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THE 1983
BIANCHI CUP MATCH

TEST-FIRE REPORT:

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- THE LLAMA .44 MAGNUM
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Mark Duncan



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AMERICAN HANDGUNNER

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER, 1983, Vol. 8, No. 43

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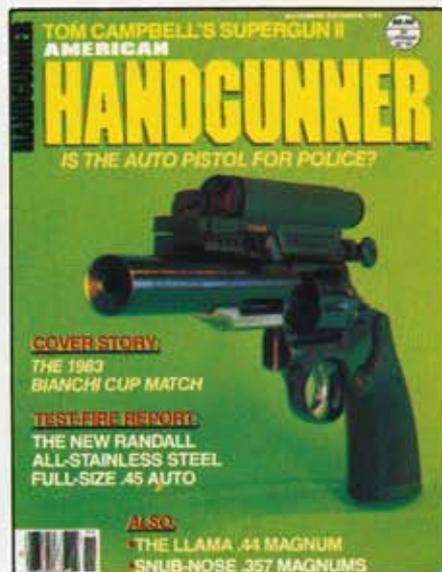
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COVER: Aiming-sighted S&W M10 with Douglas barrel; customized by Frank Glenn—the gun used by Brian Enos to win the Bianchi Cup match. Photo by Nyle Leatham of Mesa, Arizona.

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Making the best better.

The evolution of Colt's 1911 Government Model.

1911 The Model 1911 Semi-automatic pistol is adopted by the U.S. Ordnance Department. Commercial models are made available to civilians.

1923 Model 1911 is refined: trigger width is decreased; back projection of the grip safety is increased; arched main spring housing is installed. New military designation is made: Model 1911A1.

1931 Model 1911A1 chambered for 22LR. Designated "The Ace", it incorporates a "floating chamber", which almost duplicates the recoil associated with the 45 ACP, using 22LR ammunition.

1957 "Gold Cup National Match" is introduced. This model gives the competitive shooter a pistol which, "out of the box", can be used in major competitions. It incorporates a select match barrel, handfitted and honed parts, and adjustable rear target sight.

1970 MK IV series 70 Model 1911A1 is introduced. It incorporates a new spring-type bushing and barrel system to improve accuracy. Chambered for 45 ACP, 38 Super and 9MM parabellum.

1983 Colt introduces the MK IV Series 80. This new series has the original standard of excellence associated with the MK IV Series 70, and in addition allows the option of carrying the pistol fully loaded, "**cocked and locked**". Since its adoption by the U.S. Government, the Model 1911 has earned the reputation of being the most reliable automatic pistol ever produced . . . the benchmark of its time.

The Model 1911 incorporated a grip safety, a manual thumb safety, and a slide stop which automatically holds the slide rearward after the last round. Now, with the addition of a firing pin lock, Colt has gone one step further in improving the outstanding performance of the Government Model.

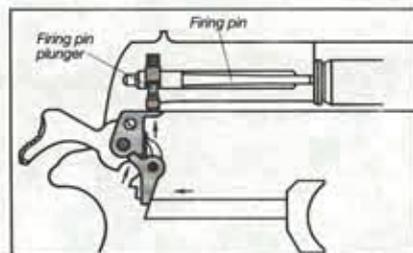
Carried "**cocked and locked**", the MK IV Series 80 pistol gives you consistent single action accuracy from the first round to the last, without the awkward heavy trigger pull found in conventional double action pistols.

The new MK IV Series 80 pistols are the safest, most effective Model 1911 pistols on the market and still retain the same rugged features of the original.

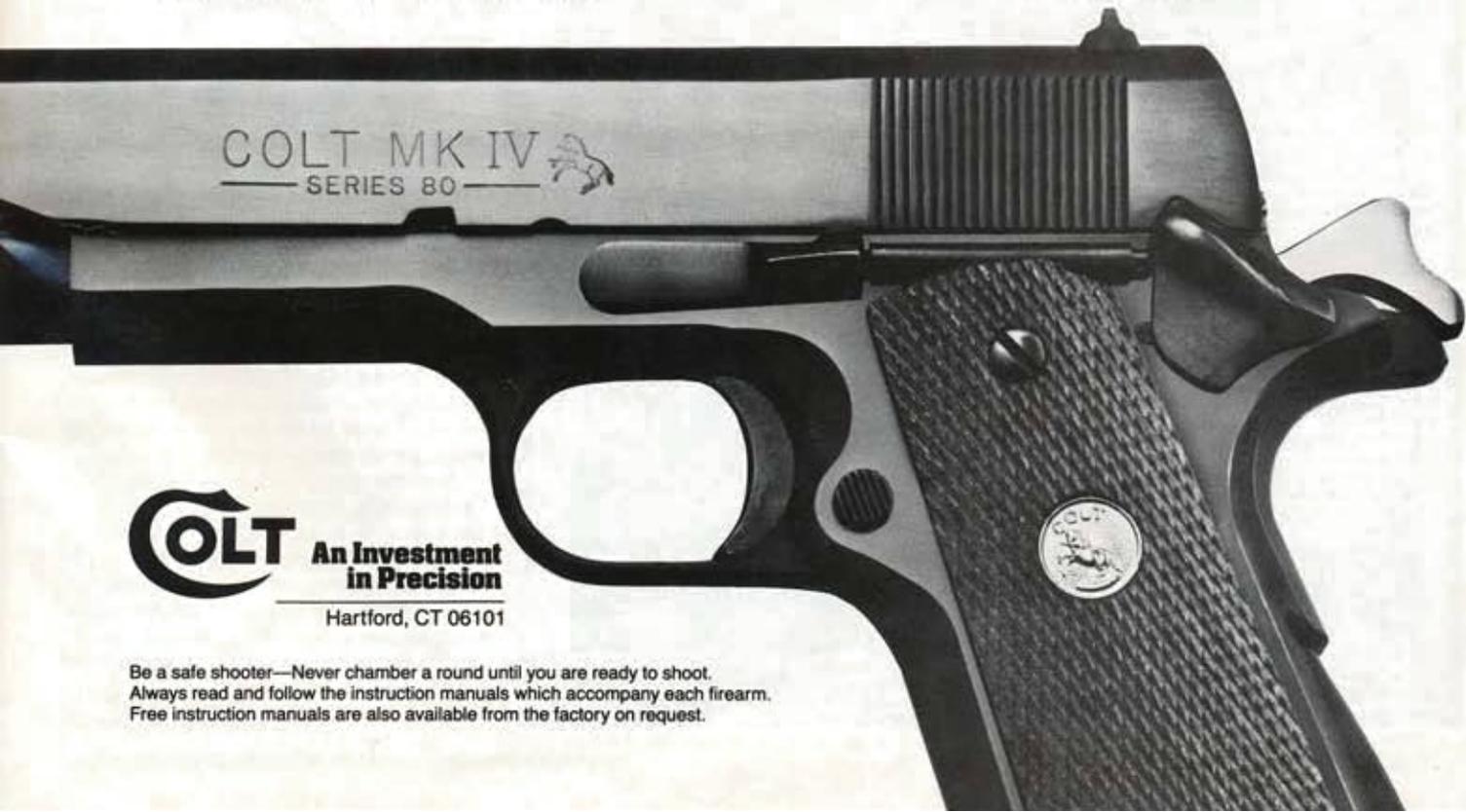
For over 70 years, through four major wars, the Colt Government Model has had a reputation for reliability and excellence. Which is why we never stop trying to make the best even better.

