

AMERICAN

# HANDGUNNER

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**TEST REPORTS**

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**UPDATES:**

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**SOKOLOVSKY .45**

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Again!**



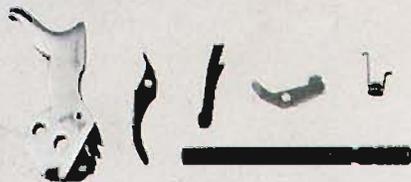
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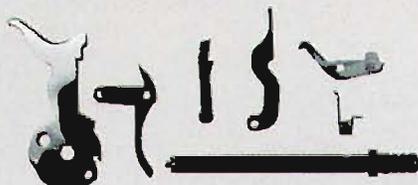
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# AMERICAN HANDGUNNER

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, 1982, Vol. 7, No. 37

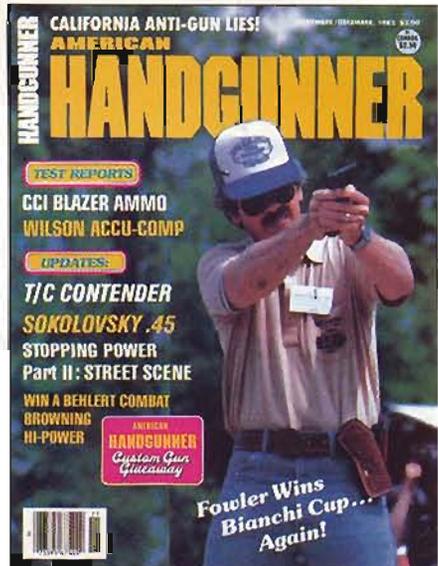
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*Editor's note: Due to circumstances beyond our control, we are unable to run the Handgun Reloading, Handgun Hunting and Cop Talk columns in this issue. They will be resumed in our next issue.*



COVER: Mickey Fowler, winner of Bianchi Cup IV, takes aim. Photo by Tom Stewart, St. Louis.

## STAFF

- GEORGE E. von ROSEN**, Publisher  
**JEROME RAKUSAN**, Editorial Director  
**LEN DAVIS**, Editor  
**SYDNEY BARKER**, Art Director  
**RICHARD DOWDY**, Art Assistant  
**TOM HOLLANDER**, Circulation Director  
**LAURA A. KULCHIN**, Advertising Sales

**NATIONAL ADV. OFFICE:** 591 Camino de la Reina, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92108 (714) 297-8520

**WEST COAST REPS.:** Media Sales Associates, Bill Hague, 26944 Camino de Estrella, Capistrano Beach, CA 92624 (714) 661-2423

**EAST COAST ADV. REPS:** Buchmayr Associates, 980 Post Rd., Darien, CT 06820 (203) 655-1639

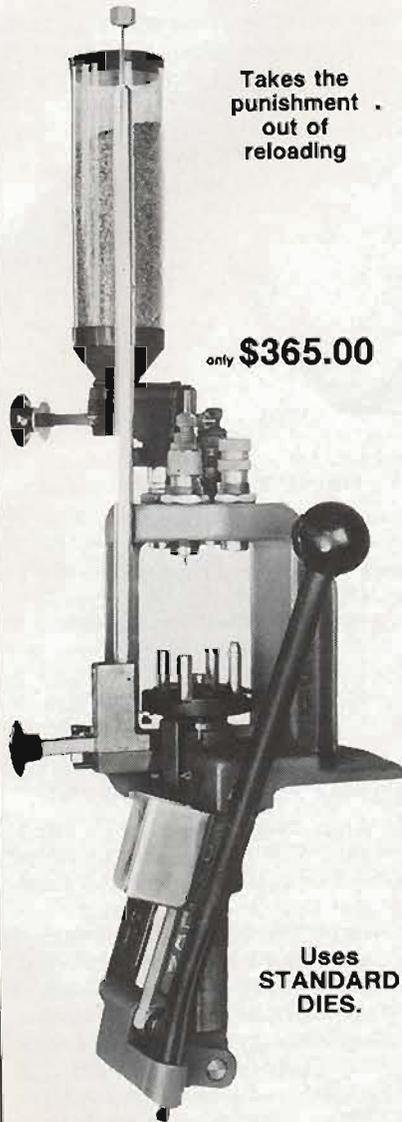
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## SPEAK OUT

'Test pistol the way  
it's going to be used'

I've been reading your fine *American Handgunner* magazine almost since it started.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate you on being the best of its kind on the market, and add my "two-cents" worth.

John Lawson's article about field-testing a newly-accurized .45. (Pistolsmithing column, July-August issue) I thought was very poor. If I had bought an accuracy job and had all the problems he was talking about, I would want my money back.

I think the subject matter was a good one, but there are several areas that could have been expounded upon.

He sure takes a .45 apart the hard way. All the bullseye shooters I know who have been using tight-fitting, accurized .45s, longer than most people knew they existed, do it this way:

Simply ease the slide back until the take-down notch matches up with the slide stop pin. While holding the frame and slide together, push out the slide stop pin. Ease the slide forward as you wrap your fingers around the recoil spring. (The trick is to do it slowly, and not let the recoil spring buckle.) Remove the recoil spring and recoil spring guide. Then push the barrel forward to reduce friction (as Lawson said) and remove the recoil spring plug and barrel bushing as usual. Just reverse the procedure to assemble. It is much faster and easier after you practice a few times. You will wonder why you ever did it any other way.

I also don't agree with Lawson's use of sandbags. They (or pistol rests) are good for testing ammunition performance, but not for testing pistols. If you are trying to set your sights this way, you may find the weapon has a different point of impact, offhand. When testing the weapon, you are also testing the shooter. For example, one of the most common malfunctions of a .45 is a smoke-stack jam, which is caused by the shooter breaking his wrist and letting the pistol follow the ejected case. So, test the pistol the way it's going to be used.

About Lawson's last two

*Continued on page 10*

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# INDUSTRY INSIDER

JERRY RAKUSAN

## THE LATE, GREAT HANDGUN STATE OF CALIFORNIA: GUN INITIATIVE

**Editor's note:** The advertisement of the *Citizens Against The Gun Initiative* in this issue is being carried as a public service. It has been placed in all copies of the *American Handgunner* because we feel that the passage of this law in California will have a deleterious effect nationwide. We urge all American handgunners to support the efforts of this organization.

On November 2, 1982 there is a good chance that the borders of California will be closed to all handgun shipments. The state's eight-million-plus voters will be asked to decide if California will be off-limits to any new handguns; to quote the proponents of this measure, "Any handgun not registered by November, 1983, will be forever illegal, and subject to confiscation."

Those of us who lived through the anti-gun witch hunt of the 1960s, the endless

hearings chaired by Senator Thomas Dodd, and the anti-gun hysteria following the assassination of President Kennedy know that, compared to the California initiative, the *Gun Control Act of 1968* is a pussy cat.

It has been said that any pro-gun material published in this, and all other gun magazines is useless, that we are merely talking amongst ourselves, and that all of us know the pro-gun arguments. Therefore, we are going to publish the anti-gun literature! You must know the enemy before you can engage him in battle. Therefore, we believe that everyone should read the following material, reprinted from literature being distributed by an organization called "Californians Against Street Crime."

It will not take a genius to figure out several things from reading this; first, that it will have *no* impact whatsoever on crime in California; second, that as California goes, so goes the nation. Whether you live in Los Angeles, or Wheeling, West Virginia, the impact of the California initiative will reach out and effect your ownership of handguns; if not in 1983, surely in years to come.

As you read the following, keep in mind two things. This is being offered to the voters of California as an *anti-crime bill*, and the majority of voters in California are against crime and couldn't care one way or another about handguns.

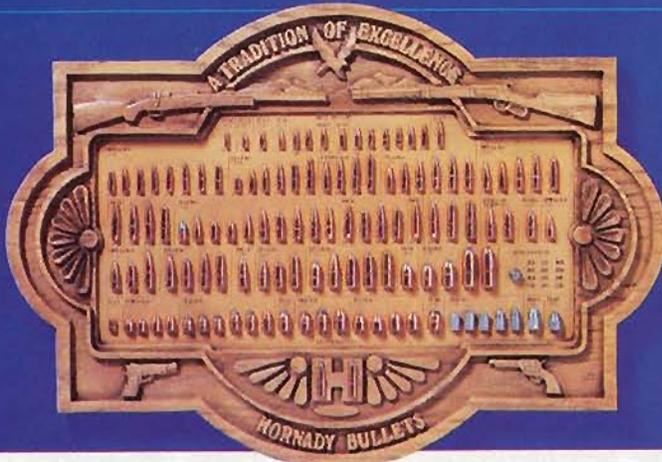
Put yourself in the place of the voter who wouldn't know a handgun from a broadsword, who is scared to death about the ever-increasing crime situation, or who will read *only* the title of the initiative—not the text.

Here, then, are excerpts from the anti-gun faction. Read them carefully and decide for yourself if this far-reaching legislation will pass on November 2.

### OPPONENT ARGUMENTS

- (1) All handguns must be registered with the Attorney General by November 2, 1983. A handgun registration card will be issued to the lawful owner, provided that he is not mentally incompetent or a felon. Handguns not registered by that date will be forever illegal in California. Handguns may not be brought into California from out-of-state.
- (2) After April 30, 1983, only handguns which have been registered will be eligible for sale. All handgun sales must go through a licensed dealer or the police department, and must be registered with the Attorney General. Exceptions are provided for law enforcement and other carefully selected categories. (This provision will put a lid on the number of handguns in California, which is currently estimated to be four million.)
- (3) Mandatory sentences of at least six months will be imposed for carrying an unregistered handgun without a license outside of one's home or business, and one year for those who engage in black market profiteering from the sale of illegal handguns.
- (4) Civil liability will be imposed upon any person who unlawfully transfers a handgun for the death or injury of any person wrongfully or negligently shot with that handgun.
- (5) The initiative does not in any way impose restrictions on the ownership or purchase of long guns. The

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Legislature is prohibited from placing additional restrictions on the ownership of rifles and shotguns beyond those existing on November 2, 1982, and is also prohibited from passing legislation to ban ownership by law-abiding citizens of handguns registered pursuant to this initiative.

### IMPORTANT QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

- Q: What is registration and what will it achieve?**
- A:** Registration means that handgun owners will have to provide the Attorney General with information about themselves and their handguns. Registration creates a link between owner and handgun, ensuring that if a crime is committed with that weapon, law enforcement officials can track down the owner. Registration also allows the Attorney General to run a check on handgun owners and purchasers to make sure they do not have a criminal record or a history of serious mental illness.
- Q: What effect will the limitation provision have?**
- A:** The limitation means that the number of handguns currently in circulation, about four million in California, will not increase in the future. Any handgun not registered by November 1983, will be forever illegal, and subject to confiscation.
- Q: Doesn't the limitation mean that people won't be able to get handguns after April 30, 1983?**
- A:** No. People will still be free to purchase previously registered handguns.
- Q: How will people be able to defend themselves without handguns?**
- A:** Experts uniformly agree that for purposes of self-defense, rifles and shotguns are far more effective than handguns. Even the NRA concedes these facts. Handguns, on the other hand, are most appealing to those intending to conceal their weapons. Since the initiative will guarantee future access to long guns, law-abiding citizens will still be able to purchase firearms for self-protection.
- Q: Won't criminals still have easy access to handguns through the black market?**
- A:** Black market operations will become extremely risky. The initiative provides mandatory prison terms for persons engaging in black market profiteering.
- Q: Will people be able to bring handguns into California from out-of-state?**
- A:** No. After November 1982, importation of handguns (except by law enforcement personnel) will be prohibited.



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The 7 1/2 ounces of weight alone accounts for a 17% recoil reduction. The thicker tapered grips provide a secondary recoil reduction by distributing recoil forces over a larger area. It works. It can be proven mathematically. But above all you can feel it when you shoot it and you can see it. The external dimensions remain basically the same. All your existing equipment can be used without any modifications. A magazine loading chute is also incorporated into the Advantage Grip System, and the right panel is milled to clear the ambidexterous safety tang.

Mickey said, "... at the Bianchi Match I can't afford to give up a single point to equipment." How many points are you willing to give up before you try the Advantage Grip System?

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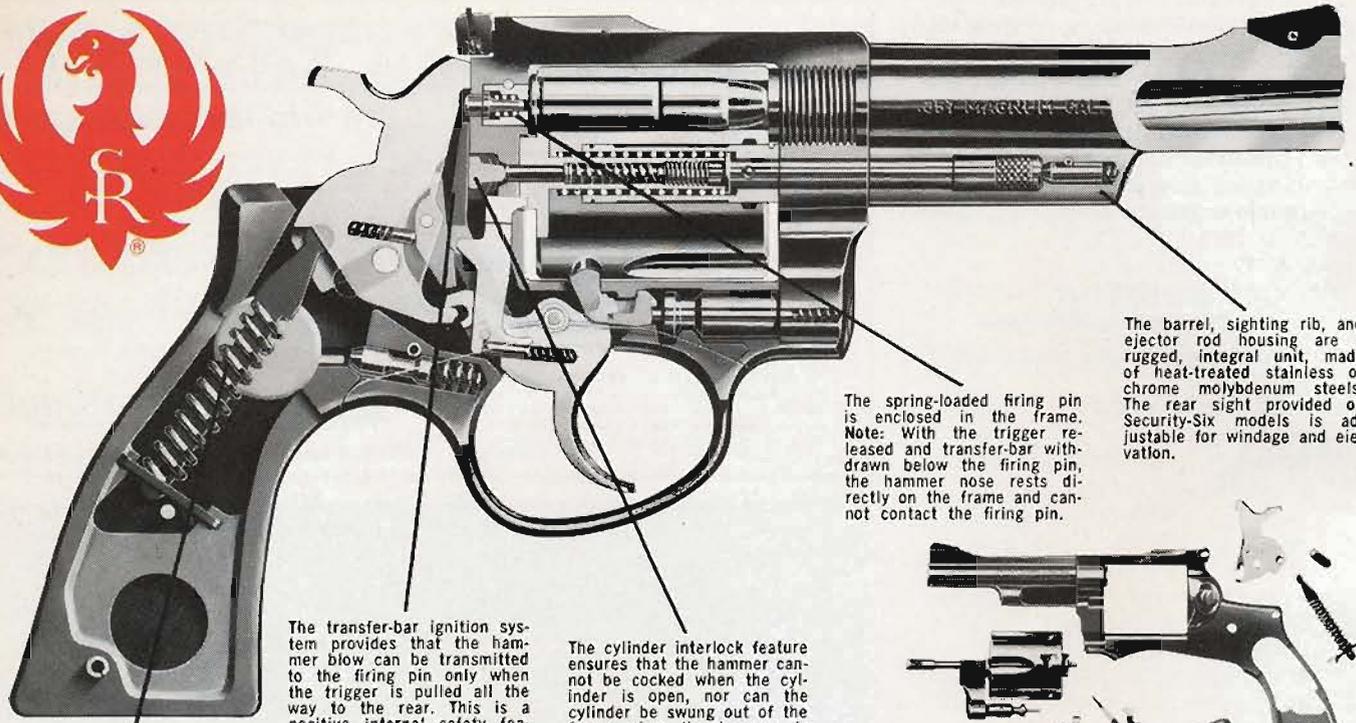
(illustrating and describing our 13 fixed-power and 9 variable power scopes) from Leupold & Stevens, Inc., P.O. Box 688, Beaverton, Oregon 97075 U.S.A.

Photo: The 2X EER scope on the Ruger Red Hawk .44 Magnum is secured by the new Ruger mounting system. The 12X is mounted on a custom Remington Model 700 short action.



# LEUPOLD

Performance starts on the inside



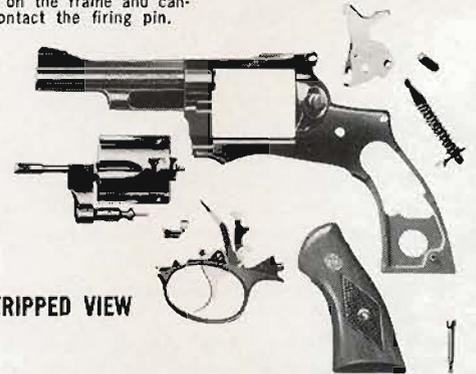
The barrel, sighting rib, and ejector rod housing are a rugged, integral unit, made of heat-treated stainless or chrome molybdenum steels. The rear sight provided on Security-Six models is adjustable for windage and elevation.

The spring-loaded firing pin is enclosed in the frame. Note: With the trigger released and transfer-bar withdrawn below the firing pin, the hammer nose rests directly on the frame and cannot contact the firing pin.

The transfer-bar ignition system provides that the hammer blow can be transmitted to the firing pin only when the trigger is pulled all the way to the rear. This is a positive internal safety feature designed to prevent firing if the revolver is dropped accidentally, or if the hammer spur receives a sharp blow.

The cylinder interlock feature ensures that the hammer cannot be cocked when the cylinder is open, nor can the cylinder be swung out of the frame when the hammer is cocked.

Music wire or stainless steel coil springs are used throughout the Ruger double action revolvers.



FIELD STRIPPED VIEW

# RUGER® 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 side-plates 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.



Ruger Security-Six Revolver in 357 Magnum caliber with rear sight adjustable for windage and elevation. Choice of 2 3/4", 4", or 6" barrel in blued finish or stainless steel.



Ruger Police Service-Six Revolver in 357 Magnum, 38 Special, and 9 mm parabolium (blued model only) calibers with fixed sights. Choice of 2 3/4" or 4" barrel in blued finish or stainless steel.



Ruger Speed-Six Revolver with compact round butt in 357 Magnum, 38 Special, and 9 mm parabolium (blued model only) calibers with fixed sights. Choice of 2 3/4" or 4" barrel in blued finish or stainless steel.

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# PISTOLSMITHING

JOHN G. LAWSON

## CONSTANT FIRING OF HYPER-VELOCITY LOADS WILL TAKE TOLL ON GUN'S LIFE

Hyper-velocity cartridges for revolvers are overloads falling somewhere between the maximums stipulated by loading manuals and pressure proof cartridges.

Since all commercial brands tested cause rapid wear and eventual unserviceability of the test weapons, our present area of exploration is to find methods by which that inevitable wear can be monitored and kept within bounds during occasional use of heavy loads.

Firing a diet of hyper-velocity rounds only hastens the inevitable; mid-range loads will eventually take the same toll on the revolvers under consideration.

My notes for 1954 tell me that, while helping to set up one of the first PPC courses, I fired 500 rounds of mid-range ammo a week. During that year, I wore out three M15 Smiths, making their normal life expectancy (in my hands) about 8,500 rounds. All three revolvers were traded-in on new weapons, repaired and sold to new owners.

My off-duty weapon and my partner's M10 did not fare so well; they were the recipients of some early, but unintentional, hyper-velocity loadings.

An intended .38 Special load of 3.8 grains of Unique behind a 143-grain cast SWC was thrown as a five-grain overload, due to problems with a newly-acquired used powder scale; over maximum for a .357. As always, Jerry (my partner) was quietly sipping coffee while I dove headlong into the consequences. Another shooter had borrowed his M10 and I loaded a brand new Detective Special with his poison pills. Recoil, let me tell you, was something more than I had anticipated. The little Smith let go with a memorable flash and clap of thunder, the white hot shrapnel whizzing past my face after striking my glasses. After we had taken turns berating my stunned partner, we sifted through the wreckage for clues.

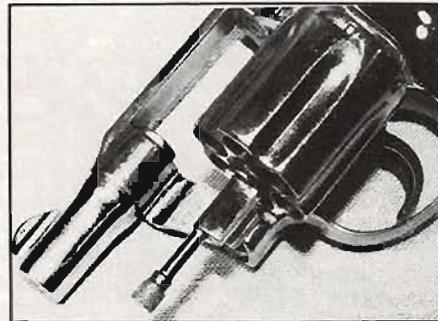
The differences in design between the .41 frame Colt and the lighter frame Smith were evident: The M10s barrel had fractured where it protrudes from the frame, and the cylinder had cracked. Held by the extractor rod fast in the barrel lug, the cylinder did not spring the crane. The little Colt held together, but the crane was hanging out "galley-West," due to lack of this critical support. Barrel and cylinder were sound. Both weapons were repaired and

returned to duty; but the damage patterns were interesting in that they represented inevitable wear, rapidly accelerated.

### NYCLADS: 'DISAGREEABLE'

When I tested +P velocity range commercial loadings recently, I used a Colt Python and a Mk III Trooper with a four-inch barrel and a M28 Smith with a six-inch tube. Tests were routine, until we fired the S&W Nyclad .357 cartridges. Where other brands of hyper-ammo were stiff, the Nyclads were disagreeable: Flash was greater and unburned powder granules and other small particles assailed the shooter's face.

The Python and Trooper, both zeroed-in at 50 yards with 158-grain JSP Sierras ahead of 16.6 grains of 296, grouped an



Indications of revolver wear may be seen in gap, chamber misalignment.

inch-and-a-half low and 23 inches to the right at 50 yards. The M28 impacted the Nyclads in nearly the same position it had been sighted for. Then, on the 46th cartridge, the shooter noticed that the Python cocked about three times as hard as normal and jammed solidly at full cock. No amount of tension would release the trigger from the hammer notch. We pulled the side plate to unload the cylinder and release the action.

Investigation showed that powder gas escaping from the gap and muzzle had bounced from the shed roof, sending a cascade of unburned granules, fine sand, volcanic ash and other debris into the shooter's face and past the cocked hammer into the revolver's action, accounting for the jam.

The nylon coating adds a bit of weight to the 159-grain bullet, being .005 inch thick

*Continued on page 18*

## The PERFECT TEN!



On a Scale of 1 to 10, Taurus Is the Combat Pistol That Scores a 10.

Compare three top combat pistols—the Colt Government Model, Beretta 92S and Taurus PT-92/PT-99.

You'd want all of them on your side. Big, tough, they pump out the rounds during the most miserable field conditions. But Taurus is the only one that's a perfect 10—a slim margin over the nearly-identical Beretta, but a perfect 10 makes the difference. Check these 10 important points.

	Taurus	Beretta	Colt
Large-Frame	X	X	X
Semi-Automatic			
Used by the Military	X	X	X
World Wide			
9MM Parabellum Cartridge	X	X	X
Plastic or Wood (extra) Grips	X	X	X
Double Action	X	X	
Lanyard-Style Hammer	X	X	
15-Round Magazine	X	X	
Capacity			
Chamber-Load Indicator	X	X	
Combat Trigger Guard	X		
Rear Sights	X		
Adjustable for Windage/Elevation			

You can bet your life on the performance of your Taurus pistol, and it costs substantially less. Two models—PT-92 (fixed sights, thermo plastic resin grips) and PT-99 (walnut grips, adjustable rear sight).



For further information contact:

**International Distributors**

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## SPEAK OUT

Continued from page 5

paragraphs: Rig is the best rust inhibitor that money can buy. I've been in Florida for eight years and thanks to Rig I've had no rust problems.

I use what is called a Rig-rag, a piece of terry cloth that I have saturated with Rig. When I handle a weapon, I just wipe off the finger prints with my Rig-rag and put it away. Just remember, it is a rust inhibitor, *not* a lubricant.

Now let's talk about the most important subject concerning the .45 auto: *lubrication*. There is nothing worse than to see a guy with a brand new weapon and listen to bare metal gall against bare metal. That is like buying a new, high-performance car and running it without oil.

Without going into how a pistol is accurized and what is tight fitting, and why it is that way, I am going to tell you where to lubricate. Be sure to use a good grade of gun oil. There are just three areas to lubricate. First, lock the slide back and run some oil down both rails of the slide. Next, oil the outside of the barrel. Be sure to get all the way around it. I

sometimes use my finger to spread it. Close the action and put some oil on the barrel hood and the part of the barrel exposed by the ejection port. This is an important and often neglected area (I hope you are doing all this with an *empty* weapon.) Next, cycle the pistol several times and wipe off any excess oil. Now, you are ready to go shooting.

Keep up the good work at the *American Handgunner*.

Jim Moore  
Orange Park, Florida

### Wins Detonics .45 auto in the AH 'Sweepstakes'

I want to thank you for the opportunity to participate in the *American Handgunner* Sweepstakes last year.

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It is particularly gratifying to be able to win your prize, even though I am not a subscriber to your fine magazine (as soon as some of my other subscriptions terminate, I will subscribe to yours).

