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17

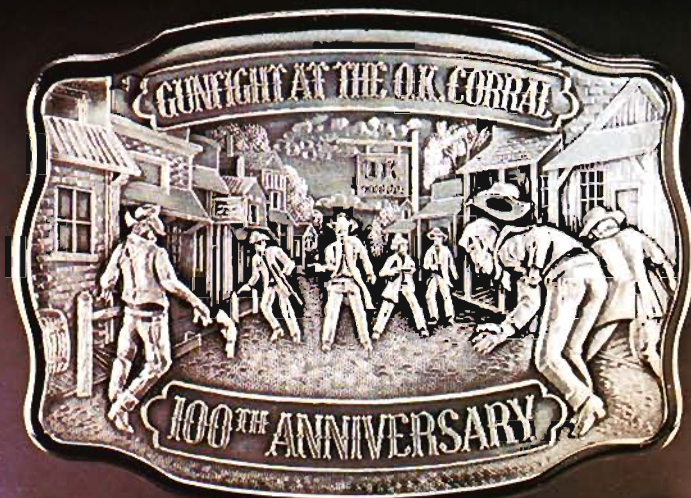
**MAJOR
FEATURES**

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By Lou Ciamillo



~ The ~
National Association for Outlaw and Lawman History
Announces
The Official 100th Anniversary Commemorative



Buckle shown
actual size



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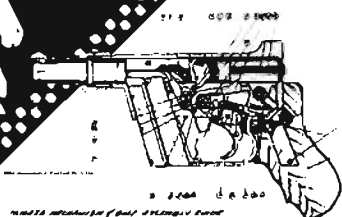
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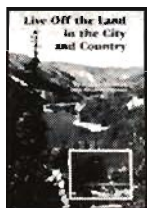
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THE AR-7 EXOTIC WEAPONS SYSTEM

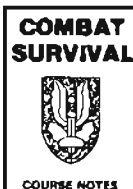
An unusual home workshop guide for the gun buff and hobbyist machinist. Over fifty working machinist's drawings, photos and full-scale templates show exactly how to convert the AR-7 .22 survival rifle into a full-automatic silenced machine pistol, submachine gun or sophisticated silenced weapon. **The AR-7 Exotic Weapons System** was created by the same firearms designer who authored the famed Paladin title, **Home Workshop Silencers**. This new comprehensive instruction manual details how to modify the weapon's original receiver, fabricate new sear and safety, as well as make a simple yet efficient silencer group assembly. Fans of exotic weaponry and amateur gunsmiths will find this a valuable addition to their libraries and an excellent gift book. For historical and reference purposes only. 9 1/2 x 12, softcover, machinist's drawings, photos, full-scale templates, 72 pp. **\$12.00**



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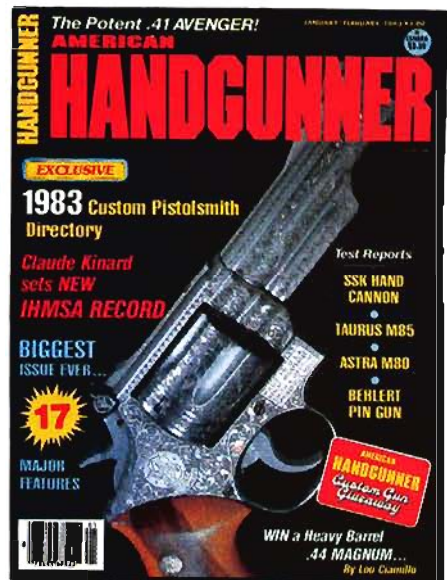
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COVER: This stainless steel S&W M66 is heavily engraved and signed by Ogawa, a Japanese master. Photo by John Kleinman, Riverside, CA

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SPEAK OUT

Irving Stone of Bar-Sto barrel fame is praised

Just a short letter to advise you of some outstanding service I received from Irving Stone at Bar-Sto Precision Machine Co.

I ordered a very special custom barrel from him and when I received the barrel, a specified detail had been omitted. (probably my English was at fault).

I sent the barrel back to him with a letter explaining the problem and asked if he would rectify it and ship the barrel back to me surface mail (airmail to Switzerland is very expensive).

Thirteen days later I received my barrel, corrected as requested and sent by insured airmail at his cost. That's what I call service.

I am a subscriber to your fine magazine.
Mike Spiller
Switzerland

Most gun accidents are caused by carelessness

In reference to your article, "Ruger Single Action Kit" in the July-August issue of the *American Handgunner*, I was amazed at the ignorance of so many people, when I read the part where persons had filed lawsuits against Sturm, Ruger and Co., because careless people failed to follow the instructions that come with every firearm that leaves its plant.

When are people going to wake up and realize that firearms safety depends on you, the individual?

Ninety-nine percent of all gun accidents are caused by pure carelessness.

When Ruger tried to find a way to help cope with most of these accidents, people said he was responsible for its negligence in the past. This is absurd.

Wake up, people! Ruger didn't make any mistakes. *Your* carelessness did. As owner of several Ruger firearms, I say keep up the good work, Bill Ruger; you're doing a superb job.

Also, the *American Handgunner* is a fine magazine.
Jerry E. Maddox
China Spring, Texas

Cooper hits 'down-under' blow to Aussie writer

Regarding your John Robinson piece in the July-August issue of *American Handgunner*, a difference of opinion is always acceptable, but getting it wrong is not.

I presided at the Columbia Conference when IPSC was founded. I was acting president for the first year and then confirmed as founding president. I know what the "P" stands for; perhaps you do not. The "P" stands for *practical*, and for "practical" you may read *relevant*.

To state, as you did, that "there are only two kinds of pistol shooting" leaves us gasping. ISU, PPC, iron chickens, bowling pins, military qualification, police qualification, and practical (relevant) are all *kinds* of pistol shooting. Some are entertaining, but entertainment *per se* is a spin off.

To imply, as you do, that only public persons need competence in gunhandling is to manifest a sort of invincible naivete that may be

Continued on page 7

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Record breaking accuracy characterizes Sierra's Tournament Master bullet. This bullet consistently scores in both bull's-eye and metallic silhouette competition.

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SURE FIRE HIT

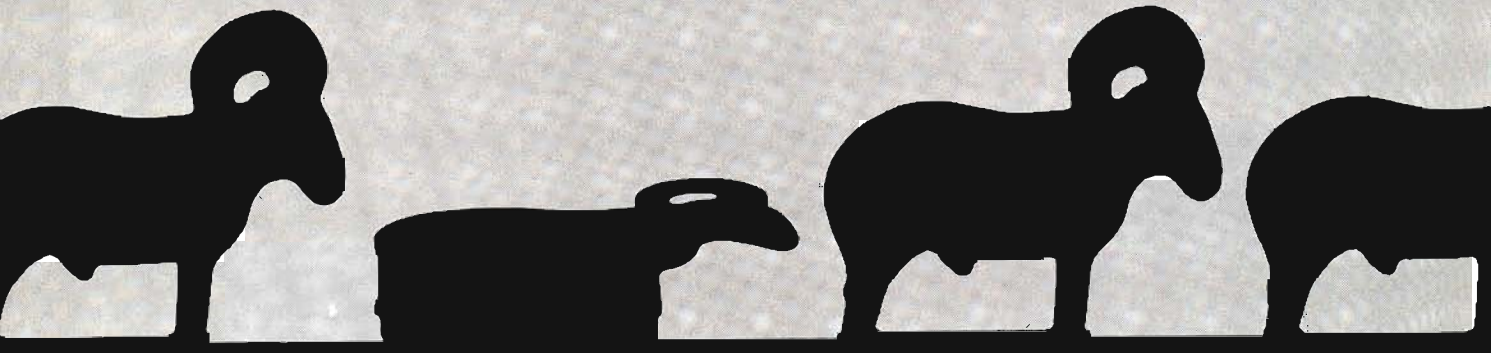
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INDUSTRY INSIDER

JERRY RAKUSAN

ECONOMY OR NO, HANDGUN MAKERS MOVE FORWARD WITH NEW MODELS

In spite of the nation's slow economy, there is considerable activity among the gunmakers. Some is designed to give a push to lagging sales; other developments are the results of activities started months and even years ago.

At Colt, the *Agent* is back. Not the fancy *Agent* of yesterday, but an economy version that does not have the fit and finish of the earlier model, but does carry a down-to-earth price tag of about \$200.

The writing on the walls of the executive washroom at Colt is spelled out—in big letters—IPSC. What came out of the reading of this graffiti is what Colt calls a *Combat Government Model*. Look closely, and you'll see the flat mainspring housing, beveled magazine well, large ejection port, high fixed sights, and long trigger. Selling for about \$80 more than the standard Mk IV, it is touted as "combat-ready."

Word from Colt is that they will be showing a .380 small-frame auto pistol at the SHOT Show in January. I don't know if there is a connection, but Walt Gleason (formerly of Colt) heads a group that bought out Iver Johnson—and the Pony?

Still with Colt, we've heard of a three-inch *Detective Special* in blue or nickel, a six-inch stainless *Python* and a three-inch nickel *Python*.

At Smith & Wesson, the word is that the M25-2, in .45 ACP, is out of the line (perhaps making room for one with the same extractor system of the M547?). We've also heard that the M539 and M559 autos are out, to make room for stainless M639 and M659 models. There is also a compact version of the M459, the M469.


Smith & Wesson also is ready to announce a three-inch M63 Kit Gun in .22 RF Magnum, and a 10 $\frac{1}{8}$ inch M29 in blue.

Sturm, Ruger is betting on the stainless steel *Super Blackhawk* to give a shot in the arm to sales; initial reaction to the gun is heartening.

When Ruger redesigned the .22 auto pistol, the new Mark II took a slightly different magazine. However, the production of the old style magazines continues. We hope Ruger will be able to supply clips for the old models for many years to come.

The *Redhawk* Rugers, with stainless steel scope rings that clamp onto the rib, will be available soon.

By the time you read this, the California handgun initiative (on the Nov. 2 ballot) will either be a memory or a fact of life that California—and the rest of the country—will have to cope with. Almost all major handgun manufacturers contributed heavily to the cause; if we lost, it was not because of a lack of support by the handgun industry. All deserve a big pat on the back. Late in the fight, for example, Ruger donated 15 of its "I-of-5000" stainless steel autos for a special fund-raising effort.

As this is written, the main event—TV commercials, newspaper ads, etc.—is just getting started here in California. The story of this fight should prove interesting and educational— no matter how it turns out.

OAHAF announces new annual awards

Beginning this year, the *Outstanding American Handgunner Award Foundation* (OAHAF) will present a special certificate of commendation to one person in each of the 50 states "in recognition of continued and significant achievements in the promotion, organization and conduct of handgun competition at local, state or regional levels."

Recipients will not be required to attend the foundation's annual awards dinner to receive their commendations.

The names of the winners will be listed in the program of the banquet, scheduled to be held May 7 in Phoenix, Arizona.

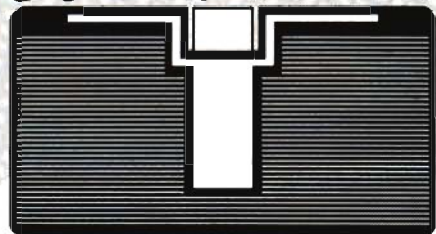
In the past, only the names of the 10 nominees for handgunning's top award were listed in the program. No one will know the 1983 winner until his name is announced at the dinner.

The foundation is a membership organization founded in 1973 by Lee E. Jurras, developer of Super-Vel ammunition.

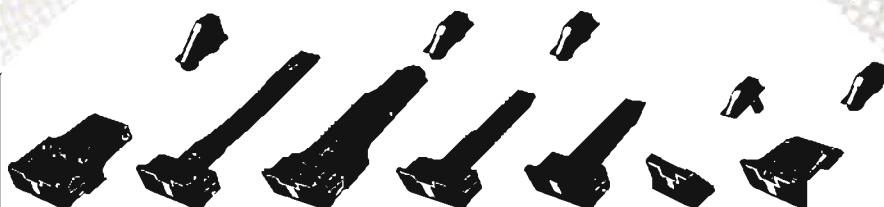
Those wishing to nominate someone for the foundation's annual awards should write to OAHAF, POB 153 (Dept. AH), Station C, Buffalo, NY 14209.

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Handgun hunters exceed 1-million

The 1980 National Survey of Hunting and Fishing shows 1.3 million pistol and revolver hunters in the United States. Of these, 31 percent hunted big game with a handgun, 63 percent hunted small game and 16 percent hunted "other" game species ("such as varmints and coon").

The study has been done every five years since 1955 by the Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, with the assistance of the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Persons 16 years or older were interviewed.

The number of handgun hunters is significant, considering the many people who think all pistols and revolvers are used for nefarious purposes.

In 1980, hunters—longarm, handgun and bow—spent \$8.5 billion for their sport, an all-inclusive figure that includes transportation, lodging, meals and equipment.

Of that amount, \$902 million was spent for guns (no breakdown for handguns), \$106 million for scope sights, \$449 million for ammunition, \$95 million for handloading equipment, and \$87 million for specialty magazine subscriptions.

In addition, 87 percent of all hunters lived in small cities, towns or rural areas and 86 percent were white. Males totaled 92 percent of all hunters, and 95 percent hunted in their own state of residence.

Since 1955, the total annual expenditures of hunters has risen from \$937 million to \$8.5 billion; the number of days spent hunting has jumped from 169 million to 387 million.

A copy of the 150-page report is available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. Price was not known at press time, so query if interested.

INFO 'QUICKIE'

Always begin handgun practice at a big target at short range, with a .22 caliber pistol or revolver.

Move the target down-range gradually, as your skill increases, until you are at the standard distance.

It's well to start with a 20-inch target at no more than 10 yards, and continue to shoot at this close range until you can stay in the black.

Good shots are not born. They are made by careful, conscientious training. The best shots practice daily, either with live ammo or by "dry-firing" with an empty gun.

attributed to walking around since birth with your head pointing downward. The military has no real need for pistols, and the police are certainly no repository of defensive competence. It is the *private citizen* who needs to be able to defend himself and his family, and what he needs for that is practical (*relevant*) pistol skill.

To the extent that IPSC remains true to its own name it will have value, and it will explore and develop the requisite arts of the private citizen in a way that no organization of public servants ever can. If it loses sight of its founding principles, it will trivialize; and its demise will be no loss. If all you want to do is play, it is cheaper and a lot less bother to play pool.

Your assumption that I am a gentleman is flattering but, since we have never met, without basis.

Thanks anyway.

Jeff Cooper.

Paulden, AZ

Jeff, methinks you protest too much. Mr. Robinson was describing the handgun scene in Australia—as he sees it—and not in Paulden, Arizona—Editor.

Ex-Border Patrolman Bill Toney has praise

Thanks for the nice things you (Massad Ayoob) wrote about me in "Cop Talk," July-August, *American Handgunner*.

I have been out of serious shooting competition and firearms writing for a long time now but, unlike old bankers, I have not lost my interest.

In 1973, I retired from the Border Patrol, completed a master's degree and began teaching at Stephen F. Austin State University. My master's thesis, *A Descriptive Study of the Control of Illegal Mexican Migration in the Southwestern U.S.*, was published by R&E Research Associates, Inc. of San Francisco in 1977. I have all the work for a Ph.D. in criminal justice completed except a dissertation, and I am up to my ears in that now.

I shoot for recreation and maintain my NRA instructor and training counselor status. Perhaps, when I finish my dissertation, I will have more time to read, write and think about shooting.

Thanks again for the good words.

Bill Toney
Nacogdoches TX

Continued on page 22

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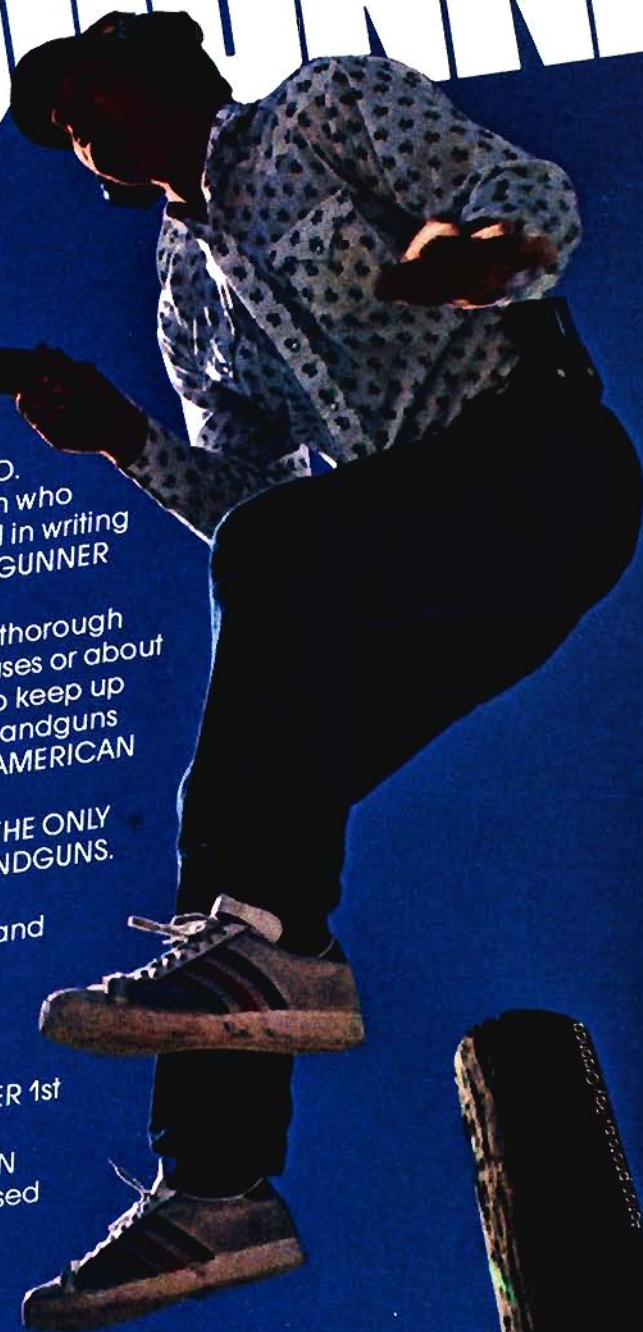
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COMBAT SHOOTING

MICKEY FOWLER ANSWERS QUESTIONS IN FIRST COMBAT SHOOTING COLUMN

Editor's note: The *American Handgunner* proudly presents in this issue the first regular column written by Mickey Fowler, three-time winner of the prestigious *Bianchi Cup* match and the nation's leading professional combat shooter.

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

Q. How important is ammo in combat match shooting? Please elaborate.

A. Ammunition is very important in combat shooting. Unlike bullseye competition or ISU (International Shooting Union) competition, where alibies (re-shoots because of a malfunction in pistol or ammunition) sometimes are allowed, there are no alibies in practical pistol shooting. If you have a jam during any stage of fire, points and time are lost. This can cause you to completely miss out on that particular string of fire, ruining your chance for a good finish.

The number-one criterion for all practical pistol ammunition is *reliability*. There are other important factors in ammunition selection for combat match shooting: Practical shooters must load their ammunition up to established power factors and maximum accuracy. Different events in practical pistol shooting require loading ammunition to different power factors, and at times different bullet shapes. For instance, in IPSC (International Practical Shooting Confederation) competition at the national and international level, there is a power factor of 170. What this translates to in terms of the .45 caliber automatic is a

200-grain bullet traveling at 850 feet per second. In order to achieve this velocity from a five-inch barrel, a typical load would be a charge of 5.8 grains of 231 W.W. powder, using a 200-grain hard cast H&G #68 bullet. When competing in the *Bianchi Cup* match, for example, you must make a power factor of 135. This means the same 200-grain bullet, instead of having to travel 850 feet per second, has to reach 700 feet per second minimum.

In the *Bianchi Cup*, I load 5 grains of 231 W.W. powder using the Hornaday 200-grain C.T. match bullet. You can actually load lighter than that. My load gives about 750 feet per second and is extremely accurate. At the *Steel Challenge* match, where there is no power factor, the only requirement is the use of a .38 caliber or larger handgun. You may load as low as 4.2 or 4.3 grains of 231 W.W. powder. That will give you under 700 feet per second on the chronograph. The obvious advantage of loading light is quicker recovery from recoil, thus allowing you to quickly regain your sight picture and move on to the next target.

At the famous *Second Chance Street Combat match*, bowling pins are the targets. They must be knocked off a three-foot deep table—quickly and positively. I've found that the heavier bullets of .45 caliber work best. A typical load would be a 230-grain lead bullet behind 5.7 grains of W.W. 231 powder. This gives the necessary momentum to knock the pins off the table cleanly.

All of the above loads are assembled using new commercial brass or once-fired W.C.C. 71, or later, U.S. military brass.

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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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You can see how varied the requirements of practical pistol ammunition are. The wise competitor tailors his loads for each match.

Q. When you are engaging a series of widely dispersed targets, do your feet remain locked in this stance?

A. I can cover an area of about 180 degrees without having to move my feet. I pivot from the waist, keeping my upper torso, shoulders and arms locked in place. This makes my body a movable gun turret.

Q. Does smoking hinder combat shooting proficiency?

A. Some forms of combat shooting require sprinting from one position to another, as well as other vigorous physical movements. Smoking tends to cut down endurance and quicken the pulse rate. As an example, if at the end of a quick 20-yard sprint you are breathing hard and your heart is pounding, accurate shooting is very difficult. If you want to give your best performance don't smoke; if you must, do so in moderation.

Q. Does proficiency in bullseye shooting help achieve championship standing in combat shooting?

A. Successful bullseye shooters learn the basics of accurate shooting. Simply stated, this is sight picture, hold, smooth trigger release and follow through. These same basics hold true for all forms of practical pistol shooting. Of course the degree and refinement of the sight picture is different at closer ranges, and when shooting under extremely short time spans; but I assure you that the basics are still used. Many novice shooters have asked me what I do to hit multiple targets of fairly small size so quickly. When I tell them I see a sight picture on every shot, they give me a surprised look of disbelief. There is no secret or magical method. All the top shooters I know have honed their skills at acquiring a sight picture quickly and holding it, when moving from target to target.

Practical pistol shooters need many other gun handling skills to go along with the basics of handgun marksmanship, but unless the basics are learned in the beginning of the shooters development, the level of skills attained will be limited.

Two examples of bullseye shooters who have risen to top levels of practical shooting proficiency are IPSC world champion and three-time women's *Bianchi Cup* winner from the Republic of South Africa, Edith Almeida, and her countryman, Gavin Carson, a two-time member of the men's Springbok practical shooting team. Both were team champions in 1979. With less than one year of practical shooting under their belts, both became top performers.

I would recommend limited amounts of bullseye type shooting to anyone interested in becoming a more proficient practical pistol shooter.



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COP TALK

MASSAD AYOOB

IN SELECTING A SHOOTING SCHOOL BE SURE TO ASK MANY QUESTIONS

Editor's note: We present in this issue of the *American Handgunner* the first of an exclusive three-part series by Massad Ayoob on shooting schools. They're places where pistol and revolver shooters—both police and civilians—go either to learn the basics, or brush up on their marksmanship skills. The series will cover everything you will need to know, with respect to the selection of available schools with courses designed to meet *your* objectives.

Jeff Cooper recently sent a letter to Editorial Director Jerry Rakusan suggesting a series on how to pick a shooting school, mainly because there are so many sleazy ones that bilk unsuspecting students. I heartily agree with Jeff; so here goes.

In what is called "the fear boom," more people than ever are interested in learning how to shoot—*seriously*. It's like the martial arts boom of 10 years ago, where almost anyone who had 10 karate lessons declared himself a master and opened his own *dojo* to cash in on the fad. Many people were ripped off in the process, and soured forever on the martial arts.

The first thing you must understand is that you can't ask someone like Jeff Cooper or me to recommend a specific school, since we run our own: we would get a conflict of interest, and you would get advice of questionable objectivity. Instead, let's look at the general guidelines for selecting an effective training program—a school for shooters.

As Jeff points out, "many people are teaching things they haven't learned themselves." Would you pay \$400 a week to learn karate from someone who didn't have his own black belt? There are many "handgun white belts" out there, promoting training courses that purport to make you a wizard at gunfighting.

The first thing you should request is a resume of the instructor. Is he certified by a national organization to instruct? There are thousands of NRA-accredited pistol instructors who can do a fine job of teaching handgun safety and the basic principles of marksmanship; yet they are unprepared to teach combat shooting, match shooting, or the judicious use of deadly force in self-defense. The resume should contain the individual's track record in competitive shooting, if that's an aspect of what he's teaching. Ask for a resume and

several references,—then *check on them*. A few long-distance phone calls are relatively inexpensive, compared to paying \$1,500 or so including travel and lodging to waste a week with an "instructor" who can neither shoot nor teach.

ASK STUDENTS

Next, ask for references *from students*. This can get a bit tricky. In my case, I give a list of references for my *police course*; civilians who go to combat shooting schools usually don't want their names given out to strangers. If a prospective civilian student wants references, I send him clippings, from national gun magazines, of stories done on my courses, or from publications such as the *Los Angeles Times*, *Cincinnati Enquirer* and *Boston Magazine*. Just because someone gets national publicity doesn't necessarily mean he's better than some local fellow not so widely known, nor publicized.

If you ask a shooting school for a list of civilian references and they give it to you, *and if when you check it out you find the names were given without the students' permission*, avoid that school like the ruddy plague. Would you allow your name, address and phone number to be given out indiscriminately to any potential flake or burglar who asks for lists of people who have and carry guns? Never!

Recently, I received several calls about a new gun dealer in my area who was putting on a one-day course for \$20 on "*Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Handguns*." It was admittedly a grandiose title and a low price for the course; but the dealer had assembled a fine lecture team, including the head firearms instructor of the state's police academy, a seasoned big-city chief and a streetwise patrolman. I recommended the course.

If the school you are considering doesn't have a national rep, there probably should be people in the area who have attended. Contact your local gunshop or gun club, and you're sure to find someone who has taken its course and can give you an honest appraisal.

THE 'TOP DOG'

Next, make sure you're being taught by the master instructor himself if you're paying top-dollar tuition. You don't want to pay \$400 for a week's training by Champion Joe Jones, and only see Jones for two

of the 40 hours. All of us who teach have capable assistant instructors. But, in anything above a basic course, you will want considerable time with the fellow whose name you're paying for. Only at the most basic level is it satisfactory to be taught almost entirely by assistant instructors. In intermediate and advanced training, you will want to study with the man you're paying for—the top dog.

Teaching ability and shooting ability are two different things; you will want *both*. There are golf champs and shooting champs who can't teach, and if you pay to attend either of their seminars you'll be financing their expensive ego trips without learning anything. At the same time, don't believe that old saw about "You don't have to be a good shot to teach shooting, just a good teacher." If the man can't teach *himself* to shoot well, he is obviously *not* a good teacher. Again, check out his resume—carefully.

There are some champion shooters who are also fine teachers. Former world champ Ray Chapman, for example, is, in my opinion, the finest practical pistol coach in the world. Mickey Fowler and Mike Dalton, both world-class shooters, also impart information expertly. IPSC champ John Shaw sends his students out shooting much better than when they came in.

Cooper, for example, operates a .45 like a striking cobra and is a charismatic and articulate lecturer. You *can* have both, but you have to shop carefully.

You don't go to one course and get a Ph.D. You start, in any discipline, at introductory and basic levels, then proceed through intermediate and advanced stages with a major in one area and a minor in another—and with lots of support courses to help you put it all together in proper perspective.

Part II of this series will cover planning your course of study and will include descriptions of the various shooting disciplines taught at the schools.

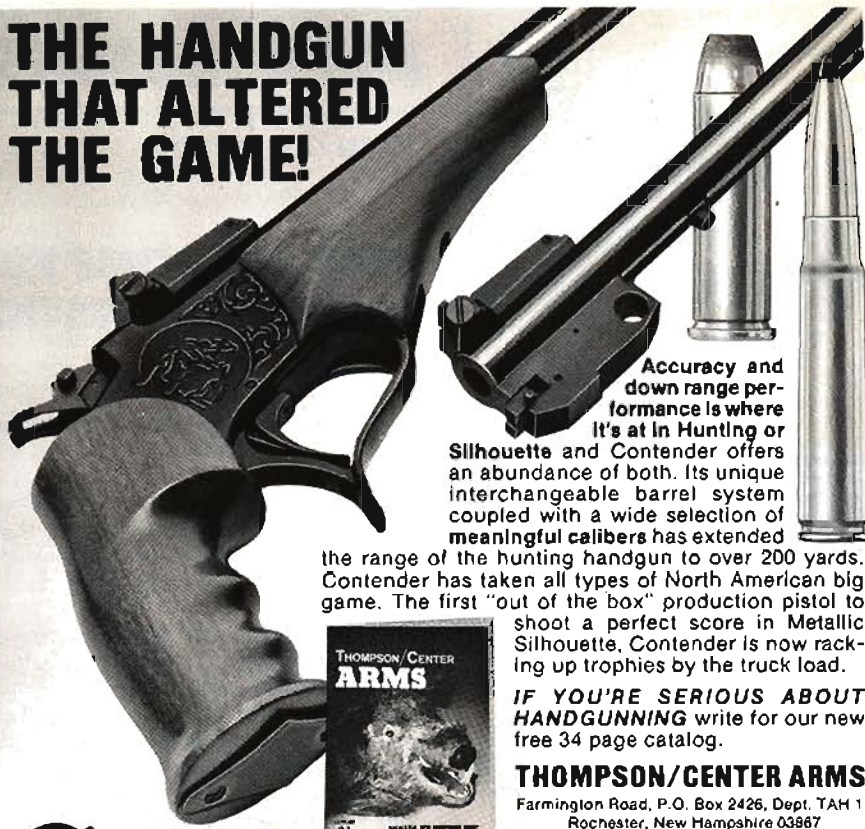
In Part III, we will list the names and addresses of several shooting schools and describe some of the specific courses offered.



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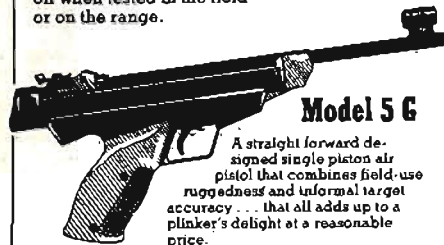
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PISTOLSMITHING

JOHN G. LAWSON

HERE ARE SOME PISTOLSMITH TIPS BASED ON QUESTIONS FROM READERS

Here are some questions from readers of the *American Handgunner*, and my answers:

Q. I get widely separated machine rest groups, say four in the X-ring and three touching the edge of the black with my MK IV Series 70 GM Colt. Why? What do I do about it?

A. Your "Barnstormer" shot patterns (i.e., several wild flyers in a group) are caused by unequal spring tension in the collet bushing, resulting in a slightly sprung barrel that does not always seat to full depth in the slide recesses. Change bushings.

Q. I can't seem to smooth and lighten the pull on my Colt Trooper MK III revolver. The pull gets rougher every time I stone the parts. What am I doing wrong?

A. When dealing with sintered metal parts, it's like trying to get a glass-smooth surface on concrete blocks. The best solution is to use Dri-Slide as a lube and install a spring kit, like the Bullseye, for a lighter pull.

Q. I just purchased a Llama pistol in .45 caliber. Do you consider the Llama a top grade firearm?

A. The big Llama is well finished on the outside, but a bit rough on the interior, by American standards. There are no problems you can't solve with a good stone set, consisting of a fine India and a hard Arkansas. Polish the tool marks off the recoil spring follower for openers, lube it with Tri-Flow and feel the difference. And change all the springs by installing a Wolff pack. Then you will have a reliable pistol.

Q. I can't shoot the scores I used to, and I feel that the problem is my bi-focal glasses. Should I go to tri-focals?

A. You should explain the problem to your ophthalmologist. You could try using a Merit iris optical attachment, or one of the supplemental clip-on lenses to increase depth of field over the distance of sight radius. You can't shoot if you can't see your sights well enough to align them properly. Every time I lend my Merit to shooters with this problem, they are amazed at the results on the target.

Q. What effect does tightness of crimp (in a rifle cartridge in a pistol fired from a machine rest) have on impact?

A. The tighter the crimp, the higher the pressure, the higher the point of impact. This is why we ream necks and check case lengths carefully.

If you don't believe this, place some .001 inch thick brass washers on the case head, the holes large enough for the striker to contact the primer without interference, until the barrel just pops into battery. Note the difference in group size when excess headspace is removed.

Q. I want to seat the bullets in my 7mm XP-100 so they just touch the lands for best long-range accuracy. The problem is that when I seat my bullets I don't know what the proper procedure is to establish correct bullet protrusion.

A. If the cases are fired, size them full length each time you reload. Set your full length sizing die so that the bolt will just close normally when a .002 inch brass shim is placed on the case head. Be careful; more than .002 inch and your cases may begin to separate. Now, seat your bullet to a depth that you can just see marks in the bullet you have sooted with a carbide lamp. Incidentally, you should be on the lookout for loose or tight rounds. Don't fire these in a match; use them for foulers.

Q. Which of the commonly available pistols is most effective when used with a silencer? Why?

A. The P-08 (Luger), because chamber pressure has dropped to absolute zero when the toggle begins to unlock the breech. You can verify this by removing the extractor and firing. The case will remain in the chamber, not ejected by blowback.

Q. My wife has put down her foot and says I can only have one pistol and one revolver. Which of each do you consider the closest thing to an all-round caliber for hunting, defense, silhouette and informal target shooting?

A. I have to say a Government Model in .38 Super caliber and either a Ruger or Smith in .41 Magnum caliber. Both are comparatively little-used calibers, but each has great potential, considering the wide diversity of use to which they will be put.

Q. How does bullet throat affect accuracy in the M1911 auto?

A. When a chamber is grossly oversize, a major accuracy problem, the bullet may start through the bore at an angle, and although this is slight, it affects accuracy appreciably. Using a semi-wadcutter bullet that is a tight fit in the throat straightens

Continued on page 16

CONVERSATION WITH A CHAMPION

By Jon Winokur

Editor's note: The author, himself an expert combat handgunner, recently interviewed Joe Pascarella, a champion bullseye shooter turned IPSC shooter (there is a difference!). Pascarella, 48, lives in Los Cruces, New Mexico, near the Texas border. He is a Sergeant in the Texas National Guard and is employed by the State of New Mexico as a child support enforcement officer. Now, the interview.

JW: You've won the National Bullseye Championship at Camp Perry twice, and this year you finished seventh out of a field of more than a thousand contestants. What do you foresee for the future of bullseye shooting?



JP: Unfortunately, it doesn't look bright. The sport has been steadily losing participation for the last few years. This year, the Marine Corps Reserves announced its withdrawal from the program; the Air Force withdrew several years ago. It seems there are fewer bullseye shooters at the local level, too. For example, I recently shot a bullseye match in El Paso where only six contestants showed up. The following week I shot an IPSC (International Practical Shooting Confederation) match and there were 50 or 60 shooters, many of whom were former bullseye shooters.

JW: To what do you attribute this?

JP: I think there are several factors. First of all, most people seem to find combat shooting more interesting and challenging than bullseye. And the cost of equipment for combat competition is much lower; you can buy a decent .45 auto for \$600, spend another \$100 or so for leather and some extra magazines, and you're ready to compete. In bullseye, you'd have to spend \$800 on a wadcutter gun, another \$300 on a good .22, \$100 for a scope and \$100 for a shooting box. These are all necessities. You wind up spending \$1,500 or \$2,000 before you're ready to shoot your first match.

On the other hand, I can see a big future

for IPSC shooting. It's been a long time coming and it still has a long way to go, but I can foresee it getting into the same league as professional bowling or golf, if the firearms and equipment manufacturers put the bucks back into the sport, because that's what draws the top shooters.