1949

More compact, slightly shorter and lighter version of the Model 1911A1 is introduced. It has an aluminum alloy forged frame and is called the "Commander L.W."



In the rest position the firing pin is blocked from forward motion by the firing pin plunger. Pulling the trigger disengages the firing pin plunger, enabling the firing pin to move forward for ignition.



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Be a safe shooter—Never chamber a round until you are ready to shoot. Always read and follow the instruction manuals which accompany each firearm. Free instruction manuals are also available from the factory on request.

COP TALK

MASSAD AYOOB

THREE MORE COPS ARE ALIVE— THANKS TO AUTO SAFETY FEATURES

One advantage of the automatic as a defensive or police service weapon has always been that, in a struggle, a suspect who gained control of the gun would have a tough time making it work if the safety was "on" and he couldn't figure out how to get it "off."

Most cops say, "I'll never let any street punk get his hands on *my* gun." The 138

police officers killed with their own guns in a recent period of 10 years would have said the same thing, if you'd asked them just before it happened. Remember, most gun-fights occur at distances *under* seven yards, and often at arm's length—within easy grabbing range.

Confirmation of the safety-locked automatic's advantages in this respect are seen

on the street every year. One of the latest comes from one of my students, Mike Taylor of the Leon County (Florida) Sheriff's Department in Tallahassee; Taylor took the Lethal Threat Management course through my Lethal Force Institute last June in Michigan. He writes:

"Just a note to add a little more 'ammo' to your contention that the .45 auto is sometimes safer than the (double-action) revolver.

"About six weeks ago, our Vice/Narcotics Unit, backed up by agents of the Florida Department of Criminal Law Enforcement, was making a cocaine buy in the parking lot of an apartment complex. Somehow, the bad guys tumbled to what was happening and tried to run for it in their van.

"The (primarily involved) deputy drew his Colt Commander and jumped into the van *with* them. As the newspapers say, a desperate struggle then ensued, during which the deputy tore hell out of his new \$300-plus leather jacket; had almost half of his scalp ripped off (some 260 stitches), and looked down the barrel of his own gun twice.

STRUGGLING OVER A GUN

"The gun never left his hands, but at two points, one of the dealers forced the barrel 180 degrees towards him.

"Four hands and two good-sized men struggling over a gun for 15 to 20 seconds, full out . . . *you tell me* what would have happened with a *revolver*?"

"The deputy had the presence of mind to leave the thumb safety 'on' during the fight, and distinctly remembers the bad guy pulling the trigger at least once while the gun was pointed at him (the deputy).

"End result? Two dealers in jail under heavy bonds, three wrecked vehicles, and one injured but alive narcotics officer, who credits his survival to a cocked and locked .45 auto and the training—I'm proud to say—I gave him on how to properly use it!

"I cannot take credit for teaching him to jump into a moving van with two cocaine dealers who could have been (but weren't) armed. But I don't believe he'll do it again!"

Shortly before this incident, and about 1,500 miles away, a similar incident occurred. A drug buy enacted by two agents of the Illinois Department of Law Enforcement's Division of Criminal Investigation went down badly. According to Ordnance Chief Sebastian Ulrich, a six-foot-plus suspect got both hands on the pistol of an agent barely more than five feet tall.

As the compact narc felt his issue pistol (a Smith & Wesson M439 9mm auto loaded with hot Federal hollowpoints) being ripped from his hand, he hit the magazine release button with his thumb. This dropped the magazine just enough in the frame to actuate the magazine disconnect safety and prevent the pistol from being fired.

Continued on page 26



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MODEL 530 HOLSTER GUIDE

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Beretta 81, 84	3-3/4"
Beretta 92	5"
Browning BDA	4-3/8"
Browning Hi Power	4-21/32"
Charter Arms 5 Shot .38	2"
Charter Arms Target & Police	4"
Colt Commander	4-1/4"
Colt .45 Auto—A.M.T. Hardballer	5"
Colt Det. Spec. & Cobra Series	2"
Colt Python Trooper	2-1/2"-4"
HEK P-7	4"
Ruger Speed 6, Service 6	2-3/4"-4"
S&W J-Frame 31, 33, 34, 36, 37, 40, 42, 51, 60	2"
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Browning 45 BDA	4-3/8"
Browning Hi-Power	4-21/32"
Charter Arms (all)	2"-4"
Colt Commander Series	4-1/4"
Colt Govt. .45, Gold Cup—AMT Hardballer	5"
Colt Det. Spec., Agent	2"
Colt Python—Colt Trooper	2-1/2"-4"
Ruger Service 6, Speed 6	2-3/4"-4"
S&W J-Frame	2"-3"
S&W K-Frame	2-1/2"-4"
S&W L-Frame—S&W N-Frame	4"
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AMT HAS BARRELS FOR RUGER AUTOS

By Len Davis

The Arcadia Machine and Tool Company (AMT) has introduced fine stainless steel receivers and barrels in four different lengths—both bull and tapered—for Ruger .22 autos.

