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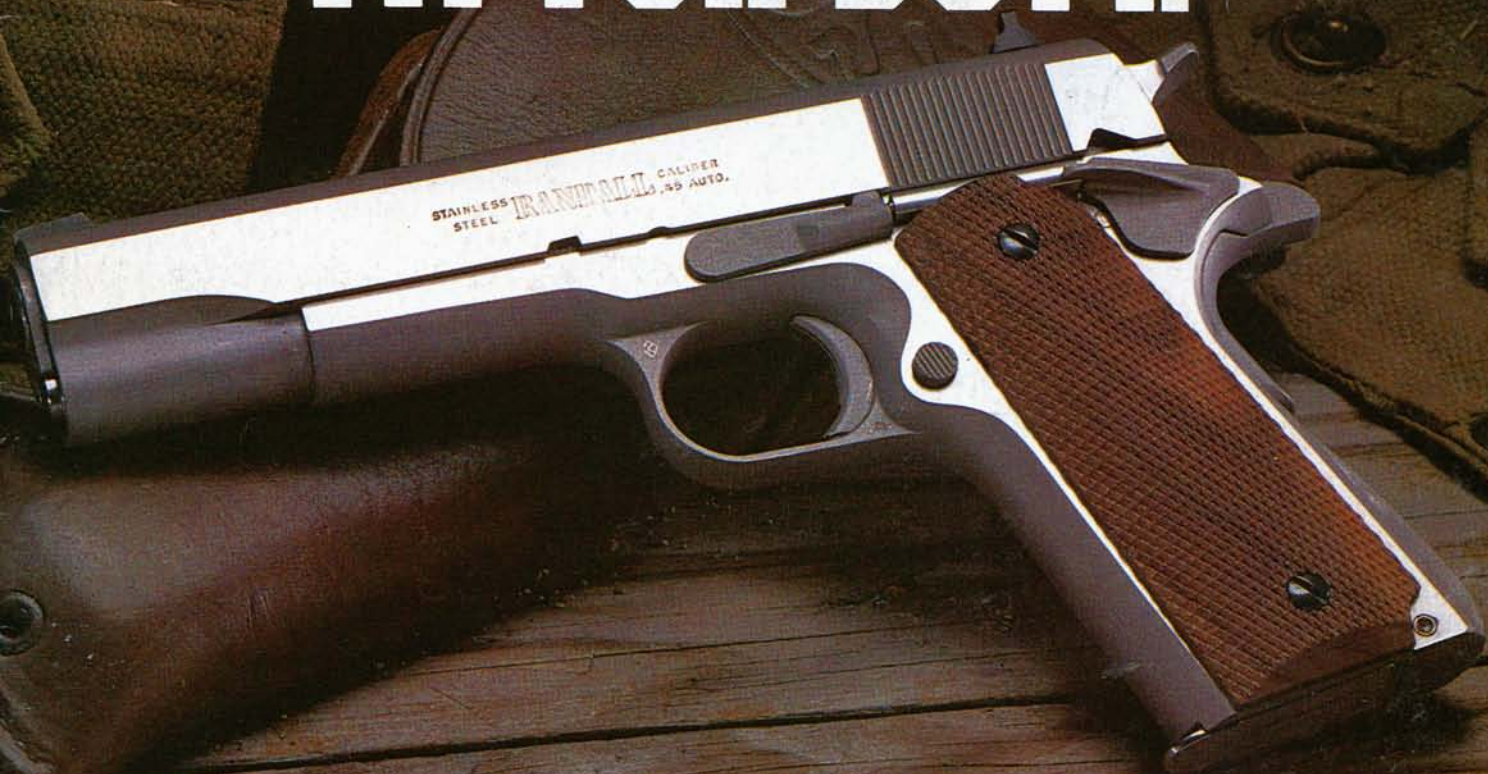
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AMERICAN HANDGUNNER

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COVER: Originally a Webley .38 Spec., this prototype was converted to .44 Spec. Photo by Karl Bosselmann of Sedona, Arizona.

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INDUSTRY INSIDER

JERRY RAKUSAN

WELL-KNOWN REVOLVER MAKER EYES AUTOMATIC PISTOL MARKET

As this is written (early November), there is little hard news about the handgun industry; most of the manufacturers and importers are holding off any announcements until the 1983 SHOT Show in Dallas, early in January.

There are, however, some interesting tidbits that we will pass along, just as we heard them. The most exciting one comes from a spokesman for Detonics. The success of its mini-.45 has given the company confidence in the market, and it'll be offering several new handguns in 1983. The first is a full-size .45, probably in several configurations; full IPSC style and stark street dress. Next will come a pocket 9mm, said to be just a hair bigger than the .380 Back Up, in double-action.

Detonics will, I predict, raise a few eyebrows with its offering of a modern double-action, top-break revolver in stainless steel, and featuring interchangeable barrels in calibers from .357 to .44 Mag-

num. All will be introduced at the SHOT Show, but deliveries probably will be staggered throughout 1983.

RUGER INTERNATIONAL?

A British handgun magazine, quoting a German handgun magazine, tells an intriguing tale of a French 9mm revolver that utilizes a French cylinder and barrel mated to a Ruger double-action frame. The reasons for this odd marriage were not given; but a couple of these would, I'm sure, bring a sweet price on the U.S. collector market.

Those sharp cracking shots you may have heard were fired from production guns from Coonan Arms. You'll recall all the fuss about the Coonan .357 Magnum autoloader a year or so ago. Well, some of our spies have actually shot the gun, and claim the report from this fire-breathing dragon is awesome. First guns, we are told, are going to investors; but we are also told

that there shortly should be a scattering of guns in dealer's hands.

In Miami, there is also movement afoot. We hear that Taurus of Brazil will be setting up its own distribution of revolvers and auto pistols that have been imported by International Distributors. Word also out of Miami is that we should watch for a look-alike of the Beretta Minx chambered for the .22 Long Rifle cartridge.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Still among the missing—at this writing—are the Wildey 9mm and .45 Magnum gas-operated pistols, the Eagle .357 Magnum (reportedly being made in Israel) and the Arminex Tri-Fire auto. The latter has been seen in the Phoenix area, but we're not sure if these guns are further prototypes, or actual production models. The rumored rebirth of the .380 Indian Arms into the Guardian-SS is still a rumor, as far as we are concerned. The .45 double-action from Sterling appears to be on a back burner; same goes for the Mossberg.

We look for a well-known manufacturer of revolvers to announce a couple of new auto pistols in the near future. The proprietor of this firm has been nosing around Europe, and has looked at a couple of models of both rimfire and centerfire pistols that he feels will fit into his line.

Watch for our report on the SHOT Show in the May-June issue. It should clear up a lot of the haze.



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HANDGUN HUNTING

J.D. JONES

NEW HANDGUN TROPHY RECORD BOOK NOW BEING PREPARED BY SCI AND HHI

A record book for handgun trophy animals is now a reality, thanks to *Safari Club International*, the world's leading organization catering to big game hunters. SCI has active chapter organizations in every state and many foreign countries. As a part of its member services, it records and publishes a record book of all big game trophy animals. Official scorers, using SCI minimum requirements, are established throughout the U.S. and in many foreign countries.

The SCI record book does not, however, recognize the *method* by which game is taken; only that the game was taken by fair chase methods of hunting.

Accordingly, *Handgun Hunters International* (HHI) has become an affiliate of *Safari Club International*, for the purpose of strengthening both organizations and producing a record book of trophy animals taken with pistols or revolvers.

Any SCI official scorer automatically

becomes an HHI scorer. All SCI minimums and scoring methods are adopted, without modification, by HHI. Minimum requirements, set by SCI, to "make the book" are well thought out and provide realistic challenges to hunters, who receive proper recognition for successfully harvesting an animal large enough to "make the book."

HHI officials feel that handgun hunters are fully capable of competing on an equal basis with rifle hunters, and that a reduction of SCI scoring minimums to make it easier to "make the book" would be undesirable and a detriment to the sport of handgun hunting.

Considerable luck is involved in harvesting a trophy animal. Joe Blow may blunder into one his first time out. (Everyone should be so lucky.) Most trophy animals, however, are harvested only after a considerable amount of hard hunting, and passing up shots at lesser animals.

ADDRESSES FOR HHI, SCI

Only animals taken by handguns since January 1, 1970 are accepted for the record book. For further information, write HHI, POB .357 MAG (AH), Bloomingdale, OH 43910. Annual membership in HHI is \$15. For further information about SCI and its excellent publication, *Safari*, write SCI (Box AH), 5151 E. Broadway, Tucson, AZ 85711.

Recently, I've been deluged with misinformation, both written and verbal, regarding the suitability of using scope sights on handguns. So I'm going to make an attempt to clear up some of these misconceptions.

Mounting is of utmost importance. Many bad experiences are due to bad mounting jobs, or poorly designed mounts. When recoil intensity of the .357 Magnum is exceeded, over-the-counter mounts start coming off with great regularity. A custom mount usually is a better choice on heavy recoiling guns.

When hunting, always take along a spare scope. When buying one, consider the T/C 3X, Leupold 2X and 4X, and Redfield 2.5X and 4X. Some of these products will fail on occasion, but overall reliability generally is high. If you have a broken scope, send it directly to the factory. It will either be rebuilt to new specs, or replaced. No questions will be asked, and there'll be no charge.

Continued on page 16

The Ducks of North America

William J. Koelpin, dean of American wood carvers, creates a definitive collection of hand-painted miniatures—the first ever to portray every species of duck in North America.

Thirty-six intricately detailed miniatures in all—available by subscription only.

Hand-painted duck decoys have a beauty and fascination all their own. Crafted according to traditional skills passed down from generation to generation, decoys today are admired and sought after by collectors as unique expressions of American folk art. Yet never has there been a collection portraying *all* the species of North America's ducks—until now.

For now, the dean of American wood carvers, William J. Koelpin, has accepted a commission from The Franklin Gallery to create just such a collection. A collection of *miniature decoys* portraying all of the 36 different kinds of wild ducks native to North America. Each decoy will be superbly detailed—hand-painted in its full natural colors. Together, they will form an unprecedented display of sporting art in a uniquely American collecting tradition.

Classics—by an acknowledged master



The art of William J. "Bill" Koelpin has won numerous awards and can be seen in major museums and private collections throughout the country. In 1974, Koelpin was chosen "Best in World" at the World Championship Wild Fowl Carving Competition in Salisbury, Maryland. He has been named "Master of the

Guild" by the International Wood Carving Guild. And our nation's most prestigious wildlife museum—the Lehigh-Yawkey-Woodson Art Museum in Wausau, Wisconsin—has called him "one of America's premier artists."

Bill Koelpin's enormous talent—his artistic mastery, his accuracy and complete authenticity—will be in evidence throughout The Ducks of North America Miniature Decoy Collection.

Working directly in miniature, he has hand-carved an original master for each species of duck. From these master models, expert craftsmen take special molds, so incredibly detailed that they capture every line and curve of the sculptor's art. Each decoy in the collection is then crafted from these molds in a blend of resins and wood to create a perfect miniature. A

8



work so lifelike, in every respect, that you will actually be able to see the *attitude* of the bird ... the *texture* of its wing plumage ... and the true-to-scale *proportion* of each species—from the majestic Mallard and King Eider to the compact Surf Scoter.

The rich colors and shadings of nature

To add to the life-like realism of the collection, each miniature decoy is then individually hand-painted in as many as twelve colors. These colors are carefully chosen and painstakingly applied to accurately define the rich hues and subtle shadings found in nature.

The iridescent green hood of the Mallard, for example. The steel-blue head and muted speckled breast of the Blue-winged Teal. And the brilliant plumage of the Wood Duck—a rainbow of purple, green, burgundy and bronze.



Indeed, this individual hand painting of each miniature is the only way to achieve the *authenticity* that distinguishes the most desirable decoys.

The result of all this

Miniature Decoy Collection



BY *Wm. J. Koelpin*

will provide a dramatic accent for the walls of a study, den or office. Its design allows ample room for the collection to be arranged in any of several ways.

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Decoys, at left, shown reduced. Average length is 3 inches. The base of each decoy will bear the name of the species portrayed, the signature of the artist, and the copyright of The Franklin Gallery.

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meticulous craftsmanship is a collection of 36 miniature decoys that represents a truly remarkable achievement. For each one is faithful to nature. Crafted with the precision and detail that would do credit to a full-size decoy—in a miniature that rests comfortably in the palm of your hand.

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So that these superb hand-painted miniatures may be displayed to their best advantage, a handsome display rack will be included as part of the collection.

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COMBAT SHOOTING

MICKEY FOWLER

HANDGUN SHOOTING SPORTS GROWTH KEYED TO MORE NATIONAL EXPOSURE

Editor's note: 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 column. Now, over to Mickey.

Q. What is the trend in combat shooting equipment? Is the sport going overboard, with respect to exotic, and excluding potentially good shooters who cannot afford to spend nearly \$1,000 for a customized auto?

A. Before Jeff Cooper organized the South West Pistol League in the early 1960s, combat shooting was almost exclusively a police activity. The double-action revolver ruled supreme in PPC (Practical Pistol Course) shooting, as it still does today—for two reasons. First, automatic pistols were disallowed by the rules. Secondly, most police officers used revolvers for their duty sidearms. It must be understood that the so-called police combat matches (PPC) do not really test or teach contestants the ability to survive a real gunfight, other than to teach the proper sight picture, trigger squeeze, and marksmanship fundamentals.

Cooper, a civilian not under the control of a government agency, developed a progressive program of more realistic tests of actual combat skills. These early matches were the forerunners of modern IPSC (International Practical Shooting Confederation) pistol competition. Scoring on IPSC targets is divided into two categories, minor and major. This means that .38 and 9mm calibers (minors) receive the same score for a center hit, less the point value for a shot out of the center zone. Major calibers are .357 Magnum and .45 ACP.

One unfortunate aspect of IPSC shooting is that many stages require rapid reloading. This completely rules out revolver shooters from having a chance to win major events. When one looks at the overall picture, it becomes crystal clear why the .45 government model auto is the overwhelming choice of match winners. First, you must choose the .45 (or other major calibers) to score maximum points for anything other than a center hit. Second, you must have an auto pistol to reload quickly. Rightly or wrongly, the revolvers have been ruled out of IPSC competition.

Now that we have revealed why the .45 auto rules supreme, let's examine the recent developments and modifications performed on this great old pistol. From the

early 1960s to the late 1970s, there were some basic changes: better sights, beveled magazine wells, improved trigger pulls, speed and ambidextrous safeties, squared trigger guards, and accuracy/reliability work. These modifications are still found on today's pistols. Long slides were also used by some competitors.

It is important to remember the original intent of practical shooting, as we know it today. Courses of fire are to be shot and solved in what is known as *free-style* competition, which means just what the name implies: the contestant is free to choose what he believes is the best shooting style and equipment (including pistol modifications) to produce the best scores on a particular combat course. By keeping competition *free-style*, we are able to make progress in developing better shooting styles and improving equipment: holsters, pistols and ammo.

When Ray Chapman won the first IPSC world match, in 1975, he used a Jim Hoag modified .45 auto, which he sold to an acquaintance after the match for \$1,000. IPSC-modified .45 autos have never been cheap, especially if the modifications are carried out by the better-known gunsmiths.

The so-called *exotica*, which includes pin guns, muzzle brakes and compensators, only account for about a 15-percent increase in overall cost.

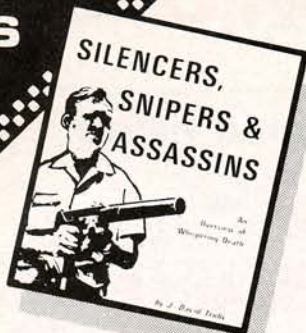
The effectiveness of these additions can be debated. Some say they are impractical; others say we are improving the breed. Pistols with compensators, and so-called pin guns, do slightly reduce recoil, enabling the shooter to fire "double taps" more quickly. ("Double taps" are two shots fired in rapid succession at one target.) They also have a slight advantage in increasing sight radius over the standard five-inch barrel guns. The only disadvantage is slightly slower handling.

To those who think practical pistol shooting handguns are going the way of PPC revolvers, remember that the only real difference between a 1975 state-of-the-art pistol and a 1982 version is the addition of a one-inch long compensator.

A competition five-inch barrel gun can cost anywhere from \$600 to \$1,500. So you can see that a limit on pistol length is not going to do much to reduce costs. I believe any shooter with real talent, and who can afford to buy a \$600 pistol and the neces-

Continued on page 25

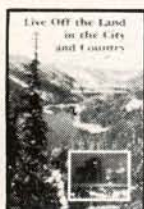
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SILENCERS, SNIPERS & ASSASSINS

by J. David Truby

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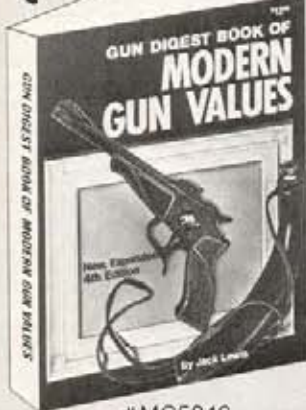
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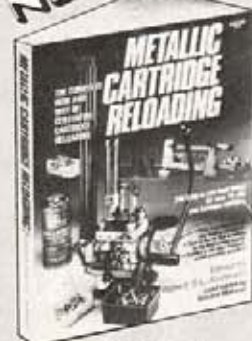
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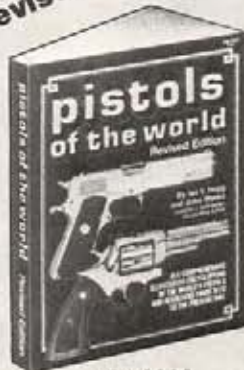
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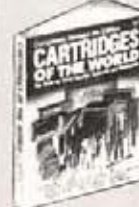


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COP TALK

MASSAD AYOOB

POSSESSION OF A SHOOTING SCHOOL CERTIFICATE NOT A TEACHING TICKET

Editor's note: Here is the second of a 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 need to know, with respect to the selection of available schools with courses designed to meet your objectives.

In the first part of this series, we talked about how to make sure the handgun school you select is a good one. Let's expand on that a bit, then get into how to plan your course of study.

When you check out your instructor's training certificate, make sure he is certified to *train*. Neither Jeff Cooper, nor Ray Chapman, nor John Farnam, nor ISI (International Shootists, Inc.) nor John Shaw, nor I certify people to teach what we teach. If someone says his certification to teach is his certificate of course completion at Gunsite or Lethal Force Institute, for example, he's BS-ing you. Jeff teaches people combat shooting and I teach them the judicious use of deadly force, but neither of us teaches others how to *teach*; we don't have the time. The fact that your instructor has taken an expensive, big-name training course is fine; but it's not the *only* credential you want him to have.

If a man takes my police course as a certified instructor in weapons, officer survival or defensive tactics, he emerges qualified to teach *my* methods of shooting and lethal threat management. Others may have certified him to teach, but in my intensive written exams, I prove his knowledge of *my* system. If the man has been *only* to Gunsite, or wherever, and tells you *that's* his ticket to teach—be leery.

Now, let's plan your *Formal Education with the Handgun*. A rank beginner can start with any of the many inexpensive handgun safety and basic marksmanship courses taught at gun clubs and gun shops around the country. That's elementary; most of you readers have gone considerably beyond that point already.

LEARN 'BASICS' FIRST

You don't want to buy your first gun and then come to someone like Jeff or me. It's a waste of your money. You can learn the basics a whole lot cheaper at home. I won't accept students who haven't fired a hand-

gun. I've trained such people, but it didn't prove economical for them, because I have the responsibility not to slow down the training line for students who already know basic handgun nomenclature and safety—and want to progress, quickly.

It is vital to *chart your course of study*. If you want to learn how to be an IPSC (International Practical Shooting Confederation) champion, don't come to me; I teach *only* the use of deadly force in self defense; you would be much better served at the Chapman Academy, ISI, or MISS (Mid-South Institute of Self-Defense Shooting). By the same token, if pure street survival is your concern, you might get more for your money at Cooper's American Pistol Institute, or at my Lethal Force Institute.

There is such a thing as "transferable credits" in this game. If you've been to a *Cooper Basic* you can get into a *Chapman Intermediate*, or vice versa. Before taking a course, check and see whether it is an acceptable "prerequisite" for a more advanced program at another academy.

Do you want training in street combat gunfighting, threat management, or competition shooting? Decide for yourself, and then get as much information from the various academies as you can *before* you draft your course syllabus. Cops have more leverage than civilians, in this respect. Having taken basic courses at the FBI Academy or completed the NRAs police firearms program is enough to get you into the *Advanced Course* at the Smith & Wesson Academy. But S&W won't take you as a potential Police Instructor until you've passed its *Advanced Course*.

If you've taken the civilian course at my Lethal Force Institute, you can go directly into Chapman Academy's *Intermediate* program; but if you're a cop who's taken my *Lethal Threat Management* course, you can move right into Chapman's *Advanced* course.

THE DISCIPLINES

Let's look at the different disciplines being taught around the nation:

Safety: Available for next to nothing from your local Fish & Game Department, or your nearest gun club. Contact the National Rifle Association, 1600 Rhode Island Ave. N.W., Washington, DC 20036 for a contact at your state's Rifle and Pistol Association. The

Continued on page 26

GUN INITIATIVE KILLED IN CALIF.

By Len Davis

The California handgun initiative is dead, killed by voters who refused to be duped by the opposition.

Proposition 15 was defeated 2-to-1.

The gun measure would have required registration of handguns in the state, with mandatory sentences for carrying concealed, unregistered pistols and revolvers. It also would have limited the number of handguns allowed in the state.

The prohibition of future sales of newly made handguns was a restriction that some observers said caused many voters to oppose the initiative.

So decisive was the vote that the gun control sponsors conceded defeat a half hour after the polls closed.

POLLS WRONG

For many years, polls have shown that most Americans favor gun control, and it has been said that the will of the majority has been thwarted by a vocal, well-financed minority. Election results indicated that interpretation may not have been correct.

The victorious opposition predicted that the defeat of Proposition 15 would set back efforts at gun control throughout the nation.

The gun control proponents, however, while conceding defeat, indicated that they were not through fighting and would propose a similar ballot measure again.

Supporters of Proposition 15 said they were defeated by heavy spending on the part of gun owners and manufacturers who, along with the National Rifle Association, overwhelmed the sponsors in fund raising and other grass-roots activities.

An analysis of media support, showed that virtually all major newspapers in California were in favor of Proposition 15, and so expressed their stand in strong editorials urging voters to vote "yes" on the initiative.

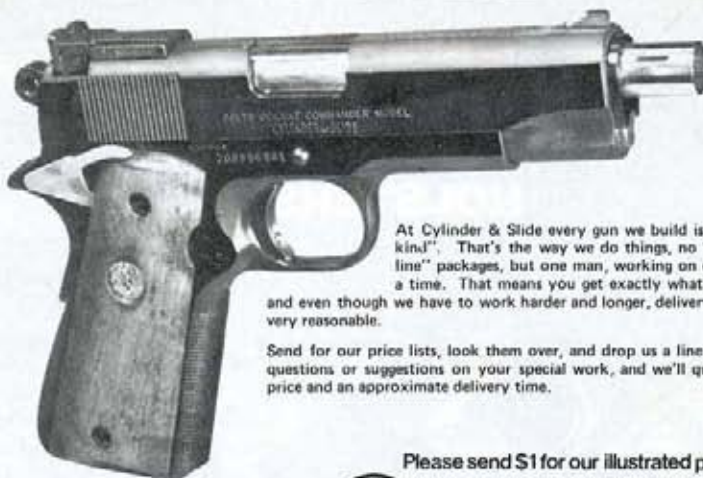
POLICE OPPOSED INITIATIVE

Paradoxically, 54 of California's 58 working sheriffs, 94 chiefs of police and 13 state organizations of working law enforcement officers declared their opposition to Proposition 15.

Proponents of Proposition 15 tried to sell the initiative as a "registration" issue. Actually, California already requires registration of all new sales of handguns, and has the longest waiting

Continued on page 68

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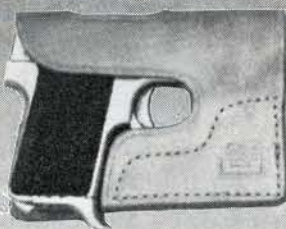
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HANDGUN HUNTING

Continued from page 7

Improper scope mounting (usually too far forward) is a real problem. The high sight line on scoped revolvers does take some getting used to. The T/C is the most "natural" for scoping. The XP also requires getting used to. The autos (.22s in particular) take to scopes like ducks take to water.

SCOPE'S AN ADVANTAGE

Few rifle hunters use iron sights, so why degrade a pistol hunter for using a scoped gun? The old fallacy that "you can't hit moving targets with a scoped pistol" is pure nonsense. I've shot running jackrabbits offhand at more than a 100 yards with a critical Seibert-Leupold 12X conversion to a long eye relief 6-8X. And I've probably shot 20 or so head of medium game—moving—with scoped pistols. If you are proficient with a scope, it's an advantage to use one on both moving or standing game.

Don't look through the tube and try to find the target. Keep both eyes open, look at the target and put the sight between you and the target. Line up and touch it off. Yes, I know that's the way to use iron sights. It's also the right way to use a scope, and it's easier. Don't try to change your style from iron to glass. To sharpen up on moving targets (from inside your house or some place where you aren't visible), try lining up on the wheels of passing cars and squeezing off several shots (with an empty gun!). With a scope you'll know exactly where it's at, when the trigger breaks.

"I wobble too much with a scope," some shooters say. You wobble just as much without one, only you don't notice it.

"A scope's too slow," some shooters say. It's not the scope, it's you. Try practicing. Optical sights are gaining popularity in "practical" pistol shooting, for a good reason.

Drop me a line at the HHI or SCI address. I'll try to answer your questions in this column.



INFO 'QUICKIE'

In 1931, Walther produced its Model PPK (Police Pistol *Kriminal*), an abbreviated version of the PP. The PPK was intended to be used as a pocket pistol, while the PP was considered a holster arm. Both guns were produced in .22 LR, .25 ACP, .32 ACP and .380 Automatic. The .25 ACP version is considered the rarest because there were fewer produced in that caliber. (By the way, "Kriminal" meant for German *detective* divisions.)

SIGHT SETTINGS

LUCY CHAMBLISS

PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF SHOOTING SPORTS IS VITAL TO ITS VERY EXISTENCE

Editor's note: this is Lucy's last column. She plans to do an occasional story for the *American Handgunner*, time permitting. Lucy has made many valuable contributions to this magazine. Our readers will miss her. So will we. Good luck, Lucy!

Did you ever think in the dark days of handgunning that you'd ever live to see the public pay to watch our sport? The time did come in *Sports Festival IV*, in Indianapolis, last July. The ticket price (\$3.) was the same to see one performance of Men's or Women's Figure Skating, or the Free Pistol Match and Ladies .22 Match. More than 400 people paid to get on the range to watch both of these pistol matches. The public is, indeed, learning to appreciate our sport.

I cannot say enough good things about the City of Indianapolis' fine promotion of *Sports Festival IV*. It, along with the Olympic Committee and the NRA, had a well-oiled operation that was a joy to be a part of. I was met at the airport by a volunteer who helped me and other arriving athletes gather our gear and board a bus to our assigned living quarters. The gentleman who met me said he was one of 6,000 volunteers the city had recruited to help.

Unlike Syracuse, during *Sports Festival III*—when everyone was housed at the city's one university—Indianapolis had to put up athletes at several universities and motels. We shooters, along with fencers, basketball players and others, had very pleasant dormitory accommodations at Indiana Central University. Cafeteria hours gave us a chance to eat almost any time of the day, beginning at 6 a.m., and the box lunches brought to the range were excellent.

Our firearms still had to be secured, first at the university, and later at the range. Even though Indiana does not have the fearsome gun laws we experienced in New York state, 24-hour security is customary at any Hoosier university. But I still miss not keeping my handguns with me; a room looks rather bare without them.

Levi Strauss, outfitters for the sports festivals and the 1984 Olympics, issued a handsome warm-up suit, three shirts, a windbreaker, cap, a pair of jeans and an equipment bag to each participant.

The pistol ranges were at Eagle Creek Park; the air pistol, for men only, was fired at the Army Reserve Center indoor range.

The buses delivered us to the ranges each morning about eight o'clock. New baffles, wind protectors, and shooting tables had been installed for the matches. The NRAs lightning-fast aluminum target frames and timer were provided. The Indiana National Guard and Army Reserve personnel acted as scorers and other range officials. We were given two days of practice. The spectacular opening ceremonies for the festival, held in downtown Indianapolis and attended by the 3,000 athletes and thousands of spectators, took place the night before our pistol events began.

RECOGNIZED SPORT

The ceremonies were an outstanding production, including Bob Hope's show for the athletes. I watched them on television (because I was recovering from the flu) and realized shooting had definitely arrived as a recognized sport.

As our pistol matches got underway the next day, the bleachers began to fill with spectators, in spite of the warm sun. Cars continued to enter the parking lot and their occupants—predominantly middle-age or younger couples, many with teenagers—walked to the two side-by-side pistol ranges to watch the shooting take place.

