from the muzzle's crown back .150", then a diameter of .570" back 2" toward the chamber on a standard length .45 barrel, or 1.750" on a Commander barrel. No statistics were provided for the Smith barrels so we simply put it on the barrel "as is" and the accuracy of that particular Model 59 went from about seven inches at 25 yards to about four inches. When in battery, the bushing extends in front of the muzzle, thus protecting the crown of the barrel should it be inadvertently dropped. It looks and performs like an extremely reliable and durable bushing and, in .45 Auto's,

Continued on page 53

it mates very well to the previously mentioned oversized recoil spring plug.

Caraville has also designed a set of neoprene, wraparound grips. Although they look quite a bit like Pachmayr grips, the Caraville grips don't feel as thick or adhesive, possibly because they have a stippled, non-checkered finish. Like the second generation Pachmayr grips, the Caraville's do not have thumb-swells or the little lip of neoprene at the bottom of the front strap that many practical shooters have found to be a nuisance. One of the very attractive features of these grips is that they sell for \$12.95.

Also in Caraville's inventory of practical accessories are a set of fixed, high visibility, low profile sights. One of the first alterations that most serious handgunners make to their .45 Auto is the addition of a new set of sights that are easier to "pick up" quickly. Caraville's sights have a white outlined rear aperture with a choice of white, yellow or orange inserted front ramps. The outfit is also coming out with a kit which will allow shooters to change front sight colors quickly. With the recent popularity of fluorescent "glow-in-the-dark" type sights, this quick change kit could prove to be quite an aid to the competitive shooter or law enforcement officer that wants "night sights" but would like the versatility of having standard black sights in periods of daylight conditions.

While the test gun that Caraville sent me was equipped with a standard Mk IV barrel, it has come out with a set of stainless steel barrels in Commander, Government and six inch configurations. The barrels come equipped with their previously mentioned Exacta Ace Bushing. The barrels are modified with a "U" shaped orifice cut at the extreme rear of the barrel hood which allows you to see at a glance whether or not there is a cartridge in the chamber. It had cut this "U" shaped orifice in the Colt barrel on the test gun and I found it to be quite handy and practical; none of the brass fired in the gun was dis-

formed in any way. It's obvious that Caraville definitely has the practical shooter in mind. As in all sports, there are gadget conscious "practical" shooters who acquire copious amounts of shooting paraphernalia, most of which is designed more to impress than perform. Caraville's products might not appeal to these individuals. However, the function-oriented shooter or law enforcement officer that is more concerned with reliability than pretense will find that Caraville Arms has an array of equipment that's worth looking into. Contact: Caraville Arms, P.O. Box 4545, Thousand Oaks, Calif. 91360.



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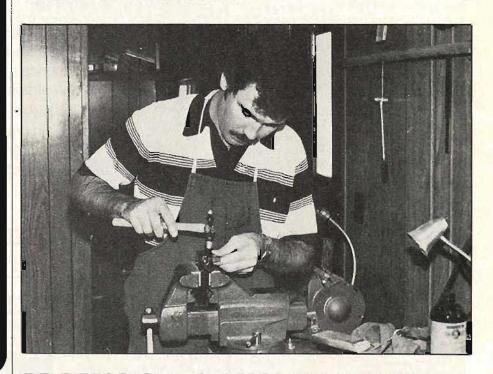
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CUSTOM PISTOLSMITH PROFILE

J. Michael Plaxco



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Many newcomers to the ranks of custom pistolsmiths offer excellent work at very reasonable prices. One of these is J. Michael Plaxco of Roland, Arkansas. Mike is among pistolsmiths who recently have offered a line of Colt .45 Auto modifications.

In addition to being a meticulous craftsman, Plaxco's skill with the big Colt Auto is among the best in the nation. Mike is one of the top IPSC shooters in the U.S., and finished second in the U.S. Championships for 1981. He understands exactly what the .45 Auto requires in the way of modifications—for a mateur or professional.

The quality of Plaxco's work is first rate, and the popularity of his pistol work is evident by the number of pistols, bearing the Plaxco custom logo, seen on the firing line. Over the past year I have seen and handled a number of Plaxco-modified Colt Government Model pistols. All were well executed and precisely fitted. Triggers are always crisp and positive.

A price list and work sheet may be obtained by simply sending a selfaddressed stamped envelope to J. Michael Plaxco, Route 1, Box 203, Roland Cut-Off, Roland, AR 72135. The work sheet is basic and lists only those modifications that Plaxco believes to be necessary. For com-



pletion of basic conversions, including combat accurization, lowered ejection ports, beveled magazine wells, trigger tuning, and high fixed sights, delivery time is usually four weeks or less. Complete pistol modifications which include metal checkering, adjustable sights, and Bar-Sto barrel often will require longer shop time.

I found it refreshing to see that Plaxco's work sheet does not offer all the gadgets and unnecessary options so many plumbers love to load on a pistol to milk extra money from customers. As a top-level competitor, Plaxco recommends that pistols be modified with only items that are absolutely necessary.

I recently had an opportunity to test an example of Plaxco's work. The pistol used was a Colt Mk. IV Series 70 Government Model .45 with complete full-house combat modification. While many of the custom touches were not really necessary, the pistol was ideal for test and evaluation because it exhibited the depth and variety of Plaxco's work. The test gun was a joy to shoot and proved to be not only totally reliable, but also extremely accurate.

Plaxeo's pistols reflect the careful steps necessary to make a combat gun shoot accurately, and yet be reliable even when dirty. The major benefit of having a .45 accurized is that it will provide a better level of accuracy for a much longer period of time. An accurized .45 will still provide excellent groups after 20,000 rounds, whereas stock grade pistols usually will wear rapidly, and the result is pie-pan groups after only 7,000 to 10,000 rounds. This may seem like a lot of shooting, but to the serious IPSC competitor who fires up to 500 rounds per week, the issue is very critical. The test gun had already digested many thousand rounds of full ball equivalent reloads, and it still shot like a champ.

The key to accuracy is barrel lock-up, and Plaxco takes extra effort in fitting his guns for solid, reliable barrel alignment. All contact surfaces are mated and polished for top functioning. Great care is used to insure that extractor tension and polishing are perfect. It is not a well known fact, but most problems with the .45 auto pistol failures can be traced to a faulty extractor. In the test pistol, all the careful adjustments had been made. The gun had a Bar-Sto barrel and was exceptionally accurate. An extended recoil spring guide also was installed. The sights were the super fine Bomar Deluxe, low-mounted and contoured to the slide. A new design improved ramp front site was silversoldered in place.