JW: You've recently begun competing in IPSC matches. How do you find the transition from bullseye shooting?

JP: Obviously, there are big differences; bullseye is slow and deliberate and the time periods are generous, so I'm just not used to shooting at the quick pace necessary in combat competition. But I'm working on new techniques and trying to quicken my reflexes—and my running.

JW: What about mental conditioning?

JP: It's basically the same. In a big bullseye match, I shoot the entire match in my mind, one shot at a time. I try to do the same in combat matches. For example, at the Bianchi Cup match I mentally shot the falling plates, one plate at a time.

JW: What about the differences in gun modifications?

JP: At the Bianchi Cup tournament I shot a Clark pin gun, which is similar to the hardball gun I use for bullseye matches except for the addition of an ambidextrous safety and a beveled magazine well. I use the same trigger pull—four pounds—on both types of guns.

JW: What about accuracy?

JP: My best gun will shoot "X-ring" groups at 50 yards, meaning it will shoot within about one inch. Most of my guns will stay within about two inches at 50 yards.

JW: Are guns that accurate as reliable as they need to be in combat competition where there are no "alibis"?

JP: It depends on who builds them. Most of my bullseye guns are built by the National Guard armorers in Nashville, Tennessee. I can't remember the last time I had a malfunction with one of them. I did have some trouble with my pin gun at the Bianchi Cup match, but I only had the gun for two weeks prior to the tournament. We eventually worked the bugs out, and now it functions flawlessly. That's a good lesson for anyone; if you've got a new gun, make sure you wring it out thoroughly on the practice range before you use it in a match.

JW: How did you first get involved in handgun competition?

JP: I started shooting about 10 years ago when I was a law enforcement officer in Ohio. A fellow officer took me plinking with him and I really enjoyed it. Soon after that, I joined the local bullseye club and began competing in its monthly matches; it's been in my blood ever since.

JW: I think some of our readers can relate to that. Thanks for the interview, and good luck in your career as a combat shooter.

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PISTOLSMITHING

Continued from page 14

the cartridge so the bullet starts to rotate on a true axis, resulting in better groups.

Q. *The gunsmith who did my accuracy work welded the barrel hood and fitted it to the slide face for uniform headspace, but I can't detect any tightening of groups. If anything, they are larger. Why?*

A. Your problem, too deep a chamber, is aggravated by the lengthened hood extension that pries the case head even farther from the slide face, allowing the case to slam rearward as the bullet starts forward.

Q. *I have been taught to shoot revolvers using the "Weaver stance." Is this position named because the front sight weaves across the target, or what?*

A. It was named after its popularizer, if not originator, Jack Weaver, a deputy sheriff from Lancaster, California. He was one of the first proponents of a two-hand combat grip.

Q. *My pistol is dirty and gritty from firing thousands of rounds of lead semi-wadcutters loaded with Unique. What is the best way to get the piece really clean?*

A. Detail strip the frame and slide. Clean the barrel with G.I. bore cleaner and a bronze brush, followed by dry patches and Rig on final patch. Fill a pan with a quart of hot water, to which you have added a small amount of dishwashing detergent and two teaspoons of baking soda. Immerse one part at a time. Swish, pump, slosh and drain until each part is clean. Blow water from holes and grooves. Dry with a soft rag and immediately apply a coating of Rig. (The soda will prevent rust if you have to wait a few minutes before greasing.) Do not clean barrels in this manner. The method does not remove fouling, and you could promote pitting under the flakes (I refer to metallic fouling from jacketed bullets).

Q. *Is a 2½ pound trigger pull safe on a combat .45 auto?*

A. The factory pull usually is 5½ pounds to 6½ pounds. This is considered safe for combat shooting. Even so, you can reduce the pull to between 4 and 4½ pounds—and still be safe. It's an individual preference. Less than four pounds invites problems. Most ranges have an established minimum pull for pistols allowed in competition.

Any more questions from you readers?



For gun hobbyist: inexpensive pistol rest

By Jim Weller

"Clamping the gun in a machine rest and firing several five-shot groups really shows what the gun is capable of doing."

How many times have you read those words or something similar in various gun magazines? Have you ever thought you'd like to own one of those handy gadgets to test your loads for accuracy, but decided the money required just wasn't available? (The most widely publicized machine rest is the Ransom, which costs more than \$200.)

How would you like to buy something that, while not nearly as fancy as the Ransom, does the job for about one-fourth the cost? There is such a rest available, and it's been around a long time.



Mequan Engineering markets a neat, simple package that works great for the gun hobbyist. I use one quite a bit, and so does fellow gun scribbler Evan Marshall; neither of us has any complaints with the results obtained from its use.

Never heard of Mequan Engineering? Sure you have. Remember Lee Custom Engineering and the Lee Rest? Same company, different name; that's all.

The rest itself has a cast base with three mounting holes. I have mine permanently fastened to a length of board. When I get to the range, I just use C-clamps to attach the board to the bench, and it's all set to go. The other part of the rest is the carrier. It sets on top of the base, and the holder for the gun is attached to the rear of the carrier by a large bolt.

Most handguns require that the grips be removed before installing the gun in the holder. For revolvers, the holders consist of two large, grip-shaped halves which are fastened over the frame by means of a large screw. The bolt in the bottom of the carrier is fastened to the holder and you're ready to go. For autos, the holder is magazine-shaped and fits inside the magazine well where it's held in place by a set screw.

Continued on page 85

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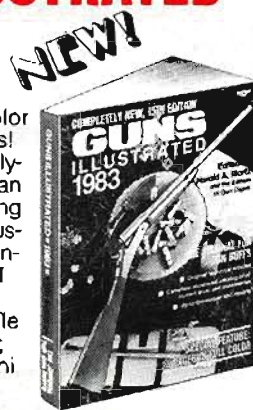
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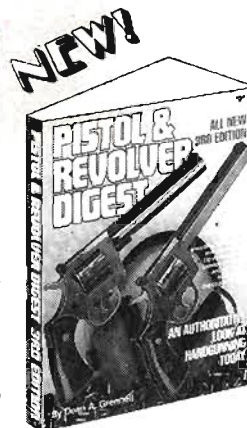
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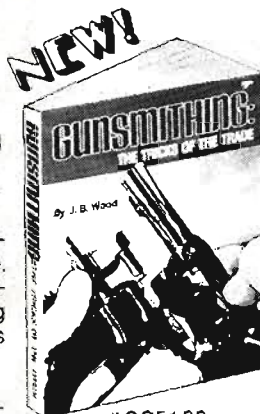
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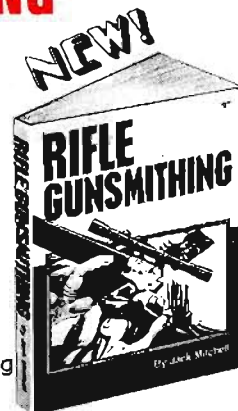
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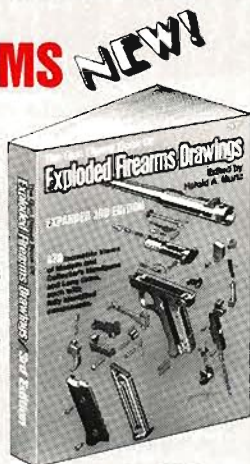


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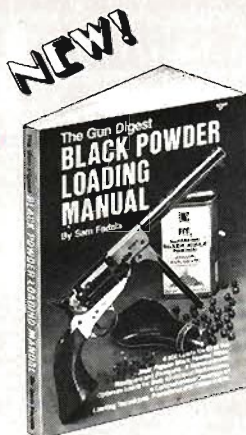
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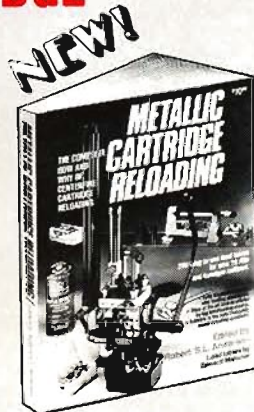
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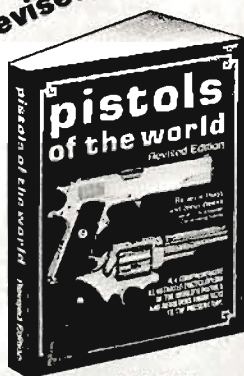
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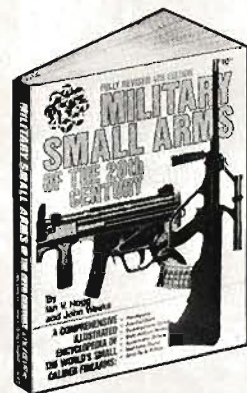
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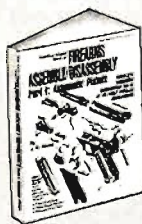
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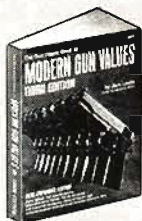
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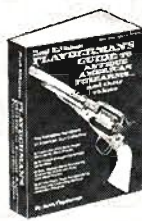
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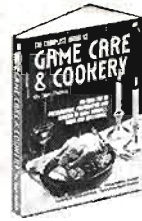
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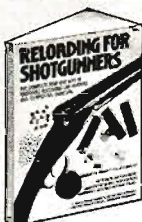
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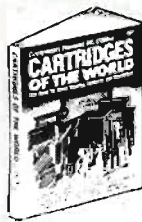
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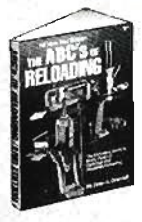
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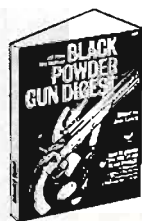
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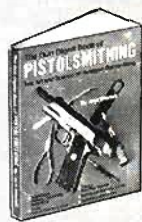
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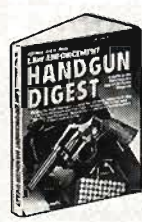
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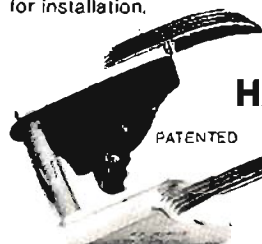
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A while back, considerable material on these guns was carried in the publication of Handgun Hunters International. Some members felt—and still feel—that single shot pistols are really rifles. Some disagree, saying they are handguns under the law—so why penalize technology?

The custom XP in many calibers offers weight, technological excellence, workmanship, accuracy and, in some calibers, recoil.

Most 7mm pistols will not equal the 7X57. Much has been written as to how wonderful a big game cartridge the 7X57 is, and how it's a shame hardly anyone makes it anymore. But do you know anyone who hunts with a 7X57? I've never seen one in the field. I've owned several, but have never fired a round with one at big game.

BULLET PERFORMANCE

Reports of 7mm effectiveness in the field vary. Very possibly, bullet performance may be the culprit in the 7mm.

Beginning with .30 caliber, the bullet selection for big game is practically inexhaustable. From personal observation, I can assure you that the 165-grain Hornady will expand on deer-size game at 400 yards with a muzzle velocity of around 2,400 f.p.s.

It's difficult to find a bullet over .30 caliber that doesn't do an effective job, even if



I've heard it said these guns aren't effective and accurate. Many say they are big, hard to shoot offhand and difficult to conveniently carry. Others say they are powerful, accurate and effective. Basically, no one will argue with you; they'll just figure you're crazy, and leave you alone.

I figure something around a .300 Savage to be about the bottom line for calibers effective on big game. You 7mm fans that disagree, keep those letters coming. But let's have something to back up what you say. In essence, so far, 7mm performance from a handgun has been sporadic. About the best ballistically that can be accomplished with the 7mm in a handgun is about what the 7X57 will do from a rifle.

it doesn't expand.

The most popular hunting caliber in a bolt gun is the .308 Winchester. Ballistically, a 15-inch XP is 10-14 percent under what the same cartridge is in a rifle.

As game size goes up, so does the requirement for bore diameter. The .358 Winchester, particularly when top loaded with the 250-grain Speer, is flat-shooting, accurate and capable of taking any game in the United States.

The same cartridge maximized for case capacity and opened to .375 adds more effectiveness. Called the J.R.S. (Jones Rhino Stomper—hell, we can't be serious all the time!), it's capable of knocking down any animal.

The .458X2-inch is about as much as anyone can handle in the recoil department, and maximum 500-grain loads should be worked up giving due consideration to recoil.

'PISTOL MORE COMFORTABLE'

In general, the recoil of the same cartridge in a light rifle versus a pistol shows the pistol more comfortable to shoot. The ability to "give" with the handgun is much greater than with a rifle, which results in less pain and strain.

The recoil tolerance of most individuals can be exceeded with the .458X2-inch and probably other cartridges, too. I feel that anyone who weighs more than 125 pounds should have no trouble with a .375 J.R.S. and a 270-grain bullet at 2,100 f.p.s. muzzle velocity.

Stocks should be small enough to grasp and work well in the offhand position, such as those offered by Lee Six (Six Enterprises, 6564 Hidden Creek Drive, San Jose, CA 95120). Thumb-hole stocks are poison. Wood is prone to breakage, unless reinforced. Some stock designs just let the gun get a running start at your hand. Mag-Na-Porting, or any effective muzzle brake, improves shooting comfort considerably. And the added weight of a scope makes a tremendous difference in felt recoil.

Excellent iron sights are available.

Scoped, and weighing in at little more than a Redhawk or a Dan Wesson .44, the custom XP is expensive. But that doesn't stop competition shooters from using them.

Why not hunters?

You tell me. I'd like your comments.



SPEAK OUT

Continued from page 5

Search for shoestring holster ends in Conn.

Since you (Don Shuman, September-October *American Handgunner*) said in your article that you knew of no one who currently manufactured a shoestring holster, I felt compelled to send you one manufactured by us, so that you would know that your quest has ended. I hope you find it satisfactory.

Joseph T. Vorisek
President

Armsco Marketing Co.
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Canton, CT 06019

Continued on page 22

The Magnificent Beretta

MINX .22 SHORT

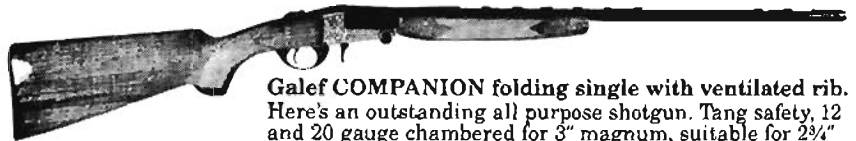
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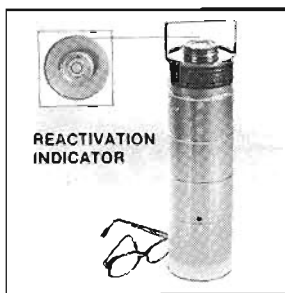
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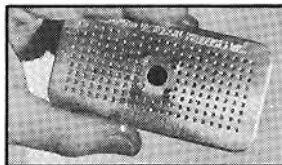
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SPEAK OUT

Continued from page 21

Wants to see more stories in AH on PPC competition

I recently attended the regional NMSS match here in New Hampshire and was the recipient of a subscription to the *American Handgunner*, which you so kindly contributed.

It's only through the active support of companies such as yours which make these matches successful. As a shooter, I thank you for your interest in helping to promote these events.

I've long been an avid reader of your publication, which ranks among the best in firearms publications. Would like to see more articles on PPC Competition; IPSC appears to be the "only game in town."

Albert M. Stangler
Manchester, N.H.

Safari Arms' Enforcer is 'a beautiful little gun'

Shortly after your (Len Davis) letter of April 5, and our phone conversation a few days later, I received a beautiful brochure from the Safari Arms factory and a note from Dianne Cochran. She asked my preference in material and finish and promised delivery of my sweepstakes prize in 60 to 90 days.

My Enforcer arrived last week. I can only say that my anticipation and impatience were well rewarded. As you said on the phone, it is indeed a beautiful little gun. I went that evening to a local indoor range for sighting-in. It is also a pleasure to shoot.

Thank you and the entire staff of your fine magazine
John S. Carothers
Birmingham, Alabama

Sixteen-year old reader is off to a good start

I'm 16 years old and enjoy reading every issue of your magazine. Having two older brothers who hunt a lot, I've been raised around guns. I have quite a few nice rifles and a fine shotgun.

I've always been interested in handguns, but lately my interest has greatly increased. My mother now feels that I'm capable and responsible enough to have a handgun. This is where you come in.

I have narrowed my decision down

Continued on page 86

1983 HANDGUNNER ANNUAL
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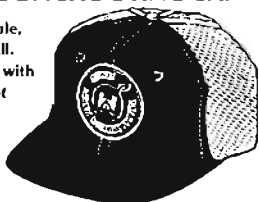
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Match fees donated to fight Cal. gun bill

By Len Davis

The Oceanside (California) Combat Pistol League collected more than \$200 in shooting fees at a recent match in Rainbow and then turned over the entire amount to a coalition fighting to defeat Proposition 15 on the California ballot November 2.

(By the time you read this issue, the outcome of the proposition—a strict gun control measure—probably will be *fait accompli*.)

Bill Hahn, director of the match held at the Rainbow range (situated about 60 miles north of San Diego), said the highlight of the match was the "Panic Burst" course at five yards on five silhouette targets spaced about a foot apart.

Shooters fired five-shot strings (for a buck apiece) with either wheelguns or autos and were judged on both time and accuracy.



The fastest time/best score with an auto was fired by Roy Bohmfalk of San Diego, who swept across the targets in 1.62 second.

Close behind with a wheelgun was Don Flores Jr., also of San Diego, with 1.63 second.

Shooters started with the muzzles of their guns resting on a waist-high bench. Time was clocked between the start signal and the sound of the fifth shot.

More than 70 combat shooters participated in the day's activities, which included an IPSC-type match won by Seth Nadel, a U. S. Treasury Department agent stationed at San Ysidro on the Mexican border south of San Diego.

Wayne Jenkins, a Rolls Royce mechanic from Palm Springs, finished second. San Diego County Deputy Sheriff "Mac" Clough was third.

Prizes were awarded by the *American Handgunner*.

The range is owned by Lou Duncan (a former Marine Corps Rifle and Pistol Team shooter) of Duncan's Gun Works, Inc., Poway, California.

The PERFECT TEN!



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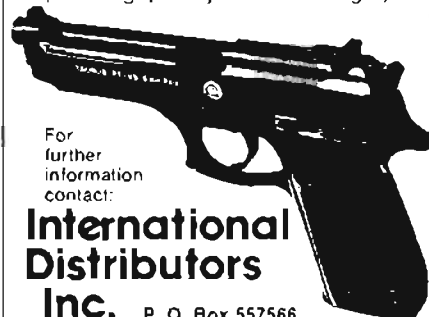
You'd want all of them on your side. Big, tough, they pump out the rounds during the most miserable field conditions. But

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

You can bet your life on the performance of your Taurus pistol, and it costs substantially less.

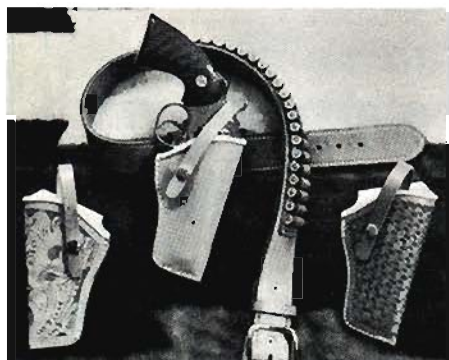
Two models—PT-92 (fixed sights, thermo plastic resin grips) and PT-99 (walnut grips, adjustable rear sight)



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ABOUT THE HOLSTER: The design is the traditional western style high ride favored by lawmen for over 100 years. Each is made with the proper thickness oak tanned leather of the best grade available.

The lining is top quality glove leather and made so the smooth side is next to your gun. The lining is treated with silicone to prevent rust.

The lining is sewn on the top outside of the holster. Then rolled over so no stitches are exposed to wear. It is then bonded to the inside, a full welt is inserted and the holster is sewn and lock stitched with waxed linen thread. A drain hole is put in the bottom to allow debris to fall thru and air to circulate up. Each holster is hand finished and hand fitted to our shop gun to assure proper fit and cross-over strap tension.

Unlike pressure molded holsters which are hard and stiff due to compression, ours is very pliable and will hold your gun snugly, preventing it from moving while holstered. This type of design and construction virtually eliminates bluing wear. Also the holster does not squeak when worn or when the gun is drawn.

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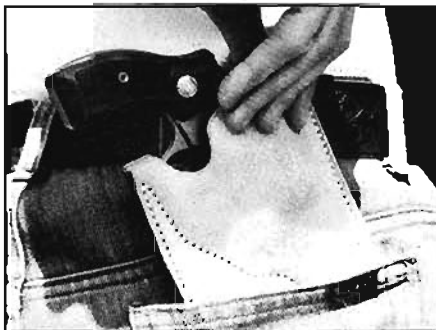
AL PICKLES

HOLSTER MAKERS DON'T 'KNOCK OR DOWNGRADE' THEIR COMPETITORS

During the many years I have been evaluating guns and related equipment, and writing for various police and gun publications, I have enjoyed some pleasant relationships with various company executives. If you are an honest evaluator, however, it unfortunately follows that some hostile encounters ensue: no one enjoys seeing his product criticized in print, and it seems to matter little how well deserved the critique.

In all these dealings, however, I have never met a bunch of people nicer, as a group, than the presidents of various holster manufacturing companies. I have met and talked with almost all of them.

Unlike some other segments of related industries, I have never heard one leather maker knock or downgrade the products of another. On the contrary, John Bianchi often lavishes praise on his competitors' products. So does Tex Shoemaker, Bill Rogers, John Parlante, Gene DeSantis, Don Hume and all the others—to a man. I don't know what it is that makes these men so different. Maybe it's working around the good smell of fresh leather, or possibly the secure feeling when one has confidence in his product. There are so many really good leathercrafters that the shoddy worker just doesn't last long.



SCHULTZ LEATHER

Another nice trait shared by these men is they never place a line of executive buffers between themselves and their customers, including gun writers. If you want to chat with the top man of a holster company, go to the SHOT Show or to his plant. If you have any ideas or suggestions, write to him personally; most of the time he will answer, promptly. So, it is with these good vibes in hand that I set forth on an evaluation of some really interesting new combat type holsters. It won't be all roses, but I don't think any of these people are above a sincere and objective critique.

If you read the *American Handgunner*, it's safe to assume that guns are not just an idle hobby. You are really into handgunning, and that probably means you own more than a few shootin' irons—maybe even more than your budget can spare.

Each new acquisition usually requires a holster rig or two if you are going to do any work with it at all. A fine gun absolutely deserves fine leather, and really fine leather is expensive. Sure, you might buy an *El Cheapo* with internal rivets poised to scratch and mar your custom autoloader, but that drives your investment down, instead of up. Junk holsters could also get you killed.

NEW SHOULDER RIG

John and Joan Parlante of Cobra Guns are out with a new shoulder rig they call the *Countach* and it solves much of the problems presented by multi-gun ownership. They have designed the *Countach* so that one holster will fit a variety of guns, revolvers or autoloaders. For example, the one I am now wearing is a top of the line shoulder rig which will take a four-inch Model 19 Smith & Wesson, or an M-S Safari Matchmaster .45, Browning Hi-Power, H&K P9S, Beretta 92 and just about anything else of the same general size. It balks a bit when it comes to the big Smith & Wesson N frame, but with a little home modification it will work. I don't know about the new S&W L frame which, as few people realize, is longer and heavier than the N frame, given the same barrel length.

No, you are not going to get a glove fit with each gun. That would be almost impossible. It will, however, give a good serviceable fit and I would not hesitate to sally forth into Hogan's Alley with the Cobra *Countach*.

Cobra also offers the *Countach* in a size that will handle most revolvers with two- or three-inch barrels, as well as most medium-size autoloaders, such as the Walther PPK, Astra Constable, Mauser HSc, and others of similar size. By purchasing just two different size Cobra *Countachs*, you could have shoulder rigs for most of your present guns and many more that you might buy or acquire later.

There is no need to worry about quality when dealing with the Parlantes at Cobra. I have examined almost everything they make and have never been concerned with workmanship, serviceability or looks.

Send a buck for their catalog to Cobra Ltd., 1865 New Highway, Farmingdale, NY 10013.

THE SCHULZ BROTHERS

I have found a new friend in the holster industry in the person of Larry Schulz who, along with his brother, runs Schulz Leather Company. The firm has, under preceding generations of Schulzs, long been engaged in the manufacture of other leather products, such as shoes and instrument cases. When the brothers—a gun-oriented pair—inherited the business they swung it completely around to a gun-related operation. Seeking to satisfy previously unfulfilled needs in the law enforcement sector, they consulted members of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Office. What they came up with is interesting; in one case, it quickly satisfied a need I have had for the last 30 years as a cop.

Basically, I'm as lazy as the next cop, or maybe that should read "as tired." To this day, when the good spouse asks me to run down to the store for a gallon of milk, I simply stick a short-barreled something or other down the back of my pants and trust the love handles will keep it from falling down my pants leg. This is commonly called "The Mexican Carry."

Schulz offers a square, pocket-shaped leather holster that completely fills the rear pocket. It will take any small-frame revolver with a two-inch barrel. (In my case, a Charter Arms stainless steel Undercover loaded with Albert's reloaded Hydra-Shok bullets.)



COBRA COUNTACH

Since the gun fits snugly enough to stay in the holster, you might suspect the whole works would come out of your pocket if you had to draw. Not so. At least not with the guns I have tried. The rough surface outer leather seems to form a friction hold with the inside of the pants pocket. It must get an assist from fanny pressure, so possibly a real skinny dude would have trouble. For me it works and fills a long time need. I just leave my Charter Undercover in the holster and shove the whole rig in my back pocket, just as easily as sticking the naked

Continued on page 32

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SIGHT SETTINGS

LUCY CHAMBLISS

GUN OWNERS OF AMERICA IS A SOLID, EFFECTIVE PRO-HANDGUN GROUP

Bill Greif dragged out his biggest dictionary to get a lot off his mind to me in his letter published in the July-August issue of the *American Handgunner*.

Too bad Bill didn't take up his grievance with me during the three years we sat within 12 feet of one another as NRA directors. Certainly my views on the neglect of the competitive shooter have been well known for the last 20 years that I have been writing and speaking on the subject. Really, Bill, I am easy to talk to and interested in what you as a non-competitor, non-shooting NRA director have to say. Sorry you let my naturally serious expression and reserved personality scare you away from discussing an important issue.

On to more important subjects. The Aimpoint sight was used in the 1982 Bianchi Cup Match, having previously helped Joe Pascarella win the 1981 National Pistol Championships at Camp Perry. Everything I have heard about this sight has been good, but I have not tried one, mainly because they are not allowed in the International pistol matches. However, with the credentials it is gathering at Perry and a good showing in Practical Shooting—and provided its cost is not prohibitive—many shooters undoubtedly will be buying an Aimpoint. I was not surprised to see such a sight in bullseye matches. Fifteen years ago people were experimenting with scopes on handguns at Perry. The main problem then was finding a mount that would not shake loose, and a scope with simple magnification. Obviously, Aimpoint and others have solved the mount problem.

I was surprised to see such a sophisticated electronic device used in the "real life" Practical Shooting match. At the start, all competition appeared to be geared toward out-of-the-box equipment, except for accuracy and functioning work. Evidently the experts and rulemakers in that sport think you can holster and draw an Aimpoint "on the street," so they allowed it in the competition.

American shooting sports seem to be plagued by starting with simple and fairly inexpensive equipment, and then rapidly accelerating to complicated and expensive equipment that shoots higher scores. Do you keep it simple, or go for perfection? There has to be a balance of both, otherwise we'd still be using spears. It seems to me the International equipment rules lean more toward fewer gadgets, and new in-

ventions have a harder time working their way into the sport.

Aimpoint has helped us with the sights; now, on to something to release the trigger before we can disturb the sights. Frank Green and his electric Free Pistol made a good start in this direction more than 10 years ago. But I have not heard much about it lately.

NEW AWARD STATUE

The Outstanding American Handgunner Awards Foundation dinner in Philadelphia in April of 1982 was as great an event as I told you about in 1981. A milestone was reached in 1982, since this was the completion of the foundation's 10-year plan. A new award statue will be developed for 1983, and a new chairman will take over. J. D. Jones, who I am told made a supreme one-man effort the last few years to keep the awards going, is being replaced by Joe Tartaro, publisher of *Gun Week*. The 1983 dinner, if past custom is continued, will be held in the same city and at the same time as the NRA annual meetings, to benefit from this traditionally large gathering of shooters, industry representatives, hunters, and others. I believe the dinner will be held in Phoenix, Arizona.

By placing sixth out of 27 finalists at the U.S. International Shooting Championships in June, I earned a berth on the eight-woman Sports Festival IV Team and will be going to Indianapolis.

The 1982 Black Canyon matches in Arizona ran smoothly under the direction of NRA Coordinator D.I. Boyd. As you may know, Boyd is Assistant Director of International Competitions at NRA, having joined the NRA staff recently after an outstanding career as a Marine and a national and international shooting champion. As a competitor, Boyd understands and solves many problems before they occur.

I am looking forward to shooting the Sports Festival pistol event; advance information says we will be housed at Butler University and shoot at the Eagle Creek Park Range. The people of Indiana certainly knew how to conduct a good match, when we fired the Police Combat Matches in Bloomington at Indiana University in the 1960s.

One of the Indianapolis range people told me several months ago at Ft. Benning, where he was firing as a competitor, that

dividers between shooters and wind protection that I had written about being absent in Syracuse (1981) would be installed at the Sports Festival matches in Indianapolis. A suggestion made well in advance often can correct something overlooked in the last minute rush of getting a range ready. Eleven years as an NRA Combat Regional Director taught me there are two sides to this handgun competition we enjoy—working a match and shooting in one.

GUN OWNERS OF AMERICA

I have been getting some interesting correspondence from *Gun Owners of America* (GOA) in Alexandria, Virginia. Its letterhead lists John E. Bianchi as secretary-treasurer, Col. Charles Askins as a board member and some pro-gun Senators and Congressmen I recognized.

An informative GOA letter concerned Senate Bill S-1630, or the Criminal Code Reform Act. This piece of legislation had some pro-gun legislators fooled into supporting it. Then Sen. Jeremiah Denton, a Vietnam war hero, wrote a pro-gun amendment that entirely reversed the anti-gun bill. Enclosed with the GOA letter were ready-to-mail postcards addressed to Florida's senators and representatives asking them to vote against the legislation. I mailed them and have since received many detailed replies, which make me think the lawmakers had received a great many of the GOA cards. Basically, the bill was one of the worst that anyone has tried to sneak by. For example, all former BATF agents would get Secret Service badges, give them new powers to arrest you, search your home and seize your personal property anytime they wanted to.

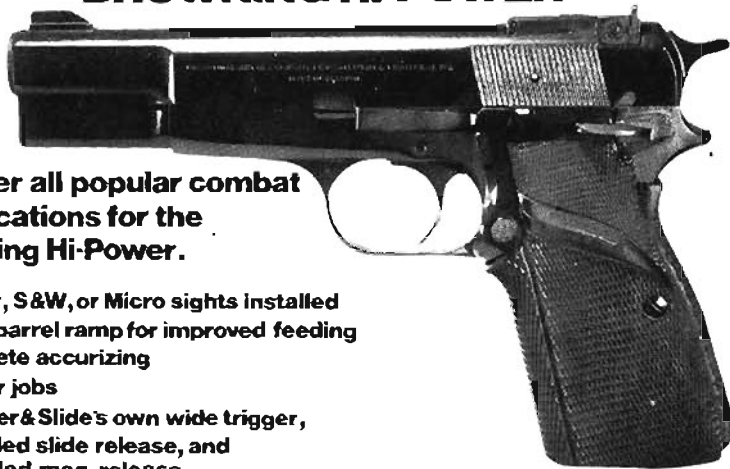
GOA's address is Landmark Towers, Suite 112, 101 South Whiting Street, Alexandria, VA 22304. Usually, when I receive such mail from associations other than the NRA, I ignore it, thinking that time or money splintered off the NRA is unwise; but this particular group's prompt information on this hideous bill got my favorable attention.

A story in the July 2 *Washington Post* reported that a U.S. District Court Judge had overturned a jury verdict that would have required the NRA to pay more than \$2 million in damages to the family of a man killed with a pistol stolen from an NRA office. This ruling, that the NRA was not negligent, is encouraging.

INFO 'QUICKIE'

Merely handling a handgun can cause corrosion. Fingerprints can leave acids and salts on the metal. The salts, when exposed to moisture, will begin the rusting process immediately. After handling handguns—both blued and stainless steel finishes—they should be wiped thoroughly with a dry cloth, then with an oily one.

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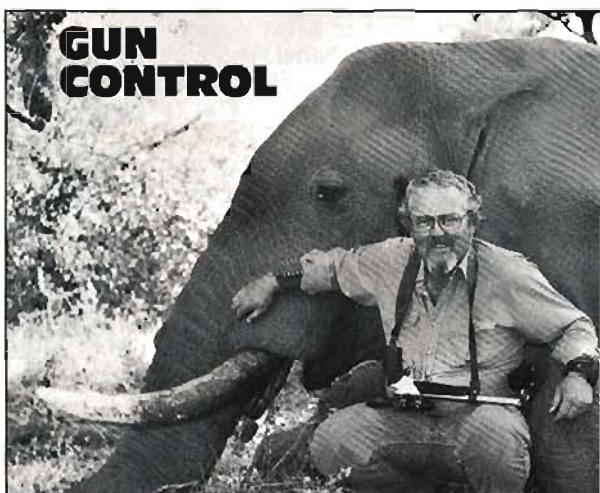


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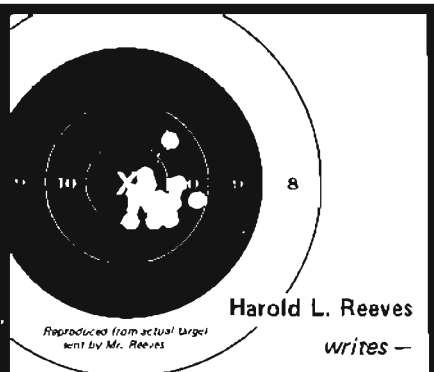
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Rough-stuff components and straight talk abound. The straight talk on reloads and components continues to hail in from reloaders all over the country. Meanwhile, there is an endless succession of reloading products received for testing. My objective is to provide a maximum amount of information, based upon personal experience and data samples supplied.

Among the most interesting of components received is a supply of 192-grain .44 caliber Man Stopper bullets, made by Man Stopper Products Corp., RT 3, Box 401, Continental Road, Warwick, NY 10990. The maker says these bucket-nosed, soft lead bullets will expand to diameters that exceed .80 caliber, and that they will yield this remarkable expansion at low velocities. Since Jerry and Mark Alberts, of Alberts Bullet fame, are credited with contributing their knowledge, expertise, and counseling to the development of these bullets, I was anxious to see how well they performed.

Ten rounds were assembled in once-fired .44 Special brass, using five grains of W-W 231 with standard primers. The bullets were seated flush with the case mouth, and a moderate crimp was applied. This is the load suggested by Frauke Rosenthal of Man Stopper Products. Velocities for the loads I put together averaged 840 fps from a Charter Arms Target Bulldog with a four-inch barrel. This is quite a moderate load, but my objective was to determine bullet expansion at relatively low velocities.

Lacking, at the moment, a more formal test medium, I used a couple of volumes of the Los Angeles Yellow Pages, thoroughly water-logged after soaking about 30 minutes in a bucket of water. The first three shots mutilated the front volume, but did not penetrate completely. Switching the positions of the volumes, I fired another three shots before destruction rendered the soggy pulp useless for further testing. Average bullet expansion was .79 inch; the largest was .82 inch. Understandably, less expansion occurred as the test material deteriorated, so that the final bullet fired expanded to only .69 inch.