I test-fired an 8½ inch model (bull) on a Mark II pistol at 10 meters, using a one-hand hold with standard velocity ammo. Two 10-shot groups were fired; each measured a little more than a quarter of an inch.

The heavy barrel sits out there beautifully, in perfect balance—a great accessory for a great pistol.

Other barrel lengths are 6½ inches, 10½ and 12½ inches.

Rear sights are fixed. Front sights are ring or ramp (latter on the bull barrel models).

Fitting the receivers and barrels to the Ruger frames is a snap—no alterations are required. Just follow AMT's simple assembly and disassembly instructions.

All models are grooved for standard one-inch tipoff rings, for scope mounting.



Test-firing pointed up the excellent manner in which the AMT barrel "hangs"—an important factor in metallic silhouette shooting, for example.

Price of the units—barrels and receivers—is \$110 for each of the two shorter barrels and \$120 for each of the two longer barrels.

For more information, write AMT at 536 North Vincent Ave. (Dept. AH), Covina, CA 91722.

INFO 'QUICKIE'

Remington Arms Company is the oldest of all U.S. firearms makers, having started in business in 1816. Today, many think of Remington as a manufacturer of shoulder arms only. Not so. It produces a single-shot, high-powered pistol: the XP-100. Two other Remington handguns were made in the 20th century: the venerable M95 double derringer in .41 caliber, and the M51 autoloading pistol in .32 ACP and .380 ACP calibers, conceived by John D. Pedersen, the famous gun designer.

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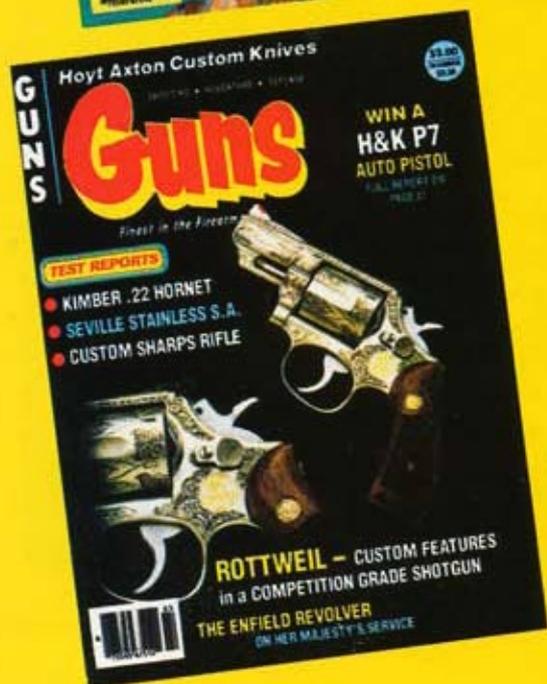
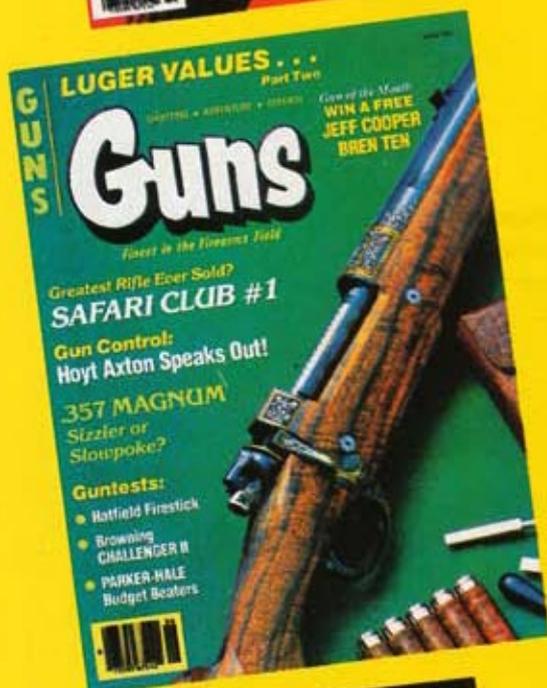
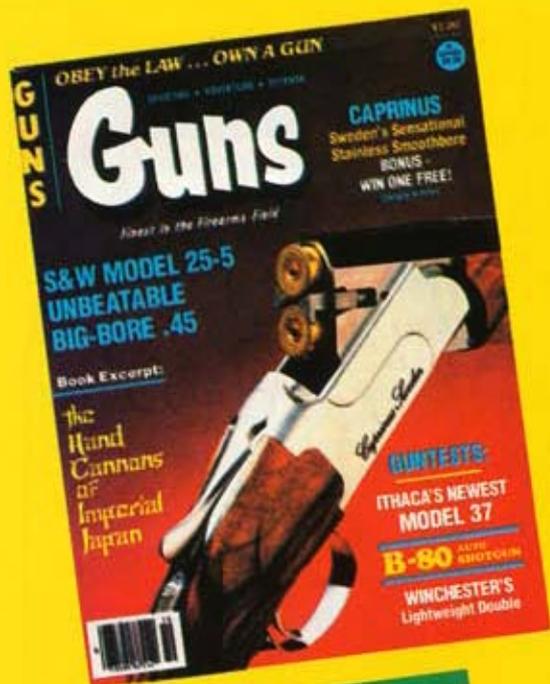
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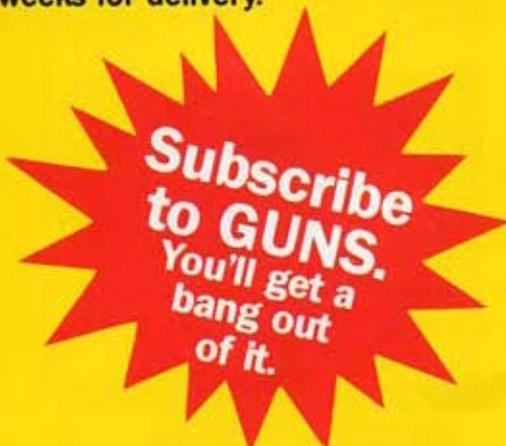
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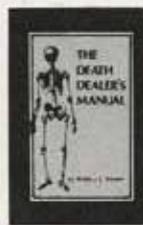
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Photograph taken at the FRONTIER MUSEUM, Historical Center, Temecula, CA.