The trigger pull was set at 3½ pounds, and was very crisp and reliable. The frame and related parts were industrial hardchrome plated. The slide was finished in high luster blue with the "Plaxco Custom" logo engraved on the right side. A unique touch with the Plaxco gun was a very wide funneling of the magazine well which makes for rapid speed loading. The relieved area near the rear of the magazine well permits the incoming spare magazine to be slammed into the pistol without fear of binding or snagging on the edges of the

Range testing proved that the "Plaxco Custom" not only is a handsome piece, but shoots up to the performance standard expected from a full-house conversion of the Combat .45.

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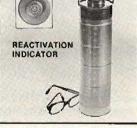
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PATENTED



A number of different loads were used. Regular 230-grain hard ball as well as Federal Match were fired. Accuracy and function were excellent. A little over 500 rounds of my regular IPSC practice load went through the pistol. This load consists of a 68 H&G 200-grain bullet over 5.7 grains of WW231 powder. All accuracy testing was done from the roll-over prone position at both 50 and 25 yards. Mainly, I care how well the pistol shoots for me. Thus all shooting was done from my most accurate position. The results were very pleasing. I believe that the Plaxco Custom .45 is a very good choice. Mike Plaxco's work is quick, reasonably priced, and is done by a man with a fine reputation as a shooter, sportsman and pistolsmith. Finding a gunsmith who takes time to do each job carefully, with a relatively quick delivery time, is a difficult process these days. Success soon makes some pistolsmiths cut corners in an effort to keep pace with delivery time demands. Plaxco is still a new face in the crowd of .45 combat pistolsmiths, his work is a real bargain, and those shooters who choose to avail themselves of his services will be dealing with a fine gentleman.



Second Ruger Collector's miniature issue is this scaled-down Hawkeye.

Ruger Collectors issue miniature

THE RUGER COLLECTORS' Association, Inc., has announced production of a second miniature issue, the Miniature Hawkeye Pistol.

The organization's first miniature issue, in 1979, was a down-scaled Standard Automatic Pistol, originally sold to BCA members at \$1,750. Current market price of the first issue guns is about \$4,000.

Each miniature issue is made up of only 12 third-scale guns, identical (except in size) to a rare early Ruger. Numbered 1 to 12, each minature is supplied with a third-scale model of the original packing box and document set. Information about the association and miniature issues is available from Ruger Collector's Association, Inc., PO. Box 211, Trumbull, CT 06611.

SPEAK

CLIP CONSTERNATION

My compliments on a well thought-out article, "What's Wrong With the Colt .45 ACP?" While I prefer to keep my Mark IV (out of four other available choices) at the ready at all times, in a household . of gun-conscious adults, I can enthusiastically recommend other choices for other people. I work out regularly, and I'm fairly strong, and even I prefer to cock the hammer first, before operating the slide. The clip that came with the gun showed signs of a fair amount of use, and it is a minor irritation to load. I bought a new blued steel clip, and much to my great consternation I found it necessary to use a screwdriver, after loading five rounds by hand, to force the spring follower down to load the remaining two rounds. Again, thanks for the article. Henry W. Lowell Detroit, Michigan

HEY, YOU IPSCERS!

I'd like to use your magazine as a sounding board to both the leadership and membership of IPSC. As a former PPC shooter, I took a lot of flak from the IPSC boys about how impractical my style of shooting was. They never tired of pointing out that my bull-barreled S&W Model 10, open-front Reno holster and triple open-top speedloader pouch were all totally useless for street or survival use. Worst of all, they said, was the puny .38 wadcutter ammunition I used. Never, they insisted, would I be able to handle full-power loads in a firefight situation. Well, IPSC, look around you at the guns you are salivating over-Devel's Gammon, Clark's Pin Gun and Wilson's Accu-Comp. Yep, they're the epitome of practicality, all right! Those 6- and 7inch jobs with-Gasp!-bull barrels and other highly sophisticated features bear no resemblance to the "Practical" pistol about which I was so freely informed. How about the crossdraw and open-top holsters with the clip holders? And, by the way, look at the new .40 caliber round that has been dreamed up as a way to qualify Major while shooting Minor. How would it fare in a firefight? Admit it, guys, IPSC is fast going the way of PPC. While IPSC courses of fire are more realistic, what is gained when it

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becomes a gimmick-and-equipment game? Let's get IPSC back on its original course-standard guns with accuracy jobs and over-the-counter add-ons that are available to everyone. Put the funny guns where they belong-in a class by themselves-and allow only standard guns to qualify for match and class winners in competition. Guys, you can't have it both ways. You'd better get your sport straightened out before it's too late and it begins to die, like PPC has. C. Dan Hoots Rowland, North Carolina

HOLSTER HUNTER

In your January/February, 1982, issue, you have a list of custom pistolsmiths which is very useful. But I wonder whether you have a directory of holster makers, in particular Milt Sparks. If you can send me his address, I will be grateful.

Aaron Levine Arvada, Colorado

Head for your local library, grab Gun Digest, 1982 Edition, turn to Page 441 for a list of holster manufacturers and custom leather goods companies. Milt Sparks can be contacted at P.O. Box 7R, Idaho City, 1D 83631. Drop Milt a line, and tell him,

SUPER SERVICE

As I was considering some type of plating for appearance and protection of a handgun, your November/December, 1981, article on this subject was very informative and timely. I would like to thank Bob Cogan of Accurate Plating and Weaponry, Clearwater, Florida, for taking the time over the phone to further discuss handgun finishes with me. After viewing his work on my recently returned pistol, I would recommend his company for thoughtful servicesomething we need nowadays. As is the rule today, his service is not exactly inexpensive, but his quality is topdrawer. Put Cogan and company on your list as a handgunner's friend. J. Moore

Lafayette, Indiana

SLING'S THE THING

I've always admired the Remington XP-100 in .221 Fireball caliber, I recently purchased a new XP and had the dealer mount a T/C 3X44 RP scope with Weaver Rings. The pistol has amazing accuracy and versatility. The question is: Where do you get a holster/sling for this Star Wars replica? I have yet to find any gunsmith or company with any type of accessories for the XP-100. I have saved close to 500 rounds of spent brass! I am having great difficulty in finding a reloading firm for the apparently not too popular .221 Fireball. Do you know of a reloader nearby? By the way, the .45 Matchmaster by Safari Arms that I won

in the Custom Guns Giveaway is excellent.
Douglas Grindstaff
Fulton, Missouri

Michaels of Oregon Co. (Uncle Mike's) makes the QD 115 NS. Set No. 1281 NS sling swivel kit and a 72-inch web sling, Set No. 2671, for the XP. The address is P.O. Box 13010, Portland, OR 97213, phone (503) 255-6890. Don't know anyone who reloads .221 Fireball in your area. But you're missing half the shooting fun if you don't load those Fireballs yourself. Why not send off for reloading equipment and supplies catalogs from Lyman, RCBS, Lee, Ponsness Warren, Bonanza and others that you'll find indexed in such publications as Gun Digest? Coming up with super-accurate loads for your .221 XP could by a thrill of a lifetime for you.