As the first relay went to the line, Art Fox of Parker, Arizona, described the course of fire to the audience and gave a few details on the various used guns. Several telescopes had been set up for the spectators to look at the shooters' targets. There were two relays for the eight-women team; first was *Precision Fire*, which takes about 1½ hours to shoot and score, and then *Duel*, which goes much faster. When performed by the International "book", as it is at the sports festivals, it does have tremendous spectator appeal. The shooter fires five shots in six minutes, for "*Precision Fire*", and then the scorers go forward and call out (and mark by a pointer) each shot value for the shooter and the team captain's verification—to the delight of the spectators.

For *Duel*, the same scoring procedure is followed. If you're good enough to get all 10s, or a 50x50, the spectators cheer and applaud. In addition, a large scoreboard for each shooter—with each shot marked in

Continued on page 27

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SILUETAS

PHILIP C. BRIGGS

SHOOT METALLIC SILHOUETTES INDOORS WITH AIR PISTOLS

Mention airguns to most American shooters and they conjure up a mental picture of a lever-action Daisy BB gun or a Benjamin pump pellet pistol. Guns of their youth. Fine for bugs in the backyard, or starlings on the roof; or the neighbor's obnoxious dog—but for little else.

When we were growing up with these casual plinkers, Europeans were growing up with precision airguns; now that they are grown, they still shoot them.

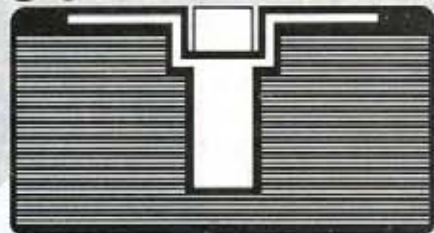
Europeans have been using airguns since the 1600s—and even before. As open land got scarcer, as people got thicker and as gun rules got stricter, those in the shooting sports turned to airguns. Not for hunting, as that always was the sport of the rich and landed, but for competition; both formal and casual.

As a result of the near total reliance of competition shooters on airguns, they have

achieved a high state of development in Europe. Pistols, for example, have evolved to a level of precision and refinement that surpasses all but the finer, most expensive firearms. Sophisticated free pistols feature orthopedic grips, fully adjustable triggers, large and distinct iron sights, various barrel weights, and accuracies that equal or exceed a silhouette shooter's unlimited gun.



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These airguns are far removed from those of our youth and have a place in the shooting sports in America much the same as they do in Europe. Airgun shooting opportunities are unlimited; your own home or backyard has enough space for the tiny paper targets normally used, and the noise is virtually nil. With the ready availability of places to practice, airgun shooting opportunities are many and increased skill through frequent practice will come rapidly. Airguns are safe to shoot and require easy-to-construct backstops. They are safe to own and safer still for training. Shooting cost is low; even the best airgun pellets cost but a fraction of the price of .22 LR ammo.

The NRA has established bullseye competition programs for air pistols at both national and international levels. Airgun competition has even become an Olympic event.

Airgun silhouette pistol competition also is covered by NRA-sanctioned programs. Targets, available from at least two airgun suppliers, are scaled down to but a tenth of the size of long-range targets. Shooting distances for air pistol competition are 15, 20, 25 and 30 meters. Matches are fired from the standing position. Any .177 or .22 caliber air pistol can be used.

The NRA has altered its freestyle long-range match to require the use of the half-size hunters pistol targets for freestyle competition. Just visualize how those first

Continued on page 28

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HOW TO ASSEMBLE, TROUBLESHOOT AN AFTERMARKET MODEL 1911 AUTO

To hear some gun writers tell it, all you have to do is assemble the appropriate aftermarket parts, apply a few drops of oil and your pistol is ready for the range.

I haven't found that to be the case with the hundred or so Model 1911 .45s I have worked into acceptable autos. My experiences with these aftermarket frames and slides—from several manufacturers—are not really typical; all were sets obtained at random from available sources. When the owners experienced difficulties, they packaged and sent me the loose pieces. There is nothing so forlorn as a box of parts that require heroic efforts to fit together to create a reliable and accurate combat gun.

Every aftermarket frame is well made, by current manufacturing standards. Most problems encountered are directly related to the tolerances of individual components obtained from a variety of sources. Factory replacement parts now run to minimum tolerances, and these seem to swim around in maximum size holes or mortises. Many surplus parts are well made and seem to fit virtually any pistol, while others are sub-standard rejects, once sold as scrap, and later resurrected to pass as good, serviceable parts.

Many of these parts found at gun shows have proved to be badly worn commercial or military discards that have been "recycled" by blueing or parkerizing to hide wear and defects. Some pins have been made by enterprising suppliers of material too soft for use in firearms.

EXAMINE PARTS CAREFULLY

Available magazines run the gamut from those poorly made on crude machinery, to precise units better in every respect than those supplied originally with the pistol.

The best advice I can offer is to examine carefully—preferably with a magnifying glass—all aftermarket components. Even reputable dealers have been taken in by purveyors of recycled junk in their eagerness to enter the profitable parts market, where almost anything related to pistols will sell.

In assembling a Model 1911 .45, the slide-to-frame fit is the first problem to solve. Seldom do these two parts mate satisfactorily without at least some work. Tight slides are easiest to fit; they usually require only a small amount of filing, stoning and polishing. Loose slides, however, require judicious bending, by employing

commercially available bending blocks and spacers. Don't try to bend a hard National Match slide; it usually cracks before or while bending. Furthermore, its sight seating was designed for a special shape of front blade. Best to reserve these types for bullseye pistols.

When properly fitted, a bullseye pistol's slide will retract and return to battery smoothly, without perceptible side play, or tight/loose spots. If you finish with your slide tight at the rear, but loose at the front, you will have to open the rear slightly and uniformly bend the rails into line contact; then stone smooth.



RELIABILITY VS. ACCURACY

Combat pistols generally are fitted more loosely than bullseye pistols. Shooters of these autos regard reliable functioning as factor *numero uno*, whereas bullseye shooters are more concerned with a pistol that will deliver accuracy greater than they can ever possibly hold.

Bullseye shooters have considerably more time for proper hold and sight alignment than do combat shooters. If their pistol malfunctions, they can call for an alibi run. There are no alibi runs in combat shooting. These differences account for the variances in tolerance between the two classes of pistols.

A tight, or binding, trigger is easily corrected by stoning and polishing both the frame mortise and the trigger itself. It should, ideally, be loose enough to push through smoothly with no tight or loose spots, have no side play and yet be loose enough to re-set with normal spring pressure.

A loose trigger can be tightened to attain good line contact, by careful staking with a flat point punch. Displacing metal outward, the flat punch is used in several



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places. Stoning and polishing will then bring the trigger into proper specs.

THE WEAK LINK

Loose disconnectors have been the weak link in many otherwise fine trigger jobs. The only permanent way to correct this common problem is to look for a larger diameter disconnector, or bush the hole in the frame. The latter procedure requires drilling the bushing (made of high carbon steel) to a good linear fit on the disconnector, then reaming from the bottom with a taper reamer until the disconnector operates properly under slow and rapid fire conditions. It's all a case of "cut and try."

Mainspring housings are often too large, requiring only judicious stoning, but sometimes will be found to be so undersize that they rock in the frame, giving a most insecure feeling when firing. There are several solutions. The most common one is to resort to the flat end punch to displace metal in several spots over the length of bearing, then to stone to a good sliding fit. Often, the grip safety will have to be filed, to allow the hammer strut to clear after this displacement.

A grip safety may vary in many ways. Some will not allow the trigger to trip the sear; others are too loose and require a spot weld to build up length. The too-long-variety can be stoned, a few strokes at a time, until the spring sets the safety easily, without allowing any perceptible play. The stepped portion may require some stoning, to allow the trigger to trip the sear. This may be changed somewhat when the hammer and sear are stoned into good contact to provide a decent letoff. Always do that portion of a trigger job first; it will save problems and expense later.

SPRINGS WEAKEN WITH AGE

Magazine catches sometimes are over-size; these will require stoning until they produce a free fit in the frame. Depress the catch button and make sure it does not bind in its extreme position. Catch springs weaken with age, so it is best to solve the problem *before* it presents greater ones on the range, or on the street.

An undersize magazine catch lock should be discarded and replaced. Undersize locks have a nasty habit of working loose during firing.

Thumb safeties require extensive stoning and polishing to fit properly to some frames. The detent face may require filing, stoning and polishing before the safety works properly. Internally, it should lock up securely without any perceptible extra pressure having to be exerted. Always check the thumb safety with the slide on the frame.

Slide stops often require a small dimple where the plunger contacts the face in the down position, to prevent its working up with rounds still in the magazine.

Continued on page 60

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FOR BETTER HANDLOADS, IMPROVE YOUR BASIC PRIMING PROCEDURES

There is less room for art in the science of seating primers than the average handloader realizes.

What's really needed is an understanding of just what a primer is, and how it does its job. If you're accustomed to seating primers on a bench press, however, and if you've convinced yourself you can feel when correct seating depth has been reached—time after time—you're crediting yourself with an impossible degree of tactile sensitivity.

All of us are closer to the desired level of sensitivity when we're using low-leverage tools—such as the tong-type, or the little Lee primer seater—where the mechanical advantage is not sufficient to lift a 1939 Packard. Still, the tactile system does not compare favorably with one that employs an undefeatable mechanical means of establishing uniform seating depth, regardless of case-to-case irregularities in pocket dimensions and rim thicknesses.

Let's review some facts about the primer, and your part in its critical function.

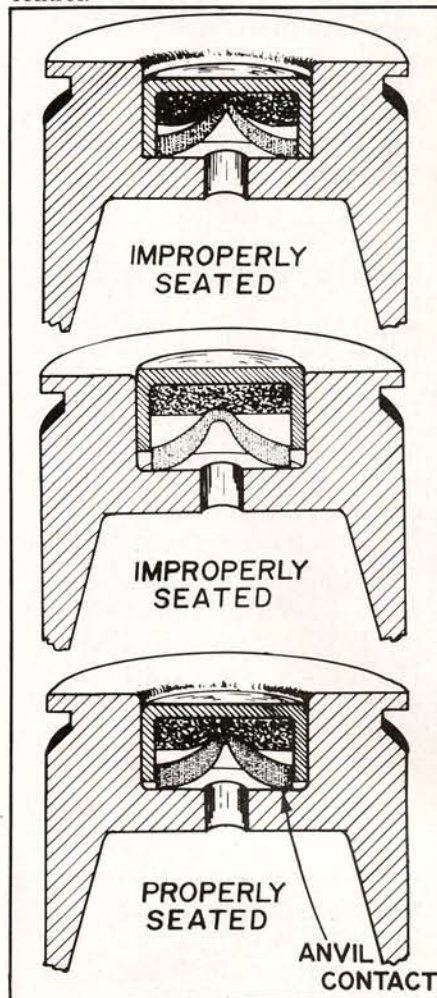
This potent, shock-sensitive little component doesn't leave the factory ready for action—not quite. It must withstand the jostling and unpredictable tests of shipping and handling, and it must do so with minimum danger. The final step, the sensitizing for ignition, therefore, takes place under your control.

As you seat the primer, the legs of its anvil are moved into contact with the bottom of the pocket. The extent of contact you establish during this operation is of absolute importance, for if the legs fail to make contact firmly, ignition will not be uniform. Misfires may result and accuracy is down the tubes. The other extreme is in the primer that is seated too deeply, with its anvil driven back into the cup so as to crush some of the priming mixture.

PRIMER SEATING DEPTH

The best compromise we can achieve, considering minor variations in primer and primer pocket dimensions, has been determined as a proper seating depth of something between .003 inch and .005 inch past the surface of the case head. This is within the range of nominal seating depth in use by Federal, Remington-Peters and Winchester-Western in their factory ammo. In fact, measurements taken on ten .38 Special cartridges, from each of the manufacturers, revealed an average depth of .0038 inch.

The Federals held consistently at .003 inch, while the other two samples measured .004 inch. This is sufficient to reinforce the .003 inch to .004 inch recommendation. This can't be achieved regularly on a high-leverage press without mechanical control.



About five years ago, I wrote in praise of a priming attachment—readily adaptable to most presses—that would take the tactile element—the guesswork—out of primer seating. I had tested the item and had found it to perform as advertised. Unfortunately, between writing and publication, the company ceased operations. As a result, a lot of you who placed orders had your money returned.

It is, therefore, with some relief that I am able to report on another tool that offers the advantage of seating primers to a controlled depth.

Bonanza, of Faribault, Minnesota, has incorporated into its Co-Ax press a seating post and primer cup assembly that accomplishes the job simply. As pressure is exerted on the handle of the Co-Ax, the top of the cup stops against the head of the cartridge. Then, as the seating post moves the primer into the pocket, the cup is moved downward against light spring resistance, until it comes to a stop against a shoulder at the bottom of the post. At this point, the cup and post assembly is prevented from traveling further. However, since the post is .004 inch longer than the cup, each primer is seated to a positive, uniform depth. Variances in rim thickness do not affect this system, and neither does the amount of pressure you exert on the handle of the press.

BONANZA PRESS

It is impossible, under this type of mechanical control, to crush priming mixture, and the legs of the primer anvil will rest firmly against the bottom of the pocket, pressed lightly into the priming mixture for consistent sensitizing. This primer seating system also is featured on Bonanza's Model 68 reloading press.

Control of headspace, firing pin protrusion and striking force, along with other factors that influence uniformity of primer ignition, are important if accuracy and dependability are to be achieved. It is, however, just as important for the handloader to do his part by taking care that the precision with which primers are manufactured is not spoiled on the loading bench.

We thank Dean R. Purdie of Bonanza, and his father, for providing research information for these notes. Manufacturers, as well as individual handloaders, are always welcome to contribute to the knowledge we share in this column with readers.

You may have heard about how seating primers behind thin plastic—Saran Wrap, for example—will prevent small powder kernels from filtering through the flash hole into the primer. Although this practice would at first appear satisfactory, it is not generally a good idea. The seating of a primer involves a calculated amount of interference between the body of the primer cup and the wall of the pocket. This tightness of fit is intended to prevent primer back-up, which can be particularly troublesome in revolvers. The use of any plastic material between metal surfaces acts against frictional grip; therefore, the doubtful advantage of using plastic ahead of primers is cancelled. If that's not enough, consider the thickness of the plastic (about .00075 inch)—and double it. This could amount to enough additional stress to cause permanent enlargement of the pocket.

If you have handloading information, or any helpful comments to share, write to me at Handloading, Box 222, (AH), Pinon Hills, CA 92372.



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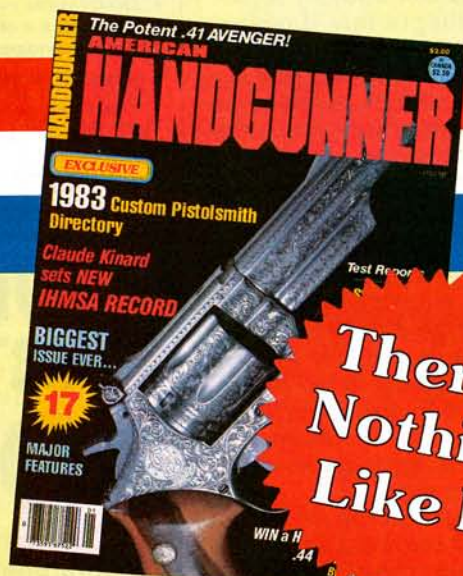
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COMBAT SHOOTING

Continued from page 10

sary practice ammo to go with it, can be competitive. In conclusion, we can say that basic course design has the most influence on pistol modifications, and equipment costs.

Q. When do you think ABC's Wide World of Sports, for example, will recognize the sport of combat shooting, to the point where national coverage will be given on that program?

A. Several factors will decide whether practical shooting gets covered by any network sports show. Probably the most important factor to the producers of such a network show is whether it will draw an audience. We who have experienced watching man vs. man shooting a falling plate match, or speed contest, on steel know how dramatic and entertaining these events can be. We must set up matches that capture the excitement on a TV screen. Improvements can be made to make handgun shooting more marketable to TV. Hit-reactive targets, with large digital clocks that instantly show the times recorded by each shooter for a particular string of fire, would certainly make practical shooting more exciting for TV viewers.

The chance for a shooter to win big money also would make shooting hard to ignore by major news media. Sports with big payoffs generally get good coverage on TV. The more we promote pistol shooting as a "sport," and play down the aspects of combat, the better the chances we have of getting TV people to cover our events. I believe that as more people are exposed to practical pistol shooting its popularity will continue to grow.

The annual Steel Challenge (world speed shooting championship) already has been covered on two different TV programs. Both showed this event as a legitimate sporting activity. We hope it will be but a short time before a major network covers practical shooting the way we feel it should be covered.

INFO 'QUICKIE'

Back in the 1870s, Smith & Wesson manufactured a revolver for the Imperial Russian government. Called the .44 Russian, or Navy Model, it was a six-shot, top-break type—the first big metallic cartridge handgun to appear on the American market. S&W made approximately 145,000 of the big revolvers for the Russians. The orders provided welcome funds for the development of S&W handguns.



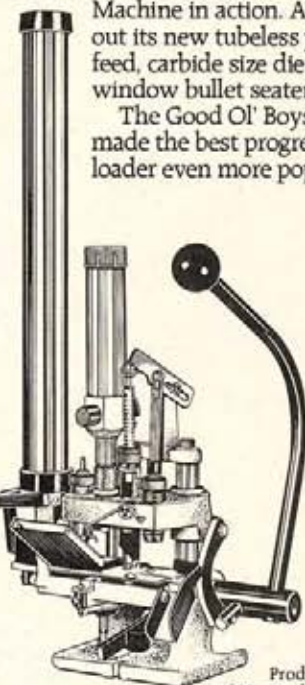
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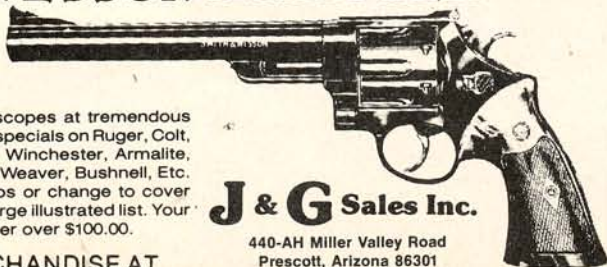


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COP TALK

Continued from page 14

state people can refer you to a club near your home, which offers competent, inexpensive handgun safety training.

Basic Marksmanship: The above sources can steer you to local clinics in basic marksmanship.

Pistolcraft: The term was coined by Jeff Cooper, and he still does a superb job of teaching the functional handling of a pistol. No matter who teaches it, a pistolcraft course should teach smooth, swift, positive handling of the sidearm out of the leather, using full-power loads.

When you reach the advanced stages, pistolcraft should be teaching you a lot of things in sufficient time to get the basics down pat; then you go on to something else. If I went to a pistolcraft school that taught me four or five techniques and then made me repeat them incessantly for a week until they were automatic, I would feel cheated. Once you've got the rudiments of a technique absorbed, you can go home and practice on your own time. You don't want to pay me, or any other instructor, \$400 to watch you practice; you are paying us that kind of money to teach you new things that, once learned, you can refine to perfection at home. You want to learn as much as you can from your instructor. Later is time enough for practice.

Deadly force: If you wish to learn self-defense, you should be taught by someone nationally certified to teach police, or a local instructor certified to teach police in your state. If the day comes when you drop the hammer on a scumbag, you want training to back you up. If the district attorney can say, "Joe Instructor taught you, but nobody taught him," you're up the creek without a paddle. In that delicate area, which requires a set of credentials completely different from marksmanship coaching, you want to learn from someone who is (a) court-acceptable—proven and certified as an "expert witness"—and (b) certified to have taught you.

In the next issue, we will finalize a suggested program for *The Study of the Handgun*, and list the names and addresses of several shooting schools and some of the specific courses they offer.



INFO 'QUICKIE'

The automatic pistol, created around the turn of the century, provided a great increase in firepower—but not necessarily in hits. To aid accuracy, many were fitted with shoulder stocks, most of which served also as the gun's holster.

SIGHT SETTINGS

Continued from page 17

big numbers—was set up in front of the bleachers. I saw many spectators waiting around through both relays to see the final 60-shot scores.

DESCRIBE ACTION

After the completion of the match, Fox introduced each of the women shooters to the crowd, telling where we were from, and so on. Each introduction brought more generous applause from interested onlookers.

All this reaffirmed my long standing belief that each match of any size should have someone describing what the shooters are doing, and certainly it should always be done at all important championships, such as those at Black Canyon and Camp Perry. Try charging admission and then provide a guided tour, as Fox did. Sometimes if people don't pay for something, they consider it worthless. I understand the NRA has some type of audio-visual machine that could be set up at matches to describe the shooting events.

The media was not discouraged by the 30-minute ride to the range at Eagle Creek. Representatives came and interviewed many shooters. My score of 571x600 won the bronze medal. Lori Kamler, a new but excellent handgunner from San Francisco, won the gold with 579 and Ruby Fox, the silver with a 577.

The shooting weather was perfect—low humidity, low temperature and no wind. Colorado Springs, host for *Sports Festival V*, will have to work hard to equal the nice things done by the people of central Indiana.

If the NRAs present public education plan continues to succeed, spectators no longer will be left out of the shooting picture. The public's understanding of our sport, *as a sport*, is absolutely necessary to its existence, in my opinion.

Anyone disagree?



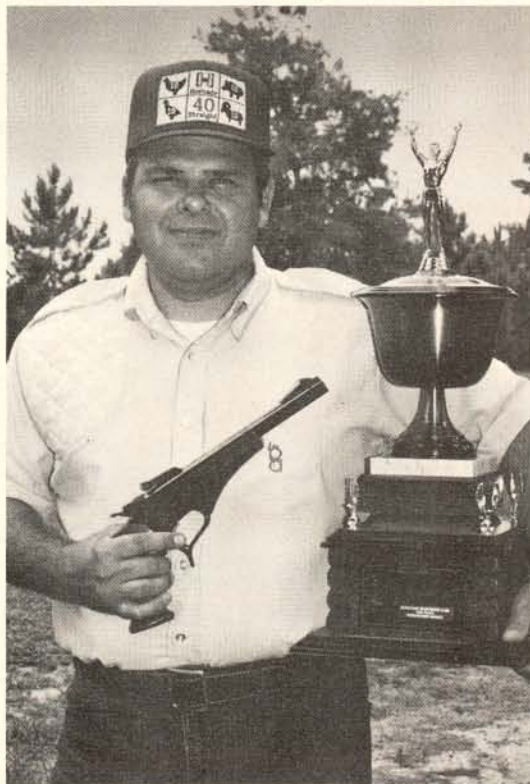
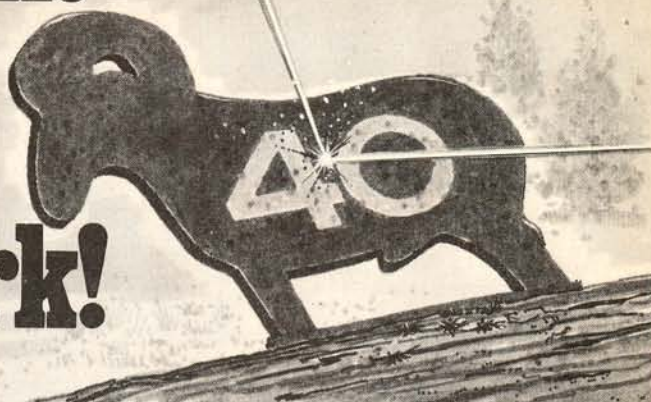
INFO 'QUICKIE'

The .22 Long cartridge invariably is referred to as a combination of the .22 Long Rifle case and the .22 Short bullet. This isn't true, because the .22 Long is about 16 years older than the .22 Long Rifle. It is listed in the 1871 Great Western Gun Works catalog for the seven-shot Standard revolver. The .22 Long Rifle cartridge didn't come on the market until 1887.

The .22 Long originally was a black powder cartridge, loaded with a 29-grain bullet and five grains of powder.

It is not as accurate as the Short or Long Rifle and has outlived any useful purpose.

Right on the mark!



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168 gr.
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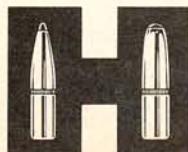
7MM
154 gr.
SP

7MM
175 gr.
SP

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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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SILUETAS

Continued from page 18

two critters look over your sights, then reduce that image to about a third its size. The last two targets look a tad bigger. But don't feel relieved; these little ones are shot *standing*. Data from tests run by Beeman Inc., the largest U.S. importer of air-guns, indicate that the best match quality air pistols have the accuracy necessary to cope with the challenge, which I suspect was why the NRA silhouette committee selected the relatively long distances—and smaller targets.

NRA COURSE 'TOO TOUGH'

At 20 meters, the half-inch from-belly-to-back chicken spans about three minutes of angle; Beeman's tests indicate the best match pistols will shoot about one MOA. But that's not counting the disadvantage imposed by being outdoors in the wind and trying to hit this bumblebee-sized target while wobbling around in the standing position. The shooter faces the same challenge a NRA standing shooter faces when using a one MOA unlimited gun—at full-sized targets!

In short, I think the NRA game is too tough. At these distances, it requires outdoor ranges.

Admittedly, top shooters with \$600 match guns could clean the NRA course.

What the rest of us need, however, is an indoor game, one that duplicates the sight picture and structure of our long- or short-

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range courses. It doesn't exist. But let's lay out the details and see if it interests you.

Let's shoot indoors, because that's where airguns are used by the majority: in sporting goods stores, clubhouses after meetings, evenings in a shopping mall to draw new shooters and show the general public how much fun shooting can be—you name it. Competition programs complete with trophies, or just informal fun shoots, should be promoted. We don't need outdoor events with indoor guns. But we do need to take advantage of the tremendous opportunities available to shoot, reach new shooters and spread the gospel that indoor events with airguns are worth investigating.

Scaled-down targets at short ranges will retain the look of the primary events for those who shoot them, and increase the scores of those who seldom pick up a firearm. Tenth-scale targets at tenth-scale distances—5, 10, 15 and 20 meters—is what it's all about. That's 65 feet; add some room for a firing line and pellet traps, and you're looking at a total of 75 feet: long for most houses, but not beyond the longest aisle in a store, or the length of a community building, gym or air conditioned shopping mall. Shortening the distances will enable the average shooter to fire scores that are encouraging and allow less elaborate (and less expensive) pistols into the sport.

FREESTYLE SHOOTING

Finally, to duplicate the long and short courses, competition should be in both standing and freestyle positions. Because of their basic design, most air pistols are fairly long, and barrel/body clearance in freestyle positions should be sufficient in most any reasonable freestyle position. Freestyle shooting will allow the competitor to get in his practice, and train new shooters for eventual competition.

Sound good? Europeans shoot indoors a lot, from serious competition with bleachers of spectators (a la basketball games) to informal matches in shooting houses complete with scores of kibitzers (beats the hell out of bowling).

There are some problems left to resolve.

NRA rules are far too broad, since pistols in a range of \$30 to \$600 qualify in its sanctioned matches. They'll have to be separated. So, I propose that IHMSA (International Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association) form a group to study the matter, inventory all available pistols, and separate them—by name—into classes. Use a gun's base price as a criterion, for accuracy usually goes up with price. Pick a price, say \$200, and make two classes: *sportsman* and *unlimited*. Or maybe three classes, split at \$100 and \$400. Needs some thought.

There would be two forms of competition, freestyle and unlimited, with classes in each and based on some expected averages. I've been practicing in the standing position in my backyard at the tenth distances, and so far my best score is 26X40.



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That's better than I do on either the long- or short-range, so perhaps class break points will have to be somehow adjusted.

What do you think? Is it worth doing? Do you want to shoot silhouettes close to home weekday evenings, and reach many potential competitors who cannot or will not shoot?

Write me at POB 22075, Phoenix, AZ 85028. I'll carry the best letters in my column and send them on to IHMSA.



Steel Challenge shoot dates set

More than 200 combat shooters are expected to vie for an anticipated purse of \$100,000 in the 1983 *Steel Challenge* pistol tournament, scheduled to be held April 14-16 on the Juniper Tree range in Canyon Country, California.

The "World Speed Shooting Championship" is sponsored by the Southwest Pistol League.

SWPL Executive Director Mike Fichman told the *American Handgunner* that the 1983 tournament will be shot in five quick draw-and-fire stages; an additional stage—there were four in 1982—will be fired this year at 20, 25 and 40 yards. Maximum distance fired last year was 35 yards. All targets are steel plates, both round and rectangular.

The 1982 match was won by J. Michael Plaxco of Roland, Arkansas. Last year's competitors numbered 154, from 21 states, Guam and Australia. The purse was \$62,489.

This year's tournament will feature a banquet at Knollwood Country Club in Granada Hills, California, followed by the annual awards ceremony.

For further information, write Fichman at the SWPL, POB 5254 (AH), Mission Hills, CA 91345.