Rosenthal reports expansion of .90 inch when one of the .44 bullets is fired into water, at a somewhat higher velocity, from a Ruger Super Blackhawk. He says, however, that accuracy suffers at velocities necessary for this amount of expansion.

The factory also furnishes loaded ammo that uses cavity-nosed 142-grain .357 bullets, and factory loads with the awesome heavyweights we're examining here, the latter being loaded into .44 Special hulls. The .357 is said to expand to .60 inch, with .44 to .70 inch when fired into Duxseal, a dense, clay-like material.

There's no disputing the fact that Man Stopper slugs expand according to plan. By all plausible theory (and recorded practice), a highly-expandable bullet is superior to a bullet of low expansion. However, the dispute arises when we realize that, in using artificial test media, we're dealing in subjective comparisons.

Straight-talk from Terry Murbach of Maumee, Ohio, reveals some interesting experimental work with the .45 ACP.

"My personal .45 ACP," he writes, "is a 1962 Colt National Match pistol. Everybody calls it a Gold Cup, but those words appear nowhere on the gun. It has Accro sights, a solid-beveled bushing, arched mainspring housing, a Bar-Sto buffer and a Wolff hardball spring. I've shot nothing but hardball equivalent or hotter handloads through it. My standard loads are WCC 66 or 71 brass, 6.5 grains of Unique, 452374 lead bullets or 230-grain jacketed bullets; seven grains of Unique, 452460 swaged .452 inch, and eight grains of Unique, 185-grain Sierra JHC. CCI 300 primers were used for all loads. This pistol will shoot the center out of any target you turn it loose on and has never malfunctioned—providing I use Colt magazines. Most all .45 magazines, except Colts, are junk in my opinion. They've given me nothing but trouble—including those expensive stainless steel Laka magazines. I bought three Laka magazines, none of which would feed correctly, nor drop from the gun when released. I sent two back. Their R&D must be slow. It's been five years, at least, with nary an answer. The idea of stainless magazines however is very appealing.

"I also use an RCBS taper-crimp die. I set it by running it down nice and snug on a military hardball round and I haven't had to touch its setting since. That had to be 10 or 12 years ago, and it works perfectly."

Continued on page 30



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P.S. He also uses a pair of Pacific OO-7's to load much of his ammo.



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HANDGUN RELOADING

Continued from page 28

"It used to tickle me to see the constant questioning of the Gold Cup's durability. My Colt has had just shy of one ton of lead run through its barrel and I'll be damned if I can see a whole lot of difference in it from when I bought it. And my figures do not include hundreds of rounds of military hardball fired through it. A Colt .45 ACP is plenty tough. You won't wear one out, if it's taken care of properly."

I'll back Murbach's testimonial in behalf of Gold Cup durability. Mine has been in constant use for more than 20 years and, except for periodic cleaning and oiling, I've devoted little time doing anything with it but shoot.

Jack Imsdahl of College Station, Texas has some comments on reloading. This time, the potential of DuPont's relatively new 800X is the object of some preliminary testing.

He writes: "The stuff seems to be a whisker faster than Unique and much superior to PB for low- to mid-range loads. Loading 3.6 grains behind a 250-grain round-nose in .45 Colt brass yields a pleasant clean-burning, though slightly smoky, load that shoots really well. Three grains behind a 160-grain flat-nosed slug is a fine load for .38 Specials. Interestingly, no excess smoke was noted in the smaller cases."

Also tested was a load of 3.2 grains of 800X in the 9mm Parabellum, using a 115-grain full-patch bullet. Imsdahl comments, "This one would not, for reasons unknown, function well in a Smith & Wesson Model 39, but it shot fairly well when it fed. Approximately one round in 20 missed. I think the load might have been too light."

Too light is right in this instance. DuPont's new 800X is said to be of the same basic chemical content as their long-used 700X. The flake size of 800X is, however, somewhat larger than that of 700X. For this reason, 800X takes more time to burn and release its energy. Imsdahl might have increased his starting load of 800X with the 115-grainer about 8/10ths of a grain (to four grains) for more consistent functioning of the Model 39.

Looking at data that reveals 940 fps for a 200-grain jacketed bullet in the .45 ACP with a charge of 8.3 grains of 800X, it is obvious that 800X burns more slowly than 700X. For example, I've found that it takes but 4.7 grains of 700X to net just over 900 fps for a 200-grain jacketed bullet. Accuracy is good with 700X loads, but 800X promises to gain a lot of popularity, because of its versatility in a broad range of handgun cartridge reloading. We'll be looking forward to sharing more information on 800X.

Tom Ferguson of the San Antonio, Texas Police Department sent the results of test-firing conducted by Richard Stengel, SAPD Firearms Examiner. The dilemma of choosing a meaningful test medium, along with the subjectivity of conclusions based on the use of artificial

media, are highlighted on the chart (below) and represent Stengel's conclusions. If you have reloading data or experiences with reloading techniques of interest to other shooters, write me at Handloading, POB 222, Pinon Hills, CA 92372.



DUXSEAL EXPANSION TEST (BLOCK THICKNESS: 10")

Caliber	Bullet	Velocity	Penetration	Expansion	Channel Dia.
.357 Mag.	158-gr. W-W	1200	4¾"	.625"	3"
.41 Mag.	170-gr. jacketed cup point	1020	4¾"	.615"	2"
.41 Mag.	210-gr. lead R-P	950	4¾"	.575"	1½"
.44 Mag.	240-gr. lead FP	940	5"	.620"	2"
.45 Auto	185-gr. R-P JHP	970	5"	(A)	1½"
.45 Auto	185-gr. R-P JHP	1020	5¼"	(B)	1¾"
.45 Auto	200-gr. cast SWC	959	8½"	None	—
.45 Auto	200-gr. Speer HP	1000	3½"	.750"	2¾"
				(Fragmented)	
.45 Auto	230-gr. Fed. Hardball 850		Complete penetration of 10" block.		

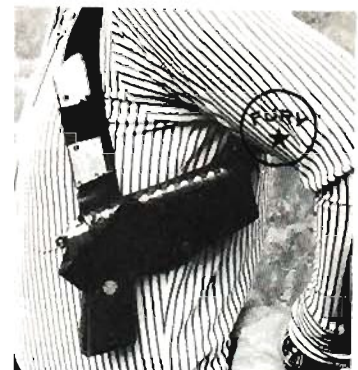
A .45 hardball round usually stops in a human torso; it went through the 10-inch block of Duxseal.

A .357 Magnum 158-grain bullet usually goes through a human torso; it stopped in 4¾ inches of Duxseal, with good expansion.

A .41 Magnum 210-grain lead bullet usually goes through a human torso and does not expand; it stopped in 4¾ inches of Duxseal, with good expansion.

(A) Jacket tore on one side, bullet tumbled.

(B) Jacket tore on one side, bullet fragmented.



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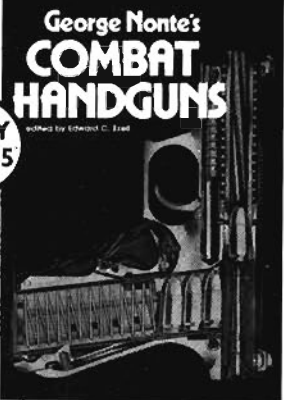
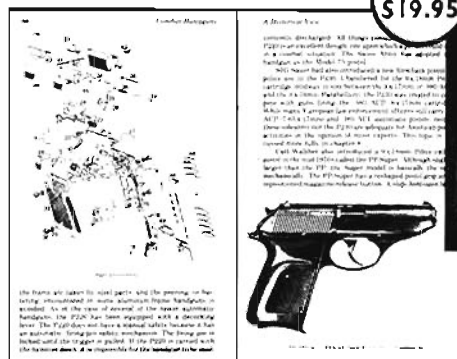
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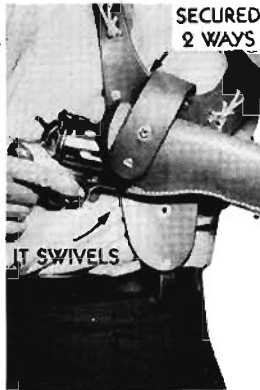
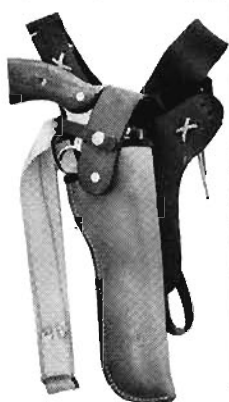
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bbl. \$24.95

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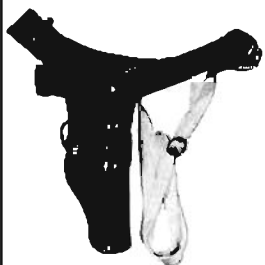


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HANDGUN LEATHER

Continued from page 25

gun inside my waist band. It's certainly easier than playing with a painful inside-the-belt holster.

A slight drawback is that it does position the gun a few inches lower than waist carry, but if your "outside the pants" shirt has shrunk that much it's time to treat yourself to some new clothes.

'PURSE-WITHIN-A-PURSE'

Schulz also offers a unique purse carry system for women that will hold snubby or four-inch models, cuffs and five spare rounds. It is not a heavy duty rig, nor is one necessary since the whole works will reposition within a purse. It is definitely not a speed rig; rather, a light, simple way of keeping your tools of the trade together and uncontaminated by mascara, store coupons and whatever else fills the average woman's purse. Leather, cut, and stitching are basic but really all that is needed for a purse-within-a-purse. Cost is low—about \$6. I would suggest that, should you buy one, you patch a small piece of light leather over the inside of the snaps.

Schulz makes many other fine items, including a pistol rig (or case, if you must call it that) made of leather and fleece-lined. It takes second place to none and already holds one of my most-prized guns. The address of Schulz Leather is 16247 Minnesota, Paramount, CA 90723.

Gene DeSantis of DeSantis Holster and Leather Goods specializes in the true glove fit moulded to your particular gun. You can look at one of his semi-hard leather holsters and tell exactly what gun, or variation, it was meant to house. I can't see how he does that and still turn out enough holsters to make a profitable venture. Undoubtedly, there is a degree of automation, but you sure can't tell it from looking at a DeSantis holster.

I have a Heckler & Koch P9S in .45 ACP that I wanted to carry for a thorough test and evaluation. It is really neat, and expensive, for a double-action .45 auto-loader. I started asking around within the leather industry in an effort to find a rig that would best fill my needs. Would you believe the DeSantis rig—for that particular handgun—was recommended by presidents of other holster companies! One said, "Al, you have just got to see Gene's work on this. It's superb!" I have known the DeSantis people for many years and their work has always been right up with the best. If it's a glove fit you require, contact DeSantis at 1601 Jericho Turnpike, New Hyde Park, NY 11040.

The design and quality of holsters has so improved over the past decade that I can't imagine what manufacturers will come up with next. How about a catalog that smells like the product? Sort of the "scratch-and-sniff" concept.



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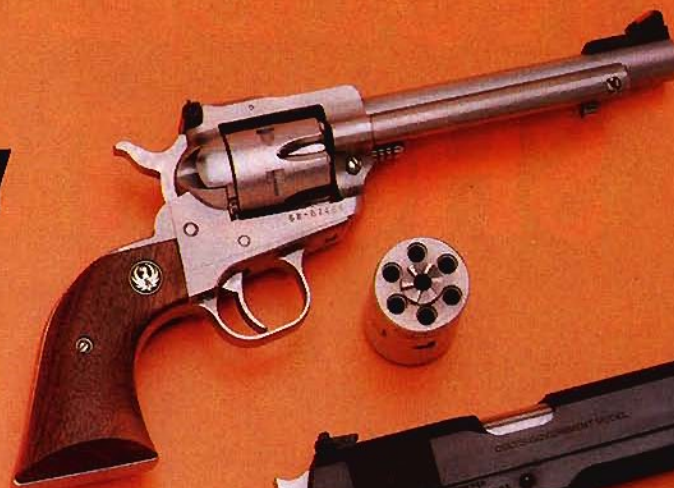
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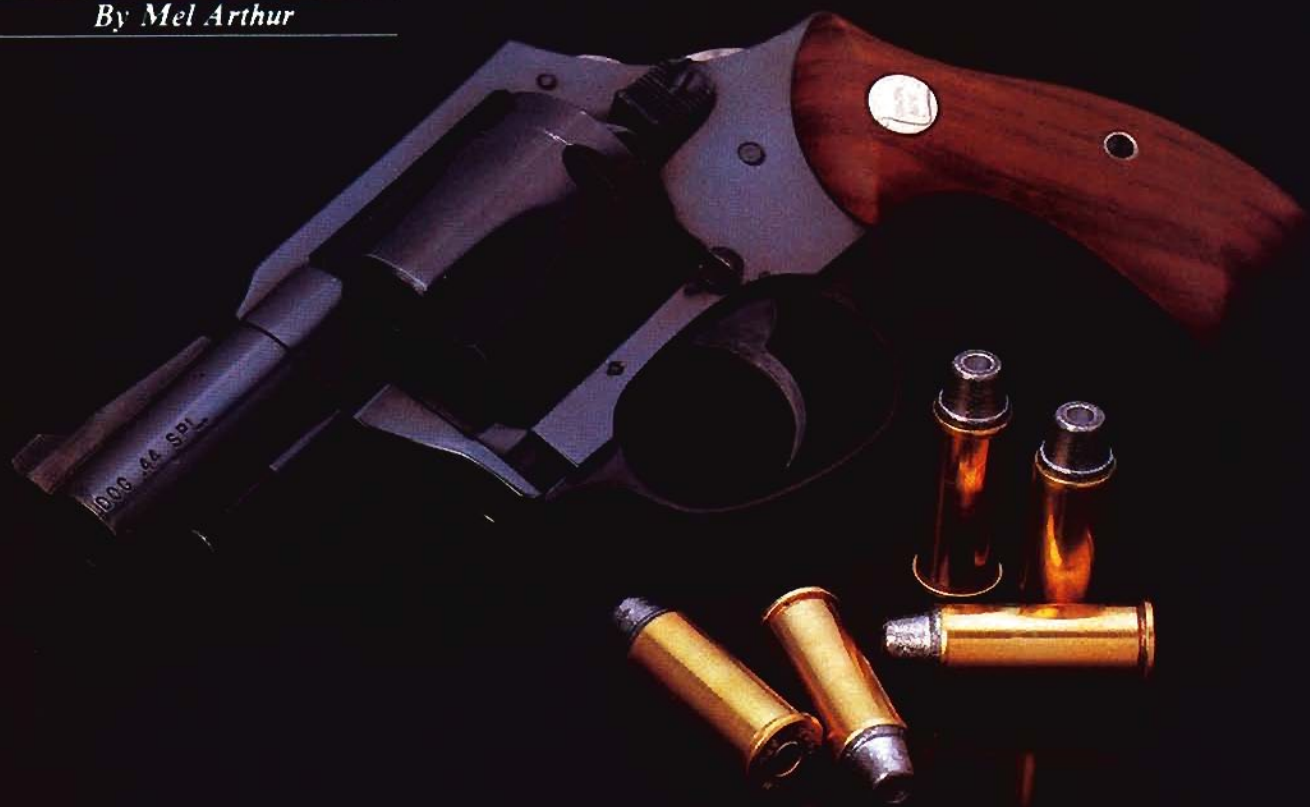
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They're lightweight, attractive in a businesslike way, easy to carry, dependable and quick into action.

SNUBBIES SHOOT SUPER

By Mel Arthur



Controversy never fails to abound when the subject of snub-nose revolvers arises. And it arises often.

Liberals view these short barreled guns as the cause of all this country's pistol-related woes. Something to do with an inanimate object being intrinsically evil, or whatever.

But we need not poll the political left to be in the snarled snubby squabble. Gun fanciers themselves heap plenty of fuel on the pro-con fires as they extoll the snubbies' virtues, or with equal furor denounce its deficiencies.

Most of the criticism concerns the inadequacy of the .38 Special cartridge. (There are smaller caliber snubbies available, but

these won't be considered here.) Getting a .38 Special up off its knees in the power department seems to be a never-ending effort on the part of our ammunition makers and has been the content of more articles than I care to admit having read.

The joys and benefits of loading hollow base wadcutters backward in their cases has been recommended for many years, and sounds good, until you try it and see how lousy and ineffective they can be. Then we have the latest speedy lightweights, of various materials and construction, that are supposed to open up to awesome diameters. But don't.

Still, the experimenting goes on. I suspect it's because no one has yet found a

really good answer. I know I don't feel any great surge of confidence in any of the .38 Special ammunition developments to date. This ammunition can be shot in any length barrel, but the sad fact is that as the barrel shortens so does the velocity, until a fairly hot performer in a six-inch model .38 will look pretty anemic when housed in a two-inch snubby.

Still, most of us like snubbies. They are lightweight, attractive in a businesslike way, and extremely easy to pack along, whether it be in a holster, pocket, or lady's purse. They are quick into action and offer dependability that is as close to perfection as we are likely to get in this world.

All working parts are completely at rest

until the moment of use. The snubby is rugged and will continue to give good service with a minimum of care, and in some cases, outright neglect. Easy to swing in tight places, such as across a steering wheel, they more than earn the high regard and affection we have for them. Nevertheless, we are left with the power problem.

We have several legitimate uses for the handgun and the most important is protection. Through unpreparedness, mentally or materially, I may not do well on the pistol range and my penalty will be a low score, loss of reward and esteem. Failure to be properly prepared in a serious social confrontation can exact a far greater penalty, loss of life. In our quest for adequate protection, many situations and weather conditions dictate the use of the snubby. For the off-duty officer and the armed civilian there are times when a larger piece is not feasible.

Ken Hackathorn, an informed small arms weapon authority, once noted that individuals who carry small, concealable revolvers do so from fear of trouble, not

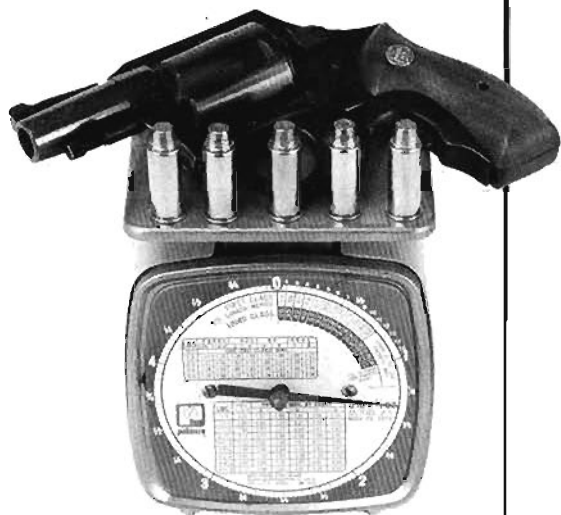
Many years ago, J. Henry FitzGerald of Colt, pioneered two-inch barrel revolvers by cutting down a pair of New Service .45s. But these still remained large, heavy sidearms—despite the surgical accomplishments of this colorful innovator. Old Fitz carried both guns in his reinforced trouser pockets. For a time, the Colt factory would make up these guns on special order. Included were cut-away trigger guards and cut-off hammer spurs, and two-inch barrels. They were called, and are known to New Service collectors today, as *Fitz Specials*.

So, we see the need for snubbies has always been felt, but to have an authoritative caliber without undue weight and bulk

seems to have been beyond us—up to now.

The first glimmer of light into this dilemma came with the introduction of the Charter Arms Bulldog in .44 Special caliber. A five-shot, double-action revolver that weighed only 19 ounces, it wasn't a true snubby; in factory issue, it sported a three-inch barrel and rather large grips for a concealable handgun. Still, it was a place to start.

My desire for an adequate snubby simmered on my mental back burner for a number of years. During that time, I saw a few articles on experiments revolving around the Charter .44. None of the finished products met what I considered to



Smooth walnut stocks and Tyler T-grip make this big bore snubby ideal for concealment, and light enough for an ankle holster if desired. Empty revolver and 5 cartridges weigh 22 ounces.

expectation of it. This gets to the heart of the matter. If we expect trouble we will do well to equip ourselves with something more appropriate for the occasion. As most daily situations bring no threat of great violence, or expectation of trouble, the armed citizen and off-duty officers can be well served by light, easily carried, short barreled revolvers.

But the tantalizing thought remains, wouldn't it be nice to have a snubby of adequate power? An effective big bore snubby that could place its large slug exactly where needed, with the same concealability and easy handling characteristics of the smaller caliber guns. It became my dream to have one.



Shown here is a big bore snubby for size comparison with a Walther Model PP in .22 caliber. The five-shot .44 Special is a customized Charter Arms revolver with a shortened barrel.

Looking down the barrel of this .44 Special snubby, loaded with 5 rounds, can be a somewhat frightening experience. Yes, snubbies do "shoot super."

With primer power loads...

LIVING ROOM MARKSMANSHIP

By Dave Reynolds

You're relaxing, half-watching television, but most of your attention is on the new handgun you are holding. You aim at the bad guy on TV and squeeze the trigger. It'll be several days before you can take the new shooting iron to the range, and you're anxious to see how it performs.

Wouldn't it be great, you think, to have an ultra-low power load that you could fire safely in your living room.

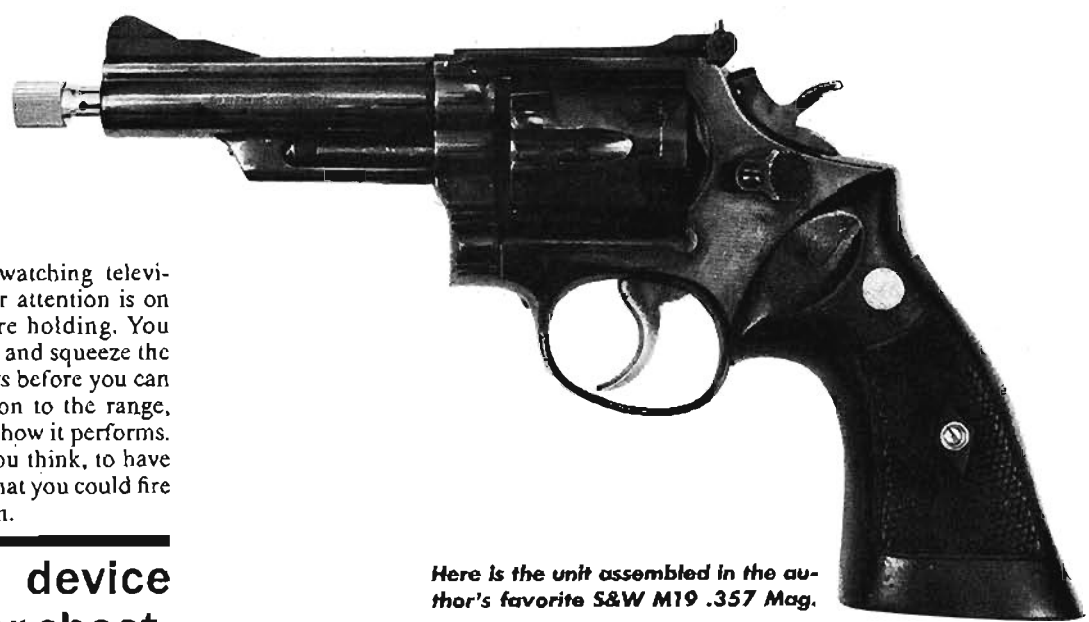
Sub-caliber device makes indoor shooting safe, easy, inexpensive, practical.

Actually, such loads exist. The first commercially available product (that I know of) was introduced by Speer about 20 years ago. Consisting of plastic cases and bullets in .38 and .44 caliber, the reuseable cartridges are powered by primers only. These are still around, and they've just been joined by a new system: a .177 caliber pellet-firing device from Barnett International Ltd., POB 226, Port Huron, MI 48060.

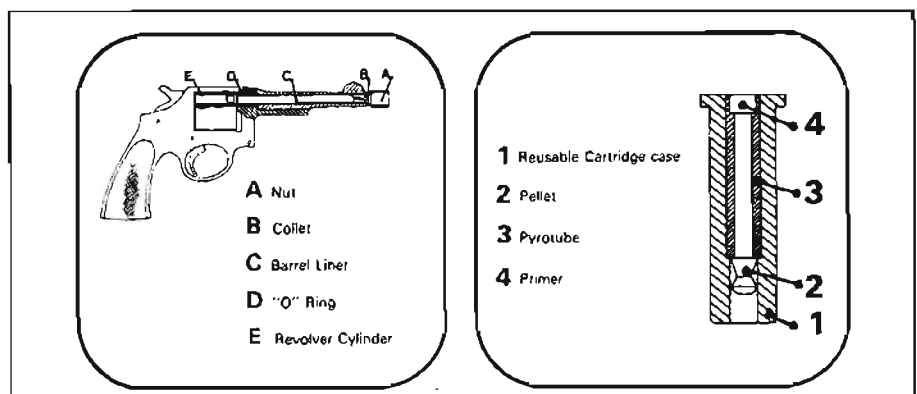
Barnett's sub-caliber device is tailored to a specific caliber and barrel length of gun. The sample reviewed here fits four-inch barrel .38 and .357 Magnum revolvers. The kit includes a barrel liner, 15 cartridges, 100 primer tubes, a special cartridge case to aid in priming the tubes, a box of pellets, and cleaning rod with accessories. All parts except the pellets are reuseable; they say 50 times for cartridges, 10 times for primer tubes; but that's conservative. They will do more.

I've used the Speer product at various times for teaching beginners and for indoor practice when I couldn't get out. The system is good for close range work, but it does have limitations. Though bullets and cases are inexpensive—each are \$3.40 for a box of 50—they do wear out or get lost. You'll probably use two boxes of bullets

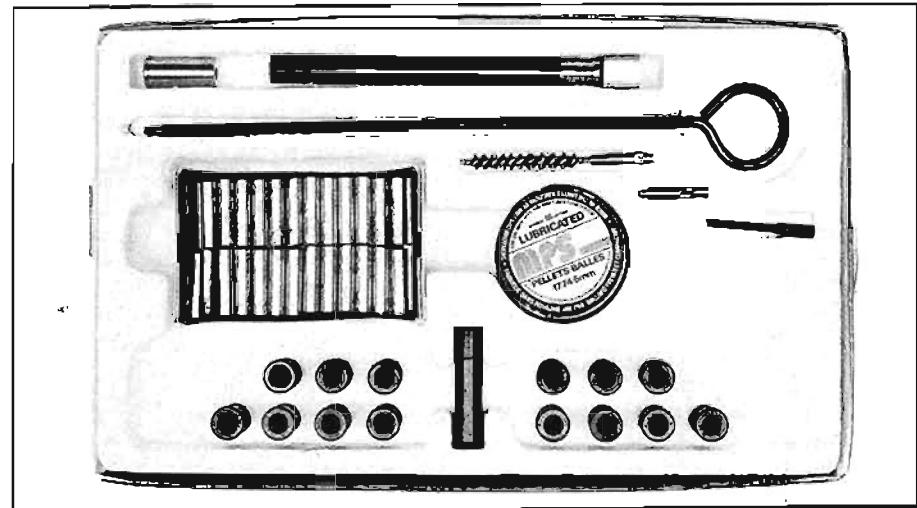
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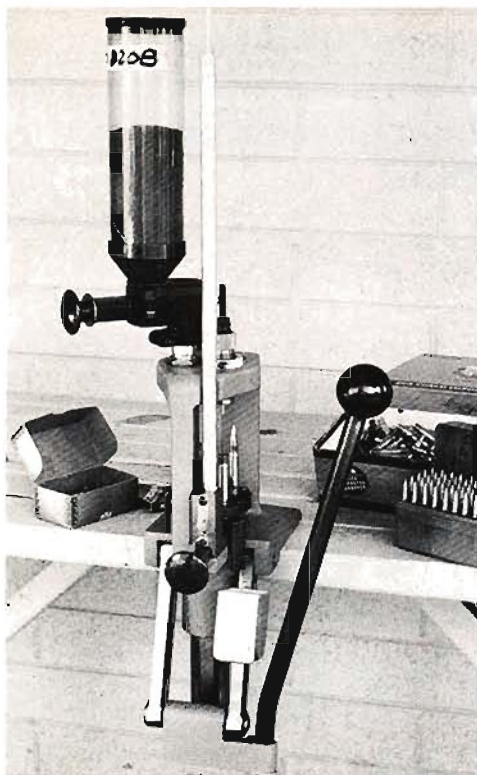


Here is the unit assembled in the author's favorite S&W M19 .357 Mag.



Diagram, above, shows how device is assembled. Below, the components: barrel liner (top), empty cartridge cases and .177 caliber pellets (center) and primer tube/primers (bottom). Kit includes cleaning rod and accessories, top.





Simple and fast...

DILLON'S NEW RELOADING PRESS

The RL-450 is a high-volume unit offered at an affordable price.

By Philip C. Briggs

Reloading is an interesting and satisfying hobby; but once you experiment yourself into that one best load for each pistol, all that's left is cranking out loaded rounds so you can get in that needed practice. Or, maybe you only reload so you can afford to shoot a lot, and the quicker the loading's done the better.

If you're one of these folks, or for some other reason need a lot of ammo loaded in a short time and don't have thousands of dollars to spend on automatic reloaders, stick around. Mike Dillon, inventor of the fantastic RL-1000 reloader, has developed an equally innovative press—just for you.

The RL-450 is Dillon's second effort at building a high-volume reloader that the average shooter/reloader can afford. The first—the RL-300—had been in production about a year when Dillon decided he could do better. The resulting reloader is rated at a higher cyclic rate—and costs less.

The RL-450 is a large O-frame press with the O aligned perpendicular to the front of the bench. It employs a toggle-linkage to develop greater leverages for more power at the top of the stroke for sizing cases, and minimal leverage at the bottom to provide better feel while seating primers.

The handle has a ball-shaped grip to allow operation of the handle through full stroke, without changing your hold. The ram is quite large in diameter, and it's at the top where the press is different.

Most turret presses hold multiple dies and the die holder is rotated to perform successive operations on a single case.

The RL-450, like the RL-300 before it, uses multiple dies; but *they* don't rotate—the *cases* do. A circular, four-station shell holder plate sits on top of the large diameter ram, and it rotates to bring each case under a die station. Loading operations are performed on all four stations, simultaneously. This is the key to the RL-450's effortless speed; once the stations are full, each cycle of the handle produces a loaded round.

The loading stations are spaced 90 degrees apart and the first is positioned 45 degrees to the right from the axis of the O-frame. Empty cases are inserted at the first station, where they are deprimed and primed. Bottle neck cases are also expanded to proper neck diameter at this station.

At the *second* station (to the left), straight-walled cases are expanded and flared and all cases are charged with powder.

Bullets are seated at the *third* station, and the cases can be crimped if desired.

The *fourth* station provides a space for case crimping, should you prefer to separate that operation from bullet seating.

Standard 7/8X14 dies are used in stations one, three and four, and a special, Dillon-supplied die holds the powder measure at station two. This die drops powder into the case through a hollow expander stem for straight-walled cases, and through what is essentially a funnel for bottle-neck dies.

ONLY 20 MINUTES

Changeover to a different cartridge takes only about 10 minutes for dies, shell

holder, priming punch and feed tube. Add another 10 minutes or so to adjust the dies and the measure, and you're ready to load another box of brass.

A unique primer feeder is mounted on the front of the press, to the right of the O-frame, to feed primers into the priming punch that is positioned under station one. Well, that's not quite true, as the priming punch is on the slide, and it moves; *out* to pick up a primer from the feed tube and *in*, to its position under station one for primer seating. This approach eliminates one transfer of the primer—and one potential jam.

A powder measure of Dillon's own design comes with the reloader. It uses an adjustable slide to meter the charge and transport it to dump down the drop tube. Two charge bars are supplied, large and small, and the bars and measure base are hard, anodized aluminum alloy for effortless operation. The measure has to be adjusted by trial and error as it lacks any form of graduations. This measure is used on the RL-1000 and is quite consistent in charge weights on that machine (as it is on the RL-450, if you develop a machine-like consistency of operation). I finally decided to give the slide a short rap before cycling to settle the charge. If I do this, my charge weights show very small variations. In testing, the maximum spread was .0 grains for ten 3.4 grain charges of Bullseye, and .3 grains for ten 24.2 grain charges of H110. Oddly enough, I get about the same variation with short stick powders, such as H4227 and H4895.

Continued on page 72

For under \$200...



TAURUS M85 3" UNDERCOVER REVOLVER

Down at Taurus in Brazil, they have a lazy frame polisher or a smart engineer, or both.

The recently announced Taurus .38 Spec. M85 revolver shows the results of some clever thinking: A unique way to hold the cylinder onto the yoke. This eliminates the need for the little bump sticking out from the frame, at the lower-left corner of the cylinder window.

By Dave Reynolds

Without that little bump to work around, the polisher can do a better job with less effort. The assembler doesn't have to file the bump down to keep the cylinder from dragging on it. And the shooter, who finally buys the gun, finds that it loads easier and works smoother because there is no bump there for the cylinder or cartridges to bind on.

The 85s cylinder is held onto its shaft by a collet bushing. The shaft has an internal groove near its back end, which a ridge around the front of the bushing snaps into when it is pushed into the back of the cylinder. The extractor, when inserted into the cylinder, prevents the fingers of the bushing from flexing inward. The cylinder cannot be removed while the extractor is in place.

The action design shows evidence of still more innovative thinking. A screwdriver is needed to remove grips and sideplate; but the only other tools needed to completely disassemble the action are pins to capture the mainspring and trigger return spring. No tools are needed for assembly. Another unusual feature is that the hand can be re-

moved and replaced without removing any other action parts. This is possible because of the unique hand spring built into the trigger assembly.

A transfer bar ignition system is used. The transfer bar pins into the left side of

For distribution in Brazil, the 85 is made with a two-inch barrel only. For the U.S. market, a three-inch barrel was needed to give it enough AFT points to permit it to be imported. Taurus didn't tool up for a longer extractor rod: it just added to the

**Features several design innovations,
fine double-action pull, well-honed parts.**

the trigger, using the same hole that hand pins it in from the right side. The trigger return spring can be captured by pinning it when compressed. The spring assembly can then be lifted out of the gun. Because it's so easy to remove and replace parts, the 85 is a pleasure to work on.

barrel length. I'm sure some enterprising people here will be chopping them back to original size.

The literature that comes with the 85 shows oversize grips in both round and square butt designs that look very practi-

Continued from page 66



The author touches off one at 25 yards. Tight hold and lightweight bullet (125-grain Nyclad) causes Taurus to shoot low. Holes in barrel not author's.

New on U. S. market . . .

THE ASTRA A-80 .45 AUTO DA

By Al Pickles

Made in Spain, it weighs only 40 ounces fully loaded with 9 rounds of hardball. Functionally reliable and accurate, it's a combat winner.

"Made in Spain" are three words that have never really turned-on U.S. handgunners. It is a shame, because there are some truly fine Spanish-made autoloaders. Astra, for example, has always taken pride in the quality of its handguns.

The reason for American mistrust dates back to a period prior to, and including, the 1920s. There existed, in the city of Eibar, which lies on the road between Bilbao and San Sebastian, hundreds of small gun-making firms. The town was a mecca for aspiring gunsmiths and tiny plants were set up in any available space, including sheds, basements, wine cellars and stables. For the most part, they copied existing successful guns with whatever tools, parts, and metals that came to hand. It was not uncommon for them to copy, for example, a Smith & Wesson and stamp the barrel "for SMITH & WESSON ctg." with the first and last words so faint you could barely see them. Every police property room has seen more than its share of these poorly made pieces. Not all the small manufacturers made junk. I owned a Spanish

copy of the S&W .44 Russian that was quite a good, safe-shooting gun.

This situation was cleaned up following the Spanish Civil War, when Franco's regime closed all the small shops making handguns and "permitted" only three large plants to engage in the handgun trade. We know and respect these three companies by their trade names: Llama, Star, and Astra. While I have had some small disappointments with Llama, Star and Astra have always pleased me with the quality of their work. Recent prime examples are the Star PD .45 and the Astra Constable .380 autoloaders.