THE WINNAH!

I was delighted to learn that I had been selected as winner of your Custom Gun Giveaway. Now that I've had the opportunity to spend an afternoon on the range with this masterpiece (Wilson Combat .45), I am absolutely overjoyed. I will readily admit that it is by far the most enjoyable firearm that I own. I wish to thank everyone on your staff for the courteous, efficient manner with which everything was handled. Finally, I'd like to commend everyone associated with the American Handgunner for the excellent quality of the publication. Jack P. Wassell Gaithersburg, Maryland

.41 APPETITE

How about more information on the .41 conversion kit for the 1911-A-1? The little blurb in the January/February, 1982, American Handgumer just whetted my appetite. I know you didn't plan it that way, so how about a name and address for the kit's manufacturer? Donald J. Hagan Indianapolis, Indiana

The manufacturer isn't ready to let his. 41 conversion cat out of the bag just yet, but keep reading Handgunner. Information on the kit will appear in these pages just as soon as the maker gives the go-ahead.

LOOK AGAIN

Your November/December (1981) issue was excellent—except for one article. J.D. Jones' story on sighting in a new scope shortchanges the technology that has taken place in collimators and suggests shooters use the very antiquated look-through-the-barrel technique. My personal experience has been that when a collimator is used, it put my scope very close to the point of aim. Case in point: My first scoped pistol was a 4-inch Ruger stainless Security Six with Leupold 2X scope and a Buehler mount, and the

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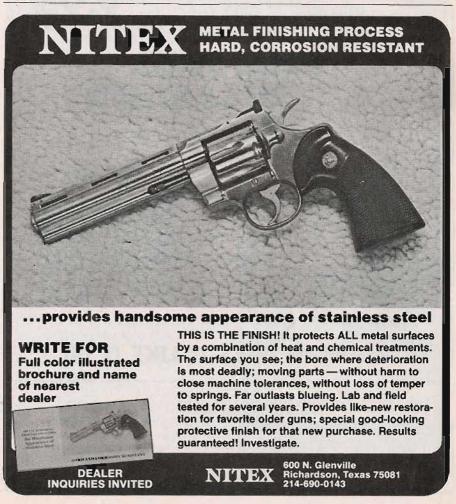
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Choosing the correct holster can save your life or help you win in competition. John Bianchi has taken the experience of 20 years as the world's leading holster manufacturer and created a brilliant book. QUICK DRAW for competition and law enforcement—CONCEALMENT, do you really think that bulge doesn't show?—SHOULDER HOLSTERS may not be for everyone, are they for you?—the MYTH of the CUSTOM HOLSTER as told by a master craftsman himself—Plus MAXIMUM PERFORMANCE, HANDGUN ACCIDENTS and much more. It's all tied together by BIANCHI'S LAW. Must reading for serious shooters.

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Dept. 26- AH5 591 Camino Reina San Diego, CA 92108 CA residents add 6% tax. scope was adjusted when it was mounted by the dealer. My first shot group at 25 yards was on the target, and needed little final adjustment. Case No. 2: Same pistol, same mount, but with the new Leupold 4X scope collimated by me at the dealer's; it was again on target at 25 yards, and finally zeroed at 100 yards, using a standard rifle target. Case No. 3: The pistol was a Remington XP-100 in .221 Fireball, Weaver mount and Weaver offset rings to clear the objective lens bell and focusing knobs collimated by me at the dealer's. The 4X Leupold was targeted at 100 yards for my first shot group. So, if you want to shoot rocks, go ahead and shoot, but with the high cost of ammo, and no end in sight, collimating can save you money and most dealers offer it free when you buy a scope-so why not use it? Tom Bachley Lacey, Washington

I LOVE LUCY

You guys put out a pretty good magazine. However, one gets suspicious when all one reads are glowing comments and reports about everything from guns to reloading equipment. I don't recall ever reading anything negative about a product, even when other magazines panned it. This means that you aren't receiving random products or are slightly biasing your opinions. We all know that everything isn't all that rosy at the consumer end of the stick. You male writers are the greatest offenders in this regard. Most are obviously happy with the status quo, and the world of handgunning in general. The only one on your staff who appears to be a mover and a shaker is Lucy Chambliss. This lady deserves a medal for some of her work, and for the fact that she isn't afraid to rock the boat in a constructive manner. This is the way things get done and how progress is made. She probably feels as though she's tilting at windmills, but I hope she never quits. She is carrying on the spirit that prevailed at the meeting that revolutionized the NRA a few years back. Go get 'em, girl! D.T. Birch Coordinator IPSC Port Moody, British Columbia



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Late last fall AH visited the new shop of Davis Co. in Anaheim, California. The event was a workshop and open house for law enforcement. We watched as Bill Davis and Kerry Freeman tuned, inspected and repaired more than a hundred guns.

The procedure for what Bill calls a "Duty Tune" was instructive, and demonstrated that even a duty revolver can use the talents of a pistolsmith. Here's how Bill does it:

First: make sure gun is unloaded.

- take out sideplate screw that holds cylinder in.
- 2) make sure cylinder runs free on yoke.
- 3) check cylinder alignment with frame (wedge hammer—see photo)
- check cylinder for fore and aft play (hand check)
- 5) remove grips and sideplate
- 6) stone off any abrasive burrs on sideplate (deburr)
- 7) remove trigger
- 8) break edge on trigger front fork
- remove machine marks from top of trigger
- check trigger and cylinder stop fit cylinder stop does not carry down below frame
- 11) take a drink of beer (optional)
- 12) break edge on rebound slide
- 13) remove hammer
- 14) stone front face of sear
- 15) check for loose pin on hammer
- stake sear pin so it won't rub on side plate

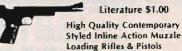


- 17) install S&W SA rebound spring (replace) (lighter spring). Leave the spring full length.
- 18) adjust mainspring making sure strain screw is fully seated.
- 19) look for obvious defects & spurs

The whole job takes only 15 or 20 minutes unless there are some major problems. Bill gets about \$25 for the job, and all who were at this first workshop were amazed at the difference it made.