Primer-powered rubber bullets now offered

Supreme Products Company is now marketing primer-powered rubber bullets in .38/.357 and .44/.45 calibers.

They are designed for plinking and indoor target practice; velocities up to 500 fps (.38) and 400 fps (.44) reportedly can be obtained with magnum primers.

No special equipment or brass is required. Each bullet can be fired up to 500 times, according to the manufacturer.

Intended primarily for revolvers, the bullets can be used in autos, if the slide is worked manually.

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For further information, write the company at 1830 California Ave. (Box AH), Monrovia, CA 91016.

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IT'S IN THE CONE... REVOLVER ACCURACY

Cone faults can easily be cured with hand-operated chamfering tool, provided extreme care is used during 'accurizing' process.

By Russ Gaertner

Revolver shooters long have been told by "experts" that their guns are less accurate than semi-autos in similar calibers.

But they still choose their wheelguns for versatility, reliability and economy, especially with less than perfectly brewed handloads.

The source of this claimed revolver inaccuracy is bullet distortion, caused by high pressures behind the unsupported slug, as it jumps the cylinder/barrel gap and enters the rifling.

Medium- and big-bore revolvers are *not* inherently less accurate than semi-autos. The fine accuracy of many match revolvers proves that.

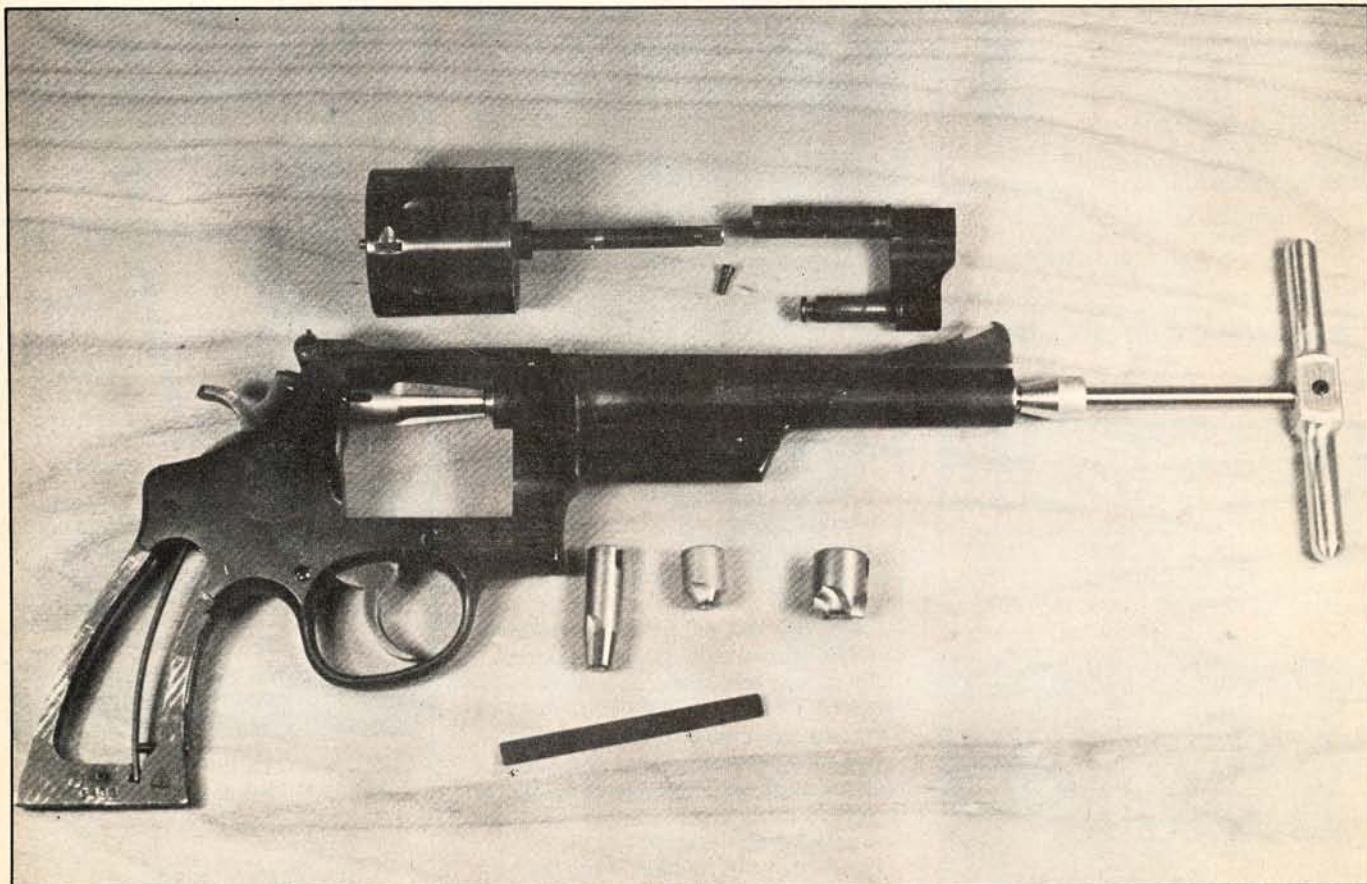
I have a Colt Custom Shop .357 Magnum Python which outshoots most custom accurized .45 autos, and it does about as well with full .357 Magnum loads as the target .38 Specials it was set up for. Many 'smiths routinely turn out equally accurate match revolvers.

Turning to factory-assembled, out-of-the-box revolvers, however, we find a very mixed bag. The best guns average one-inch groups, or less, at 25 yards from a machine rest. That's fine accuracy, which few

factory or even custom semi-autos can equal, let alone beat. On the other hand, the *average* factory, service-type revolver does well to fire a three-inch group.

What do custom revolvers and the best factory wheelguns have that the average service model lacks, to make this big difference in accuracy?

Many excellent custom features provide better aiming, steadier holding, and smoother letoff. Lightened, smoothed actions help the shooter to score well, but they do nothing for machine-rest performance. A custom heavy barrel, properly fitted, is more accurate than an ordinary factory tube, but the difference is small.



Brownell's reaming tool is easy to use. Note muzzle-centering bushing and pilot in front of 11-degree reamer. Also shown: another reamer and two cutters.

Tighter chambers also help; so does proper alignment and solid lockup. But none of these is the most important factor for best accuracy.

I believe that a good forcing cone is the key feature of the accurate revolver. (The cone is the short section at the barrel breech, which tapers down to the full land diameter.) As the bullet jumps the gap and enters the forcing cone, it is not that it is unsupported over a small fraction of an inch that plays havoc with accuracy; rather, it is that even minor faults in the cone distort the bullet.

Custom 'smiths know this, but most handgunners seldom glance at their forcing cones, except perhaps to clean away leading deposits. An examination of the cones in accurized guns will show them to be smooth, slowly tapering, round, and symmetrical, with no sharp edges at the breech. A bullet passing through such a good cone suffers no change in shape; it upsets uniformly, and flies accurately.

Factory cones vary widely, but many are far from ideal. They may have sharp edges at the breech, heavy concentric reamer marks, and gouges or rough edges on the lands, caused by metal chips or dull reamers; some are out-of-round, or off-center.

Sharp edges, or tightness, leads to shaving of the bullet metal and lead "spitting" out of the gap. Any of these faults can result in a misshapen bullet, which wobbles inaccurately in flight.

It is remarkable that factory revolvers shoot as well as they do. Some factories

seem to maintain better quality control than others, but I have seen both good and bad cones in each of the major makes of revolvers.

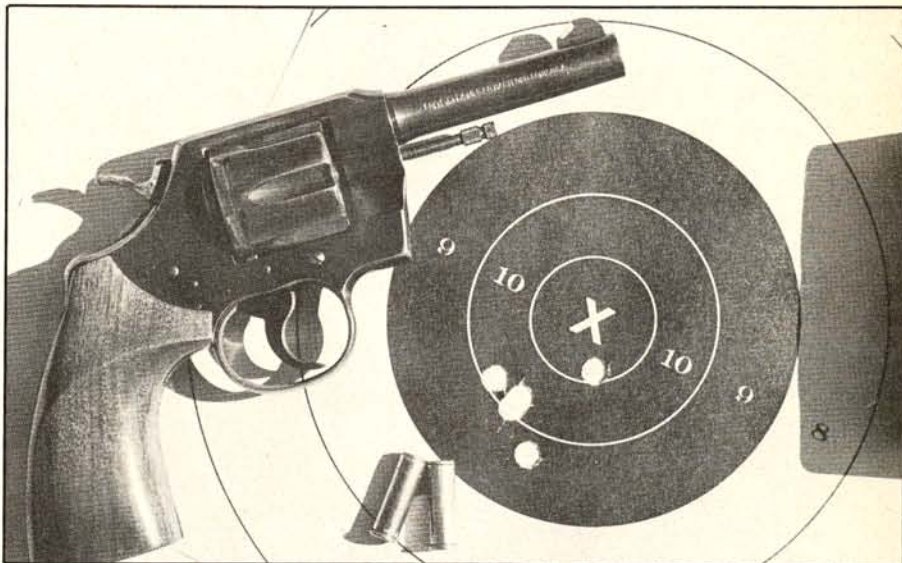
CURING CONE FAULTS

Perhaps it is just as well that most revolver shooters are not cone-oriented, because until recently there was not much we could do about bad ones, short of a costly rebarreling job. (And a new factory barrel might not have a better cone.) The good news is that now the individual shooter can easily improve the cones in his guns—and

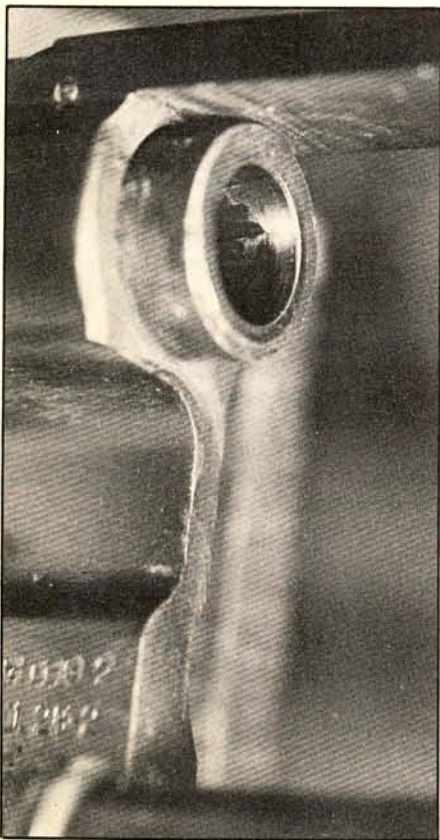
their accuracy—without even removing the barrel from the frame.

The potential for better revolver accuracy is probably greater using the new forcing cone reaming tool than for any other combination of accurizing steps. The tool is called Brownells pistol chamfering tool, and it's available from the gunsmithing supply house of that name in Montezuma, Iowa.

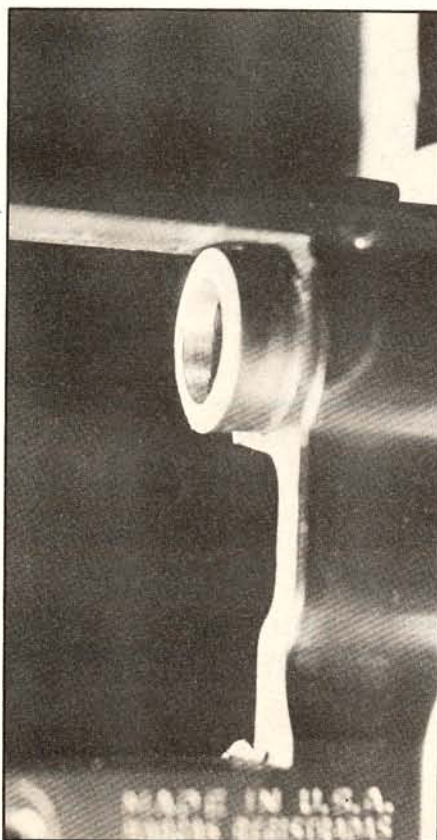
A kit for one caliber, such as .38 Special (also usable for .357 Magnum), runs about \$25. Reamers can be added for calibers up to .45. The tool is hand-operated and no



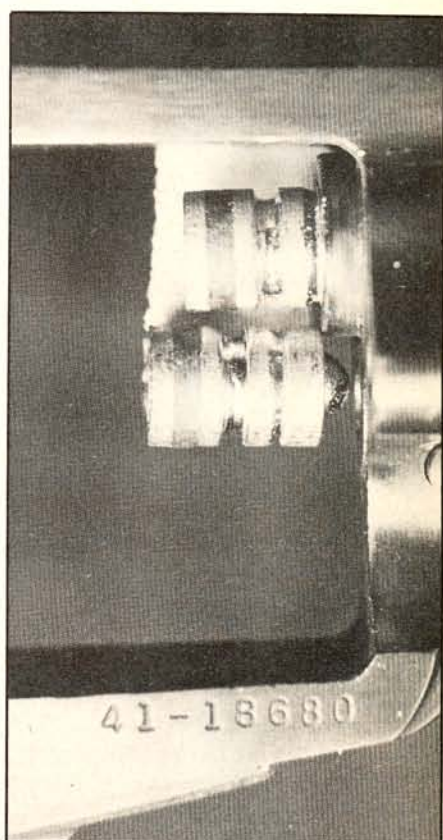
After reaming and polishing the forcing cone, this old Colt Official Police revolver, with .38 Special reloads, fired this five-shot group at 25 yards.



Partially recut cone (off-center and rough) in S&W M28 converted to .41 Mag.



This S&W M57 cone has been partially recut. Note smoothness w/o polishing.



Resistance of rifling begins as soon as the bullet nose enters the breech.

other equipment is needed. Ron Power, the well-respected custom revolversmith, recommends it and apparently contributed suggestions to its design. The tool is simple to use, but there can be pitfalls in any such operation. I did some homework, and there are some basic principles and cautions which amateurs can adopt to assure quality results. Some examples will illustrate what can be done, and what the limitations are.

When I received the kit, no directions were included. Brownells deals with professional gunsmiths, and I suppose the firm considers directions unnecessary. I decided to start with an old Colt Official Police .38 Special acquired many years ago as used police surplus. I had smoothed and lightened the trigger pulls (both single- and double action), but the gun has never been accurate with my flush-seated, 148-grain wadcutters with 3.0 grains of Bullseye. I used this load because it was very accurate from my S&W M52 Master target auto (or in my Colt Custom Shop Python); but from the Official Police it grouped into about three-inches.

which approximates factory cones. It is good for cleaning-up tight cones for general use; but I chose the 11-degree reamer for this job, because the Official Police cone is on the large side and the narrower reamer cuts first on the lands, then works out to the breech.

The 11-degree cutter is also recommended for target guns, assuring a smoother entry for cast bullets with less pressure buildup. It works equally well with jacketed bullets, and the only disadvantage I know of is that heavy use of hotter loads might cause more rapid wear over the years. The 11-degree reamer can be used with all calibers, from .38 to .45.

The reaming operation is done by pushing the centering bushing against the muzzle, then pulling on the handle while turning it *clockwise*. The cutting can be felt and the operator should strive for a light, smooth cut, applying cutting or threading oil to the reamer and cleaning out cuttings frequently.

After a few light turns, I took a look at the result. The 11-degree reamer had not touched the Official Police cone near the

largest was 2.42 inch. The complete absence of fliers was important, too. The new cone tightened the average group by at least one inch, and machine rest average groups would have been even tighter.

That was more than I had hoped for with an old service-type revolver, and I was more than sold on the reaming tool. My next step was to do a more extensive, documented job with newer guns which I had used for a major handloading project.

.41 MAGNUM REVOLVER

The .41 Magnum is my favorite caliber and my three guns for the cartridge are a six-inch S&W M57, a 6.5 inch Ruger Blackhawk, and a six-inch S&W M28 converted to .41 caliber by rechambering the cylinder and relining the barrel.

The Ruger is the most accurate, followed closely by the M57.

Careful handloading and rest-testing produced several accurate loads for nearly any purpose. Average groups for the best loads ranged from 1.2 inches to two inches for the two standard models. Jacketed bullets were required for the tightest groups, and there were some fliers, especially with cast bullets. The M28 did not group consistently into much under two inches, with some loads exceeding three inches with fliers, and some lead-spitting.

I was happy with these .41s for my purposes, but I felt they could have handled some loads and bullets better, and with fewer fliers—especially the M28 conversion. So I decided to recut the forcing cones. Each gun presented different problems.

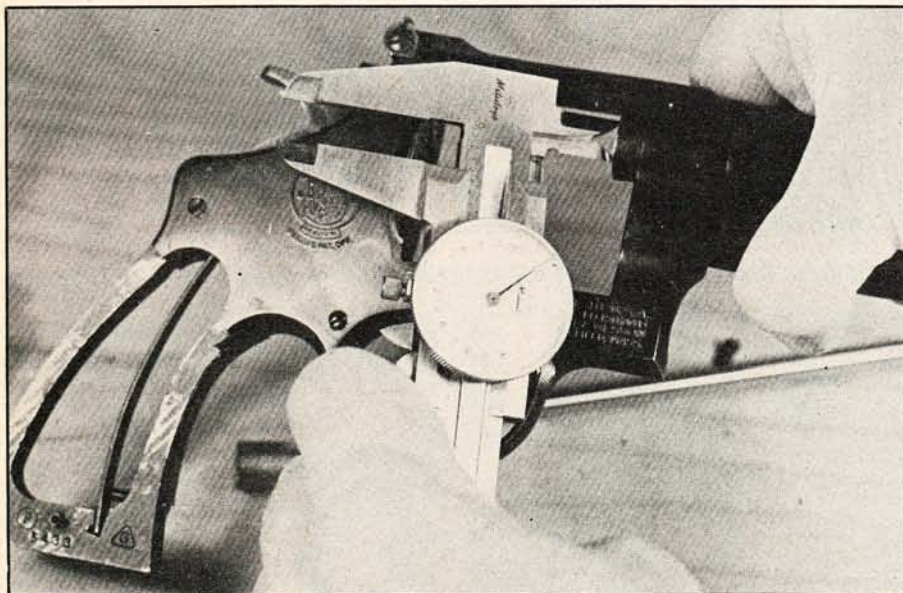
Starting with the M28, I first needed a better way to picture cone faults visually. I set up the reaming tool with the 18-degree cutter and taped one end of a strip of #400 grit metal polishing paper to the reamer, so that it covered the cutting edges. A few turns of this polisher cleaned the lands and high spots, removed imbedded powder residues and left the metal bright.

I measured the breech of the converted M28 at .428-inch, a bit tight at 1.04 times bore. But that was favorable, because I had some metal to work with. The worst feature of this cone was that it was off-center and had sharp edges; also, the lands were uneven and rough. I started with the 18-degree reamer, using the .41 pilot to get the new cone centered in the bore and opened up the cone to .430 inch.

Switching to the 11-degree reamer with pilot, I recut the complete cone to match the centered .430 inch breech opening. Finally, the face was squared with the 90-degree flat cutter and the edge lightly chamfered with the 82-degree reamer. Not all low spots were cleaned; but they appeared shallow, and probably would do no harm.

The re-coned M28 from the Lee machine rest averaged 1.42 inch, five-shot groups with the WC load, which I picked as my benchmark. The load is the 210-

Continued on page 85



The measurement of the revolver's breech diameter is done with inside caliber jaws by "feeling" the points that just catch on the cone edge of the barrel.

After removing the cylinder/crane assembly, I noticed that the forcing cone showed fairly deep concentric reamer marks, plus some nicks and wear. The cone opening at the breech measured .383 inch. For .38 Special, the bore diameter is .357 inch, so the cone was 1.07 times bore. That is a bit oversize, but cones up to 1.08 times bore may shoot well.

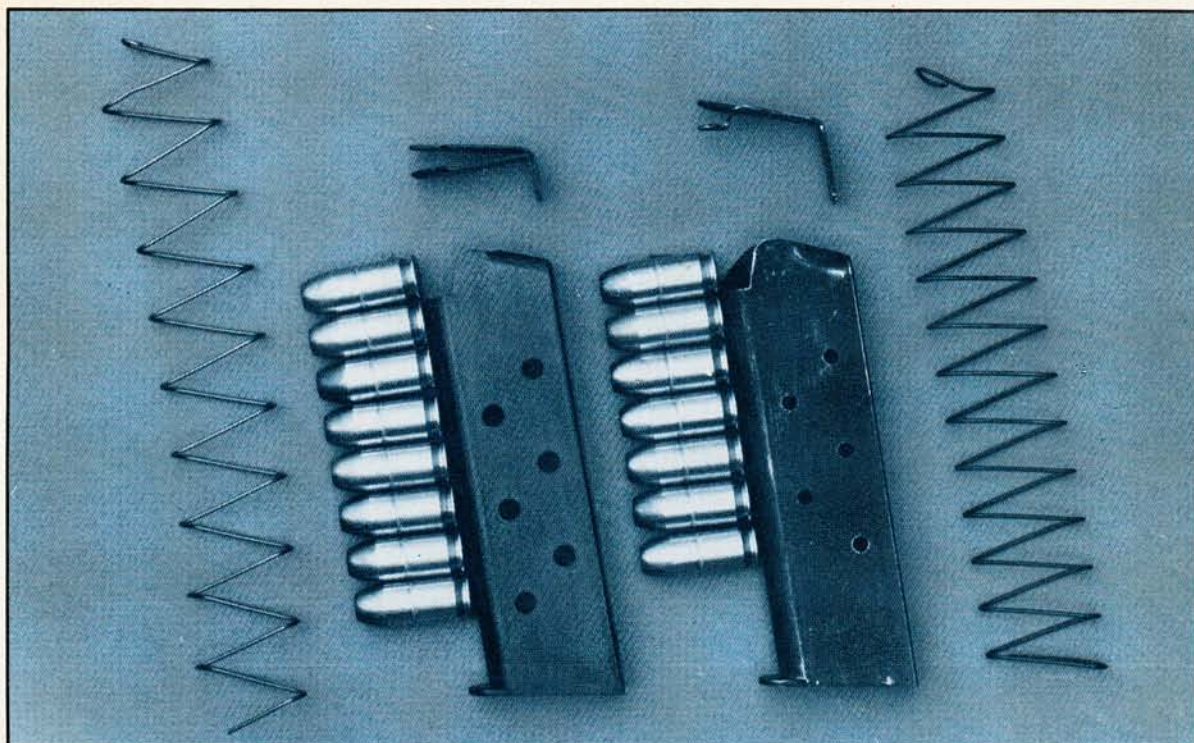
The best range is about 1.04 to 1.06 times bore, large enough to allow the bullet base to upset and seal the grooves, but not large enough to let the bullet distort, as it swages down into the rifling.

Assembling the tool handle to the rod, I slipped on the centering bushing, inserted the threaded end from the muzzle and added the .38/.357 pilot; I then turned on the 11-degree cone reamer. Another cutter angle is available, the 18 degree reamer,

breech, but the worn lands were cleaned nicely.

I continued the operation until the cone surface was completely bright and smooth. Only the dark grooves remained. I did not enlarge the cone opening. The breech face was worn and eroded, so I used the optional 90-degree flat cutter to square and smooth it. This should not be overdone, to avoid widening the gap. Finally, I removed the sharp edge, using the 82-degree cutter very lightly. All these reamers leave a smooth surface, when used with a light touch; polishing is not necessary.

The finished cone looked good, and a shooting test proved it. My first group, two-handed from an arm rest, was 1.48 inch for five shots at 25 yards. That is practically target match accuracy. The average of several groups was 1.9 inch, and the



Devel 8-round magazine (stripped) at left; standard Colt .45 mag at right.

NOW, AN EIGHT-SHOT MAGAZINE FOR COLT .45 AUTOS

By David M. Armstrong

Devel Corporation, a firm known for its quality custom conversions on the Smith & Wesson M39 and M59 semi-automatic 9mm pistols, has introduced a new magazine for the Colt Government Model and Commander .45 ACP pistols.

The new magazine is identical in size to the standard Colt seven-shot magazine, but has a capacity of eight rounds.

It was designed by Charles C. Kelsey Jr., president of Devel Corporation, and National Guard MTU (Marksmanship Training Unit) armorer SSgt. John M. Miller.

Miller, whose quality combat conversions of IPSC (International Practical Shooting Federation) pistols have earned him a reputation with many police and military organizations, provided Kelsey with some of the basic fundamentals required to develop the new Devel conversions for the Colt .45 ACP system. The new magazine, however, is basically the result of Kelsey's own ingenuity as a firearms designer.

The design of the new Devel conversions of the Colt .45 auto is centered around the need to increase its cartridge capacity, without altering the frame. To accomplish this, the magazine had to be redesigned to hold one extra round, without sacrificing additional length at its base. All three components of the magazine re-

The same size as the conventional seven-round type, it has proven its reliability in stiff competition.

quired special attention: the magazine housing, follower and spring.

The magazine housing was redesigned from slightly lighter weight sheet steel, formed and tempered to exacting specifications. Incorporating longer feed lips that do not interfere with the motion of the slide, this new magazine housing and feed system has proven to be functionally reliable

and adequately durable. Adding to the reliable operation of the magazine is the follower design and magazine spring.

Continued on page 87



Ken Hackathorn tests Basic Concealment Carry Devel conversion with new mag.

THE 1982 IPSC NATIONALS

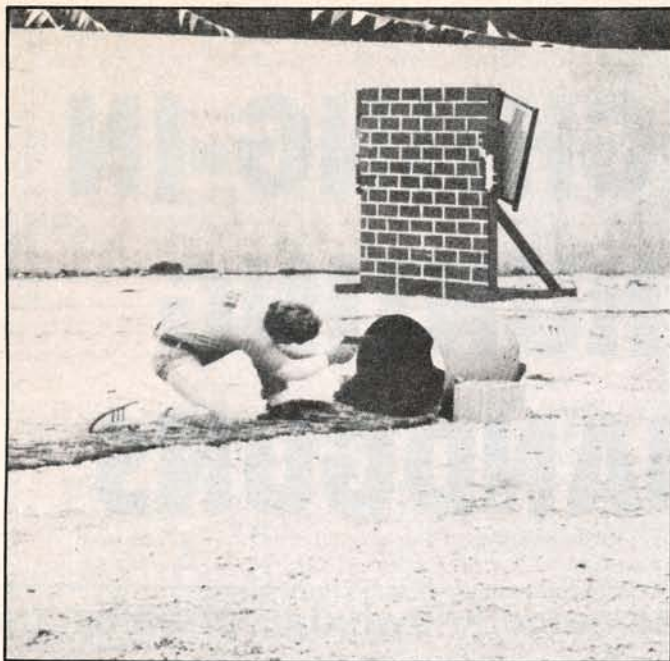
Mike Plaxco edged out Ross Seyfried to post win. Nineteen of top 20 shooters fired pin guns; 44 percent of competitors used Rogers holsters.

Editor's note: many shooters in the 1983 IPSC nationals apparently were extremely disappointed with the prizes and trophies given out at Milan, according to reliable sources who made known these widespread feelings to the *American Handgunner*. Shaw reported that Plaxco, the winner, received \$1,000 cash, (donated by *Soldier of Fortune* magazine), a Dick Heinie customized .45 auto and first choice of all other prizes; further, Shaw reported that 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in the six match stages were presented with "small trophies about five inches high." Added Shaw: "And that's all." The match entry fee was \$125.

Mike Plaxco of Roland, Arkansas won the 1982 IPSC (International Practical Shooting Confederation) nationals



Match-winner Mike Plaxco shows his championship form as he gets set to put a foot in tire before firing at the stop plate in the Superman assault stage of the IPSC match.



National champion Mickey Fowler, winner of 1982 Bianchi Cup, shows how to shoot through a barrel in Superman stage.



Mike Plaxco goes over the wall in the Cooper assault stage. The IPSC match places great emphasis on speed and accuracy.

held in Milan, Illinois September 22-25.

Milan is a small community near Moline, where Rock Island Arsenal and Springfield Armory are located. The range, one of the prettiest in the country, covers more than 120 acres of rolling hillside and tall trees. It looks more like a Southern plantation than the Milan Gun Club Range.

There were 320 entries, including members of the South African and Canadian teams, making it the largest turnout in the history of U.S. combat shooting.

Six courses of fire were spread over three days of competition. Out of 65 targets used in the match, 33 were no-shoot targets. If you shot a no-shoot target it was scored a minus 10 points, plus another minus 10 points if you missed your shoot target. All but one course was Comstock count, which means you divided the time taken to complete a course into the point score on the targets, minus any penalty points. The penalties proved fatal to many shooters, including myself.

When the smoke cleared, Plaxco was declared the 1982 IPSC National Champion. He had a great year, having won the 1982 Steel Challenge Match held in March at Canyon Country, California, and finished second at the 1982 *Second Chance* match in Michigan. His membership on the U.S. Gold Team proves he was not just lucky; rather, his skill, equipment and right mental attitude predominated and placed him in the winner's circle.