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HANDLOADING

DAN COTTERMAN

IS THE .45 LONG COLT MAX. NEXT? MAKING, LOADING THE 7MM T. C. U.

The need, principally among silhouette shooters, to move massive bullets at higher velocities is what continues to nourish a constant quest for more capacious handgun loads.

Perhaps that's why reader Delbert G. Brewer of Vassar, Michigan suggests a wildcat .45 Long Colt Max.

"Have you considered using the 5.6 x 61R Vom Hofe Super Express case in the .45 Long Colt?" inquires Brewer, "the cartridge is listed in Frank Barnes' book, *Cartridges of the World*, on page 240; DWM lists the case as 431M in its line-up. With a stronger case, maybe higher pressures would be possible in strong guns such as the T/C and Ruger."

The Vom Hofe in question, in case you don't stay awake nights reading up on German rifle cartridges of the mid-1930s, is a shouldered brute that shapes up to the dimensions of the .45 L.C. at the primer end,

and winds up small enough to handle bullets of .22 caliber at the other. It comes in rimless and rimmed versions; it is the latter that Brewer is suggesting as a candidate for handgunning immortality.

Taking this .45 L.C. Max idea into the realm of serious consideration, we find acceptable comparison in the head measurement of the Vom Hofe: V.H., .476 inch; .45 L.C., .480 inch. (This is even closer than it looks, since the .45 L.C. cases I have checked with a micrometer average .4768 inch at the head.) It is important to note, however, that the V.H. tapers to a diameter of .450 inch at the shoulder. This it does over a span of 1.730 inch.

The .45 L.C. is essentially a straight-sided cartridge, maxing it through the use of V.H. brass faces a differential of approximately .019 inch of taper, when the standard 1.285 inch length of the .45 L.C. is maintained. If we were to lengthen our .45

L.C. Max by .315 inch to 1.605 inch, we'd have a taper of just over .024 inch. Too much for honest wildcatting?

TAPER PROBLEMS

Another factor to consider is case wall thickness, which diminishes nearer the mouth. If we are to be able to seat .451 inch-.452 inch bullets without having to get into the hassle of inside neck reaming, the .45 L.C. Max should be long enough to have its mouth out beyond the overly-thick wall area of the V.H. At such a point, however, we are bound to encounter taper problems.

Rim diameter may present still another problem. The V.H. rim is shown to be .533 inch in diameter, while the rim of the .45 L.C. is nominally .512 inch.

All (or none) of the foregoing may squelch the oncoming of a maxed .45 for super-power handgunning. Remember Casull's .454? It used modern, solid-head .45 L.C. cases within a substantially beefed-up revolver cylinder and obtained great power from duplex and, I understand, *triplex* power charges. If that's possible, through the use of standard handgun-cartridge brass, the case of the 5.6 x 61R Vom Hofe Super Express may provide a boiler room sufficient to the launching of a new era.

The 7mm T.C.U. (Thompson/Center (Wes) Ugalde) round, and how to make it the easy way, is the subject of a letter from

Continued on page 12

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Val J. Oliver of Smyrna, Tennessee. Oliver writes, "I think a lot of people who would enjoy the excellent 7mm T.C.U. Contender have been scared off by experts trying to impress someone with their explanation of the case-forming process; just stuff boattail bullets into the .223 case and go shooting. They will shoot straight, and the weird look will be gone when you eject the case."

FINE WILDCATS

Having worked with numerous wildcats, whose cold and fire-forming took me into operations the tediousness of which caused me to wonder why I bothered in the first place, I decided to try this reader's shortcut method. I'll give you the results of my tests. First, however, I should explain that the 7mm T.C.U. and its siblings, the 6.5mm T.C.U., are a couple of fine wildcats, whose making involves nothing more than expanding the neck of the .223 case. When preparing .223 hulls for the 7mm version, it is necessary to stretch good brass a total of roughly .060 inch. Cartridge brass, a 70-30 combining of copper and zinc, respectively, is—in unhardened condition—a quite malleable and cooperative metal. I found, however, that neck-length stretching the .223 to 7mm, even with a boattail bullet, was too much. Chamfered mouths of freshly-annealed cases too often resulted in curled-under lips, and the bulge that resulted presented a picture that was akin to a snake with a half-swallowed meal

stuck in its gullet. This is the "weird look" to which Oliver alluded, the look that would disappear—following fire-forming.

"I'll go for anything that takes the tedium out of a great pastime, such as handloading. My finding in this instance, however, is that it's better to follow the advice of those who make it their business to do it right. I wound up having to expand the little .223's mouth, first to accept .257 bullets, then to accept 7mm bullets.

HEAVY BULLET

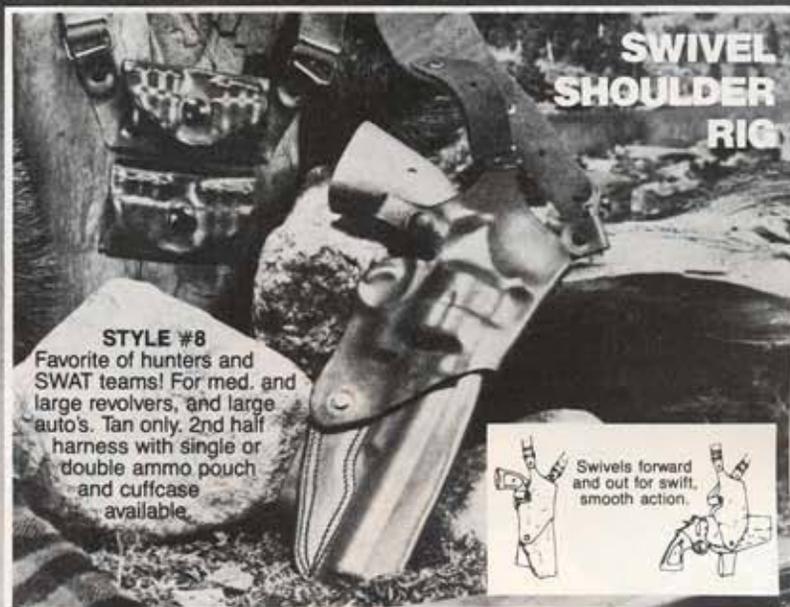
Speer has a 260-grain jacketed hollow-point available for the .45 L.C.—a boon for those of us who go for the heavies. And a bonanza when and if the .45 L.C. Max gets off the ground.