Bill Stasick  
Boulder, Colorado

Continued on page 66

## THE HANDGUN THAT ALTERED THE GAME!



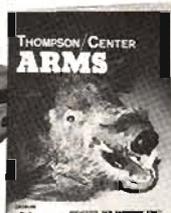
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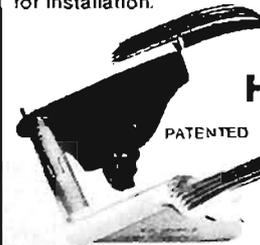
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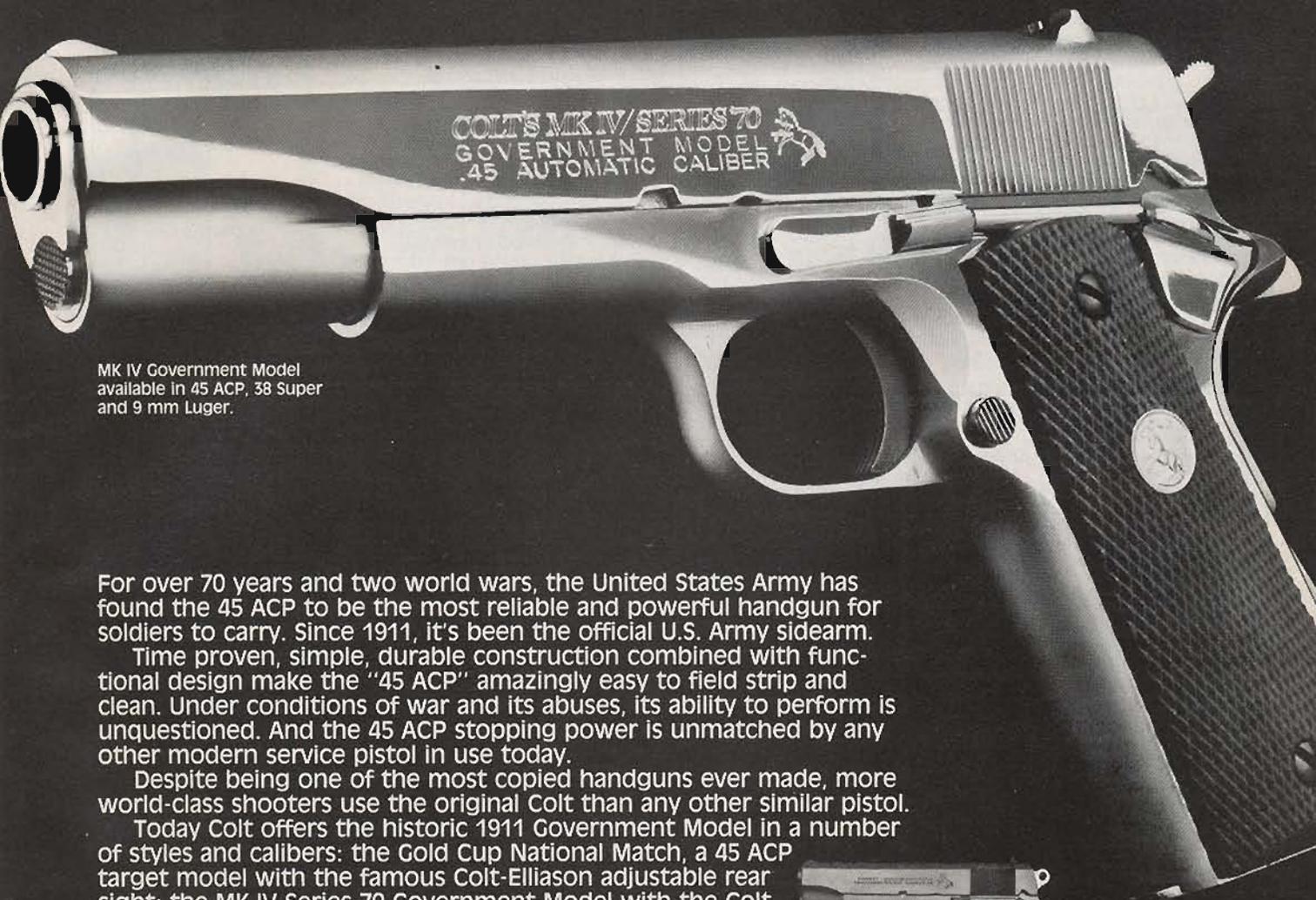


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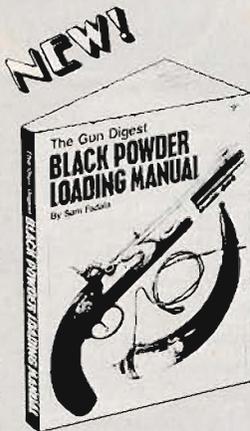
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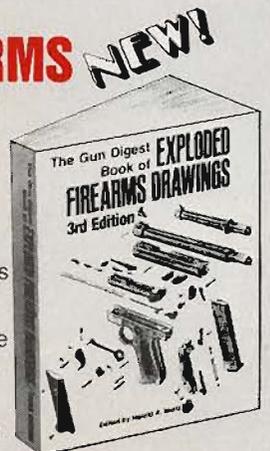
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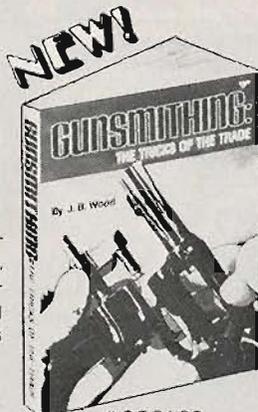
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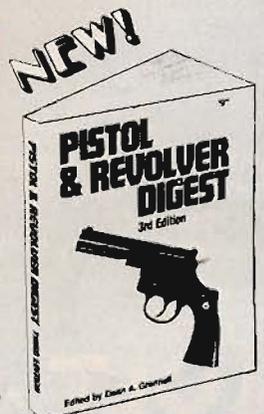
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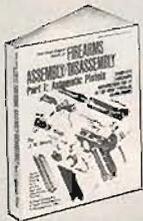


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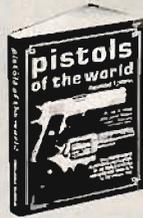
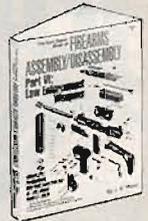
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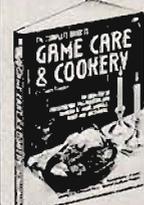
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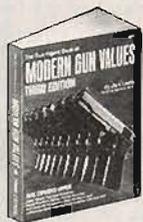
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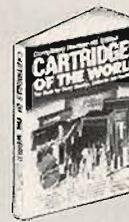
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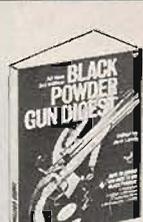
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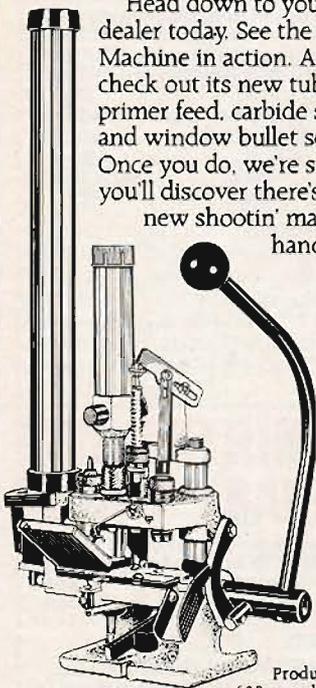
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## SIGHT SETTINGS

LUCY CHAMBLISS

### TRAVELING WITH HANDGUNS EASIER TODAY, IN SPITE OF BAD GUN LAWS

"You don't know the half of what we go through; write more about gun laws," a reader from New York wrote me after my column describing handgun law aggravation during last year's *Sports Festival* in Syracuse.

I have worked against, talked against and written against bad gun laws for about 35 years, but they are not specifically my field. There are many non-shooting lawyers who can take that subject apart better than I.

From time to time, however, we can all share information about how to survive and thrive under the restrictive gun laws some states have. I have traveled by car, plane and train to shoot in 19 states, from California to New York. I don't plan to shoot in that state again. I'll miss the hospitable people who live there, and I certainly admire their American ingenuity and determination to keep fighting gun law red tape—and winning. The New Yorkers' battle against state bureaucracy is an inspiration to us more fortunate Americans in other states. It has always amazed me what well attended, prestigious matches New Yorkers continue to hold, in spite of the most prohibitive gun laws in the nation.

I think the atmosphere generally is better now for handguns than it was when I started traveling to pistol matches in 1950. The reasons for transporting two .45s, two .38s and two .22s, along with about 1,000 rounds of ammunition, were often misunderstood.

Thirty years ago, the general public thought no one but criminals would be carrying such an arsenal. Who ever heard of competitive shooting, or Camp Perry? Now, firearms are better known and owned by many who used to think the world was so peaceful they didn't need a handgun for self-defense. They may also have just begun to know a little about the international sport of handgunning.

The entry program packet this year for the U.S. International Shooting Championships in Phoenix, Arizona contained a pamphlet entitled *Interstate Transportation of Personally Owned Firearms*, prepared by the NRA. Write for one. If you want a quantity for a gun club or gun shop, or law enforcement agency, inquire as to cost. I think it contains excellent information and a concise run-down on states with particularly prohibitive gun laws.

One of the officers of the NRA objected to my suggesting, in an earlier *American Handgunner* column, that people request directories to help better know their directors and committee members; so, I may hear from him on this suggestion.

It was not six months after he and I exchanged letters on my feelings that members had a right—and an obligation—to know all they could about the NRA, that another director succeeded in getting the directors' addresses published in the *American Rifleman*. No hard feelings, gentlemen, but keep letting all that good information trickle down, which those dedicated NRA staffers work so hard putting together for all of us.

I would say call the NRAs toll-free 800 phone number and request the pamphlet; but when I tried the two that were previously available, they were no longer in service (only the one for membership questions answered). Being able to call toll-free is a helpful service for quick information, rather than having the NRAs staff answer correspondence. "The mills of the Gods grind slowly..." so maybe the 800 lines will be back in operation by the time you read this column.

Flying with firearms, particularly handguns, is not difficult. So don't let the airlines bluff you. The long gun people have a bigger problem with theft than we handgunners do, because of the large and conspicuous cases they must use. I put my pistols in zippered, padded cases, or foam rubber-lined hard cases, and then wrap, pad and pack clothes around them inside a regular hard suitcase. This way, they are not noticeable to baggage handlers. Up to now, no agent has questioned my word that they were unloaded; all he wanted to do was unlock the suitcase, toss the "Firearms" label inside, have me lock it and get out of his sight as quickly as possible.

I try to avoid "curbside" check-in, although at 4 a.m. or so you have no choice. My experience has been that when you say the suitcase you are handing them has firearms in it, they freeze, set it down and—all of a sudden—an inside agent appears on the scene. I pack my handguns carefully, to avoid any damage. But they have no protection against being lost.

Fortunately, many of my matches—except for Phoenix—are ones I drive to. From the looks of jammed interstate high-

*Continued on page 19*

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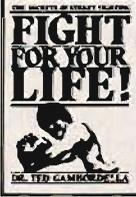
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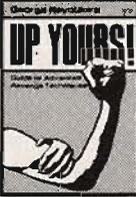
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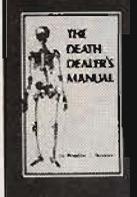
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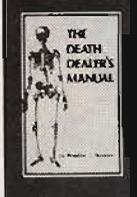
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# SILUETAS

PHILIP C. BRIGGS

## SILHOUETTE SHOOTING GROWTH STYMIED BY NRA RULE CHANGES

Letters keep drifting in to my POB, in response to my request for comments on the NRAs 1982 changes in its long-range shooting rules.

Richard Gilmore of Fremont, California, a newcomer to the sport, wrote that he was wondering if he'd made an investment in a sport that "changes at the drop of the hat." Silhouette shooting is a growing sport, he observed, but it won't continue to grow if the rules keep changing. "If the NRA wants to make the sport more difficult for the expert, then it should have expert class rules, and leave the novice rules alone," he said.

Richard Pickering of Decatur, Georgia is a match director at his local gun club. He said his club shoots IHMSA (International Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association) matches only, because of the problems the changes in other forms of shooting have caused. The new rules, he added, make it hard on the clubs and the new shooters. He closed by pointing out that the number of entrants in the two sanctioning organizations' national matches—1,500 for IHMSA vs. 200 for NRA—says it all.

Ed Curtis of Sandy, Oregon said NRA silhouette shooting is quickly becoming the expensive equipment race that all other NRA-sanctioned events already have become. "The NRA Silhouette Committee needs to get away from 1904 thinking and start thinking 1982," he added.

So you don't get the impression that all my mail was in opposition to the changes, I'll summarize a supporting letter.

J.K. Chester of Kansas City, Missouri is a rifle shooter who feels that because pistol shooters regularly take 40 silhouette targets the game is too easy. "I don't know if the changes are an improvement or not; however, I believe silhouette pistol targets are too big."

The NRA itself, in effect, admitted the rule changes are causing the clubs a hardship when it provided special dispensation to allow all host clubs to hold unsanctioned Conventional Freestyle and Unlimited (standard-size targets) events, along with sanctioned events (standing position, on the big targets).

One of the local NRA clubs is doing just that, and has maintained its shooter par-

ticipation. The other club is changing over; its attendance (which wasn't much to begin with) isn't very high.

I think it's a shame the NRA Silhouette Committee has decided to make silhouette shooting tougher for the few participants who clean the course—and a lot harder for most of us who don't. Cutting shooters' scores is *not* the way to bring new competitors into the fold, or keep the beginning ones we have. We need *all* the pistol shooters supporters we can get. If the NRA Competition Committee thinks its approach is the way to cure a problem, they've tossed out the baby with the bath water.

### NEW PRODUCTS

A couple of issues back, I described some specialty products targeted to the silhouette shooter. There have been many evolutionary (and a few revolutionary) new products in the six years since handgun silhouette shooting started; but these recent releases—narrowly focused on the sport—indicate new levels of interest by members of the firearms industry. So, now that we have their attention, it's time to ask for even *more* goodies. What the hell, it never hurts to ask!

Send me your wants and I'll report them here. Write to me at POB 22074, Phoenix, AZ 85028.

Now, I'll lead off with a few wants of my own—in no particular order.

The .357 Magnum is becoming popular once again—primarily in the single shots—although Allen Kirchner of Aiken, South Carolina shot a 40X40 with a Colt Python in IHMSAs Revolver class this spring. He used the Speer 180-grain FN bullet to improve the little Magnum's down-range performance. A lot of folks are loading this bullet and heavy .35 caliber rifle bullets in both their single-shots and revolvers. What we need is a selection of spitzers in 150-, 180- and 210-grain weights, designed for handgun velocities.

Many of us do our load development with scopes, to help eliminate sighting errors. The few 4X pistol scopes that are available are just too feeble to discriminate between various loads at various ranges.

(Once you lay down with a 4X-scoped handgun and try to take a few 200-meter chickens, you'll be even *more* impressed with those who can do it regularly—with iron sights.)

I've shot 100-yard groups with a bolt-action gun topped by my custom-built 6X that are a third the size of those shot with the same gun mounted with a 2X scope.

Take your favorite bolt-action afield after varmints or big game and you'll find you need a lot more power. I've been told by some marketing types that we don't need higher power, that scopes of greater magnification would be too big to be usable. Bull! The guns we use are far more accurate than the scopes, so why worry about compact scopes on 4½ pound, 15-inch barrel pistols.

If you do plan to take that production gun afield, you'll find that there really are no satisfactory 7mm or .30 caliber bullets for use on big game. What we need are moderate- to heavy-weight bullets, constructed to expand at velocities attainable from handguns. Varmint bullets in these calibers are too light, and lose velocity rapidly; too, they lack the necessary punch. What we really need are thin-skinned 150-grain spitzers.

Should you try to head out with that scoped single-shot or long-tubed revolver, you'll find there's not much available in the way of holsters. Sure, there are leather

contraptions marketed, but they're either ill-fitting leather pouches on sloppy straps, or some Dirty Harry undercover knockoff shoulder rig.

Who needs a strap to chafe your shoulder, while the pouch flaps at your side when you move. What handgun hunters need is a holster that offers good concealability and speed as its prime design, rather than comfort and a secure carry, or one that ties your shoulders and waist together, so as to impede your flexibility.

We need a shoulder holster that carries the big guns out of the way, doesn't fasten to your belt, protects the pistol, and provides ready accessibility.

Add a belt holster for the more compact single-shots that does the same, and you'll have my vote. And my dollars.

What do you think? Am I out of line, or would you open your billfold and let the moths flap out for new products like these? 

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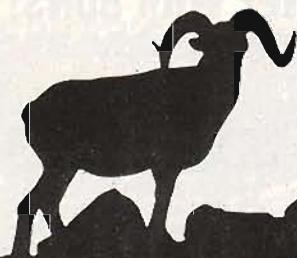
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## PISTOLSMITHING

Continued from page 9

and quite brittle. Knurling on the soft lead antimony core seems to effectively keep it from stripping. The wide difference in point of impact, then, would have to be the result of difference in barrels. The Smith has a .3575 bore with a 1:18.75 inch twist and the Colts have .355 inch tubes with a 1:14 inch twist.

We did not evaluate hyper-loads in light-frame .38 Special revolvers of secondary manufacturers. A vintage Detective Special and a Chief's Special digested a half-dozen cylinders of the hot .38s without incident. Muzzle flash was intense. Felt recoil seemed less with brass cases than with nickel-plated ones.

It is important to remember that +P .38 Special loads in large numbers must not be fired in a .357. The ring of hot gas behind the slowly accelerating projectile badly cuts the cylinder ahead of the short case, eventually causing pits and subsequent hard extraction of longer .357 cases that expand into the pits.

The method I evolved to test revolvers for wear requires an ordinary leaf thickness feeler gauge and a range rod. The Python's cylinder gap was carefully gauged, reading .008 inch *go* and .0085 inch *no-go* at the beginning of the shooting session. The reading was identical on both sides, indicating that cylinder cant, or tilt, was zero.

After firing fewer than a box of the hyper-velocity loads, it read .008 inch on the right (strong) side and .0095 inch on the left (open) side. This is as fine a reading as can be taken by a feeler gauge. The range rod slid into each chamber in turn, indicating that although there was some misalignment damage, it was slight. As long as it is less than the depth of the rifling, there will be no spitting or shaving.

Colt revolvers with extractor rods unsupported at the front are more susceptible to crane spring than the S&W system. This "crowbar effect" will rapidly misalign any alloy frame revolver, so it is advised that no hyper-velocity loadings be fired in them, and that they be used only sparingly in the heavier frames.



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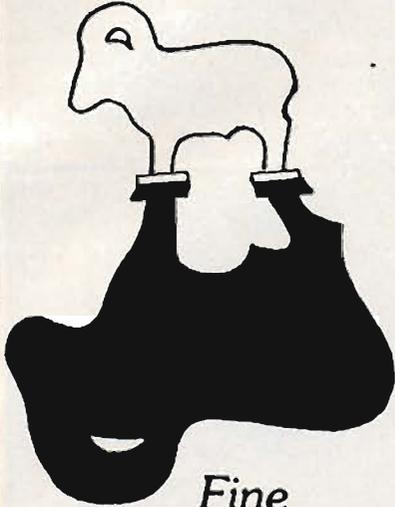
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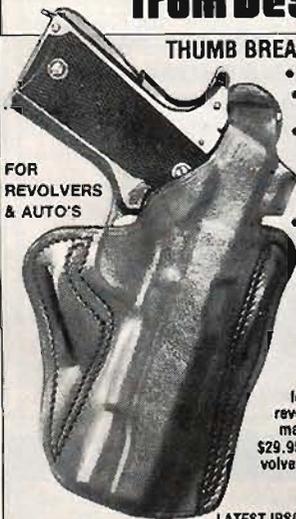


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## SIGHT SETTINGS

Continued from page 14

ways, I'm not the only one eliminating every airline trip I can. The tragic loss of our experienced air traffic controllers seems to have turned the U.S. air system, once the best in the world, to one now very expensive and apparently not wholly trusted by many Americans.

While driving from Florida to Pennsylvania to shoot, I can't be sure whose Morton Grove law I am violating. I'm only too happy to comply with Kennesaw's. I keep my target guns in the back of my station wagon, and take them into my motel room with me.

Traveling with my two dogs, I do not leave the room. I either carry in my supper, or call for room service, so as not to leave the dogs or guns in the motel unattended.

The two-inch revolver I carry in my car is loaded, in a zippered case in the back seat (until some circumstance warns me to bring it on the front seat with me). Of course, I take it into the room with me at night.

The NRA pamphlet I referred to reminds me of my constitutional protection against certain types of searches and seizures, and against self-incrimination.

I understand the wording of laws, such as those in Florida, are designed to protect the police officer who stops you for some traffic violation. If a firearm is visible in my car, I keep my hands very still - on the steering wheel. I explain I, too, am a police officer, traveling to a pistol match. I believe a cool, calm head on the handgun owner's part at such a time can, to put it mildly, prevent some hard feelings and bothersome delays.

If I'm flying, I put my air pistols in my luggage, and don't say anything to anyone. As I understand federal laws, air pistols are not firearms, because they do not propel a projectile by means of an explosive.

Next year's *Sports Festival* is scheduled to be held in Colorado Springs. Hope to see some of you there. If you haven't already heard, the next Olympic Games will be held in Los Angeles July 28-August 12, 1984. There will be more and different shooting events featured than in any previous Olympics; so plan to be there to cheer our shooters to victory.



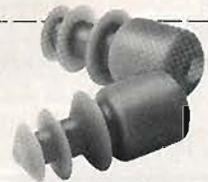
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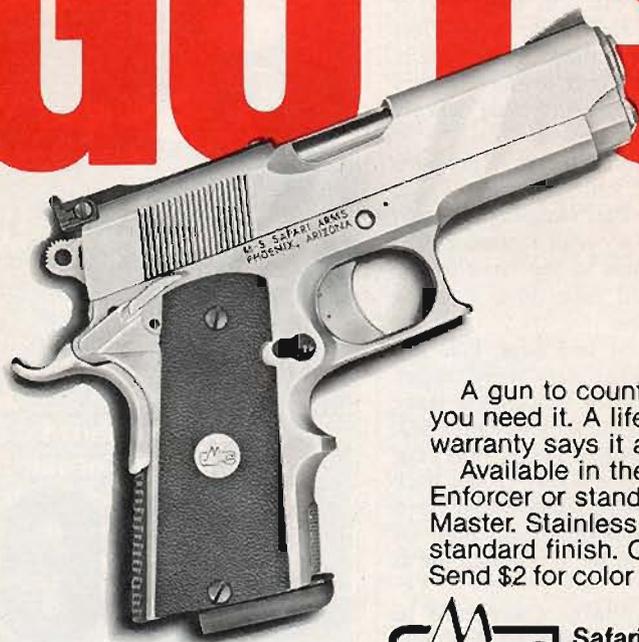
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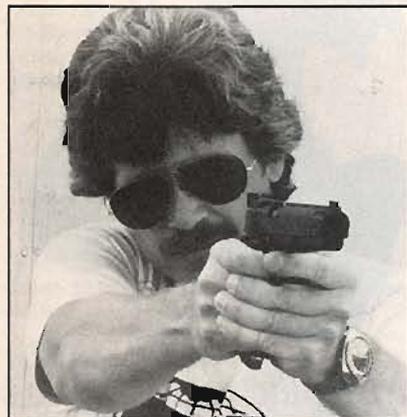


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## Fowler named to panel of experts

Mickey Fowler, three-time winner of the prized Bianchi Cup, has been named by Stoeger Industries to its three-man panel of shooting experts.

Described by many as "the Jack Nicklaus of handgunning," Fowler probably is the finest combat pistol shooter in the world; he holds many course and match records in both national and Southwest Pistol League competitions, and was U.S. team captain at the 1979 World Matches in South Africa.



As a member of the Stoeger panel, Fowler will be using, in selected matches, the Llama single-action auto and the Omni, a new double-action auto. Stoeger is the exclusive importer, from Spain, of Llama handguns.

Fowler, 35, lives in Glendale, California. He owns a display manufacturing firm near Encinitas, and heads-up International Shootists, Inc., a school that teaches handgunning skills (POB 5254, Mission Hills, CA 91345).

Other members of the panel are J.D. Jones, a nationally-known handgun hunter, writer and ballisticsian, and J.B. Wood, an expert on automatic pistols. Jones is a regular contributor to the *American Handgunner*.

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## NEW BOOKS

**You Can't Miss**, by John Shaw and Michael Bane; introduction by Massad Ayoob. Published by Shaw/Bane, Mid-South Institute of Self-Defense Shooting, 503 Stonewell, Memphis, TN 38112. \$9.95, including postage/handling.

As an old, one-hand bullseye shooter on Marine Corps teams at Camp Perry, I found this book well done and extremely informative—worth the relatively high price for a 149-page paperback.

The thrust of **You Can't Miss** is IPSC (International Practical Shooting Confederation)-style shooting, although many of the book's chapters contain useful tips that can be applied to other forms of handgun marksmanship.

There are chapters on reloading, "The Practical Rifle" and "The Combat Shotgun," plus a four-page listing of suppliers and their addresses.

The paperback is well-illustrated with more than 100 excellent photographs.

It's a must-buy for the dyed-in-the-wool handgunner wanting to improve his scores in any of the sports in which pistols and revolvers are used. (L.D.)

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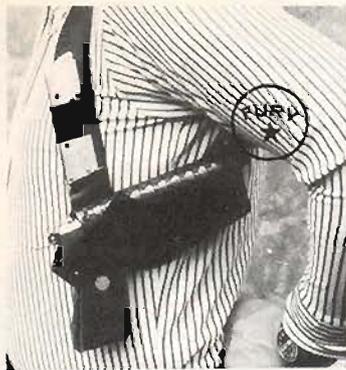
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## Mickey Fowler will write column for AH

The *American Handgunner* is proud to announce that beginning in its January-February issue it will introduce a new column—Combat Shooting—by Mickey Fowler, three-time winner of the Bianchi Cup match.

Fowler's shooting credentials are listed elsewhere in this issue.

Many shooters describe Fowler as "the best combat handgun marksman in the world."

Close associates of Fowler say he not only is a superb shooter, but also a fine sportsman, always willing to help others who are less experienced.

If you have any questions about combat shooting, send them to the *American Handgunner*, and we will forward to Fowler. He will try to answer as many as possible in his new column.

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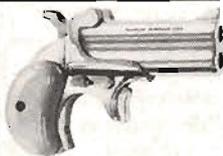
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Therefore, many shooters reload their own ammunition, saving brass from spent rounds and buying bullets, powder and primers for reloading. The total cost of these components will run about 19¢ per reloaded 30.06 round . . . a 44¢ savings.