GALS SHOT, TOO

Sixteen women shooters were entered in the match. Top woman scorer was Lee Cole, of Fayetteville, Arkansas; she finished in 166th place with a score of 58.69 (compared with Plaxco's 92.60).

Top honors do not always go to the shooter who is just fast, accurate, and uses

the best equipment. There are many shooters who have the same skills on the practice range, but match winners condition themselves by putting everything together when it really counts: when the scores are tallied, for record.

One drawback is a gun that malfunctions. One can be super-sharp in shooting skills, super-calm in demeanor and have a super-attack plan drawn up in his mind, but if his gun fails to work in the match, he is out of luck. There are no alibis. If your gun malfunctions, you lose precious seconds—and points.

Nineteen of the top 20 shooters fired some type of a pin gun, invented by James E. Clark of Keithville, Louisiana. The original pin gun was used to control heavy loads in the .45 auto, while shooting bowl-

ing pins at three feet off tables in matches such as the *Second Chance*.

There are three popular models of the pin gun: the Plaxco Compensator (25 percent), Bill Wilson's Accu-comp (30 percent) and Clark's (12 percent). The percentages represent use at Milan. Only one pin gun was fired in the 1980 IPSC nationals, and only one in the 1980 *Steel Challenge*.

Continued on page 91

IPSC LEATHER

Here's a rundown on holsters used at the 1983 IPSC nationals:

Rogers:	44	percent of all shooters
Blocker:	25	-do-
Davis:	18	-do-
Milt Sparks:	6	-do-
Bianchi:	6	-do-

TOP 16

<u>Score %</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Gun</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Holster</u>
92.60	Mike Plaxco	Plaxco	Ark.	Rogers SSF
91.41	Ross Seyfried	Pachmayr	Col.	Milt Sparks SSH
87.83	John Sayle	Plaxco	Ohio	Rogers CD
86.06	Tom Campbell	S&W	Mass.	Rogers SSF
85.44	Gavin Carson	Unknown	S. Afr.	Rogers SSH
84.04	Mark Lonsdale	Clark	Cal.	Davis CD
84.00	Mike Dalton	Clark	Cal.	Blocker CD
83.71	Craig Gifford	Plaxco	Cal.	Blocker CD
83.65	Ross Carter	Wilson	Ark.	Davis CD
83.33	Mickey Fowler	Plaxco	Cal.	Blocker CD
83.27	Jim Swain	Wilson	Tenn.	Rogers SSH
83.13	Raul Walters	Wilson	Missouri	Bianchi SSF
82.19	Mike Fichman	Boland	Cal.	Blocker CD
81.57	Bill Wilson	Wilson	Ark.	Rogers CD
81.10	Brian Enos	Wilson	Ariz.	Davis SSH
81.06	Peter Slack	Unknown	S. Afr.	Rogers SSH

SSH—Strong side/hip SSF—Strong side/front CD—Cross-draw

Right 'dope' = clean kills



SIGHTING-IN HUNTING HANDGUNS

Requires basic knowledge of ballistics tables and proper techniques for zeroing-in various loads at different ranges.

By Bob McMicken

It doesn't matter if you're handgunning for bunnies or bears, you can't kill 'em if you can't hit 'em. And not just any hit will do.

Unless you're zapping mice with .44 Magnum hollowpoints, the bullet must be properly placed to be effective. If you hit a bear in the paunch with anything short of a 105mm howitzer, you've either got a fight or a long and dangerous tracking job ahead of you; perhaps both. Hit a bunny too far back, and you may have hash instead of hasenpfeffer, assuming there is enough left of the poor beast to fill a skillet.

For the purposes of this discussion, however, we'll assume that you're a good shot using an accurate handgun chambered for an effective cartridge, and that your ammunition is both accurate and adequate for the purpose intended.

Almost any GI .45 will throw hardball into six inches at 50 yards from the bench. Target pistols clamped in a Ransom rest will consistently print one-inch groups with match ammunition. Three-inch groups at 50 yards is excellent hunting accuracy, easily attained from a solid field position with almost any modern American revolver and good ammo.

But that three-inch group, good enough to nail bunnies or bears at normal handgunning ranges, won't do you much good unless it happens to coincide with your point of aim. For example, I recently acquired a new Combat Masterpiece, one of the better .38 Special service revolvers. Eager to try it out, I went to my favorite indoor range and, from force of habit,

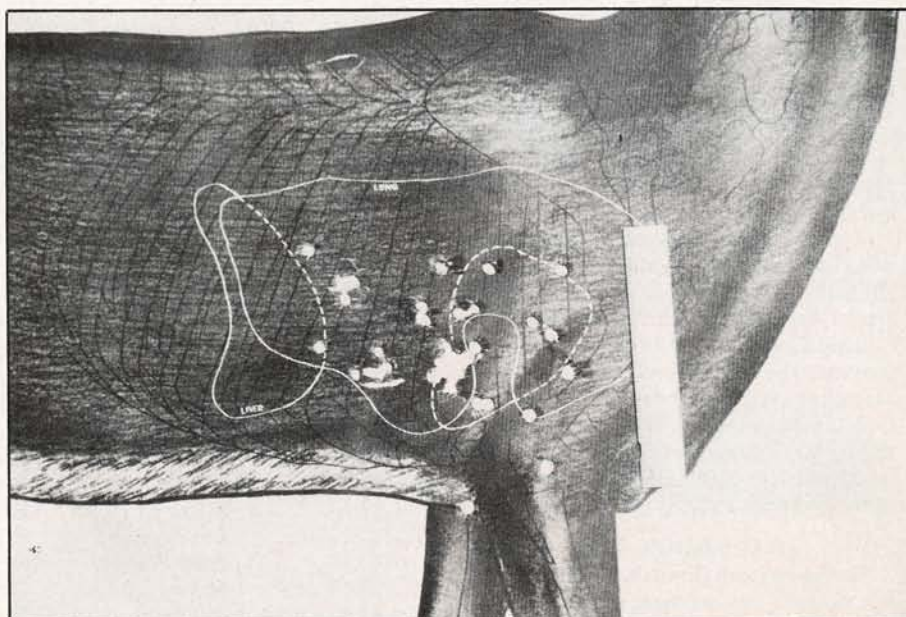
zeroed-in at six o'clock on a standard 50-foot slow fire pistol target with a 3¼ inch bull.

I put my screwdriver away after putting five factory wadcutters in one hole not much larger than a nickel and exactly in the center of the 10 ring, a mere 1⅞ inches above the point of aim. That, my friends, is pretty fair country shooting; but, outdoors at 50 yards, the same gun and the same load printed more than six inches high. Had I been hunting, I'd have shot over anything smaller than a giraffe with that

50-foot zero.

Paper-punchers can zero-in for the range at which they usually compete, and throw their screwdrivers away. Silhouette shooters must reset their sights for 50, 100, 150, and 200 meters; but it is relatively easy to work out the number of clicks required, and the services of a spotter are available to call each shot if fine tuning should be required.

Those stalwarts who elect to hunt with a handgun are not so fortunate. They generally get just one chance to hit a target of



This 7½-inch, 30-shot group on a life-size deer target consists of 10 three-shot groups fired from braced sitting position (above) at ranges up to 100 yards. Four guns were used, with barrels ranging in length from 3 to 6 inches.

unknown size at ranges running from the muzzle past the 100-yard mark. Handgun hunters are further handicapped by the rainbow trajectory of even the hottest of today's hot magnum calibers.

The rifleman, sensibly equipped with a scoped 7mm Magnum, doesn't have to worry about holding over at ranges under 300 yards. The pistolero, however, is using a weapon that, until recently, was considered practically useless past 50 or 60 yards. Nowadays, there are handgunners who have proven themselves capable of scoring humane, one-shot kills out to 100 yards—and beyond.

However, for most of us, 50 yards is still a realistic limit for ordinary holster guns with four- to six-inch barrels and iron sights. Those long shots you read about generally are made with scoped Rugers and Contenders that are not handguns in the traditional sense of the word; rather, stockless mini-carbines would be a more accurate description.

I don't hesitate to carry a rifle when I expect to get shots at ranges beyond 40 or 50 yards. But, I won't pass up a shot at ranges longer than 50 yards when I'm carrying a good sixgun loaded with hot magnum hollowpoints. I get most of my shots at ranges between 15 and 75 yards, with some shorter and a few longer.

Thus, sighting-in a hunting handgun is a study in compromise. It must be zeroed-in in such a manner that shots at close to moderate range can be placed with confidence; yet, it should still be possible to take an occasional shot at ranges out to 100 yards and beyond, without using too much Kentucky windage.

The tables published by Lyman and Speer are a great help in calculating trajectories. Unfortunately, Speer's are based on the assumption that a scope will be mounted 1½ inches above the bore. Lyman's are computed for iron sights, an advantage for those of us who still consider handguns as sidearms meant to be carried safely, comfortably, and inconspicuously in ordinary belt holsters, just like Grandpa packed his old Colt Peacemaker.

ACCURATE BULLET PLACEMENT

Since I usually get most of my shots at the ranges between 15 and 75 yards, with an occasional shot at 100 yards, my handguns are zeroed-in accordingly. For plinking at 200 or 300 yards, the time-honored technique of walking the bullets into the target mortar fashion is still valid; but, even a mangy jackrabbit deserves better than a lingering death from a scratch hit at ranges which rule out any hope of accurate bullet placement.

In working out a sighting-in system, I had to allow for a battery that includes a three-inch .38 (148-grain HBWC at 700 fps), a four-inch .38 (158-grain SWC at 900 fps), a three-inch .357 (150-grain SWC at 1,100 fps), a six-inch .357 (125-grain JHP at 1,500 fps), a four-inch .44 (250-grain SWC at 1,200 fps), and a six-inch .44 (240-grain

JHP at 1,300 fps). This combination covers most hunting situations nicely, although my handgun collection is by no means complete. Therefore, I needed a system that would work with everything from light target to heavy hunting loads, regardless of caliber, bullet weight, velocity, or barrel length.

Zeroing-in at either 50 feet or 25 yards just won't cut it. Zero-in for point of aim (center hold) and you'll be a few inches low at 50 yards and off the paper at 100 yards, scratching dirt below the target. Zero-in at six o'clock on a bull of reasonable size, and you'll be high at 50 yards, perhaps too high to insure consistent hits. Low velocity loads may drop back onto the paper at 100 yards, but high velocity loads could easily overshoot the target, even at that range.

Zeroing-in at 100 yards is no better. Even the hottest magnum loads will be three-inches high at 50 yards, with most loads printing four to six inches high. I originally zeroed-in a couple of guns at six o'clock on a six-inch bull at 50 yards, which should have put me on the money at 100 yards. But, it didn't work too well, because I had trouble estimating mid-range hold-under on small, irregular targets at 50 or 60 yards.

Fifty yards is Hobson's choice, far enough to be useful and close enough to be realistic. If you favor a center hold at this distance, the ballistics tables in *Lyman's Pistol and Revolver Handbook* cover almost every imaginable load and bullet weight/design.

Unfortunately, I can't hit the ground with my hat without glasses. Even with glasses, I much prefer to see both the target

and the center of my group over the sights, whenever possible.

Although most loads zeroed-in on the money at 50 yards are only one- or two-inches high at 25 yards, they are usually from six- to 12-inches low at 100 yards.

Through trial and error, and studying Lyman's tables, I found that zeroing-in from one to 1½ inches high at 50 yards (holding at six o'clock on a two- or three-inch bull) produced the optimum combination of flat midrange trajectory and minimal drop at long range. Most loads zeroed-in in this way, print between two- and three-inches high at 25 yards (where holding under isn't the problem that it becomes at longer ranges), on the money at 60 to 80 yards (beyond which few shots need be taken), and three- to six-inches low at 100 yards.

Wadcutters (.38 caliber) are the sole exception. The three-inch Chief's Special had to be zeroed-in for point of aim at 50 yards to bring the group down to within the arbitrarily imposed three-inch limit at 25 yards. I can live with this, since a .38 snubby loaded with 700 fps wadcutters isn't exactly my idea of the perfect long range hunting handgun!

In practice, a new gun (or an old one with a new load) should be zeroed-in from one inch to 1½ inches above the point of aim at 50 yards. If I can't keep five shots in the black on a three-inch bull, or touching the black on a two-inch bull, I know that more load development is required.

Once locked-in at 50 yards, I check mid-range trajectory at 25 yards, where most loads print around two inches high. Since

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The 6-inch S&W M19 fired three groups at 50 yards from a benchrest. Speer 125-grain JHPs were used. After sight corrections between strings, and disregarding called fliers, this .357 Magnum is capable of firing 3-inch groups at 50 yards.

THE WALTHER P5: 'A Super Pocket Auto'

A new class of firearm, it's compact, lightweight, has an eight-round 9mm magazine and excellent white dot/square sights. The P5 is double-action, blow-back operated; a fine undercover gun.

By Donald M. Simmons

There is a new type, foreign-made auto on the market that is smaller than a military pistol and larger than U.S. pocket autos. (In Europe, this hybrid is called a *police pistol*; but here, where the handgun of the law for many years has been the archaic .38 special revolver, it should be

called a *super pocket automatic pistol*).

We are referring to the 9mm Luger/Walther P5, a German double-action automatic pistol with several refinements not found on its older brother, the P38, the German sidearm of World War II.

In 1977, Walther announced two newly designed spin-offs from its perennial P38: the P38IV and the P38K. Both had shorter barrels than the P38. The P38IV had a 4½-

inch tube and the P38K had one with a length of 2¾ inches.

The P38K seemed to be slated for an undercover gun. In 1980, however, the P5 was announced in the United States and was equipped with a 3½ inch barrel; it had an overall length of seven inches, or about 1½ inches shorter than the P38. The Walther P5 weighed in at 29 ounces and had an eight-round magazine.



Field-stripping the Walther P5 takes only a few seconds.



Here's the Walther P38 family, which led to development of P5: .22 P38, right; P4, center, and an early P38K, left.

Both the P38IV and P38K are expected to be discontinued; obviously, their place will be taken by the P5, which owes its relatively light weight to its aluminum frame. Since World War II, Walther has been making its military-size automatics with high-strength, forged aluminum frames. These forged frames are completely machined to extreme accuracy. It has always been claimed that a forged machined part has more inherent strength than a precision cast one. If such an advantage does exist for the machined part, it is quickly overcome by beefing-up the cast part to give comparable strength in a critical cross-section.

The take-down for cleaning the Walther P5 is simple. Remove the magazine and be certain there is no cartridge in the chamber. The slide and barrel are then moved back about 1/4 inch and the take-down lever is swung down. The slide and barrel can now be disassembled, forward. The barrel and its lock, which is staked in place, are now removed from the slide. This completes the tool-less disassembly of the P5.

DIFFERENT SAFETIES

The P5 appears to have the same safety as the one introduced in the P38IV and the P38K. Not so. The P5 safety drop lever is incorporated in the slide stop and is frame-mounted, not slide-mounted. Both safeties are spring-loaded and return to the "off" position when thumb pressure is released.

There is one big internal difference between the P5 and the P38IV/P38K. In the P5, the firing pin is not in the hammer's path before it is dropped by the safety.

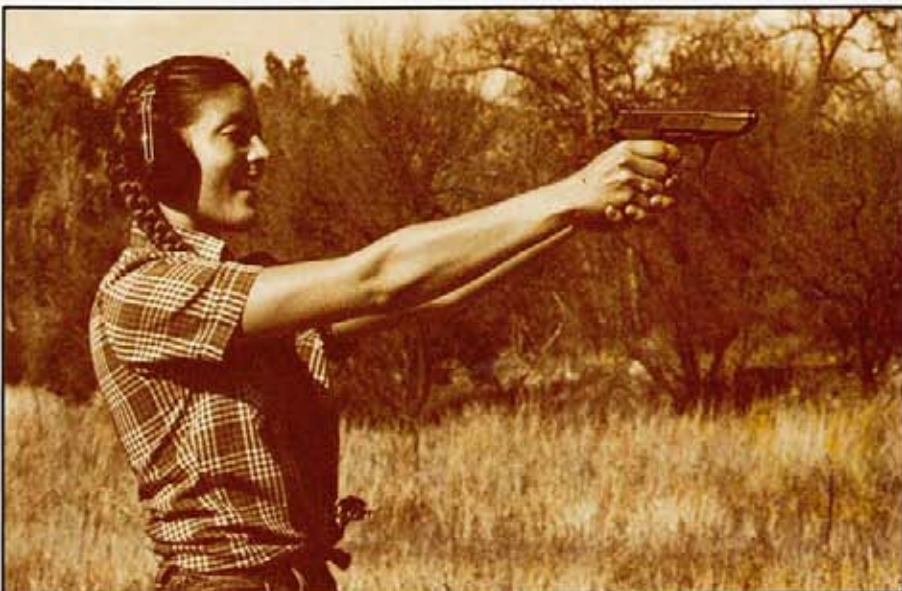
When the safety drop is released, and has returned to its off position, the firing pin is still down and resting in a hole in the face of the hammer. The only time the firing pin can be impinged by the hammer is at the end of the trigger pull, when either the hammer is at full cock or the hammer has been brought to the firing position by a long pull on the trigger.

The slide stop, which is part of the safety drop system, works as follows: when the last round has been fired, the slide remains open. A loaded magazine is then inserted and the safety drop is given a downward

push with the thumb. The slide comes forward, chambering a round. The safety, when thumb pressure is released, raises under its own tension. If a second thumb pressure is applied, the hammer drops safely to its down position.

The P5 should be carried hammer down and safety off; it is perfectly safe in this position, since there is no possible contact between the hammer and the firing pin. This probably represents the acme in safety systems and was introduced earlier on other German pistols but never, to my

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This young shooter fires a Walther P5 for the first time. She found the white dot/square sights excellent for picking up her target in failing light conditions.



They hone cartridge shooting...

DON'T KNOCK AIR PISTOLS!

A veteran 'hardball' shooter tries his hand and comes up with a glowing first-hand report.

By Len Davis

My boss, Editorial Director Jerry Rakusan, calls me "hardball," for a good reason.

For many years, both as a military and civilian shooter, I've been a staunch—and vocal—advocate of full-load, jacketed bullets, mainly in .45 caliber.

As a police firearms instructor and member of the Marine Corps Rifle and Pistol Team at Camp Perry, for example, I've fired many thousands of full-power loads; no pipsqueak loads for me!

I even went so far as to fire hardball military ammo in my National Match .45 in the basement of our home—much to my wife's chagrin (it rattled some of her fine chinaware upstairs, she claimed, and she objected to wearing ear protectors while folding the laundry).

One day Jerry gave me an air pistol to test-fire. It was an inexpensive CO₂ type. I took it home, set up a target in the garage and squeezed off several rounds. After a few sight adjustments, I was putting the little .177 pellets in the 10-ring quite consistently—until about the 25th shot, when the point of impact suddenly dropped to the bottom of the five-meter target.

You guessed it: I ran out of carbon dioxide gas.

PEFT!

After going through several CO₂ cylinders, each with the same experience, I figured there must be a better way to go with an air pistol—one that would help diminish the frustrations of all of a sudden finding that your called 10 ended up as a miss at six o'clock.

Because I enjoyed shooting an air pistol (before I ran out of gas), I pursued the matter further.

Again, you guessed it: a *spring-piston* gun.

Spring piston air pistol for training duelists (Circa 1750), left; Beeman M90, center, and Beeman M65, MKII, right. Antique is from Robert Beeman Collection.

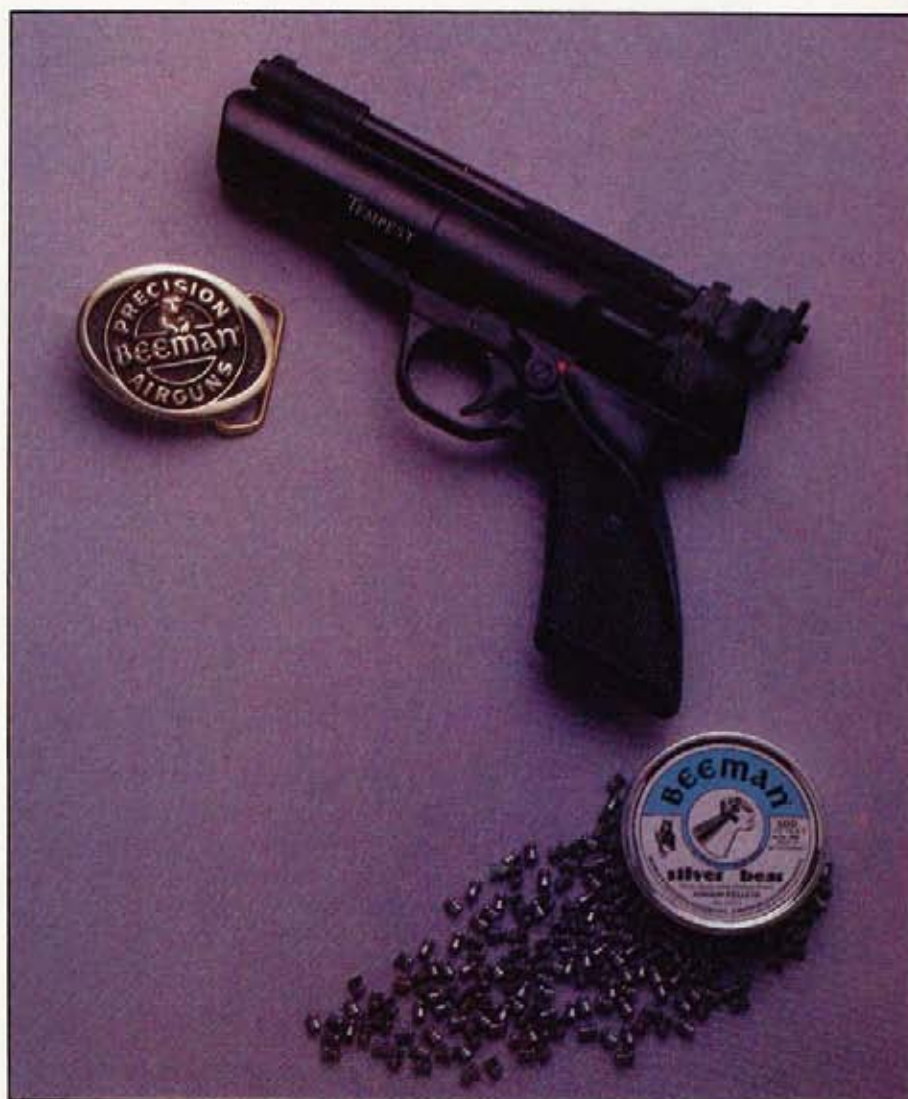
Jerry had one for sale: a Daisy Power Line M717. I bought it.

It was the best gun purchase I've ever made.

So far, I've put about 500 .177 pellets through it. Accuracy is terrific at a shade over 16 feet. The only drawback is the

gun's trigger pull: about *eight* pounds, or more than twice as heavy as I'm used to.

"Should I take it to a custom pistolsmith?" I asked myself. No, he'd be insulted if I dropped an inexpensive air pistol on his work bench and told him what I wanted: a trigger pull in the neighbor-



This Beeman/Webley Tempest is considered a sporting air pistol. Caliber is .177; velocity, 470fps. It features compactness and superb, constant accuracy.



This Benjamin M137 in .177 caliber is a simple, sturdy and inexpensive pump-up type air pistol. Its accuracy and point of impact varies with pumping.



Pictured is the newest model in Daisy's line—the nickel-plated .41 Magnum (in .177 caliber). It's a deluxe version of the Power Line M790 (CO₂).

hood of three pounds, or less.

PULL TOO HEAVY

I had to do something. An eight-pound pull was just too much for any degree of accuracy.

With hat in hand, I visited Ray Peet and Bill Simpson, owners of the Poway (California) Gun Works. Both are fine custom pistolsmiths.

They listened to my tale of woe, looked at the gun and said, "We can do the job—nothing to it."

When I got the gun back, sure enough, they did it: a beautiful two-pound letoff, which broke like a glass rod.

At this writing, I haven't had a chance to test-fire the pistol, with its new trigger pull. But I'll bet there now will be fewer eights on my targets.

Whatever, I'm hooked on air pistol shooting. So much so that I've spent hours going through Robert Beeman's 92-page *Precision Air Gun Guide*. Priced at \$2, it is worth every penny. (He is president of Beeman Precision Airguns, Inc., 47 Paul Drive, San Rafael, CA 94903.)

Not content with the information contained in his fine guide, I wrote Beeman a long letter filled with all sorts of questions about air pistol shooting. He answered

AIR PISTOL PELLET TRAPS

Pellet traps for air pistols are easy to construct.

Take an empty cardboard box, pack it tightly with newspapers set on end, seal the top, tape a couple of targets to one side of the box and you're ready to go.

Such a homemade trap will stop any pellet—.177 or .22—and prevent possible damage from ricochets.

If you want a backstop that is a lot more sophisticated, you may wish to consider Beeman's *silent* pellet trap, which catches each projectile in a deep layer of ballistic putty. The trap, which measures 8" x 10" inside, is made of cabinet wood with a walnut finish. Targets are attached to a disposable support face for easy scoring. It comes with a carrying handle and non-scratching feet—great for shooting in one's living room! Retail price: \$39.50.

Less expensive pellet traps are available. Made of heavy sheet steel, they generally produce more noise than either of the aforementioned backstops.

promptly and loaded me down with valuable information I will share with readers of the *American Handgunner*.

INTERNATIONALLY FAMOUS

Beeman, who is in his early 50s, is a native Californian and holds a Ph.D. degree from Stanford University and a full professorship at San Francisco State University.

His interest in detailed scientific matters led to extensive research with the incredibly accurate electron microscopes, followed by the design and production of precision adult air guns and accessories.

He and his wife, Toshiko, a former retail business executive, head up their internationally famous company.

The couple has visited most of the world's major air gun factories, and carefully examined important antique air gun collections, both in the United States and abroad.

Their own collection of antique air guns is considered to be one of the finest anywhere.

We won't go into the detailed history of air guns, a fascinating subject, other than to mention that the blowgun—still in use in some primitive areas of the world—was the original air gun, many moons ago.

Early air guns, developed on the Continent and later in England between 1750 and 1820, were the first breechloading repeaters, capable of firing 20 shots a minute without replenishing the charge of compressed air in the reservoir. They were powerful enough to kill a man at 150 yards!

AIR GUNNERS EXECUTED

In the Napoleonic Wars of the early 1800s a whole regiment of Austrian soldiers were equipped with air guns. They created such a havoc that Napoleon gave orders that any enemy caught with an air gun in his possession was to be summarily executed.

The fabricators of air guns, who belonged to a different guild than firearms makers, had no power tools, no micrometer calipers and rather crude hand tools; yet they were able to work to such close tolerances that reservoir valves and pumps withstood pressures of more than 500 pounds to the square inch. One reservoir is reported to have held its charge, undiminished, for more than 16 years (compare this with today's CO₂ cylinders).

Perhaps the most famous air gun extant is the one carried on the Lewis and Clark expedition into the Northwest Territory nearly 180 years ago.

Today, air pistol shooting is one of three handgun shooting sports that is steadily increasing in popularity (the other two are metallic silhouette shooting and practical pistol/combat shooting).

In spite of widespread publicity, many people still think of air gun shooting in terms of their experience, as a youngster, with BB guns.

But it's an image that is quickly disap-

pearing from the American scene, due mainly to technological advancements made in the air gun field.

INEXPENSIVE TO SHOOT

In short, don't knock air pistols. They make little noise and they're fun, safe and inexpensive to shoot. Many of the better models, such as those produced by Beeman, are capable of putting pellet after pellet in the same hole at 10 meters—or 33 feet—the official air pistol range.

As things stand now (anything can happen on today's legislative fronts), you don't need a permit to purchase an air gun, nor do you have to fill out the yellow federal firearms form (#4473) at your local gun shop, as you must with cartridge handguns. Airguns are not subject to the Gun Control Act of 1968, or most other representative gun laws.

Beeman points out that the loss of places to shoot throughout the United States has created a burgeoning increase in air pistol shooting.

Air pistols can be shot virtually anywhere.

"Even the living room of your home," said Beeman, "will serve nicely as an air pistol range on a rainy day, or some other time when it isn't convenient to go outdoors."

There is no better training and discipline for mastering cartridge handguns than air pistol shooting.

Beeman noted that the longer shot time, or interval between trigger release (on an air pistol) and exit of the projectile, "requires a shooter to be far better in his marksmanship skills than that he need be with cartridge handguns."

MUZZLE VELOCITIES

A major difference between air pistols and those firing cartridges is that the shorter the barrel on an air pistol the higher the muzzle velocity.

The muzzle velocities of air pistols peak around 525 fps.

We asked Beeman why someone doesn't produce an air pistol with higher muzzle velocities—say those approaching the .22 Long Rifle (in excess of 1,000 fps).

"It's a matter of practicality," he said. "Such velocities would entail greatly increased production costs. We would have to go the pneumatic-pump route (as opposed to the present system: spring-pistons), thus necessitating a gun of unwieldy size. And we would probably come up with a pistol extremely difficult to cock (precision air pistols require a cocking effort of only about 12 pounds). Too, we would probably be faced with the problems of air leaks, which would create widespread variables in velocities, and resulting inaccuracy.