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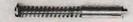
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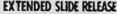


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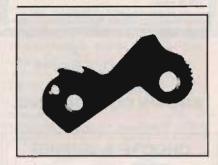
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The old style Browning Hammer now is available from M-S Safari Arms. The hammer is designed to fit both new and old Browning Hi Power production models. Available in blue or stainless. steel, the hammer has a suggested retail price of \$19.95. Additional information is available from M-S Safari Arms, P.O. Box 23370, Dept. AH, Phoenix, AZ 85063, telephone (602) 269-7283.



Catalog

Iver-Johnson's Arms' 1982 catalog of firearms and accessories is now available. The 8-page catalog details various 30 caliber military style carbines, including the new stainless steel designs and the all-American walnut stocks. In addition, the catalog provides descriptions of the company's line of pistols: a .25 caliber automatic Pocket Pistol; a 380 Pony Pistol; and the new .22 caliber Pocket Pistol. All pertinent accessories are listed in the publication. For more information contact Sundberg, Mills & Demougeot, Dept. AH, 402 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877



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Omark Industries have developed the new Blazer .38 Special ammunition to reduce costs for centerfire ammoby the use of an aluminum alloy case and a Berdan priming system. Blazer is offered in 148-grain wadcutter and 158-grain round nose lead bullet loads. An additional +P load with 125-grain jacketed hollow point bullet is also available. The cost is about two-thirds the cost of brass cases. Suggested retail prices per box of 50 range from \$10 to \$12 Write Omark Industries, P.O. Box 856, Dept. AH, Lewiston, ID 83501



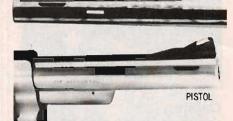
Colt .45 Accu-Comp

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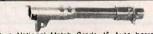
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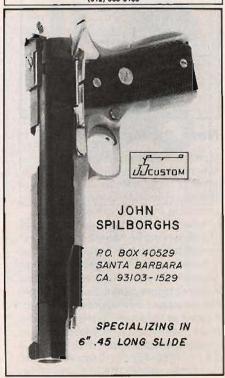
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accuracy. The system also features special full length guide rod. threaded recoil spring plug, extended combat ejector and front sight mounted on the barrel. For complete information on the Accu-Comp system-write Wilson's Gun Shop. Route 2, Box 211-D, Dept. AH, Berryville, AR 72616



New for silhouettes

Federal Cartridge Corporation has designed a new 44 Remington Magnum cartridge for the metallic silhouette shooter. Called the 44C, this cartridge features a nickel-plated case and a Sierra-made 220-grain Metal Case Profile bullet. This bullet has a truncated cone design and a metal jacket that completely covers the base and sides, while leaving exposed lead at the flat nose Designed for revolvers, this 44C performs well in rifles, where the deep penetration of a nonexpanding bullet is desired by hunters. The new 44 Remington Magnum cartridge is packaged 50 rounds to the box. For more information, write Federal Cartridge Corporation, 2700 Foshay Tower, Dept. AH, Minneapolis, MN 55402



Rib for Ruger Auto

The Poly-Choke Co. has announced, a vent rib for the Ruger Mark I .22 Auto Target Model with a barrel length of 6% inches. This Ruger adds to the company's growing list of raised handgun ribs. Available for most Ruger single and double action revolvers are do-it-yourself rib kits. Write Poly-Choke, 150 Park Ave., Dept AH, East Hartford, CT 06108



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Colt Derringer replica

Butler Manufacturing, Inc. introduces The Count, an authentic firing replica of the Colt No. 3 Derringer. The Count features a black frame and barrel with highly polished walnut handgrips. It is available in 22 and 31 calibers with a retail price of \$45. The Count is also available with a red velvet-lined presentation case in either pinewood or cherrywood. For information-write. Butler Manufacturing, Inc., 240 Sargent Dr., Dept. AH, New Haven, CT 06511



Combat Silhouette

Mid-Oregon Iron is producing the Combat Silhouette, a steel plate scaled down version of the practical pistol target. The target is available in two sizes. The Rimfire series, dubbed the "Mini Combat," is 1/4 scale and made from 1/4-inch mild steel plate (ASTM-1020). The Rimfire targets are 41/2 inches wide by 6 inches high and are scaled to shoot at 25 yards. The suggested retail prices are \$7.50 per silhouette and \$87.00 for a set of 12. The Big Bore Handgun Silhouettes are 1/2 scale and are made of 1/4" high tensil steel, T-1 (ASTM 514). The silhouettes, 9 inches wide by 12 inches high, are scaled to shoot at 25 to 50 yards. The Big Bore silhouettes have suggested list prices of \$15 per target and \$85 for a set of six. More information is available from Mid-Oregon Iron, P.O. Box 807, Dept. AH. Bend. Oregon 97701, telephone (503) 382-6762

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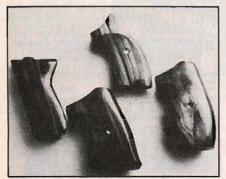
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INFLATION

Continued from page 45

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| (Round off to 9 cents per round.) | \$0.0895 |
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I threw in the labor at no charge. Had I bought this ammunition at today's prices at Hunters' Haven, it would have cost, before sales tax:

| The state of the s | |
|--|---------|
| ,41 Magnum | \$26.97 |
| .357 Magnum | 20.43 |
| Total factory ammo cost | \$47.40 |

What a difference!

Some may consider that the purchase cost of my handloading equipment ought to be included in my figures. I disagree because, for me, this is a capital cost, rather than a cost of production. But, for readers who insist, here is what this would amount to. My loading press, powder scale and measure, and seven sets of handgun dies were bought in 1974 and cost \$138.44. True, I have added a number of items since, but press, scale and measure, and dies were the essentials. The additional equipment is convenience items such as Lee priming tools, I load for nine handgun calibers.