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Continued on page 77

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SILUETAS

PHILIP C. BRIGGS

AIR PISTOL SILHOUETTE MATCHES MAY HELP BOOST IHMSA MEMBERSHIP

Quite some time ago, in this column, I wrote about the potential for air pistol silhouette competition and asked for your thoughts. Several of you wrote; all of you supported my proposal and a few of you came up with some excellent comments.

Philip Braud of Gonzales, Louisiana has shot air pistol silhouettes under both the NRA rules and distances, and the shorter 5-10-15-20 meter distances I proposed. His experience shows that the game is indeed easier (that was intended, to encourage more to shoot). His top scores were 13X40 and 35X40 over the shorter course. Braud said he finds the game an excellent way to practice for the cartridge versions, and keep in tune during the winter. His scores were shot with a Daisy M717 and he, too, feels that available pistols should be segregated into separate classes.

John Lisbeth, longtime mid-western

handgun silhouette competitor, agrees that the NRA course is too tough for most shooters, and that it should be an indoor sport. He goes further, noting that most indoor ranges are 50 feet long and suggests that the targets be scaled down even further for use at 12.5, 25, 37.5, and 50 feet. The look of the big-bore game would be preserved, and it would allow shooters to keep their hands in during the long, mid-western winters. Lisbeth suggested that Daisy develop an air pistol accessory barrel for the T/C; he urges all shooters who like the idea to write to Daisy.

Keith Whitworth of Affton, Missouri, feels indoor, IHMSA-style air pistol silhouette competition is definitely promising. He now uses his air pistol to practice during the week and finds it helps him feel more at home on the big-bore range—come match day. Whitworth agrees that the ranges should be shortened, all IHMSA positions allowed, and production pistols should be separated by price—or accuracy potential—into sportsman and match classes. He also suggests that an unlimited class be created for the experimenters.

LITTLE SILHOUETTES

Glen Schnegg of Powhatan Point, Ohio supports the idea of an indoor IHMSA-style air pistol game, noting that there are quite a few potential shooters who don't like the noise and recoil of .22s and .44s. Glen says developing a sport that would appeal to such folks would lead to a large number of people joining IHMSA. "Let's shoot silhouettes," he says, "especially little ones!"

Jack Kruckmeyer of Tucson, Arizona didn't write; instead, he sent a long tape. He's been shooting airguns for more than 50 years and is an experienced high-power rifle silhouette and handgun combat shooter. Kruckmeyer says he likes airguns as they are "a good way to practice for other shooting sports"; he particularly likes the "social aspect of shooting, having been involved in rifle silhouette matches, in the early days." He sees indoor air pistol competition as an opportunity to hold matches that are part competition, part social gathering. Kruckmeyer cautions that the rule must be structured, so as to keep the sport from becoming an equipment race; else the average shooter won't be able to compete, or will become discouraged from even starting, by the "fancy pistols."

I'll be sending this column, my original one, and copies of letters to Elgin Gates, President of IHMSA (International Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association) for his review; maybe the idea will take root there, with his help.

Who knows, perhaps we can stir up enough interest to get Daisy and Beeman to hold a demonstration shoot at the 1983 Internationals (Black Canyon range, north of Phoenix, Arizona, Nov. 5-12).

If you have any further thoughts on the

Continued on page 28



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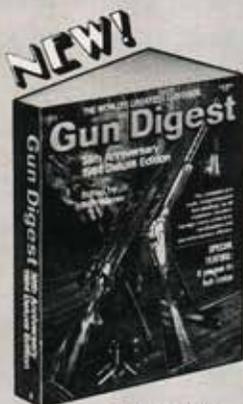
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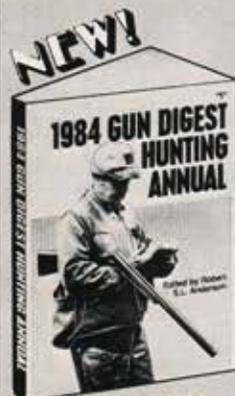
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on stocks to stand heavy recoil, Ordorica on rifles for rough Alaskan use, Sell on butt stocks for snap-shooting. Dave Reynolds shows how to shoot mini-revolvers accurately; Claud Hamilton tells how to get 2000 FPS from a revolver. For those seeking to build a gun library, learn how from James Handcock, whose library became a book shop — not way back, but lately. Reports on rifles, shotguns, handguns, metallic sights, black powder guns, chokes and brakes, scopes and mounts. The catalog section is once more revised and remodeled to hold its position unquestioned as the best compact catalog of firearms and guns gear available in the world. 472 8½" x 11" pages (including 8 pages in full color).



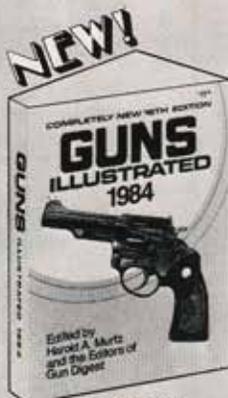
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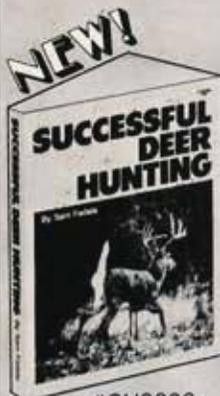
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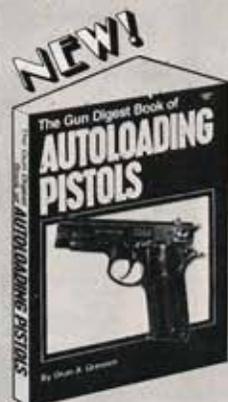
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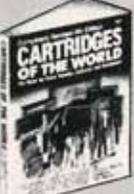
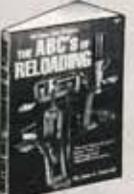
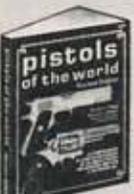
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COMBAT SHOOTING

MICKEY FOWLER FOWLER GIVES TIPS ON SELECTING IPSC REVOLVERS, D-A SHOOTING

Editor's note: Mickey answers four questions here, received from readers of his regular column in this magazine. If you have any you would like him to field, send them along and we'll forward to him. (L.D.)