"But it is something we are working on," he added.

PRICE STRUCTURE

The price range of air pistols is broad.



Here is the Daisy Power Line M717 mentioned in story. Made of black, diecast metal, it has the look and feel of far more expensive match pistols.



The leisure air pistol that's super-accurate: the Scorpion, made by BSA Guns, Ltd., Birmingham, England. Caliber: .177; note its long sighting radius.

AIR PISTOL SOURCES

Barnett International, Inc., POB 226, Port Huron, MI 48060.

Beeman Precision Airguns, Inc., 47 Paul Drive, San Rafael, CA 94903.

Benjamin Air Rifle Co., 1525 S. 8th St., St. Louis, MO 63104.

Crosman Airguns, 980 Turk Hill Road, Fairport, NY 14450.

Daisy Air Guns, POB 220, Rogers, AR 72756.

Marksman Products, Inc., 2133 Dominguez St., Torrance, CA 90509.

Precision Sports (BSA air guns), 798 Cascadilla St., Ithaca, NY 14850.

RWS Precision Airgun Products (Dynamit Nobel of America), 105 Stonehurst Court, Northvale, NJ 07647.

Sheridan Products, 3205 Sheridan Road, Racine, WI 53403.

Stoeger Industries (Gamo air pistols), 55 Ruta Court, S. Hackensack, NJ 07606.

They sell from under \$25 for the Daisy M188, for example, to around \$625 for the Beeman/Feinwerkbau M90 with its adjustable, electronic trigger: the top of the line in air pistols.

Unlike the conventional mechanical trigger, the electronic trigger is operated by a battery, which is said to last for more than 6,000 shots. If you wish to check its capacity to fire an entire match, you need only push a button in the base of the grip. A red light from a light emitting diode tells you that the gun is ready to fire. Replacing the 15-volt alkaline battery is done about once a year and takes only a few seconds.

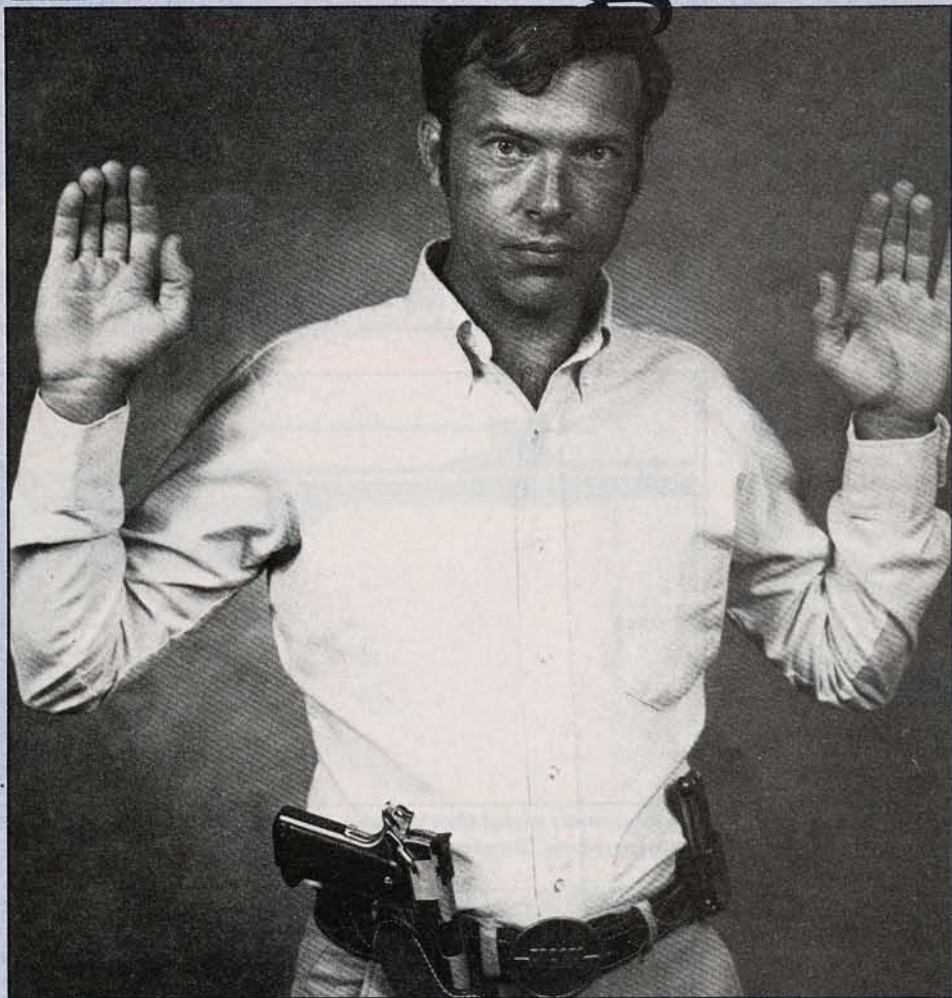
The factory sets the pull of the electronic trigger at the ISU (International Shooting Union) minimum of 17.7 ounce. At this setting (the pull can be made lighter or heavier), the first stage of the trigger pull weighs approximately 12.3 ounces, while the actual discharge pressure in the second stage is an incredibly light 5.4 ounce. Despite this low weight, the trigger point is clearly felt. A slight increase in pressure fires the gun without any apparent movement in the second stage. It just seems to go off at the shooter's mental command, without any backlash or trigger jump.

"The advantages for trigger control

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FOUNDER, ROGERS HOLSTERS...

Bill Rogers:



'CHRONIC GADGETEER'

By Michael Bane

By his own admission, Bill Rogers is a "chronic gadgeteer."

"I've been that way ever since I was a little kid," he said. "I've always liked to take stuff apart, see if I can improve it and make it work a little better."

That gadgeteering instinct was turned full force on holster design when, as a young FBI agent in Chicago, Rogers raced across a busy street only to find that his gun had gotten to the other side ahead of him. Guns, he reasoned, ought to *stay* in their holsters until the right person pulled them out.

In 1973, Rogers (at age 27) got an extended leave of absence from the FBI to

A former FBI agent, the bureau was his first big customer. Today, his holsters are worn by many of the nation's top professional shooters.

form Rogers Holster Company, a firm dedicated to the radical new holster concepts Rogers envisioned to make a gun stay put.

The results have been almost a decade of innovation, from holsters to accessories for the .45 automatic to IPSC (International Practical Shooting Confederation) competition gear.

In a market cluttered with add-on junk, false promises and yesterday's not-so-bright ideas, Bill Rogers' creations—from his police safety holsters to the polycarbon *Shok-Buff* for the .45—stand out as well-conceived, well-engineered, and, best of all, modestly priced. They work, too, which is why more and more Rogers' holsters and accessories are showing up for police duty, in the winners' circle at IPSC matches, and in the hands of sportsmen.

Although the backbone of Rogers Holsters is holsters, he has also become well-

known for his composite handgun grips—an inexpensive alternative to either rubber or expensive custom grips—and such IPSC accessories as the *Idaho Reloader*, a super-fast magazine carrier; the *Shok-Buff*, a tiny shock absorber that cushions the .45 frame from the battering of the slide, and the *E-Z Load*, a funnel that fits on the magazine well of a .45 and facilitates loading.

WILLINGNESS TO EXPERIMENT

What has tied all Rogers' developments together is a willingness to experiment and an unwillingness to be tied to the conventional. The patented Rogers composite holster is a case in point.

"When I began Rogers Holsters, almost all holsters were designed with the same construction," said Rogers. "The holsters were wet-fitted to a certain gun to get their shape. The only problem was that leather will eventually absorb moisture, causing the holster to lose its shape."

Rogers' solution was to design a holster of synthetic material that held its shape, was impervious to moisture, still looked good, and was tough.

When the FBI was looking for a new holster to use at its academy, to be issued with the bureau's then-standard Smith & Wesson M10 four-inch Special revolver, Rogers came up with the Model 1 paddle holster, which he patented when he was an agent. The FBI was so impressed with the holster that it ordered 400; Rogers Holsters was off and running.

Well, at least off and walking.

"No two ways about it," said Rogers. "When we started out, it was tough."

His holsters were made in a basement workroom, with Rogers doing all the work himself. When he wasn't filling orders, Rogers and wife, Christie, would travel around the state of Florida—he had decided to locate the business in Jacksonville, not far from his boyhood home of Orlando—and show his holsters to police departments around the Sunshine State. Business prospered, largely because Rogers was willing to listen to his customers, especially detectives. Finally, he was invited to participate in Miami's Department of Public Safety holster trials.

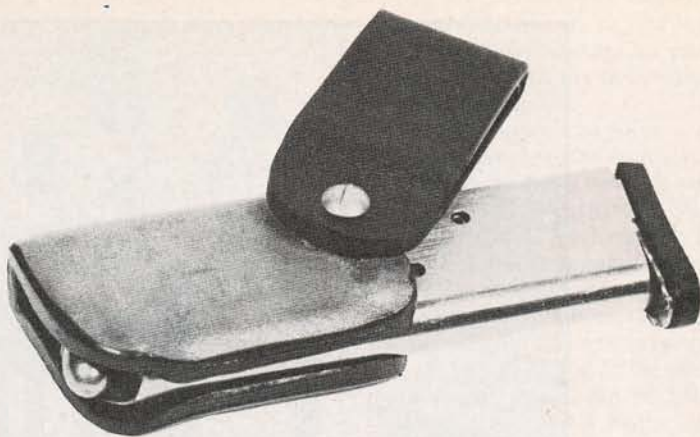
TOUGH TESTS

The trials, he says, tested not only the stamina of the holster but its safety qualities as well.

"Recruits were used, and each had 30 seconds to try and grab an unloaded revolver from another recruit's holster," said Rogers. "After the first series of tests, I could see something wasn't right, so I designed a second holster, which I redesigned six times."

No matter how tough the testing got—and it got progressively tougher—the Rogers holster kept functioning. After a one-month test, no other holsters were found to be serviceable. Of the five Rogers holsters submitted, three were still functioning; the other two were still service-

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Idaho reloader with combat magazine, for practical pistol shooting, top; a Ken Hackathorn Combat Special holster, center-left; one of Bill Rogers' newest high-ride combat holsters, center-right; and a Smith & Wesson N-frame revolver with Rogers "Burlwud" (a synthetic material) combat grips, bottom.



The Lee Turret Press

By Philip C. Briggs

Richard Lee entered the reloading products field with his Lee Loader, a simple set of tools and dies that used a mallet for motive power; he slowly built a unique product line from there.

His first tools were simple, efficient, inexpensive and innovative, as are those that followed over the years, as Lee expanded his line into bullet casting equipment and shotshell loading presses.

But never a metallic cartridge press. Until now. The new Lee Turret press has all the attributes we've come to expect from Lee, and more than his usual share of innovations. Add the new reloading dies that come with the kit, and an old-fashioned storage, carrying, and wooden mounting box, and you have an inexpensive combo that's going to stand the reloading press

Complete metallic cartridge kit includes dies, powder dipper and shell holder—all packaged in a hard maple box.

business on its ear.

The Turret press is a full-size reloader that just brims with clever features.

Let's start at the top—with the turret. It holds three standard $\frac{7}{8}$ inch X 14 thread dies, and lifts out to allow rapid change of a complete set of dies. The kit comes with a free extra turret; additional turrets are

available so you can set one up for each of the cartridges you load.

The turret is of die-cast aluminum alloy (as is most of the press) and locks into a steel ring that forms the top of the frame. There are six lugs in the ring, and a matching set of six on the bottom edge of the turret that are offset from another set of six lugs along its top edge. The top lugs keep the turret from being pulled down and the bottom lugs keep it from being pushed out; a circumferential groove between them allows the turret to rotate in the ring. open up the press for either left- or right-hand operation.

The base of the press is also die cast aluminum alloy. It holds the ram and toggles together, supports the priming arm, and serves as a primer catcher.

PRIMERS HANDLED SMOOTHLY

The priming arm is T-shaped, holds

Lugs, groove and ball detents are so shaped and located that the turret rotates readily between loading operations, yet is rigid, positively located, solid (whether sizing or extracting cases) and can be lifted out quickly.

Moving down the press we find three hexagonal steel bars that support the turret ring on the base. There are four holes in the ring and base—one at each corner—so that the single front bar can be located to both large and small priming punches on, either end of the T, and is quickly installed, by dropping the long end of the T into a pocket in the press base. The arm also serves to deflect spent primers as they come sailing down the conventional slot cut in the ram, into a labyrinth molded into the press base. This arrangement catches the large portion of the primers, although I've had it lose two in a row, and then catch 30 straight. The primers accumulate in the base, and you can either remove them by periodically unbolting the whole works, or providing a hole in the bench top and a catch bottle beneath.

The press has an aluminum compound linkage toggle which, in combination with the long handle, allows effortless reloading operations and requires not much more force in case re-forming operations. I



Dies are packaged in a cylindrical storage box with special compartments.

you have tried to push a stuck case out by screwing the usual decapper into the die, with no success, since there isn't enough power in the thread pitch used. Well, this one works. The decapper is a relatively large diameter rod, positioned in the die



Sizing die features an unbreakable decapper that is adjustable for length.

made up a bunch of .38-.45 brass with the press, and the turret enabled me to finish all forming operations (in form, trim and full-length size dies) without removing the case from the press. The available power made the forming as easy as squashing spaghetti.

Even though the linkage puts out a lot of power from mid to full down stroke of the handle, the compound linkage swings into a minimum mechanical advantage near the end of the upstroke, so that primers can be gently seated by feel, rather than smashed into place.

The only flaw I found in this design is the wood grip. I expect it's there for appearance only. The tubular handle is not as handy as a ball; it's a press fit on the cast aluminum handle, and mine kept loosening, until I gave up and glued it on.

The handle is offset and adjustable, so that it can be set for either hand, as well as being convenient for starting or ending positions.

The sizer, a carbide die in the standard pistol cartridges, employ an unusual "unbreakable" decapper that is also a built-in stuck case remover. Now I'm sure a few of



Bullet seating die is easily adjustable and has a seating punch that floats.

body by a collet that is threaded in. The decapper is "unbreakable" not so much because of the heft of the decapper pin, but because when the pin hits an obstruction the rod slides up through the collet. Withdraw the case, and a tap of a mallet re-positions the decapper. Should a case become stuck, just loosen the collet and drive the case out with a mallet; the rod is big enough to take the force.

NO BULLET SHAVING

The expander/flaring die uses an expander button that, rather than the usual long cylindrical shape topped with a short flared section, has a long gradual taper to expand the case mouth to a size large enough to insert the bullet without shaving. The extent of expansion/flare is adjusted by moving the entire die up or down; there's no separate rod to adjust, nor misadjust by itself.

The bullet seating die uses a short, floating seating punch, so that the punch will self align with the case neck in bullet seating. Seating depth is set by a large diameter plastic stem which is locked in place by the friction of a small O-ring, but is still

easily adjusted with your fingers.

All dies feature lock rings that can be easily adjusted, yet can be locked tight with the fingers. O-rings are positioned so as to squeeze the die body when the lock rings are tightened.

The dies are packaged in a cylindrical storage box that has compartments for their storage, along with the powder dipper and case holder that come with the kit.

In this world of unbreakable plastic, the kit's hard maple storage box, with finger joints on the corners, and tongue-and-grooved top and bottom, is a pleasant change. It's not only a storage and carrying box, but when drilled on the side along the template, the press can be bolted to the opened box (using bolts and T-nuts provided) and set up most anywhere for use.

I've used my press to load a couple of thousand straight-walled and bottle-neck pistol cartridges so far, and I'm impressed.

Being able to mount the case forming and reloading dies in the turret, while forming .38s and .45s, expedited this multi-operation process tremendously.

SPEEDS UP OPERATION

In the usual operation, all three dies needed to load straight-walled cartridges are implanted in the turret, and the case is



The expander/flaring die is adjusted by raising or lowering the lock rings.

handled only once to charge it. That can be eliminated if you use the dipper and a small funnel to charge the case in the press. Considering that with the usual single-station press the case must be handled three times, you can see that the Lee Turret will speed up your pistol loading operations by a significant amount.

I'm particularly fond of the Lee because of the ease with which I can take it to the range and load and shoot test ammo. Bolted to its box, it will function on any bench; and its light weight and neat carrying case make it well suited for portable loading.

Most people will find the increase in reloading speed enough to justify buying one. Others will find the ease with which it can be stored and brought out to load on the kitchen table reason enough to buy it. Some may buy it because of its adaptability for left-handed operation, or for its powerful linkage and super-convenience for case-forming operations.

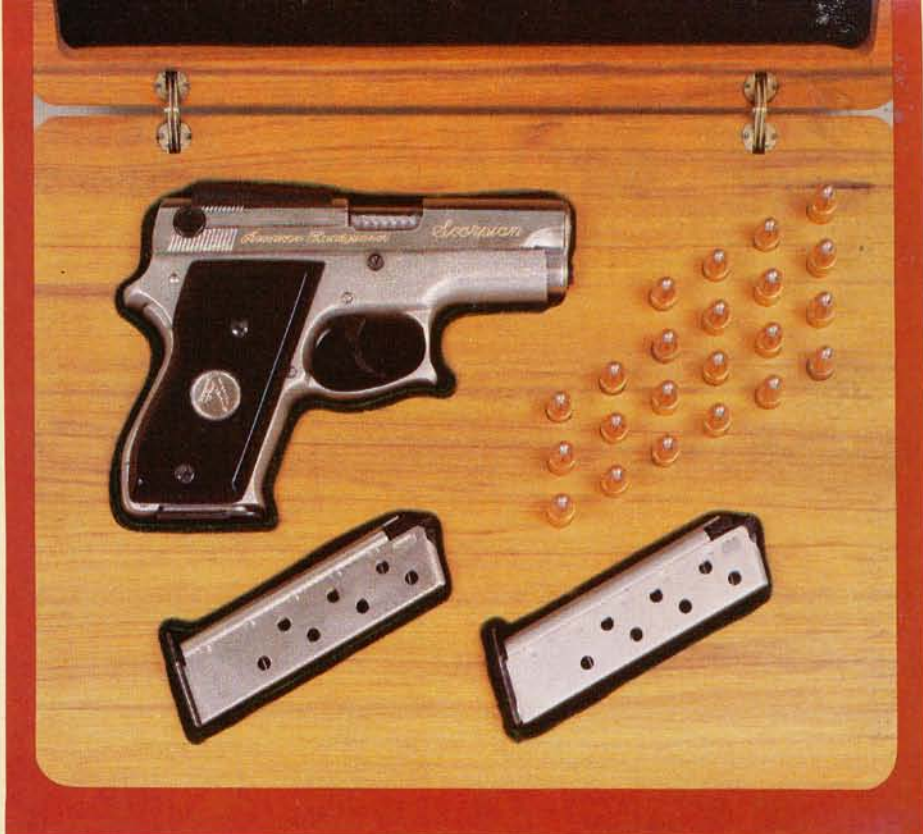
For more information on the new press, write Lee Precision, Inc., Dept. AH, 4275 Highway U, Hartford, WI 53027.



THE SCORPION:

from
PERSONAL PROTECTION
SYSTEMS, INC





“What’s in a name?” wrote William Shakespeare (1564-1616) more than 400 years ago.

Plenty.

Our *Gun of the Month* doesn’t have a long, narrow, segmented tail that terminates in a venomous sting, as its appellation implies, but it does bear the name: *Scorpion*.

And that says a lot, if you’re at the receiving end of its 9mm, 115-grain, “tail-less” stinger!

The gun started out as a Smith & Wesson Model 39, out of the box.

Several major design changes were made by Lin (Trapper) Alexiou, who founded Trapper Guns (18717 E. 14 Mile Road, Fraser, MI 48026) in 1969.

These included shortening the frame and slide, installing a Guttersnipe Advanced Sighting Plane, eliminating all grooves and checkering (including the backstrap) and smoothing—radiusing—all edges to make the slightest snag virtually impossible.

SATIN-NICKEL FINISH

The *Scorpion* has a special, tough, satin-nickel finish—both inside and out—that is both non-glare and non-corrosive; its durability will never show holster wear.

Its black acrylic grips create a symmetry with the black lexon Guttersnipe (tunnel) sight, intended for use with both eyes open.

The sight, which has a long, yellow, tapered groove, has no sharp corners to snag clothing or injure the shooter. It offers a natural method for tracking moving targets—an important feature in close combat shooting.

The safety lever, slide release and trigger are finished in high-polished blue. The barrel hood is jeweled. A Sterling silver medallion—engraved “Special Edition”—is inlaid in the grip and creates a tasteful decoration.

The gun comes in a solid teakwood,

Continued on page 82

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

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

TOP BREAK REVOLVERS



They're safe, reliable, accurate and have great sales potential on today's market.

By Karl Bosselmann

In the "Taking Aim" column of the May/June, 1978 issue of the *American Handgunner*, I wrote that an improved and updated version of a *quality* top-break revolver should be considered carefully by some astute handgun manufacturer.

At the time my column was written, I thought I might be whistling in the dark, but a sizeable reader response everwhelmingly supported my arguments and conclusions presented five years ago.

Then, as now, my opinion was that the solid-frame, swing-out cylinder handgun is an archaic design, necessitated by the absence of something better (including metallurgical sophistication) at the time it was introduced.

In my opinion, no inherent weakness exists in the hinge-frame revolver that cannot

be solved by modern technology. Perhaps the "weakness" in the break-open design lies only in the minds of those who have been brainwashed to believe that these



The as-issued Webley Mk. I revolver in .38 caliber—ready for customizing.

guns are acceptable only for rimfire cartridges, not for big-bore centerfires.

We should not forget that the most reliable

double-action service revolvers were those produced several decades ago by Webley, for the British Service.

Used during two world wars, these top-break revolvers have amassed a serviceability record unchallenged by any currently produced double-action, swing-out cylinder revolver intended for the same purpose and subjected to the same abuse.

There are, as I mentioned in the "Taking Aim" column, many features of a quality top-break revolver that make it desirable for self-defense. Reloading, as compared to a swing-out gun, is more rapid, more fumble-proof and, I believe, more durable (ask any good gunsmith about the rash of bent cylinder cranes he see.)

PROTOTYPE DISCUSSED

As more and more positive letters were received, the editors and I discussed the possibility of building a prototype, using a

popular defense cartridge in an existing design, and ask you, the readers, what you thought of it.

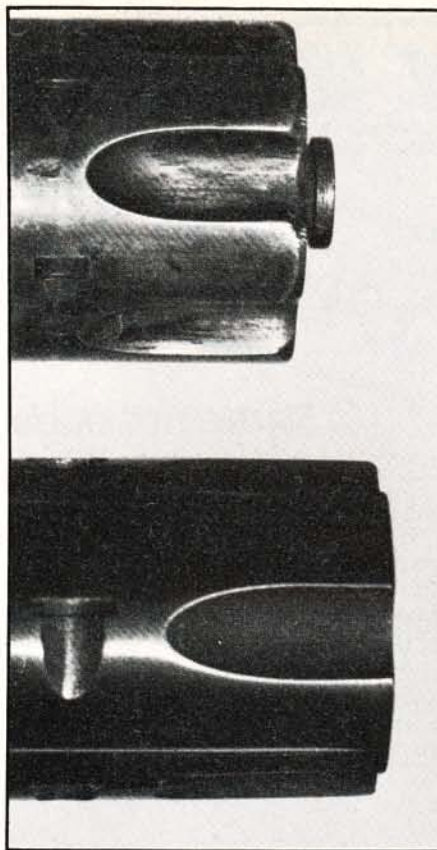
The Webley, due to its proven superiority, was chosen as the basis for our project. Because of its smaller size, the .38 Webley revolver was selected, and the .44 Special caliber chosen for the conversion.

The barrel assembly and frame section was cut, lengthened and re-welded to accommodate the .44 Special cylinder. The configuration of the gun was changed to that of a Smith & Wesson, and the grip frame shortened and rounded for compactness.

Considerable work was needed on the new cylinder and the ejector rod assembly, which required remaking the ejector star to a configuration different than that of the original Webley.

After all the necessary cuts and welds were completed, the barrel was cut to three inches, deemed the optimum length for the gun's intended purpose. The entire revolver was smoothed, front sight reshaped, a .44 barrel installed, and sharp edges removed from all corners.

The gun was finished with industrial hard chrome over a coarse bead blast finish; special ebony grips by "Fuzzy" Farrant were installed, and the final product was test-fired for reliability.



THE BOTTOM LINE

The finished revolver is far superior to the original in appearance, and test-firing reconfirmed our original conclusions. The gun-cartridge combination proved accurate, easy to control, faster than a swing-out cylinder revolver in unloading and ejecting, and as easy to carry as many comparable .38 or .44 revolvers.

It's time someone took a good hard look at the top-break concept, considered all the advances in modern metallurgy, and produced a defense revolver that would be safe, reliable, and saleable. This project demonstrates the feasibility of such a program.



SPECIFICATIONS

Base: Webley Mark IV, .38
Caliber: .44 S&W Special
Sights: Fixed, blue
Finish: Industrial hard chrome, beaded surface
Capacity: Five rounds
Weight: 23 ounces (unloaded)
Length: 7 7/8 inches
Height: 4 3/4 inches
Design & photography: Bosselmann
Welding: Ken Genecco Gun Works, Stockton, CA
Stocks: "Fuzzy" Farrant, West Covina CA



Two cylinders at top are 6-shot .38 S&W Webley (above) and 5-shot .44 Special (below). Gun above is as-issued Webley; partially completed prototype, left.

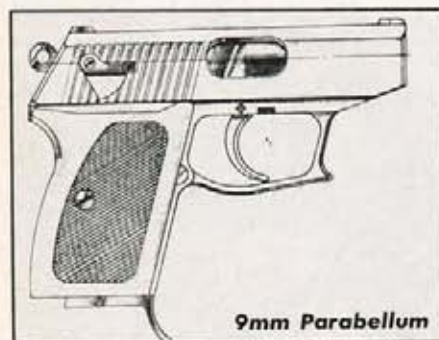
INDUSTRY INSIDER

SPECIAL EDITION

Three hot ones on the way: a compact, 9mm auto; a modern top-break revolver, and a full-size, double-action .45.

By Al Pickles

Washington State has two relatively recent and commanding phenomena: Mount St. Helens and Detonics .45 Associates. The fallout from each has circled the globe. The mountain is now rather stable, but Detonics is still erupting—with new and exciting ideas.



9mm Parabellum

As an appetite whetter, visualize an autoloader chambered for the full house 9mm NATO round (9x19), yet only slightly larger than the AMT Backup and noticeably smaller than the Walther PPK/S. So many part functions have been combined that it takes considerably less than 30 to make up the entire gun. It is a light and compact powerhouse, built with personal protection as its prime function.

Internally, the gun is unique. There is no sear, or at least no sear as we have come to know them. The function of the sear is performed in a manner so totally innovative that the operating parts have yet to acquire recognizable nomenclature. While production of this alley cat is a few years down the line, an experimental model *does* exist, and this writer got to see and feel it while the hastily made stocks were still wet with finish.

Another new gun from Detonics, which could easily be in production before the

9mm, is a totally modern, top-break revolver in several calibers. The "bread board" sample—they don't call them prototypes at Detonics—was a seven-shot gun chambered for the .45 Long Colt. Because it was a big gun, it had my immediate attention. The gun is flat-sided, except for the cylinder and stocks. The visual effect was extremely pleasing in the wide open eyes of this beholder. The strong, break-open latch is ambidextrous (I won-



Modern top-break

der why the old Webley firm never thought of that).

CALIBER CHANGE EASY

Detonics hopes to market this gun in a variety of chamberings, with the best part being that the owner can change calibers merely by purchasing a new barrel and cylinder assembly; something akin to the excellent Thompson/Center Contender, but with at least seven shots.

Towards this end, Detonics has designed a new hinge pin; better yet, let's call it a bolt—one that is extremely strong, yet easily removed with no tools, other than the tip of a bullet.

This writer fired the .45 LC "bread board" sample at the plant's testing facilities and noticed no perceivable recoil while placing three shots in the same hole. As big as this gun is—about the same size as Dan Wesson's .44 Magnum—I watched an attractive little lady fire it with ease.

This revolver is sure to go into production as soon as the company decides whether to build in an autoloading feature.

Simultaneously, Detonics is putting into production a full-sized .45 double-action autoloader. The gun will have a unique rolling block (pin) lock-up that must be seen to be appreciated (a writer's way of saying he doesn't fully understand it, but knows it works fine).

Double-action in the sample gun was



Full-size, DA .45

the smoothest this evaluator has ever experienced. I don't know if it was intended as such, but this gun is also a natural pointer.

Features include an ambidextrous "wipe off" safety, positive blocking of firing pin, and combat sights. It will be made of stainless steel and full production—not too far away—probably will be in the new .451 Detonics Magnum cartridge, as well as the .45 ACP. It, too, is a big gun—but not beyond the capabilities of experienced shooters, regardless of size and gender.