My records, admittedly far from perfect, show that I have loaded about 1,800 rounds of all calibers over the intervening years, making my cost of setting up about 8 cents per round. Adding this to the cost of the ammunition I loaded recently, it makes:

.41 Magnum \$0.11 + \$0.08 = \$0.19 x 60 = \$11.40 .357 Magnum \$0.09 + \$0.08 = \$0.17 x 60 = \$10.20

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There is one final aspect to be



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considered in the matter of handloading: flexibility. This is the reloader's ability to tailor loads to his own specifications, and to experiment with a wide variety of primers, powders, and bullet types and weights. This flexibility makes it possible for the handloader to search in a reasonably intelligent way for those combinations which provide the best accuracy, and to develop special loads for a variety of purposes. Suppose, for example, that I am a law enforcement officer in an urban area and require ammunition that is effective against human targets, but offers minimum danger of overpenetration and ricochet. I'd likely choose a .357 load a bit less than maximum in pressure, and the Spear 125- or 140-grain jacketed hollowpoint bullet. If, on the other hand, I hunt a lot in country where black bear are a danger, my considered choice would be a maximum power load with a 158- or 160-grain hard semi-wadcutter or jacketed soft point which delivers deep penetration in big

Flexibility also makes it easy to develop a specific load for a "service" arm which does not have adjustable sights so that the gun will shoot where the sights point.

Flexibility is a subjective matter, of course, and it is probably worth a great deal more to me than to the average shooter. For me, getting set up to handload would have been cheap at five times the cost!

NEW SERVICE

Continued from page 44

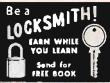
in these two groups run through the years 1921-1922-1923.

New Service serial numbers are normally found in three places: on the frame inside the crane cut, on the crane, and inside the sideplate. It appears that Colt's practice was to number these components together after the crane and sideplate had been hand-fitted to the frame. The handfitted parts could then be reassembled on the correct frame when separated later during manufacture, which could be a year later, on a slow-selling model. Then the completed, inspected gun could move from the assembly room to the shipping room, where it could remain on the shelf for a few more years. As a result, the shipping dates on a few guns could be several years later than the normal shipping dates for that serial number range.

This leads up to the final period of New Service Target production.

IMPROVED MODEL (1928 to WW2)

The period from 1928 to the end of production of the New Service Target covers the serial number range from about #327900 to #342050. Production of the standard-frame New Service went on to over #356000. This period also saw production of the shooting Master (see sidebar). Twenty-one New Service Target re-



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volvers were surveyed in the period from 1928 to WW2:

> .44 Special 3 (14%) .45 Colt 13 (62%).45 ACP 2 (10%)Other 3 (14%)21

The most noticeable change during this period was the shift from the attractive hand-checkered grips to the new machinecheckered grips, with nickel-plated Colt medallions. This change occurred about 1928, together with the addition of the 1926 patent date to the top of the barrel.

Other minor changes seen during the 1920s include a change from the old square. cylinder latch to a rounded, checkered latch that did not jab the thumb so sharply during recoil. Also, the flat topstrap of the frame was modified by a gray sandblast finish that reduced glare and 45-degree bevel cuts on the sides of the topstrap.

In 1933 Colt added the .45 ACP caliber to the New Service Target, with the barrel marking ".45 AUTO. CTGE." Both 6-inch and 71/2-inch barrels were offered in all calibers. The 6-inch barrels and the .45 ACP are both scarce. By 1935 both the traditional square butt and the new "round" butt were available, but few, if any, New Service Target guns were made with the round butt. By about 1928 the old U-notch rear sights and bead front sights had given way to the Patridge style, with square rear sight notch and flat-faced front blade of 1/10 and 1/8-inch width. By 1938 the gray sandblast "stippled" finish of the topstrap was extended down the back of the frame on either side of the hammer to reduce glare. Colt at last marked the full name of the gun on the barrel: New Service Target.

NEW SERVICE TARGET.

Caliber .455 Eley was occasionally listed in the catalogs, but this survey has not turned up any .455 New Service or New Service Target arms above serial number 147,000 (circa 1916).

Four more factory engraved New Service Targets are noted during this final period, making a total of 8 observed during this survey. An engraved pair in .45 Colt, with consecutive numbers, was furnished in 1934 to cowboy actor Jack Hoxie.

A silver-plated pair (not engraved) in .44-40 with 6-inch barrels was shipped in 1931 to Gus Peret, a well-known big-game hunter and exhibition shooter for the Peters Cartridge Company.

In about 1931 Colt made an experimental New Service Target in caliber .22 Hornet, but did not put this caliber into regular production. In 1932 Colt made a revolver for an exprimental Remington .41 Special cartridge, firing a 210-grain bullet at velocities up to 1150 feet per second. This fascinating experiment was the result of efforts by Fred Moore and the legendary J.H. Fitzgerald ("Fitz") of Colt. Their goal was to develop a more effective police revolver cartridge, but they did not follow through with this interesting project.

Colt continued to number the flattop

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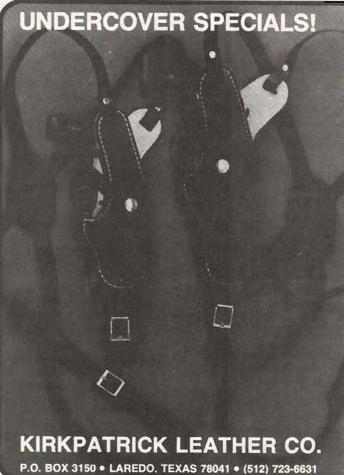
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target frames in large groups. One group, #327921-328075, apparently consisted of about 150 guns, followed by another group of about 50. Assembly of the two groups started at about the time of the great Wall Street crash of 1929. During the depression that followed in the 1930s, completion and shipment of these guns trickled on for many years. Some guns from these two groups show shipping dates from 1930 to 1932. One gun from this group was assembled and sent to the shipping room in January, 1931. Another gun whose serial number was only 18 numbers higher, was assembled and sent to the shipping room in December 1929. Colt Historian Marty Huber researched the shipping records clear up to 1937 without finding the shipping record on either of these two guns.

Production groups during the rest of the

1930s were much smaller.

The highest serial numbers noted to date for the New Service Target revolvers are a small group scattered in the #342,000 to #342,050 range. These arms fall in a large group of Shooting Masters in 1938. No New Service Target has been observed in this survey with a higher number. Reports indicate that some of these late New Service Target revolvers, assembled circa 1938-1940, gathered dust on the shipping room shelf until they were finally shipped during the 1940s. That was the end of production.