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**44 = % of 63**  
**X = 69.8%**

But your time is worth money, so reloading is more worthwhile when you are efficient at it. You should be able to reload 100 rounds per hour. In our 30.06 cost example, you save \$44 per hour of time invested, not counting your initial reloading equipment cost.

Quinetics makes inexpensive products designed to help you reload efficiently.

If you shoot a lot but don't reload and savings of \$40-plus per hour sound good, consult with your reloading equipment dealer.

If you already reload, but do less than 100 rounds per hour, get your dealer's advice on latest equipment.

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• Volume Adjusting Screw adjusts unit for all charges—all powders.  
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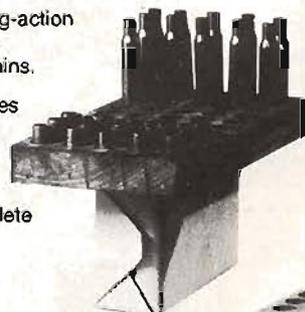
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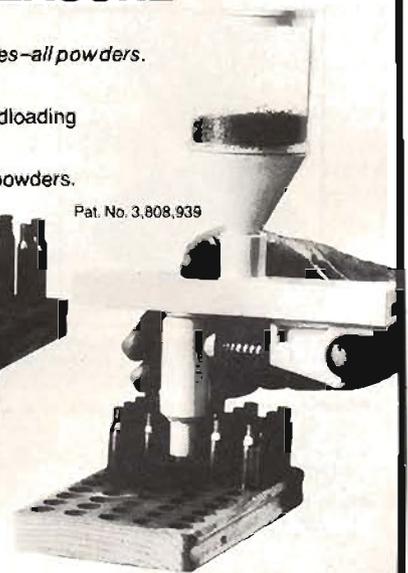
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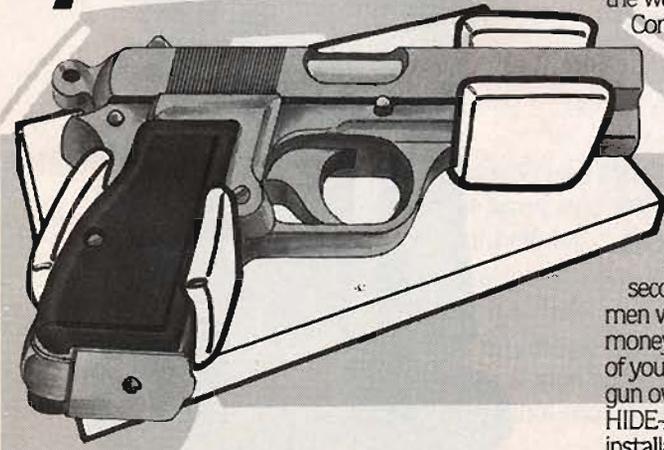
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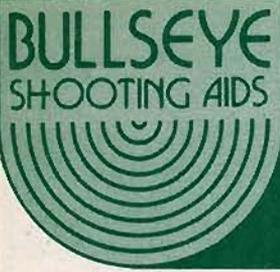
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- REGISTER... The initiative requires that all handguns of law-abiding citizens be registered by November 2, 1983 or be forever illegal.
- FREEZE... The number of legal handguns will be frozen at present levels.
- PROHIBIT... Forbids the sale of any additional handguns after April 30, 1983—forever.
- FORCE... Anyone moving to California must surrender their handguns to the police within 45 days and there is no provision for reimbursement or compensation.
- FORCE... Non-residents participating in competitive matches, hunting, or in transit through the state must surrender their handguns to the police within 48 hours.

Oh, there's a lot more to this initiative but you get the idea.

We've got to put this fire out now.

Make no mistake. The anti-gun forces throughout the nation are using California as their test case. If they succeed in California, they'll be everywhere. This is your fight.

Citizens Against the Gun Initiative is a coalition made up of such groups as California Wildlife Federation, National Rifle Association, Gun Owners of California, California Rifle and Pistol Association, Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, and the Southern California Arms Collectors Association. But we need your help too.

Polls show that if the election were held today we would lose. But we can win this fight with your help.

**Use the envelope insert in this magazine** to send your contribution to Citizens Against the Gun Initiative. Corporate contributions are legal and there is no limit on the amount that may be given.



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It is a fact that he actually committed few robberies but was falsely accused of thousands more. In April, 1882, he was shot in the back and killed by a trusted "friend" who had been well paid by government officials. Great newspapers coast to coast condemned those officials and public outcry forced them from office. More ballads have been written

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The .177 pellets are available in packets of 250, the .22 pellets, in packets of 175.

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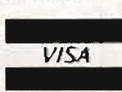
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A rubber, fold-down eye piece protector is said to provide maximum comfort, with or without eyeglasses.

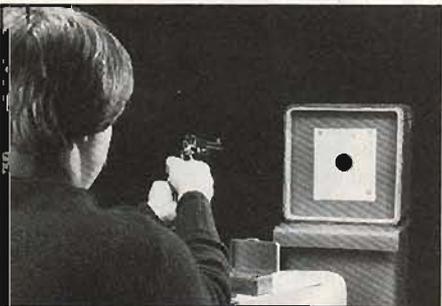
The new scope (M334) comes with a collapsible, sturdy, lightweight metal tripod.

For more information, write the company at 9200 Cody (Dept. AH), Overland Park, KS 66214.

## Portable bullet trap uses no wood or steel

A new, portable bullet trap for the .22LR cartridge is being offered by Laminations Corporation.

Without using wood or steel, it stops .22LR ammo in  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch pea gravel held in place by a super-dense fiberboard baffle system.



The target area measures 18 inches square.

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Bill Wilson's

# COMPENSATING DEVICE FOR .45 AUTOS

*'Accu-Comp System' retards, redirects recoil; results in seemingly less 'kick'*

*By Greg Moats*

International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC) competition has spawned several refinements designed to make life easier for the "practical" shooter, such as the Weaver Stance, the ambidextrous safety and magazine basepads. The latest and most popular of the refinements are compensating devices for semi-automatic pistols.

Compensating devices retard, redirect and otherwise confuse the reaction of "recoil," resulting in seemingly less "kick." Readers of this magazine are not strangers to the name Bill Wilson, so it will come as no surprise that Bill is leading the way in producing and marketing a compensating device that is said to be second to none in the industry. At the 1981 IPSC Nationals, four of the top sixteen shooters in the man-on-man shootoff were using Bill Wilson modified .45s—complete with compensating devices. When 25 percent of our nation's top practical shooters use a particular piece of equipment, it deserves a closer look.

The Bill Wilson "Accu-Comp System" has its roots buried in the Jimmy Clark "Pin Gun" and the Williams "Quick Comp." Initially, both of these modifications involved barrel systems that were not one piece; that is, the barrel and/or compensator were soldered, brazed, or otherwise attached to a .45 ACP chamber and fitted to a slide and frame.

While these systems produce a noticeable decline in muzzle rise, Bill wanted a system that utilized a one-piece barrel and avoided the financial drawback of built-on, normally expensive, six-inch barrels. The result is a system which looks at a glance like a "Pin Gun" or "Quick Comp." but in reality is a standard length barrel with an expansion chamber at the muzzle.

When the projectile exits the barrel, the gases that propel it quickly expand. When the expanding gases hit the interior wall of the expansion chamber, they are redirected quickly, which supposedly gives the velocity of the projectile a little more "umph."

Although Bill doesn't advertise the fact,



**At height of recoil, it can be seen that the muzzle is only about an inch above the initial blast, attesting to Accu-Comp's ability to dampen muzzle rise.**

he has gotten slight hikes in velocity from his Accu-Comp over a six-inch barrel using the same ammunition. How this sudden expansion/contraction of gases reflects itself in less muzzle rise is something I don't understand; however, I do know that a BM-62 (.308 rifle with an expansion chamber) is more pleasant to shoot than an M1A (.308 rifle sans expansion chamber).

Bill starts the process of building an Accu-Comp by turning down the outside diameter of the barrel to .5625". He then cuts tapered-threads with a lathe. The fitting of the locking lugs and chamber hood are very critical, since the Accu-Comp utilizes no barrel bushing to help index the barrel position when the slide is closed.

For this reason, Bill prefers to use the KART National Match barrels; the recess

between the chamber and the first locking lug is manufactured slightly shallow. This allows Bill to cut it to the correct depth to insure proper barrel positioning. The compensator is machined out of 4140 bar stock and heat treated to Rockwell 38-42.

Initially, the compensator looks like a rectangle with a long, narrow cone on top of it. The interior diameter of the "cone" is threaded to fit over the outside diameter of the barrel and fits the entire length from the front locking lug to the muzzle. The outside diameter of the cone is fitted to the interior of the slide, requiring no barrel bushing.

The expansion chamber is fitted up against the front of the slide and finished with the same outside dimensions of the slide, for esthetic purposes and to aid in holster fit.



**Bill Wilson's compensating device on this customized .45 auto, shown in closed position, features smooth lines and makes for some mighty smooth shooting.**

The front sight is mounted to the front of the compensator, adding a highly desirable inch of sight radius. Since the front sight blade is stationary during functioning, it's not subject to the constant slamming and shearing action that a slide-mounted front sight receives. Therefore, a removable front sight blade can be utilized

with greater confidence. With the recent popularity of night sights, this could be quite an advantage.

The early versions of the Accu-Comp were fitted with a standard length spring guide. Since the Accu-Comp does not utilize a barrel bushing, a special recoil spring plug has to be threaded, along with the in-

terior portion of the slide where the spring plug usually fits. To utilize a standard length, solid recoil spring guide, it meant drilling a hole in the middle of the new oversized plug; it also required a special tool to disassemble the pistol. Being subject to unusual creativity, Bill designed a special two-piece recoil spring guide that extends the full length of the compensator.

By utilizing an extended recoil spring plug with a hole drilled through it, disassembly was made much easier. By loosening an Allen head screw and using a round punch to unscrew the plug, the pistol can be disassembled easily and quickly. The extended plug also gives the pistol a "longslide" look, which many shooters will appreciate.

The stationary, added weight at the end of the barrel causes the decrease in muzzle rise. Some of the energy that would normally come slamming back at the shooter is absorbed in the unlocking process. While this slows the unlocking process, this phenomenon is only noticed on a slide rule. It is that imperceptible.

The slowed unlocking and the added weight out front combine to decrease the muzzle rise and produce a more linear, "straight-to-the-rear" recoil. While a longslide also decreases the amount of muzzle rise, the *felt* recoil is great, due to the in-

*Continued on page 75*



**Here is the Accu-Comp system on a Colt Combat Commander; it makes the gun same overall length as a standard Government Model .45; frame is Niklad finish.**

**Now in production...**

# **SOKOLOVSKY**

## **.45 AUTO**



**All stainless steel and redesigned, this new target pistol features light recoil and smooth slide action. The first of 50 are expected to be available shortly.**

---

*By Bert Stringfellow*

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The Sokolovsky .45 auto, first seen in the *American Handgunner* (November-December 1980), has been redesigned and the pistol is now in production. By early next year, the first of 50 are expected to be available.

Paul J. Sokolovsky has built three pre-production prototypes of his latest design, which is reduced in weight and the grip frame made smaller, approximating the frame size of the venerable Colt M1911.

His latest design also incorporates an improved slide lock, a solid bolt that is pushed by the magazine follower up inside the frame to block the slide's return to battery.

As an added feature, Paul redesigned his safety, so that now it locks the slide in the battery position when engaged. The gun cannot be discharged by dropping it.

The first thing you notice when picking up Paul's pistol is the absence of pins and screw heads. The pistol is clean and smooth, with no protrusions. All the functions—safety, slide stop and magazine release—are mounted *inside* the trigger guard, along with the trigger. The magazine catch also serves to unlock the barrel, for easy takedown.

After examining number three of the pre-production prototypes, Paul, Don Stoops and I went out to the Sunnyvale (California) Rod and Gun Club range to test-fire the Sokolovsky .45, and compare it with a Colt Gold Cup .45 we had taken along for control purposes. Our test ammunition consisted of Remington and S&W 185-grain factory target loads.

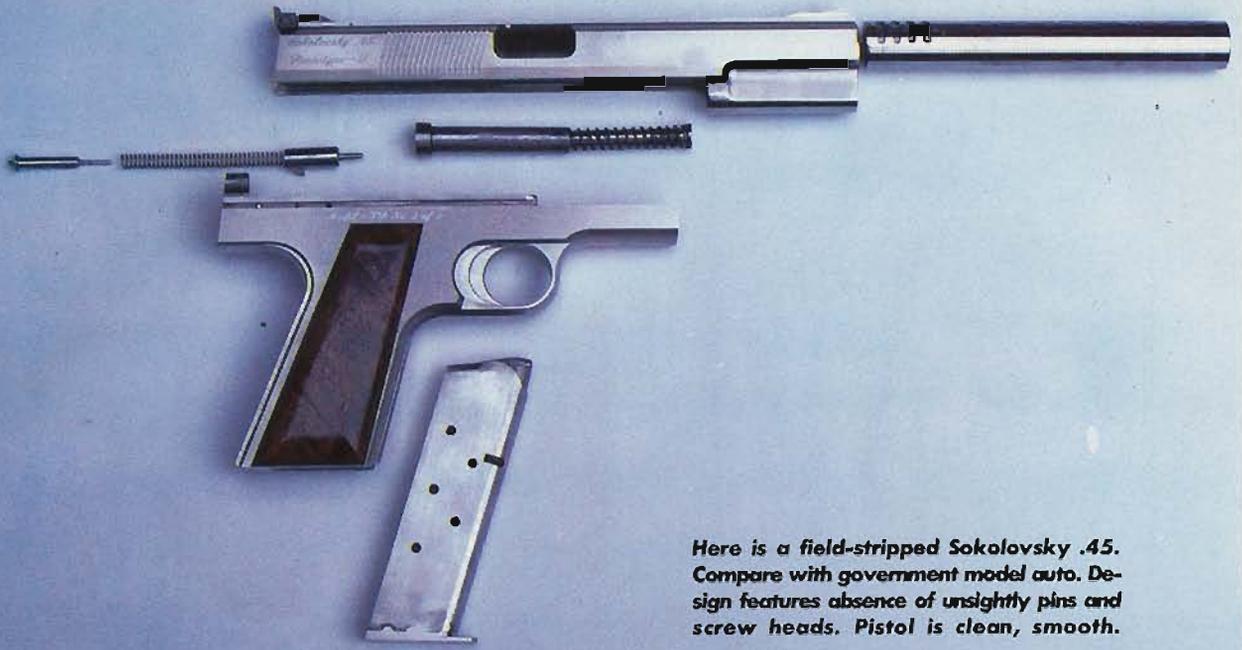
Don Stoops, an IHMSA (International Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association)

champion, took Paul's new prototype pistol and, from the Weaver position, shot the black out of a couple of 25-yard targets.

With the pistol warmed up, I fired it from a sandbag, because I'm not about to compete with Don in the standing position. I fired a 1¼-inch, 25-yard group. After firing this excellent group with Paul's pistol, I picked up the Colt Gold Cup and, using the same loads, fired a two-inch group on an adjoining target.

### **FLAWLESS FUNCTIONING**

So much for accuracy. It appears that Paul's pistol will compete with anything sold across the counter. We then fired the pistol rapid fire, slow fire and 100 rounds from a two-hand combat position, for a total of 200 rounds, to see if the pistol



Here is a field-stripped Sokolovsky .45. Compare with government model auto. Design features absence of unsightly pins and screw heads. Pistol is clean, smooth.

#### SPECIFICATIONS FOR SOKOLOVSKY .45:

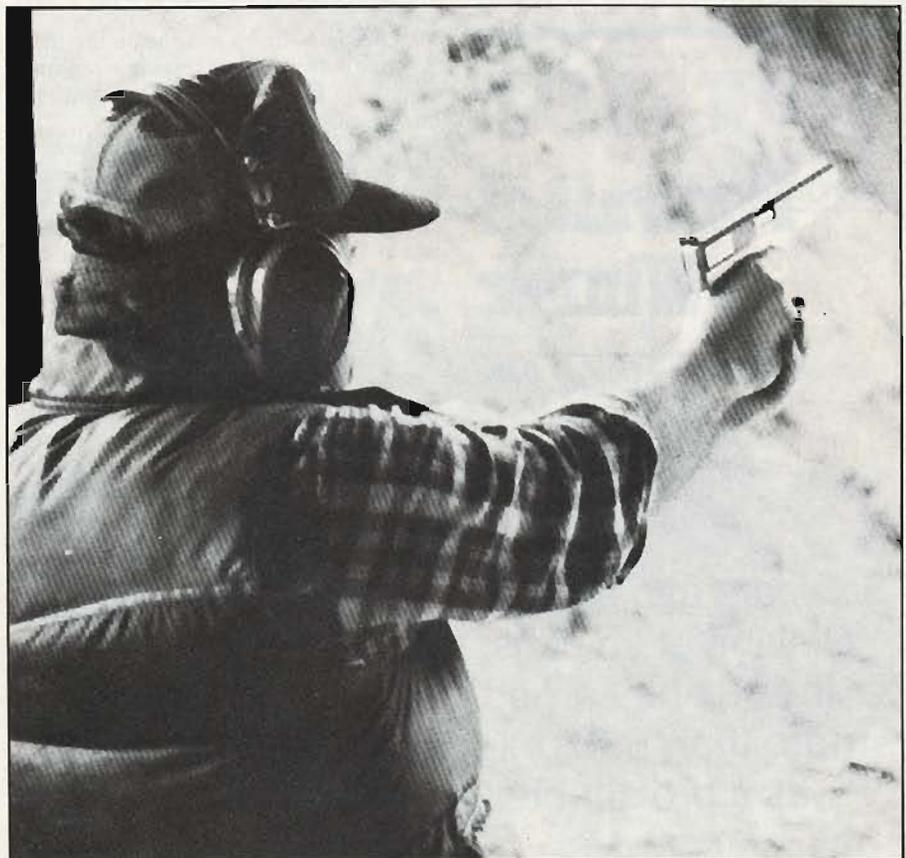
Material:	17-4 ph stainless steel
Action type:	Blowback, pneumatic slide decelerator
Caliber:	.45 ACP
Barrel:	6"
Sight radius:	9¼"
Rear sight:	Millett
Front sight:	Ramp
Magazine:	Six-shot
Weight:	Empty/3.5 lbs.

would continue to function properly. It did, flawlessly.

The pistol is made of 17-4 ph (the ph stands for precipitation hardening stainless steel). After we had fired several more rounds, and were sure that the lubricant had been spread thinly, I disassembled Paul's pistol and examined it to see if there was any sign of galling, a problem with some stainless steel guns; there was not.

The machine work on these pistols is as near flawless as anything I have ever seen. They are extremely well made and tightly fitted together. Number three showed no indication of binding, or any other type

*Continued on page 59*



IHMSA champion Don Stoops is shown shooting the Sokolovsky .45 from the Weaver stance. Bullet has just left the barrel. Note the low level of recoil.



Shooting from behind a barricade is important; it takes special skills.

## JOHN SHAW: Portrait of a Winner

*By Michael Bane*

Six years ago he was plinking at tin cans; in 1981 he earned more than \$30,000 as a pro shooter.

It's become almost a cliché on the IPSC circuit to refer to reigning national champion John Shaw as, "that southern boy who talks slow . . ."

He might talk slow—although to those of us from south of the Mason-Dixon Line he talks *normal*—but he shoots *fast*, fast enough, in fact, to become U.S. IPSC National Champion twice in a row (1980-1981), Captain of the IPSC world champion U.S. team (1981) and winner of the "Steel Challenge" pistol tournament (1981).

When he does talk, a lot of what he says ought to raise a few hackles and hopes in the combat shooting fraternity, because John Shaw is one of the rarest of sportsmen—the self-taught expert who appeared apparently out of nowhere and rose quickly, very quickly, to the top.

"I used to just go half-way in things," says the 28-year-old Shaw in the comfortable den of his Memphis, Tennessee, home. "Half-way in football; half-way in baseball. I decided that shooting was *the* thing I was going all the way on."

In only six years, Shaw went from plinking at tin cans with a .22 automatic to the national championship, leaving one flustered competitor to remark recently, "Three years ago I beat Shaw all over the place. Jeez! What happened to him?"

What happened was, plainly and simply, his will to win. His trade was buying, then fixing up and renting houses, and with a

wife and young daughter to support, he was in no position to throw himself full time into shooting. But Shaw reasoned that if he wanted to win badly enough, and was willing to spend every spare minute practicing (and reloading like crazy), he *could* someday be the champ.

"At my first match, I went up to the line and forgot to load the gun," he says ruefully. "Then I shot at the wrong target."

First he concentrated on PPC shooting, but found himself more and more interested in the .45 automatic and IPSC. With his typical single-mindedness, Shaw practiced, observed, and asked questions, entering every IPSC match he could afford. He finally built enough of a local reputation to get a coveted invitation to the Bianchi Cup Match. That was in 1979, when he placed in the top 20 shooters. (He placed sixth in 1980 and in 1981 again placed in the top 20.)

"I shot for a month, 10,000 rounds, because I wanted it (the Bianchi Cup) so bad," he says. "Then I got the shakes. I was ready to go home. It was the most miserable four days of my life."

Last year, Shaw earned more than \$30,000 on the shooting "circuit," and is well on his way to his goal of becoming the first professional shooter in the sport.

His outlook on shooting—and the way he wins matches—remains unchanged from his first days in the sport, and the secret is so simple he can't believe it.

"Mental concentration and getting the fundamentals down is all it takes," Shaw says. "The main thing I want in a match is my confidence, and for my gun to work."

Shaw says "a match is 90 percent mental conditioning, 10 percent shooting. The average shooter isn't good, because he can't handle the pressure of competition."

The very first thing the combat shooter must learn is basic shooting, according to Shaw.

"You've got to learn how to shoot," he says. "Then you get faster. Do it all, strong hand, weak hand. Get in good physical shape first. You've got to have everything 100 percent right, from the start."

The second thing the novice shooter should do, he says, is attend as many matches as possible. "Don't just go to watch yourself shoot. Watch the other shooters, and see what they do, and what can be done. That's important, knowing

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**"A match is 90 percent mental conditioning, 10 percent shooting. The average shooter isn't good, because he can't handle the pressure of competition."**

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what can be done. Don't be afraid to ask questions. And don't be afraid to make mistakes."

As to equipment, Shaw has continued his winning ways with a Jim Clark (Rt. 2, Box 22-A, Keithville, LA 71047) "Bowling Pin" combat special, a long barrel Government Model .45 with a minimum of modifications, something he recommends strongly. "Basically, you must have a gun that's going to shoot groups under four inches at 50 yards," Shaw says. "There's no sense spending \$1,000 or more on stuff you just don't need. A good Government Model with Bomar-type sights is your basic weapon."

His leather comes from G. William Davis (P.O. Box 446, Arcadia, CA 91006), a cross-draw rig he's used for two years.

Initially, his biggest investment was neither guns nor leather. Instead, he sunk big bucks into a Dillon progressive reloader, a decision he's never had cause to regret.

Shaw also runs against prevailing winds in his disdain of hardball ammo. "I use five grains of 231 with a 200-grain Hensley and Gibbs bullet as a good light-to-medium load," he says. "When you get into a match, or hunting or a combat situation, you're not going to notice the powder charge, and there's no sense in fighting recoil when you don't have to."

*Continued on page 62*

# SHAW'S SCHOOL OFFERS TWO SHOOTING COURSES

*By Michael Bane*

Simply owning a gun isn't enough. To truly protect yourself and your loved ones, or take advantage of the tremendous recreational aspects of shooting, you must know how to use that gun—and use it well.

To that end, the Mid-South Institute of Self-Defense Shooting (MISS) is dedicated.

At MISS you'll have the rare opportunity to learn gunhandling from one of America's foremost experts, John Shaw.

At MISS, Shaw will guide you from the beginning bases of good shooting—sight picture, trigger control, stance and grip—to the super-sophisticated, super-effective techniques of modern practical pistol shooting.

What sets MISS off from many other shooting academies and schools are the unique abilities of Shaw, both as a shooter and a teacher. He is completely self-taught from plinking at tin cans to winning national championships—in only six years.

Whether for protection, recreation or hunting, the skills taught at MISS will provide the basis for a lifetime of confident shooting.

Beginning with the basics of handgun marksmanship and gun safety, training advances to shooting tight groups, increasing speed of fire, engaging multiple targets, speed loading, fir-

ing at moving targets, shooting at night, point-shooting techniques, firing with the weak hand, secrets of a smooth, quick draw and learning-to run an assault course.

MISS training stresses mental conditioning, both for competition matches and for actual combat confrontations. The secret of winning—or surviving—lies in mental conditioning, and it may be one of the most overlooked aspects of practical shooting, according to Shaw.

Under his watchful eyes, you'll also learn such basic skills as how to clean your weapon, how to zero-in for a certain type of ammunition, physical conditioning for the shooter, and a good, workable practice regimen to follow.

Shaw cuts through misinformation and third-hand knowledge on modifying your handgun for combat or competition. He tells you what works—and what doesn't—what is absolutely necessary, and what is pure junk, with no punches pulled.