To my knowledge, Detonics has never failed to come through with new models, once they have announced them to the trade press. It may take two or three years to get them on the market, but I predict you will see them in a final version with even more improvements than the "bread board" samples viewed by this writer.

Lethargy has no place at Detonics, and the eruption of ideas occurs with startling frequency.



A modern day John Browning...

HARRY E. SEFRIED II: *Gun Designer Par Excellence*

Recently retired as chief engineer at Sturm, Ruger & Company, he worked for Winchester and High Standard, and designed H&Rs *Sentinel* revolver—a best seller for many years.

Charles E. Petty

Many years ago, when I began my research on High Standard pistols, I heard stories about Harry H. Sefried II—stories about his adventures and misadventures.

Most of the people with whom I spoke confirmed or embellished one tale or another, often because they had been personally involved. His capacity for getting into scrapes, and his practical jokes, are legendary among those who know him. There are also touching stories of the hard times in Sefried's life, and of his generosity to friends in need. He won't talk about those; but he cheerfully admits to some pretty tall tales.

Sefried recently retired as chief engineer at Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc., but he is still active as a forensic ballisticsian and pursues many other interests—fishing, hunting gun collecting, music (he is an accomplished guitarist and singer), motorcycles, classic cars—and being a raconteur, second to none.

Sefried was born in East St. Louis on August 10, 1921. He inherited from his father a love of guns, motorcycles and adventure. His dad was known as *Big Mac* at the motorcycle racetracks around home, and young Harry became known as *Little Mac*.

During World War I, *Big Mac* had been decorated for delivering a vital message to General Pershing, by riding his motorcycle many miles across France while under heavy German fire. He was wounded twice, and was able to complete the ride only by plugging a bullet hole in the motorcycle gas tank with his finger. After the war, *Big Mac* was an active motorcycle racer and daredevil and his son followed, with his first motorcycle at age 14. He was racing at 16, and performing in thrill shows at 18. His interest in guns was assured by the gift of a Stevens .22 *Crack Shot*, when he was only 6.

EARLY TRAINING

Young Sefried credits much of his early training to two men for whom he worked in East St. Louis. One was Frank Eichele, who ran an auto repair shop and did some gunsmithing on the side. The other, Harry Stenzel, was a locksmith who also did gun

Continued on page 70



Sefried holds a highly-prized Smith & Wesson revolver engraved by the late Louis Daniel Nimschke, who was the company's master engraver (Circa 1850-1900). Shown in the background are some of Sefried's collector-type handguns.

How to Control Match Nerves

I've been fortunate in being able to shoot better in competition than in practice. I think it's largely due to my success in controlling match nerves. Here's my approach:

1. BE PREPARED

Make sure your gun functions properly, and pre-test your match ammunition by dropping each round into the chamber. You can't be confident at the line unless you know your equipment is dependable.

2. THINK POSITIVE

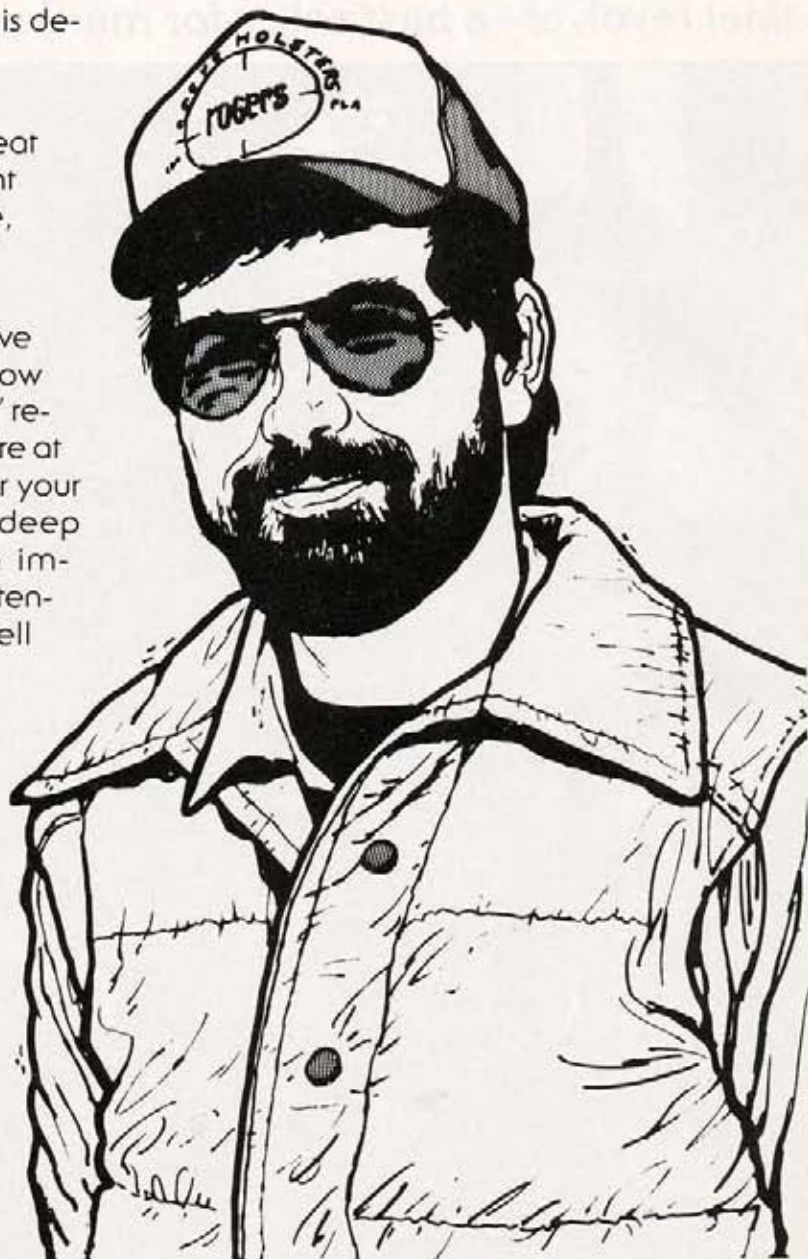
Visualize shooting a perfect score. Repeat to yourself what you have to do: "sight picture, trigger control, sight picture, trigger control".

3. CONTROL THE ADRENALIN

Nervousness is mostly due to the negative symptoms of the increased adrenalin flow which is part of the body's "fight or flight" response to stressful situations. When you're at the line and your hands are shaking or your knees are weak, take three or four deep breaths. The extra oxygen has an immediate calming effect. Shake out the tension through your wrists and hands. Tell every muscle in your body to go loose. Now the adrenalin can work for you. Your reaction time will decrease, your eyesight will improve, and you'll move quicker.

Everyone gets nervous, even world class shooters. But at any level of competition, the ability to win is the ability to control match nerves.

MIKE PLAXCO, Combar Master, 1982 World Speed Shooting Champion, member of the U.S. Gold Team at the 1981 IPSC World Championship.



Attracts 834 police officers...

1982 PPC NATIONALS

The Winner: Patrolman Kerry Hile of the Columbus, Ohio police department, with a score of 1495-109X (all reloads).

By Seth R. Nadel

Editor's note: Seth Nadel, a U.S. Customs Service agent stationed at San Ysidro, California, won a gold medal (for first place in the *Federal Master Class*; his score was 247X250, at 50 yards) and two bronze medals (one for 7th place in the 7-yard and 15-yard stage, the other for 4th place in the aggregate, with a score of 1478; both same class).

Perfection is the ultimate goal in all sports. For thousands of U.S. Police officers, perfection means firing 150 shots into a six-inch-by-four-inch oval at distances up to 50 yards with a .38 caliber revolver, for a possible score of 1500.

Each year, the nation's top shooters in the Practical Pistol Course (PPC) gather to see who comes closest to perfection. Last year, the PPC nationals were held in Des Moines, Iowa, where 834 officers in

federal, state, county, municipal, and industrial categories gathered to search for that ultimate goal: the perfect score.

The overall winner was Patrolman Kerry Hile of the Columbus, Ohio police department, who posted a 1495; 109 of his shots were in the three-inch-by-two-inch X-ring.

Hile was closely followed—and out-X'd—by Sam Yarosh of the U.S. Secret Service with a 1943-115X, and Frank Glenn of the Arizona Department of Public Safety with a 1492-111X. Washington D.C. Police Officer Elizabeth Callahan was high woman shooter with a 1479-83X.

CENTER HOLD

Hile used a mix of old ideas and new ones, employing the older center hold (rather than the neck hold), and the Bomar rib on his Harold Koontz-built gun, which sports a Douglas barrel and Hogue grips. He used Dade speedloaders and a Tex Shoemaker holster, to round out his shooting gear.

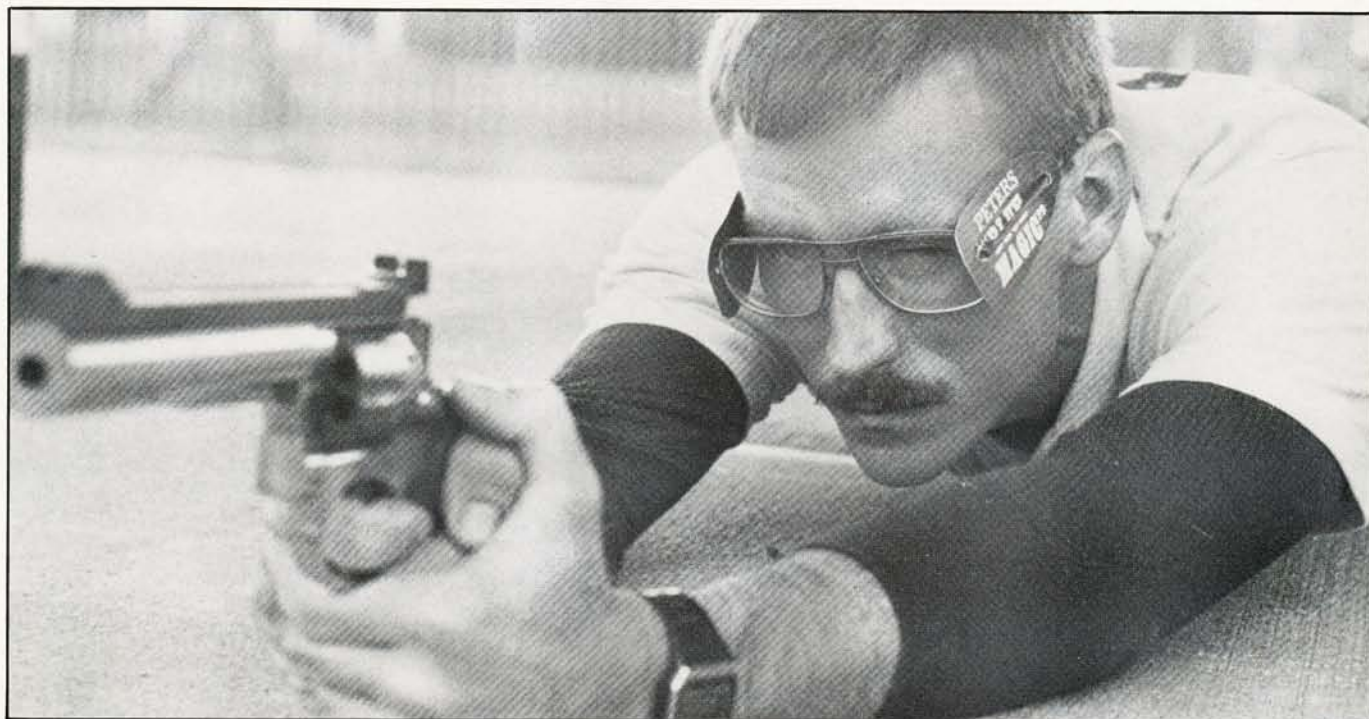
Hile is a firearms instructor with the Co-

lumbus Police department and shoots the entire 150-round PPC course four or five times a week, each time trying to duplicate actual match conditions. His ammo is *all* reloads, in mixed brass, with Winchester powder and primers. Most shooters at the Des Moines match fired factory ammo at 50 yards, obviously lacking Hile's faith in handloads.

He uses the popular Weaver stance in the standing position without support. This stance is becoming more evident in PPC matches, as more police today shoot two types of matches: PPC and IPSC (International Practical Shooting Confederation).

The PPC course (150 rounds) is fired at 7, 15, 25 and 50 yards, from the standing, sitting, prone and kneeling positions; in addition, 24 shots are fired (left- and right-hand) from behind barricades.

The commercial row at the match saw heavy action, as shooters bought holsters and new guns to help them in this year's attainment of that perfect score: 1500-150X.



AMERICAN FACTORY AMMO

A report on center-fire loads from Federal, Frontier, Remington and Winchester; it features consistent velocities, tight groups.

By Stanley W. Trzoniec

The American handgunner is blessed with a multitude of factory loadings. Highly responsive to his needs, U.S. ammo makers have put forth a herculean effort to satisfy his appetite in both standard and high-performance cartridges.

They have kept on the market—in spite of comparatively low sales—handgun cartridges still used by relatively few shooters. Included are such calibers as the .32 S&W, .38 Auto Pistol and the .45 Auto Rim. For this we are grateful.

Standard factory ammunition has been with us ever since the first metallic cartridge firearm entered the shooters' world. In Winchester's case, this can be traced back to about 1866. Remington's start in the field began in August of 1867, when a group of entrepreneurs started up UMC (Union Metallic Cartridge Company). This independent company then merged with Remington Arms, with headstamps reading REM-UMC. Today, Remington brass is simply stamped R-P.

Time plays an important part in the development of center-fire cartridges. At this writing, the self-contained cartridge is only about 125 years old. Therefore, factory ammunition can truly said to be still in its infancy.

Modern technology is constantly finding better ways to propel that small projectile down the bore. If the early 20th century ballistic fathers, such as Newton, Roberts and Whelen, had the powders we now have at our disposal they would

have been truly astonished and extremely pleased at the end results.

Time and necessity also brought us great rounds like the .45 Colt, .45 ACP, .38 Special and the magnums. Gifted men—Phil Sharpe and Elmer Keith, for example—had the foresight and talent to see ahead and introduced us to the .357, .41 and .44 magnums. The past 20 years or so in the development of handgun cartridges has been nothing short of exciting, and the trend continues.

COMPANIES MEET NEEDS

Fads come and go, leaving the ammunition companies in a constant state of shock over present conditions. Silhouette, combat, target shooting or hunting all have their own requirements and, when a vacuum appears, companies such as Remington, Winchester, Federal or Frontier all rush to meet those individual needs.

Big bucks must first be spent on research and development, to insure that a quality product will reach the consumer. To calculate the amount of engineering involved in just getting that modern projectile downrange in one piece, or in one ragged hole, is nothing short of phenomenal.

Take the forces against our little bullet, for example. *Rotational spin* is one. A .357 magnum bullet blasting out of the muzzle at roughly 1,200 fps will, in the course of its trip, make upwards of 72,000 revolutions per minute. A .44 Magnum will hit the high side at around 95,000 rpm.

Then there's *gravity*. In the trip downrange to a 100 yard target, a normal .357 will, at 1,200 fps, drop more than 13 inches with no sight compensation as it comes straight out of the muzzle. At 200 yards, it's 61 inches; at 300 yards, the bullet will drop more than 12 feet. This calculates, in flight time, in the neighborhood of ¼, ½ and almost a full second—at these respective ranges.

Another important factor is *pressure*. Standard cartridges in the .38 Special or .45 automatic develop, on the average, of 15,000 copper units of pressure (cup). Modern, high-performance magnums easily approach 40,000 cup.

Copper units of pressure measurement is a laboratory-controlled procedure. When the powder is ignited by the primer, a gas is formed. It builds up pressure, which sends the bullet on its way. Test barrels are used in the lab; they incorporate a "copper



Five different calibers, five different powders. Note bullet variations and differences in powder granulations. There are no reloads here.





Factory ammunition is capable of excellent groups in a good gun shot by a competent marksman. This target, fired at 50 yards, shows a fine 2-inch group.

crusher" fixture. The amount of "crush" registered is then compared to a chart for the number of units.

Ammunition companies are concerned with many other factors, too broad to go into detail here. These would include ballistic coefficient, sectional density, yaw, pitch, expansion characteristics, proper lead content, diameters and uniformity of powder drops.

On the popularity of certain loads in five calibers, I wrote four major ammunition companies: *Federal*, *Frontier*, *Remington* and *Winchester*. They were approached in an effort to help narrow the field, and put up front exactly what the handgun consumer is buying over the counter.

FEDERAL CARTRIDGE CORP.

In answer to my letter to *Federal*, in reference to the "best sellers" in five calibers, the company said it could not supply such information "because of the confidential nature of the data."

Federal did, however, supply two or three offerings in each caliber. So what I did was to put the *Federal* samples on hold until I had sufficient data on what the other companies were offering.

Starting out with the 9mm, I picked the 115-grain JHP and the 123-grain metal case. The 9mm has been around long enough to gain a good foothold among shooters, and these two samples fell right in line for test purposes.

The 115-grain JHP is a high-stepper, blasting out of the muzzle at 1,154 fps on my Oehler chronograph in my Browning test gun with a 4¾-inch barrel. Running close behind the factory specs of 1,160 fps, it was a good solid shooter. The 123-grain full metal case was equally at home in my automatic and never jammed, even when I loaded the magazine to full capacity. This

one ran only about a 20 fps spread, which undoubtedly accounts for its excellent accuracy.

In the .38 Special category, all tests were fired in my Smith & Wesson M28 with its six-inch tube. Both the 158-grain SWC and the standard 158-grain lead round nose registered 768 fps and 765 fps, respectively. Too close to call here.

In the magnum class, the .357s did well. Since the industry standard is 1,235 fps in a four-inch barrel, I was interested in what the .357 would do in a six inch tube. Looking at the charts, it was too close to call. But we did notice an escalation in the extreme spread, and severe side blasts on the jacketed soft point.

Federal's .44 Magnum loads consisted of the 180-grain and 220-grain metal cased

loadings. The former is a real blaster at 1,653 fps, with the metal cased version dropping a bit in velocity—even with a 1½ inch gain in barrel length. With nicked cases, it extracted easily.

Our military standby round—the .45 ACP—did well in the *Federal* line up. What looks to me like a *Sierra* product, the 185-grain jacketed hollow point has one monstrous hole in the end. On the mike, I came up with an inside diameter of .190 inch to .195 inch, depending on what sample you picked. Expansion was good, and did justice to this sometime maligned round. As with all .45 ACP rounds, I ran them side by side in an automatic (closed barrel) and a revolver (cylinder gap). What the auto gained with the 5-inch barrel, the revolver lost in the six-inch tube—mainly because of the gap. I did, however, manage to gain a slight edge in the accuracy department with the revolver.

We ended with the tried and true 230-grain full metal cased version. As with the 9mm, I experienced no hangups in the automatics.

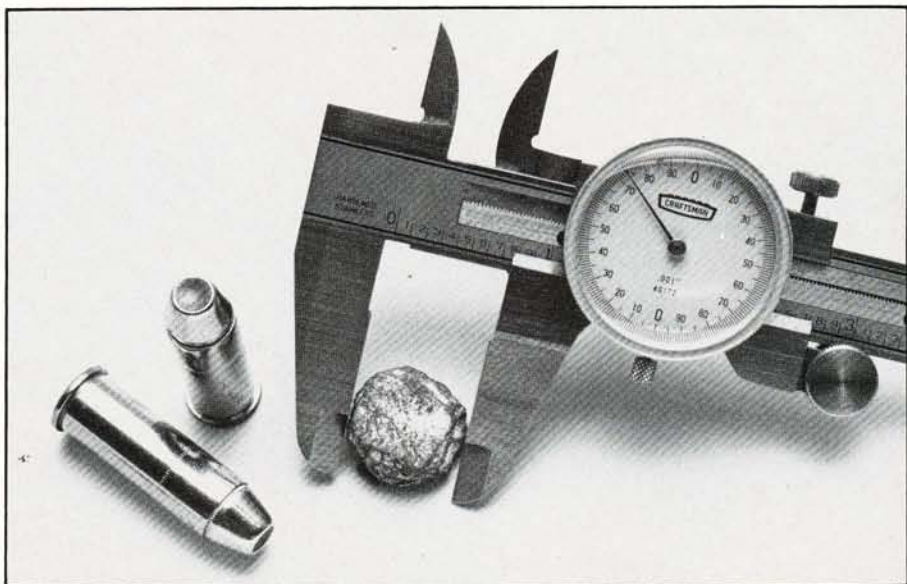
FRONTIER

The *Hornady/ Frontier* story is a horse of a different color. When I approached the company with the idea, I received a list of its 15 most popular loads, broken down by caliber. Detail men these fellows at *Frontier*—a division of Hornady Bullets.

"We have deleted the large orders to military and police, so the figures should be very factual for civilian purchases," wrote *Frontier*.

For pure stopping power, experts advise you to lean toward heavier bullets. *Frontier* has met demands here and delivered a remarkable loading in the 9mm caliber. Listed as #9027, it consists of a full metal jacketed bullet with a slight twist. This variation carries a flat nose vs. the common round nose in the hardball version.

Continued on page 76



When "miked," Federal's 220-grain metal profiled bullet reached double diameter easily. Such excellent expansion appeals greatly to handgun hunters.

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T/C, RUGER WIN '82 GUN HONORS

The Thompson/Center Contender in 7mm caliber and the Ruger .44 Magnum have won top honors in a survey reported by Elgin T. Gates, president, International Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association.

In 1982, the T/C closed breech 7mm pistol was fired by 3,815 winners in IHMSA-sanctioned matches; the Ruger .44 Magnum revolver was fired by 2,791 IHMSA winners (the survey shows only 37 winners for the Ruger Redhawk; however, it is believed that many match directors listed the gun as just "Ruger .44 Magnum," instead of Ruger Redhawk .44 Magnum).

The Dan Wesson .44 Magnum vaulted from near obscurity the year before to the number-two revolver, with 345 winners reported. The Dan Wesson .357 Magnum revolver placed 3rd with 277 winners, and the Colt .357 Magnum placed 4th with 246 winners.

Second place in IHMSA's *Production Class* category was the T/C Contender in .30-30 caliber (785 winners), followed by T/Cs .357 Magnum (585 winners) and .30 Herter (324 winners), for 3rd and 4th place.

In IHMSA's *Revolver* category, the Ruger .357 Magnum placed 5th with 136 winners; its .41 Magnum placed 7th with 53 winners. The Smith & Wesson .44 Magnum placed 8th with 47 winners; its .41 Magnum and .357 Magnum placed 13th (20 winners) and 14th (14 winners), respectively.

Other *Production Class* guns included the T/C .44 Magnum (6th/151 winners), the T/C .41 Magnum (8th/58 winners) and the T/C .223 (13th/13 winners).

POOR SCORER: 45 ACP

In three years of IHMSA shooting, the Colt .45 auto has won but one match; same applies to the T/C .45 ACP.

Match winners (1982) by manufacturers were:

T/C, 5,780; Ruger, 3,055; Dan Wesson, 622; Merrill, 295 (its .30 caliber pistol placed 5th in the *Production Class* with 168 winners, while its .357 Magnum placed 7th with 76 winners, and its 7mm 9th with 58 winners); Colt, 252; Smith & Wesson, 82; Mossberg (USA), 72 (its .44 Magnum placed 6th in the *Revolver Class* with 66 winners); Interarms (Virginia Dragoon), 40, and Remington, 28.

Winners by cartridge case types were bottleneck, 5,230 and straight wall, 5,034.



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PISTOLSMITHING

Continued from page 21

TRICKY WELDING JOB

Some slide stops are too small inside the frame and will slip past the magazine follower. This is usually a sign of maximum tolerance in the magazine well. The only solution, aside from checking out each magazine, is to add a bit to the protrusion—a tricky job of welding. It may be simpler to find a larger slide stop.

Grip screw bushings and plunger tubes almost always require staking, even if they are factory-installed. Some factory-installed plunger tubes seem to have been made with the pins too short; so, if staking will not anchor it down, simply replace it with a new one. I find this to be one of the most prevalent shortcomings in the after-market frames; but a new surplus GI part will *always* solve the problem. A commercial part will *almost always* solve it.

A close inspection of every bearing part will pay off in maximum reliability. Stone, file, polish or chip away the high spots as required, always bringing the part in question to a proper degree of finish for smooth working and reliable functioning.

Always range-test your assembled pistol, using a variety of ammo, before you consider it finished.

If the box of unassembled parts seems to overwhelm you, it can always be shipped off to your favorite gunsmith. He might welcome a challenge, between routine jobs.



Alberts adds 2 swaged bullets to its line

Two new designs to its swaged bullet line have been added by the Alberts Corporation of Fairfield, New Jersey.

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The 230-grain bullet is a flat-nose projectile designed primarily for silhouette and bowling pin competition. It feeds perfectly in an auto and is an alternative to the traditional round-nose design long favored by competitive shooters.

The 250-grain bullet is a semi-wadcutter, hollow-point projectile designed primarily for the Smith & Wesson M25-5. The bullet is swaged to a slightly larger outside diameter (.456 vs. .454) to compensate for oversize cylinder throats.

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'Go monthly; print GOM on waterproof paper'

Your July-August issue of the *American Handgunner* just arrived. As usual, I devoured it from cover to cover. I can truthfully say that your magazine is the best firearms-type magazine going. I know, because I take all of them. I have only three suggestions to make:

(1) That you go monthly, instead of bi-monthly.

(2) That many of your color photographs, especially Gun-of-the-Month, be printed on waterproof paper. This would keep many of us from ruining our issues by drooling all over the photos.

(3) That you introduce a "Firearms Legislation" column. It might not be as interesting as your other features, but it might help influence more people to become actively involved in the gun law fight, and might even help fend-off more "Morton Grove" violations of our civil liberties. Isn't it strange, come to think of it, how "Civil Liberties" is such a worthy cause in the minds of many people, except when it is applied to gun-owners?

Other than that, yours is a great magazine, and one to which I anxiously look forward to receiving. Keep up the good work!

John Harris
Mexico, MO

Don't try to 'magnumize' old .45 Colt revolvers

The article by Claud Hamilton on the .45 Colt in the July-August issue of the *American Handgunner* was quite interesting. In my opinion, the reference to the cartridge case being the reason for maintaining low velocities and chamber pressures needs some clarification.

An excellent article refuting this old misconception appears in the Sept.-Oct. 1979 issue (#81) of "Handloader" magazine.

The hardness and sectional density

of modern (especially Federal's) .45 Colt cases, as compared to .357, .41, .44, and .45 Win. Magnum cases, strongly supports the real reason *not* to try to "magnumize" the .45 Colt: the reduced thickness of the cylinder walls in most revolvers.

Hopefully, Claud's reference to this cartridge as an "obsolete link with the past" will be overlooked by shooters possessing these guns, and who are contemplating their first try at IHMSA revolver or NRA Hunter's Pistol silhouette shooting.

A valuable result of their participation will be the potential strengthening of this nation's handgunners ranks by vocal participation in our battles to preserve our gun ownership rights, which allow us to continue enjoying our favorite sport.

Tom Acheson
Maplewood, MN

'The .45 Colt is a good gun, and a good cartridge'

After reading "The .45 Colt—Is It Really Obsolete?" (July-August issue of *American Handgunner*), I have to take exception to Mr. Hamilton's opinion.

He states that it is not a good hunting handgun because it is not a Magnum. If Mr. Hamilton is under the impression that a handgun has to be a "Magnum" to be good for hunting, he is sadly mistaken. He is also missing a lot of fine cartridges. After shooting the .45 Colt for the past 10 years, I can say that it is a fine cartridge. Although the .41 and .44 Magnums are better for deer-sized game, the .45 is still a good choice if loaded properly and distances are kept within reason. I have always enjoyed handgun hunting because it requires skill as a woodsman to stalk close enough for a good shot. My idea of handgun hunting is not to carry a single-shot scoped handgun and take 100, 200-plus-yard shots. Hunting is not like the silhouette game. It is not a contest to see from how far away you can hit the animal. A true hunter waits for a good shot that will dispatch an animal without suffering.

Mr. Hamilton states that there is little good factory ammunition for the .45 Colt. Federal is loading a 225-grain hollowpoint that is outstanding.

His article is summarized by the statement that the .45 Colt is obsolete. The yearly sales of both guns and ammunition testify to the fact that the .45 Colt is still in use. Loaded with

Continued on page 62

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jacketed bullets and smokeless powder, the .45 Colt is substantially better than the "new" .38 Special + Ps, and even holds an edge over some .357 loads.

The .45 Colt has been around for quite a while, but don't throw dirt on the coffin until the .45 is really dead. True, the .45 Colt is not a .44 Magnum, but then again it is much more pleasant to shoot.

I applaud you on a fine magazine. It is the best ever dedicated to the handgunner.
Clay L. Hamann
Vernal, Utah

Reader offers tips on controlling .45 recoil

I'd like to share with other readers of the *American Handgunner* a couple of helpful hints in controlling recoil when shooting a .45 Auto. I bought one of the recoil compensation devices that replaces the barrel bushing and extends two inches from the muzzle, with holes in the top to divert gases upward.