Astra, or more correctly *Unceta y Cia*, has been involved in the handgun business since 1908 and is located in the city of Guernica, Spain.

Their latest entry into the American handgun market is a strikingly attractive double-action .45 autoloader bearing the simple model designation Astra A-80.

I would guess that "80" represents the year of its introduction abroad. Although of medium-size for a .45, it has strong, authoritative lines and conveys the impres-

sion that this is the working gun of a man who means business. Constructed entirely of steel, except for the stock panels, yet weighing only 40 ounces fully loaded with nine rounds of hardball, it is still a relatively light gun considering all that firepower. It is considerably lighter than a loaded Government Model Colt .45 ACP. Actually, my sample could have held nine rounds in the magazine and a tenth in the chamber; but the magazine catch was only getting a minor bite on the base plate and I saw no sense in "overstuffing" the gun. Eight in the magazine, plus one in the chamber, is just fine with me.

'MACHO' APPEARANCE

The company refers to the A-80 in ads as being "blued in typical Astra style." Bluing is a process, not necessarily a color. The gun is black, as a combat gun should be. All surfaces that might reflect light and interfere with aiming are given a dull finish. No surface is what you might call "high polish." This is excellent and presents a definite macho appearance. (Macho is a Spanish word meaning *male*.)

The Astra A-80 is comparable in size to an H&K MP9S. Both are .45 DA autoloaders. Fixed sight is fine for hunting.

Field stripping the Astra A-80 can be done quickly, with ease. Note dull finish, ideal for serious combat shooting.





A hand-held Astra A-80 is capable of producing excellent groups at 25 yards.

There is no safety lever because the gun, as a double action auto, is not intended to be carried cocked and locked. The first shot can be fired double-action or, if you have time, you can manually cock the piece. I would prefer the second option, as a policeman entering a warehouse in response to a silent alarm. There is still 3/16th inch trigger travel before let-off in the single-action mode, so a reasonably well trained and disciplined shooter should not accidentally let one off in panic. It's a mute point, since the option—and the consequences—are yours. Options are good as long as you do your part and practice, practice, practice. The double-action is exceptionally smooth, with only a faint increase in pressure before let-off. Single-action is even smoother and you do not perceive any trigger break. Sort of unusual, and typically European, but nice when you get used to it.

Sights are fixed but the rear sight can be drifted right or left, if necessary. I would only do this after finding that particular brand/type of ammunition which fired the best group while suiting my needs. You may never have to touch the sights at all. The rear surfaces of both sights present white squares in the center, which the shooter lines one atop the other. Although different, it did not present any sighting problems no matter what the sun's direction or intensity. The innovation worked extremely well in very low light environments. Couple this with the fact that the

gun is an exceptionally good natural pointer, at least in my hand, and its value as a working combat pistol is greatly enhanced.

Additional features are a hammer-lowering lever, blocked firing pin, loaded chamber indicator that can be both felt and seen, very easy take-down, and a slide that holds open on the last shot. The slide release lever is easily reached with the thumb and can be installed for either right- or left-hand shooters.

NO 'PERFECT' GUN

I'll assume that by the time you have read this far you have looked at the photos and said, "Oh damn, the magazine release is on the bottom." There is no question that a man with a Colt .45s thumb release, utilizing Jeff Cooper's system, will have inserted a fresh magazine at about the same time you are extracting your second magazine from its holder on your belt. You, however, have up to two extra shots and assuming all else is equal you could have stuck your Astra up your antagonist's nose. Of course it would have been nice if Astra had a thumb magazine release, but no one has made an absolutely "perfect" gun.

All this rhetoric would be for naught if the Astra A-80 fizzled out on the range. A combat handgun, in contrast to a plinker, hunting gun, or target pistol, *must give 100 percent reliability*. You can live with losing a regional target match, or missing that rock chuck, but in combat you probably

won't live with a malfunctioning gun. Accuracy is of secondary importance when combat distances are measured in feet instead of yards. The Astra A-80 is both functionally reliable *and* accurate.

I fired more than 500 rounds of different brands of ammo and various bullet weights and designs and had but one failure to feed, which was not really the gun's fault. The offending round was a 25-year-old reload of dubious origin and may have been dimensionally defective. Everything else, from stubby Super Vel hollow-points to truncated cones, fed great. It didn't matter whether I rapid-fired the same loading, or staggered a variety of loads. The only difference from the shooter's end was where the empties happened to land in the grass. Hot rounds ejected brass several yards to the right-rear, while target loads scattered about my feet.

Firing for accuracy, hand-held at 25 yards, was astonishing and informative. Five-shot groups under three inches were the order of the day using Winchester Silvertip 185-grain hollow-point, Federal 230 grain MC, Frontier 230-grain flat point, and Super Vel 90-grain HP bullets. Quite a variety of bullet styles. The faster numbers impacted three inches below point of aim, while the normal velocity rounds were on point of aim.

Using target type ammo, as well as GI surplus bearing headstamp "RA 62," the groups expanded to 5½ inches maximum

Continued on page 60



In .45-70 caliber...

CUSTOMIZED HAND CANNON BY SSK

Designed for big game hunting and long-range target shooting, it's equipped with a 14-inch barrel and 2X scope.

By Len Davis

A magnificent handgun for big game hunting and long-range target shooting has been produced by SSK Industries of Bloomingdale, Ohio.

It's a customized T/C Contender in .45-70 Government caliber, complete with a rust-resistant 14-inch barrel and the new Leopold & Stevens anodized aluminum 2X scope.

The gun is finished in SSK Khrome (a hard chrome with a Rockwell hardness of 72-73/C-scale) and has handsome Pachmayr neoprene grips and fore-end.

On it, SSK has installed its full-length, vent rib scope mount base and three rings to hold the scope firmly under the heaviest recoil.

SSK produced the 14-inch barrel from a blank made by the McGowen company of St. Anne, Illinois. Its 1-14 inch twist produces maximum stabilization of 500-grain jacketed bullets, for example, up to a range of about 200 yards, according to J.D. Jones, SSK president.

Jones told the *American Handgunner* that the gun—with big bore hunting

loads—is capable of producing 1½ inch groups at 100 yards.

He said SSK makes the customized handgun in 60 calibers, ranging from .14 through .58.

"The most popular caliber," he added, "is the .45-70 Government, followed by the .375 JDJ (for J.D. Jones), a .444 Marlin necked-down to .375 caliber."

EASILY HANDLED

Jones explained that the recoil, with a scoped gun that has been Mag-na-Ported or equipped with an SSK muzzle brake, and firing 400-grain bullets developing velocities in excess of 1,600 feet per second, can easily be handled by any shooter "who has hands large enough to go around the grips."

The anodized aluminum scope, with extended eye relief, is 8.1 inches long and weighs just under seven ounces, making it one of the shortest and lightest handgun scopes on the market.

Equipped with the Duplex reticle, the scope makes sighting simple, quick and

precise—even in low light conditions, according to a Leopold spokesman. Optimum eye relief is 12-14 inches.

Except for color, it is identical to the Leopold standard 2X extended eye relief scope.

In extolling the virtues of this big handgun, Jones said he killed a caribou in Alaska in 1979 with one like it, at 150 yards, using a 400-grain jacketed Speer bullet.

"He was running hard and it took two shots to down him," said Jones, who noted that when the two slugs were removed from the animal and measured they weighed .88 and .92, and each weighed 385 grains.

"How's that for expansion and weight retention!"

For more information on Jones' customizing work, write to him at SSK Industries, Rt. 1 (Box AH), Della Drive, Bloomingdale, OH 43910. His telephone number (unlisted) is (614) 264-0176.

If you want to know more about the scope, write Leopold & Stevens, Inc., POB 688 (Dept. AH), Beaverton, OR 97075.

Do-it-yourself...

There is a bullet design that lets you tailor the amount of expansion or penetration you want to the velocity and kind of target material you will be using.

With the same external shape, and the same weight of bullet, you can change the kind of performance at will by using this design in your handloads. It's almost like having two bullets in one: the *outer* form gets the projectile to the target and delivers whatever degree of expansion or penetration you planned at the terminal velocity; then, the internal construction goes to work and finishes the job by either stopping the expansion or controlling it, by means of a solid wadcutter sub-caliber projectile released from the efficient ballistic windshield of the *external* bullet.

The technique involves standard bullet swaging equipment normally used to make jacketed bullets at home, but used in a special way with a couple of extra parts. The same technique can be applied to rifle bullets; but that's a different story. The handgun bullets have no counterparts available anywhere. The only way you can get them is to make them yourself.

The basic concept is to make a bullet that has *two* jackets, one inside the other. The outside jacket can take on the form you like best to deliver the bullet to the target, and can have the kind of point that gives either fast expansion at lower speed, or penetration at higher velocity, or anything in between. Inside the bullet is the upside-down base of a smaller caliber bullet jacket, nested over its own swaged lead core. This rather heavy solid wall of gilding metal is more than just a partition; it is a complete bullet in itself, of the solid-point, open-base type.

The tools necessary are standard bullet swage dies, with one special part made for the job, and one standard die that is used in a very non-standard way. The components are regular bullet jackets.

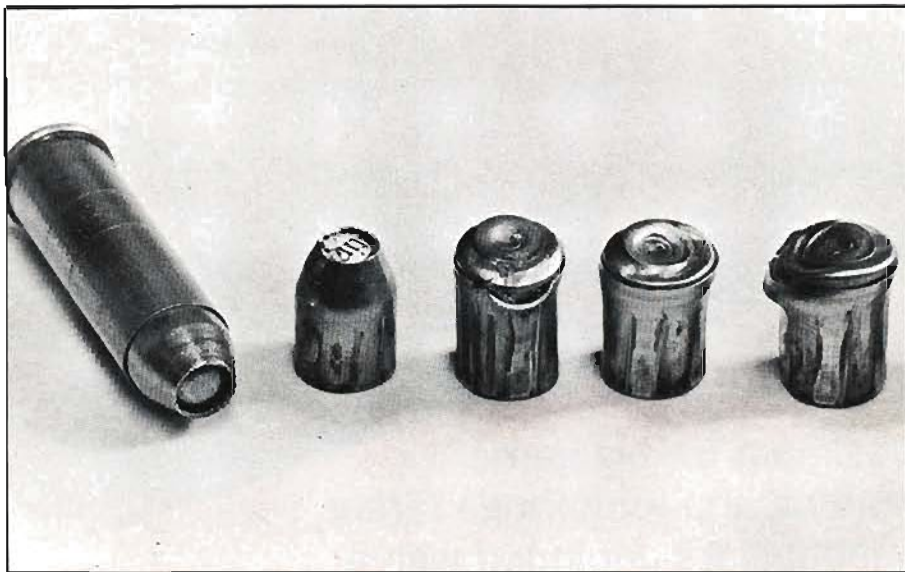
The bullet swage equipment consists of a Corbin Bullet Swage Press, Model CSP-1, and the desired caliber of dies in the three-die set designated Model FJFB-3. In addition, one needs the next smaller caliber of core swage die that will make accurate lead cores for the jacket that is inside the outer jacket. For instance, for .45 and .44 caliber multi-jacket bullets, you would want either the .44 or .45 caliber die set, plus a Model CSW-1 core swage die only for .38 caliber. To make multi-jacketed .357 or .38 bullets, you would want the FJFB-3 die set in .38, plus a CSW-1 die in .308 caliber.

There are three dies in the FJFB-3 set: the CSW-1 core swage, the CS-1 core seater, and the PF-1 point forming die. Each has both an internal and an external punch with it. The CSW-1 core swage is made with a straight hole to accept a cast or cut wire section of lead considerably smaller than the diameter of the bullet.

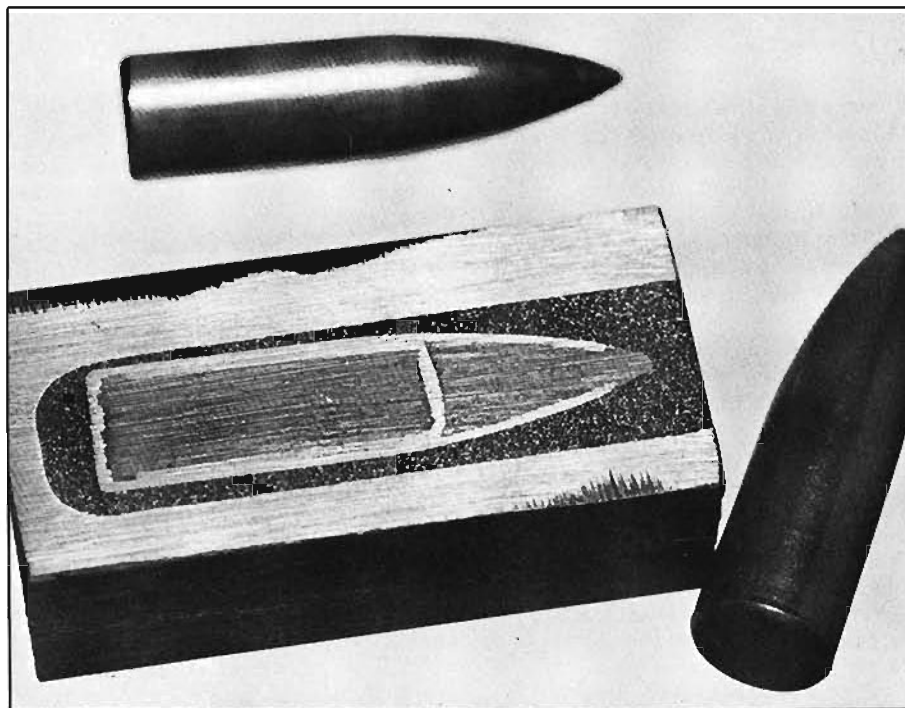
For the .38 caliber, the core will be about

MULTI-JACKET HANDGUN BULLETS

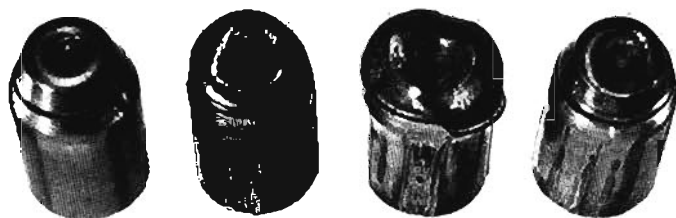
Technique involves standard bullet swaging equipment, which enables you to control expansion, penetration and velocity with one bullet.



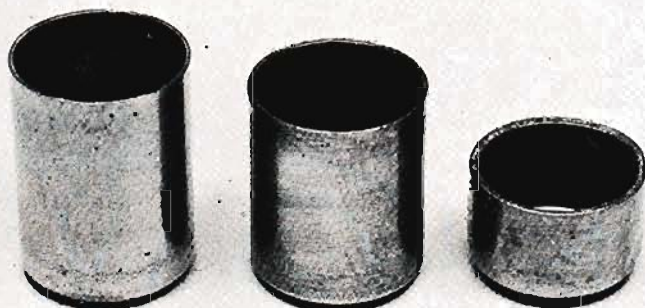
This .38 bullet shows one multi-jacket style. Outer jacket houses a shorter / smaller jacket placed upside down within it. Core fits inside smaller jacket. Shown are results of impact into dry magazine stacks at 600 fps to 1000 fps.



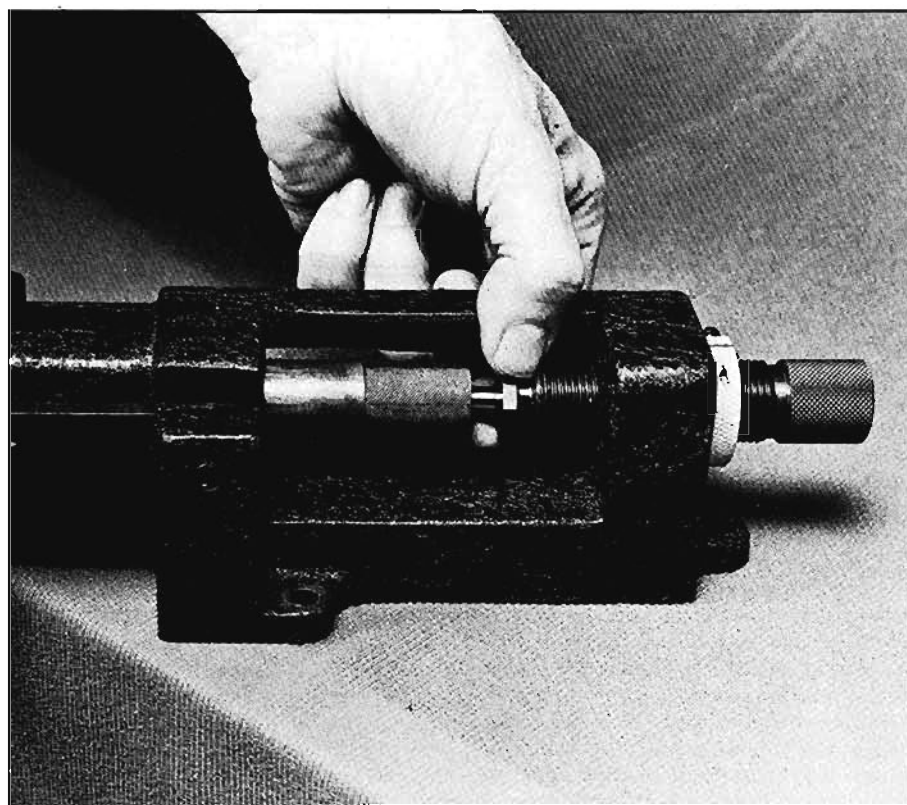
Principal of dual jacket, internal partitioned bullet is shown in cutaway of .30 cal. bullet with 6mm jacket inside / seated. Internal jacket does not touch bottom of external jacket. Core contacts outer jacket; inner expands to fit.



Another version of .30 jacket inside .38 is with core made longer, so end of .30 jacket forms part of ogive. Shown are impacts at 800 fps from light-frame revolver into, left to right, clay, dry magazines and wet sawdust packing.



Typical bullet jackets are, left to right, .45, .44 and .38 caliber; Keith SWC length for .38, and half-jacket for .38 to .45. A new silhouette jacket is available in .45 caliber, and soon will be made in .38 and .44 calibers.



This Corbin Model CSP-1 swage press, with automatic ejection, and FJFB-3 die set is used to make multi-jacket bullets for handguns in any caliber. Full-floating alignment punch holder is being adjusted with jacket/core in seating die.

5/16 inch in diameter. This is because the lead core has to slip easily inside the jacket, which can have a wall about .017 inch thick near the base. The jacket must be made undersized from the bullet diameter, so it will easily slip into the swage dies and be expanded under high pressure to bullet diameter.

A typical .38 jacket starts out about .353 inch diameter, and with .017 inch walls on each side, this leaves only a .319 inch inside diameter. A core of about .312 inch diameter slips quite easily into this.

ARTILLERY SHELL CONCEPT

The multi-jacket idea can be used also with normal weight bullets having long windshields to protect wadcutter solids inside. The long .45 caliber jackets can be filled with a .38 jacket and core, inverted so the base is toward the mouth of the longer jacket; the total weight remains the same as with a standard round-nosed bullet, yet the ballistic coefficient is much higher—due to the shape.

The thin, relatively fragile windshield crumples when the projectile strikes its target, and the internal shape does whatever work it is best designed to do. The wadcutter bullet within the long ogive is thus delivered at high speed over a longer range, and is much more effective at delivering a healthy dose of energy to the target, without tumbling or excessive penetration.

A Charter Arms "Undercover" .38 was also used for tests with similar results. Groups were larger, but still showed the same proportion of increase for the best loads with each of the bullets.

In a handgun, multi-jacketed bullets cause no noticeable difference in accuracy over the same quality of handload with a single-jacketed bullet. In a rifle, using a much faster twist and with higher muzzle velocity, the error becomes noticeable.

Manufacturing your own multi-jacketed bullets at home is entirely practical and opens up new fields for your exploration. In addition to being able to control the powder charge and velocity, you can also control the bullet weight to precise limits and the very construction of the bullet, both inside and out.

Instead of compromising with a ballistically efficient design that is not quite what you had in mind for knock-down or game-stopping ability, you have the option of designing *both* features into *one* bullet—as long as the velocity is high enough to disable the windshield when the bullet impacts.

Since this seems to occur at speeds of from 800 fps to 1200 fps in most of the heavily moisture-filled mediums tested, it would be logical to assume that at silhouette ranges, or handgun hunting ranges, the velocity could be high enough with most calibers to activate the physical mechanism of the multi-jacket bullet.

Tools, jackets and dies are available from Corbin Manufacturing Co., POB 758, Phoenix, OR 97535.



Former national champion compares

MATCH SHOOTING

THEN

and

NOW



The author displays his match-winning stance at Camp Perry, Ohio in 1941.

By Lee E. Echols

Editor's note: The author won the National Trophy Individual Pistol Match at Camp Perry, Ohio in 1941 with a score of 283 X 300; at that time, it was the second highest score ever fired over that tough course. Echols won the match as a member of the U. S. Treasury Department team (he spent 26 years with the Treasury Department, as a special agent in the Customs Service).

In the gruelling 2700 Match, about which he writes in this article, Echols fired a blistering 2599, in 1940; then, 2599 was a match-winning score.

His background includes 12 years as a CIA Agent in Latin America, five years as a field manager (Western States) for the National Rifle Association, and one term as sheriff of Yuma County, Arizona.

He is the author of Dead Aim, a humorous book about pre-World War II pistol shooters.

Echols is retired and lives in Chula Vista, California.

Back before World War II, it was hard to win a bullseye pistol match against the sharp lads who were plying their trade all over the Western hemisphere; but nowadays, it's tougher than jail-house meat to do it.

In 1970, Steve Ferber, one of the good, close-holders who came along after the war, wrote that the pre-World War II shooters had tendencies to strive for scores too low for their capabilities. He said that in 1940, a 285 over the National Match Course with the .45 would have established a National Record and an individual shooting then knew a score of 285 would be "fantastic," so he shot in terms of what was relative then.

Ferber went on to say that a shooter back in 1940 trying for a 285 was happy with a 275, since he probably won the match.

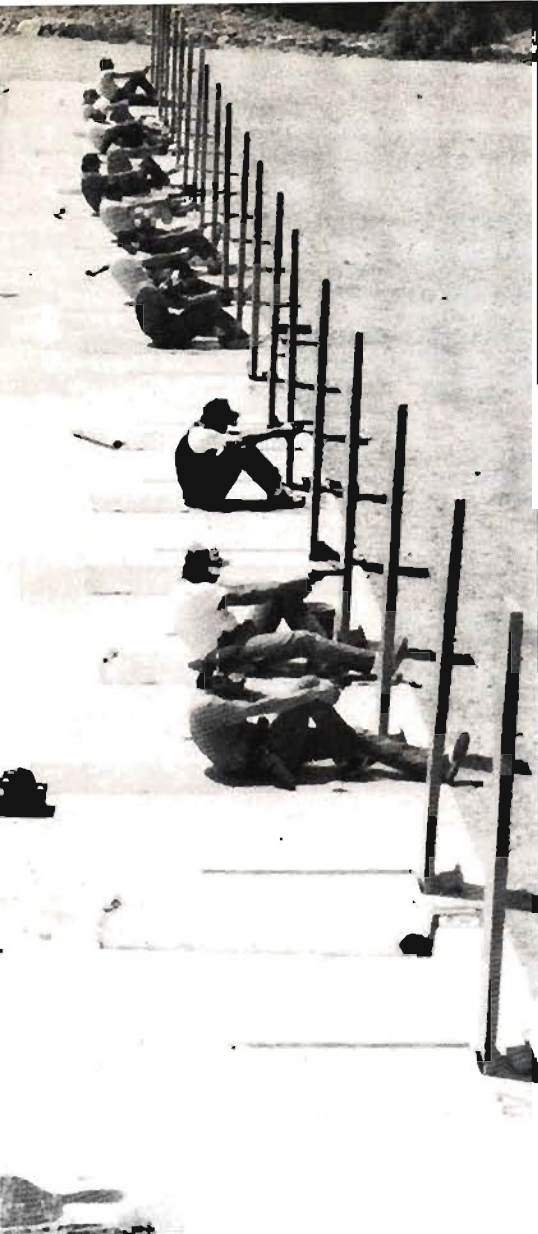
He should have briefed himself a little better before writing about us old-timers, as it wasn't quite that easy—even then.

In October of 1937, the lovable old Jake Engbrecht of the Los Angeles Police Department set the National Course record with a score of 286—and he did it with a tight, but unaccurized, gun.

In 1939, Sergeant Mark Wheeler, also of the LAPD, raised this to 287. This was done with a gun tightened up somewhat by "Buck" Buchanan.

In 1940, the year Steve Ferber said a 285 would have established a national record, Al Hemming of the Detroit Police Department broke Wheeler's record—twice; first with a 288, then with a 290. This was done, I believe, with a gun accurized by A. E. Berdon. That year, there were scores of 285 to 288 fired all over the United States.

If a man won a .45 match with a score of 275 in 1940, it would have had to have been in Gotebo, Oklahoma, one mile from Resume Speed, and they would have had to keep it as quiet as a Steubenville floating crap-game; or some bat-headed Marine nobody ever heard of would have shown



Shooters fire from sitting position during Practical Pistol Course match.

up and quickly beaten him by 12 or 13 points, and then quietly slipped off with the trophy.

Ferber went on to say, "Today, if any of us fired a low-X 300, we wouldn't even set a national record. A 285 or even a 295 just won't cut it."

Well, he's certainly got something there. A .45 wizard named T. D. Smith of the Air Force, back in 1962, shot a 300 possible with 17 Xs; now, Bonnie Harmon holds the record with a 300 and 19 Xs. But how many people have you seen shoot 300 over the National Match Course with a .45? Those 295s still win some mighty big matches.

Of course, as Ferber brought out, automatics are a far cry today from the ones we were shooting some 40 years ago.

Probably the first experimenter in doing an accuracy job on a .45—at least on the West Coast—was a machinist named Johnson, in 1934. He didn't do very much for them, though. Then came "Buck" Buchanan, Frank Pachmayr, Berdon, Jesse

Shooters today are just as dedicated as they were 40 years ago, but far superior in racking up consistently higher scores, due to better guns and ammo.

Harpe and others. They improved the guns, but none could tighten them up like the highly skilled armorers active today in the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps.

In 1940, "Pop" Ward, also of the Los Angeles Police Department, won the National Individual Trophy Match with a score of 285, shooting hard bullets with about a quarter-pound of dynamite in them, and using a gun that rattled like a Conestoga wagon when he shook it, which wasn't often. I beat him by two points, theoretically. But, as was my custom back then, I obligingly fired my last five shots on an empty target next to mine, losing 50 points.

In those days, aside from an occasional red-hot Marine team, there were few Service teams of top caliber. But when World War II ended, and the military's Advanced Marksmanship Training Units began to operate, it didn't take long for the situation to reverse itself. Police officers and civilians couldn't find the time, nor the money, for the kind of training the service personnel were getting. Within a few years, only a handful of 2700 aggregate matches were won by anyone other than shooters from one of the armed forces.

And while we're talking about the high 2600 shooters of today, let me explain a thing about the .22 automatic, which aided them no small amount in shooting scores we thought were unattainable. When we were shooting, 40 years ago, the old Colt Woodsman and High Standard automatics had their rear sights on the slide, which kept them from lining up the same way each time the slide slammed back into battery.

Now, High Standard, Ruger and Smith and Wesson make automatics with the front and rear sights on the same piece of metal. It is probably a moot question whether these guns, in a machine rest, shoot better than the old ones; but this isn't a matter of sight alignment by the shooter.

When the shooter lines up his sights—thinking they are in the same alignment with the barrel as they have been—and the rear sight is slightly off, he doesn't get the center-X he is holding and squeezing for, and possibly could roll one out into the nine ring, or worse.

Would any competent rifle shooter fire with his rear sight loose on the receiver? That's what we used to do with our .22 automatics, and it was also one of the several things which kept our scores out of the 2600-plus bracket.

Another factor was that we fired revolvers in the center-fire matches. We did this because no one had come up with an automatic which could fire as accurately.

Nowadays, in the National Match courses, there are few shooters on the line who can even cock a wheelgun sufficiently well to get off a string of five shots rapid-fire. This is because the automatics, both .38 and .45 calibers, can outshoot them, and the competitor can devote all his time to aiming and squeezing, instead of utilizing part of his scant 10 seconds cocking the hammer.

There is a vast difference in the ammo used today, as opposed to that of yesteryear. Factory .45 caliber semi-wadcutter ammunition was unknown until 1947. If a shooter in the early 1940s wanted to shoot factory ammunition to assure himself he'd be getting a uniform charge of powder in every cartridge, he had to fire a round-nosed bullet, weighing 230 grains with a muzzle velocity of 850 feet per second.

This put a recoil shock into his shoulder which would activate the bile juices in his liver, and froth up the glands in his gall bladder, to where I don't see how he stayed on the ground long enough to fire five of them rapid fire.

Because of this, the top shooters fired reloads. But everyone couldn't get the same amount of powder in each and every shell. I was one of these unfortunates. Nothing mechanical ever worked for me, and after I'd sized and lubricated my thumb in Puerto Rico in 1936, I quit even trying to reload; instead, I bummed rounds from anyone gullible enough to let me have them. Occasionally, I would get a few from someone that would almost stack up on one another out at 50 yards; but more often, I would get a couple of flyers in the bunch, which would bring my score down to where I'd stay away from the score board, sick and sulking.

When factory wadcutters came out, the scores began to go up and the 185- and 210-grain bullets, loaded with about three grains of Mennen's Baby Powder, helped, too.

And then there's this thing in bullseye shooting called mechanical aids. In 1939, a tall and gangly Floridian showed up at the Tampa matches with an elongated front sight on his .45, which gave him about three more inches between his front sight and rear one. I remember his name was Neff, and they almost boiled him in oil.

Continued on page 68

THE .38

S&W CARTRIDGE Still going strong!



More than 100 years old, it is accurate and has sufficient power for defensive purposes—in the right gun.

By B.R. Hughes



Top of page: Colt Police Positive was one of the better revolvers to be chambered for the .38 S&W. Note shorter cylinder of .38 S&W Terrier, below, compared with the .38 Special cylinder of the early Bodyguard/Airweight, top.

"A .38 S&W! Who's interested in *that* old relic!"

Such was the response I got from a gun club buddy while I was doing some work with this old-timer. In all honesty, I can't say that I was surprised.

This chunky cartridge was introduced around 1876, as a result of Smith & Wesson's desire to develop a hull with sufficient punch to be used for defensive purposes, yet not exceed the limited strength of a small, break-top revolver they were intent upon bringing out.

When reviewing this cartridge, it must be constantly kept in mind that the ballistics were hampered right up front by the design of the gun for which this round was intended. As a result, there is nothing noteworthy about its performance, which originally featured a 145-grain slug measuring around .359" and pushed along at around 730 fps., which figures out to about 170 foot-pounds of energy.

Perhaps the fact that it has survived for more than a century testifies that the round *does* possess at least a minimal level of effectiveness. Only the .38 Long Colt and .45 Colt are older among those cartridges still on the loading lists. Some of the .38 Colt's popularity probably stems from the fact that it can be fired in a revolver chambered for the .38 Special, thus providing owners of such guns a reduced power loading. The .38 S&W doesn't have that advantage; it had to hold on with nothing more than its own merits.

A host of people have made revolvers chambered for the .38 S&W, including Colt, Harrington & Richardson, Iver Johnson, and Smith & Wesson. For many years, most of these revolvers were comparatively fragile break-top guns, generally chambered for only five rounds.

Much of this changed in the 1920s when Great Britain switched to this cartridge as its official service round. Webley & Scott made a large number of excellent revolvers so chambered, and while these

guns lacked the sleek lines of most U.S. wheelguns, they were superbly made. The British developed a load featuring a 200-grain bullet, ambling along at only about 630 fps., which churned up only about 175 foot-pounds of energy. However, they found the old .38 S&W, which they termed the .380, to be extremely satisfactory, even in the hands of elite troops, such as the crack commandos of World War II fame.

For many years, the .455 was the official British sidearm, and many of them were still in use during WWII. Thus, there was ample room for comparison between the effectiveness of the .38 S&W and the .455. Those troops issued the smaller gun were reportedly well satisfied.

When WWII broke out, America's gun manufacturers began turning out a number of guns for British use, including the S&W Military & Police model, which was dubbed the Victory Model. This is found in both .38 S&W and .38 Special calibers. These guns flooded the market during the 1950s, and generally sold for less than \$30.

For a brief period of time during that era, I worked as a field agent for the United States Department of Agriculture, and my job frequently took me into remote, sparsely settled areas. I carried a handgun in my jalopy, even though regulations frowned on this practice. Quite a few cottontails and many water moccasins succumbed to the charms of a Victory .38 S&W with a five-inch barrel that was my "one and only" handgun for quite a spell. I wasn't into handloading in those days, so I shot only the standard factory hulls.

I was newly-married in 1957, and my wife and I were awakened one night by the sound of someone attempting to come through a window in our guest room, unoccupied at that time. I investigated, armed with my S&W Victory, and frightened off whoever it was. I can still remember that and although I had previously owned .38 Specials, 9mm's, and even a .44 Magnum and a .357, I didn't feel

at all underarmed with that .38 S&W.

My father-in-law once had a very nice Colt Police Positive chambered for the .38 S&W, and I shot it quite a bit. I wish he still had it, but somewhere along the line he traded it for a .22 revolver. This brings to mind the fact that Colts were usually marked "38 New Police," which is just another name for the .38 S&W.

SCARCE RUGER

Back in 1978, Ruger made a large number of four-inch Service-Six revolvers chambered for the .38 S&W and earmarked for the Indian government. I tried to obtain one of these revolvers, but to no avail. To the best of my knowledge,

THE .38 S&W CARTRIDGE

Designed by Smith & Wesson for its hinged-frame revolvers introduced about 1876, the .38 S&W has been used all over the world.

England began using it as an official service cartridge prior to World War II.

Large numbers of Spanish-made revolvers in this caliber are used in Mexico and South America, but it has never been very popular in Europe.

It is also known as the .38 Colt New Police, and with a 200-grain bullet, the .38 Super Police.

Colt, Harrington & Richardson, Hopkins & Allen, Ruger, Iver Johnson and S&W have made revolvers of this caliber in the United States.

The British service load, for Webley & Scott revolvers, is called the .380/200.

The British claimed that the shocking power of this cartridge, with the 200-grain bullet, was about the same as their older .455 military cartridge. In actual combat, this proved correct, thus permitting the use of lighter revolvers.

the only remaining specimens in this country are in the Ruger museum.

Smith & Wesson made the Regulation Police and the Terrier in .38 S&W caliber. The latter, a petite five-shot dead ringer for the more famous Chief's Special, is possibly the best revolver ever made for this particular hull, in view of the capabilities of the cartridge itself. The Terrier has a slightly shorter cylinder than the Chief's, and hence it weighs just a tad less than its more famous brother. If memory serves me correctly, I have owned five Terriers. The first was in 1959, and the last is still in my possession. Thus, during the last 20-plus years, I have seldom been without at least one .38 S&W.

At the present time, no American revolver is currently manufactured in .38 S&W caliber, but a visit to almost any large gun shop should turn up at least a Victory, Police Positive, or Terrier. Generally, only the Terrier fetches an inflated price, as indeed do all S&W snub-noses in this day

In the late 1970s, Ruger made several 4-inch Service Six revolvers chambered for .38 S&W cartridge (for Indian government), top; another revolver chambered for .38 S&W is H&R M925, below.