Q. *I'm a revolver shooter and avid handgun hunter. I own single-actions in .357 Magnum and .44 Magnum calibers. I am now interested in shooting IPSC (International Practical Shooting Confederation)*

practical matches. I know my single-actions are not suitable for this kind of competition. I do not wish to shoot an auto pistol. Which revolvers are your personal favorites for IPSC match shooting? What modifications are necessary?

A. Due to match designs, which put a premium on fast reloading, IPSC has made the revolver uncompetitive in most of its matches. This is unfortunate because a good wheelgun is a reliable, accurate and powerful handgun. Since you seem to be intent on using a revolver, I will give my favorite models. The .357 Magnum and .45 ACP are major calibers and brass is readily available.

In .357 Magnum, the Colt Pythons in blue steel and the Smith & Wesson "I." frames in blue or stainless are excellent. Ruger's double-action in .357 Magnum, with adjustable sights are durable and accurate. In .45 ACP caliber, the Smith & Wesson M25 would be my choice. I prefer a six-inch barrel on my competition revolver. You get a longer sight radius and added velocity over the four-inch barrel models.

Modifications to the revolver are fairly simple and inexpensive. A narrow trigger, with the grooves polished out, gives a good feel when firing double-action. The action should be smooth and free of any rough spots. I do not shoot double-action revolvers single-action, so I dehorn the hammer. Install a set of grips which fit your hand, and make sure they do not interfere when using speedloaders.

There are some other calibers and models of revolvers which could be used for competition combat shooting, but the ones I recommend are my favorites for IPSC shooting.

Q. *I want to learn to shoot a handgun well enough to defend my family. I would like to start competing in matches which would help prepare me if I needed to use my gun for protection. What organization should I contact about finding a club to join and a place to shoot?*

A. There are a few good schools available to the law-abiding citizen which can teach you how to increase your chance of successfully surviving an armed confrontation. There, you will learn some basic gunhandling and shooting skills and, more importantly, the right tactics to employ if an actual confrontation were to occur. Good survival tactics and winning competitive practical shooting matches seldom go together.

I believe IPSC competition is your best bet for learning to shoot a large-bore handgun effectively. One of the founding principles of IPSC is D.V.C.: initials for Latin words that mean accuracy, power and speed. IPSC does not design championship matches to primarily test survival tactics; instead, courses are designed to determine who is the best at shooting a powerful handgun—fast and accurately. Competing in practical shooting matches

Continued on page 57

THE HUNT IS OVER

If you're searching for the highest quality ammunition, you've found it. Norma products are the natural choice of hunters and sportsmen who demand superior accuracy and performance.

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NORMA SETS THE STANDARDS. THE REST FOLLOW.

Handguns for deer now legal in Cal.

Californians may use handguns for deer hunting this season, according to *Reports from Washington*, a National Rifle Association publication.

Calibers are restricted to .357 Magnum, .41 Magnum, .44 Magnum and other handguns having a muzzle energy of at least 698 foot pounds in factory ammunition.

No special permit other than the state's big game tag is required.

Previously, California hunters could use only rifles or bows; bow hunters require a special tag.

California joins a growing number of states which allow big game hunting with handguns. Currently, more than 35 states have big game hunting handgun seasons.

CORRECTION

The cover photo of the Redhawk Grand Master Deluxe, in the September/October issue of *American Handgunner*, was taken by Walter Leonard of San Diego, California, not Nick Karras (as table of contents caption stated).

Unique pistol offered by Advantage Arms

Advantage Arms, a new firearms company, has introduced a U.S.-designed and manufactured four-barrel, double-action handgun in .22LR and .22WRM calibers.



Designated M422, the topbreak has a rotary firing pin, contoured American walnut grips, weighs 15 ounces, is 4 1/2" long (width is less than an inch), has fixed sights, a ventilated rib and is available in blue, nickel or QPQ finish (QPQ is a new finishing and metal treatment process; it provides a rich black cosmetic finish with greater corrosive resistance than nickel plating, and gives increased wear resistance over nickel or hard-chrome plating).

The M422 contains few moving parts and carries a five-year warranty.

The topbreak design is opened by depressing the fixed sight to deactivate the strong T-bar lock. Opened, the 4140 investment cast hinged frame and barrel expose the spring-loaded extractors that ease removal of spent cartridges and facilitate insertion of new ones.

"We have no intention of being a one-gun company," said Tim Benedict, operations manager. "We are committed to quality and safety, and plan to continuously improve these aspects of our product and introduce new firearms."

Suggested retail prices for the M422 are \$149.95 for the .22LR and \$159.95 for the .22WRM, in any of the three finishes.

For further information, contact Benedict at Advantage Arms USA, Inc. (Dept. AH), 840 Hampden Ave., St. Paul, MN 55114.

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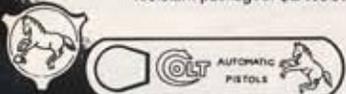
Extensive use of any .22 Short cartridge is not recommended in a gun also to be used with .22 Long Rifle ammo. Short cases in firearms chambered for the Long Rifle cartridge will eventually cause chamber erosion in front of where the Short case ends, causing extraction difficulties with Long Rifle cases.

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Russian shooters have 'secret formula' drink

By Len Davis

Shooting habits change over the years. During my Marine Corps Rifle and Pistol Team days at Camp Perry—back in the Iron Age—many a champion shooter nipped from a flask in his shooting box, just before going on the line to fire. Some will admit they did; others will not.

Some admit, others deny, that a couple of swigs of good booze—downed at the appropriate time—will do wonders for that old bugaboo: match nerves; better known as the "shakes," or the inability to shoot good scores under pressure.

Perhaps the best match shooters are the Russians, who are dedicated, well-trained and self-disciplined—to a man (or woman).