This is not as effective as it might be, since the barrel must move within the bushing, leaving a gap where gases may escape, rather than being diverted upward through the holes. The real trick is to add a weight to this extension (I used a 3/4 inch shaft collar with a locking set screw, which helps keep the muzzle down). The shaft collar can be found in most hardware stores, and can be filed flat on top to allow clearance for sighting.

The added weight *must* be set out away from the frame far enough to clear it when the slide moves rearward. More than one weight may be added (I use two), but the recoil spring may need to be adjusted by clipping a coil or two. Muzzle flip is dampened appreciably. This extension covers a longer barrel (if you have installed one on your auto, and don't like the looks of the extra

inch hanging out on the front).

Another tip is to add weight to the magazine. Since I only load five rounds in my clip at the range, I realized I could use the space normally taken by the other cartridges. I cut a piece of metal 1/4 inch wide to fit *inside* the spring, and rounded all edges where the spring might contact it. It slides freely inside the spring, but does not interfere with its action. Only five rounds will fit, but the metal can be removed easily; or another clip may be used for longer strings of fire.

This combo of muzzle extension with weights and reduced magazine capacity is not suitable for all situations, but it helps raise my scores; at minimal cost.

Art Kramer
Melbourne, FL

HANDGUN STOPPING POWER LETTERS

Wants .45 that "does it justice" out of the box

I am writing in response to your excellent series on handgun stopping power.

I was "weaned" on handguns more than 10 years ago. My first was a Ruger Super Blackhawk. It was the first of five single, double and automatic action .44 magnums. My first "hogleg" was carried in the ghetto for defense during my all-night stays at a gas station in East Chicago.

I've taught hunter safety (specifically handguns) for five years in a state-approved course. My actual combat experience is limited.

I'm left handed. Safeties, slide releases, clip releases and even

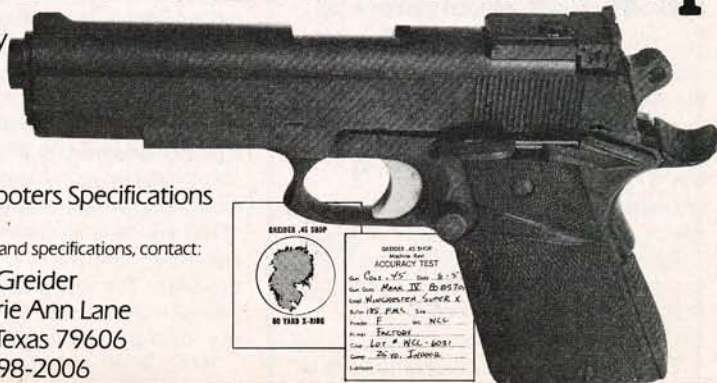
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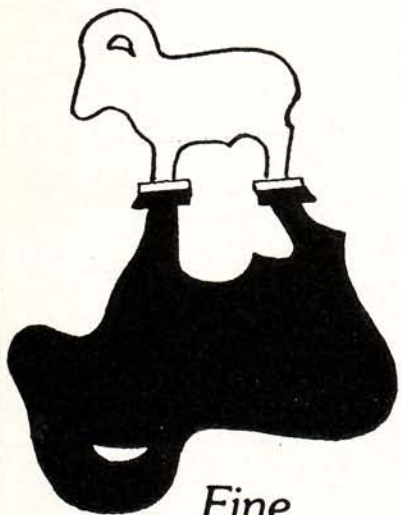
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cylinder releases are on the "wrong side." Even double doors on buildings are usually locked on the side a lefty would use. Try a pair of scissors in your left hand and you'll see what I mean.

There is no .45 auto or revolver convenient for a southpaw. All controls are on the wrong side. The only true handgun for both hands seems to be the HK P7, a 9mm. So far, I've found S&Ws M39 to be the most accurate and reliable.

The reliability of all .45s I've encountered, out of the box, is deplorable. After spending \$400 or more for a firearm, the damn thing had better digest what I feed it, within reason. All of my friends and acquaintances with .45s have had reliability problems with their new guns. They must send the gun to a "competent adjuster," for a wait of six months to two years, before being able to rely on it. No thanks! If I have to use two or three MerCor 9mms, so be it. At least my 9mm shoots everything I put in, everytime.

I feel the .45 is the best in its field for serious social work. Now, let's get one that does it justice, right out of the box.

E. Timothy Elges
 Gaylord, MI 49735

Gen. Hatcher's formula 'overlooks' expansion

I enjoyed the article *Handgun Stopping Power* by Robert M. Price in the September-October issue of the *American Handgunner*. I didn't know there was a 1980 revision of the LESP summary report.

I agree with Price's comments about the RII (Relative Incapacitation Index) values produced in that report, and never could "buy" the idea that a .38 Special wadcutter has more "incapacitation" capability than a .45 auto FMC.

I do not, however, totally agree with his statement that "the delivered energy of a bullet—or knock-down power—is the most important factor in instantaneous incapacitation."

General Hatcher didn't agree, either, and changed his original formula which included "energy" to one which included "momentum" instead. LaGarde's tests with the steers indicate that the greatest knock-down power came from the large-diameter bullets and not from the small bullets with high velocities. In fact, the .30 caliber Luger bullet, weighing 92.6 grains (the smallest and lightest bullet), with the highest

Continued on page 67



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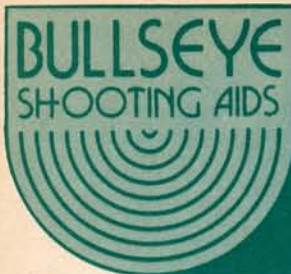
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velocity (1,420 fps.) and developing the greatest energy (415 foot pounds) produced the poorest knock-down power. This led La Garde to conclude that velocity (at least within the range of handgun velocities, and in flesh) was not nearly as important as bullet diameter, and prompted Hatcher to replace the "energy" part of his formula with "momentum."

The formula for kinetic energy, which utilizes the "square" of velocity, places too much premium on velocity and is not a good measure of "knock-down" power. The actual force, or blow, developed from kinetic energy depends on the deflection, or movement, of the struck target; and on the distance the bullet travels in the target while delivering the energy. If the energy is delivered in two inches instead of six inches, the actual force or blow imparted to the target is three times as great.

Momentum, simply mass-times-velocity, does not consider the "work" done (force-times distance) by the target, while absorbing the delivered energy. Momentum is more a measure of "impact." I use momentum rather than energy, because it gives equal importance to mass (weight) and velocity. I have spent many hours pondering the question; frankly, I'm still not absolutely convinced.

The one thing I think Hatcher's formula overlooks is *bullet expansion*. He gave credit to blunt nose bullets by the use of bullet configuration factors; but I guess in those days, the bullets didn't do much expanding.

For good relative comparisons, the test medium for determining the expanded diameters and areas must parallel the resistance of the human body as closely as possible. This is difficult to achieve because of the extremely variable makeup of a human body. I suppose a comprehensive program of bullet recovery from actual occurrences is really what's needed.

I favor large, heavy bullets—such as those of .44 and .45 caliber—especially the newer hollow-point types at velocities near 900 fps. I also like .357 Magnum rounds with expandable bullets weighing 110 to 140 grains. I consider the 158-grain .38 Special +P lead hollow-points the best for this caliber, but a minimum for self-defense.

There are many other practical factors involved in the ultimate production of handgun stopping power. Whatever, the shooter must

Continued on page 68

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Keep up the good articles. Maybe one of these days we can all agree on something.

Hampton A. Wallace
New Orleans, Louisiana

Reader disagrees with Price on the 9mm Luger

Robert Price's article in your September-October issue (*Handgun Stopping Power*) makes the 9mm Luger seem about the most effective pistol cartridge going. And the mathematics he used for figuring RI index seem beyond reproach.

Yet, it's hard to ignore something I read in Jeff Cooper's book, *"Cooper on Handguns,"* revised edition of 1975 (page 51). According to Cooper, statistics on gunfights indicate that about 50 percent of men hit once with 9mm or .38 Special are disabled to where they can't shoot back. They may survive and recover, but at the moment of being hit they are helpless. In other words, the 9mm has a 50 percent rating as a "fight stopper." That same set of statistics gives the various .44s and .45s 90-95 percent ratings—almost double. Howard J. Hanson
Federal Way, Washington

Continued on page 90

PROPOSITION 15

Continued from page 15

period (15 days) in the nation.

As one sheriff told the *American Handgunner*, "Law enforcement people felt that Proposition 15 wouldn't work, wouldn't stop criminals and would only divert the police away from protecting the people."

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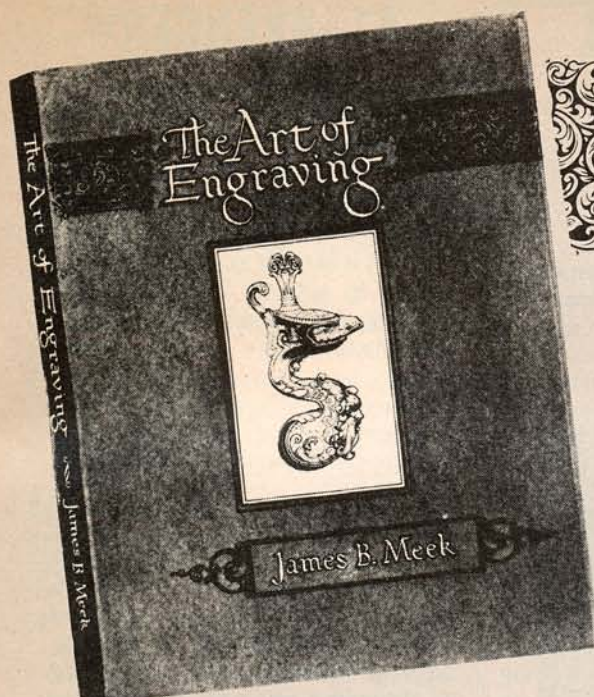
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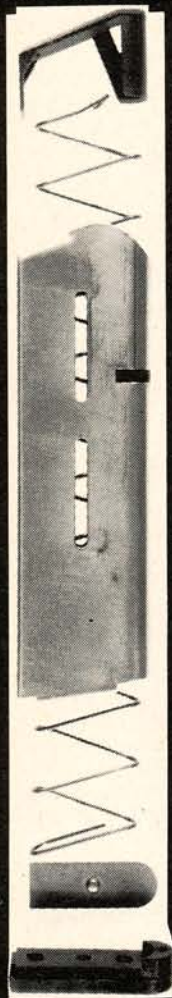
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HARRY SEFRIED

Continued from page 53

repairs. From Eichele, Sefried learned the value of craftsmanship; from Stenzel, the workings of a machine shop. Such training helped him get a job at the St. Louis Ordnance Plant, where he helped produce .50 caliber cartridge cases, just before World War II.

When the war broke out, Sefried intended to become a pilot, until the Air Corps discovered he was color blind and made him a firearms instructor instead. A range accident with an M-1 Thompson gave him cause to study the gun, and he devised a means to convert it to fire from a closed bolt. His invention was studied, and praised by various agencies, but was not adopted because the Thompson was due to be phased out in favor of the M-3 greasegun.

A back injury received in training forced him out of service, and he returned to the St. Louis Ordnance Plant. There, he met John Olin and Ed Pugsley who, on the strength of his Thompson design, offered him a job at Winchester. He arrived in New Haven the next day in a raging snowstorm and recalls how he almost got back on the train. Sefried has since grown accustomed to snow, and has lived in Connecticut ever since.

His first duties at Winchester put him in close contact with the legendary David Marsh (Carbine) Williams, who was noted for not liking or trusting anyone. He was convinced that Sefried had been sent to spy on him by the Winchester management, a fact that Sefried admits was not entirely untrue.

Williams was an exceptionally strong man, and one of his favorite ways of showing displeasure was to stare someone in the eye, and bend a 10 penny nail into a "U" shape with his bare hands—as if to say, "This oughta be your neck!"

A LASTING FRIENDSHIP

One day, Sefried hid two small pieces of a gun barrel in some cotton waste. When Williams went into his nail-bending routine, Harry simply straightened the nail again with the gun barrel pieces, threw it on Williams's bench and left the room. He watched through a crack in the door as Williams studied the nail and found the secret to Sefried's feat. He burst out laughing. When Sefried returned, he said, "How about coming over tonight and help me drink some good liquor?" Thus began a friendship that lasted until Williams died. As the friendship and trust grew, Williams commissioned a specially engraved Winchester Model 21 and presented it to Sefried.

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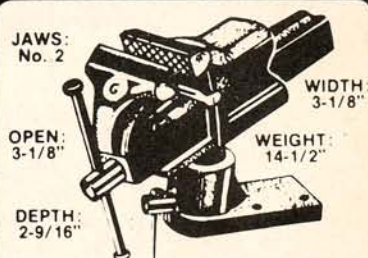
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Sefried credits his early education in firearms design and manufacturing to Winchester's Chief Engineer Bill Roehmer, and to a unique opportunity he had to study the many model guns of John Browning that were on display in the Winchester Museum. He was impressed by how well the models worked, despite their relatively crude manufacturing methods. Sefried took each model apart and studied it, many times.

One of his first projects at Winchester was to develop a modified M-1 capable of full-automatic fire. Sefried, Roehmer, Pugsley and Williams took the model to Aberdeen Proving Ground to demonstrate it to John Garand and a host of army brass.

In honor of his position, Garand was given the first opportunity to fire the gun. Before Sefried could explain the light trigger pull and 1,000-round-per-minute cyclic rate, Garand raised the rifle to his shoulder, touched the trigger and . . . you guessed it!

While the assembled dignitaries scrambled for cover, Sefried grabbed Garand and held on. He says it was the high point of his career—"to have John Garand by the ass."

EARLY EDUCATION

Although he was graduated from high school at 16, Sefried had no further formal education. He enrolled in a night school at New Haven College (under the GI Bill), where he took courses in engineering and math. Although he did not graduate, he said he learned "what I needed to know."

In 1950, Sefried left Winchester and went to work as an engineer at High Standard. There, he designed the takedown system still used on its semi-autos, and also a gun of which he is immensely proud: the High Standard *Sentinel* revolver, which began production in 1955 and went on to become one of the best selling revolvers in history, with sales estimated at more than 2-million.

The gun was a radical departure from conventional revolver designs. It featured two aluminum castings for the grip and frame. Almost all internal parts had to be assembled in the grip portion. They were held together and inserted into the frame where the two units were locked in place by the hammer pivot pin. There was no side plate, and only one screw was used—to hold the grips.

Anyone who has done it, knows that the removal of the hammer pivot pin on a *Sentinel* is accompanied by a shower of parts flying all over the place. Sefried's design originally included a hammer sleeve, which served to hold all the parts together if the pin should be removed. High Standard management, however, failed to consider the propensity of American shooters to take their guns apart and eliminated the hammer sleeve. This saved the company seven cents a gun and created considerable ill will among shooters who had to pay a

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minimum of \$5 to have their guns put back together at the factory. Sefried estimates the company made more than \$40,000 on reassembly orders.

The assembly problem was not limited to ordinary customers. One day, Sefried received a call from the late General Julian Hatcher, who sheepishly explained, "I decided to take it apart and, frankly, I've got parts all over the damned office. Would you mind putting it back together?"

A GOOD IDEA

High Standard decided that Sefried's bushing wasn't such a bad idea after all, and later model guns were so equipped. Guns without the bushing are marked R-100, with the bushing, R-101.

The *Sentinel* was successful for a number of reasons. Perhaps the most important was its price: between \$37 and \$49.50, depending on finish. It had a swing-out cylinder, found only on more expensive guns at that time, and was marketed by both High Standard and Sears Roebuck (J. C. Higgins Model 88). An accurate and durable plinker, there is a growing collector interest in *Sentinel* revolvers; some variations are quite scarce. The most sought after are the ladies guns, which were offered in gold, turquoise or pink finish.

While at High Standard, Sefried was involved in some of his more adventurous escapades. One, which can now be told, concerns the grand opening of a hotdog stand across the street from the High Standard factory. Part of the festivities was a large, helium-filled balloon floating above the assembled lunchtime crowd, made up mostly of High Standard employees.

"It was too good to pass up," said Sefried. From the rear of the plant he fired a couple of .22s into the balloon, and just had time to get back to his desk before the slowly escaping gas caused the balloon to fall among the crowd. George Wilson Jr. reports that his father, Sefried's boss, rushed into the office to find Sefried at work. "I know you did it," he said. "I just want to know how!"

DESIGNS ANOTHER GUN

In 1957, Sefried left High Standard; with several others, he formed the Jefferson Corporation, manufacturer of guns for Montgomery Ward. It was then that Sefried designed another gun—an inexpensive single-shot shotgun that had a die cast zinc receiver. The gun was a good seller and safe to fire.

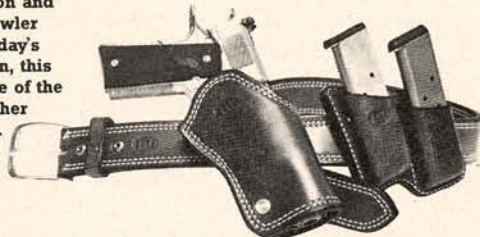
Using an interlock mechanism, he made it impossible to load the gun without first engaging the safety. His use of a zinc die casting caused some raised eyebrows in the industry; it seems some believed that zinc would not hold up to the stresses of shooting. To settle the argument, one of Jefferson's employees rebarreled a shotgun receiver to .30-06. After 15 proof loads and countless other rounds were fired in it, the

Continued on page 81

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BILL ROGERS

Continued from page 45

holsters; the Air Force followed quickly with an order for another 1,600.

"That holster was so heavy-duty it was unimaginable," said Rogers. "You could run over it with a car, and it would still function."

The Miami trials led to Rogers' increasing interest in a safety holster for police use. With his typical tenacity, he set about to design a holster as close to snatch-proof as possible. In 1978, he introduced *The Boss*, a patented safety holster with 10 separate safety features. This holster had been widely adopted by police departments around the country, and recent Canadian government trials had nothing but rave reviews for its basic concept.

His willingness to listen to his customers has led Rogers into other avenues, too. Rogers composite pistol stocks, for example, came about as a result of a conversation with a police officer, who dropped by his Jacksonville shop and complained that the street cop had little choice between Pachmayr rubber grips and high-cost custom wood grips. Result, a low-cost alternative: grips molded of composite, which led to the development of a process that made the composite material even look like real wood.

A second major direction for the company resulted from a series of letters between Rogers and shooter/writer Ken Hackathorn about the then-fledgling IPSC.

WORLD SHOOT HOLSTER

Competitive shooting had always been a part of Bill Rogers' life. His father, a colonel in the Air Force, was also a member of the Air Force skeet team, and Rogers remembers that Thursdays and Sundays were "shooting days." When Hackathorn told Rogers there was a new type of competition afoot in the land, Rogers sat up and took notice.

"I asked Ken to describe exactly what he needed in a holster," said Rogers. In 1981, Rogers introduced the World Shoot holster at the World Shoot in South Africa. It and several variations quickly became favorites on the IPSC circuit. In fact, the first and second place winner of last year's *Steel Challenge* match—Mike Plaxco and Chip McCormick—both used Rogers' holsters.

The holsters feature Rogers-patented leather, laminated with a thermoplastic sheet to help keep their shape for many years, regardless of abuse. The gun is held tightly by a tensioning device, and the front is cut away in varying degrees.

Rogers' increasing involvement in IPSC shooting, both as a designer and a shooter, led to a series of other developments.

The first was the *Idaho Reloader*, a magazine carrier that permits a quick, weak-hand reload; is inexpensive, and almost universally accepted in combat shooting circles.

"The idea came from Jerry Bunch, who had shot against an Idaho club in a weak-hand stage and gotten eaten up," said Rogers. "The club was using a makeshift metal reloader that ate up the gun, the belt, and the shooter's clothes, but was really fast. Jerry had gotten one and sent it to me, asking if I thought there was anything I could do with it. I said sure; we could build something that worked better."

The *Idaho Reloader*, made from a tough thermoplastic which holds its shape, is now in its third generation. It can be used in a number of different carries, or tailored for the individual shooter. Cartridges can be positioned with bullets up, to take advantage of the weak-hand reloading sequence, or positioned down in the traditional method.

BUFFER FOR .45 AUTO

Rogers talked with gunsmith and IPSC master Bill Wilson, who mentioned the trouble he and gunsmith Armand Swenson had encountered in trying to find a fiber buffer to cushion the slamming of a .45 slide against the frame. Such a buffer, mounted on the recoil spring guide, should help keep the slide and frame from cracking, due to metal fatigue. Rogers began studying various thermoplastics, taking samples and pounding them to pieces with a huge hammer. Eventually, he found a material that would hold up to even the battering cam effect of a .45. The Wilson/

Rogers *Shok Buff* was born.

The Rogers line continued to expand. Recently, he added what he considers the ultimate in a .45 magazine (also designed with Bill Wilson). It features a molded, synthetic, rounded follower; a one-piece molded baseplate, and base pad of a similar material.

On the drawing boards are a joint project with Mike Plaxco and his compensator, plus a .45 compensator that screws onto a .45 barrel bushing.

"I'm still doing 98 percent of the design work myself," said Rogers.

Even so, he managed to finish a respectable 14th place in last year's Bianchi Cup match, despite the fact that he only has had time to fire a couple of hundred practice rounds a month, far fewer than the many thousands of rounds shot by the top competitors.

"I've got a business to run," he said. "If all I do is shoot, the business suffers. So I decided to be happy with what I can do with a limited number of rounds."

IPSC shooting serves as a laboratory for new Rogers' products. To further that goal and support the sport, the Rogers company sponsors several shooters on the IPSC circuit, including Plaxco and McCormick.

The company that began in a basement now employs 18 people and is adding an additional 5,000 square feet to its manufacturing facility.

For Bill Rogers, it's onward and upward with the shooting arts.



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Beretta comes out with new SA .22, .380 Auto

Beretta has come out with a compact single-action pistol available in .22LR and .380 Auto calibers.

The M70S features all-steel construction and checkered plastic grips with a thumbrest for target shooting. Optional grips without the thumbrest are available.

The new pistol has a straight blow-back action, is blued finish, has a 3½ inch barrel and eight-round magazine.

The .22LR version has adjustable sights and weighs approximately 18 ounces; the .380 Auto weighs 23 ounces.

The M70S is available throughout the nationwide distributor and dealer organization of Beretta USA Corp.

Marketing, manufacturing and service facilities are situated in Accokeek, Maryland.

For more information, write the company at 17601 Indian Head Highway, (Dept. AH), Accokeek, MD 20607.

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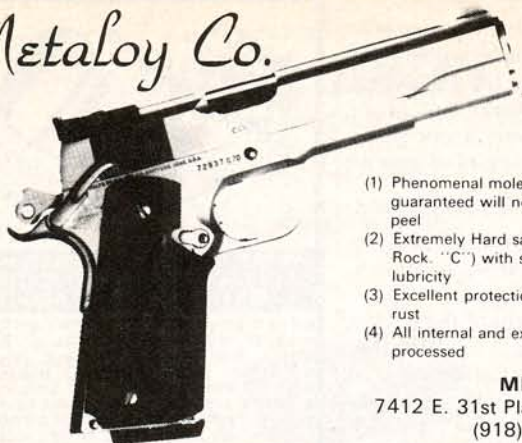
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FACTORY AMMO

Continued from page 58

Moving upwards, we again see the 158-grain lead round nose as the predominant loading in the .38 Special. As all loadings in the *Frontier* line carry *Hornady* bullets, this one is no exception. Not rated as the best in stopping power, it is, however, accurate because of its low velocity.

Magnum loads start with the .357 hollow point. Driven at high velocities, this bullet will expand to double diameters with little or no problem. As with most other magnum loads, extreme spread was a bit wider. The extra horsepower is, indeed, a factor. Nickel cases are included for ease of extraction and reloading.

In the .44 Magnum division, *Frontier's* 240-grain hollow point held its own. Blasting out of my Ruger Blackhawk with its 7½ inch tube, instrumental velocity was 1,279 fps, with recoil on the mild side. Pressure seems to be about normal, as we noted no irregularities in primer appearance.

Finishing up with the .45 ACP, again *Frontier* vies for a flat-nose design. Having used this round in practical combat shooting, I can give it five stars in both the accuracy and feeding departments.

REMINGTON ARMS COMPANY

Correspondence with *Remington's* Dick Dietz brought this reply: "Total ammunition sales may be colored somewhat by orders from military and police agencies." It is pretty difficult to separate them by looking at sales figures, according to Dietz.

In the 9mm, *Remington's* choice was its 115-grain jacketed hollow point #R9MM1. In feeding, I had no problems and accuracy was on par with others. Expansion tests in dry sand did not budge the bullet to any appreciable diameter. Perhaps I was using the wrong medium, or the hollow portion of the bullet is too small. I did notice, in all sand tests, that small particles lodged in the bullet cavity; perhaps this hindered expansion.

The .38 Special again was the standard round-nose, but this time in the +P version at 913 fps. Sporting a nicked case, this load was both very accurate and easy to shoot.

Remington's .357 Magnum was the best semi-wadcutter, running true to published data at 1,246 fps. It's a good load and had the lowest extreme spread between shots (33 fps), making it one of the best rated of all the .357s.

Still in the magnum family, *Remington's* 240-grain .44 Magnum proved to be a real scorcher. At 1,313 fps, from my Ruger Blackhawk, this one again had one of the

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lowest extreme spreads of all tested. With a soft-point configuration, this bullet is good for big game, where penetration and not rapid expansion is needed.

To no surprise, the .45 ACP category was again hosted by the 230-grain "hard-ball" bullet.

WINCHESTER

A letter answered by a phone call from Johnny Falk at *Olin* confirmed my thoughts, and filled out the pattern concerning popular handgun ammunition—with one catch, as you will see.

Again starting with the 9mm, the hot and fast 115-grain bullet, this time in the full metal case, led the pack at *Winchester*.

Apparently, many target shooters—PPC, bullseye and police—have found favor with Winchester's 148-grain .38 Special wadcutter. The Super Match Mid-Range load was extremely accurate and mild to shoot. I can see why it's a big seller.

Moving up in the .357 Magnum category, *Winchester's* top seller is its 158-grain inside-lubricated semi-wadcutter. Cruising along at 1,243 fps, it makes for a good hunting load. Its long bearing surface produces an accurate bullet in any caliber; this one is no exception.

As with *Frontier* and *Remington*, *Winchester's* choice in the .44 Magnum is the industry standard 240-grain jacketed hollow point. Strangely enough, I could find no reference to what the factory specifications were, so I fired some extra strings to get an average on my screens of 1,319 fps. While not carrying an extra large bullet cavity, this projectile is made to expand at a controlled rate.

Forty-five buffs will find the 230-grain slug supreme in the *Winchester* line up. So what else is new?

In summary, what can we see in the buying habits of the American handgunner? In most of the "classic" cartridges—such as the .38 Special, .357 Magnum and .45 ACP—the public is using lead round nose, semi-wadcutter and full metal-jacketed bullets. The new mystique of the 9mm is floating around; it's still a toss up between the 115-grain and the heavier 124-grain bullet. The old line companies produce the .44 Magnum with the 240-grainers, while *Federal* is toying with lighter and faster bullets in the 180- to 220-grain range.

For groups, all manufacturers had nothing to be ashamed of: an average of about 3.17 inches at 25 yards from a rest. Not bad. And these products are made in the good old USA!



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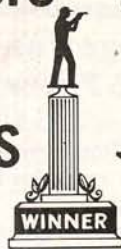
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WHAT'S NEW

Ruger announces new .357 Rem. Maximum

A new Blackhawk revolver for the new .357 Remington Maximum cartridge has been announced by Sturm, Ruger & Company.

The Blackhawk cylinder has been lengthened to accommodate the new cartridge, which has a case length .315 inch longer than that of the .357 Magnum cartridge.

The frame has been lengthened to fit the longer cylinder, while retaining the heavy construction and extra metal where it counts—in the areas around the barrel threads and in the top strap.

The new Blackhawk will be available in bull barrel lengths of 7½ and 10½ inches.

On the 10½-inch bull barrel model, the adjustable rear sight is provided with a narrow aperture, designed to provide a proper sight picture with the longer sighting radius and blade widths of the target-style front sight.

Designed for handgun hunters and metallic silhouette target shooters, the .357 Remington Maximum cartridge

generates energy levels that put it in the class with the .44 Magnum cartridge.

The combination of this new cartridge and new revolver is said to create significantly less recoil than that normally experienced when firing the .44 Magnum cartridge.

Because the .357 Remington Maximum cartridge has a much flatter trajectory than either the .357 Magnum or .44 Magnum cartridges, it also reduces



the need for sight adjustments at different distances.

The new cartridge will be loaded with a 158-grain semi-jacketed hollow-point bullet, having a muzzle velocity of approximately 1,825 fps. in a 10½-inch vented test barrel. Energy will run around 1,168 foot pounds.