Continued on page 74

Win this beautiful, CUSTOMIZED



Custom pistolsmith Lou Ciamillo of Maryland Gun Works in Clarksburg, Maryland has gone all out to produce this handsome .44 Magnum revolver, built on a Smith & Wesson Model 29 frame.

The heavy, five-inch L-style barrel and N-frame are made of 4140 chrome molybdenum, finished in electroless nickel.

Ciamillo machined a two-inch-thick Apex barrel blank with *eight* lands and grooves (the standard M29 barrel has *five* lands and grooves) and a standard rifling twist of one turn in 16 inches, and produced a tube that is about 20 percent heavier than factory barrels.

The added barrel weight helps reduce felt recoil and the additional lands and grooves enhance accuracy.

Ciamillo replaced the factory-made front lock on the ejector rod with a button yoke lock, thus eliminating any possibility of binding.

A professional action job by Ciamillo makes this gun shoot smoothly and effortlessly.

It's topped off with exotic wood grips customized by Guy and Aaron Hogue of Atascadero, California. Guy's son, Aaron, does the fine-line checkering—a hallmark of Hogue combat grips.

For you pistolos who want a similar gun, Ciamillo will build the barrel, do an action job and install a ramp front sight for \$325. His electroless nickel finish is \$85 extra.

He's doing this work on S&W N and K frames, and Ruger *Security Six* and *Redhawk* revolvers, with barrel lengths up to 8½ inches. Customers must supply their own guns.

For additional information, send for his catalog (\$1): POB 130, (Dept AH), Clarksburg, MD 20871.



TO ENTER CONTEST: Use a postcard, follow sample; include name, address, HOM J/F, local dealer name and address. Mail before Feb. 1, 1983. Send to AMERICAN HANDGUNNER, Box 16025, San Diego, CA 92116

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.44 Magnum by Lou Ciamillo



Synthetic, or "rubber," grips are not new; they were made and used in Europe before World War II. It's only been in the last 10 years or so that rubber handgun grips have been available in the U.S.

Wooden grips are still standard on the majority of handguns, although Charter Arms offers its own on several models. I understand Colt is contemplating the use of rubber grips on one of its handguns.

This changeover has long been overdue. One of the most ignored or overlooked aspects of handgun design has been the grip design and the materials used in making it.

There are, as with most anything else, several pros and cons when it comes to the use of rubber grips. I am in favor of their use, providing they fit the hand properly.

What is referred to as "rubber" actually is neoprene, a synthetic material that is strong and resistant to both oil and heat. Neoprene will not rot, as natural rubber does, from the effects of the sun.

The use of rubber grips offers the hand a better hold on the gun, which in turn permits the shooter to maintain better control throughout the entire sequence of shooting. The grips don't slip or slide in recoil, and the hand and grips work in unison, rather than opposing one another. This results in better accuracy.

Today's synthetic stocks fit a variety of hand sizes. Call them a universal fit, if you will, but there's a limitation to which this hold true. The synthetic materials used in construction of the grips allow them to compress to some degree, giving that "good feel" to a variety of hand sizes.

Sweaty palms, mud, rain and snow, for example, do nothing to detract from the "gripability" of the neoprene handgun grips; in addition, they are practically indestructible. As a bonus, a set of rubber stocks on a handgun serves as a buffer or shock absorber, in the event the gun is accidentally dropped and hit on the grip surface.

Rubber grips have a tendency to compress to some extent, not only when gripped in the hand, but also during recoil. In the lighter calibers it may go unnoticed; but in light-frame .357s, the .41 Magnum and the .44 Magnum, recoil is heavy enough to make a fair comparison. In addition to absorbing recoil, rubber grips are lighter than those made of wood, less bulky, don't affect balance, are less expensive and almost maintenance free. Although wood produces some beautiful grips, I feel that rubber is far more practical from an overall performance standpoint.

THE NEGATIVE SIDE

On the negative side, rubber stocks cannot be custom made to fit an individual's hand. Molds are expensive and it's impossible for a maker to stock thousands of molds for every particular size of hand. If you've got an exceptionally small or oddly shaped shooting hand, you're out of luck with the synthetics. Some rubber grips

More practical than wood

'RUBBER' HANDGUN GRIPS



By Mike Barach

They're not new, but their popularity remains high. We present here a detailed look at some current styles.

must be trimmed for the use of speed-loading equipment.

The selection of rubber grips, although growing, isn't as large as we'd like; however, there are far more offered today than there were three or four years ago. If you don't own a popular make of handgun, chances are that a rubber grip isn't available.

The color of a grip is unimportant to me, but two companies offer their revolver grips in colors other than standard black.



Rogers combat grips are made from a virtually indestructible synthetic material, with a grain pattern that looks like wood. Further information was received too late for publication.

One company—Bianchi—offers its two models in dark brown only. Hogue's *Monogrip* comes in white, a brown wood-tone, or black. Some synthetics may react to solvents, but those common to gun cleaning haven't caused any problems, to my knowledge.

The neoprene rubber grips tend to drag heavily on clothing and some car seats, presenting problems to those who carry a handgun in the course of their work, or even while hunting. The "tackiness" of the grip surface varies, depending on the manufacturer, and it seems to make a difference with respect to the dragging effect. Since I prefer to use a crossdraw holster, instead of a hip holster, I've never had a problem with snagging the car seat. I have, however, noticed a drag on my shirt at times when retrieving the gun.

One of the major complaints I've heard is that of a poor fit of the grip to the frame. This isn't necessarily the fault of the stock manufacturer, as variations in the dimensions of the grip frame by the handgun manufacturer cause mayhem for many aftermarket makers. From what I've seen, the rubber grip companies are doing a fine job of fitting their stocks to various handguns.

TRY 'EM OUT

Because of differences in the size of shooting hands, specific use of the gun and variations in the "tackiness" of one make over another, what feels right for me may not be a good choice for everyone. If you are on good terms with a gun shop owner, try some of the different models he has in stock. You could also talk to some of the local handgun shooters who are using the synthetics and ask if you might try them.

Neoprene needs some type of reinforcement for strength. The manufacturers solve this in various ways. In the Pachmayr grip, a steel reinforcement insert is used. This offers superior strength, as well as more weight and bulk, although I personally don't notice it. Two models of the Pachmayr are available for the .45 ACP: combat and regular. Retail price is \$17.50 for either model. Grips for a variety of other autos are also available.

Supreme Products offers its version of the .45 ACP grips, using metal washers centered over the four screw holes for reinforcement and covered with black neoprene. The finish has a textured design resembling stippling. Retail price is \$9.95.

Caraville Arms offers basically the same grips for the .45 ACP with its insignia on each grip half. Retail price is \$12.95.

Sile offers a checkered grip for the .45 auto, using no reinforcement inserts, which reduces both weight and bulk. The grips come in black finish and retail at \$10.95.

Mustang offers its *Rangefield* model grips in two versions for the .45 ACP: one standard, the other combat. Like the Sile, the Mustang grips use no reinforcement and are made of soft neoprene in a black,

wide-checked finish. Either model costs \$16.50. One style of grip is also offered for S&W models 39 & 59, at the same cost.

BIANCHI'S 'LIGHTNING GRIP'

Bianchi's excellent *Lightning Grip* for the .45 ACP is the only model that offers finger grooves. A metal reinforcement insert is used, and it comes in open style only with a dark brown, checkered finish. Retail price is \$24.

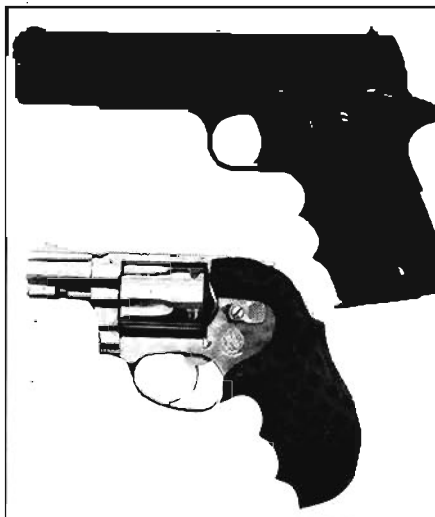
Revolver grips made by Mustang and Hogue have two different methods of attaching themselves to the grip frame. Mustang's *Rangefield* grips are secured by five small plastic pins (called the "Pinlock System") that lock into mating holes in each grip half. The center retaining screw is done away with in most models offered, and will be deleted in all models shortly. Removal and installation of these grips takes only a few seconds. The grips come with checkering, finger grooves, palm swells, covered backstrap, front filler, and butt extension. Finish is black and these have no reinforcement inserts. Retail price is \$16.50. They are currently offered for the S&W J, K, & N frames, the Colt Diamondback, Colt Detective Special, Colt Mark III Series, Colt Python frames and the Ruger Security-Six.

Hogue's *Monogrip* is constructed of reinforced nylon in a one-piece design. The grip is secured to the frame with a patented stirrup device. It slips over the bottom strap in a horseshoe fashion, allowing the grip to pull against the frame when the screw is tightened. The monogrip has a matte finish with a cobblestone texture resembling stippling, palm swells, and finger grooves. It is designed for a high hold, which lowers both the boreline and bullet impact, while reducing the muzzle rise in recoil. Since this grip is constructed of hard nylon it won't drag on clothing or car seats. On the other hand, it doesn't have the "squeezeability" of the other neoprene grips, nor the ability to absorb some of the

recoil. Presently, the *Monogrip* comes in one style in a choice of three colors—black, dark brown wood-tone, or white. The *Monogrip* is offered for the S&W J, K, L & N frames, the Colt Python, Ruger Security-Six, and Ruger Speed-Six. Grips retail at \$18.95.

UNIQUE SHROUD

Bianchi also offers its *Lightning Grip* for revolvers. The unique feature of this fine grip is the shroud that extends upward along the sides of the hammer, completely surrounding its spur. This feature not only protects the hammer, but also prevents it from snagging on clothing. The neoprene grips have metal reinforcement inserts, a



Bianchi offers its *Lightning Grip* for two handguns only—both well designed.

brown checkered finish, and feature finger grooves. Currently, the grips are available for S&W models 36 and 60, the S&W K frame and S&W models 19 and 10 (round butts). Retail price is \$23.

Sile markets a line of rubber grips for revolvers using a nylon-fiberglass reinforcement insert for strength, while reduc-

ing both bulk and weight. These come in a black checkered finish with finger grooves and are relieved for all speedloaders. The Sile grips are available for the Charter Arms round butt, the Ruger Security-Six square butt, the S&W J frame round butt, and the S&W K frame square butt. All grips cost \$10.95.

Pachmayr's *Presentation* neoprene stocks are among the best known. Its line of rubber grips is extensive. If you're looking for a set of rubber grips for even a fairly popular make of handgun, Pachmayr probably makes one. This company offers three styles of grips—*Presentation*, which is its standard style grip; *Compacts*, for small frame revolvers, and the *Gripper*, which has finger grooves. The *Gripper* is the newest addition to the Pachmayr line and is presently available for most S&Ws, and Ruger, Dan Wesson, and Charter Arms revolvers. Pachmayr is the only manufacturer of a neoprene grip for the Colt and Ruger single-actions, and the T/C Contender.

Supreme and Caraville do not make grips for revolvers.

The names and addresses of the makers mentioned are:

Pachmayr Gun Works, Inc., POB 15053, Los Angeles, CA 90015.

Sile Distributors, Inc. 7 Centre Market Place, New York, NY 10013

Mustang Grips, 27616 Tyler Ave., Romoland, CA 92380.

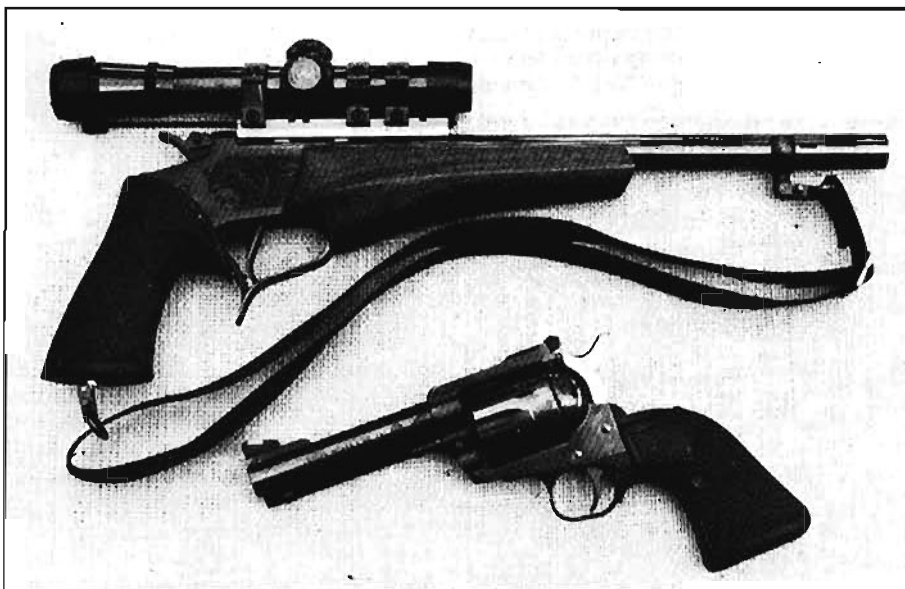
Caraville Arms, POB 4545, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359.

Supreme Products Company, 1830 South California Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016.

Bianchi Leather Products, 100 Calle Cortez, Temecula, CA 92390.

Hogue Combat Grips, Inc., POB 2036, Atascadero, CA 93423.

Rogers Holster Company 1736 St. Johns Bluff Road Jacksonville, FL 32216



Pachmayr is the only company that makes rubber grips for the T/C Contender, top, and Ruger and Colt single-action revolvers. That's a Ruger, at bottom.



Sile produces rubber grips for many popular makes of handguns, shown above.

Despite loss of both feet . . .

CLAUDE KINARD SETS NEW METALLIC SILHOUETTE RECORD

By Bert Stringfellow

The 1982 International Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association's (IHMSA) tournament held recently in Fortville Indiana will go down in the handgun shooting book as a truly memorable event—for several significant reasons.

First, one of the major events—the *AAA revolver category*—was won by a man who lost both feet in an auto accident shortly after the 1981 shooting season: Claude Kinard of Puyallup, Washington, who shot a possible 80 using a 10-inch barrel .44 Magnum Ruger Super Blackhawk. He became the *first* person to fire a perfect score in this category.

If that wasn't enough, he went on to win the *standing international category* with a 67X80, using a .30 Merrill pistol. Last year at the IHMSA matches, Kinard shot a 69X80 in this category—a record that still stands.

This year's six-day event set a new, all-time attendance record: 1,525 entries. It was the largest pistol match held—*anywhere*.

Still another reason made the 1982 IHMSA tournament a truly memorable event: there were 22 possibles (80x80) shot in the *unlimited category*.

Despite rainy weather, several outstanding scores were fired by winners of all classes, or categories.

In the four-gun aggregate match, Bruce Adamchik shot a match-winning score of 285x320.

In a 22-man shootoff at an array of tiny targets, including snuff cans painted white and laid flat, Joe May came out on top to become the 1982 International Champion with a possible 80 in the *unlimited category*. He fired a Sinclair .308.

There were two *production international category* scores of 80X80 shot by Dick Folz, Alaska state director (IHMSA) and Mike Averte, the 1981 *unlimited category* winner. In the shootoff, in growing darkness, Folz was the winner. He fired a T/C .30-30.

High woman's aggregate champion was Anne Clark with a score of 260X320.

High junior aggregate champion was J. J. Barlett with a score of 224X320.

High aggregate family team was Josie and Bob Engle, with a score of 537X640.

Here are the winners of other categories, with their scores (all out of a possible 80) and the guns they used:

Shoots possible 80 in AAA revolver category at IHMSA's 1982 tournament; also wins standing international class, in a record field of 1,525 competitors.



Guts and gung ho shooting added up to a tremendous victory for Claude Kinard.



Spotting scopes help the shooters here on the firing line at Fortville, Ind.

Robert Brissette (*production AAA category*), 77, .30 Merrill.

Mike LaPoint (*unlimited AAA*), 80, Wichita .308.

Roger Wilkerson (*unlimited AA*), 80, XP-100 (7BR).

Larry Hofmann (*unlimited A*), 68, XP-100 (7IHMSA).

Larry David (*unlimited B*), 51, XP-100 (7BR).

Gail Johnson (*unlimited C*), 48, XP-100 (7BR).

Paul Schmid (*production AA*), 70, T/C .30-30.

Lloyd Hudgens (*production A*), 59, T/C (7TCU).

Thomas Zahn (*production B*), 46, T/C7.

Cecilia Zimmerman (*production C*) 34, T/C .357

Gary Wrigley (*AAA standing*), 52, T/C7.

Greg George (*AA standing*), 51, T/C7.

Robert Crocker (*A standing*), 41, T/C7.

Kenneth Bricker (*B standing*), 27, T/C7.

Arthur Lavalie (*revolver international*), 77, Dan Wesson .44 Mag.

John Anderson (*revolver AA*), 77, Dan Wesson .44 Mag.

Richard Powell (*revolver A*), 57, Ruger .44 Mag.

Paul Lee (*revolver B*), 57, Ruger .44 Mag.

Tom Bellersheim (*revolver C*), 34, Ruger .44 Mag.

The more than 400 members who attended the annual banquet contributed \$3,700 to help fight the California initiative (Proposition 15). Elgin T. Gates, IHMSA president, and the Federal Cartridge Corp. each contributed matching amounts, to be given to the NRAs Institute for Legislative Action (ILA), in the name of IHMSA.

Bob O'Conner, president of Dan Wesson Arms, donated an engraved, gold inlay, stainless steel DW revolver (in a caliber of the winner's choice) to be auctioned off, with all proceeds to be transferred to the ILA account for use in its California gun bill fight. The high bid was \$5,000.

Gates told the *American Handgunner* that IHMSA members and its friends in the firearms industry collected more than \$16,000 to help defeat Proposition 15 in California.



Practice With An Air Pistol

There are many advantages to practicing with an air pistol: Because of the length of the barrel and the relatively low velocity of the projectile, sight picture and trigger control are critical. Because there's virtually no recoil, it's easier to practice "following-through", i.e., keeping the sights aligned for a split second after the shot. And it's an economical form of practice that can be done on a regular basis regardless of weather or light conditions. Practice regularly with an air pistol and your competitive scores are bound to improve.



EDITH ALMEIDA, Ladies IPSC World Champion-1979 and '81, Ladies Bianchi Cup Champion-1980, '81 and '82, Ladies South African Champion-1980 and '81.

©Jon Winokur 1982

.22 **METALLIC** **SILHOUETTE** **SHOOTING**

**Shooting a possible 40 at steel chickens,
pigs, turkeys and rams takes real skill
—and the right equipment.**

While reading our Sunday paper's outdoors section, I came across an invitation for a .22 metallic silhouette shoot.

The invitation, from a nearby gun club, stated the event would be very casual, because they were "just starting out" in this type of shooting. The club also said the rules would be explained and instructions made available, so that even if you never had any shooting experience you were invited. Guns would be provided for those who didn't own one. Non-shooters and family members were welcomed (this shooting sport is most appealing to spectators).

After reading about metallic silhouette shooting for so long, here was a chance to try my hand at it.

My son and I had recently started shooting together and following some basic safety training we began to really enjoy a bit of informal target shooting and tin-can plinking. A silhouette match would make a logical next step. We made our own paper targets and practiced for a couple of weeks.

On the day of the shoot, we arrived early and met club members and got a look at the metal animal cutouts. We helped set up some of the metal animals.

I expressed concern over whether my low velocity ammo would knock over a heavy ram, but was assured that if I hit one

Here is author's version of the Creedmoor style of metallic silhouette shooting. This position takes some getting used to; once mastered, it is steady.



properly it would topple right over. When we were told by some of the club members, who had previous silhouette experience, that we would be lucky to get five for our first shoot, I think we both got a little nervous.

When the shoot began, I went first and my son acted as spotter. I fired the standard 40 rounds for a score of only 11. A guy who usually shoots in the 90s in the standard target matches should have done better. It looked so easy. When I learned that the high score was only 15, I felt better. We sat out several rounds, while waiting for my son's turn, and tried to pick up any pointers we could. I felt that although the Creedmoor style had been my choice as the best position, the prone position would be safer and steadier for my son.

This style of shooting, with a spotter positioned next to the shooter, is perfect for the more experienced marksman to make sure proper safety procedures are followed, while performing his spotter duties.

Although my son's score was only three,

SCORE: X = HIT O = MISS	TARGETS	1	2	3	4	5	Total
CHICKEN 50 METERS .22 = 25 YARDS	Stage 1						
JAVELINA 100 METERS .22 = 50 YARDS	Stage 1						
TURKEY 150 METERS .22 = 75 YARDS	Stage 1						
RAM	Stage 1						

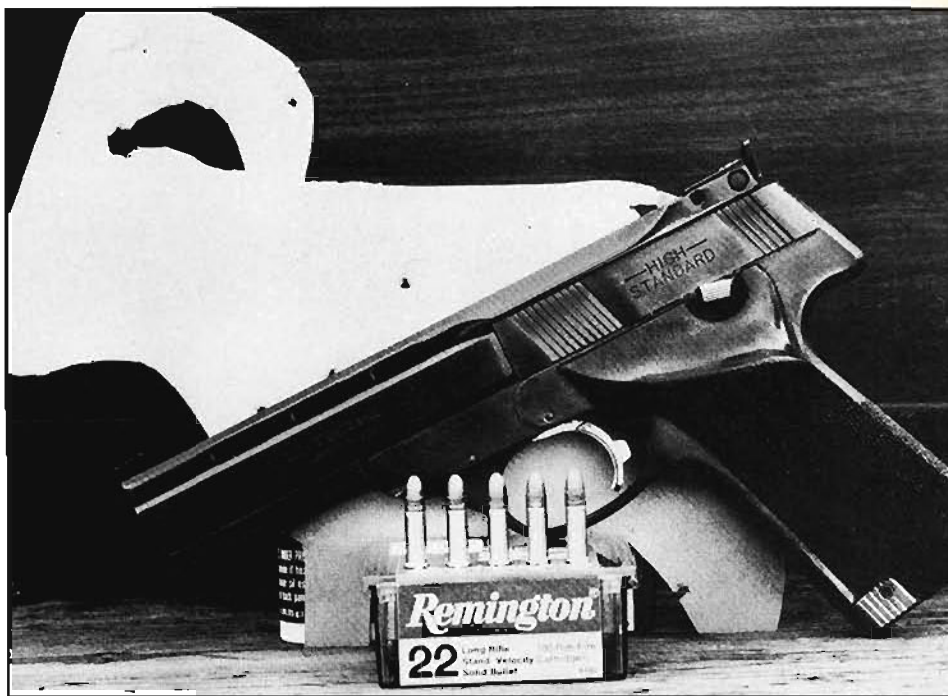
The .22 LR cartridge has fine knockdown power, all ranges.

and he was disappointed with his shooting performance, he quickly bounced back and vowed he'd do better next round.

There were 40 shooters, and after all had fired the course, about 35 of us signed up to shoot again. This time, when my turn came, I was rewarded with hits on the first five chickens; I missed two of the next five. Things started going downhill after hitting four of the first five javelina; only one fell of the second five. Turkeys were next and seemed to be the most difficult targets. Only two fell in each stage. The rams were next, and again only two fell in each stage. This is when I found out only good hits result in the silhouettes going down. It hurts to hear a hit and see the target just wobble and remain standing.

My score card read 21 and even though it was only a little over half of the possible points, it was the top score of the second shoot.

A score of 21 seemed pretty good until we overheard one of the club members talking to another about getting ready to shoot. It seems the club invited several experienced .22 silhouette shooters to try out the range, in an effort to iron out the bugs before the first open match. There was a 40 fired and several high 30s. We looked at the 21 in a new light and felt lucky that



Although designed for bullseye shooting, the .22 High Standard Victor auto is a good choice for shooting either paper or metallic silhouette targets.

those great shooters were a state away at a big meet.

'IT GETS IN YOUR BLOOD'

After everyone had finished shooting, one woman asked if she could try her hand. She did well. While she was firing the course, the meet director asked if my son would care to shoot just the chickens (at 25 yards) for practice. His kind offer was quickly accepted and appreciated. This ended our first silhouette match.

It was one of the most enjoyable shooting sports I have ever been involved in. There is something about the first clang and seeing the target going over. It gets in your blood. Everyone who shot agreed and said they would be back.

Silhouette shooting reminds me of shooting gallery type fun. But the distances (25, 50, 75 and 100 yards) simulate actual field conditions. I have always enjoyed target shooting and will continue to do so; but even though the competitiveness is still there, silhouette shooting seems more laid back and friendly. It may be the fact that the crowd participates more than in most shooting sports.

Hitting five targets in a row was met with the same kind of enthusiasm as a touchdown or homerun. This is something that has been lacking, up to now, in most shooting sports: Audience participation.

The handguns used varied. Single shot, autos and revolvers were all evident. After checking the rules, I thought my High Standard Victor would work beautifully. I've used it for years, and if there is a miss I know it is me, not the gun. This auto is set up to fire low velocity ammo at 50 feet.

I fired with the sight setting unchanged. It became clear that guessing at the proper

holdover is *not* the way to go. The meet director told us that the common method is to set up four sight settings in practice, by keeping track of the number of clicks between each target. An alternative method, and one which is very accurate, is to use a feeler gauge between sight and frame and write down the difference between each setting. The idea is to keep a six o'clock hold at all ranges. You will find that even the 100-yard rams seem easier to hit using this method.

There were many types of ammo used. I fired Remington low-velocity cartridges because my gun was tuned for it. The low-velocity .22 LR ammo proved powerful enough to knock over even the rams, if the target was hit properly.

High-velocity .22s also worked fine and have a little more knockdown ability, plus a slightly flatter trajectory. The light, ultra-fast .22 Stingers and Yellowjackets really pushed the chickens over, knocking them back hard and fast. They did well on the pigs and turkeys, too, but they seemed too light to knock over the rams consistently. The lighter bullet appears to break up before its energy is transmitted to the target. The best bet seems to be either low- or high-velocity .22 LR ammo that shoots well in your gun. I suggest trying several brands to find which are the most accurate for you.

The shoot I attended went even faster by the use of mini-bikes to get down range quickly to re-set the targets.

There are classes for the novice on up, so you don't have to worry about being out-gunned or embarrassed.

Why not take your .22 and have a go at it. Bring your son or daughter along. If the clang of the metal does not get you, the look in their eyes will.



BEHLERT'S 'PIN GUN'

New system gives .45 auto shooters advantages of long slide, without its disadvantages; greatly improves accuracy.

By George H. Gamble

The modification of handguns has been practiced ever since the first matchlock missed its first target.

Some modifications resulted in arms that were pearls of the engravers art; others were of a more down-to-business nature—changes that allow marksmen to achieve better results on their targets.

I can think of no other handgun that pistolsmiths have tuned, rebuilt and adapted to more different goals than the Colt .45 ACP. The basic Colt M1911 is the king of NRA Conventional Pistol shooting, the top gun in IPSC (International Practical Shooting Confederation) free-style combat matches, a strong competitor in steel siluetas and has only the S&W M29 for competition in the ever-popular bowling pin matches.

And the Colt M1911 is used by a growing number of boar hunters; also home owners who believe in "the strong man that keepeth his house." Thus, we end up with many people looking for ways to put the trustworthy performance of the M1911 to ever greater uses.

All of the modifications and drop-in goodies available to the owner of a .45 auto create a problem for the shooter who desires to enter a new shooting sport.

Some items are of little true usefulness, and some types of work done by pistolsmiths may be needed only for a special type of event.

Still other modifications could result in a fine basic .45 auto becoming a \$600 boat anchor; or worse, an unsafe device to the shooter.

Keeping the above concepts in mind, I proceeded to investigate one of the newest accuracy-recoil control systems yet devised: The "pin gun" system produced by Austin Behlert.

Behlert is the master pistolsmith and creative dynamo at Behlert Custom Guns, Inc., which is run with the help of a top



Ready to go for fast shooting on combat and bowling pin targets. The Behlert "pin gun" system costs about \$450, reduces recoil and increases sight radius.

Class "A" IPSC shooter, Frank Behlert, his son.

I had an opportunity to be in on the birth and refinement of this new system and see first-hand the results.

The name "pin gun" comes from the idea Austin had for a low-recoil handgun to shoot in bowling pin matches. The shooter needs a powerful gun to topple the bowling pins off the table, yet the pins must be cleared in the shortest possible time to win. The shooter has less work to do and more time to shoot if the muzzle of his gun stays on target. Controlling this muzzle flip is what the "pin gun" is all about.

A "pin gun" has the advantage of a six-inch slide, due to the extra length of slide fixed onto the barrel.

The slide is cut sufficiently to remove the slot for the normal Colt bushing. The barrel then gets a thread turned onto it and is sleeved with a tapered cone of polished hardened steel. The end of the cone is straight in section; onto this, a new section of slide is added. The extra length of slide is filled with steel in the empty space below the bore, to add mass to the muzzle. All this work gets honed and polished to a whisker-fine fit. Then a front sight is added.

It works just like any other M1911. The slide unlocks and cycles in the normal fashion. The difference is in the muzzle not having a bushing in which to orbit. The bore is positioned by the snap of the slide onto the ever-thickening sleeve on the barrel.

The "pin gun" is a superior system, because it gives a shooter the advantages of a long-slide .45 auto, without the disadvantages. A long-slide adds some weight to steady the muzzle and provides a longer sight radius, which produces better groups on targets, resulting from the more exact sight relationship.

STEADIER MUZZLE

But you pay your pound of flesh in more recoil, due to the heavy slide slamming back and forth. The "pin gun" gives the needed increase in sight radius and an even steadier muzzle, but the slam of the slide moving back and forth is no different than on an ordinary M1911. Why? Because all that extra mass is fixed on the barrel. Perhaps a better term for Behlert's "pin gun" system would be to call it a *long bore*, as opposed to a *long slide*.

The extra weight added to the muzzle amounts to about six ounces. With the "pin gun" system, Austin adds an 18½

pound strength Wolf spring. This slows the slide some, and Austin believes the result is a reduction in recoil of some 20 percent over a normal long slide gun, shooting full-power .45 ACP ammunition.

Austin said the idea of not using a bushing and having the lock up on the barrel is not really new. He experimented with the idea more than 20 years ago, when he ran his business out of his cellar. Today, his shop has grown along with his 'smithing skills, and early troubles have been overcome by insights into pistol functioning gleaned over many years' experience.

As to overcoming problems in pistolsmithing, Austin went back to his early days in the business and recalled the .38 Special conversions done on the .38 Super Colt autos. "Everyone went crazy with feeding problems," Austin said. "Then better technology came along and we learned why they didn't feed; now they feed like a dream."

The long "pin gun" was created for bowling pin matches and the Bianchi Cup shoots. However, the system was designed to also be used on the lighter weight Colt .45 Commander. Result: a standard five-inch barrel IPSC pistol.

The combat shooting done under IPSC rules is perhaps the fastest-growing area of handgunning today. Most events stress fast, multiple shots with several targets engaged. Muzzle flip slows down reaction time and can greatly lower the scores when a Comstock count is used.

Behlert puts the "pin gun" system to work on a Commander and the result is a full-size combat gun with a heavy muzzle and 20 percent less kick. Thus, any combat holster can be used to hold this gun.

On both guns—the M1911 and the Commander—there is a Behlert feature not found on other long-slide autos: A relieved section of the bore in the area where the slide has been lengthened. On the big six-inch model, you get five inches of rifling and one-inch of relieved bore. This feature was incorporated into the "pin gun" system by Austin, after many top shooters said they had trouble holding a long pistol steady while a bullet was in the bore—for the extra inch. This was due to the longer control period needed when the bullet was in the rifling, and while the gun arched up in recoil.

In the "pin gun," the bullet responds only to the normal five-inch section; the extra length will not cause the shooter any problems. This gives a good shooter a slight edge, and enhances control of the pistol.

The combat version "pin gun" will be available with a relieved bore section, or full rifled section, as the buyer chooses.

I asked Austin if the "pin gun" would be a good choice for NRA Conventional pistol shooting. He said he felt the "pin gun" would do well in such events; but the only advantage, he added, might be found in the rapid fire stages.

In most cases, the best use of the "pin



Behlert catches a sight picture with his .45 "pin gun." Note the extra heavy, vented barrel extension. This is what keeps muzzle on target with full loads.

gun" is in those matches that require fast, controlled shooting, of full power loads—such as IPSC contests.

A bullseye shooter fires light target loads for maximum accuracy; Austin should be consulted about a straight accuracy job for these events.

With any modified pistol, actual shooting tells the story. The extra control feature is no fairy tale. The "pin gun" feels like a S&W M41. The slide goes forward with a clean-sounding lockup that results from the perfect 360-degree mating of slide to barrel shank. The overall quality is typically "Behlert"—and that's first-rate.

Austin's son, Frank, has been testing the gun and he is a much better shot in a combat match than I am, so we both went to a local gun club to fire the favorite event of combat shooters: "El Presidente."

Our IPSC ammo was a 230-grain lead round-nose bullet made by the Alberts Corporation and backed by charge of five grain of Bullseye. These loads would tell if there was any recoil reduction.

I glued my eyes on Frank's hands and tried to catch the motion of recoil. It seemed the force of recoil was pushing straight back into the hand, rather than up. Then it was my turn to try. My times were slower than Frank's and his hits were all in the A zone, while I pulled five into the C zone. However, the "pin gun" was being judged—not me. It gave a fine showing. Accuracy was more than enough for any combat program, and most important of all (to me) I had better control of the pistol. The extra mass at the muzzle makes for a more deliberate firing stroke, which enabled my eyes to catch a flash sight picture with both regularity and confidence. Repeat shots were easy to control with two hands—like firing a M41 Smith with one hand and using high-velocity .22 LR ammo.

Recoil, kick, muzzle flip, whatever, is a subjective thing. Great shots, such as Jeff Cooper and Ray Chapman, do very well with the pistols they own. As for me, I can use all the help I can get; and the "pin gun" does help.

How much recoil is lost? Recoil is energy, and while we cannot destroy energy, we can control it by vectoring-off its forces to areas compatible with our shooting tasks. I believe that a 20 percent reduction in muzzle flip can be claimed for the "pin gun." Such reduction of muzzle flip should give many shooters an increase of total control nearing 30 percent.

Austin also produces the traditional IPSC pistols with all the gimmicks anyone could want. When I asked him how a new combat shooter should modify his pistol, Behlert recommended a basic IPSC package; then, as the shooter matures, he can later decide to add the "pin gun."

Austin brought up a point he has been telling shooters for 35 years: *You can't buy mastery of a handgun; you must get out and keep shooting until you get good results. You can't do it with money.* He is right. We all know shooters who can't shoot well and blame the gun, not their lack of dedication.

I do not own a "pin gun" yet. But I plan to have a Behlert system on my .45 auto one of these days.

At the time of this writing, the "pin gun" system costs about \$450.

Austin is also working on a gas-venting system for the "pin gun" and the extra reduction in recoil, when added to that of the kick already saved, should result in a combat .45 that can be controlled by virtually any shooter.

For more information, write Behlert Custom Guns, Inc. Route 1 North, (POB 227-AH) Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852.

H&R Revolvers



By Dave Reynolds

More years ago than I care to remember, I set about the serious business of learning how to shoot. My battery consisted of a .44 Special S&W, a .38 Special single-action Colt rebuilt with parts from Christy Gun Works, and a .22LR Harrington & Richardson top-break revolver. All available daylight hours were spent

They're strong, durable, stylish; but double-action trigger pulls have Superman let-off.

shooting. Evenings were reserved for casting bullets and reloading. The H&R usually came into play *only* after all ammo for the big guns was expended, because its double-action pull wasn't nearly as good as the Smith's, and it didn't have the balance and feel of the Colt. From then until just lately, I paid little attention to H&R products.