They are mentioned in *Shooting Sports News*, a new bimonthly publication of the International Shooter Development Fund. (For information about this new publication, write to Michael J. Keyes, M.D., Suite 300, Dept. AH, 121 21st Ave., Nashville, TN 37203.)

Seems that at this year's World Championship, according to *Shooting Sports News*, the Russians were observed drinking a "secret" substance prior to the matches. Since they did this clandestinely, and since they became upset when the matches were not started on time, some amateur sleuthing was done by unnamed members of the U.S. Team.

This resulted in obtaining a small sample of the substance. It was sent off to be analyzed in the Federal Republic of Germany; after great expense and furor, it turned out to be a "glucose" (a form of sugar) solution, laced with unnamed substances—none of which were on the shooters' "forbidden list."

BURST OF ENERGY

The important lesson for U.S. marksmen is that sugar gives a large burst of energy to the competitor—but at a cost. Simple sugars can cause *reactive hypoglycemia*, a condition that is detrimental to shooting; it induces tremor (the "shakes"), altered states of mind—including irritability—and decreased endurance, according to Dr. Keyes.

Simple sugars are contained in soft drinks, Gator-ade (and its clones) and many candies and foods, which a shooter may be tempted to snack on during a long day of shooting.

Dr. Keyes said the rapid influx of large amounts of glucose causes the body to pump out a large amount of insulin. When the sugar is gone, the insulin remains, lowering the blood sugar level below normal and depriving the brain and nerves of nutrients.

To avoid this, he added, a shooter should

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ingest only complex sugars and carbohydrates before and during a match. This includes bread, grains and potatoes.

"The most likely sugar in the Russian 'secret formula' was fructose, a similar sugar but one which does not cause the insulin reaction," said Dr. Keyes, editor of *Shooting Sports News*.

"Such a solution is available from Amway Products. The ideal substance should give you complex carbohydrates and potassium, without filling you up."

As to booze, that's a no-no today—in most cases.



Illegal use of guns brings death penalty

"Mac Arthur took the Philippines, with the help of God and a few Marines," went a well-known World War II saying.

But life in those faraway islands is changing these days.

Take gun laws, for example.

Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos has ordered the death penalty for illegal use of guns in "crimes of rebellion, insurrection or subversion" a part of a stiff crackdown on firearms violations.

A presidential decree makes the illegal possession, manufacture or sale of firearms or explosives punishable by up to life imprisonment—or death.

The death penalty is imposed if a weapons violation involves a murder case or "is in furtherance of, or incident to, or in connection with (the aforementioned crimes)."

And that's the way it is, in one of our former U. S. possessions. (L.D.)

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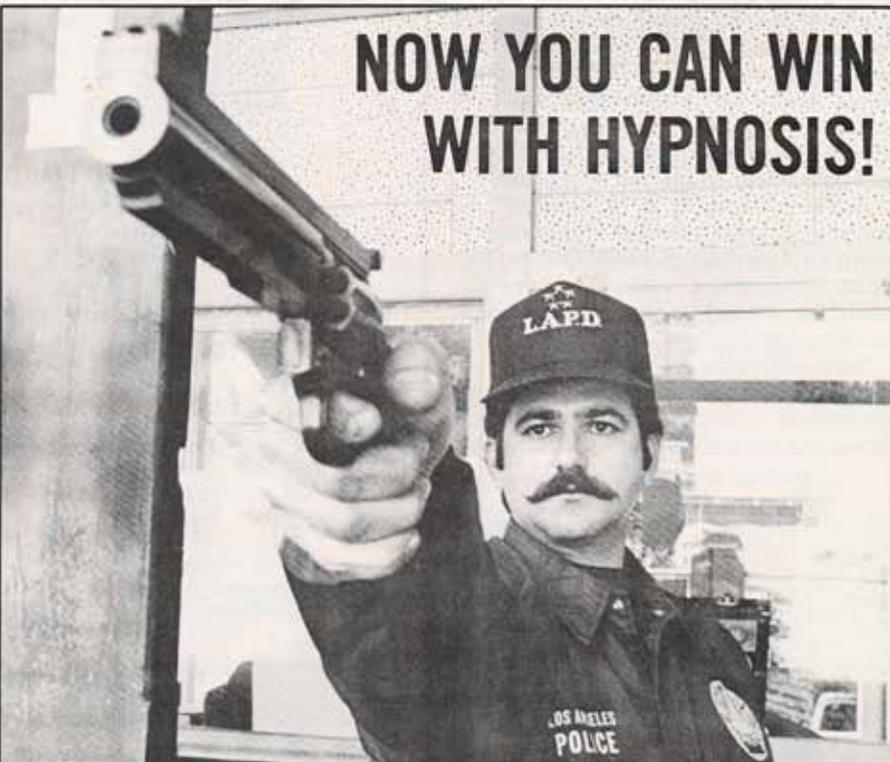
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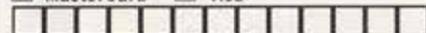
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PISTOLSMITHING

JOHN G. LAWSON

READER WANTS A SELF-COCKING 'AUTOMATIC' REVOLVER, AGAIN

Here are several questions from my mailbox, and my answers:

Q. With all of the current interest in double-action revolver shooting, it occurs to me that it wouldn't be all that hard to develop a self-cocking revolver action that would require only a single-action pull; it would be a faster cycling gun than the double-actions. Are any of the revolver makers working on this sort of a design?

A. The self-cocking, or "automatic," revolver, goes back to the turn of the century when an American gunsmith named Ed Spatz developed a workable design by modifying a Smith & Wesson model then in current production.