It is estimated that Colt made 3,000 to 4,000 New Service Target revolvers, on an average of 100 guns per year for 40 years. This estimate will probably turn out to be wrong.

All variations of the Colt New Service, New Service Target and Shooting Master have been classified as curios or relics by a 1980 ruling of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Relics they may be in the eyes of the government, but they are still very accurate, dependable revolvers.

S&W M-13

Continued from page 33

The round sight tends to compel the shooter to elevate the front sight to "complete the arc"—an optical illusion. This required a bit of compensation by most shooters who tried the gun.

In any event, all who used the 3-inch Model 13 agreed that it was more than accurate enough for its intended mission and certainly was as concealable as most 2-inch snubbies.

Several of the law enforcement personnel who carried concealed 4-inch .357s said they liked the 3-inch configuration of the Model 13 but were concerned by the possible loss of velocity from the missing inch.

The answer came from Mike Czayka at Smith's ballistics labs. He conducted tests that showed the "lost inch" costs only between 50 and 100 fps for 110— and 125-JHP



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.357 rounds and actually picks up an average of 16 fps for the 158-JPH .357. In short, nothing lost.

In our opinion, the 3-inch Model 13 has a lot going for it. Its size is ideal for concealment on the street or for home defense and it has plenty of wallop for either use.

And don't forget PPC. Several competition shooters who used the Model 13 are already looking for 13s of their own. It would be the ideal gun for the "off duty" PPC class that's growing in popularity, they told us. Of course they would "modify it just a bit," but then PPC shooters will modify anything.

Our guess is that you'll be hearing a lot more about the 3-inch Model 13. Our guess also is that they'll be darn tough to get as word spreads of their

versatility.

LASER SIGHTS

Continued from page 39

Rich Davis shot me down. No Laser Blazer in anything but the unlimited match. Drat! Back to the drawing board.

A couple of problems had shown up with the design. One is that, even in warmth, a charged battery is only good for about 15 minutes "On." In deep cold, this plummets, because cold draws the energy right out of a NiCad battery. I got the gun Christmas Eve, and test fired it Christmas night, with the thermometer at 14 below, which computed to 45 below zero with the windchill factor. The beam faded and died after five minutes of shooting, or less than two minutes "On" time.

Another is that, again, the light fades out of vision rapidly in bright surroundings. Of course, you have the regular sights there, but your head is programmed to find the red dot.

It's almost unbelievable what this thing does for night shooting skill. As a comparison gun, I took a hard-chromed 6-inch Trooper Mk. III, with a Magnaport job and Cannon action, and waited for dark. On shooting buddy Rick Devoid's range, a full moon gave us about enough light to make out the shape of the FBI silhouettes at 35 yards. Using the Chapman nightshooting technique of lining up on light to the side, in this case the moonlight on the white edge of the paper, I fired twice with the conventional Colt. The slow and deliberate shots hit once in the right arm, once in the left chest. Oh, well ... even Chapman doesn't recommend the technique beyond 25 yards.

Using a two-cell flashlight, I fired twice more and put both in the Kill zone, but several inches apart. I then picked up the LPC 7 and, firing from the hip, rapidly cranked off six rounds with the red dot in the target's midsection. Five holes were tightly clustered in the belly area of the K zone, with one high in the spleen. Still, it was a perfect 30 score, and fired faster than

Continued on page 74

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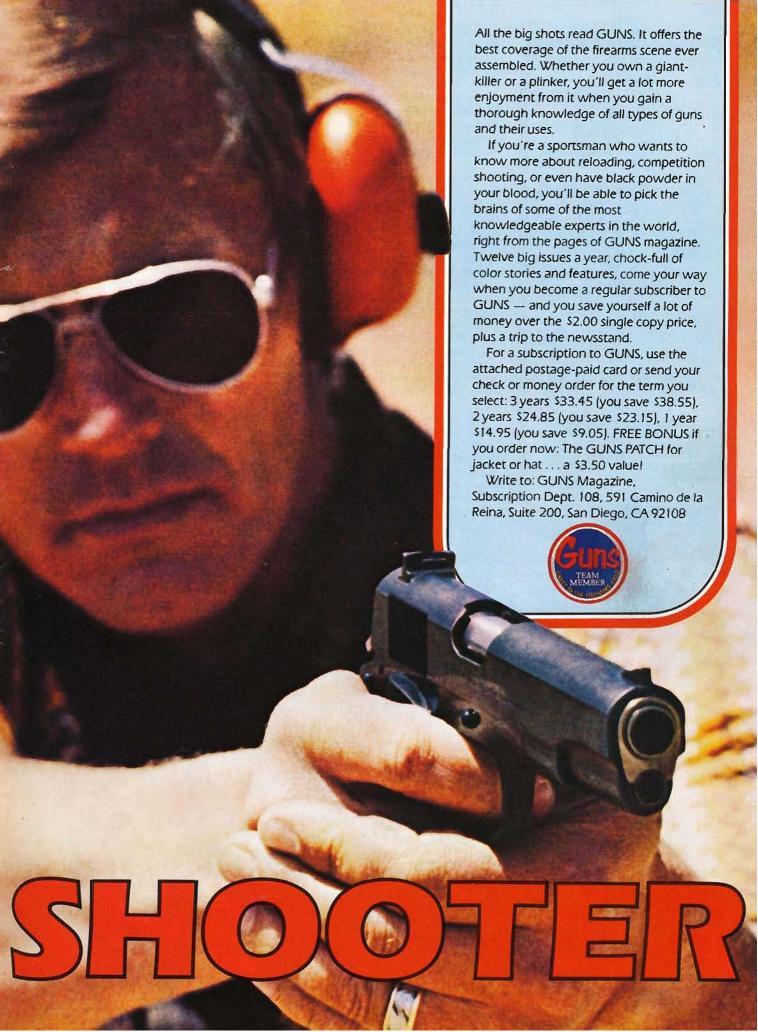
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Continued from page 71

I could have reliably hit the target using conventional hardware.

Rick Devoid repeated the test. Rick has a lot less time in with handguns than I, and didn't do as well with the two conventional techniques, yet he came within a couple of points of me using the laser. "It makes it ridiculously easy," he said.