The basic course is a five-day "Introduction to Pistolcraft." It is aimed at the plinking-level shooter and teaches safety, marksmanship and familiarity with handgun operation generally. Shaw then concentrates on marksmanship improvement and speed, using all the latest techniques from IPSC com-

*Continued on page 63*



## Part II

## HANDGUN STO

*Editor's note: One of the most frequently asked questions from readers—both civilian and law enforcement—is “Which bullet/load caliber has the best stopping power?”*

*There are theories; studies have been made, and we have the so-called expert opinions. Those that are credible have some basis, either in fact or experimentation. The question, however, is so important that we felt it imperative to publish some solid thoughts on the subject.*

*Here, then, is PART TWO of our exclusive multi-part discussion of handgun stopping power.*

*To those who may be unfamiliar with the history of modern stopping power theories, we include a thumbnail description. Space restrictions make it impossible to detail the various methods of theory development or total results, but references will be made to each in this special series.*

*(1) Thompson/LeGarde Committee.*

*Report issued in 1904, after much experimentation; it stated that no pistol smaller than .45 caliber should be considered for military service.*

*(2) Hatcher's formula for Relative Stopping Power. First offered in 1927 by General Julian Hatcher, as follows:  $RSP = E.A.y$ ; where  $E$  = kinetic energy at the muzzle,  $A$  = cross sectional area of bullet in square inches, and  $y$  = a shape factor which favors blunt-nose bullets and penalizes round-nose projectiles.*

*Hatcher, in 1934, confessed that his formula unduly favored the velocity factor, since energy is a function of the square of velocity. His new formula for relative stopping power was:  $RSP = M.V.A.y$ , where  $M$  is the mass of the bullet,  $V$  its velocity,  $A$  is the cross-sectional area of the bullet, and  $y$  is the shape factor.*

*(3) LEAA program. In 1973, the U.S. government, through various law enforcement agencies, had Aberdeen Prov-*

*ing Ground conduct a study of police handgun ammunition. A summary report of the findings was published in 1975, and a revised report was issued in 1980. This multi-faceted study was done to determine ricochet factors and, most importantly, a Relative Incapacitation Index (relative stopping power). The study used ordnance gelatin to determine the temporary wound cavity of each round, and a computerized model of the human anatomy in three dimensions, designed to plot wound trajectories.*

*In this American Handgunner series, we have enlisted the talents of several knowledgeable writers; they will explore not only the three theories and studies mentioned above, but will delve into the practical aspects of handgun stopping power, based on actual experiences of law enforcement agencies.*

*Your comments will be welcomed.*

## By Massad Ayoob

Back when I was a young puppy handgunner, no one doubted that bigger and fatter bullets hit harder and knocked bad guys down quicker.

The lore of the “Peacemaker” proved it, the abundance of fresh-in-the-memory combat anecdotes from two world wars proved it, and if anyone had any doubts as to why, they could just look at the basic scientific information that existed on the subject: The Thompson-LaGarde studies of 1904, and the subsequent learned writings of the late General Julian Hatcher.

But by the mid-1970s, it had become *de rigueur* to assume that anyone who ascribed to those “outdated” theories was just a stubborn old fossil. The new tests were being done with computers and slide rules, in test mediums of ballistic gelatin, duct sealants and modeling clay that supposedly duplicated the resistance of human flesh to bullet impact, complete with panels of Bakelite to simulate human bone.

The new tests implied that the .38 Special roundnose and .45 ACP hardball were about the same, and that the full-jacketed 9mm Parabellum cartridge was superior to both. Autopsy surgeons and pathologists were being asked to advise police on loads

with good stopping power, and they were increasingly recommending lightweight, high-speed bullets of .38 caliber with expanding-nose designs.

If you try to argue this, you are very quickly pooh-poohed by the new breed of experts. “We can prove that you’re wrong,” they’ll say. “We have the computer printouts and the slide rule formulae to demonstrate it for you, right here. The old Hatcher and LaGarde theories have been discredited.”

It was a formidable argument. There was only one thing wrong with it: It didn’t relate to what was actually happening in the streets, and on the battlefields.

True, the “Hatcher formula” did not take into account the modern expanding handgun bullet technology that was begun with James Harvey’s experiments in the 1950s, came to fruition with Lee Jurras’ Super Vel in the mid-1960s, and which is now considered state of the art by many of us. But, in one sense, the street-proven success of these high-speed, hollow-points reinforces what Hatcher taught.

“True, you *can* cut the weight of a .357 pill from 158 to 125 grains, shape it scientifically into a semi-jacketed hollow-point, launch it from a revolver at 1,400 or 1,500 fps and have more reliable stopping power than you’d get on the street with a 230-grain jacketed .45 hardball slug moving out at 830 fps.

“Sure, that’s true,” Col. Charles Askins Jr., once told me. “But when you apply the same principle to the .45, it comes out on top again.” Askins was a World War II combat soldier in the ETO and a Border Patrolman during the most violent period in that agency’s history. He killed a lot of men with handguns in shootouts. And he’s the sort of guy who tests a new rifle cartridge, not by running it through a computer or firing it into Duxseal, but by going to Africa with it and killing many head of large game. The proof, Askins believes, is in the ultimate use: and when Askins carries a gun for defense today, it’s a .45 auto loaded with 190-grain Super Vel JHP at 1,000 fps.

## REAL BULLETS, REAL FLESH

That’s because Askins doesn’t look at computer printouts for input on what works when bullet meets flesh. Instead, he goes on what works between *real* bullets and *real* flesh. That approach to reality, when you apply it to handgun stopping power, again and again swings back in favor of the larger bore pistols that Hatcher and Thompson and LaGarde recommended. Like Askins, they worked with real flesh—living animals and human cadavers—and with observations of actual gunfights, as seen through the eyes of the participants.

# PPING POWER



U.S. Department of Justice studies of 1975 and 1976 used hundreds of thousands of dollars of taxpayers' money to correlate kinetic bullet energy lost in gelatin with the "relative incapacitation index" (RII) on what it called its "computer man." Among other things, it found that with standard loads, the .38 Special (158-grain RNL) had an RII of 5.0; the 9mm hardball delivered an RII of 13.8 (Remington 124-grain FMC), and the Remington .45 hardball only 6.7 RII.

Yet, this information flew in the face of the great body of knowledge that had been accumulated among soldiers and police-

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**The "old way" still computes; and General Julian Hatcher's theories were "on the money."**

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men who had actually been in thousands of gunfights with those rounds. Accounts of World War I trench warfare indicated the 9mm ball load to be an indecisive man-stopper, at best, while the .45 hardball had earned an awesome reputation for instant one-shot stops. Street cops, likewise, found that a hit with a .45 FMJ usually decked the opponent; but round-nose .38 slugs were, at best, only 50 percent effective.

The Justice Department studies also indicated that by simply going to a Keith-style semi-wadcutter bullet, the .38 escalated to an RII of 14.3, more than twice that of the .45. A nice theory. But when I talk to the cops who have to carry this .38 SWC load, as in New York, I find that people they shoot in the torso are often running around like rabbits.

I was once given *carte blanche* to go through several years of NYPD shootout reports, and found that in all but *one* case, shootout participants hit solidly with .45 hardball dropped right out of the fight. In that *one* case, an officer hit in the groin fell immediately, but returned fire without hitting his attacker, who was slain by backup officers. Even though he was still fighting, he was not doing so effectively; had he been alone, he might well have been killed after the first .45 slug dumped him to the floor.

To understand why the two schools of thought differ, we must look at the phys-

*Continued on page 52*

# LETTERS & ANSWERS

(between  
Dave Reynolds  
and CCI)

Result: free ammo...

Down here in Languid, Texas, things move kinda slow. We don't tear down buildings; we just wait a while and they fall down by themselves. Anyhow, there are only three buildings here, and they're all being used. The only thing to do was to go to Dallas and look.

In a few days I found a perfect one, an old hotel in downtown Dallas that was to be demolished to make way for a new parking lot. But this, too, presented problems. There is an ordinance that prohibits discharging firearms in the city. Being a law abiding citizen, I was stymied. I couldn't break the law, even in the interest of science.



PREFERS CCI      PREFERS EASTERN

Pondering the magnitude of this stumbling block, I decided to refresh myself with a six-pack of Mountain Dew, shortly after which I had a brilliant inspiration. I could simply go outside of the city limits to shoot at the building. I hurriedly packed the needed items: a box of CCI Mini-Mags, a box of Eastern-made ammo, my trusty revolver, the rest of the six pack, and headed for the city limits.

Dallas is a pretty fair sized country town these days, so I had to drive 12 miles before I saw a sign saying *City Limits*. To be certain that I was within the law and without the city, I went another mile and stopped. Here, I prepared to conduct the experiment. I loaded one round of the CCI product into my trusty revolver, aimed directly at the doomed hotel, and fired.

Anxious to see the results of my test, I loaded everything back into the car and hurried downtown. The accompanying photo tells the story. Looking at the mass of metal and mortar, I determined that another target might be needed to test the Eastern brand of ammo. As I drove back to the original firing point, I decided that, in fairness to both brands of ammo, another target would be required.



When I arrived at the test site, I got out of the car and opened another can of beverage, certain that a suitable target would present itself in due time. Due time arrived, just as I finished the can. In my hand I was holding a perfect target; why had I not thought of it before? The Eastern brand ammo was reputed to be less powerful than CCI. The beverage can should make a *perfect* target.

By this time, it was getting to be late afternoon, but since I am a man of action, I decided to proceed at once. Consequently, I marched 500 yards down the road, placed the beverage can on top of a fence post, and returned to my firing point. I loaded one round of the Eastern brand of ammo into my trusty revolver, aimed super-carefully at the beverage can (since darkness was approaching)—and fired.

I hurried to the target to see the results. Upon arrival, I immediately noticed that the can was still sitting solidly atop the post, right where I had placed it. Obviously, the bullet had not struck hard enough to move the can from its perch. A thorough examination revealed that there wasn't even a dent in it. How about that! At a distance of a mere 500 yards, this soft aluminum can was not marked in *any* way by the Eastern-manufactured product, which fact may be verified by the accompanying photo. By golly, those folks at CCI sure know what they're talking about.



How about it GOBs, do I get some ammo?

Dave Reynolds  
Languid, Texas

Dear Dave:

Your study is interesting. Here's a box-and-a-half of Blazer ammo. Let's see what you can do with it.

The GOBs  
Lewiston, Idaho

Dear GOBs,

If generosity is a fault, you folks must be faultless. I ran out of ammo the first day and had to go to the store and get some more. Good thing it's cheap. Anyhow, here's my report.

Dave  
Languid, Texas

Dear Good Ol' Boys:

I just noticed an ad in the *American Handgunner* about your new Blazer .38 Special ammo, about how good it is and that it doesn't cost much. Since it's so cheap, maybe you can send me some of it to test and write an article about. I know you are interested in scientific tests; I've read about some of them in your paper, the *GOB Gazette*, and I do good work.

Dave Reynolds  
Languid, Texas

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

Thank you for your interest in our products. Before we can consider allowing you to do any testing for us, we'll have to know something about your abilities. Have you done any serious research?

The Good Ol' Boys  
Lewiston, Idaho

Dear GOBs:

I sure have. In fact, I did my own study of CCI .22 ammo a few years back, after seeing results of a test you reported in the *GOB Gazette*. You'll remember the article; it was headed by the photos shown with this story. Though I was sure your people adhered to the highest scientific principles in the study, the figures presented just didn't tell the whole story. Accordingly I did my own testing.

Since I'm a cautious person, I decided to accept your premise that the Mini-Mag has truly awesome power. To fully test that power would require a target of great mass, such as a large building. However, since I'm a person of frugal nature, I didn't want to destroy a building of value. Obviously, I should find one that was going to be torn down.

A few years ago, the folks at CCI began a project to develop less expensive ammo.

The result was Blazer, an aluminum-cased, Berdan-primed cartridge.

The first caliber off the production line was the .38 Special, in three loadings: 148-grain target wadcutter, 158-grain round nose lead, and 125-grain JHP + P.

How CCI got to this point, and where it goes from here, is an interesting story.

Blazer is said to be non-reloadable. It wasn't planned that way; it just happened. The marriage of aluminum cases and Berdan primers is great for the honeymoon, but no good for the long haul.

In the Berdan system, the anvil that the priming compound is crushed against is a part of the case, not built into the primer—as in the Boxer system. The soft aluminum anvil in the Blazer case will sometimes be deformed on first firing. When this happens, the next time around will produce a misfire.

It is possible to reload Blazer cases. CCI technicians discovered the misfire problem while shooting reloads. However, the difficulty of removing Berdan primers, plus the potential for misfires, makes reloading hardly worth the effort. The people at CCI, after discovering the problem, decided to make reloading Blazer more difficult. It was at this point that the Berdan primers were changed to a *non-standard* size. These primers will *not* be offered for sale.

Berdan primers were part of the original design concept, because they are less expensive than Boxer primers. The Berdan primer consists of only two parts, the cup and the priming compound. The Boxer primer also requires an anvil (an extra part) and an extra assembly operation. In Berdan primers, the anvil is an *integral* part of the case, a section of the primer pocket itself.

The three original Blazer loadings offer enough variety to satisfy the needs of most .38 Special shooters. The first additions to the CCI line will be two cartridges in the same caliber, a 158-grain JHP + P and a 150-grain FMC + P. The latter load is designed primarily for the European market. The same load, in a conventional brass case, is now being sold to the French National Police.

Blazer ammo appears to be an instant success. Orders are running far ahead of production, so it may be a while before it is readily available everywhere.

Meanwhile, CCI is busy working on other calibers, from the .22LR to the .257 Magnum.

I doubt if you'll see Blazer ammo in .41, .44, or .45 calibers, because nearly all the big bore shooters are reloaders—if they do much shooting. There have never been as many .41 and .44 shooters as there have been those who fire .38s and .357s. The .45 auto is beginning to lose its popularity,

mainly because of military interest in the 9mm cartridge.

Logically, the .357 will be the next offering by CCI because cases can be made on the same equipment used for the .38 Special. My guess is that the 9mm will follow, then the .22LR, or perhaps the other way around. It's possible that the higher pressures of the .357 and the 9mm may cause some problems; but they'll be solved, in my opinion. Best other candidate is the .223. These are the calibers I bet represent the best market potential.

The military possibilities of Blazer ammo are interesting, too. The lighter weight of the aluminum case will have considerable logistic value. An empty Blazer case weighs 22 grains, while its brass counterpart tips the scales at 65 grains; Blazer saves 67 percent of case weight. Assuming about equal percentage in weight savings for 9mm and .223 cases, GI Joe would be able to carry 25 percent more 9mm ammo or 40 percent more .223 ammo for the same weight.

The test guns selected to assess Blazer's performance included a 10-inch T/C Contender, a Dan Wesson with several barrel lengths, a five-inch S&W M27, a four-inch S&W M64 and a two-inch Colt

*Continued on page 64*

**Hard to reload...**

# BLAZER .38 SPECIAL AMMO

**Berdan primers are of non-standard size, not offered for sale. Concept reduces ammo costs. Other loads, calibers being considered by CCI.**

**BALLISTIC DATA / .38 SPECIAL BLAZER**  
(Average Velocity vs. Standard Deviation)

GUN	158-grain RN	148-grain HBWC	125-grain JHP + P
T/C-10"	956-6	844-20	1318-18
DWA-6"	773-9	693-14	1035-13
S&W M27-5"	804-8	716-10	1041-38 1053-19
DWA-4"	730-5	660-14	971-12
S&W M64-4"	792-3 789-7 795-7	704-15 716-18	1044-31 1042-11 1025-20
DWA-3"	670-11	626-10	888-29
DWA-2"	678-4	618-17	857-7
Colt-2"	702-11	636-15 640-13	No Test

Note: All above figures are fps.

# Behlert Custom

After several years of watching our Custom Handgun Giveaway, Austin Behlert noticed that the majority of auto pistols offered were Colts, and he said that he would like to break that trend with one of his Custom Combat Brownings.

Here it is, over \$1500 worth of gun, custom work, holster and case. Austin has been in the custom handgun business for 40 years, and he can be seen at many matches, repairing guns and offering his bits of advice to all who will listen. Son, Frank, is active in the business, and is making his mark in IPSC shooting, as is daughter, Cathy.

Here, then, is a combat pistol in 9mm (forgive us, Jeff) that features first of all a match ac-

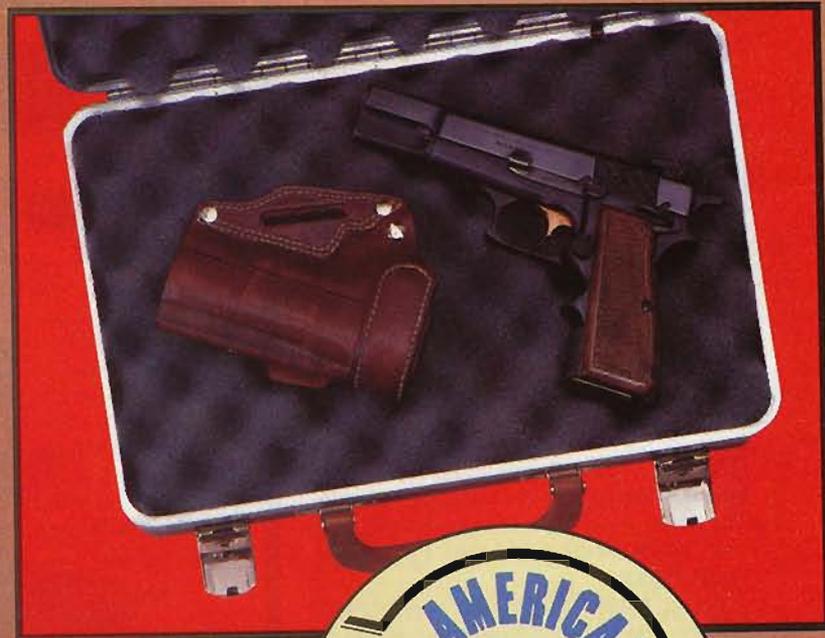
*Continued on page 58*

**TO ENTER CONTEST:** Use a postcard, follow sample; include name, address, HOM-N/D, local dealer name and address. Mail before December 1, 1982. Send to AMERICAN HANDGUNNER, Box 16025, San Diego, CA 92116.

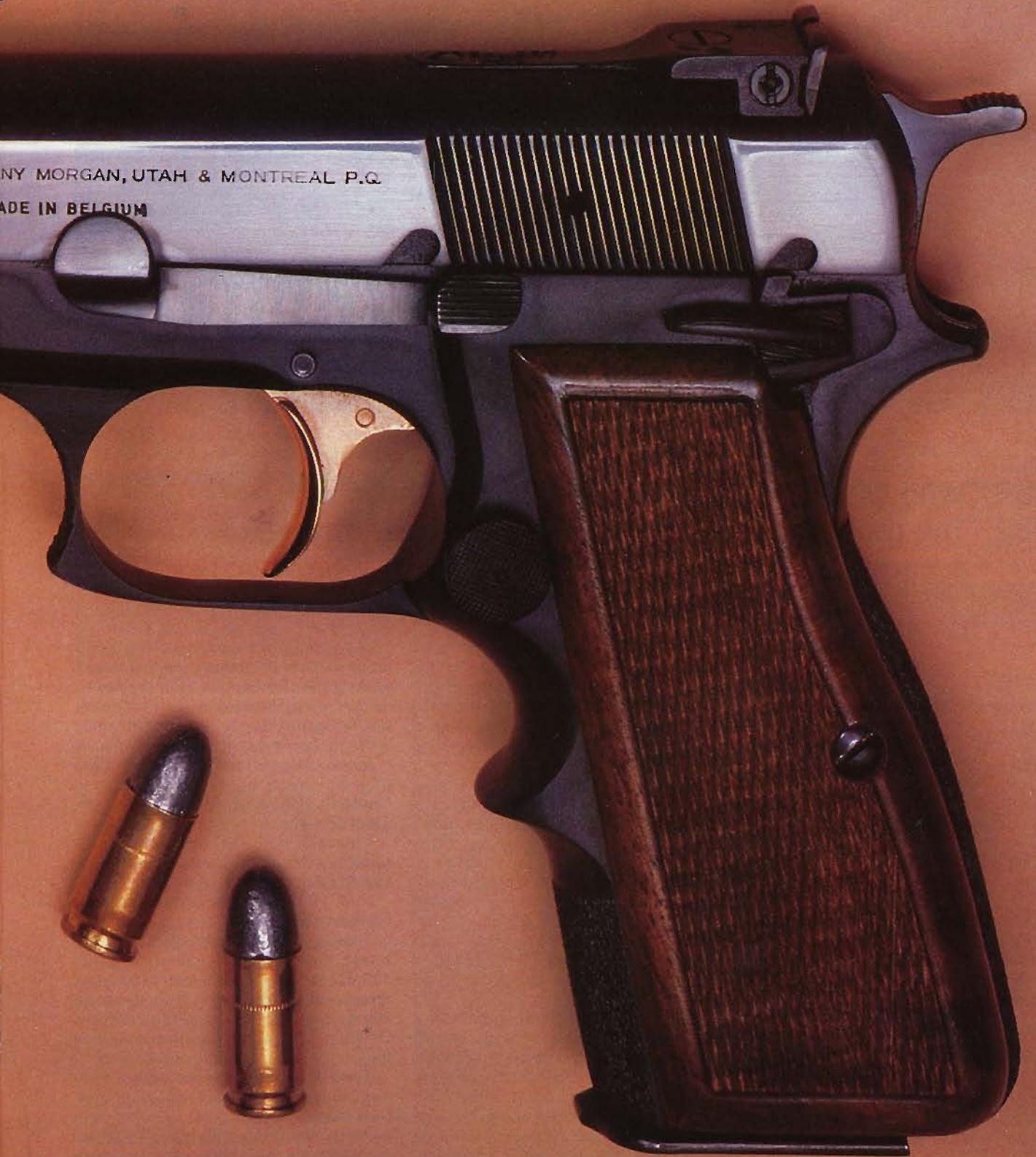
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City & State \_\_\_\_\_  
**HOM-NOV/DEC.** Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 If I win, please ship my gun through the following dealer:  
 Dealer \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**SAMPLE**

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



# om Hi-Power



From circa 1966...



## Updating the T/C CONTENDER

**1966: "Who wants an underpowered single-shot?"**  
**1982: "The most versatile handgun in existence, strong,  
accurate, moderately priced."**

By J.D. Jones

Not many men have the opportunity to create a dream and watch it come true.

Warren Center, designer of the Thompson/Center Contender (and other T/C guns) is one of those fortunate individuals who made it happen.

He designed, built and refined the experimental Contender pistols until they were ready for production. Then he found a way to manufacture and distribute them by joining forces with K.W. Thompson (now deceased). Thompson/Center Arms became a reality; but in the mid-late 1960s, who on earth wanted a single-shot pistol!

I remember Bob Gustafsen in 1966 or 1967 in Chicago at the NSGA Show telling me about this new single-shot Contender chambered for the .22 LR and .38 Special. The price was about \$125 then, and I remember wondering who the devil is going to spend *that* much for an underpowered single-shot, when you could get a S&W .357 for a Colt Python for about the same money.

Obviously many of us thought that way, as sales were mediocre at first, barely enough to keep the new company going.

Little did we realize that Warren Center and his little one-shooter were writing a new chapter in the history of sporting handguns.

Without a doubt, the T/C is the most versatile handgun in existence today. It's extremely strong, exceptionally accurate, highly versatile (through its system of interchangeable and inexpensive barrels in various calibers) moderately priced, easily scoped and backed by a lifetime warranty.

This little gun, through its performance in the field and on the competitive range, has done much to change the thinking of the public as to what constitutes a sporting handgun.

Gradually, the Contender became accepted; more through word of mouth and field performance than through advertising, in my opinion. I bought my first one about 1969 and immediately became hooked because it simply out-performed every other handgun available at the time for my type of shooting, which was generally recreational and hunting.

Many calibers were added—and dropped when they didn't sell well. Many of these have become valuable collectors' items. An organization of T/C collectors was formed for the purpose of swapping information—and collectibles and appears to be doing a good job. (Contender Collectors Association, c/o Dr. Leonard Gammel, 205 Carrie Road, Lawton, OK 73501.)

Currently, T/C chambers 25 different calibers, from .22 through .45 and makes barrels in 10-inch and 14-inch lengths.

Now, I'd like to clear up some misconceptions about Contenders:

**Frames:** Any T/C barrel will fit any T/C frame. Guns with serial numbers under 20,000 (or thereabouts) may need some modification of the trigger group to accept new barrels with a step in the underlug. Original T/C barrels had flat-bottomed lugs.

There is *no* difference between a standard 10-inch T/C frame and a Super 14-inch frame.

All frames numbered under 195,000 are essentially the same, with only minor manufacturing changes that do not affect bar-

rel interchangeability.

### NEW, TWO-PIECE BOLT

Guns made after number 195,000 incorporate a new, easy-release opening device (and trigger mechanism), which feature new, tight, lock-up bolts and springs. Some minor dimensional changes in the frame occurred at this point, but they do not affect barrel interchangeability. All T/C barrels fit all T/C frames.

**Bolts:** Over the years, the design of the bolt—the “tongue” that protrudes from the barrel lug to lock the barrel—has been changed. The current bolt is of a two-piece design. All one-piece bolts, in my opinion, should be replaced with the new, two-piece bolt. Result: a much tighter lock-up and increased accuracy. A replacement bolt and bolt spring is available from the factory at a nominal cost.

You can check your bolt to see if it is one- or two-piece by trying to spread it apart at the notch with your thumbs. If it “splits,” it’s a two-piece. If not, it should be replaced. Changing the bolt is easily done by anyone with the correct punch and hammer—or Allen wrench, in the case of really old barrels.

Much has been written on filing or stoning bolts to make the gun open easier and make the bolt “fit” better. Filing or stoning bolts is, in my opinion, an absolutely stupid and dangerous practice. If you change the angle of the bolt locking surface, go through the hardened portion of the bolt, or file or stone too far, you create a condition which can cause the gun to unlock and open on firing, with the possibility of ejecting the case with deadly force.