The first glimmer of interest came when I noticed what appeared to be a stainless steel H&R revolver. It wasn't really stainless, but rather the firm's new electroless nickel finish. The gun was a M930, 2½-inch barrel .22LR with a swing-out cylinder and transfer bar ignition—a nice looking little gun.



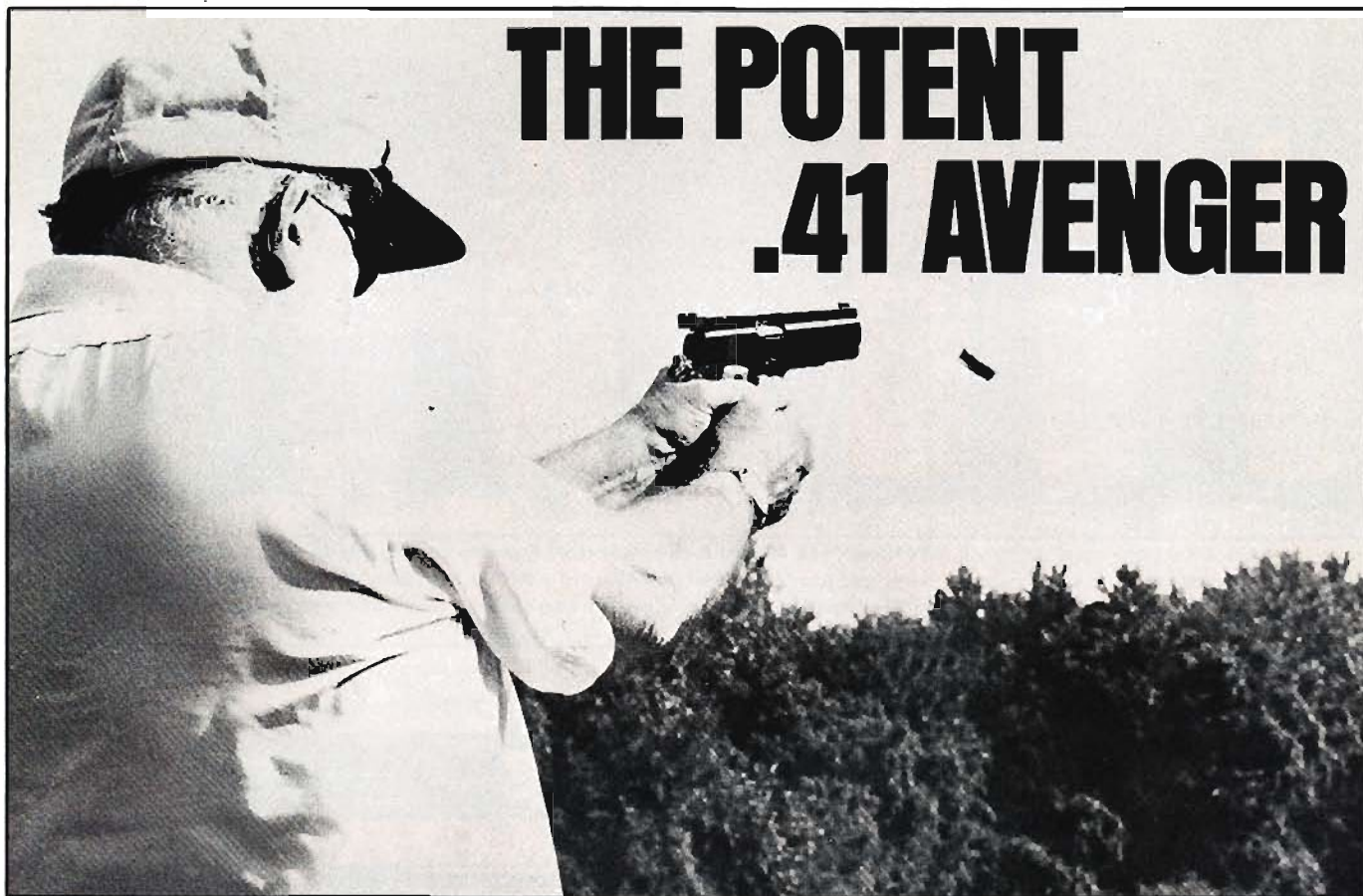
An H&R M829 (.22 LR), 3-inch barrel, is shown above with 10-meter target. The H&R M904, right, is no more accurate than the Circa 1950 H&R M922, left, and chronographs 100 fps slower with .22 LR Stinger ammo. Both have 6-inch barrels.

The next H&R to catch my eye was a M686, a western-style, two-cylinder (.22LR/.22Magnum) revolver sporting a fully-adjustable rear sight. With its combination blue and color case-hardened finish, it is a handsome piece.

The M686 was quickly followed by other models that I'll call the 03-04 group.

These have swing-out cylinders, adjustable sights, and ribbed, heavy barrels with four-inch and six-inch tubes. Models 603 and 604 are chambered for the .22 Magnum. Models 903 and 904 shoot the .22LR cartridge. The difference between the 03 and the 04 is in the barrels. The 04s have heavy,

Continued on page 76



THE POTENT .41 AVENGER

By Russ Gaertner

The consensus of most semi-auto experts is that .40 or .41 is the best caliber for a big-bore handgun.

This diameter combines the stopping power of big bores, with the superior ballistics of smaller calibers. That's on the receiving end.

For the shooter, .41 means 170- to 220-grain bullets at higher velocities and muzzle energies, but less "felt" recoil than the .45 ACP. Advantages are easier control, faster repeat shots, better practical accuracy, and deeper, straight-line penetration: A host of good reasons, whether your interest is self-defense, IPSC (International Practical Shooting Confederation) competition, bowling pin matches, or silhouette shooting and hunting.

No. .40 or .41 caliber semi-auto round has been generally available to those shooters who like the idea. The most publicized of the new breed is the Bren 10 (10 mm/.40 caliber) with a straight-walled case firing a 200-grain bullet at up to 640 foot pounds of muzzle energy from a five-inch barrel. Production of the Bren 10 is promised soon.

Now we have a new conversion kit (made by SSK Industries) which does everything the others have promised. Options are available to convert either a Colt Combat Commander or any of the standard .45 autos to .41 Avenger, a necked-down .45 ACP round.

The basic kit contains a match-quality barrel in either stainless or chrome-moly steel with a fitted barrel bushing and link, a set of Pacific reloading dies, and a heavy duty hammer spring for use with rifle

A new kit for about \$235 converts .45 autos to this new caliber and beefs-up muzzle velocity and energy.

primers. The barrel can be ordered either as a drop-in unit or made oversize for best-accuracy fitting.

J.D. JONES 'BRAINCHILD'

My first comment when I heard of the .41 Avenger was, "Why didn't I think of that?" Once you've seen the little .41 case, it seems obvious, but so do a lot of other firearms inventions—including John Browning's famous .45 automatic.

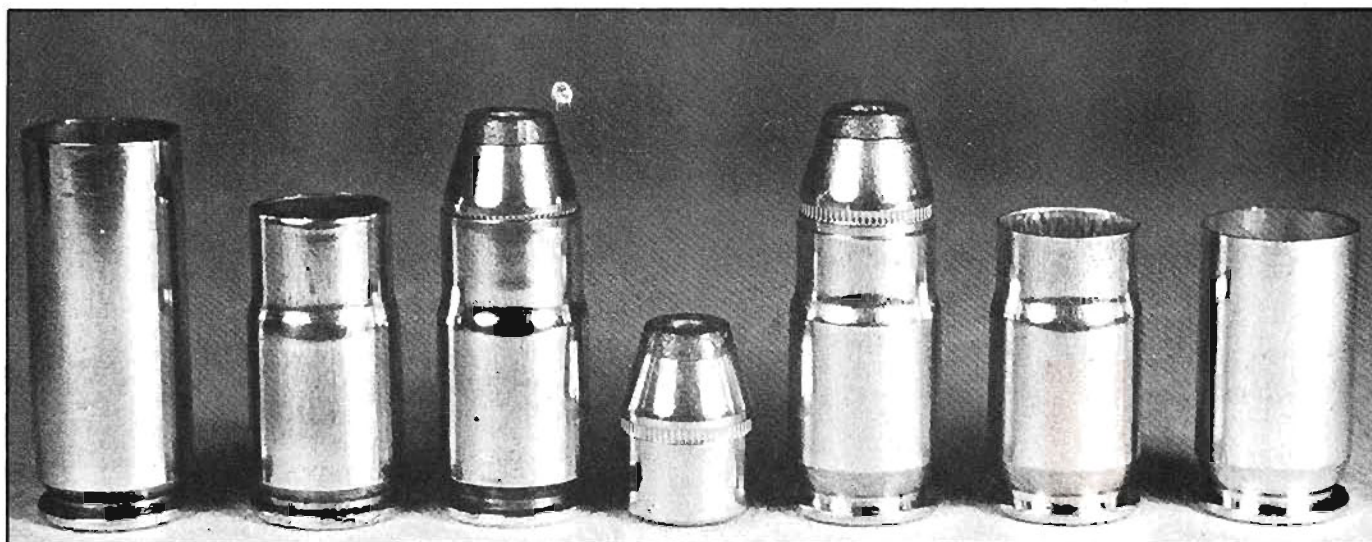
The .41 Avenger is the brainchild of J. D. Jones, one of our most able handgun writers. More than just a writer, however, "J. D." is a pioneering designer, having invented the JDJ series of "hand cannon" cartridges for the Contender, (also produced by SSK Industries, of which "J. D." is president). These are super-magnums for silhouette shooting and the biggest of

big-game. "J. D." founded *Handgun Hunters International* and edits its paper, *The Sixgunner*.

When the kit arrived, my first problem was to install the new barrel in a .45 auto. Most standard guns will require no fitting, if the drop-in kit is ordered. Fortunately, my barrel was the oversize type in chrome moly, because I wanted to get a good bead on accuracy. Fitting the barrel turned out to be so easy and the results so fine that I believe many shooters can do the job themselves, if they have an accurate, tight .45 to convert. Or, they can have a gunsmith do the job, the resulting gun being well worth the added cost.

I decided to put the barrel into an old-model, well-worn Colt Gold Cup .45, which has a Bo-Mar sight rib and still shoots close to one-inch groups at 25 yards from a machine rest. The barrel could not be pushed into the slide because the barrel extension, or tang, was too wide. The tang was narrowed with a fine-cut needle file by keeping the sides of the tang parallel to the link, until the barrel slipped into the slide with the locking lugs fully meshed. The fit was still tight (the tang was a bit long), so I shortened it with a hard Arkansas stone. The barrel then dropped easily into the slide.

The barrel/slide assembly was run onto the frame, leaving out the recoil spring guide and spring. The barrel bushing in the kit would have needed fitting to the slide, but the old bushing gave a nice fit. But when the slide stop was inserted, the



Author, left, found Avenger milder, more controllable than Gold Cup. Above, Avenger loads for Sierra 170-grain JHC in .45 Win. Mag. or .45 ACP cases. Note longer case crimps into bullet cannelure; the ACP case is too short to crimp.

slide tended to bind in several spots and it stopped cold a quarter-inch from lockup. The link was a bit too long.

SLIDE CYCLED SMOOTHLY

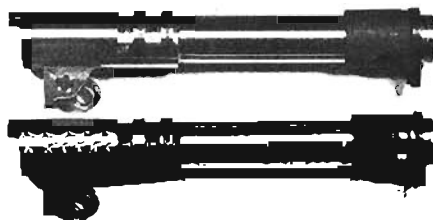
The link pin was punched out and the holes in the link were slightly enlarged, using a cut-down, fine-grit Cratex tip in a Dremel Moto Tool. The link sides were also polished with the Arkansas stone and the slot in the lug, in which the link pivots, was polished with a flat needle file covered with 600-grit metal polishing paper. Replacing the pin and reassembling the gun, the fit was super tight, but the slide cycled smoothly by hand. I placed a Wilson Shock-Buff washer on the spring guide to protect it against heavy loads, retaining the standard Gold Cup Spring. I lubricated it with Break Free, and the gun was ready for testing.

The job was done quickly with no alteration to the gun or clip, and .45 interchangeability was fully retained. As a self-taught pistol butcher, it gave me such satisfaction to have the work turn out so well.

Before outlining handloads, let me describe my first eye-opening session with the .41 Avenger. I made up 13 different handloads using three bullets, three powders, and brass formed from either Federal .45 ACP or .45 Winchester Magnum cases. The charges were taken from the data sheets with the SSK kit. Due care was employed in assembling these rounds, but no special accuracy methods were involved, although I did accurately weigh each charge.

I had two objectives in that first session: I wanted to check functioning and handling by shooting rapid fire strings, and I hoped to find a few loads which showed the Avenger's accuracy potential. As it happened, I got much more than I bargained for.

First, I fired a series of five-shot strings, two-hand, standing. The gun was defi-



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.41 AVENGER

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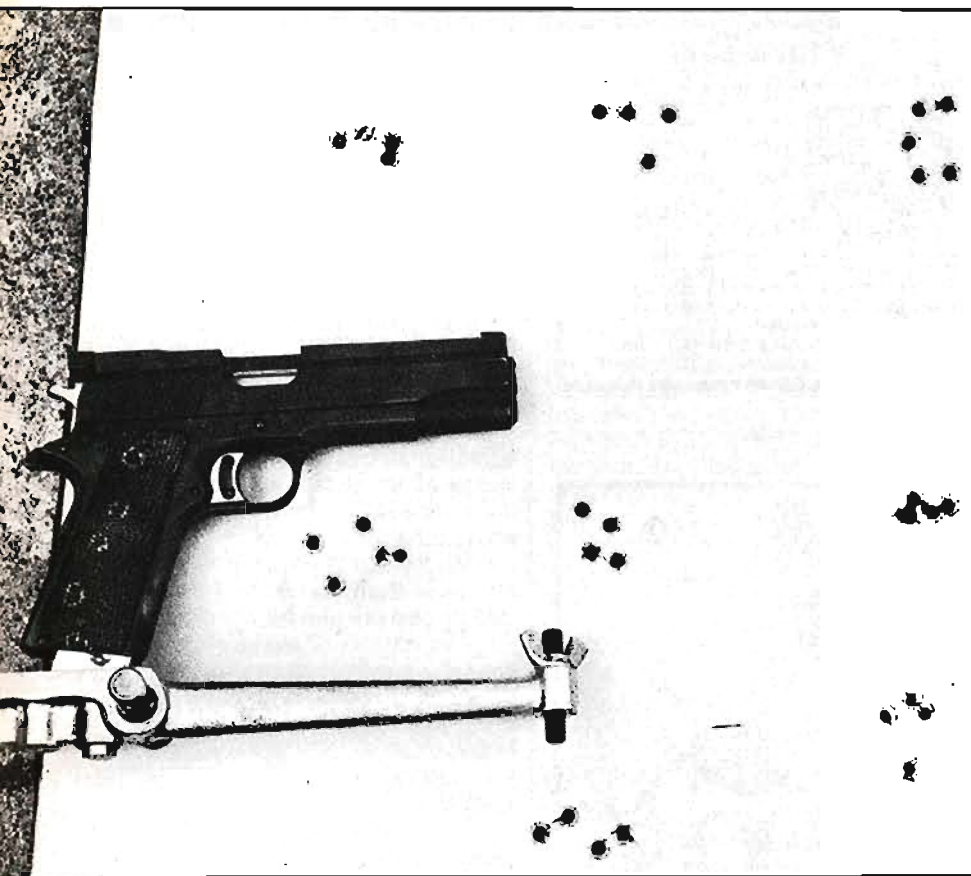
The kit consists of:

- 1. Match Grade Barrel
- 2. Link and Pin
- 3. Fitted Bushing
- 4. Heavy Duty Spring (included)
- 5. Heavy Duty Hammer Spring (heavy loads)

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The Avenger handles bullets of from 170 through 210 grains exceptionally well. The standard 1911 magazine is used without modification.

Gold Cup barrel (lower) and slide with Avenger oversize barrel. Easy fitting produced match accuracy. The SSK Avenger conversion kit (left) contains match-grade barrel, link/bushing, set of Pacific dies and heavy gun springs. Available options convert any .45 auto to the potent caliber, either on a do-it-yourself basis or by a gunsmith.



Eight different .41 Avenger loads printed these 25-yard machine rest groups, averaging only 1.19 inch. They show potential match accuracy of the Avenger.

ninitely more controllable than the same one using .45 ACP with loads of similar power. In fact, I fired one 2.2 inch group and several other good ones, and I don't shoot that well. Then I got down to serious bench testing, knowing that my pistolsmithing had produced a smooth, reliable gun.

TEST FIRING

Mounting the gun in a Lee machine rest, I fired five-shot groups on a reversed target at 25 yards, clocking each shot over the Oehler Model 33 Chronotach Skyscreens. I have confidence in the Lee rest and my ability to turn out reliable, repeatable results with it.

The first group was 1.56 inch, measured center-to-center of the widest hits. Then they began to get even better: 1.38 inch and 1.20 inch. The fourth was 2.12 inch, but it was definitely overpressured, judging from the primer cratering. In fact, several of these loads caused cratering of the CCI #350 magnum large pistol primers.

The first four loads were in full-length .45 Winchester Magnum brass; then I switched to a series in old Federal .45 ACP cases, expecting poorer accuracy.

Here are the groups which followed, in order: 1.51 inch, .89 inch, 1.25 inch, 1.36 inch, .84 inch, 1.16 inch, 1.43 inch, and 1.11 inch. Eight straight groups and all different loads with two different bullets. And all grouped into 1.5 inch or less. That may be the best series of diverse handloads ever fired from a big-bore semi-auto. The ve-

locities ranged from a mild 854 feet per second to a hot 1,287 fps.



Hand cycling shows chambering of a .41 Avenger round in a Colt automatic.

Only one conclusion was possible: the .41 Avenger is a great caliber. In later firing, I have seen nothing to lower that opinion. If anything, it has become even more solid.

I also made a load with a 210-grain cast semi-wadcutter; it printed a 1.51-inch group. The average size for all 13 groups fired that day was a splendid 1.33-inch. That is far better than many custom accurized .45s will average with factory match ammo.

Such results cannot be accidental, or lucky. One or two lucky groups, yes. But 13? Everything has to be just right. Yet, I had done nothing beyond my usual handloading and test-firing methods. There is

no reason why most any other shooter could not have done as well, using the same hardware and methods.

VARIOUS LOADS

Now, let's consider specific handloads, picked to show the versatility, power and accuracy of the Avenger. My favorite bullet in this caliber is Sierra's 170-grain jacketed hollow-cavity (JHC), because it is very accurate and it can be pushed to maximum power with mild recoil. For instance, a nice medium load was 6.5 grains of Winchester 231 powder in Federal .45 ACP brass with CCI #350 magnum large pistol primers. This gave that fine .89-inch group at 1,027 fps. Winchester 231 is clean-burning and often yields exceptional accuracy. In the same brass, 7.0 grains made the .84-inch group at 1,072 fps. These loads have fine target potential, but I have yet to confirm or optimize them.

The maximum charge of Winchester 231 with the Sierra 170-grain JHC bullet was 7.5 grains in my gun, in .45 Winchester Magnum-type cases. CCI #350 primers are a bit soft for this load and cratered too much; even so, the load clocked 1,162 fps and I had two groups of 1.38 inch and 1.34 inch yielding 510 foot pounds of muzzle energy. With harder CCI #200 rifle primers, the cratering was nil and the same charge gave 1,155 fps and produced a 1.54-inch group; but eight grains was *too* hot.

Although all the loads listed here are based on SSK data, my velocities were definitely higher than the data indicated, and my maximum reasonable charges were smaller. This points up again that heavy loads *must be worked up carefully* for each gun.

The differences were so sizable and consistent that they require comment. A major factor undoubtedly is temperature. My firing was done in 80-90 degree summer weather, and each degree adds 2-3 fps to velocity. Also, the chamber and bore of my gun may be tighter than the original barrel used for the SSK tests.

Mild cratering of primers is acceptable, although such loads should be limited to stronger, full-length brass—not the weaker .45 ACP cases. I had no blown primers or brass; but it is possible that some cases might bulge or blow out in the unsupported area around the extraction groove. None of my cases bulged, but brass does vary in strength and resiliency.

The use of harder primers, such as Winchester-Western's (W-W) 7M-111F magnum large pistol or CCI #200 rifle primers, is best for heavy loads. Heavier gun springs also help to prevent primer cup extrusion into the firing pin hole. For the heaviest loads, I substituted Wolff springs in my Gold Cup: a 22-pound recoil spring, a 28-pound hammer spring, and an extra-power firing pin spring. The gun would not cycle with light loads, but the springs protect it and make acceptable loads out of touchy ones.

Continued on page 77

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SNUBBIES

Continued from page 35

be essential requirements. I ordered a Charter Arms .44 Bulldog through my favorite dealer and began to research my planned modifications and load design.

Factory ammo then consisted only of 146-grain lead round nose bullets, loaded by Remington and Winchester. It was certainly more potent than the ubiquitous .38s; but I wanted something better. This turned out to be a must, for in later experimentation the factory loads often jumped the crimp in the lightweight gun and would bind the cylinder.

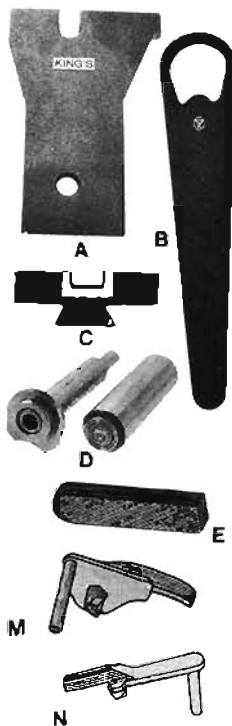
I decided that 14,000 c.u.p. would be my ceiling in the Charter. As I studied the loading manuals and factory data, two obvious advantages of working with the .44 Special emerged. First, shortening the barrel length doesn't lead to drastic velocity losses as it does with high intensity cartridges, such as .357 mags and "hot" .38s. Secondly, adequate power is available without high pressure. This really came home to me in a practical way when I accidentally left my hearing protection off during experimentation, and my ears didn't ring.

The Charter .44 arrived and after a few factory rounds to check functionality it was off to the gunsmith. I had discussed my ideas with Austin Behler of Moonmouth, N.J., who agreed to handle the project. I ordered the barrel cut to two inches, a duty action job, chamfered cylinder chambers, smoothed and polished chambers, dehorned hammer and a smoothed and polished trigger. I had considered porting the two-inch barrel but decided against it when I read that porting pushes the muzzle flash upward in dim light situations. The original front sight was silver-soldered onto the shorter barrel and later filed down when load choice was finalized. (The finished front sight has the same appearance as the Charter Arms two-inch offerings in .38 and .32 caliber.)

I had originally thought that I would use the Pachmayr neoprene grips for my new creation, but when looking up the correct order number I found that the grip size was the same for all Charter revolvers. This was good news and a real breakthrough, for that meant all Charter's aluminum grip frames were the same size. And that size was small—small as the round grip on the S&W Chiefs Special M36. Charter only hung bigger pieces of wood on the larger caliber models. I had verified all this on my own .44 before sending it out for smithing.

I was elated at my discovery and ordered a set of smooth grips from Charter Arms that would normally ride on its .38 snubby. I still invested in the Pachmayr's, but also sent for a Tyler T-grip.

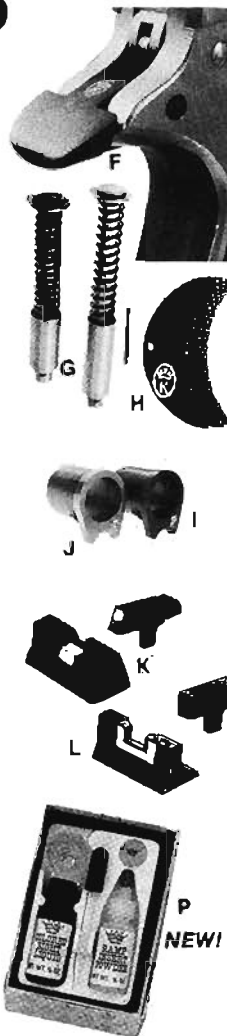
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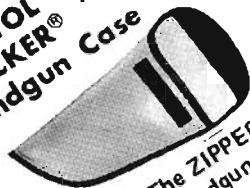
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I know some of you are beginning to wince as you think about firing the .44 Charter with small grips. Concerning reports about the .44 Bulldog's recoil, I believe the Charter three-inch barrel .44 to be a victim of gun writers' ink. There is a tendency among gun scribes to parrot previously published opinions. Reports of "wrist wrenching recoil" and "singing discomfort" abound.

A light gun firing an authoritative cartridge, such as the .44 Special, will recoil. This we expect. But as to being "painful," "unmanageable," or even "uncomfortable," I don't agree, and neither did the petite lady who was so intrigued by the big bore snubby concept that she came back for another cylinder full and would have shot even more. But we had three other shooters trying the .44, and my ammo supply was limited.

Your hand will survive quite nicely if you don't let your head get programmed with a lot of pre-conceived ideas on how you are "supposed to react."

While waiting for my Charter .44 to arrive from Behlert, I continued to work closely with my loading manuals and General Hatcher's scale of relative stopping power. I prefer Hatcher's formula over anything developed since, because the results predicted closely correlate with what really happens in a gun fight.

My research turned up two powders which seemed ideal for my modified big bore snubby. The latest *DuPont Reloaders Guide* showed 7.8 grains of SR 7625 powder pushed a 246-grain lead bullet out of a 6½" barrel at 845 fps. with only 13,600 c.u.p. Winchester/Western Ball Powder Loading Data shows similar results for 5.4 grains of 231 with only 12,500 c.u.p. This was well within my self-imposed ceiling of 14,000 c.u.p. I made up some loads for my new snubby, which Behlert finished in record time. He did a superb job.

I then enlisted the aid of a friend with a chronograph. The first load tested was 6.8 grains of SR 7625, regular CCI primers and Lyman cast 245-grain 429421 bullets. We experienced some difficulty in shooting an unsighted, untried piece. I only had five rounds of most loads, 10 maximum. We obtained four valid readings for our first load, with an average velocity of 692 fps. This load rates 68.62 on the Hatcher scale.

For those readers not familiar with the Hatcher formula, a jacketed 230-grain hardball .45 ACP fired from a Colt Government Model semi-auto rates around 60. This figure is an arbitrary one, and only has value when we use it in comparisons.

Reload #2 combined identical components, with an additional grain of powder. This was 7.8 grains of SR 7625 and is a maximum load, according to DuPont. With this load, we were only able to get two valid readings for an average velocity of 795 f.p.s. and a value of 78.84 on Hatcher's. I had installed the Pachmayr neoprene grips for all testing. This load

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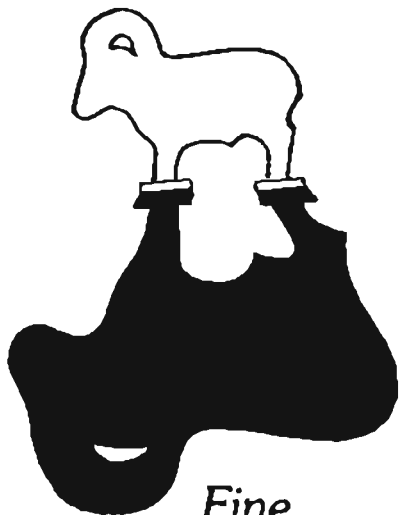
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was the stiffest we ran.

We then tried #1 again with everything the same except we used magnum primers, instead of regular. Average velocity for these readings was 758 f.p.s. with a Hatcher reading of 75.19. I felt I definitely was on the right track.

The 231 loads with the big 245-grain slug were good, but not as dramatic as SR 7625, except for one load I had brewed up using Speer's 225-grain JHP in front of 5.8 grains of 231 with regular large pistol primers. Loading data came from Lyman's *Pistol and Revolver Handbook*. It produced an average velocity of 716 f.p.s. for three recorded shots and worked out to 65.15 on the Hatcher scale.

I now knew it was possible to have a big bore snubby with both safe pressures and good handling characteristics.

As an interesting side note, the factory roundnose load chronographed at an average of 619 f.p.s. for three shots. It rated 49.34 on the Hatcher scale, but the last round invariably jumped the factory crimp to bind the cylinder. My handloads, with hard crimp, have never moved; but as a precaution, when loaded for protection, I have always new, unfired brass in the chambers, with a full crimp in place.

I brewed up some of the more promising loads, removed the Pachmayrs and put on the small, smooth-wood grips. I did have to work on the grip pin holes; they didn't align properly. (Possibly a production change.) After carefully enlarging the pin holes on the wooden grips in the direction of the metal pins, they seated perfectly. I added a Tyler T-grip and my little big bore really began to look like something.

At the next range session, I fired with the new grips and could handle all loads. One alarming fact did develop, however, that helped explain some of our difficulty obtaining readings with the chronograph. I noticed definite signs of keyholing on my targets and in some cases the big 245-grain SWC slugs went through sideways.

For some reason, the big slug wasn't able to stabilize. All that stopping power is wasted if we have no penetration into the vitals. I then tried my 225-grain loads. They were super. The recoil was mild, compared to earlier loads. The jacketed slugs cut neat, round holes at all distances. As a bonus, the 225-grain Speers printed perfectly, as to windage. They shot low until I filed the top of the wide front sight; they then produced tight groups just over the rugged front blade.

I was pleased to see my ideas become a reality. I now have a big bore snubby which is only slightly larger than a S&W Chief's Special M36. It weighs one-half ounce less, fully loaded: 22 ounces, compared to 22 1/2 ounces for the Smith M36. Its cylinder is larger, but no bigger than a Colt Detective Special with its six-shot wheel.

The load I settled on, (5.8 grains of 231/225-grain Speer JHP regular primer), uses a hollow-point bullet. I am no fan of trick bullets and don't expect them to expand at

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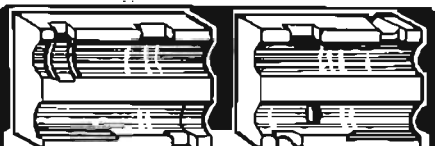
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Swaging bullets involves squeezing lead into the desired dimensions and shapes under considerable pressure, using specially made bullet swaging dies. Often the operation is performed in a regular reloading press, although there are specialized presses available solely for this process. It is a highly versatile technique, permitting production of bullets in a bewildering, nearly infinite variety of weights and designs.

700 f.p.s., but they don't have to. They're already big enough to do the job.

One of the Charter's strong points, which really contributes to the finished snubby, is the high visibility sights. These are fixed, as they should be on a gun of this type. The rear consists of a generous trough cut into the topstrap, and the relocated front ramp has been improved by the necessary filing of its height. Broad and blocky, they are quickly picked up by the eye.

Accuracy is superb with the 225-grain Speer bullet. Friends who are more adept at double-action shooting than I, have printed extremely tight groups at seven yards. The accuracy is still present at further distances, but that is getting beyond the practical applications of a gun of this type. The gun can still be cocked for single action firing, but I do little of that, preferring to stay with the double-action method.

Concerning controllability, in my practice I shoot some rounds one-handed, both left and right. Perfect control is present. Remember, this is with the small-wood stocks and a Tyler T-grip adaptor. I do prefer two hands for most shooting, which provides comfortable control resulting in a deadly cone of fire.

Federal has introduced a new 200-grain lead bullet for the .44 Special, which breathes new life into the factory ammo scene for non-reloaders. I have never tried them because I am happy with my present handloads and have my sights set for that load.

Charter Arms has recently brought out the .44 Bulldog in stainless. I haven't seen one, but a gun of this type can well benefit from the qualities inherent in stainless. If I were working up my big-bore snubby concept today, I would look long and hard at the stainless model.

In summing up, there has been more satisfaction in this project than merely seeing ideas materialize. There is the pleasure that comes from realizing you have in the revolver, a dependable companion, whether on the range or on the highways. Slipped into an overcoat pocket, it has been a welcome addition on evening walks. Both my wife and I were glad of its presence the night our car refused to start when preparing to leave a city parking lot for home. We were alone, except for a couple of suspicious-looking types sitting on a wall drinking beer. No problem arose, but when we think of how it all *could* have gone down so differently, we were grateful for the big bore snubby.

More than 50 years ago, J. Henry FitzGerald wrote a classic book called *Shooting*. It deals entirely with handguns and their use. Some of it is outdated now, but the wisdom he shares is as timely now as it was then. I can think of no better way

to conclude this article than by sharing with you some of Fitz's thoughts:

"I have found that it takes very little encouragement to interest every one in the art of shooting. Whether man, woman, or child, they are all interested if the subject is properly submitted to them and they enjoy it as much as the gun-addict. Protection of self, family, and property is a very good reason why every American citizen should learn to shoot. The fear of revolvers and pistols arises from ignorance of their manipulation and use; fear of accidents with firearms arises from the same source. The man who knows how to use a revolver has no fear of it and feels a sense of security in his home that cannot be derived in any other way."

"The magic of knowing that you can shoot quick and straight is a life-saver and when you acquire it you will place more dependence in your revolver than you will in any three friends you have."



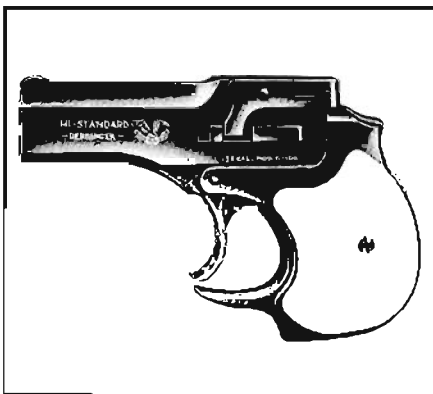
WHAT'S NEW

HS now chambers its derringers for .22 LR

High Standard has introduced two derringer models chambered for .22 LR.

Available in blue or electroless nickel, they are said to have lighter trigger pulls than the company's Magnum models.

Both are hammerless, double-action and have palm-filling grips for maximum shooting control.



Self-indexing actions utilize selective firing pins, which move up or down automatically to fire each of the two super-imposed cartridges.

Other features include dual extraction, a built-in hammer safety block to prevent firing if the gun is dropped accidentally, and recessed headspace for extra safety.

For more information, write the company at 31 Prestige Park Circle, (Dept. AH), E. Hartford, CT 06108.

Continued on page 67

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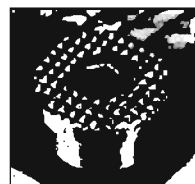
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TAURUS M85

Continued from page 38

cal. To my knowledge, they are not now
available here. Perhaps they will be some
day. I think the square butt grip would
make the three-inch barrel model look and
handle considerably better.

On the range, I really wished for those
oversize grips. The tiny round butt just
doesn't allow for a good hold. At 25 yards,
from the bench, the gun shot more than a
foot low. This was with a tight two-hand
hold, using Nyclad 125-grain Chiefs Spe-
cial load. However, at the seven-yard line,
shooting fast double-action with one hand,
it printed only a couple of inches low.

For comparison, I put a few rounds
through a three-inch S&W Airweight M37
square butt at both distances. The 37,
though lighter in weight, was easier to han-
dle and had less felt recoil, probably be-
cause of the slightly larger, better designed
grip.

The 85 had a very respectable double-
action pull when it came in. During dis-
assembly and parts photography, I found
few spots that needed any attention. Ex-
cept for the too-small grips and shooting
low, I'll give the little gun a pretty clean bill
of health. It should serve well for those
who want a good small-frame
revolver at a reasonable price.



TAURUS M85 SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber: .38 Special
Action: DA revolver
Capacity: 5 rounds
Barrel: 3"
LOA: 7 1/4"
Weight: 22 ounces, empty
Sight: Fixed
Stocks: Smooth wood
Finish: Satin blue or nickel
Price: About \$180
Importer: International Distributors
7290 SW 42nd Street
Miami, FL 33155

INFO 'QUICKIE'

In 1849, Christian Sharps patented a
four-barrel "revolver" which wasn't a re-
volver but a pepperbox with barrels that
didn't revolve!