We tried it again at 50 yards. Out of range of a two-cell flashlight's illumination, it was almost impossible to even see the target, let alone line it up in metallic sights. But the laser beam sought out the silhouettes. From a sitting position in "PPC cadence," we duplicated the 25 yard scores.

We moved out to 75 yards, half again as far as silhouettes are ever shot for police qualification in daylight, three times as far as most such shooting takes place, and ten times the distance of most actual gunfights in the statistical reports. I had now given up on the conventional Colt, but the LPC 7 gave me 4 kills, an arm hit, and a round in the black that would have gone through the suspect's "coattails." Rick did almost as well.

Now we backed off to 100 yards in total darkness, the moon behind a cloud. The battery was starting to go, and the beam faded slightly. Holding for the head, which at this range was covered by the beam, I shot three 5-point kills, two 3-point disables in the arm, and a narrow miss out of 6 shots. Rick beat me by a point with a tally of 22, firing from belly level with two hands. We took 30 seconds to put on a new battery, which rides under the custom Pachmayr grips.

The final test was Rick's buddy Harry Place, a professional hunter and trapper who has only fired a handgun about five times in his life. We showed him how to hold the gun, cock the hammer, and lay the dot on the target. At 75 yards, he put five rounds in a tight cluster just off the target, with a sixth in the head. A few minutes with the trial-and-error laser sight adjustment would have locked him right in.

It was an impressive test. Here was a \$3,895 handgun that turns a novice, a journeyman, or even an experienced target shooter into "Bill Jordan at 100 yards," in the dark.

Alas, it won't fit a conventional holster, and it's awkward. The same company's laser-sighted Mini-14.223 assault rifles and Remington 870 shotguns are finding much more acceptance in the police world.

For the street cop or armed, law-abiding citizen who wants night shooting capability, the same \$3,895 will buy a \$60 Santiago Day-Nite Sight (P.O. Box "O," Rosemount, MN 55068), a standard Trooper Mk. III, and about \$3,500 worth of practice ammo. This is a more costeffective choice for anyone other than SWAT or felony warrant arrest teams, or security guards working out of armored



positions and firing through gunports with limited aiming potential. For these special groups, I do see extremely valid tactical application of the LPC 7. A \$4,000 revolver is cost-effective for a Pinkerton with a couple million cash in his truck, for a guard at a nuclear facility, or for an officer routinely exposed to the extremely high risk of entering barricaded premises. (If he dies, it costs the employing government agency \$250,000-plus in survivor benefits, the value of his life not included.)

Laser Products president John Mathews tells me it might be possible for a persistent civilian to get a variance to own the LPC 7. I would consider it, even above its intrinsic value, an excellent investment. Very few of these guns will be made, I think, and they will occupy a unique niche in the history of handgun development.

LLAMA

Continued from page 35

correctly. In single-action firing the trigger was acceptable. In double-action fire it moved around in my hand somewhat, but certainly not as badly as some of them do. Accuracy was acceptable, but the ammunition was certainly not what I would use in any .44 for accuracy testing. This

ammo leads unacceptably in any .44 I've used it in. The test guns had hundreds of test rounds through them, but the superior bore finish had reduced leading to a minimum, even with this ammo. About 2 inches for five shots offhand was my best 20-meter group with an 8-inch gun.

The .357 Magnum is available in the large frame also and is a pussycat to shoot. It shoots like any other high-quality large frame .357—accurately and comfortably. This revolver design also has a crane lock-up in addition to the frame set-up.

The auto pistol just plain looks good. Fit and finish will compare with the best. The D.A. is about as long as most found in similar guns and quite soft. The test guns had decent single-action pulls also. Contrary to popular "combat" competition ideology, a double-action feature is necessary on any military-police auto pistol in the real world. As a feature for a civilian defense gun-well, how many single-action auto pistols have been introduced in recent years? And how many are still around? The double-action auto seature is desirable for safety, mental comfort, convenience in getting it into action and sales appeal. The average guy who buys a desense/recreational gun is not a competitive combat shooter with fixed ideas about what he wants for his game. Today's buyer wants a handsome, reliable. casy-to-use gun of moderate power, recoil. noise and ammo cost. He is buying an expensive hunk of peace of mind for himself



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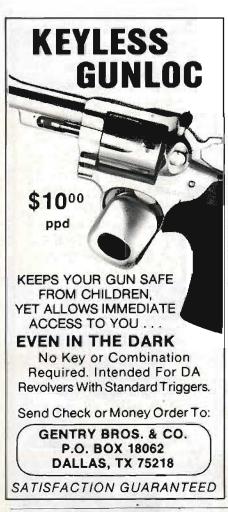
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and his family. Women are buying more guns, too, and, even more than men, want simplicity of operation, safety, good looks, and accuracy. This new Llama doubleaction weapon will get a lot of attention. Although I saw thousands under construction at the factory, I anticipate some difficulty in supply until Stoeger fills the pipeline.

In shooting it, I found it felt similar in recoil to a S&W Model 39. Just looking over the top of the gun at 20 meters I put 14 shots into a 10-inch group in about 5 seconds or less. That kind of shooting isn't my game, but I felt that anyone could pick it up, point it, and lay down a burst of fire that would make things exceedingly uncomfortable for anyone in the impact area at typical self-defense distances.

I've had enough of a taste of the new Commanche revolver and the auto pistol to be anxious to get a pair and really give them a workout. You'll know more about them after I get a thousand rounds or so down the tubes of each.

The auto offers several features of very innovative deisgn. Its locking system is basic Browning with a modification of the lug and recess to provide greater strength and more consistent locking-unlocking. It's rifling is somewhat unique and may result in very slightly higher velocities and a correspondingly lower barrel temperature. The hammer strut rides in a carrier utilizing 20 ball bearings to reduce friction and provide greater operating reliability. Its firing pin is articulated and should never break. The frame rails are solid-no interruptions to allow warpage. Steel or lightweight alloy frames are available. Extremely important is the single-action/ double-action trigger system. The Llama is the only gun of this type to employ a seperate mechanism for single-action mode. All others utilize the same linkage. The Llama system should be capable of a superior trigger pull. How all of this works will be reported on after extensive shooting.

These guns were in production and government employees were busily proofing them. They should be available from Stoeger now.