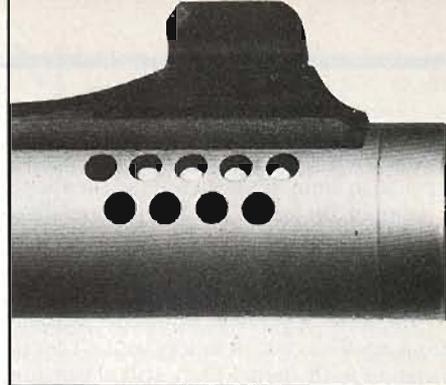
If you have a bolt that’s been worked over you had better not shoot it; replace it immediately with a T/C two-piece bolt. A T/C should lock up tight. To break a hard-opening T/C, simply pull on the opening lever with the middle finger; then bump that finger with the heel of the other hand. The gun will pop open.

**Triggers:** It’s not uncommon, particularly in silhouette matches, to see unsafe triggers in a T/C (and any other gun). Unsafe triggers usually are the result of too much polishing of the engaging surfaces, or shortening the trigger return spring. If the trigger mechanism fails to retain engagement when the barrel is firmly closed, the trigger mechanism is out of adjustment, has been excessively worked over, or is defective. Whatever, it’s unsafe and should be changed.

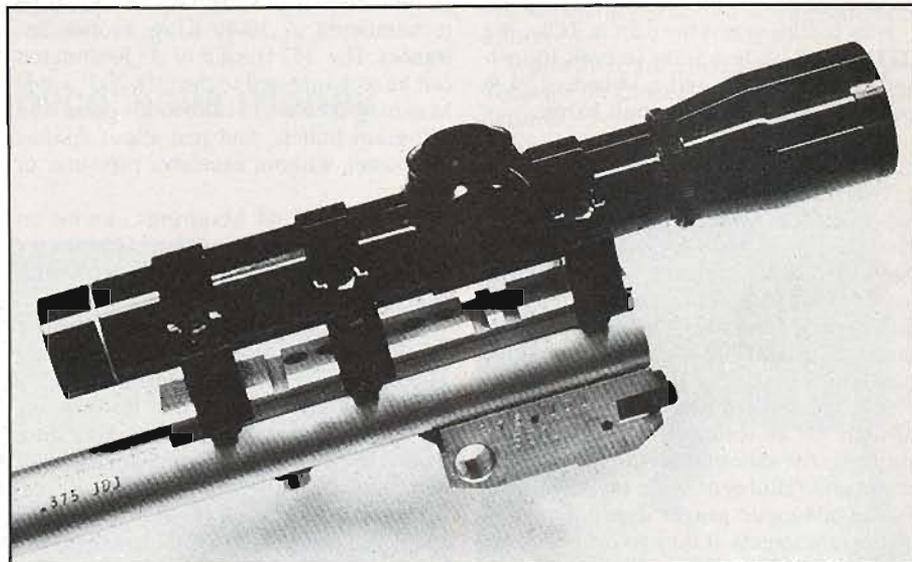
The standard T/C trigger will usually adjust to well under 2½ pounds without doing any stoning. If you have any doubts about your trigger or bolt, you should immediately return the gun to the factory (attention: Ken French) for an inspection or repair—whichever is necessary.

**Rear Sight:** Some time ago, T/C changed the design of the rear sight on both 10-inch and 14-inch barrels to a new design and notch width. The new notch width does not work well on 10-inch barrels not equipped with the new, narrower

SSKs “Arrestor” muzzle brake is extremely effective and does much to help correct muzzle flip, lateral torque.

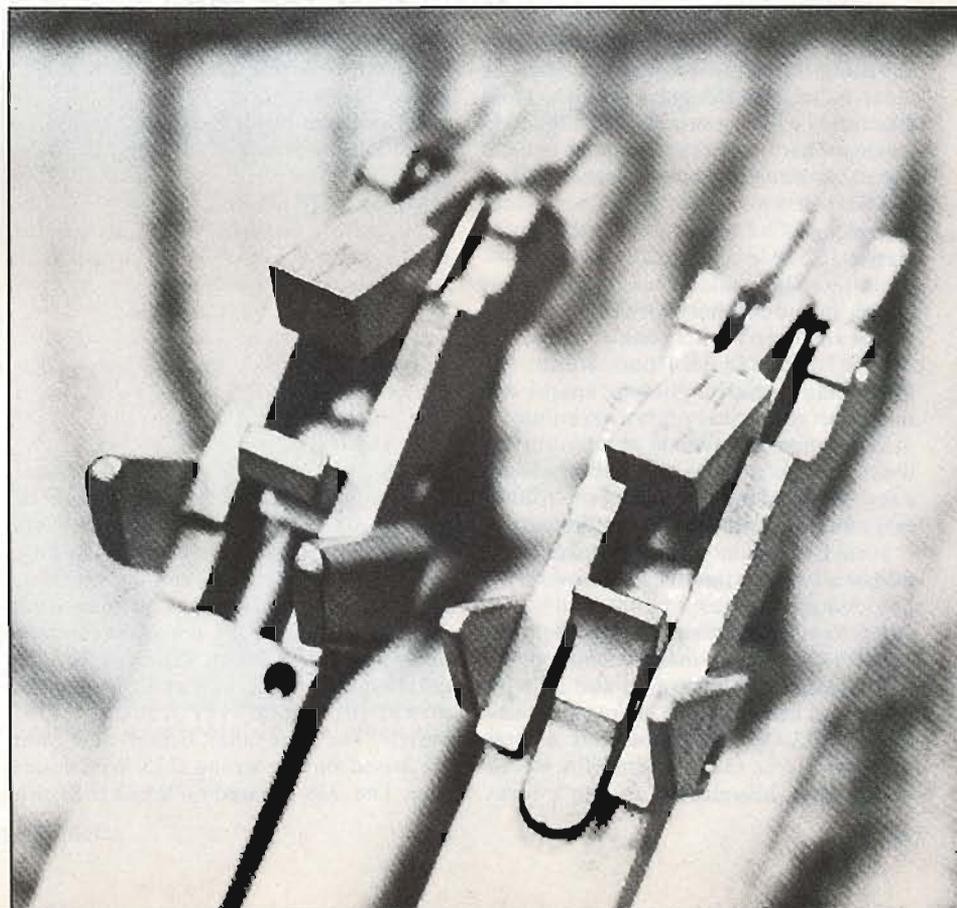


front sight. On older barrels, replacing the rear sight makes sense if you file either the front sight blade or rear notch to match the other sight. The new sight replaces the original 14-inch “side-saddle” sight and matches the front sight perfectly. The new sight is a considerable improvement over the older ones, which had a habit of “jumping” adjustment.



Here is SSKs “SOB” base, which uses six screws and three or four rings. Rig remains in position on any T/C pistol, irregardless of severity of recoil.

The new trigger group mechanism (right) is different from old, in many ways. They are not interchangeable. New provides easy opening of tight barrels.



**New Calibers:** The 7mm TCU (Thompson/Center Ugaldie) is a .223 case opened to 7mm. It's been around for about a year in factory T/C barrels and has dominated the production single-shot silhouette match category.

The single-shot guns—basically the T/Cs—were separated from competition from revolvers which simply weren't competitive with them. They still shoot together in the offhand position, but that's probably going to go by the wayside one of these days.

New for this year is the 6.5mm TCU: the .223 necked up to 6.5mm in both 10-inch and 14-inch barrels and a 14-inch .22 LR and 10-inch .22 Magnum bull barrel.

## WILDCATS THAT MAKE SENSE

The 6.5mm and the 7mm TCU are wildcats that make sense. Simply run the case into the full-length sizing die, which expands the neck to the appropriate diameter, and load it. No shortening or reaming is necessary. It's a handload-only proposition, but certainly no harder to load than a standard .223.

I've been shooting a 6.5mm TCU 10-inch for about a year and it's a fine accurate, flat-shooting cartridge. The successes and failures of these two cartridges on the silhouette ranges depends mainly on the ram targets. If they go over easy, the 6.5mm or the 7mm TCU will shoot 40s forever. On ranges where ram targets are bent, wobbly, or set to maximum allowable hardness, both cartridges will lose some rams. So do .44 magnums, but not as many.

In the hunting field, I'm not too enthusiastic about anything under .30 caliber for anything larger than varmints. Most of these bullets are designed for rifles, and give little or no expansion at handgun velocities. There are exceptions, but to catalog all would require considerable testing.

The very popular magnum pistol cartridges—.22 LR, .222, .223, .30-30, .30 Herrett, .357 Herrett and .35 Remington—continue to be available, along with many others, including shot barrels.

**Accurizing:** Vern Juenke (Accuracy Den, 25 Bitterbrush Road, Reno, NV 89523) has a relatively simple, unique and inexpensive accuracy job worked up for the Contender that will do wonders for any old, worn-out gun. He also has developed a few target cartridges, such as the .270 VJ and offers custom barrels and dies.

Juenke is the only T/C accurizer that I personally recommend. He knows what he's doing, and does it right.

**Rechambering:** Rechambering the .30 Herrett to cartridges that give more power and eliminate case forming and case life problems makes sense. Some barrels—those in .22 CF, .30, .35, .41 and .44—can successfully be rechambered for worthwhile gains in velocity and/or energy,

while still retaining or improving the basic accuracy of the gun.

The .30 Herrett or .30-30 conversion to .30-30 Ackley, .30-40 Krag or a couple of other similar cartridges can be rechambered to provide good accuracy.

Anyone willing to change a T/C over to .308, .358 or .350 Remington Magnum is simply unknowledgeable, or irresponsible—or both.

SSK Industries has developed and tested a line of cartridges for the T/C and recommends the .30 Herrett or .30-30 be rechambered to .30-40 Krag, in most instances. The .357 Herrett or .35 Remington can be rechambered to the .358 JDJ: a .444 Marlin necked to .35 caliber. It's great with 250-grain bullets, and just about *doubles* the power, without excessive pressures or stress.

The .41 and .44 Magnums can be rechambered to the .411, .430 or .444 for very useful increases in power, particularly with heavy cast bullets.

Rechambering is worthwhile to increase power, gain accuracy and eliminate case problems, such as those found with the .30 and .357 Herrett cartridges. Recrowning with a benchrest type crown also does much toward increasing the accuracy of some barrels.

One company, 3K Industries (POB 2020, Boise, ID 83701), rechambers .44 Magnum T/Cs to the .444 Schaffer Magnum. This chamber uses brass available only from 3K, but has the advantage of accepting .44 Russian, .44 Special, .44 Magnum and the .444 S.M. round. Its power is the same as the .430 JDJ and .444 Marlin.

**Custom Barrels:** Good, bad and indifferent ones abound. Check the attachment of the underlug to the barrel. The T/C is electron beam-welded and the lug is then induction-hardened.

## CHECK FOR DEFECTIVE BARRELS

There have been a lot of unsafe custom barrels for the T/C floating around. I've seen many barrels with what appeared to be a couple of sloppy arc weld spots on each side of the lug that were applied to help hold it in place, including several that were cracked before firing. If it looks like a T/C weld it's fine; if not, I would be very leery about it.

SSK Industries (Rt. 1, Della Drive, Bloomingdale, OH 43910) has a line of custom barrels with about 50 calibers available, from a .14 through a black powder .58. All are hard chrome-finished; numerous other accessories, such as scope mounts and sling studs, are available from SSK. The JDJ wildcat SSK barrels offer match-grade accuracy and impressive power increases over standard T/C barrels. The .226, 6mm, 6.5mm and 7mm are based on the strong .225 Winchester case. The .338 is based on the .303 British

case. The .358, .375, .411 and .430 all utilize the .444 Marlin case and are very powerful cartridges. The old .45-70 is the most popular custom barrel. It's capable of 1½ inch groups at 100 yards and is quite powerful with handloads. Velocities of 1500-1600 fps with 400-grain bullets are easily handled by both the gun and shooter. I dropped a running caribou with one at about 150 yards and recovered two 400-grain Speer bullets expanded to .88 and .93 caliber.

The .375 JDJ is second most popular. Simply run a .444 case into the .375 JDJ full length sizing die to neck it to accept a .375 bullet and load it.

It pushes the 270-grain Hornady at 1950 fps and has successfully taken almost all big game animals. That includes six elephants I'm aware of, and the 300-grain Hornady solid completely penetrated the heads of all three. This caliber is very rapidly becoming the choice of discriminating big game hunters worldwide. It has seen extensive use in the U.S. and Africa and offers the best combination of features for hunting now available: Adequate caliber, heavy-weight bullets, solids for dangerous game, accuracy on the order of one-inch groups at 100 yards with hunting loads, soft bullets such as the 220-grain Hornady, excellent penetration, reasonably flat trajectory and moderate recoil (particularly when equipped with Mag-Na-Port or the highly effective SSK "Arrestor" brake).

Larry Kelly, owner of Mag-Na-Port Arms (30016 South River Rd., Mt. Clemens, MI 48045) is one of the leading handgun hunters in the world today, and for the last four years has used the .375 JDJ almost exclusively. He considers it simply the best hunting handgun in the world.

In many respects, the T/C is rough to keep a scope on. SSK also has scope bases that will stay on most any caliber gun. One, for moderate recoil, uses the existing four T/C sight base screws. Another, the tough SOB base, is designed for any cartridge and uses six screws and three or four rings.

W.H. Siebert (22720 S.E. 56 St., Issaquah, WA 98027) is the scope sight magician. A high percentage of bench shooters use this modified scope. He does a fantastic job of changing the Leupold 12 and 24X scopes to long eye relief for pistol use. It cuts the power almost 50 percent; but for serious testing or varminting, I wouldn't use anything but one of his rigs. Groups of less than ½ inch at 100 yards are quite common, and a 300-yard effective range on prairie dogs with some of the more accurate T/Cs (assuming good hunting conditions) is not out of line.

Such are the basic options available for the most useful handgun in existence today. Many not mentioned are out there; some are worthwhile, some are not. The firms I've mentioned specialize in T/C work.



# Belt Slide Holsters

*By Frank Kerr*

Do double duty for police; save money

Most law enforcement officers carry a large-caliber duty weapon in an area where it is easily accessible, usually in plain sight.

The backup weapons, tucked away behind a zipper or strapped to an ankle, are there for a specific mission, and not usually carried that way for everyday wear.

A handgun of adequate caliber usually is carried in some type of belt or shoulder holster. For those who carry a six-inch revolver as a concealed weapon, a shoulder holster is almost mandatory. Typical police guns tend to be two- or four-inch revolvers or automatics of similar overall length, and are normally carried in strong-side belt holsters.

While there are a myriad of belt holsters available for concealed carry, I think less is definitely better. I believe strongly in the KISS principle (Keep It Simple, Stupid).



Shown here is a variety of belt slide holsters available on the market.



Belt slide holsters fit snugly to body.

That is why I have been carrying my concealed weapons in belt slide holsters for some time. Several companies make belt slides, among them Bianchi, Safariland, Don Hume and Jackass. At first glance, the belt slide resembles nothing more than two flaps of leather haphazardly sewn together. Actually, many hours of research and development have been lavished on the design, and all are somewhat differently constructed.

I am most familiar with Gordon Davis' belt slide. Gordon is justly famous for his superb and innovative IPSC competition rig. It is a quality piece, sturdy, well crafted, slim and professionally finished. I first purchased it for IPSC competition, but soon found that it concealed very well, and did an excellent job of retaining my weapon, despite any bodily gyrations I was likely to engage in.

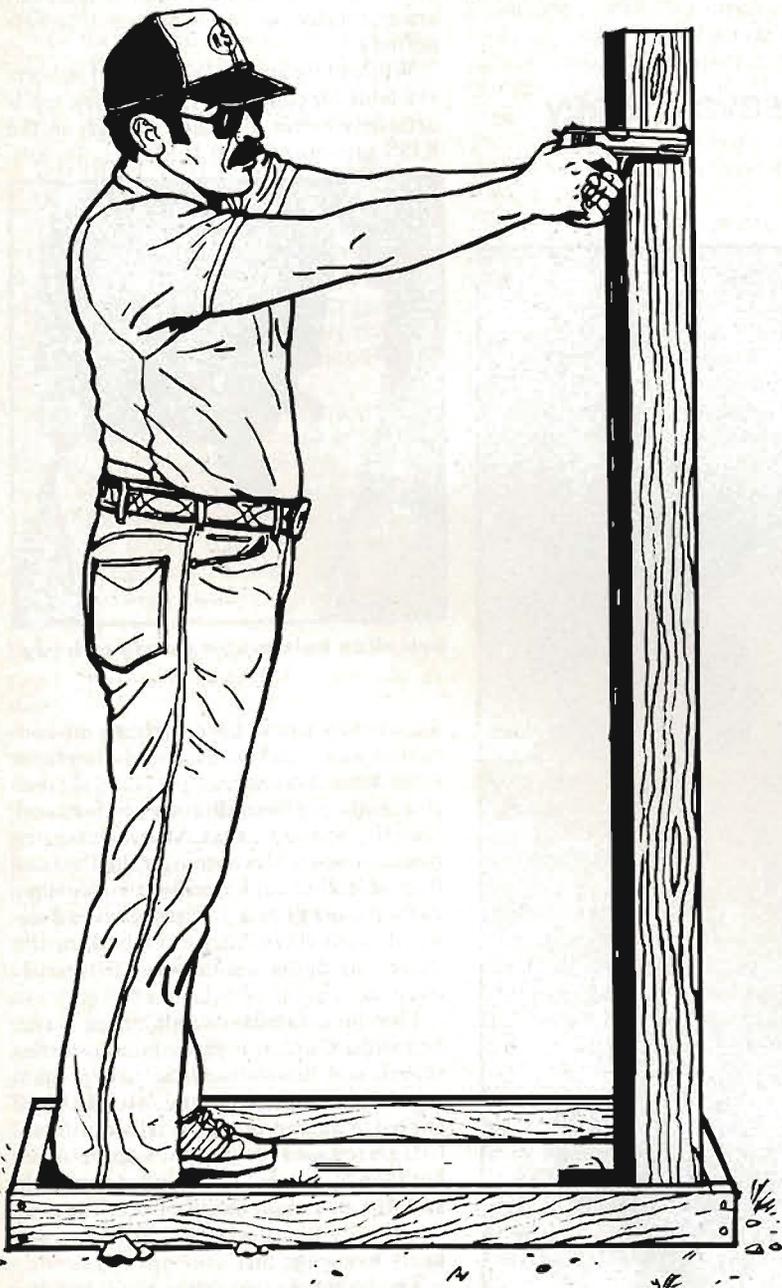
The holster has no safety strap, but due to excellent design, it needs none. I have assumed some undignified positions during pistol matches, and my pistol has never come adrift. It is very fast and suitable for most barrel lengths, including the six-inch long slide Colt autos, commonly seen at IPSC matches.

*Continued on page 60*

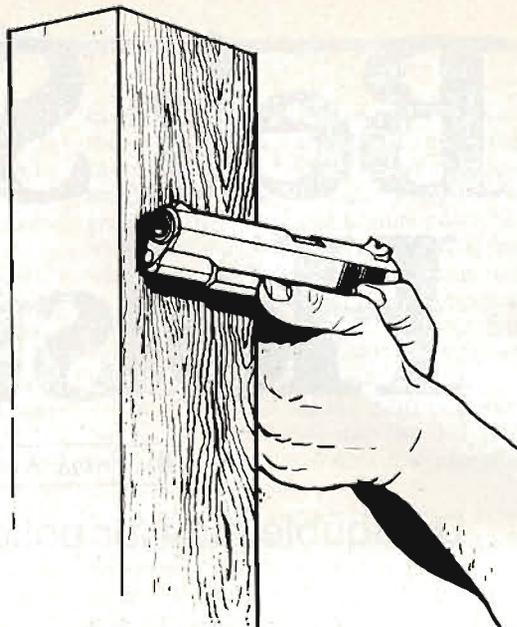
# MASTER TIPS

Collected by Jon Winokur

## Basic Barricade Technique

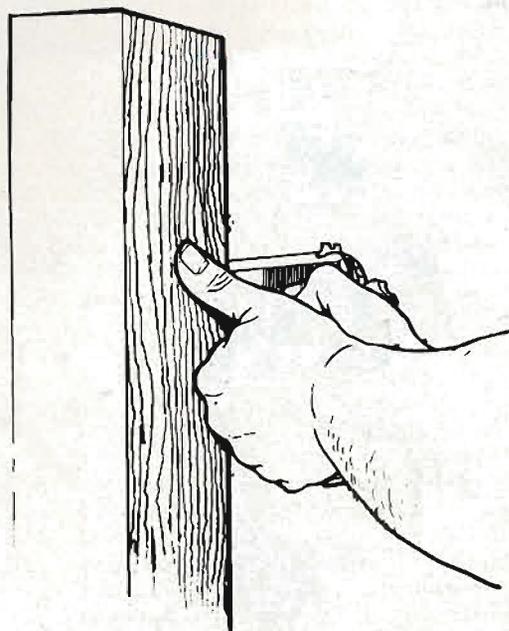


Basic barricade position is steady and comfortable. Body weight is forward and feet are square with shoulders for maximum balance. Heel of opposite foot is slightly raised. Hand and gun position will change depending on type of event and angle to target.



From the left side: trigger guard and knuckles of weak hand are pressed into barricade. Gun is canted to allow free operation of slide.

MIKE FICHMAN, Combar Master, 1979 Southwest Pistol League Class Champion, Team Captain and Bronze Medalist-1981 IPSC World Championship.



From the right side: thumb and knuckles of weak hand are pressed into barricade, creating a steady, "tripod" effect.

©Jon Winokur 1982



Mickey Fowler, right, receives the coveted Bianchi Cup from John Bianchi, president of the firm that sponsors annual event.

## For Three Straight Years...

# MICKEY FOWLER WINS 1982 BIANCHI CUP

*By Jim Woods*

The fourth annual Bianchi Invitational Pistol Tournament, held in May at Ray Chapman's Shooting Academy in Columbia, Missouri, gave 189 shooters and several hundred spectators several new things to talk about.

California's Mickey Fowler won it again; and one is tempted to say he won it again "as usual," since he has taken top honors for the last three consecutive years.

Fowler's win, however, was not really so routine as to be business-as-usual. His cool expertise was pressed to new limits this

time, not only by stiff competition from other super-shooters, but by some shooting equipment new to the Bianchi Cup scene this year.

Shooting matches, especially one so rich and prestigious as the Bianchi Cup has come to be, are expected to spawn specialized equipment to provide the competitors with subtle, but significant, advantages.

The most visible new equipment at the Bianchi Cup this year was the Aimpoint projected-light-dot sight. About a dozen shooters used them, and generally they acquitted themselves well.

Overall second-place finisher, Brian Enos of Phoenix, Arizona, provided a good deal of suspense to the final outcome with his Aimpoint-equipped revolver. Enos placed second by just *one* point behind Fowler, and completed all his four events with a tournament record score—at the time—of 1902 out of a possible 1920.

Fowler did come on to win, however, with a score of 1903. He used some specialized equipment of his own. Fowler's winning gun was a Don Nygord-built Colt .45 auto that outwardly looked to be another long-slide model. The slide was, in fact, shortened from the normal by  $\frac{3}{8}$  of an



**An unidentified shooter at the Bianchi match is shown firing on the falling plate targets, all 48 of which were shot down by Mickey Fowler and Brian Enos.**

inch. A recoil-reducing, ported chamber muzzle weight—machined to match the lines of the conventional muzzle end of a Colt auto—added the additional length to the gun. Fowler's winning gun has a Bo Clerke barrel, Wichita rear sight, and Swensen safety. Trigger work was done by

Jack Breskovich of Advantage Competition Shooting Accessories of Whittier, California. (Weight: under three pounds.) Breskovich added a special grip system to Fowler's reworked .45, which increased its weight and helped reduce recoil.

Colt .45 pistols, in a wide variety of com-

petition modifications, were the most used guns in the latest Bianchi Tournament (as they were in all three previous events). Approximately two-thirds of the 189 shooters in Bianchi Cup IV used the Colt auto system. The Colt autos outnumbered the second most used system, Smith & Wesson revolvers, by a margin of about two-to-one.

One of the basic timbers in the tournament's original construction was to avoid any advantage of one shooting discipline over another. There were no speed-loading requirements that would give advantage to the magazine-fed autos, and each stage of each event is completed with six rounds fired, in deference to revolvers. In spite of these provisions, a revolver has placed no better than second, as one did last year and this year, too. Some individual matches

## CONVERSATION WITH A CHAMP

By Jon Winokur

**M**ickey Fowler's victory in the 1982 Bianchi Cup Match is remarkable for several reasons. It was his third consecutive win in the four-year history of the invitational tournament. He broke the 1900 point barrier—out of a possible 1920—with a score of 1903, one point better than second-place finisher Brian Enos' 1902.

Fowler "cleaned" the falling plate event, *knowing* he had to do so to win the competition. He won the man-against-man shootoff against the other top tournament finishers convincingly: his *first* major shootoff victory.

He was a member of the winning International Shootists, Inc./Cannon Safes team with Mike Dalton, Mike Fichman and Craig Gifford for the second year in a row (team score: 7396/493Xs). And he entered the competition with only nine days practice under his belt, having been on an extended business trip during the month prior to the tournament.

In addition to his three Bianchi cups, Fowler has won two Southwest Pistol Championships, an IPSC (International Practical Shooting Confederation) National Championship, and has represented the United States on two IPSC World Championship teams. He is per-

haps the most *consistent* of all the top IPSC competitors, having finished in the top 10 of every major tournament he has entered since 1978. Fowler, 35, is a talented, dedicated, well-conditioned athlete—a true sportsman.