It was fired by a striker, which revolved
on a center post to hit, in sequence, the
percussion caps positioned on nipples on
the ends of the fixed barrels.

A side hammer served both as a cocking
lever and the force behind the striker.

His four-barrel "revolver" was made at
Mill Creek, Pennsylvania. In 1851, Sharps
moved his manufacturing facilities to
Hartford, Connecticut.

Although more than 150,000 pistols
(plus thousands of rifles and carbines)
were made and sold under his patents,
Sharps died a poor man. The value of his
estate at his death in 1874 was \$341.

NMSS sponsors handgun matches for civilians

The National Marksman Sports
Society was founded in 1979 by
Charles Leslie Dees, head of the Police
Marksman Association. The founding
marked the first time a national organi-
zation has sponsored PPC matches for
civilians, as well as for law enforcement
officers.

NMSS has four categories of shoot-
ers: Police Revolver, Police Automatic,
Civilian Revolver, and Civilian Auto-
matic. Each occupation category and
type of handgun competes against the
same.

The course of fire is a 60-shot PPC
course, fired twice. It differs from the
NRAs PPC shooting in two respects:
the 12 shots in 25 seconds stage are fired
at 15 yards instead of seven, and at 50
yards the six shots in the sitting stage
are eliminated in favor of six shots
standing, without support.

In revolver competition, the gun
must be a .38 Special or larger, with a
barrel length not to exceed 6 1/2 inches.
There is a special "stock" category for
factory-configuration, unmodified
revolvers. In the automatic class, the
gun must be a .380 or larger.

The location of the National com-
petition changes from year to year. It
was held in 1981 and 1982 at the Allen-
town, Pennsylvania police academy
range. Regional championships are
held around the nation.

In 1982, Dees resigned and ap-
pointed gun writer and instructor Mas-
sad Ayoob as national director of
NMSS. Ayoob expanded the member-
ship base and added two events—an
indoor course of shooting for winter
months in cold climates, and a "speed
match" to draw IPSC and other combat
shooters into the sport.

The "speed match" is a PPC course
fired with full-power ammo in half the
usual time frames: 12 shots in 13 se-
conds at seven yards, for example. The
gun must be reloaded after every six-
shot string.

Observers say that NMSS shooting is
growing at about the same pace bowl-
ing pin shooting did in the mid-1970s.
NMSS membership costs \$8. a year or
\$15. for two years. Membership infor-
mation is available from Massad
Ayoob, National Director, National
Marksman Sports Society (Dept. AH),
POB 1539, Concord, NH 03301.

**1983 HANDGUNNER ANNUAL
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ASTRA A-80

Continued from page 40

at 25 yards. Imagine that, a gun that shoots tighter with combat loads than it does with target! Even some of my most meticulous reloads, moving at relatively low velocities, didn't group as well as the hot defensive numbers.

AMMO NEWCOMER

The very best groups were fired with a newcomer to the ammo field: The American Ballistic Company's new Super Sonic 175-grain jacketed hollow-cavity .45s. This round is listed at 1,275 fps—yet it consistently grouped at just under two inches. I look forward to much more experimentation with this ammo from Marietta, Georgia.

After I had fired my 500th round and silence again returned to my ranch, I looked at the Astra A-80 with a pleased smile. It handles and shoots every bit as good as it looks. Were I walking into a bad situation with my eyes wide open, I would know with certainty that I was well armed, indeed.

The Astra A-80 is marketed in the United States by Interarms (10 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22313).

Maybe for some of you I have left the best for last. If you are into minor calibers with large magazine capacity, for whatever reasons, the Astra A-80 can also be had in 15-shot versions chambered for the 9mm Parabellum, or the .38 Super. Price, though high, is not out of line when you consider the peace of mind you are purchasing. "Made in Spain" just may take on a whole new meaning.

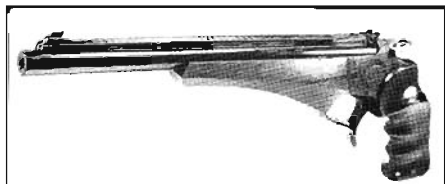


WHAT'S NEW

Continued from page 65

Poly-Choke makes new add-on rib for T/C

A Thompson/Center Contender Super 14 add-on raised ventilated rib now is in the line of handgun ribs produced by Poly-Choke Company, Inc.



The new rib comes packed in a complete do-it-yourself kit, which enables the buyer to mount it without the use of any tools.

For more information, write the company at 150 Park Avenue (Dept. AH), East Hartford, CT 06108.

New sights introduced for 'silho' shooters

New front and rear sights designed especially for handgun shooters in the unlimited category of silhouette competition have been introduced by Iron Sight Gun Works, Inc.

Jerry Barlett, company president, told the *American Handgunner* that the sights also are excellent for handgun hunting.

The sights present a broad, clear picture, designed to work well with less-than-perfect light (or less-than-perfect eyesight).

The front sight is of Patridge design with a rearward slant. It fits any standard ⅜ inch dovetail.

The fully adjustable rear sight is slanted rearward; one click of elevation equals two inches at 200 meters. It simply screws onto a Remington XP-100, a T/C Contender 14-inch, a Wichita or Wichita MK40. Also available is a flat base rear sight for Sako actions (drilling is necessary on Sakos only). Mount screws are included with all rear sights.

Barlett said the new sights are "providing distinct advantages" for shooters in IHMSA (International Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association) matches.

"We find more and more of them in the winner's circle," he added.

The front blade is priced at \$5; the rear sight, at \$38.50.

For more information, contact Barlett at 815 West 17th St. (Dept. AH), Upland, CA 91786.

Compensator system helps reduce recoil

A new compensator system for .45 autos provides a significant reduction of muzzle rise and felt recoil and the benefits of a six-inch match barrel/hushing custom-fitted to the pistol.

Designed and produced by J. Michael Plaxco, the system achieves recoil reduction by re-directing combustion gas through a ported component on the barrel.

The system is easily removable and the shooter can re-insert his original barrel/bushing, if desired.

The in-shop time for fitting a "Plaxco Compensator System" is approximately four weeks. Cost: \$250.

Plaxco, a 29-year-old custom pistolsmith, won the 1982 *Steel Challenge* tournament, a combat-type match held on the Juniper Tree range in Canyon Country, California. Competitors numbered 154, from 21 states, Guam and Australia.

For more information on the system, write Plaxco at Route 1, Box 203 (AH), Roland, AR 72135.

Continued on page 73

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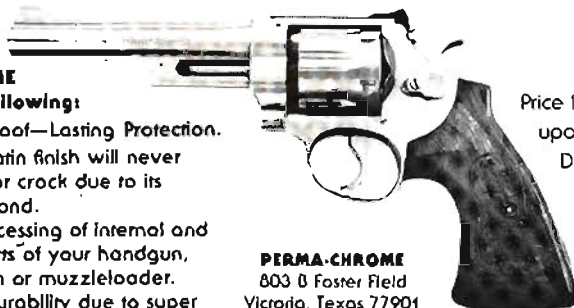
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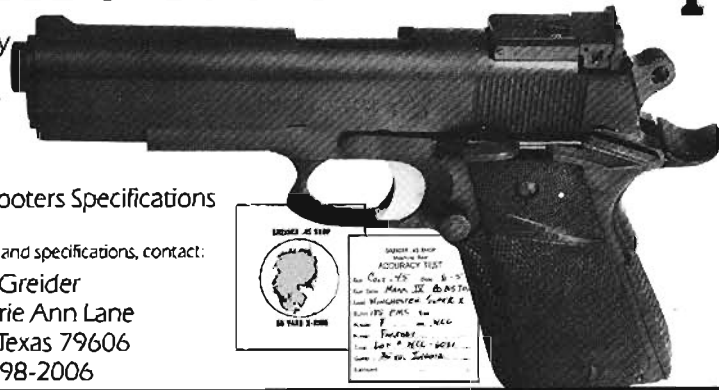


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The Grand Aggregate winner at Camp Perry, both for 1980 and 1981, was Joe Pascarella, from New Mexico. He did it in 1980 using Oxford Illuminated Optical Sights on his .45, and again in 1981 with Swedish Aimpoint glass sights on both his Smith and Wesson M42 (.22 caliber) and Colt .45. If a man had shown up at Camp Perry with anything like that on his guns before World War II, he'd have been cowhided out of camp!

However, I somehow feel that this is the right way to go. Anything that can be devised which will make for more accurate shooting than we were doing way back then should certainly be countenanced—and that goes for two-handed shooting.

Any of the old timers who don't feel we should bow to progress should consider how the handgun shooters were operating 40 years prior to our time. They couldn't have hit a chorus line of Gibson Girls, using No. 8 shot!

I'm a great advocate of a shooter going up against the best marksmen available every time he can. Damon Runyon once wrote, "If you rub up against money long enough, some of it is bound to rub off on you."

And we did it back in the pre-war days, just like they do now. Prior to 1939, it was Emmett Jones in the West and Al Hemming in the East. After that, it was Harry Reeves all over the country. I drank to his health so many times after he had soundly trounced me that I almost ruined my own.

And I can say, with some modesty, that I am probably the only man who beat Harry in a three-gun aggregate from the Flamingo Open in Coral Gables, Florida, in 1939, until World War II ended and a new ball game started. I did it in the 2700 aggregate at the pre-Perry Matches in Detroit in 1941; and I beat him by 12 points after he, with the same courteous thoughtfulness I had shown the year before with "Pop" Ward in the National Individual, obligingly fired his last five shots on the wrong target.

Trying to beat Harry Reeves in those days was like trying to skin a live turtle—but the incentive was there. Better guns and ammunition, and many more hours of practice, have made the difference between modern-day bullseye shooters and we oldsters.

But now, let's get into these modern-day whangety-bangers, the Police Revolver Silhouette Shooters, and their tough Combat Championship matches.

All over the country, police are getting away from bullseye shooting, and are putting in all their training time into police combat shooting.

I feel that this has come about because the entire program can carry right on through into their daily work. Although they may not always use the same revolvers they use in their daily, precarious activities, the positions and the training used in the program help considerably, and they get accustomed to handling their weapons until it becomes second nature to them.

When this type of shooting first began after World War II, the U.S. Border Patrol team was a new breed of bullseye shooters, all firing well over 2600 aggregates. They took to this new silhouette shooting like it had been fashioned for their sole enjoyment. They won the National Team Championship two or three times; but by then, the fad had spread throughout the country, and law enforcement shooters were getting the hang of it and learning that quick sight alignment and double-action trigger squeeze was the answer to winning matches.

It is now, by far, the most popular type of competition for law enforcement officers in the country. I went to Yuma, Arizona, in April for the NRA Regional Police Revolver Championships, to see how things were progressing.

It was held at the beautiful Adair Park Range, where there are excellent ranges for bullseye shooting (both rifle and pistol), trap and skeet, black powder and police silhouette firing. The range is named for the famous old Yuma pistol shooter, Norman Adair. Border Patrolman Bill Hilden acquired the property for Yuma County from the Bureau of Land Management for a nominal sum. With his supervision, Yuma County built the range, which was opened in 1974.

The championships were sponsored by the *Cholla Gun Club of Yuma*, in conjunction with the NRA. One of the many dedicated workers at the match was Border Patrolman Modesto Cartagena, an extremely likable Puerto Rican and one of the top police handgunners in the nation.

Five individual matches were fired in the Regional. Match One was from a crouch position; two stages of 12 shots each, fired double-action from 7 and 15 yards. The time was 25 seconds per stage, starting with a loaded gun in the holster. Reloading time was included in the 25 seconds.

All the shooters use speed loaders. Most of them fired Smith and Wesson M10 revolvers with six-inch bull barrels, although I did see a few Colts and Dan Wessons on the line. The double-action pull is so smooth that they feel, to an old bullseye shooter, like easing off a three-pound trigger, single-action.

In Match One, I learned that there were 124 people tied for the record with a possible, both in 10s and Xs. All fired 240 with 24 Xs. At the Yuma match, two more shooters got into the act with all Xs: John Pride of the Los Angeles Police Department, and Joe Cordova, a Border Patrol-



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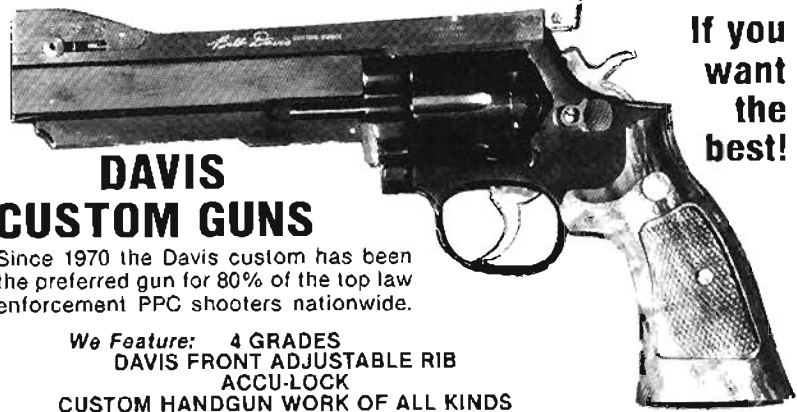
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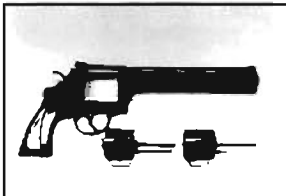
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There should be either a "Z" ring inside the "X" ring, or shooters should back off from the 7- and 15-yard positions and fire at longer ranges, to help break the many ties that are piling up.

The course of fire for Match Two was six shots kneeling, six shots left-hand and six shots right-hand from behind a barricade, all at 25 yards, and all in a time of 90 seconds. John Pride again went clean on this match, except for 2 Xs. It was good enough, however, to win the match.

Modesto Cartagena took time off from his duties as official greeter and general handyman to win Match Three, which consisted of 50-yard sitting, prone and standing. The course of fire was six shots kneeling, six shots left-hand from behind a barricade and six shots right-hand from a barricade, using either double- or single-action. The time was 90 seconds. Cartagena fired a possible with 13 Xs.

A beautiful little Irish colleen from Apple Valley, California—Leslie Mullins—won Match Four, which was fired at 25 yards standing without support, double-action. The course of fire was two stages of 12 shots each, with a time of 35 seconds for each stage. Not much bigger than a bar of soap, she served with the Border Patrol for several years and is now a special agent with the Bureau of Land Management. Leslie won the Women's Aggregate with a 1477-93 Xs.

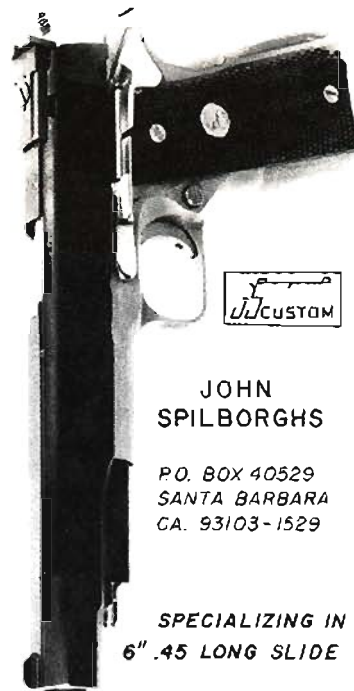
Speaking of women law enforcement officers, I learned that the National Women's Grand Aggregate Champion is Cathy Compton, an airport security officer in Dallas. Her score was 1487-99 Xs, and she is now learning International pistol shooting for a try at the Olympic Team in 1984.

The final individual course—Match Five—was the NRA National Police, which gets a bit complicated. Competitors fire 12 shots double-action at 7 yards from a crouch position, and at 25 yards, double-action, six shots kneeling; then six shots standing, both left- and right-hand from behind a barricade, all in two minutes and 40 seconds. Then they fire at 25 yards double-action, six shots standing, without support in 12 seconds. No barricade or other support could be used, only a two-hand grip.

John Pride won this match with a 596-45 Xs and Cartagena was right on his tail with a 596-44 Xs. Only one X difference!

The National Grand Aggregate Champion for these five matches is Jim Collins, an Alabama State Trooper, with a possible 1500-126 Xs. The highest score ever shot on the Yuma range was a 1494-110 Xs, fired by John Pride in 1981.

* Pride looked like a cinch for the Grand Aggregate. He won the first match, the second and the fifth; catching him looked harder than trying to put a blister on a porcupine. But a moustachioed Border Patrolman from Fresno, California—John Poole—who had tooled into Yuma on his



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motorcycle, took the Grand Aggregate with a mighty fine score of 1490-86 Xs. Pride was second with 1489-110 Xs; strong on Xs, but short one point on 10s.

The two-man team match was won by Frank Glenn and Charles Crawford of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, with a score of 1185-83 Xs. The four-man team match was won by the strong Los Angeles Police team of Pride, Romero, Salseda and Kafer. Their score was 2374-156 Xs, and the LAPD second team was only four points behind, for second place.

Shooters came from Canada, Northern California, Utah, Nevada, Texas, Mexico and Arizona.

I enjoyed the camaraderie which existed among them. It was like an old bullseye match in Florida before World War II, and gratifying to learn that the NRA has done considerable promoting of this type shooting. The event is tied in with the NRAs Police Training Program, and there is no reason to believe it won't get bigger and better as time goes by.

Jeff Fell, an old dead-eye shooter from the Border Patrol, was the NRA referee at the match. He told me that this type of shooting has almost completely taken over other types in Arizona. Along with the fun and fraternization of the big matches, the officers are preparing themselves for those chips-down situations, which seem to show up more often these days. Now, they will be able to better handle themselves in an increasingly professional manner when called upon to do so.

My trip to the Yuma match pointed up at least one important factor: Today's shooter—be he bullseye or combat—is just as dedicated as we were 40 years ago; but he is far superior when it comes to racking up consistently higher scores.

Then, we didn't have the guns and ammo he has today.

Any old-timers of 40 years ago who don't like this kind of progress should reflect on the shooters 40 years before us, who couldn't hit that chorus line of Gibson Girls—or even "Big Jim" Brady.

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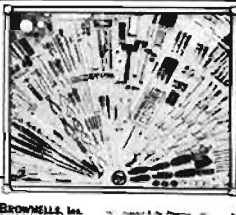
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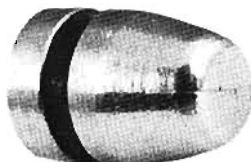
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Continued from page 37

In operation, you start with an empty case at station one, lower the hand to de-prime, let go of the handle with the right hand, pull back the primer feeder slide, pick up a primer, push forward, regrip the handle and lower it to seat the primer. Then you rotate the shell holder/case to the left, add another empty case and repeat the above, only this time the left hand joins in to cycle the powder measure.

In seating the primer, the right hand rotates the shell holder and inserts another empty, while the left hand seeks out a bullet and positions it on the case mouth at the third station and holds it there, while the right hand lowers the handle to seat the bullet.

Both hands cycle the two slides in unison, and it's back down to prime, rotate the shell holder and feed in another empty. The next time a loaded round appears at station one, the right hand removes it before going for an empty. With all four positions now filled, the above operations are continued until the empties are all gone. It sounds complicated, but it can be completed quickly, and is an easy procedure to learn.

Odds are you'll be out of cases before bedtime, as the reloader will fill them up faster than most have ever loaded. I can load 100 cases—straight-walled or bottleneck—in about 20 minutes on the RL-450 without getting arm-weary, and I expect I can crank out 250-plus in an hour. Those are burst rates of five-rounds-per-minute, and sustained speeds of four-rounds-per-minute. That includes filling the measure and primer feed tube, boxing the rounds and opening the bullet boxes. Dillon can attain burst rates of 450-rounds-per-hour, but I can't—yet.

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There are progressive loaders who claim 500-round-per-hour speeds but they're fussy about cases. I did 300 rounds of military .38 Special cases (at 20 minutes-plus per hundred) that were so sad they would have tied up a progressive loader for hours, mashed case mouths, crimped in primers and swelled rims. The RL-450 is simple enough to allow the operator to cope with it all, and still maintain excellent speed.

Maybe some of you will turn up your noses at all this talk of speed and say it's accuracy that you need. Well, I shot a 72X80 at last year's IHMSA (International Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association) Internationals with a Redhawk in the Revolver class with a box of ammo I'd loaded in 20 minutes on an RL-300. If I do my part, I'll shoot 40X40's with my 7X47 Tejas unlimited gun with ammo loaded just as fast on an RL-450.

I have a bull-barreled, 6X scoped .22-250XP varmint pistol that's taken a lot of 150-200-yard prairie dogs with ammo cranked out on a Dillon. The jacks that disappeared in a red blur couldn't have told if there was any accuracy penalty paid for by the reloading speed.

No doubt about it, this reloader is the one to have if you'd rather shoot than reload. There's no penalty for the speed for any use short of bench-rest competition. The press is so well built it will outlast you—and it's not all that expensive.

The other manufacturers of presses are in for some stiff competition; the Lee Turret will come to dominate the low end of the scale, and the Dillon the top. Hell, why not get one of each. They *both* have a place on your bench that none of the others can fill.

The RL-450, complete for reloading one cartridge, lists for \$365 (less dies). For more information, write Dillon Precision Products, Inc., 7755 E. Gelding Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85260.

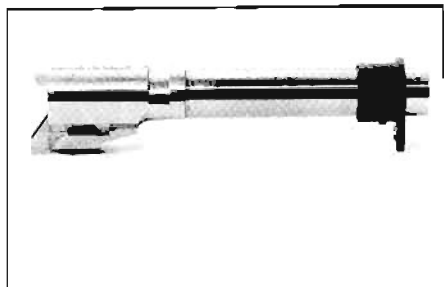
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Continued from page 67

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Bar-Sto Précision Machine now has available stainless steel barrels for 9mm Smith & Wesson autos, models 39 and 59.

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Most pistols will require fitting, according to the company. Fitting charges are \$25 extra, plus \$15 for return postage.

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For additional information, write the company at 73377 Sullivan Road, (Box AH), Twentynine Palms, CA 92277.

Continued on page 80

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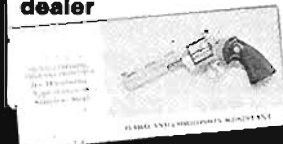
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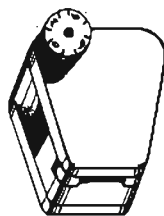
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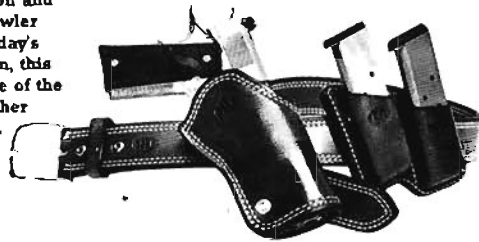
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.38 S&W

Continued from page 47

and age. Unless I am badly mistaken, one of the very last .38 S&Ws to be made in this country was the Iver Johnson Cadet, which was phased out of production in the mid-1970s. This, of course, excludes the Ruger Service-Sixes, since these were not available in the United States.

Now, let's examine the .38 S&W cartridge itself. The case is .775 overall, with a rim diameter of .440. At the base it is .386 compared to .379 for the .38 special. Because of its larger base diameter, a .38 S&W simply will not fit in an unaltered .38 Special.

These figures are very close to the dimensions of a 9mm Luger. The latter has an overall length of .754 and a base diameter of .392. So, the .38 S&W actually has a slightly larger case capacity than the 9mm! It is thus the strength of the cases, and of the guns in which they are fired, that place severe limitations on the power of the .38 S&W.

At some time (I can't determine exactly when), U.S. .38 S&Ws seemed to have been changed from a bore diameter of .359" to .357", or at least my Terrier is so barreled. At any rate, all .38 S&Ws can be effectively reloaded with standard .357 bullets.

With that out of the way, let's talk about handloading the .38 S&W.

In my estimation, the old hull does its best work with comparatively light bullets, in spite of the British experience with heavy slugs during WWII. The loads listed here should be used *only* in modern, well-made revolvers. Specifically, I would limit their use to the following guns: Colt Police Positive, Colt Bankers Special, Colt Single-Action Army, Colt Detective Special, S&W Military & Police, S&W Victory, S&W Regulation Police, S&W Terrier, Ruger Service-Six (if you can find one), and Webley & Scott.

Since I don't currently own a four-inch .38 S&W, I borrowed a Colt Police Positive, so chambered, from a collector-friend. This particular revolver is in excellent condition, and I really hated to return it after I had finished shooting it.

Once again, these loads should *not* be used in old, break-top revolvers, or any revolver that is in less than good condition. If there is any doubt whatsoever, have your

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INFO 'QUICKIE'

The 2.7mm Kolibri, manufactured by Grabner, an Austrian, just before World War I, had a six-shot magazine and fired its .10 caliber bullets through a smooth bore (no one made rifling cutters that small).

.38 S&W checked by a competent gunsmith before you fire it. Also, the loads listed should be worked up to carefully; I suggest you start at least 10 percent below these figures:

Bullet	Powder	Charge	Velocity in 4" barrel
95-gr. Silvertip	Unique	5.7	1100 fps
110-gr. Sierra	Unique	5.0	1000 fps
110-gr. Sierra	Bullseye	3.3	950 fps
110-gr. Speer	Hercos	5.2	1000 fps
110-gr. Speer	Hi-Skor	3.3	950 fps
125-gr. Sierra	Unique	4.9	975 fps
125-gr. Speer	SR4756	4.6	900 fps
125-gr. Speer	Hercos	5.1	950 fps

Because of the limitations of the cartridge, I personally feel the .38 S&W does best with relatively lightweight bullets. If you decide that you prefer somewhat heavier slugs, you might try one of these two loads:

158-gr. Cast SWC	Unique	3.6	800 fps
158-gr. Cast SWC	Hercos	3.9	750 fps

The energy figures of all the loads listed range from a low of approximately 200 foot-pounds to about 250 foot-pounds, which takes it out of the pip-squack category. The hollowpoint jacketed bullets will generally expand to some extent at the velocities listed, making these loads superior, in my estimation, to the old 158-grain lead roundnose .38 Special load.

In reality, the .38 S&W is only about 15 percent less potent than most .38 Special loads. For many years, the .38 S&W was touted as the minimum which could be recommended for personal defense. Today, we have any number of "authorities" advocating the .380 ACP for personal defense; and the old .38 S&W can handily shade even the hottest .380 available!

If you should chance upon a good .38 S&W revolver, and discover that it's priced less than a comparable one chambered for the .38 Special cartridge, consider yourself fortunate and snap up the bargain.

The .38 S&W is an accurate cartridge with sufficient power for defensive purposes. It has been just that for more than 100 years, and it just may be around for another century or so.

INFO 'QUICKIE'

Colt's .36 caliber "Texas Paterson" revolver was introduced in 1836 and saw action in the Seminole War in Florida. It was the first practical combat revolver, although in comparison with later models it was somewhat feeble and fragile. Its folding trigger popped into view when the hammer was cocked. Today, an original Paterson Colt is worth almost whatever the seller asks; they're *that* rare.

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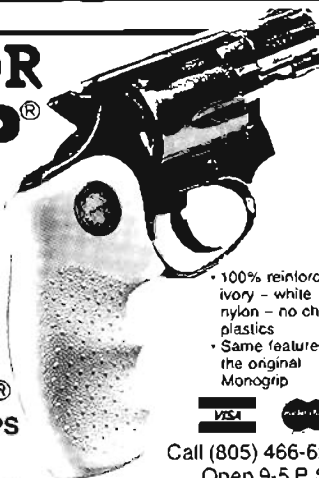
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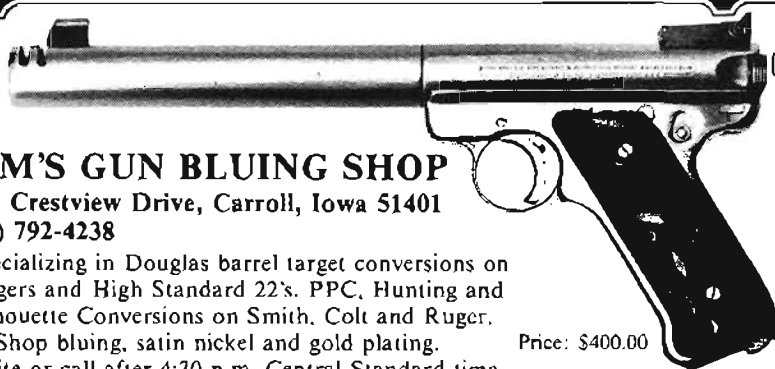


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H&R REVOLVERS

Continued from page 58

round, bull barrels. The 03s are slightly lighter in weight and the sides of the barrels are milled flat. Even though the 03-04s are well designed, I couldn't get interested enough to want one.

Finally, H&R introduced its 800 series, in which all models are identical except for caliber. The M829 is a nine-shot .22LR; the M826 holds six rounds of .22 magnum cartridges. The M832, also a six rounder, is chambered for .32S&W Long ammo. All have three-inch barrels, ramp front sights, fully adjustable rear sights, rebated flat muzzles, and square-butt grips with walnut side panels.

ENTER 'SUPERMAN'

I asked H&R to send me a couple of the new guns for testing, to find out if they handle as well as they look. When the test guns arrived, it took only a minute to find out that they *don't*. Double-action pulls on the guns were Superman strong.

The H&R action design is sound, and very little work is required to bring the double-action pull down to an acceptable level. All I did to the test guns was grind a couple of coils from the ends of the mainsprings. The reason for working *both* ends is that each end of the spring has four closed coils, a design feature of all H&R mainsprings. After the springs were shortened, both guns still had 100 percent ignition reliability.

The two guns tested were a four-inch M904 and a M829. The M904 had a rather heavy single-action trigger, so most of the shooting was done with the M829, which proved to be a fun plinker with acceptable accuracy. No functional problems were noted, except for an occasional mild difficulty of extracting fired cases. This called for tapping the extractor rod with the handle of a small screwdriver.

At the range, where I was shooting the M829, another shooter had an H&R M686 with a 7½-inch barrel. We swapped guns for a few rounds. Needless to say, the M686 punched the holes closer together. Five-shot groups from a bench at 25 yards averaged under three inches.

We set up an Oehler Chronotach, recording 977 fps on the M686 and 884 fps on the M829 with Winchester Super-X solids. CCI Stingers averaged 1112 fps and 1043 fps, respectively.

H&R may have made more .22 caliber revolvers than any other company. Their guns have always been strong and durable; now they have some style, too. Ray Chatigny, H&R's chief engineer, tells me they're working on the Superman spring problem. Soon, maybe even an ordinary, mild-mannered gun writer will be able to fire one double-action—with ease.



.41 AVENGER

Continued from page 61

MORE LOADS

The heaviest loads utilized Blue Dot and either of the harder primers in .45 Winchester Magnum cases. With the Sierra 170-grain JHC bullet, 12 grains and #200 primers, they yielded 1,224 fps and produced a 1.34-inch group of four shots, plus a flier. Maximum was 12.5 grains for 1,301 fps and a 2.26-inch group. That's 640 foot pounds of energy, matching the claimed top power of the Bren 10. With #350 primers, the same velocity was reached; cratering was excessive, even though a 1.25-inch group was printed. With W-W 7M primers and everything else unchanged I got 1,271 fps with negligible cratering and a 1.43-inch group.

I grouped and clocked a total of 33 different loads with the Sierra 170-grain JHC bullet and only a few maximum and over-maximum combinations grouped over two inches. This bullet is a top choice for almost any purpose, including hunting.

Bullseye gave good loads; 6.0 grains behind the Sierra 170 gave 1,074 fps and made a 1.31-inch group. Upping that to 6.5 grains produced 1,123 fps, and an even better 1.28-inch group; but the #350s cratered too much. Unique (7.0 grains) in strong brass gave a fine one-inch group (941 fps, W-W 7Ms) and in Federal .45s a 1.23-inch group (1,011 fps, CCI #350s).

For target and practical shooting, cast bullets were excellent. SSK offers two new designs, a truncated cone (TC) and a roundnose, both weighing 185 grains. Driven at 1,000 fps, either meets IPSCs "major caliber" requirements. I made several loads with the cast 185-grain TC and it grouped brilliantly.

For a good medium load, 6.5 grains of Winchester 231 in .45 Winchester Magnum cases, with W-W 7M primers, gave 1,060 fps and produced a 1.40-inch group. With 7.0 grains the group was a tight 1.04-inch, but the #350s cratered and some leading began to show up at 1,114 fps. Blue Dot (11 grains) and 7M primers combined to make a 1.04-inch group at 1,097 fps.

In W-W .45 ACP brass, 7M primers and 7.0 grains of 231 behind the 185-grain TC produced another 1.04-inch group at 1,077 fps. Unique (7.0 grains) pushed that bullet to 990 fps, grouping 1.13-inch and 10 grains of Blue Dot grouped almost as well: 1.28 inch at 987 fps.

One group showed that the cast 185-grain RN did nicely: 1.48 inch with 6.5 grains of Winchester 231 for 1,061 fps.

I fired two groups with the Sierra 210-grain JHC, both with 6.0 grains of powder in Federal .45 ACP cases and #350 primers. Winchester 231 gave 956 fps and a 1.36-inch group, and Unique made a neat 1.16-inch group at 854 fps. Much more could

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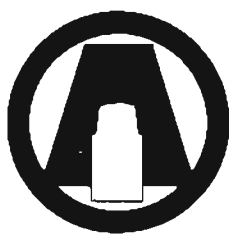
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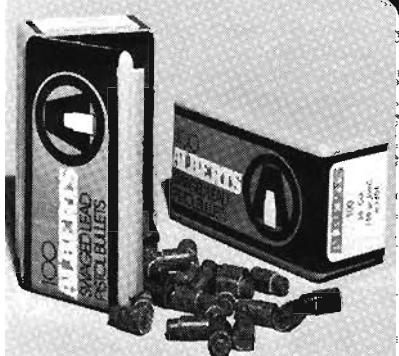
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have been done with this fine bullet, if time had allowed.

HANDLOADING TIPS

These handloads show the great versatility of the .41 Avenger, and they prove that it offers 600+ foot pounds of muzzle energy with fine accuracy in the right loads. Handloading the .41 is not difficult, but a few tips are in order.

First, the cases must be formed. The easiest way is simply to run clean, sound, well-lubricated .45 ACP cases into the Avenger sizer. This is as simple as resizing .45 ACPs, and no brass is lost. Headspacing is on the shoulder, not the mouth, as in the .45 ACP; so I adjust the sizer for easy chambering, with no more than .006-inch headspace. The .45s before and after forming are about .898-inch long and need no trimming.

Bullets seated to 1.20-1.25-inch overall length fed reliably from the clip in my gun. The only problem is that Sierra bullet cannelures are not at the ACP case mouth when seated to that length. I prefer to seat and crimp in two separate steps, using a very light crimp, just enough to remove the mouth flare. The sizer/expander combination is tight enough to keep bullets from being pushed back into the case by recoil or during chambering. If the Avenger roll crimp is forced, the case may bulge at the shoulder, preventing chambering.

I found that a good taper crimp could be formed by using the RCBS .41 Magnum/Carbo sizer as a crimper. I used this method for most of my loads.

For heavy and maximum loads, full-length strong brass is formed similarly from .451 Detonics Magnum brass; no trimming is needed. Lacking a supply of these cases, I trimmed once-fired .45 Winchester Magnum cases to .94 inch, then formed them to the Avenger's length: .95 inch. Kits include a combined sizer/trim die, but mine was the standard type. An optional inside neck reamer is available for converting .308 and similar rifle cases.

Full-length brass can be crimped into the cannelures of the Sierra bullets, or just in front of the full-diameter shoulder of the two 185-grain cast bullets, keeping them within the 1.20-1.25 inch overall length for best feeding and cycling.