UNLIMITED

Continued from page 37

the trigger 2 inches forward. In order for the back of the gun to clear the shooter's arm during recoil, the grip and trigger had to be moved some 34 inch to the left of the centerline of the barrel. A mechanical linkage would be tricky at best, and would likely produce a ghastly trigger pull. Richard drew from his years of experience with silhouette rifles to find the solution: an electronic trigger. The one we chose was from E.T.S. of Montrose, Colorado. It's

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And a snapflap

plenty of razor sharp working edge. Only 43/4" long when closed. It's perfect for hunting, backpacking and camping. It comes



Wessonhide™ belt sheath comes with each knife. FAGT The Swingblade Sporter (Model 6041) is a unique

heavy, about 6 ounces, and sometimes fussy as to function. It's also expensive, I've got around \$150 in mine. It's sure not for everybody, but for my use it's the only way to go. The linkage is nothing more than a wire from the trigger to a solenoid at the rear of the bolt. You can put the trigger anywhere on the gun or behind your left ear if you want to. Pull is adjustable to less than I ounce, yet it's super-safe. A small lever must be depressed to arm the mechanism. Before the trigger is armed, the gun can be dropped, the trigger pulled, or the bolt slammed, but the gun just can't go off.

All these extra components caused a weight problem. In addition to the clip and trigger, we had to make a bolt handle that stuck out perpendicular from the bolt body. This was made from a section of 1/8inch allen wrench about 4 inches long and bored-out to make it lighter. The handle is cammed against the leg and then the gun moved forward to open the action. To close it I shove the rear of the bolt against my chest, which closes it, then cam the bolt handle down. It's a one-handed operation-but fast! All this was necessary weight, but it added up.

One place we could reduce weight was the stock. Fiberglass would have been nice, but neither of us had the equipment or expertise. Having one custom made by some fiberglass shop would have been absurdly expensive, if the people there had been willing to do it. A nice, dense walnut

would have served, but it would have added still more weight-as much as 11/2 pounds. In order to even come close to making the weight limit, the stock had to be feather light. I was stumped. But Richard took a seemingly ludicrous idea and made it practical. At our next meeting, he showed me a stock that weighed mere ounces. It was made of balsa wood and model aircraft plywood laminated with epoxy! He explained that we would use a recoil lug consisting of a 1/4 by 3/4-inch steel plate inserted between the barrel and action and extending down about an inch into the stock. This, as well as the action, would be glass bedded. Further, the action would be tapped for 4-28 bolts, both fore and aft. These screws passed through two aluminum recoil sleeves some 4-inch in diameter, and which were epoxied into the stock. Additional stability was contributed by the floorplate through which the screws also passed. In combination with the action, this exerted a horizontal clamping effect on the stock. I insisted that the grip remain as thick as possible to guard against breakage. The grip was designed with a flat forward face so that, instead of the fingers wrapping around it, they lie almost straight out along this flat face, exerting mainly rearward pressure, and almost none to the side. In theory, and through subsequent experience, I find less of a tendency to pull shots to the right or left because of uneven gripping pressure.

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Things were beginning to gel. After nine months, we had a gun assembled. We put it on the scale, together with a Lyman globe front and a Bo-Mar rear sight. Too heavy. With little else to take weight from, I elected to cut the barrel to 13 inches and keep it fairly stiff. We put the gun back on the scales. We'd made weight with a little to spare.

But ... We still had a single-shot after we got it all together. We found that it wouldn't feed reliably. The clip was not being held up against the action tightly enough for the bolt to strip the cartridges every time. Hopes to shoot the pistol in a match that weekend were dashed. Both of us were thoroughly disheartened with the whole project. A couple of weeks later, however, Richard had discarded the pushpull levers and designed new camming type levers to force the clip up tighter. Now it fed 90 percent of the time. Because the clip was as tight against the bolt's bottom as it could go and was now being held off by its own lips, I suggested that we modify them. We ground a few thousandths off the lips. This allowed the follower and cartridges to come up a little higher. Feeding was not 100 percent dependable. All-in-all, Richard did a great job. I fully realize that I'll never be able to properly repay him for

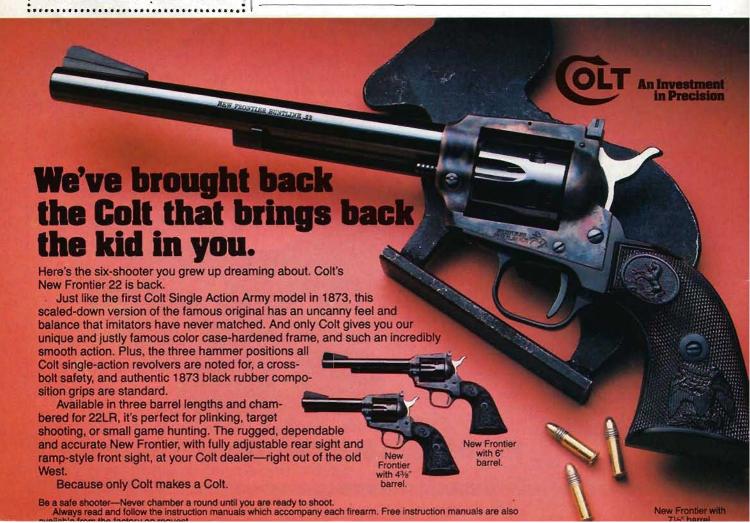
his eforts and concern.

All that remained now was to shoot it. I proofed it with factory fodder. At 50 yards, my first shot was in the black. For my regular load, I decided to try 35 grains of IMR 4895 behind a Hornady 168-grain HP BT—National Match in .308 military match cases. The load is well below maximum, but is easy on the balsa stock and takes the steel critters over about as reliably as anyting else. Over the years of making the matches, I've never run into a 100 percent effective load. I have given up looking. The load detailed above is accurate and total sight adjustment from 50 to 200 meters is only 6 clicks.

Was it worth the effort? It is if I win.

Fairly soon, the clubs here in Texas will start their new match season. We'll see if my "new toy" will garner a trophy. And when I see the second "Super Five," or something like it, in the hands of another handicapped shooter, then I'll know: I've won!

(Editor's Note: And J.D. Rader has won, single-handedly, so to speak. Since this article was written, the "Super Five" has been fired in three matches, and has placed in two of them. The repeating unlimited scored a second at Goland, Texas, and a first place at New Braunfields, Texas.)



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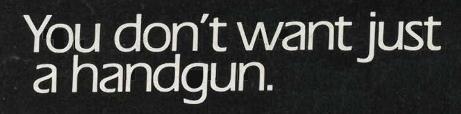


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