Here are some of his thoughts on competitive shooting; in question-answer format:

**JW:** *You've just won your third straight Bianchi Cup. To what do you attribute your domination of that tournament?*

**MF:** It's the only format in which I can compete on an equal basis with PPC (Practical Pistol Course) champions, the U.S. Bullseye Champion, IPSC Combat Masters, and other fine marksmen from all over the world; I think that's what helps me get "up" for the tournament. If there's an all-around championship, the Bianchi Cup is it.

**JW:** *Describe the equipment you used at the Bianchi Cup.*

**MF:** I used a pistol of my own design, a vented, six-inch .45 auto built for me by Don Nygord with trigger work and recoil system done by Jack Breskovich. My ammunition was a light charge of ball powder behind the extremely accurate Hornady 200-grain CT match bullet. My leather was the International Shootists, Inc. (ISC) crossdraw rig made by Ted Blocker, which I designed with Mike Dalton (his partner in ISC).

**JW:** *On the subject of equipment, are IPSC competition guns becoming too complicated and too expensive for the average shooter?*

**MF:** You don't rise and fall on your equipment. The average shooter doesn't need a highly customized gun and, although some shooters use the

fact that they shoot a five-inch gun as an alibi, I have several five-inch guns I use regularly in Southwest Pistol League competition. In fact, an out-of-the-box Colt MK IV can probably outshoot 99 percent of the shooters holding it.

**JW:** *Yet you still shoot a six-inch gun in the big matches.*

**MF:** Yes, because at the championship level, I can't afford to give up a single point, as was graphically illustrated at the Bianchi Cup. But even if I'd used a standard pistol with factory hardball, I think I'd still have finished in the top five. I have found that the sight radius of the six-inch gun is just about optimum for IPSC shooting, since you're not really hampered at close range by the extra length, which gives you a tiny edge at the longer ranges.

**JW:** *It sounds as though you do a lot of experimenting with your equipment.*

**MF:** My approach to equipment is probably influenced by my motor racing background, where constant striving for small technical improvements is a way of life. So, I'm constantly tinkering with the gun in an effort to improve pistol design. To that end, I've recently become a consultant to Llama in the area of handgun development. But I want to emphasize that except at the highest level of skill, most shooters would be better off spending their money on practice ammunition rather than on exotic gun modifications.

**JW:** *What kind of racing did you do, and has it been of other value in competitive shooting?*

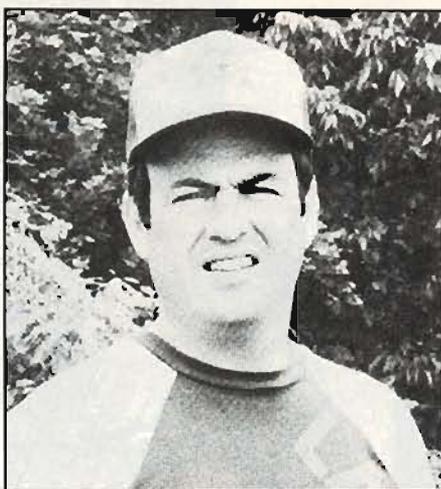
**MF:** I raced Formula 5000 cars for about seven years and flat track motor-

have been won by a revolver, and there's no real reason why a revolver shouldn't take the whole shooting match—some day.

Brian Enos has come the closest so far. With his Frank Glenn customized S&W M10 .38 Special revolver equipped with a heavy, six-inch Douglas 11/16-inch diameter barrel and Aimpoint sight, Enos took second in the Barricade Event, which Fowler won; he beat Fowler in the Falling Plate event, and placed second in the Practical Event.

### NO PRONE POSITION

For the three previous years of the Bianchi Tournament, the course of fire has remained the same. *Match No. 1* is the Practical Event, this year sponsored by the *American Handgunner*. Shooters fired at ranges from 10 to 50 yards. The 50-yard



**Winner of the Practical Event was Officer Fred Romero of the LAPD.**

stage has been shot prone by most shooters, particularly those shooters with IPSC (International Practical Shooting Confederation) backgrounds. Bianchi Cup IV

## TOP 20

Shooter	Total score	Xs
1. Mickey Fowler	1903	145
2. Brian Enos	1902	168
3. Mark Duncan	1879	128
4. Mitchell McNeese	1866	119
5. Bill Wilson	1866	117
6. Roger Burgess	1859	123
7. Royce Weddle	1856	114
8. Craig Gifford	1852	133
9. Tom Campbell	1850	115
10. Nick Stamatiadis	1844	89
11. John Shaw	1843	126
12. Ken Dunlap	1843	114
13. Jerry Eason	1839	116
14. William Rogers	1839	109
15. Robert Leatham	1837	124
16. Chip McCormick	1834	118
17. Ross Seyfried	1828	114
18. Gavin Carson	1825	123
19. Mike Dalton	1822	113
20. J. P. Nelson	1822	109

cycles before that. In any activity where there's danger, your life depends on intense concentration. So, the racing has been of great value in teaching me to control my nerves and emotions in big matches.

**JW:** *But isn't there a difference in incentive between driving a race car 200 miles per hour and shooting a handgun at a target?*

**MF:** The motivation is different, but the object is still to win. Fortunately, shooting isn't nearly as frustrating as racing; you're not relying on 5,000 parts that can break. The key is to keep your cool, whether in a pistol match, behind the wheel of a racing car, or in an armed confrontation. You have to be able to concentrate on the task at hand to the exclusion of everything else.

**JW:** *When you came to the line at the Bianchi falling plates, you knew you had to "clean" them in order to win the championship by one point, and you did exactly that. How did you handle the pressure?*

**MF:** I just concentrated on what I had to do and blocked everything else out. I knew that thinking about what another shooter did wasn't going to help me. I'd practiced, I knew I was prepared. And I was reasonably confident. I concentrated on the basics of marksmanship and approached the event as 48 individual shots. So, there was probably more drama for the spectators than there was for me. I was there to do business.

**JW:** *You make it sound easy.*

**MF:** Blocking out is easier said than done, and sometimes the concentration just isn't there. But it's nice to have it

when there's a major championship at stake.

**JW:** *What do you do to make sure the concentration is there?*

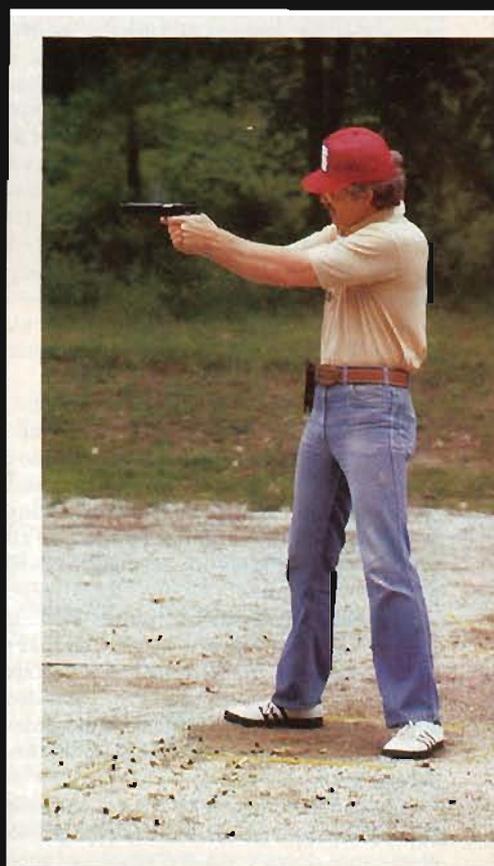
**MF:** I have a method I call "reading the sights." That means I concentrate so hard on each shot that I can call my shot without looking at the target. When I read the sights properly, I'm seldom out of the 10-ring. Another thing that helps me concentrate on the shooting problem is my practice of never looking at the scoreboard. I'm shooting against a course of fire, not other shooters; all I have control over is what I do.

**JW:** *You took home a record amount of cash and prizes (about \$36,000) for your Bianchi Cup win. What do you foresee for the future of practical pistol competition?*

**MF:** Four years ago you couldn't make expenses at a pistol match. Now, there are four or five big money events a year, with others on the planning board. I think the sport has an excellent future if we don't get anti-gun laws. But if legislation like the upcoming California Initiative passes, handgunning would lose a large market, and tournament sponsorship would dry up. So, we're going to have to fight even harder to keep our right to bear arms.

I think practical shooting should be presented to the general public as a legitimate sporting activity. Shooting really is a great form of recreation; it's a healthy outdoor activity that's both physically and mentally challenging. It teaches discipline and sportsmanship, and it gives you a practical skill that can literally save your life.

But in order to attract participants from the mainstream of society, we can't be portrayed as a bunch of gun nuts running around practicing how to kill people. We must vigorously oppose those who would take away our  Second Amendment rights.

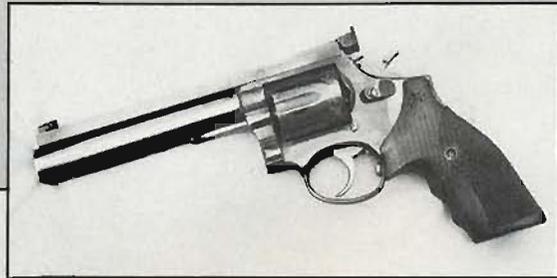




# GUNS

**Aimpoint shooters, left to right: David Bradshaw, Brian Enos, John Shaw and Joe Pascarella. Enos took second-place in match with a blazing 1902 out of 1920.**

**Los Angeles Police Dept. Officer Fred Romero won Practical Event with this S&W M15. Trigger stop is a glued-on pencil eraser.**



**This Spilborghs 6-inch ribbed longslide .45 auto was built for the 1982 Bianchi Cup match. It features a patented barrel extension and bushing.**



disallowed the prone position in any event. There were considerable complaints by shooters about this revision of the rules, yet scores for the event and the entire match were the highest ever.

*Match No. 2* is the Barricade Event, shot from four ranges out to 35 yards. There were no changes this year, except that it was cleaned—a 480 score—by Mickey Fowler. Five others finished just two points down, and another five were four points down. The Barricade Event has been pretty well solved by Bianchi Cup shooters.

*Match No. 3* is the Moving Target Event, shot at 10, 15, 20 and 25 yards. No shooter has scored a perfect 480 score.

*Match No. 4* is the Falling Plate Event. It's the most popular with spectators, since the plates clang and tip over—at least they do a good part of the time. It's the toughest on the shooters. The plates have no 8-ring or 5-area as do the cardboard targets on all other events. Plates are either hits—10 points—or misses.

Bianchi Cup II saw all plates fall for PPC (Practical Pistol Course) shooter Mike Murray. Cup III had three perfect shooters in a shoot-off, two IPSC .45 autos against one PPC revolver. This year, a rules change was instituted, to eliminate the tie-breaking shoot-off.

The new tie-breaker for the event calls for a shooter who cleans the plates—48 plates shot down for a 480 score—to keep

on shooting the string until he misses. The shooter's aggregate score, however, benefits from only the 480 points.

The falling plates of Bianchi Cup IV provided the biggest drama of the tournament. Brian Enos, shooting his Aimpoint-equipped revolver, and Mickey Fowler shooting his special .45 auto, had been dogging each other at nearly every event. Enos finished the plates with a perfect 480, for an aggregate score of 1902 out of a possible 1920—the first shooter ever in Bianchi Cup history to break into the 1900 club. He continued to drop plates until he missed the 67th one.

A bit later the same day, along came Fowler to shoot the plates. He has totally conquered the Bianchi Cup in past years, except that he has never cleaned all 48

plates in any of the three previous tournaments. Now, in the fourth and final event that would determine his aggregate score for Bianchi Cup IV, he faced some real pressures.

Before either of them shot the plates, Fowler was one lone point in front of Enos, and Enos had cleaned the plates. If Fowler were to leave just one plate standing, he would drop the match, the 1900 club, and the championship.

## FWOHLER WINS

He coolly shot down the plates, all 48 of them, to take the lead in the 1900 club at 1903, one point more than Enos and more importantly to win his third consecutive Bianchi Cup title. Fowler continued to shoot the plates, but lost number 54. Brian

Enos thus salvaged the match win, but Mickey Fowler—once again—beat back all challengers for the big prize: high tournament score.

There was a fifth event, of sorts, after the tournament had already been decided by the four events that has comprised the tournament since it started. The *Speed Event* was a combination exhibition and bonus match for the top 20 finishers in the Bianchi Cup. Shooters shot against the clock at five steel targets, the last of which was a stop plate. The top six shooters, those recording the *lowest* times, then went

with a revolver shot by LAPD officer Fred Romero. He has been with the LAPD for more than 16 years and has served as firearms instructor at the LAPD Academy. Romero is now Senior Patrol Training Officer. He has fired with the LAPD pistol team for 10 years, and five times has made the *Governor's 20* list. His gun, which he has used in his 10 years of PPC competition, is affectionally referred to by its owner and his LAPD team members as a "pterodactyl" (an ancient flying reptile). It is a S&W M15 with a six-inch Apex barrel and Bo-Mar rib/sight. Stocks are by John

Bianchi Cup I had a cartridge power standard, equivalent to factory-loaded 158-grain .38 Specials, but it was a paper rule only. Officials never checked to see if the shooter's handloads were on the light side, and therefore more controllable than the minimum power standard required. The unforced rule remained on the books through Cup II and Cup III, and was still a part of the rules of Cup IV. The difference with Cup IV, however, was that the rule was enforced. At each event, shooters were required to provide officials with six rounds for power checks.

## AT THE BIANCHI SHOOT

Brian Enos of Phoenix, Arizona fired this Aimpoint-equipped Glenn Custom S&W M10 to take a close second place in this year's Bianchi Cup tournament.



Mickey Fowler used this Don Nygord-built .45 auto to win 1982 Bianchi Cup match. Note recoil-reducing, ported chamber muzzle weight.



On display at the Bianchi Cup match was this H&K Model P7-A13 9mm auto with its 13-round magazine. It was not fired in this year's match.

into a round-robin elimination. After everyone had shot against everyone else, Mickey Fowler was the winner of *more honors* and, of course, *more money*.

(Fowler won about \$36,000 in merchandise and prize money, including \$22,500 in cash. Enos won \$9,400 in cash, plus merchandise.)

The top woman shooter was Edith Almeida of Johannesburg, South Africa, who placed 64th with a score of 1725.

She fired an HKP-9 .45 auto.

It was her third consecutive win as "top woman shooter" in the Bianchi Cup tournament.

Mickey Fowler described her as "the best female combat shooter in the world."

The *American Handgunner*-sponsored *Match No. 1* (the Practical Event) was won

Hürst. An interesting addition is the trigger stop—a pencil eraser, super-glued to the inside rear of the trigger guard.

This, the Bianchi tournament IV, was Romero's first. He said he found the *American Handgunner* event "comfortable," which was somewhat obvious by his 475/24X out of a possible 480 score. Romero said he felt that "there are no events in the Bianchi tournament that a good shooter shouldn't be able to compete well in." The difference in the Bianchi Cup and other shooting matches in which he has participated is the "pressure," greatly enhanced in the Bianchi.

Romero finished in 26th place overall with 1816, a score good enough to win the whole affair four years ago when the first Bianchi Cup Tournament was held.

In previous years, shooters could show up for the match with the bare minimum of ammo—192 rounds—if they so chose. Now, they must not only have 192 cartridges with which to shoot the match, but 24 additional rounds for power checks at all events, plus another 192 rounds in reserve in case one or more events must be re-shot. So, the new minimum at the Bianchi Cup is 408 rounds. Naturally, more are required if any practice rounds are fired.

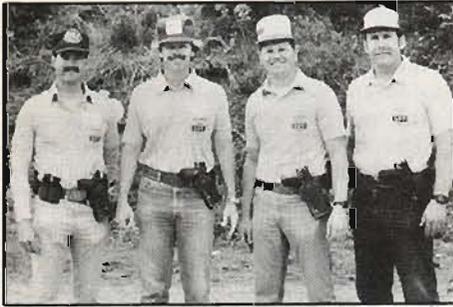
### PRIZE MONEY CLIMBS

The Bianchi Cup is too crowded with shooters to allow practice rounds. Buck Toddy, however, set up a practice range on a nearby farm used by several competitors for a last-minute tune-up.

*Continued on page 55*

## TED BLOCKER'S HOLSTERS ARE THE CHOICE OF CHAMPIONS

Mickey Fowler wins 3rd straight Bianchi Cup and the man v/s man speed event using Ted Blocker's I.S.I. competition rig.



I.S.I. CANNON SAFE TEAM Mickey Fowler, Mike Dalton, Craig Gifford and Mike Fichman remain undefeated in the Bianchi Cup Team Match using Blocker's I.S.I. Competition Rig. These winning team members know and demand the very best leather equipment available. Write for free brochure or see advertisement elsewhere in this issue.



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PATENTED

## STOPPING POWER

Continued from page 37

iological mechanisms of rendering an opponent immobile with a gunshot wound. Obviously, a wound that instantly causes total cessation of body functions will be far more effective than one which strikes an area of only peripheral importance to body functions. A .22 slug through the cerebral cortex, or through the cervical spinal cord, drops a man like shutting off a light switch.

But I know of cases where men were shot with .44 Magnum bullets in the torso and kept fighting; and one man crawled down a flight of stairs and out to his car after being shot in the head with a .44 Magnum 240-grain SWC that didn't touch the vital sectors of his brain.

Placement is the first imperative. But what about destruction *inside* the body? Physicians are mixed in their opinions. Some will say, "Only the location of the wound track and the extent of damage done is meaningful." Others, like Dr. DiMaio of the Southwest Institute of Forensic Sciences, believe that "kinetic energy dump" of high-velocity bullets is critical to wound effect.

There are certain parts of the body where a hit with a high-velocity bullet of almost any shape or weight has a more destructive effect than a fat, slow-moving .45 slug. Bones shatter more from high-velocity, while they just more or less break into compound or comminuted fractures when you hit them with 230-grain ball. Even a crushing, comminuted fracture is not always difficult to recover from. But high-velocity bullets pulverize bone for a great distance, and also send splintered bone shards flying through the adjacent soft tissues—the well-documented "secondary missile effect." A .357 slug that strikes a bone in your arm or leg is likely to cost you four to six inches of that bone, if you don't lose the whole limb. A .45 slug is more likely to just "break your leg real bad."

Similarly, higher velocity projectiles are more destructive in a liquid medium. That's why you can shoot a jug of water with a .45 hardball, and the jug falls over and water flows out. But if you shoot it with a .38 Super Vel load, that sucker *explodes*. The faster a liquid is flung outward from the wound track, the more adjacent damage it can cause.

This can mean bruised and "stunned" surrounding organs—the "temporary wound channel effect" the new breed of combat ballisticians refer to—and it can also mean hyper-extravasation; that is, a stretching, or breaking, of capillaries and other small blood vessels around the bullet track that causes more bleeding.

Big, slow-moving bullets give you some other advantages, however, when you hit other parts of the body. There is a larger

permanent wound cavity; that is, more tissue is instantly and irrevocably destroyed. A bigger hole that allows more air to rush in creates the pneumothorax effect that squeezes down the heart and lungs with air pressure. This also promotes more hemorrhage, meaning that the bad guy goes into traumatic shock quicker and passes out sooner; if he hasn't been killed outright.

### COMPUTER PRINTOUTS

What you come down to, when you try to defend the Hatcher and Thompson-LaGarde theories, is whether pure impact momentum makes a difference. The "new breed" of gunfight researchers tell you it doesn't. And they've got the computer printouts to prove it. Right?

Wrong. There is something to the "impact theory." It does seem impossible that a bullet weighing a fraction of an ounce could "knock down" a man weighing 150 or 200 pounds. Men have been "knocked off their feet" when hit with .22s, according to eyewitness reports. Yet, I know of men who were shot with full 12-gauge 00 buck-shot charges twice and ran; and a couple who were hit with .44 Magnums ran, too.

Much of the "knockdown" is a psychological reaction to someone shooting at you (your body throws you back instinctively), or reaction to pain, which causes violent muscular convulsions that can fling a man backward, as if he'd been struck with a giant fist. But that doesn't explain every case of observed knockdown.

For the last 10 years, a great many more police officers have had access to bullet-resistant vests. With the *Second Chance* brand alone, more than a hundred cops have been shot "on their vest" on the street. When that happens with this "soft body armor," which doesn't absorb impact shock any better than a leather jacket, we know that all the "kinetic energy has been dumped." When I began interviewing "vest survivors" in the early 1970s, I knew that these men had absorbed the maximum impact energy of the .38, 9mm, .357 Magnum and .45 ACP bullets that had struck them.

These men had, unwittingly, performed the "great experiment" as to knockdown power. They weren't recoiling from the

*Continued on page 54*

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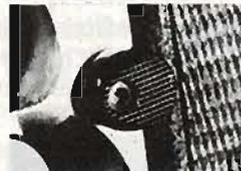
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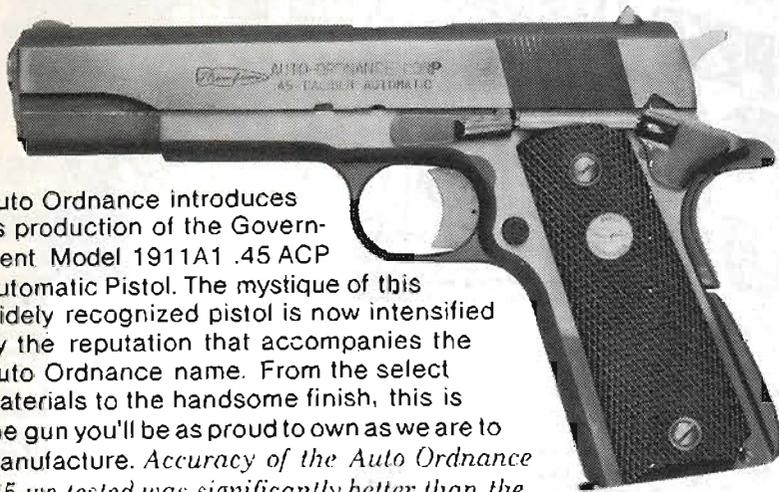
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pain of a bullet ripping through their internal organs. They were a unique test sample. I have interviewed more of these survivors than anyone outside the body armor industry.

The men I talked to who absorbed the total energy of handgun bullets on their soft vests in actual combat report a much more violent and painful impact with .45s than they do with high-velocity, mid-caliber bullets. I've talked to several who've been shot with the .357 Magnum. Most describe it as like taking a solid punch; two said it was like "somebody poking you in the chest with stiff fingers." Yet, everyone I've talked to who stopped a .45 on his vest was flung violently backward and described it as like being kicked in the chest.

If I have to shoot an attacker, I want him to be flung backward like that: Disoriented, off-balance, less able to shoot me before I finish him. Street experience with the vests proves what street and battlefield observations have suggested since before the turn of the century: People hit with slow, heavy, big-caliber bullets are more likely to be knocked back or down than those hit with little, fast ones.

The fallacy of judging a bullet's shock effect by how much gook it blows out of a block of Jello is that you are measuring tissue destruction, and the relative likelihood of eventual death. You are not, necessarily, measuring the instant reaction to being shot. You don't care if the attacker dies, you just want to make him incapable of shooting you.

If the high-velocity bullet hits someplace where hyper-extravasation can take effect and kill him instantly, fine. If not, it takes him five seconds to five minutes to "bleed out" through the additional severed blood vessels caused by your fast, little bullet. He can kill you several times over in that period. No, you want to slam him back.

You *do* want to expend all the bullet energy in his body; that's why I like hollow-points for every caliber. The more velocity the better, in all calibers. But at pistol velocities (below 2,000 feet per second, where explosive hydraulic shock develops wherever the person is hit), the *width* of the bullet may well be more important than speed.

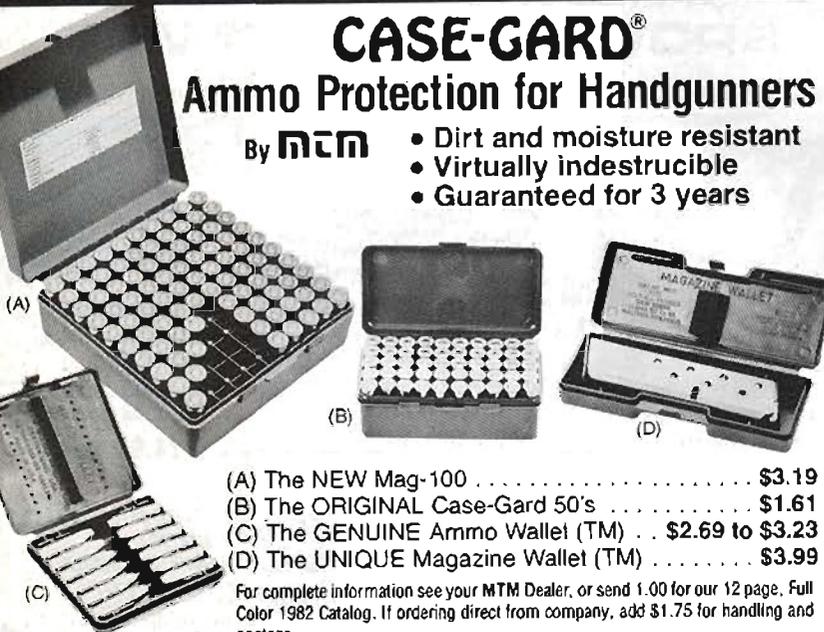
A fast, 125-grain .357 hollow-point bullet hits harder than a 230-grain hardball slug. But they're close. Hatcher himself ranked the .357 and the .45 about the same on his scale of stopping power, and both of them about twice as high as the .38 Special or the 9mm Parabellum.