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I consider the .41 Avenger a major new development in semi-auto calibers. The SSK kit is a high-quality, versatile basic outfit with options to convert almost any .45 auto and to make nearly any reasonable handloads. The oversize barrels permit tight fitting, and .45 shooters can expect that their .41s will at least be as accurate as their .45s, possibly more so; and fitting the barrel is simple.

Offering at least a 30 percent increase in top power over the .45 ACP, the .41 Avenger is superior in every respect to

standard semi-auto calibers. This improvement is accomplished without damage to the gun, because recoil is moderated.

The new caliber and conversion is *not* a magnum, but can be compared to the .451 Detonics Magnum conversion kit. The .451 is simply a lengthened, souped-up .45, with the increased recoil and potential for gun damage from loads producing up to 750 foot pounds of energy, even with Detonics' *Competition Recoil System*—designed to “protect the frame from cracking.”

Personally, I believe that the .41 Avenger produces the maximum power reasonable in a .45-type automatic.

One experienced .45 shooter tried the Avenger and remarked, with typical understatement, “You know, Russ, that has a lot of potential.”

For virtually any purpose, from defensive and practical shooting to hunting, the .41 Avenger deserves serious consideration. Certainly, the caliber has real possibilities for law enforcement and military applications.

I would put it more strongly than my friend: the .41 Avenger is the finest of the new calibers designed to improve the .45 auto and the best of the big-bore semi-auto rounds now available to handgunners.

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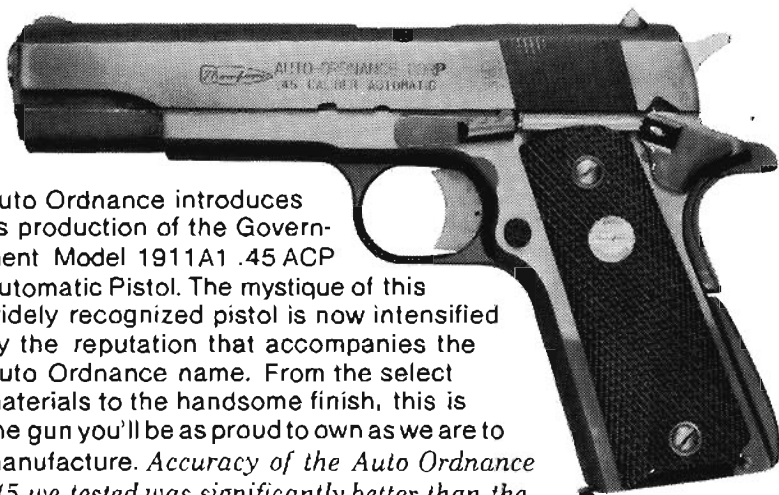
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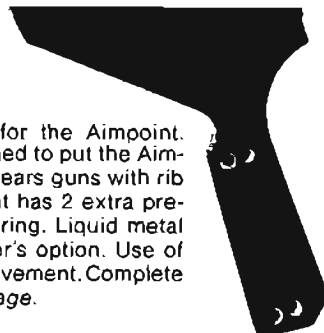
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WHAT'S NEW

Continued from page 73

Swivel-and-sling set offered for T/C S14s

A special-swivel-and-sling set for the Thompson/Center Super 14 Contenders modified with Pachmayr grips has been introduced by Michaels of Oregon.

The new "Uncle Mike's" set (No. 1302) includes a pair of quick-detachable swivels and a 72-inch nylon web carry strap.



One swivel attaches to the barrel by a split-band base, the other to the butt of the gun by a three-inch, quick-detachable base that replaces the stock screw provided by Pachmayr.

Suggested retail price: \$16.95.

Michaels also offers a similar set for Super 14s with factory grips (No. 1301) for \$15.95.

With the 72-inch strap, the shooter can either carry the pistol over his shoulder or across his back; or he can use it as a sling to help provide steadiness while firing.

For a catalog and price list, send \$1 to the company at POB 13010 (Dept. AH), Portland, OR 97213.

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Should a gun having the device attached be stolen, it would be rendered useless without the tool.

Gun Gard is available in all calibers and barrel lengths.

For more information, write the company at POB 151 (Box AH), Sextonville, WI 53584.

Continued on page 88

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Except where a price is shown for catalog, brochure or price list, please send a stamped, self-addressed business-size #10 envelope for information.

The publisher and editors cannot recommend any specific pistolsmith; we have not had personal contact with all those listed. As with any other service, it will pay you to shop around for the type of work you require. Since the publication of our first Custom Pistolsmith Directory, we have received few complaints from readers who have used the services of the 'smiths listed. Our best advice is to be patient, ask questions, and don't contract for work until you understand exactly what work will be done, when it will be done, and approximately how much it will cost.—Editor

ACCURACY DEN (Verne Juenke), 25 Bitterbrush Rd., Reno NV 89523, (702) 345-0225—T/C Contender specialist. Championship match grade guns for silhouette, hunting, target; 270VJ-270X50R-6X221-6X47-6X50R.

ACCURACY UNLIMITED (Frank Glenn), 16036 N. 49th Ave., Glendale AZ 85306 (602) 978-9089—General services plus full house PPC revolvers, Colt .45 auto conversions.

"ACCURATE" PLATING, 1937 Calumet St. #22, Clearwater FL 33515 (813) 733-0923—Specializing in .45 accurizing, sight alterations, trigger jobs. All types of gun finishes.

ACTION WORKS (Charles Lowden), 6814 Elliot Ave. S., Richfield MN 55423—Hand-fitted action work on S&W, Colt, Ruger revolvers.

ALPHA PRECISION, INC. (Jim Stroh), 1231 Sunderland Ct., Atlanta GA 30319, (404) 453-0477—Custom .45s, barrels, compensator system for .45, bluing/plating. Brochure \$2.

ARMAMENT SYSTEMS & PROCEDURES, INC. (Kevin Parsons), Box 356, Appleton WI 54912, (414) 731-8893—ASP M39 conversion, .44 Special Ruger DA revolver conversions. Catalog \$3.

AUTO SHOP (Craig Wetstein), 8545 Washington Blvd., Culver City CA 90230, (213) 836-0179—Customizing, accurizing of .45 autos. General pistolsmithing.

BAIN & DAVIS (W.H. Little), 559 W. Las Tunas Dr., San Gabriel CA 91776 (213) 284-2264—Accurizing and action work on all autos and revolvers. Chambering for .357/.44 B&D cartridge.

DONALD W. BARON, 6060 W. 95th St., Oak Lawn, IL 60453—Customizing combat .45 autos; also multi-caliber Col Commanders and fine-tuning revolvers, both target/duty.

BEAL'S BULLETS (R.S. Beal Jr.), 170 W. Marshall Road, Landsdown, PA 19050, (215) 259-1220—Auto mag specialists, 10mm BBI Browning Hi-Power conversions.

BEHLERT CUSTOM GUNS (Austin F. Behlert), Box 227, Monmouth Junction NJ 08852, (201) 687-3350—IPSC, PPC, NRA custom handguns, holster, sights/accessories.

BELLS CUSTOM SHOP (Dave Norin), 3313 Mannheim Rd., Franklin Park IL 60131, (312) 678-1900—Reliable and accurate .45's for combat.

BROADWAY ARMS CORP. (Joe Pruden), 4114 East Broadway, No. Little Rock AR 72117, (501) 945-1853—Custom combat Colt, S&W, Ruger.

BROWN CUSTOM GUNS, INC. (Steven N. Brown), 8810 Rocky Ridge Rd., Indianapolis IN 46217, (317) 881-2771—Colt .45 auto only/accuracy custom and combat. Brown Custom Combat. Brochure (long SASE).

BULLSEYE GUN SHOP, 5091-F Buford HWY., Doraville GA 30340—Colt .45 accurizing, S&W K-frame action jobs.

CANNON'S GUNS (Andy Cannon), Box 357, Rt. 93, Victor MT 59875, (406) 642-3861—Police combat revolver tuning.

CHESHIRE & PEREZ DISTRIBUTORS, 136 E. Walnut Ave., Monrovia CA 92016—Custom PPC revolvers, ribs & barrels.

F. BOB CHOW'S INC., 3185 Mission St., San Francisco CA 94110—.45 auto accuracy jobs. PPC, NRA bullseye.

CHRIS SMITH'S (Donald Weir), 917 Trent St., Concord CA 94518, (415) 798-7583—Custom combat, action jobs, PPC and IPSC. Specializes in Dan Wesson PPC, .45 combat autos, Ruger actions.

LOU CIAMILLO (Maryland Gun Works, Ltd.), POB 130, Clarksburg, MD 20871—Custom revolvers/barrels, .45 accuracy work, PPC revolvers, custom sights, accessories. Brochure \$1. (See Maryland Gun Works.)

JAMES E. CLARK Sr., Rt. 2, Box 22-1, Keithville LA 71047, (318) 925-0836—Custom bullseye, PPC, .45s, .38s, 9mm combats, .45 Auto grip mounts for pistol scope/Aimpoint, special rear sights for Rugers.

CLEVELAND BLUING CO., 1023 East 185th St., Cleveland OH 44119, (216) 481-2104—Custom autos and revolvers.

CLINTON RIVER GUN SERVICE, INC., 48 Crocker Boulevard, Mt. Clemens MI 48043—General accurizing, pistolsmithing.

COLT CUSTOM GUN SHOP, 150 Huyshop Ave., Hartford CT 16102—Custom engraving, tuning, grips, etc.

COMBAT FIREWORKS (Bob Smith), 836 W. Fordham Dr., Tempe AZ 85283, (602) 839-0033—Combat conversions of .45 autos, tuning S&W/Ruger revolvers.

CRAWFORD'S GUNSMITHING, Swain Dr., Pleasant Valley NY 12569, (914) 635-3210—Specializing in IPSC .45s 6-inch slides, custom bluing/plating.

CUSTOM GUN REPAIR (Bob Finkbeiner, Len Irlacher), 4614 W. Elm St., (Rt. 120), McHenry IL 60050, (815) 385-2111—Specialty S&W, Ruger, Colt action jobs; duty guns made smooth but "street legal." Graduates of S&W and Ruger armorer schools.

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FRESHOUR MFG. CO. (R.L. Freshour), 1914 15th Ave. N., Texas City TX 77590, (713) 945-7726—Custom pistol and revolver work, silhouette pistols, custom sights, ribs, etc.

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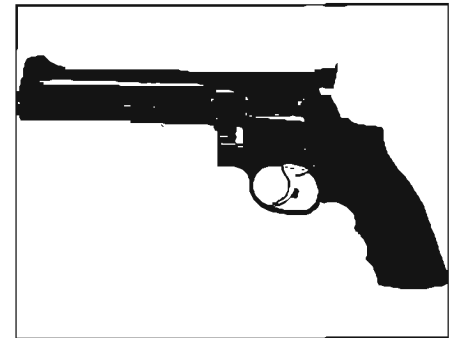
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FRED SADOWSKI, 300 GUNSMITH SERVICE, 4655 Washington St., Denver CO 80216, (303) 893-2158—Combat and PPC revolvers & autos. Short-action Blackhawks.

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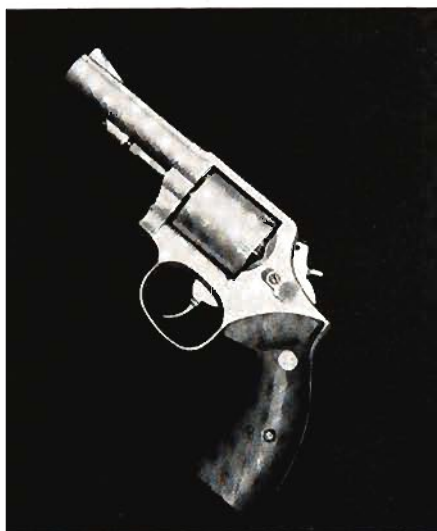
HAROLD SHOCKLEY, Box 116, Hanna City IL 61536, (309) 565-4524—Mostly refinishing, bluing and plating, sights, parts for Colt and Browning.

THE SHOOTERS SPOT (Dennis O. Reichard), 923 East 9th St., Rochester, IN 46975, (219) 223-8342—Specializing in S&W duty/combat tuning, general repairs.

SHOOTIST SUPPLY (John Cook), 622 5th Ave., Belle Fourche SD 57717, (605) 892-2822—Revolver and auto work, IPSC autos, mail order accessories for .45s.

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SILVER DOLLAR GUNS (George E. Sheldon), 10 Frances St., Box 475, Franklin NH 03235—Combat custom .45s.



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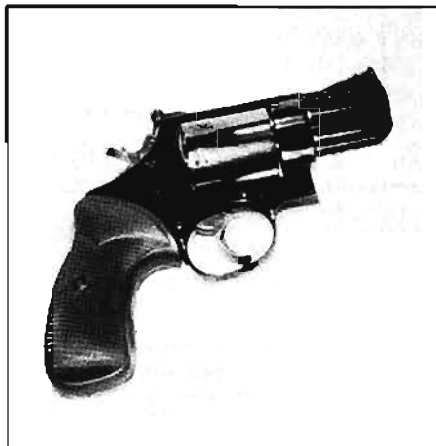
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SSK INDUSTRIES, Rt. 1, Della Drive, Bloomington, OH 43910—Custom XP-100 conversions, scope mounts/ribs, rechambering, hard chroming, white outline sight blades.

KEN STARNES, R. 1 (Box 269), Scroggins, TX 75480—XP-100 conversions, refinishing. Colt/S&W/Browning tuning and modifications.

STRAHAN & SON, INC. (Travis Strahan), Rt. 7, Townsend Circle, Ringgold, GA 30736, (404) 937-4495—Custom work on PPC, bullseye revolvers/autos. Design/manufacture Mascot sights and slide stop scope mount. Accurizing, all handguns.



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EARL R. STROUP, 30506 Flossmoor Way, Hayward, CA 94544, (415) 471-1549—.45 auto accurizing, rebarreling/S&W K/N frames, Rugers, Troopers (MK III/MK V), Pythons; custom ribs with Eliason sights (on .45 Autos), fine-tuning for PPC/IPSC/NRA/ combat competition. Rebluing/electroless nickel finishes. General repairs/tuning. Brochure \$1.50.

SWENSON'S .45 SHOP (Armand Swenson), Box 606, Fallbrook CA 92028—Swenson ambidextrous safety, "Swensight," fixed combat sights for .45 Auto/P-35 Browning, customizing .45 autos.

TOM'S GUN BLUING SHOP (Tom Volquartsen), 1818 Crestview Dr., Carroll IA 51401, (712) 792-4238—Ruger, High Standard .22 target conversions. Brochure \$2.

TRAPPER GUN, INC. (Lin "Trapper" Alexiou), 18717 East Fourteen Mile Rd., Fraser, MI 48026, (313) 792-0134—Custom handguns and bullseye shooting aids, such as spring kits. Bluing/plating, special tooling, sight blades.

TRULOCK FIREARMS (George Trulock), Box 74, Whigham GA 31797, (912) 762-4678—Caliber conversion on N-Frame S&W, old model Ruger and new model stainless steel Blackhawks. Custom auto and revolver work.

U.S. INTERNATIONAL (Bill Wiseman), 150 Lehr Lane, College Station, TX 77840—Ex-Marine gunsmith, specializing in combat autos, PPC revolvers, NRA target, percussion; X-ring accuracy guaranteed.

VALLEY GUN REPAIR SERVICE, 103 Valley Drive, Florence, KY 41042—Custom tuning, Colt/S&W, Ruger, Dan Wesson revolvers; also Colt/S&W autos.

VIC'S GUN REFINISHING (Victor Strawbridge), 6 Pineview Dr., Dover Point, Dover NH 03820—Combat conversions, competition set-ups, general action/sight work (factory-trained) on S&W, Colt, and Ruger. Bluing, color case-hardening, nickel-chrome.

VILLAGE GUNSMITH (Wayne N. Hill Sr.), 310 Shepherd, Port Byron IL 61275, (309) 523-344—Tune ups on revolvers, PPC, S&W specialty. Some auto work, prefers Browning. Has limited edition M58s.

WALKER ARMS CO., Rte. 2, Box 73, Selma AL 36701, (205) 872-3888—Action, accuracy, and conversions.

WALTERS INDUSTRIES (Dave Walters), 6226 Park Lane, Dallas TX 75225, (214) 691-6973—Combat and NRA target .45's. Brochure \$2.



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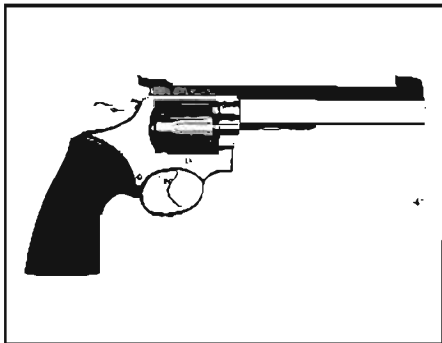
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BILL WISEMAN, 3600 Old College Road, Byron TX 77801, (713) 846-3570—Ex-marine gunsmith specializing in .45 accuracy jobs. Also works Brownings and other autos.

B. WITT GUN WKS (Carl Witt), 4020 Ridgelane, West Linn OR 97068, (503) 656-6186—IPSC modifications to S&W and Colt autos, Bo-Mar, Hoag, MMC, S&W sights, hardchroming, rebluing, revolver & auto action tuned.



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Editor's note: Information from the following 'smiths arrived too late for alphabetical classification:

SMALL ARMS WEAPONRY, 141 Donelson Pike, Nashville, TN 37214, (615) 889-0862—General customizing, both autos and revolvers.

PISTOL REST

Continued from page 16

Clamp the rest to the bench and be sure the gun is properly placed in the holder and locked onto the carrier. On the rear of the base, there's a large notch. Place the carrier down, so that the large rod that protrudes from each side at the rear rests in that notch. About halfway up the base, there's a flat pin, which protrudes upward. Push forward on the carrier until it's snug against the notch, then slide it sideways until the arm rests against the pin sticking out of the base.

At this point, I take a sight picture to see just where the gun is pointing. The rest is fully adjustable for windage and elevation.

Load the gun and make sure that the carrier is snug against the contact points. Keep light pressure on the gun, since you must fire it by hand. Grip the holder as you

STINE'S CUSTOM PISTOLSMITHING, 32 E. Cottage Place, York, PA 17403, (717) 846-7488—Double and single-action tune-ups, trigger work (both autos and revolvers), combat accurizing.

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would if you were holding the gun by the factory stocks. Fire the gun single-action, allowing the entire carrier to recoil off the base for each shot. After the shot is fired, just replace the carrier snugly, and you're ready to fire again. It's simple to use, and will certainly tell you what your loads are capable of doing.

Since the gun must be fired by hand, some of the real dinosaur killers—such as the .44 Magnum with heavy loads—can get mighty hard on the hand after a few rounds.

The best news is the rest's cost. For less than \$50 you can buy the base and carrier assembly. Holders are sold separately, and are available for most popular makes of revolvers and autos.

If you've been thinking about something along those lines, but didn't want to spend a fortune, it certainly would be worth your time to take a look at this rest. You can order directly from Mequan Engineering, POB 253, Mequan, WI 53092.





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SPEAK OUT

Continued from page 22

to either the Colt Government Model
.45 or the S&W Model 59. You
probably think that I should start out
with a revolver for my first handgun.
Revolvers are a bit safer, but I have
just as much experience with
automatics as revolvers. Now back to
the issue.

I would like you to compare the
Colt and S&W in reliability, safety
features, stopping power, etc. The
gun will be used mainly for home
defense, since I stay alone at night. I
know the S&W costs a bit more than
the Colt, but cost isn't a factor since
I'll be paying for the gun. I would
appreciate your help.

I have one more problem that I
think you can help me with. My
mother owns a fairly old Colt .38
Super. The pistol has "Colt .38
Super" stamped on the slide and
doesn't say Government Model. From
my understanding, the new Colt .38
Supers have Colt MK IV/ Series 70
Government Model stamped on the
slide. Can you estimate the age of
this gun, if it has any collector value,
or if its value will increase with age?
The serial number is in the 36,000s.

Your help will be greatly
appreciated.

P.S. I'm not a hot-headed 16-year-old
still in the cowboy and Indian stage.
Please take my letter seriously. Keep
up the good work.
Wayne Carraway
Greenville, S.C.

**Editor's note: We do take your
letter seriously, Wayne, and
command you for your
intelligence in the points you
raised. Both Colt and Smith
autos are excellent guns. It's a
matter of individual preference
as to which you should select.
As to your Colt .38 Super, it was
made prior to 1970 and should
bring around \$400 retail, in
excellent condition. Good luck in
your handgun pursuits! And
thanks for your thoughtful
comments.**

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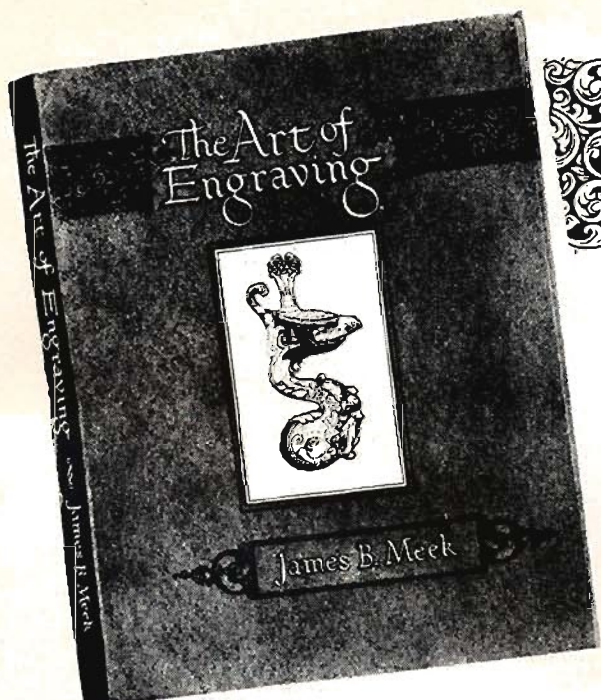
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American Handgunner
Magazine

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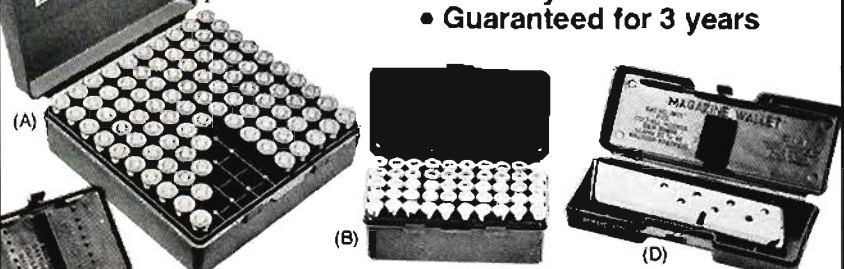
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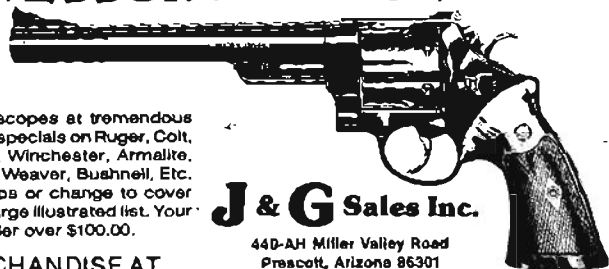


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WHAT'S NEW

Continued from page 80

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Hoppe's Dri-Lube with Teflon is the answer to some situations when a sticky, oil-base or silicone formula lubricant is not right for the job.

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Dri-Lube helps reduce friction through its special formula that suspends molecules of Teflon in a quick-drying base. Seconds after application, Dri-Lube evaporates, leaving a dry lubricating film.

It's fine for interior gun mechanisms where too much oil might gum up the works, or soak into a fine piece of wood.

For more information, contact Hoppe's, Division of Penguin Industries, Inc. (Dept. AH), Airport Industrial Mall, Coatesville, PA 19320.

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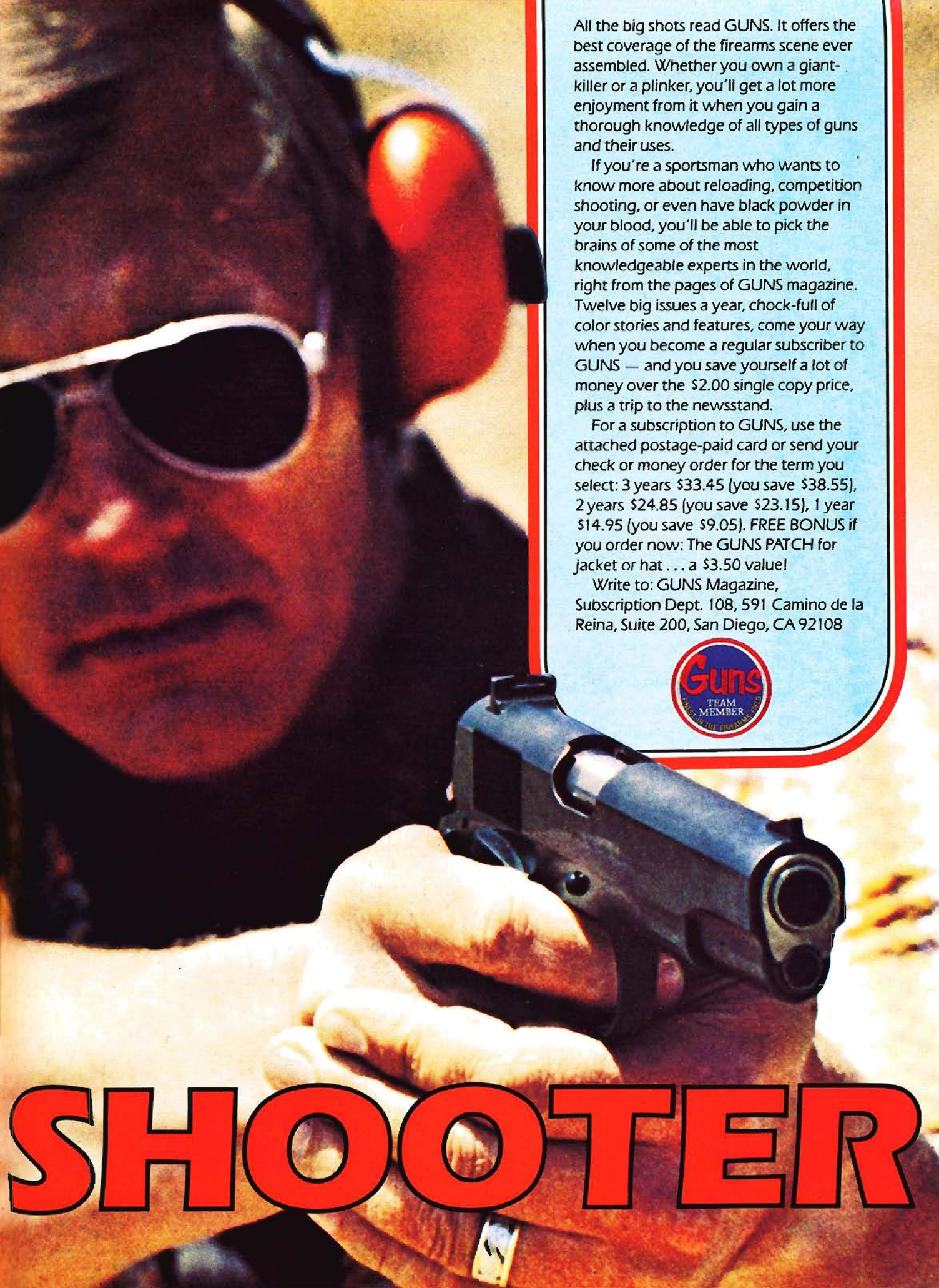
They come in a wide variety of colors and materials, and the work is done by native American Indian silversmiths and stonecutters who craft the grips *a la* their well-known Indian jewelry.



Grips are of mosaic inlay or channel inlay design, and feature turquoise, jet, mother-of-pearl and sea shells set in wood; or, the grips can be made entirely of turquoise, for example.

For more information on the custom grips, write Craig at the Thunderbird Jewelry Company, Box AH, 1907 West 66th Avenue, Gallup, NM 87301.

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SHOOTER

LIVING ROOM

Continued from page 36

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Barnett's system is more complex. At \$49.95 list for the box full of goodies, you get more to play with. Getting ready to shoot is more involved and takes more time; but there are advantages. The accurate range is greater, and you can use any ordinary air gun pellet trap with complete safety.

When I first saw this unit at the SHOT Show in Atlanta, only the four-inch barrel model was available. The Barnett folks now tell me that they also have a two-inch barrel version. I didn't think to ask if barrel units could be bought separately, which would permit the use of the same set of accessories for both the two-inch and four-inch guns.

A unit for 9mm autos, which will function only as a single shot, is scheduled to be produced.

Installing the .177-barrel is easy, and will not harm the rifling in your prized smoke pole. A pair of rubber "O" rings support the back end of the barrel. At the front, it is held by a split brass collet, which is expanded by turning a nut on the end of the barrel until it is finger-tight.

Testing the unit on our 10-meter airgun range, we found that the round-nose pellets supplied with the unit were more accurate than most of our flat-nose match pellets. The makers claim that the special lubrication on the pellets is responsible. It may be; I don't know.

We installed the unit on several different guns with no problems. At 10 meters, we got a few five-shot groups under two inches, but most were a bit larger. Using the Oehler 33 Chronotach with Sky-screens, we checked the velocity with Barnett's pellets at 428 fps, using Remington #5½ primers.

While it isn't the real thing, the Barnett unit is ideal for realistic and inexpensive indoor practice. And it's *fun* to use.

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The Mauser Model 1896 pistol—best known as the "Broomhandle"—is considered an important development in firearms design and paved the way for modern military semi-automatics. It proved that a self-loading pistol was practical for military purposes. The "Broomhandle" came in two calibers—9mm Parabellum (Luger) and 7.63 mm. It is a prized collector's piece.

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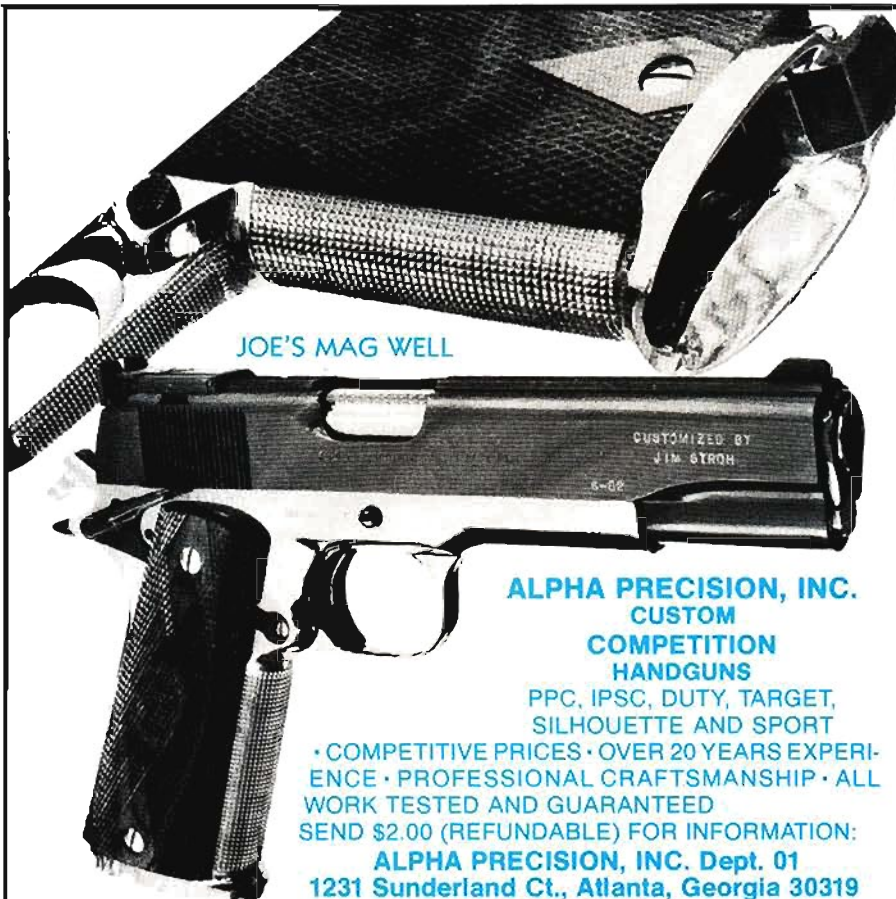


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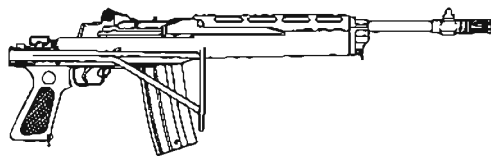


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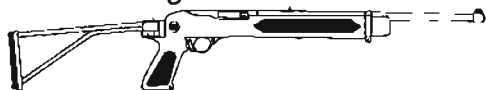
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1401	Choate	Folding Chief Stock (Side Folding as Illustrated) Nitex	95.00
1402	Fed. Ord.	MK III Folding Stock (Clears 30-rd. Magazine)	49.95
1460	Ram-Line	Folding Stock (Side Folding with Premium Walnut)	99.00
1403	Fed. Ord.	Handguard Ventilated Steel	5.75
1404	Fed. Ord.	Handguard Ventilated Stainless	8.50
1405	Choate	Handguard (Copy of Factory)	11.00
1406	Drasen	Flashider (Locks around Front Sight)	6.50
1407	Fed. Ord.	Flashider Permanent Blue	9.50
1408	Fed. Ord.	Flashider Permanent Stainless	12.75
1411	GI	Flashider and Front Sight (M-1 Style)	17.50
1417	Drasen	Flashider	24.95
1418	Feather	Flashider Blue w/Lug	6.50
1419	Feather	Flashider SS w/Lug	20.95
1420	Fed. Ord.	Magazine (20-rd)	26.95
1421	Fed. Ord.	Magazine Stainless (20-rd)	6.50
1430	Fed. Ord.	Magazine (30-rd)	8.95
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1600	Choate	Executive Letter Opener (Fiber-glass-filled Plastic Combat Knife)	7.00

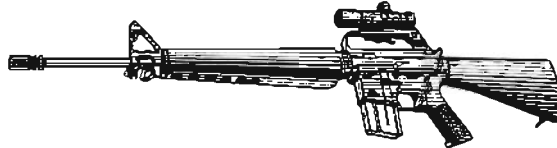
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★ 1655	Feather	Barrel Shroud 16"	34.95
1656	UZI	Barrel Shroud 10-1/4"	42.50
★ 1660	Feather	Flash Hider	11.25
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★ 1640	Bingham	Magazine (40-rd)	19.95

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1590	Leatherwood	Scope Mount	12.75
1691	Feather	Scope Mount	7.50

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STOCK NO.	MFG.	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
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1301	Bingham	Folding Stock Walnut Original M-1 Style	69.95
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A Father's Advice

If a sportsman true you'd be
Listen carefully to me . . .

Never, never let your gun
Pointed be at anyone.
That it may unloaded be
Matters not the least to me.

When a hedge or fence you cross
Though of time it cause a loss
From your gun the cartridge take
For the greater safety's sake.

If twixt you and neighboring gun
Bird shall fly or beast may run
Let this maxim ere be thine
"Follow not across the line."

Stops and beaters oft unseen
Lurk behind some leafy screen.
Calm and steady always be
"Never shoot where you can't see."

You may kill or you may miss
But at all times think of this:
"All the pheasants ever bred
Won't repay for one man dead."

Written by Mark Beaufoy of Coombe House, Shaftsbury, Dorset, England, in 1902, on presenting his eldest son, Henry Mark, with his first gun. Reproduced here by permission of the author's granddaughter, Mrs. P. M. Guild.



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