The *American Handgunner* will carry an in-depth test report on this new gun and cartridge, as soon as they become available.

S&W has new shoulder holster for hunters

Handgun hunters now have an opportunity to carry their Smith & Wesson M29 .44 Magnum revolver comfortably, in a rugged, new shoulder holster that fits either a six-inch or 8½ inch barrel.

We're talking about S&W's Model 10 rig, which comes with a standard shoulder harness and covers all metal areas of the revolver for protection. An optional cross strap is available (Model 93).

The holster is fully lined in brown suede and will accommodate most medium or large frame revolvers in the two barrel lengths. It is made for right-hand shooters only; the Model 10S accommodates scoped handguns.

Both have a suggested retail price of \$68.95 (the optional cross strap costs \$13.95).

For more information, write to the company at 2100 Roosevelt Ave. (Box AH), Springfield, MA 01101.

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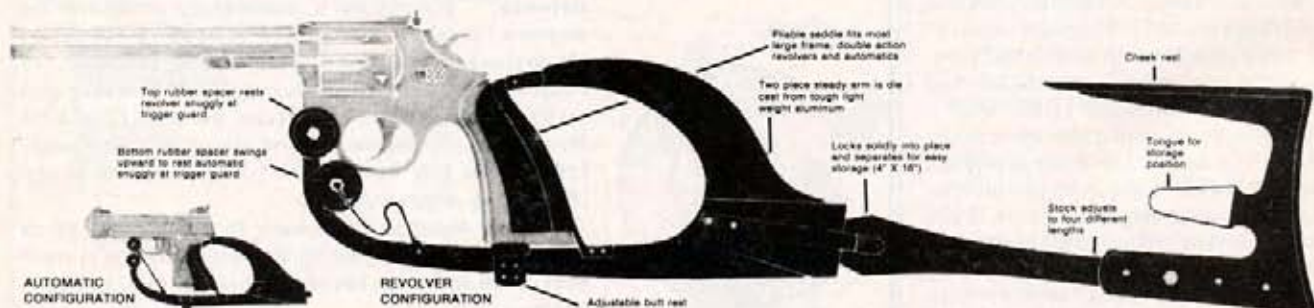
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AIRGUNS

HARRY SEFRIED

Continued from page 72

gun showed no evidence of failing and the argument was settled. Just for the hell of it, they rechambered it to .300 Winchester Mag—and shot it some more.


In 1959, Sefried became chief engineer at Sturm, Ruger. He arrived just in time to participate in the design of Ruger's .44 Magnum carbine. He found the project especially rewarding, since the gun broke new ground for Ruger and the firearms industry.

The finest piece of machinery I've ever worked on is the Ruger Red Hawk," said Sefried. During his career at Ruger, he accumulated an impressive number of gun patents, both alone and in conjunction with Bill Ruger Sr.

His retirement is in name only. He is still a busy man, with an inventive mind that will not allow him to become idle.

My interview with Sefried took place over his kitchen table with a bottle of good bourbon shared between us. The conversation bounced from one topic to another, from humorous topics to deeply thoughtful ones. I came away feeling I had been granted a rare favor: he leaves a man of average intelligence a little breathless, awed by his knowledge of guns.

One writer once referred to Sefried as "a modern day John Browning."

He is an expert in the truest sense of that much abused word. And  he's a gentleman.

AH to conduct survey on custom 'smiths

The *American Handgunner* is conducting a survey on custom pistolsmiths.

We'd like to know the experiences of our readers with them—both good and bad.

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GUN OF MONTH

Continued from page 49

velvet-lined security case (combination lock), with two extra magazines and 22 rounds of 9mm ammunition set in the case.

In addition, the *Gun of the Month* winner will receive two holsters (belt and ankle) for the *Scorpion*, made by De Santis Holster and Leather Goods (Mineola, New York) and an A.G. Russell (Springdale, Arkansas) boot or belt knife (*Teflon survival sting*) and leather sheath.

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In addition to Trapper guns and De Santis holsters, PPS distributes a wide range of products for law enforcement personnel (and others), including Hydra-Shock, Super Sonic and Man Stopper ammunition; the Glaser Safety Slug (in several different calibers), combat targets, speedloaders, batons, flashlights and other related items for police and security people.

PPS offers a professional personal defense system for a select group of handgunners; it consists of a pistol or revolver, a carefully selected holster for maximum concealment and fast withdrawal, and special ammunition. It is not necessary to purchase all three parts of the system.

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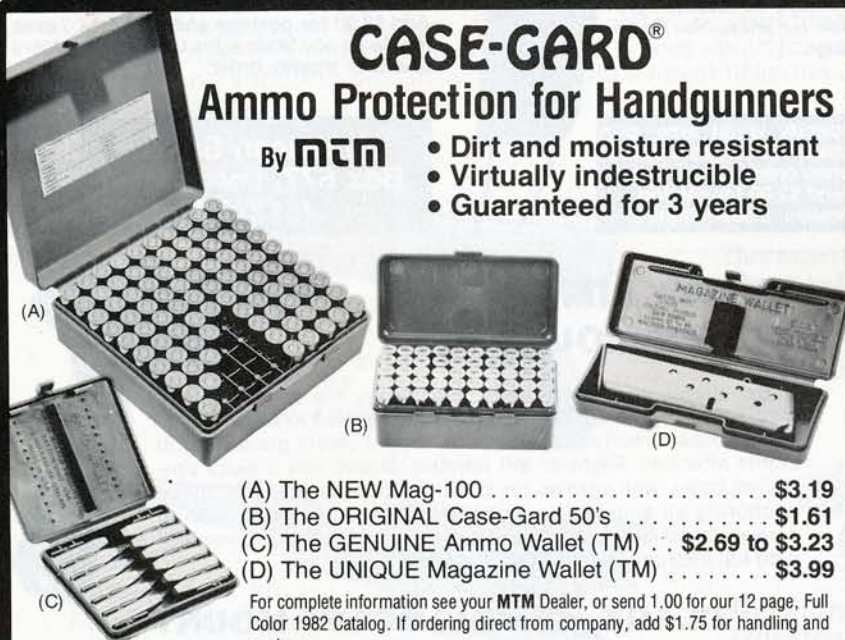
Lugers were produced from 1900 through World War Two, although dropped as the standard German military handgun in 1938.

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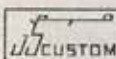
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SIGHTING-IN

Continued from page 37

any load that prints more than three inches high at 25 yards is likely to overshoot smaller targets, the sights are reset to bring these loads down to within the three-inch limit, without falling below the point of aim at 50 yards.

If everything looks good at 25 yards, I'll generally plink a few rounds at 75 and 100 yards, just to make sure the gun and load are capable of making an occasional long-range shot. Zeroed-in as described above, heavy .38 and light magnum cast bullet loads will print only six inches low at 100 yards. Hot hollowpoints, scooting along at 1,400 or 1,500 fps, usually print just one inch high at 25 yards, 1 1/2 inches high at 50 yards, on the money at 75 yards, and a mere three inches low at 100 yards.

The nice thing about this system is that it is reasonably consistent, regardless of the gun and load being used. Every gun in my arsenal will print on the money at 10 or 15 yards, and from one to three inches high at 25 yards. At 50 yards, .38 wadcutters are once again on the money, while other loads print from one inch to 1 1/2 inches high. Beyond 50 yards, heavy .38 and all magnum loads print on the money at 60 to 80 yards, and from three to six inches low at 100 yards.

The disadvantage is that sighting-in takes more time and ammunition than would otherwise be required, since each load has to be fired at 50 yards, and then at 25 and 100 yards, to make sure that the path of the bullet is neither too high nor too low throughout its effective hunting range. This encourages the use of one gun for each load, since it is rare to find two loads that can be used with the same sight setting.

The advantage is that there is never any doubt about where to hold, regardless of which gun you happen to select, and how it is loaded. Excluding wadcutters, there is never more than a two- or three-inch difference between light, moderate, and heavy loads at short, medium and long range. Even wadcutters fall within the general pattern, out to 50 yards or so.

Once you're properly zeroed-in, all you need worry about is trigger squeeze, sight alignment, and finding something worth aligning the sights on that will hold reasonably still long enough for you to finish squeezing the trigger—with good results.



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WALTHER P5

Continued from page 39

knowledge, as foolproof as it is on the P5. The P5 does not have either a loaded chamber indicator or a magazine safety. The older P38 did have an excellent loaded chamber indicator, but it was dropped in both the P38IV and P38K models.

WHITE DOT/SQUARE SIGHTS

The sights on the P5 are unique. The slide-mounted front sight is square and wide with a round, white *dot*. The rear sight is adjustable for windage and has a white *square* to help sharpen the sight picture in failing light conditions.

The P5 has a dark matte finish on the slide, with two highlighted panels showing the logo of the manufacturer. The frame is anodized in a deep, durable black finish.

The P5 has been criticized for its left-handed ejection system, but this must have been by people who have not actually shot the pistol. The empty shell passes so high on the left that it is not at all distracting to the shooter. The P38 also ejected to the left at a much lower angle, but no one ever seemed to find its ejection troublesome for a right-handed shooter.

The traditional open slide of the P38 family is closed on the P5. This gives great strength at the ejection port, the point of minimum cross section area and maximum stress.

The magazine on the P5 has a rectangular notch into which the bottom-of-the-grip magazine catch fits. The older P38s latched on the magazine floor plate, an arrangement which seems to give the magazine a greater force outward as it is self-ejected from the pistol by pushing the catch rearward. This is very desirable in a police pistol, because it allows instant off-hand reloading in a tight situation.

The foregrip, the trigger and the forward part of the trigger guard are all grooved for slip-free grips. The rear of the grip is covered by two-piece plastic grips, which are checkered in the rear grip area.

The P5 is recoil-operated (vs. blow-back) meaning that the barrel and slide are locked together at the moment of firing. The P5 has a short recoil system: the barrel and slide are locked together for only a part of the slide's rearward motion. The barrel-mounted lock drops out of a pair of slots in the slide and the slide then becomes free to travel to its full recoil position. On the slide's forward movement, and under the action of its two side-mounted recoil springs, the top round in the magazine is picked up and chambered. Just as the slide reaches its forward position, the barrel is driven forward, camming the lock back into engagement with the slide.

Continued on page 94

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REVOLVER ACCURACY

Continued from page 32

grain wadcutter by Green Bay Bullets (selected for best filling) with 6.0 grains of Unique. It was chosen as a moderate general-purpose load for plinking, varmints or self-defense; and it's good for double-action practice. It also was picked because none of the guns handled it accurately; I load it with the WC seated short, to chamber in the short cylinder of the M28—a definite handicap for the other guns.

The M28 groups ranged from a .77 inch beauty to 2.01 inch, and no fliers. That is the best improvement I have seen in any revolver.

The great success I had with the Official Police and the converted M28 encouraged me to tackle the other guns. While none gave as much improvement, the results were worthwhile, and informative. Each presented different challenges.

The M57 cone, after light polishing, showed fairly fine concentric tool marks, plus some chip-type gouges and erosion. It measured .435 inch, a little oversize. Not wanting to enlarge the breech opening, I used the 11-degree cutter to smooth out the reamer marks and gouges. The gun was fairly accurate originally; but after re-coning, it grouped my short-seated 210-grain WC load into average 1.44 inch groups; at least .3 inch better than it handled similar, full-length WC loads during earlier testing. Again, fliers were nil.

With some misgivings—because it was quite accurate originally—I turned to the .41 Ruger Blackhawk. The forcing cone was tight at .424 inch, accounting for a tendency to spit lead from WC loads, and it looked uneven after polishing. Again, I used the 11-degree cutter to make a target-type cone, and to open the breech to .430 inch.

The Ruger then fired 1.92 inch average groups (including a 2.44 inch wide one) with the WC load. Not bad for these short-seated slugs. And no lead spitting or fliers. That is the least improvement for any gun I've re-coned; before the work was done, the load averaged about 2.2 inch groups. I also confirmed that more accurate loads were handled as well as, or better than, they did originally.

OTHER CALIBERS

I have used the reaming tool on good revolvers, ranging from a .357 Magnum Dan Wesson to a S&W M29 and a Llama Super Comanche, both in .44 Magnum caliber. Although testing has been less extensive for these guns, I am satisfied that the work was effective. In some cases, better accuracy was obvious; in others, average groups were not tightened as much. But the guns were more uniformly accurate with a wider range of bullet types, and the number of fliers was reduced. The few

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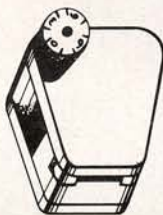
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remaining fliers were probably due to bubbles in the cast bullets.

The intelligent use of the cone reaming tool cannot harm a revolver; on average, it produces worthwhile improvements. Handloading for exact powder charge selection is much less critical. Lead-spitting is virtually eliminated, and leading is reduced.

For shooters who want to try cone reaming, the following table lists bore diameters and the best range of breech diameters for each caliber. The range is 1.04 to 1.06 times bore.

BREECH DIAMETERS FOR REVOLVER CALIBERS

Caliber	Bore diameter	Cone diameter at breech
.38 Special	.357	.371 - .378
.357 Magnum	.357	.371 - .378
.41 Magnum	.410	.426 - .435
.44 Special	.430	.447 - .456
.45 ACP	.451	.469 - .478
.45 Colt	.452	.470 - .479

The forcing cone has been a neglected feature of revolvers. But handgunners can now easily correct cone problems in their used guns and expect to benefit from greatly improved accuracy.

I know of several shooters who have shipped their newer guns back to the factories; none has been refused satisfactory warranty service, to my knowledge, on both bad cones and other problems.

As shooters become more conscious of the importance of good forcing cones for fine accuracy, better quality control should result. Eventually all revolver owners will surely benefit. Meanwhile, knowledgeable shooters can use the simple reaming tool and benefit tremendously.



Powerful air pistol pellet is introduced

The Prometheus, a lead-free air pistol pellet from Great Britain, is said to be the most powerful on the market; it is designed for hunting small game and vermin, and is not intended for indoor target use.

The pellet—available in .177 (six grains) and .22 (7.5 grains) calibers—consists of a highly polished metal, bullet-shaped head and shank encased by a self-lubricating, low-friction plastic skirt which leaves the head exposed. The skirt, having a larger diameter than the head, is the only part of the pellet that comes into contact with the gun's rifling.

Both the hardness of the head and the plastic skirt's flexibility contribute to maximum penetration. The head dents only slightly when fired at a metal target, and does not disfigure at all when fired at something softer.

The skirt provides an air seal when inserted into the gun's breech and reduces velocity loss because it grips the

Continued on page 90

DEVEL MAGAZINE

Continued from page 33

NEW FOLLOWER AND SPRING

With the assistance of Walter C. Wolff, a manufacturer, a new follower and spring were perfected. Simple in design, the magazine follower is functionally unique and reliable. The rear tang of the follower was shortened to allow deeper depression in the magazine housing. Made of spring steel, this follower provides an additional boost to the magazine spring, when fully loaded. The new spring had to be designed to allow for additional cartridge compression, yet powerful enough to provide long-term serviceability and positive feeding under all conditions.

A high-powered spring was designed with only 10 coils, compared to the conventional Colt magazine spring that has 12½ coils. Also, the pitch angle between the coils has been increased from approximately 25 degrees to 40 degrees, permitting the use of a smaller diameter, but higher strength, wire. The new magazine features this high-powered spring, manufactured exclusively for the Devel Corporation by the W.C. Wolff Company.

Independent testing of the factory prototype magazines was conducted by IPSC shooter, Ken Hackathorn and Miller. The real test, however, took place at the Bianchi Cup match when Mickey Fowler, using a Devel prototype conversion of the Colt .45 auto and the new magazine, captured first place. At the World Championships in Roodeport, South Africa, IPSC shooter Ross Seyfried took top honors, using the new magazines.

The Devel magazine not only provides one additional, and sometimes critical extra round, but has been designed to offer the shooter a standard of quality and reliability that has not previously been available for Colt .45 autos. Manufacturing tolerances are closely checked to insure proper feeding and ease of ejecting when the magazine is released. Previously, conscientious shooters had to check each newly-purchased magazine to make sure it did not fit too tightly, and would feed properly. Oversize magazines will not eject freely when the magazine release button is depressed; a malfunction that can cause the shooter points—or his life—depending on the situation.

In addition to the new magazine, Devel Corporation has made many improvements on the Colt system, with its *Full House Concealment Carry Commander*, *Basic Concealment Carry Commander*, *IPSC Combat Match Government Model* and the new *Gammon*.

Continued on page 91

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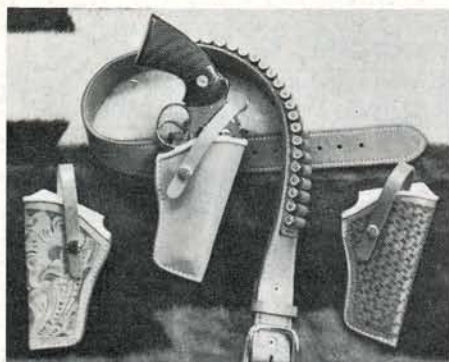
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R. M. Bachman of Old West Reproductions said holsters produced by his company are made *only* for guns that were in production during the period 1860 to 1890 (or replicas thereof).



Old West Reproductions also makes cartridge belts, wrist cuffs, saddle scabbards and spur straps of that period.

Holding true to the techniques of saddle shops of the Old West, each piece of leather is cut, tooled and stitched entirely by hand, according to Bachman.

For an illustrated catalog, send \$2 to Bachman at 1840 Stag Lane (Box AH), Kalispell, MT 59901.

B-Square introduces no-gunsmithing mount

The B-Square Company has introduced a no-gunsmithing scope mount for Ruger Single-Six revolvers.

The mount clamps onto the gun's frame and Bushnell Phantom scopes with bottom rails. No drilling, tapping or sight removal is required, according to the manufacturer.



The new mount is priced at \$39.95 for the blue finish, and \$49.95 for the stainless finish.

For further information, write the company at POB 11281 (AH), Fort Worth, TX 76109.

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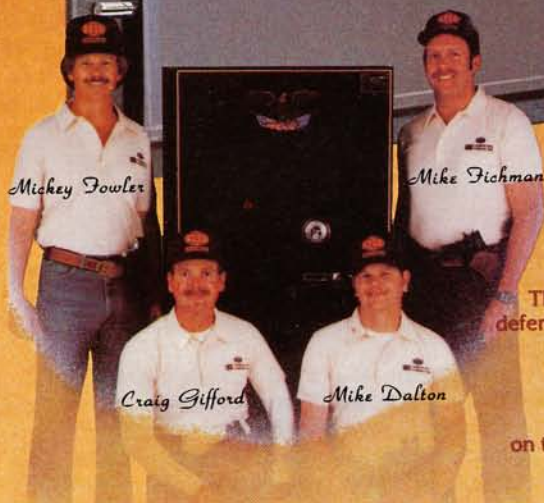
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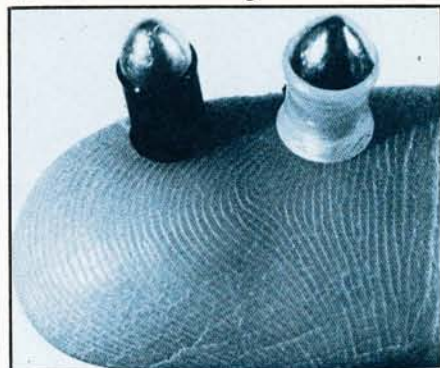
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STOPPING POWER

Continued from page 68

'Stopping power is physiological shock'

I would like to comment on your series on *handgun stopping power*.

It is my experience that few people know what stopping power is. Yet, this doesn't stop them from giving opinions about it, testing it, or writing about it. This creates great confusion.

Stopping power is physiological shock to the nervous system. You may have experienced it. Have you ever hit your "funny bone?" Have you ever been punched in the solar plexus? You are temporarily paralyzed: the same effect as handgun stopping power. Once this is understood, it becomes obvious that any test claiming to measure stopping power, made on inanimate targets such as gelatin, is not valid.

Stopping power can never be precise—only generalized—because people's nervous systems vary and are altered by physical, emotional and mental state. Drugs can easily make a person immune to stopping power, as many police officers have found.

The best target for such tests is the woodchuck. That's how I conducted my 9mm vs. .45 tests. Using 115-grain and 200-grain JHPs

Continued on page 92



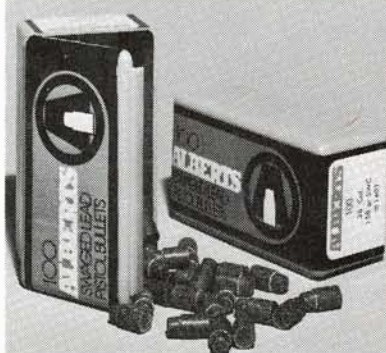
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DEVEL MAGAZINE

Continued from page 87

Devel magazines are available from Devel Corporation, 3441 West Brainard Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44122 (or from their authorized dealers) at \$18.95 each.

They are easily recognized by the Devel logo inscribed on the magazine base. (Devel comes from a Latin word meaning "to strike with force.")



IPSC NATIONALS

Continued from page 35

match, both of which I won.

PIN GUN HELPS

Five pin guns were fired in the 1981 nationals; all five finished in the top 16.

There was a rumor going around that the 1982 IPSC nationals would not be won with a so-called "trick gun" because of the expected fast shooting at close distances. However, that is where a pin gun helps in reducing recoil; and it's super-accurate at long ranges.

Another trend in IPSC shooting is the element of *professionalism*. Some gun companies and gun-related companies—both large and small—help pay shooters' expenses to the major matches. This was unknown two or three years ago.

For many decades, bullseye and PPC (Practical Pistol Course) shooters received virtually nothing for their match wins. How things have changed!

Shooters have never earned what they now take in each year in cash awards. It makes bullseye champs, such as Jim Clark, Bill Blankenship and Gil Heberd, wish they could roll back the years to when they had to buy that certain box of ammunition or special gun for upcoming matches.

BIG BUSINESS

The gun industry does big business. And guns were in use long before tennis rackets and gold clubs were ever thought about, professionally. If Björn Borg can get \$25,000 a year for wearing and endorsing a \$5 sweat band what should a U.S. Champion or World Champion shooter get from such companies as Colt, Smith & Wesson, Ruger and Charter Arms?

Hornady is the only ammunition company that sponsors any IPSC shooter in the U.S. It helps at least five of the top shooters in the country. Hornady supplied the U.S. World IPSC Team with ammunition, with which the world championship was won.

Continued on page 92



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The 1980 and 1981 U.S. IPSC nationals and the 1981 Steel Challenge match were also won with Hornady bullets. My hat is off to Hornady for its excellent products, and shooter support.

Atlanta Arms and Ammo is another ammo firm that is supporting IPSC shooters. It makes the highest quality of loaded ammo, which has been widely used in major matches.

There are other shooting sport sponsors. You can see their names on shooters' shirts worn in competition. They're support is appreciated. We hope other companies will follow suit, beginning in 1983.

This year, for the first time, range officers were brought in from all over the nation to participate in IPSC's new range officer training program. After completing the program, they officiated at the match, producing a fair and well executed shoot.



INFO 'QUICKIE'

The lever-action *Volcanic* pistol was made by a manufacturer of that name in New Haven, Connecticut from 1855 to 1858, on a design that had been unsuccessfully tried by Hunt, Jennings and Smith & Wesson. The *Volcanic*, both gun and company, later became Winchester.

AIR PISTOLS

Continued from page 43

practice are enormous," said Beeman. "You can dry-fire almost anywhere; even a few moments of this exercise, every day, will pay great dividends on the range and give you an almost meditation-like rest from mental pressures."

Air pistol calibers are .177 and .22; most popular, however, are the .177 pellets, which come in a variety of configurations: wadcutters, hollow points and round and pointed heads. They range in weight from 7.10 grains (.177) to 21.10 grains (.22). A .177 pellet is light and fast, a .22 pellet heavier and slower.

PELLET PRICES

Pellets are inexpensive. You can buy a tin of 500 for as little as \$3. Super match pellets, for a tin of 500, cost about \$12.50. Their perfectly flat heads cut maximum size, easily scored holes in paper targets.

Unlike the early model BB guns, air pistols have rifled barrels for maximum accuracy. Some have variable power adjustments. Most have rear sights adjustable for both windage and elevation.

Beeman predicts that the real market for air pistols is in the area of precision models, those that sell for more than \$100.

"Americans love fine guns," he told the *American Handgunner*. "They aren't satisfied with plastic and cast-metal models which, obviously, have a short life expectancy and do little or nothing to hone a shooter's marksmanship skills."

The price of a precision air pistol is up around that of a fine cartridge handgun. But it's generally fired 10 times as often, so it's an excellent buy.

A good air pistol is habit-forming. Consistent practice with one pays off—on the firing line with your favorite Python or Super Blackhawk, for example.

Take it from "hardball," a new and enthusiastic air pistol shooter.



STOPPING POWER

Continued from page 90

with the same muzzle energy the difference was obvious. I watched the reaction to hits that were not instantly fatal. (Stopping power must not be confused with killing power; they are two different things.) A chuck hit with a 9mm would run back toward his hole; one hit with a .45 would walk back toward his hole. At times, his whole body would shudder when hit with the .45, but never with the 9mm. Stopping power: a nervous system effect.

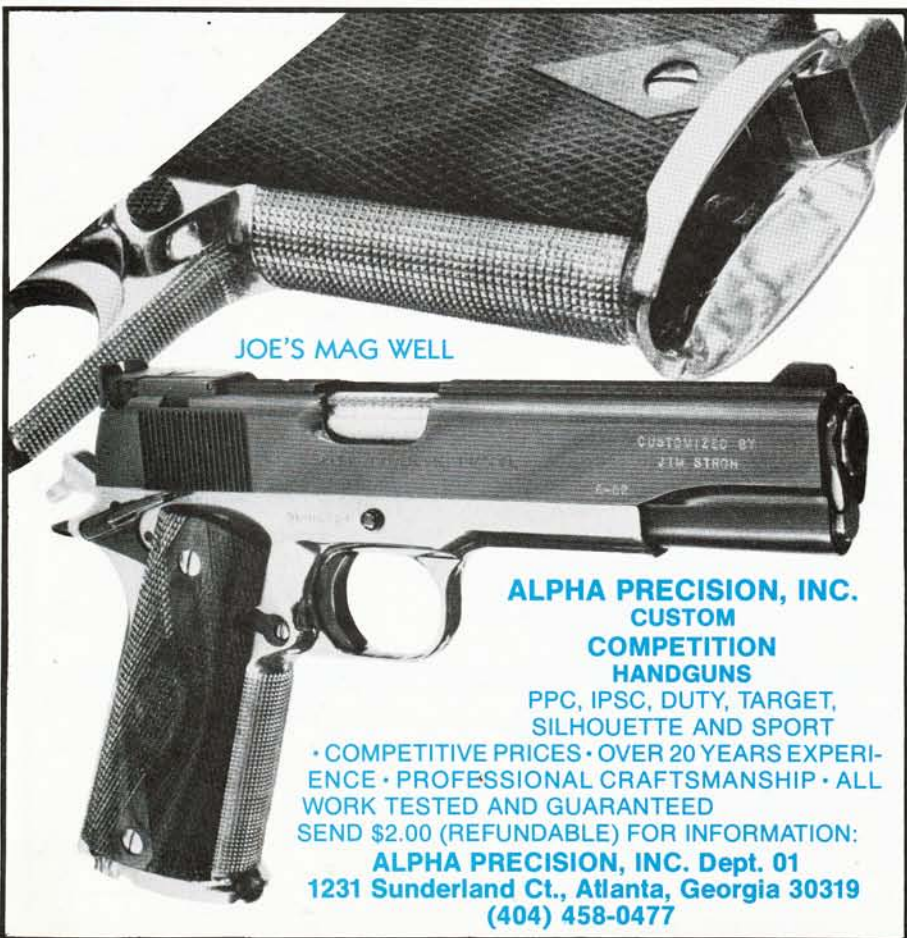
Such tests indicate that caliber is the most important variable; energy has nothing to do with it.

The only way to get acceptable stopping power with the medium bores (9mm, .38, .357) is to use bullets that expand consistently.

That brings up another problem: expansion tests. The most common test substance is Duxseal, which will expand bullets far more than animal tissue.

In animal tissue, it takes more than 900 fps muzzle velocity to expand a lead hollow-point consistently. A test of the Hydroshock bullet published in the *American Handgunner*, (J.D. Jones, author) showed three bullets recovered from chucks; there was no expansion, yet tests on Duxseal expanded them to .60 inch. A jacketed hollow-point needs a muzzle velocity close to 1,400 fps to expand. I never found signs of expansion with a 115-grain 9mm at 1,200 fps (poor stopping power). On the other hand, a 125-grain .357 at 1,400 fps has proven to be an excellent stopper in actual shootouts. So, when someone says a bullet expands, ask, "In what material?"

I hope your series includes Massad Ayoob. I've met him, and he knows exactly what stopping power is. Robert Cella Barryville, N.Y.

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Continued from page 84

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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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