*Continued on page 56*

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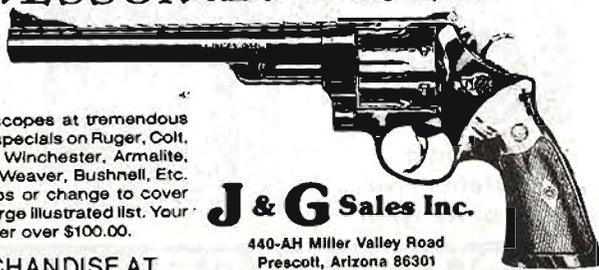
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# BIANCHI CUP

Continued from page 51

Several shooting clubs around the country have duplicated the Bianchi courses of fire for year-round practice prior to the match. Small wonder that scores have climbed higher and higher each year.

The prize money also has climbed higher. The total purse of Bianchi Cup IV was in excess of \$150,000 (\$59,000 of that was in cash awards). In contrast, Cup I, boasting the title of the "richest handgun shoot in history," offered a total purse of \$20,000. Thanks to industry-wide support of the match with cash and merchandise donations, the Bianchi Tournament truly is the richest handgun shoot on record.

The awards were on the minds of every shooter and spectator throughout the match; but there were many other things to think about, too. New rules, new enforcement of old rules, new events, new equipment (including a selective SA/DA .45 auto pistol by Smith & Wesson in the hands of shooter Tom Campbell), and new controversies, the most prominent of which was the use of Aimpoint sights.

Three-time-winner Fowler, with three different .45 autos, proclaimed that a PPC revolver equipped with an Aimpoint sight is the "superior equipment" for the Bianchi match in its existing format. Perhaps Fowler is hearing footsteps of revolver shooters closing in on him (he was seen shopping for an Aimpoint).

Maybe next year will be the year for the revolver; and that would *really* be something new to talk about.

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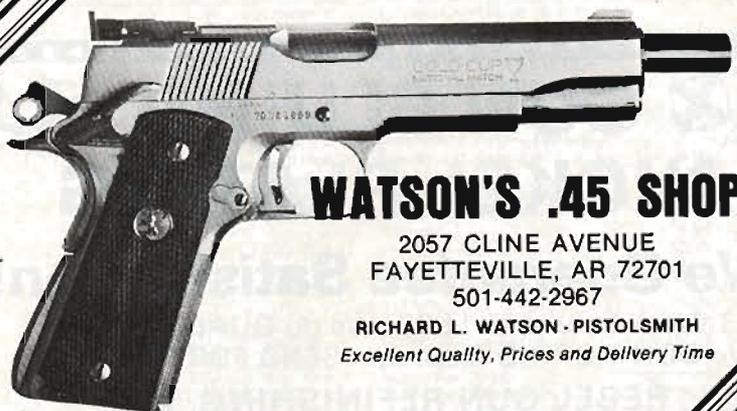
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## STOPPING POWER

Continued from page 54

In real life—on the street—as proven in the hundreds of incidents I document as I travel the country studying real-life gunfights, the .45 hardball is a much more decisive fight-stopper than any non-expanding bullet of 9mm or .38 caliber, including the .357 Magnum. A hollow-pointed .38 or 9mm slug flying fast and light *stops* more positively than a solid-nose .357 and approaches, but doesn't quite equal, the .45 ball.

Yet, a lighter, faster .45 hollow-point will once again be doubly as effective as the mid-calibers, unless they are hollow-points traveling at .357 velocity.

### REAL LIFE GUNFIGHTS

I can't explain it on a slide rule. I don't have to. Real life gunfights speak for themselves. And all other things being equal, .45 caliber bullets generally *stop* better than .38 caliber bullets. Thousands of gunfight survivors, both police and military, can attest to that, and I rank their real-world experience more highly than I do the *theories* of lab technicians in white smocks who have never been in lethal danger.

For all the millions of dollars they have invested in their computers, I favor General Hatcher and his formula over the technologists. It stands the test of time, when you compare bullet shape-for bullet shape, gunfight-for gunfight.

As Jeff Cooper has noted, real-life tabulations of instant one-shot stops in shootouts conform almost exactly to the probabilities suggested by the Hatcher formula. Compare round-nose .38s and 9mms to round-nose .45s, and then do the same when you make them *all* lighter and faster and hollow-pointed, and the Hatcher formula *still* holds true.

If you doubt it, talk to the men who've been there. I have.

In every study of *real-life* gunfights, the .45 automatic with ball cartridges (especially with hollow-points), and the .357 Magnum in 125-grain JHP loads have far outperformed the .38 and 9mm loads that the scientists said were the way to go.

What do I carry? A .45 Auto; or a .357 Mag. What else?

Hatcher was right. I don't like to put down the people who study stopping power with slide rules and computers and Jello, because I'm a child of the Univac Generation and I don't want to be a fossil. But I also don't want to be dead.

Hatcher and his ilk drew their studies from real life, and those studies are *still* the most relevant, the safest to trust when you or your loved ones are going to live or die by the advice you take.



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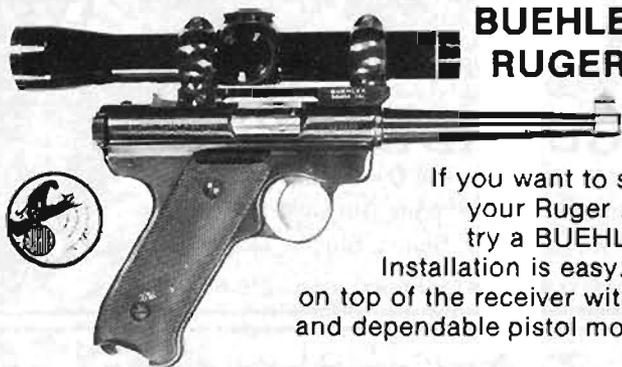
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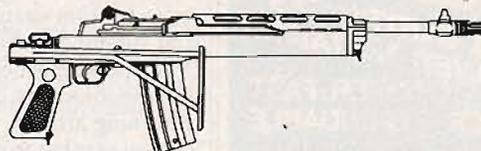
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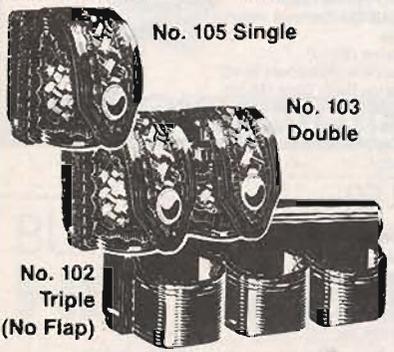
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**GUN OF MONTH**

*Continued from page 41*

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**Editor's note: Gun of the Month winners selected so far this year, and the guns won, are Jackie Whisenhunt, Offutt AFB, NE (January-February), Custom Ruger Supreme .22; Harry Wong, San Francisco, CA (March-April), Custom Spilborgh .45 Auto, and Bud King, Colorado Springs, CO (May-June), Custom Ruger Super Blackhawk.**

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## SOKOLOVSKY

*Continued from page 33*

of defect which would affect its proper functioning.

Paul has installed a low ramp front sight on his pistols, since this gun's primary function will be for target shooting over the 2700 course.

I recommended to Paul that he change his production run to a Patridge front sight, because it allows the shooter to get a much clearer front sight picture during firing.

Other than the front sight, I could find nothing in Paul's pistol that I objected to, so I made arrangements to acquire one of his first production run models.

His first run of 50 pistols will be engraved with the words, "First Edition, 1 of 50" and so forth. They will be cased in hardwood presentation boxes. Considering the care and attention to detail which Paul puts into his work, this pistol will truly be the "Rolls Royce of the .45 Auto."

Anyone interested in these unique and finely made stainless steel pistols should contact Paul at Sokolovsky, Incorporated, Dept. AH, POB 70113, Sunnyvale, CA 94086.



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## BELT-SLIDE HOLSTERS

Continued from page 45

If you feel uneasy about carrying your auto cocked and locked without a safety strap, Bianchi makes an excellent belt slide with thumb-break retention. The holster is thin, comfortable and conceals well. Bianchi's belt slides are available for both autos and revolvers. The beauty of the design is that the holster is valuable for several missions, including on- or off-duty wear and match use.

The Jackass model belt slide is fashioned to be worn inside or outside the belt. Wearing it inside the belt adds belt tension to the holster design and helps retain the weapon if engaged in physical activities of a rough-house nature.

Don Humes' *Agent Nine Series* is another example of a well made belt slide with a retaining strap for positive retention of your weapon. Belt slide holsters are equally useful for auto pistols or revolvers, though all the revolver belt slides I have seen have a retaining strap of some kind, due to different configurations of revolver cylinders.

One of the beauties of a belt slide is the fact that it can do double or triple duty. In the revolver models, it can easily accept a two-, four- or six-inch barrel and can handle different makes of revolvers, if they are of similar frame size. For example, the S&W K and L frames, the Colt J and I frames and the Ruger Security series frames can be securely retained by a Bianchi *Black Widow* model. This cuts down on the expense of being forced to buy a conventional holster for each weapon and, maybe two for different uses.

For those handgunners who acquire various makes and models of firearms, this "new holster for every new gun" syndrome can lead to a large box of leather with expensive prices and only limited use. My belt slide does double duty as an off-duty rig for my three-inch S&W M65 and a match holster when I shoot an L frame.

There are a couple of instances where a belt slide would not be appropriate. Duty use in uniform would not be a proper application, due to the unconventional look of the belt slide and the fact that the weapon's barrel would be subject to damage by the very nature of a lawman's duties. Also, for those hearty souls who brave the wilderness as hikers and campers, a full coverage holster would better serve their purpose, as it would protect the weapon from the environment.

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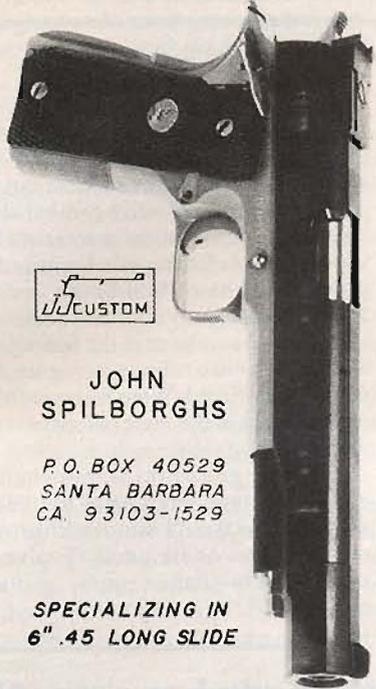
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But these applications are not concealment applications, and it is here that the belt slide is in its milieu. Originally, the belt slide was seen only for automatics; but now a revolver is equally well served by newer designs.

Most U.S. police officers carry their weapons, revolvers or automatics on their strong side, at belt level. An off-duty holster, therefore, should be of a type similar in function to the duty holster. The normal reflex action of a weapon draw should be the same for on- and off-duty. This relieves the conscious mind of one extraneous decision, and enables the police officer to concentrate on the unfolding situation. A police officer's concealment holster should be no less secure than his duty holster. A thumb-break belt slide closely resembles in function most of the more popular duty holster designs.

The important point is that a belt slide model, manufactured by any of the reputable makers, will fill your concealment holster needs as well as any other design; and it'll do it with less bulk, weight, and cost. Also, you will be able to utilize the same holster for several applications, and probably with different weapons: an added plus not possible with conventional design models.

Try one of the new belt slide designs. Give it an honest test, and I'll bet you will become a convert, too.

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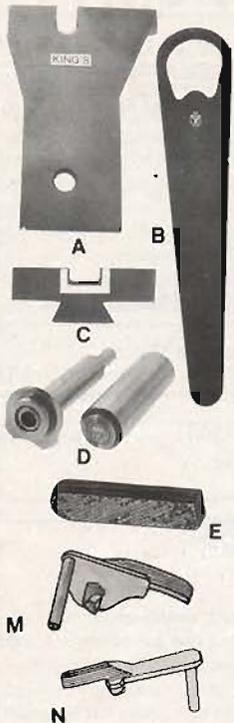


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## JOHN SHAW

Continued from page 35

What John Shaw would like to see is another national championship for professional shooters. In the meantime, he has joined the ranks of other combat shooters who have formed their own schools, patterned after Jeff Cooper's Gunsite facility in Arizona. Shaw's Mid-South Institute of Self-Defense Shooting (see story, this issue) began operations in the Spring of 1982 with local police officers lining up for the courses he offered. What he hopes to teach each student is the secret of mental conditioning.

"You've got to think out each shot, every place you're going to put your foot down!" he says. "I run it all through in my head five or six times. You've got to shoot it all in your mind, first."



## Hornady has new .41 silhouetters' bullet

Hornady Manufacturing Company has added a new pistol bullet to its silhouette target line.

It's the .41 caliber, 210-grain FMJ/FP, which has the same flat point design as the Hornady .44 caliber, 240-grain FMJ/FP silhouette bullet.

The truncated cone, flat point design is an outgrowth of the highly successful 9mm, 124-grain bullet originally developed by Hornady in conjunction with ballisticians from Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

The new bullet brings to 14 the number of silhouette bullets Hornady now offers this popular shooting sport.

The ballistic coefficient for the new .41 bullet is .141; sectional density is .178.

Shooters who wish complete ballistic information can refer to the tables in the *Hornady Handbook of Cartridge Reloading*.

The new bullet retails for \$11.65 per box of 100.

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# SHAW'S SCHOOL

Continued from page 35

petition.

At the end of the introductory course, the shooter is thoroughly familiar with handguns and better qualified to use them in a variety of situations.

This course is also available on a concentrated two-day weekend basis.

The "Advanced Pistolcraft" course is an intensive five-day program designed for the serious student of competition of self-defense.

All aspects of practical pistol shooting are covered, as well as continued emphasis on the basics of marksmanship and mental conditioning.

Skills in hitting stationary, reactive and moving targets are honed, as are advanced techniques in barricade shooting, night shooting, prone position shooting, speed-loading, point and hip shooting, weak hand shooting, and running assault courses.

The course is also available on a weekend basis.

The Mid-South Institute of Self-Defense Shooting is situated on three acres in Hollywood, Mississippi, a 30-minute drive from downtown Memphis.

All students are personally supervised by Shaw. Class sizes are kept small and manageable for maximum learning potential and safety. Upon completion of the course, each student receives a certificate of graduation.



## INFO 'QUICKIE'

For maximum accuracy with a handgun, focus your shooting eye upon the front sight, allowing both the rear sight and the target to blur slightly.

It will require a certain amount of conscious effort to form this habit, but it will become instinctive with sufficient practice—and pay off, handsomely.

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### SHOOTING FROM A STANDARD BROACHED BARREL CAN BE LIKE DRIVING A CAR WITH THE WHEELS OUT OF BALANCE.

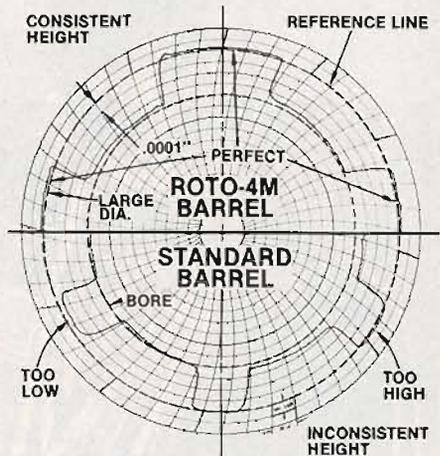
The Roto-4M Barrel's near perfect symmetry and even distribution of the metal grain along the center (longitudinal axis) means the barrel contracts and expands uniformly in freezing temperatures or under the intense heat of rapid fire.

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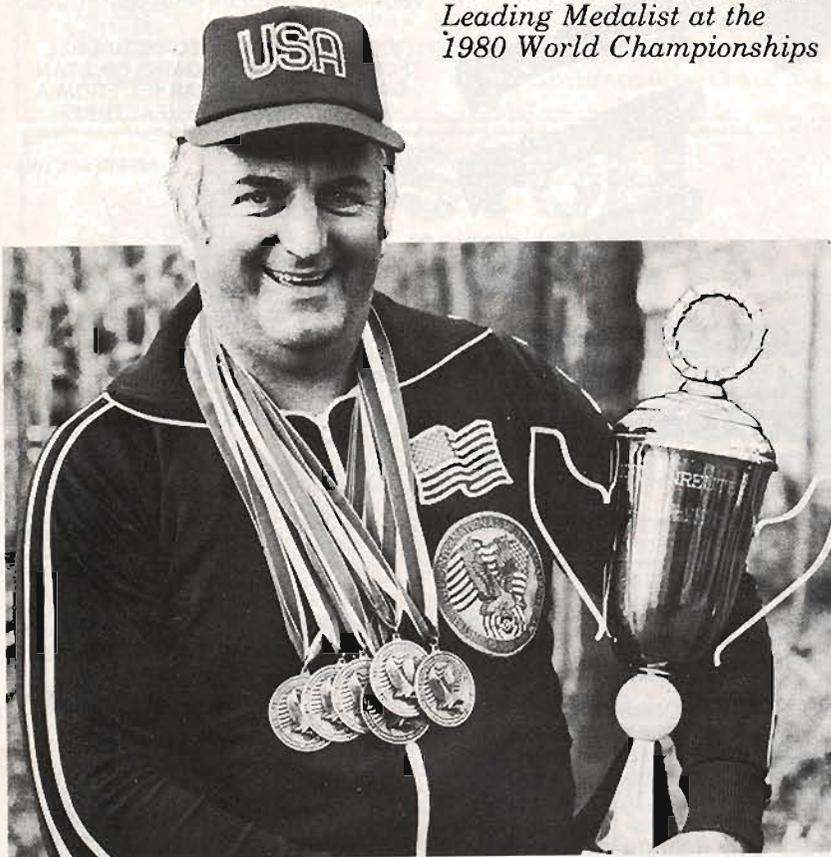
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## BLAZER

*Continued from page 39*

Detective Special. The Colt was picked because of its too-soft hammer blow, which came with a super-slick action job.

Blazer's primer cup is brass-plated steel, so it can't be de-primed with one of the hook jobs. (CCI doesn't want you trying to reload Blazer ammo.) I figured that the steel primers might be a bit hard, so if this two-inch Colt will bust 'em, most anything will.

The Colt performed as expected, producing very light primer indentations. Only one round, a 148-grain WC, failed to fire. I didn't try the round a second time. No +P ammo was fired in the Colt, because most manufacturers say don't use +P in small guns.

The Contender was included in the battery for accuracy testing. Five-shot groups with the 158-grain RN and 125-grain JHP from a bench at 25 yards, averaged about 1½ inches, with the JHP groups being slightly smaller than the RN. The 148-grain WC, surprisingly, didn't do as well.

The Dan Wesson .357 was equipped with two-, three-, four-, and six-inch barrels. The two-inch and three-inch are "specials" I had made for another project. This gun is my basic ballistic test bed for all .38/.357 loads. The S&W M27 and M64 were included for DA, IPSC and PPC style shooting.

The Oehler Chronotach dutifully recorded all the numbers, which are summarized in the accompanying table. I was particularly amazed at the *uniformity* of the 158-grain RN loads, and somewhat perplexed that the 148-grain wadcutters didn't do as well. I called Dave Andrews at CCI and asked why. It turns out that CCI had a batch of the 148s that had the bullets seated too deep. This caused non-uniform crimps, which played havoc with both velocity and accuracy. I got some of the bad ones, and there wasn't time to get others for this test.

A total of 30 groups—10 of each bullet style—were fired over the Chronotach, using all guns for all loads; except that +Ps were not fed to the Detective Special. The extra groups fired with different gun/load combinations were shot for various reasons, usually because the resulting data looked too good or too bad. An analysis of velocity deviation by bullet style shows an average of 7.1 fps for the 158-grain RN, 14.6 fps. for the 148-grain WC and 19.8 fps for the 125-grain JHP.

Blazer offers a viable alternative for shooters who don't reload. Its low price compares favorably with commercial reloads, and ballistic quality seems to be better.

Now, if CCI will just learn how to adjust the seating die on those wadcutters, they'll really have something. 

## Shooting gallery plans available

The handyman marksman now has access to a complete set of plans and specifications for building a portable, table-size shooting gallery with moving targets.

The ricochet-proof gallery—which is 46 inches long and weighs less than 50 pounds—was designed specifically for those who want to hone their handgun shooting skills with small-caliber firearms or air guns.

Another intended use is for fund-raising campaigns and competitive shooting events.

The sturdy gallery, which operates on 115 volts, is simple to construct and assemble with basic shop tools. Materials used are standard, economical and available at most hardware stores, according to its inventor, Harold R. Scharp of Halmar Research Productions.

The motor-driven unit consists of 14 illuminated silhouette targets mounted on a conveyor, and two synchronized, revolving shafts. The variable speeds of the moving targets simulate the movements of a handgun hunter's quarry.

A mechanism utilizing the combined forces of magnetism and gravity automatically resets each target after it is shot down.

"Handgun hunters who use the gallery," said Scharp, "will sharpen their skills more rapidly than those who shoot at stationary targets."

Use of the gallery minimizes tracking time and reduces animal suffering, according to Scharp.

Cost of plans and specifications: \$5., ppd.

For more information, write Scharp at 29420 S.W. 199 Ave., (Dept. AH), Homestead, FL 33030.

## INFO 'QUICKIE'

The New Service, produced from about 1897 with various changes up to 1943, was the largest of all Colt revolvers.

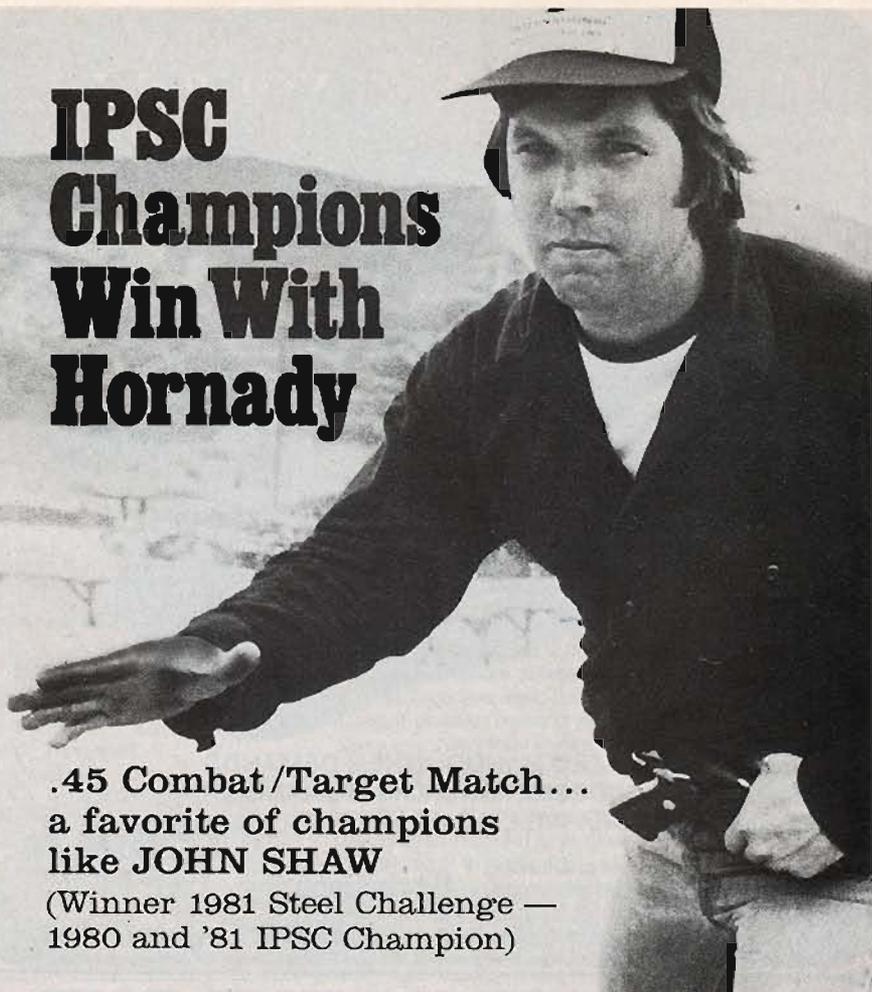
Most of these guns carried a lanyard swivel in the butt, except the fine New Service Target model, which featured a flat top frame, target sights and checkered walnut grips.

In 1917, when the U. S. entered World War I, the New Service chambered for the .45 auto cartridge, so it could fire the same ammo as the M1911 Colt auto.

Other calibers for which the New Service was chambered: the .44 Special, .38-40, .44-40, .38 Special, .357 Magnum, .450, .455 and .476 Eley (the last three are British cartridges).

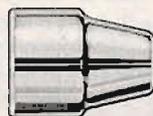
For men with extra large hands, the New Service has always been popular.

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**SPEAK OUT**

Continued from page 10

**Ayooob taken over coals by Laser Products Corp.**

Laser Products Corporation, as with all manufacturers, enjoys publicity; but we were very disheartened to read the Massad Ayooob article regarding our laser-aimed weapons in your May-June 1982 issue.

It would seem to us that you would first notify the company you are running an article on its product—and then check the facts.

Much of the article was correct, with the exception of two major points: the cost of all our weapons has been greatly reduced (almost in half, to make them more accessible to our over-burdened, under-budgeted law enforcement agencies), and our weapons are now available to everyone: Class III dealers, security companies and their licensed personnel, individual police officers, etc.

Anyone who can afford it can purchase one through his local dealer. Our variance through the HEWs Bureau of Radiological Health was officially lifted April 29. We have been shipping steadily since that date.

D.J. Kelly  
Vice President / Marketing  
Laser Products Corporation  
Fountain Valley, CA

**Editor's note: may we have a copy of your "reduced, almost in half" price list? Would appreciate.**

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**'Do more homework; ask Elmer Keith about .45s'**

What do you experts do, copy each other's material?

Anyone who would test a cartridge with the potential that the .45 Colt has in a gun 63 years old, better go back to school. (The writer refers to Claud Hamilton's article on the .45 Colt in the July-August issue of the *American Handgunner*).

A 255-grain bullet with 18½ or 19 grains of 2400, in new brass, and a gun of modern steel is a beautiful police round—plus a powerful defense load.

Another thing, try using a .45 ACP with a 250-grain bullet and see if you can get 1,000 fps out of it. The .45 Colt is made for big heavy bullets, *not* varmint bullets.

I've been shooting Colts since 1939, so I'm no stranger. Another thing, try and see if you can get more shots quicker on the target with a .44 Magnum or a .44 Special, handloaded. A good pistol shot will make more hits with a .44 Special loaded to 1,100 or 1,200 fps than he will with a .44 Magnum at 1,450 fps.

And, when was the last time you heard of anyone using balloon cases for handloading? Wasn't it Elmer Keith?

Better do more homework. Ask Elmer Keith about .45s.  
R. C. Paulsen  
Tehachapi, California

**'Thank you' for AH Gun of Month award**

I want to thank the *American Handgunner* for awarding me the *Gun of the Month* for March-April. This customized .45 Colt will be treasured by me for the rest of my life.

My deepest appreciation to a fine magazine for handgunners.

Harry G. Wong  
San Francisco

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## 'In eye (not ear) of beholder,' says S&W

Regarding the "Look Alikes" section of your "Industry Insider" column in the July-August issue of the *American Handgunner*, the answer is "no."

Bangor Punta Corporation once owned Taurus; however, its plant (in Brazil) never produced Smith & Wesson revolvers. If the guns "look alike," it is in the eye of the beholder.

Robert I. Hass  
Senior Vice President  
Marketing & Sales  
Smith & Wesson  
Springfield, MA

## S&W had no plant in Brazil: Intl. Distrib.

We noticed in the July-August issue of the *American Handgunner* that your "Industry Insider" column mentioned Taurus revolvers look like Smith & Wesson revolvers because they are built in what was once Smith & Wesson's plant in Brazil.

To set the record straight, Forjas Taurus S.A. was formed and went into business in Porto Alegre, Brazil in the late 1930s and operated as an independent corporation owned and controlled by Brazilians until the early 1970s. At that time, Bangor Punta Corp. purchased stock in Forjas Taurus. As you are aware, Bangor Punta owns controlling interest in Smith & Wesson. Three years ago, Bangor Punta sold its stock back to Brazilian nationals so that, in fact, Forjas Taurus is owned and operated 100 percent by Brazilians. At no time did Smith & Wesson, Inc. have any interest whatsoever in Forjas Taurus.

Over the years, the owners and operators of Forjas Taurus simply copied the Smith and Wesson designed handguns; however, in recent years, they have made many improvements and departures from the Smith & Wesson revolver mechanism.

Therefore, at no time did Smith & Wesson own, control or have a financial interest in Taurus, nor did they have a plant in Brazil.

With reference to the Taurus pistols, approximately 18 months ago, Forjas Taurus S.A. purchased outright Beretta do Brasil. The purchase included everything but the Beretta name and the buildings.

Edward G. Davies  
President  
International Distributors, Inc.  
Miami, FL

**Editor's note: Who's on first?**

## LAPD officer thanks AH for Bianchi cup award

Thank you for the very generous award your magazine donated to the recent Bianchi Cup Match, and I was fortunate enough to win.

Without a doubt, the Bianchi Cup represented some of the finest shooters and competitors that I have ever gone up against. The match was also enhanced by the first rate support it received from sponsors such as *American Handgunner* magazine.

Winning the Practical Event will always stand as one of the highlights of my shooting career. Thanks again for a truly fine award, and for backing the Bianchi Match in such a positive way.

Fred Romero  
LAPD Pistol Team

## INFO 'QUICKIE'

The first issue of the *American Handgunner* was September-October 1976.

Its first editor was Jerome Rakusan, now Editorial Director of the AH and two other firearms magazines: GUNS and SHOOTING INDUSTRY.

Included in the first AH issue were articles on the Walter P-38, High Standard's Mark IV revolver, the Dan Wesson Pistol Pac and T/Cs Contender in .218 caliber.

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Continued from page 70

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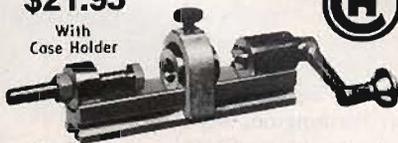
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Company president Dick Kraighman described each, as follows:

*Castmaster* is a lead-alloy (Linotype) for casters desiring maximum hardness. Used "straight," it is excellent for high-velocity, gas-check bullets, and keeps leading down to a minimum level.

*Gamebuster* is a high lead content alloy designed with the hunter in mind. It produces excellent expansion, even at moderate velocities.

*Matchgrade* is an all-round blend similar to Lyman's #2 alloy. It may be used with or without gas-check bullets at recommended velocities, and works particularly well in semi-automatic pistols.



All alloys are available in convenient, four-segment ingots that weigh approximately six pounds each.

Prices per pound are *Castmaster*, 91 cents; *Gamebuster*, \$1.26, and *Matchgrade*, \$1.14, based on orders of 250-499 pounds. Lesser or greater weight orders are priced accordingly. North Shore Arms Supply also sells pure lead, tin and antimony in small ingot sizes.

For more information, write the company at POB 384 (Dept. AH), Port Washington, NY 11050.

Continued on page 74

## ACCURIZE

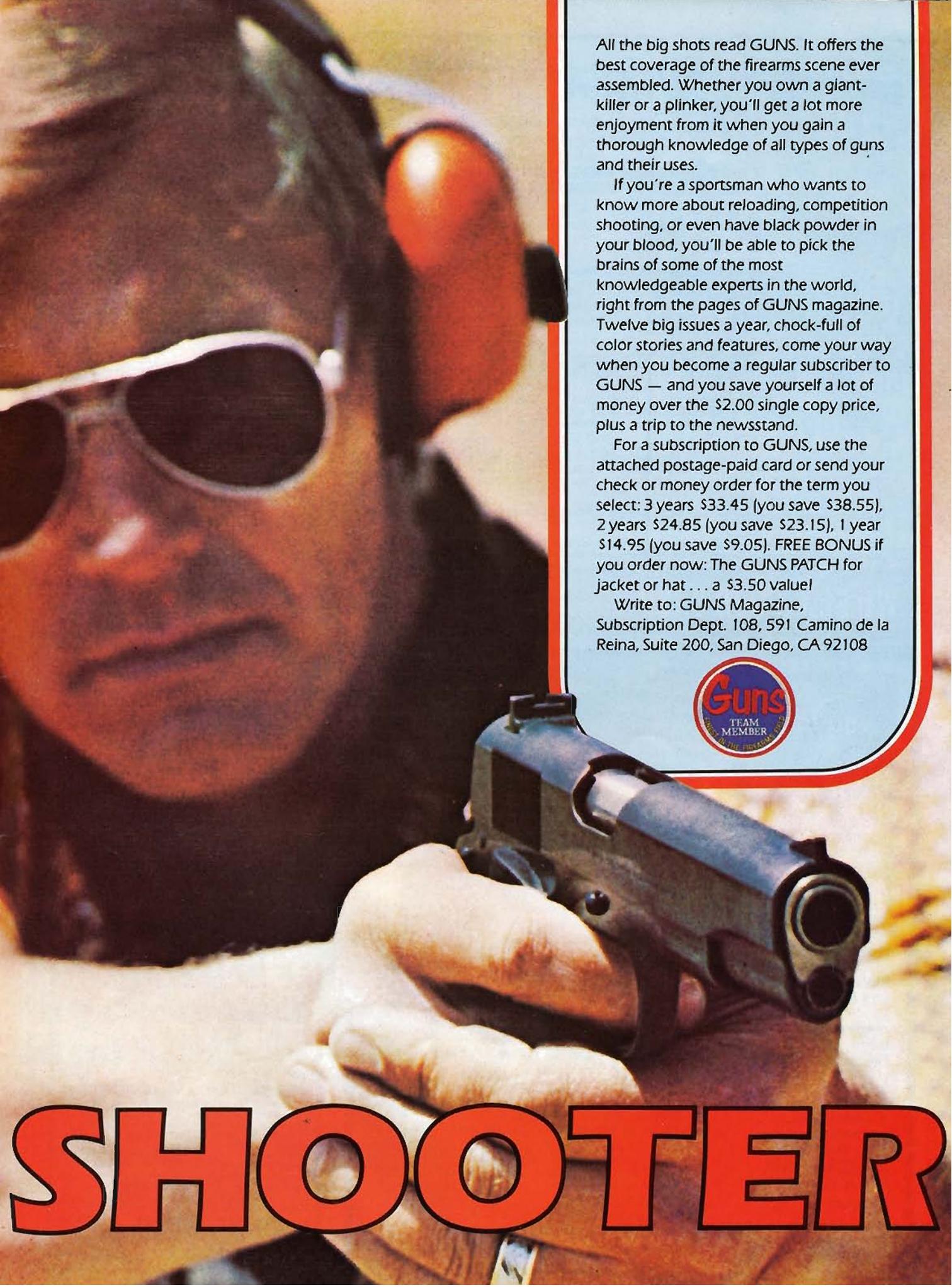
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# SHOOTER

## WHAT'S NEW

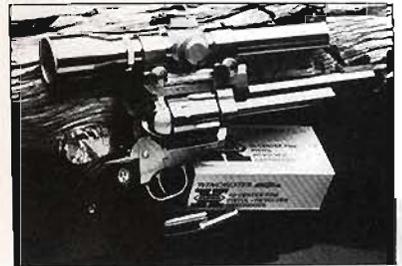
Continued from page 72

### Now, an all-stainless steel handgun scope

The first all-stainless steel handgun scope has been introduced by the W.R. Weaver Company.

The two-power P2S features precise optics, excellent weatherproofing and a patented *Micro-Trac* adjustment system that insures sight consistency, even with heavy magnum loads.

The scope's eye relief ranges from 10 to 24 inches, with a field of view of 24 feet at 100 yards.



To complement the new P2S, Weaver has introduced a complete line of mounting systems (Model 304) available in either stainless steel or *Steel Lite II* finish. The no-drill, no-tap mounting systems fit most popular handguns and match the finish of stainless steel pistols (Ruger) and revolvers.

The new systems—in kit form—are compact and lightweight and can be installed quickly by the shooter, without any modification to expensive handguns.

For more information, contact the company at 7125 Industrial Ave. (Dept. AH), El Paso, TX 79915.

Continued on page 76

## J.L. Numbers

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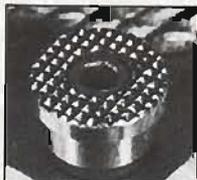
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## ACCU-COMP

*Continued from page 31*

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Bill is also building his excellent Accu-Comp system on Commanders. While this sacrifices velocity and sight radius, it results in a compensated .45 that is the length of a standard Government Model.

Test firing the pistol that Bill sent held no surprises. I expected a great deal and was not disappointed. The accuracy was superb, the functioning flawless. We tested light loads (5.4 gr. of WW231 with 200 gr. SWC) up to heavy loads (7.2 gr. of Unique with 230 gr. RN) and experienced no malfunctions of any kind. This was no doubt aided by a special longer ejector that Bill is making and marketing.

Bill considers the current Accu-Comp to be a finished product and he's redirecting his creative efforts in other areas (a new .45 magazine and special Niklad electroless nickel finish are the next projects on his drawing board).

For more information write: Wilson Combat, Route 3, Box 211-D, Berryville, AR 72616



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Model 22

protector and closed muzzle. There's a Model 22 to fit almost any revolver or automatic you might own. **FACT:** The Model 27 is a dressy, close riding holster in the modern high-ride design. It's fully

lined in soft, protective suede, has a wide thumb break top strap, built-in sight protector and closed muzzle. The Model 27 is the perfect mate for your medium or large frame, four or six inch revolver.

And there's a version for medium frame autos, too. **FACT:** Each and every S&W holster is designed and made in our own factory. Smith & Wesson, 2100 Roosevelt Avenue, Springfield, Massachusetts 01101.



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# Burris



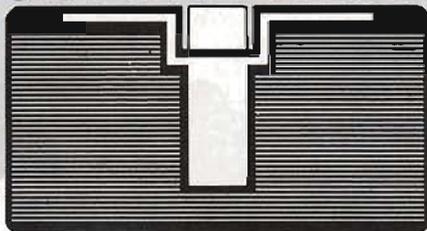
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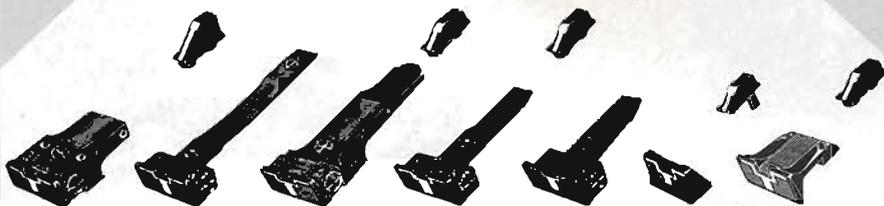
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## WHAT'S NEW

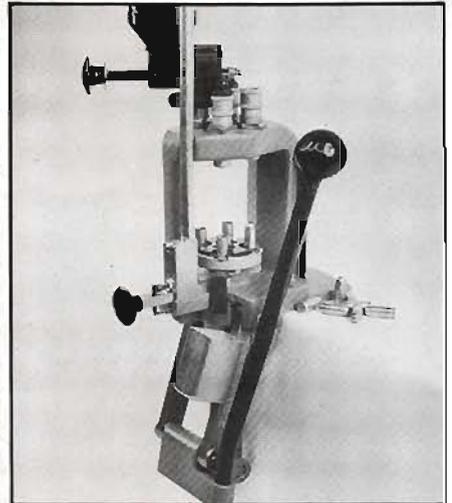
Continued from page 74

### Dillon introduces new rotary loading press

Dillon Precision Products has introduced its new Rapid Load 450 Progressive Loader, a modification of the company's RL 300.

The RL 450 is said to be faster, stronger, better looking and simpler to operate.

It utilizes a four-position rotary shell plate that carries shells through various die positions.



Like all Dillon presses, the RL 450 loads a completed round with every stroke of the tool handle; it uses standard 7/8 x 14 dies.

Its 450-rounds-per-hour cyclic rate reportedly helps take the punishment out of volume reloading.

Cost for a caliber change is \$45; it can be done in about 15 minutes, according to the company.

The RL 450 is priced at \$365, complete with powder measure and both large and small primer feed.

For more information, contact Dillon at Suite 106, 7755 E. Gelding Drive (Dept. AH), Scottsdale, AZ 85260.

### FLUORESCENT COLORS!

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## Here's one you'll get a kick out of shooting

A two-shot .44 Magnum stainless steel derringer is now available from the American Derringer Corporation.

The new, U.S.-made over-and-under is the smallest and lightest .44 Magnum ever manufactured and was developed to provide police officers with a compact back-up gun with maximum stopping power.

It has more recoil than any other pistol currently made.

The derringer weighs 15½ ounces, has an overall length of 4.82 inches and a three-inch barrel.

Grips are either rosewood or zebra wood; finish, either high polish or satin stainless steel.

The gun is equipped with a manually-activated hammer block safety, which the shooter must engage before loading or carrying.

Other calibers available include the .45 ACP, .45 Colt, .45 X 2½ inch Saunders, .44 Special, .357 Magnum, .41 Magnum, 9mm Luger, .380 Auto, .38 Special and .223 Remington.

For more information, contact the company at POB 8983 (Box AH), Waco, TX 76714

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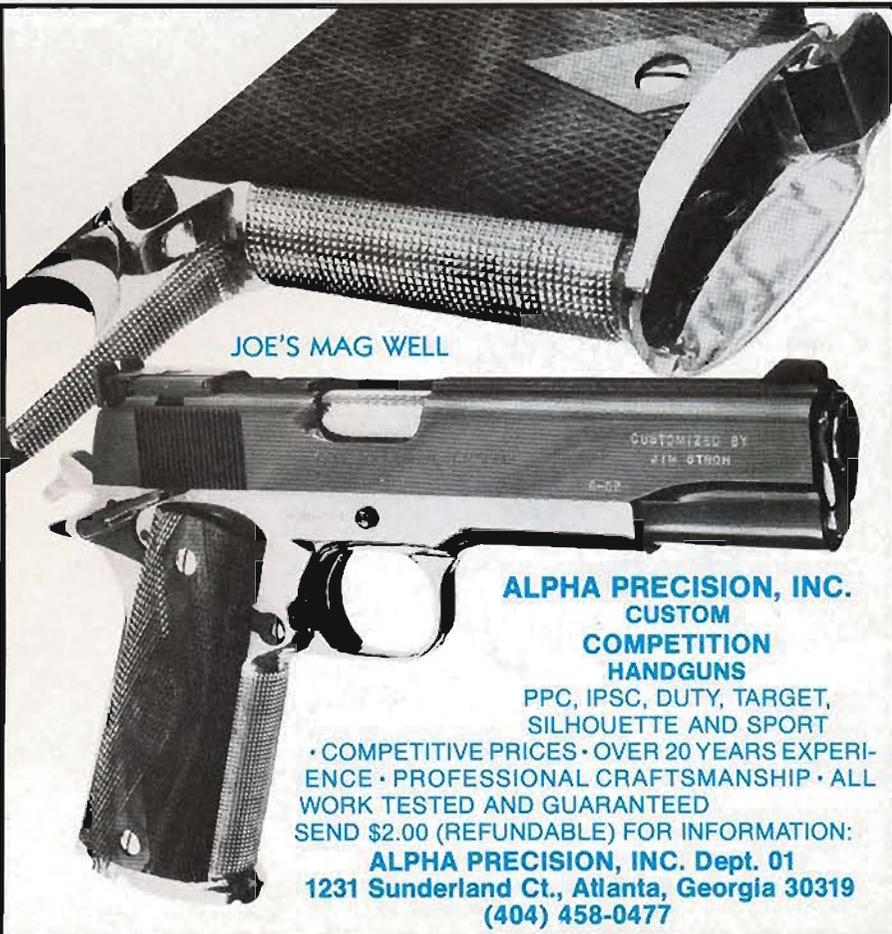
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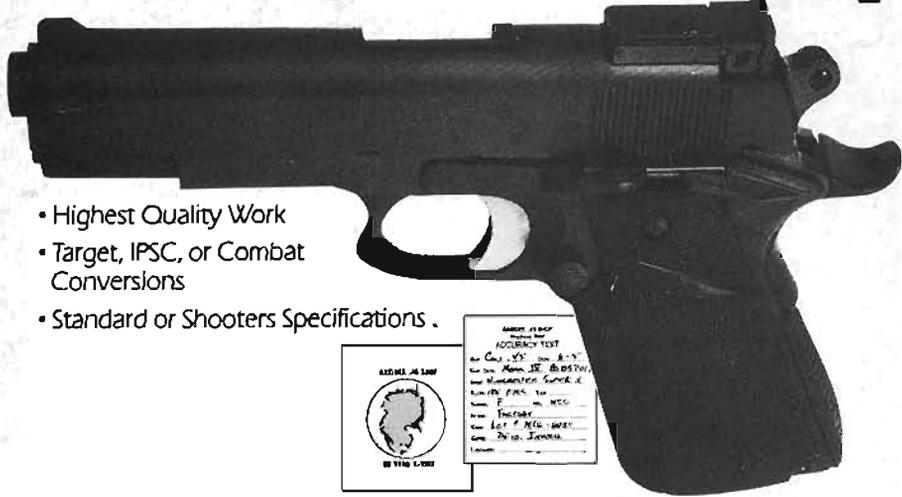
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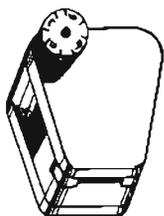
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## New device for Colt autos reduces recoil

What does a California civil engineer and land developer do when the state's economy sags?

He develops a unique device for Colt .45 autos, puts it on Mickey Fowler's gun for the 1982 Bianchi Cup match—and *voila!*

Jack Breskovich of Whittier has been a combat pistol competitor for more than four years. He knows guns. He's a good shot.

But he wanted to better his scores, so he developed a device that improves natural point of aim, provides a more relaxed hold and adds weight to a .45 auto to help reduce recoil; this shortens recovery time, from shot to shot—an important factor in many forms of handgun competition.

How good is his device?

Good enough for Fowler—perhaps the world's greatest combat shooter—to use on his .45 auto in the prestigious Bianchi Cup tournament.

What is it?

Simply, it's four pieces of steel, fitted and contoured for accurate positioning under the wooden grips of any Colt .45 auto.

The four pieces are spot-welded, two for each side of the auto's frame. The *outer* pieces, with screw holes, are the same size as the grips; the *inner* pieces fit the smaller, elongated opening in the frame.

Breskovich told the *American Handgunner* that the additional weight—7½ ounces—not only reduces recoil about 17 percent, but also results in thicker grips, which makes them more hand-filling and distributes the recoil over a larger area.

The checkered wooden grips, which come with the welded steel plates, are tapered—they are nearly ¼ inch thicker at the bottom than at the top—to help fill the void below the heel of the thumb; this provides a more consistent and relaxed grip.

Another feature of Breskovich's *Advantage Grip System* is the incorporation of a magazine chute. This is created by extending the bottoms of the steel grip panels 1/16 inch below the base of the pistol's frame. The inside edge at the bottom is beveled at a 30-degree angle to form the basic chute, which is left oversize to be filed or ground to blend into magazine wells.

Cost of the Advantage Grip System: \$40.

For additional information, write him at POB 828 (Dept. AH), Whittier, CA 90608.

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If you require an extraordinary handgun that meets all the strictest requirements of the police and their special units, HK's P9S Automatic Pistol is for you. The P9S embodies a galaxy of unique design features which distinctly enhances its excellent firing accuracy, safety, and comfortable handling.

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indicators that signal when the weapon is cocked or when a round is chambered, and fool-proof safety facilities. The P9S's smooth and sleek exterior and modern design assures you of maximum handling-ease, safety, and efficient operation. Here is a pistol for all the seasons and reasons that you will be proud to own.

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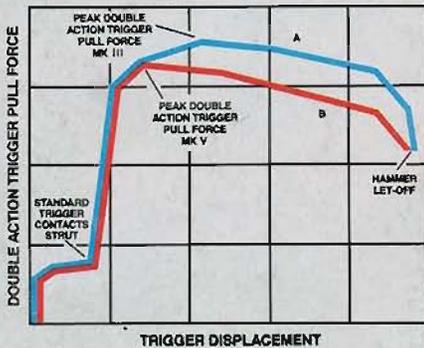
# The new Colt MK V

## Superb double action in a medium frame Colt



Colt proudly presents a superior new double action .357 magnum—the smoother, faster, lighter-pulling double action MK V.

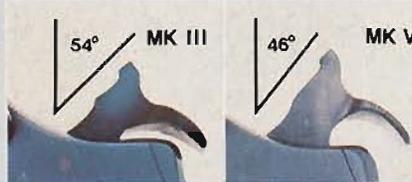
A totally re-engineered frame and firing mechanism give the new MK V a better feel and more responsiveness than the famous Colt Trooper MK III, which for years has set the standard for rugged medium-frame .357 magnum revolvers.



A new main spring and sear release design gives the MK V a lighter, faster double action trigger pull with a smooth, more responsive touch. A. Old MK III Trooper B. New MK V Trooper.

The result is . . . one of the finest shooting .357's on the market today.

To give a lighter trigger pull and therefore a steadier sight picture, a new, longer main spring has been installed at a radical new pivot angle. Average double action trigger pull of the MK III Trooper has thus been reduced by nearly 15%.

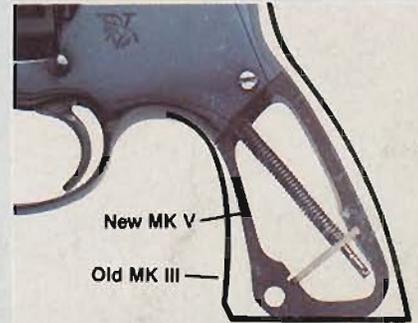


The MK V's shortened hammer arc means quicker action in the field. Less lock time results in a steadier hold and better accuracy too.

To shorten lock time and give a smoother firing action, the hammer arc has been reduced approximately 8°. Whether in police competition or just casual target shooting, this gives the new MK V a decided rapid-fire advantage over other double action revolvers.

And to accommodate a full variety of modern wraparound grips while improving comfort, feel and control, the distance from the backstrap to the trigger and the length of

the bottomstrap has been shortened by 1/8" and 3/8", respectively.



The grip has been redesigned for more comfort and to accommodate a wider variety of custom wraparound grips, plus allowance for speed loaders.

Yet with these innovations, the new revolver still keeps the traditional Colt advantages of strength, durability, better workmanship and the highest quality finish of any sidearm. Plus, the Colt MK V has special features not available in other guns like a clockwise rotating cylinder, independent ejector rod, offset bolt notches, heavy duty crane, and more. White outline rear sight with orange insert front sight.

When you consider the facts as well as the feel, you'll want the new Colt MK V on your side.



MK V Trooper model, white outline rear sight with orange insert front sight. Available with eight, six and four-inch barrels; blue, nickel or Coltguard finishes.

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