S&W tested the self-cocker, shown in the photo, for 7,000 rounds. Although it performed without a malfunction, the Massachusetts arms manufacturer decided



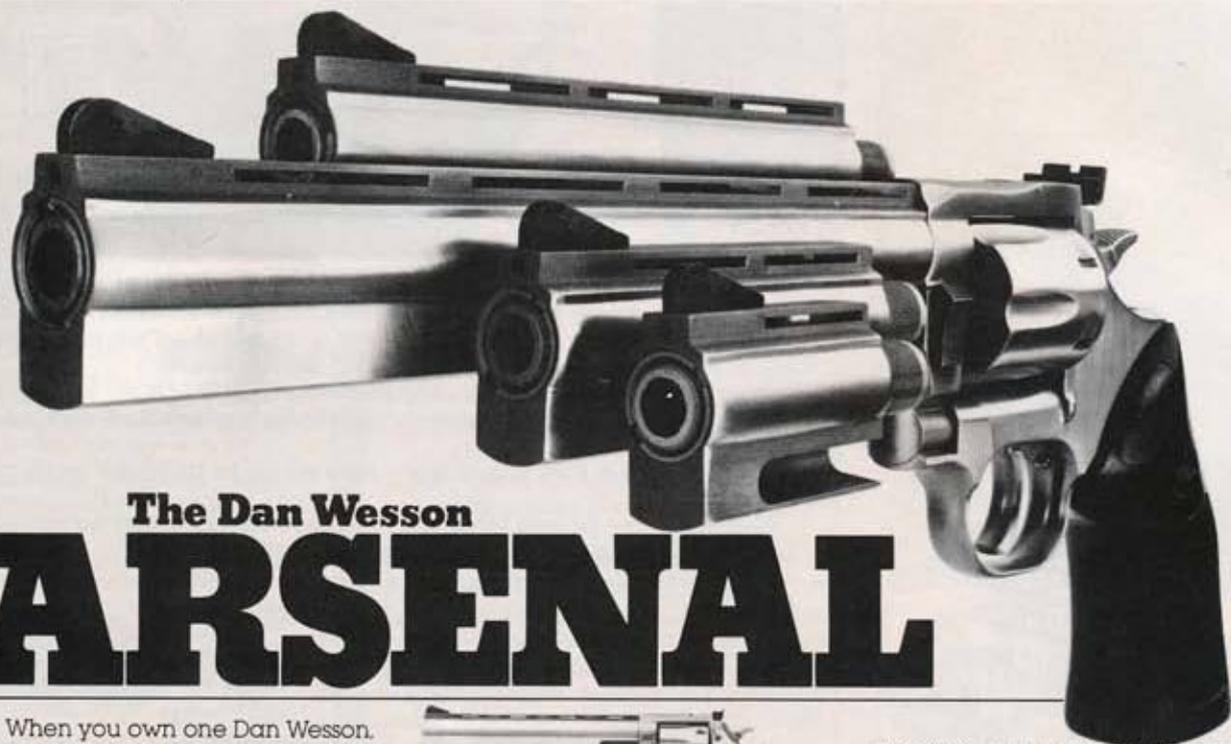
Side view of unusual automatic revolver.

that the design was too awkward in appearance ever to be popular with the shooting public. Spatz, a friend and teacher who had a profound effect on my gunsmithing career, did not patent the mechanism. Webley-Fosbery and Union Arms marketed its versions of the design, with the predicted lukewarm reception from the shooting public. Arms of this genre are, today, collectors' prizes—a lasting monument to emotionalism vs engineering in arms design.

Q. I have the problem you outlined concerning use of bifocal glasses and a fuzzy sight picture. I have not been able to find a Merit aperture locally. Can you supply the company's address?

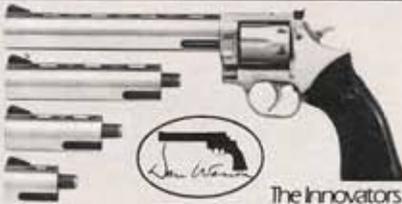
A. Merit Gunsight Company is now located at POB 995, Sequim, WA 98382. No telephone is listed to this company.

I have used a Merit aperture on my glasses since the 1950s and have a T/C Contender and several rifles fitted with the aperture diaphragm rear sight. But a new device I tested recently has become my clear favorite for pistol shooting. It's the *Clearsight*, available from the company of the same name at POB 8245, West Palm Beach, Florida 33407, for \$38.95 in clear, or \$48.95 in yellow; it comes with three lenses that can be used in a variety of lighting conditions. The loupe style device attaches easily to most eyeglass frames, swings up out of the way, positions so that the shooter does not have to cramp his



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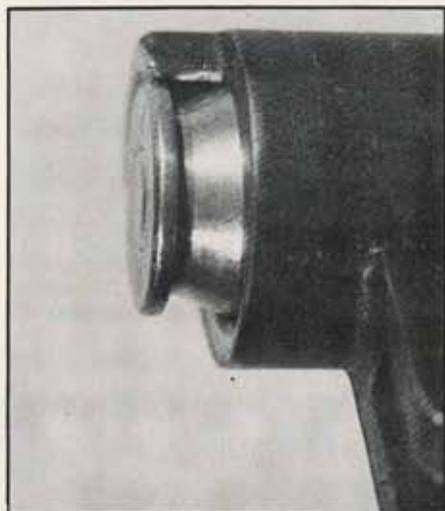
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standard, vent, and vent heavy. Remember, Dan Wesson is famous for out-of-the-box accuracy in all calibers—stainless or blued steel—.22 L.R., .22 Mag., .357 Mag., .38 Special, .41 Mag., .44 Mag. Write for our catalog.

neck and gives the clearest, sharpest sight picture I have ever seen. I now carry two *Clearsight* sets in my pistol box—one to use, another for a loaner. Every shooter who has had a fuzzy sight problem and has used the *Clearsight* has commented on the sharp sight picture.

Q. My new Government model match barrel seats the .45 case deeper than the old barrel I am replacing. What is the reason for this?

A. Match barrels are made slightly over-size in the hood, to allow precise fitting for uniform contact with the slide face. The .45 ACP cartridge should, ideally, seat with the case head flush with the face of the hood, as in the accompanying photograph. If your particular barrel is chambered deeper, or if it is shallower, it may still perform accurately by careful selection of the bullet you use and remedial bullet seating depth.



Here's proper headspace in M1911 barrel.

Q. My Colt Python revolver has a heavy double-action pull. What is the best way to lighten it without risking misfires?

A. First, clean out each primer pocket before you reload your brass. A cushioned primer, a high primer and a tight primer pocket may cause misfires. There are two common methods of lightening the double-action pull. The first is to remove the grips, insert the point of an old GM firing pin between the leaves of the hammer spring and cock the piece a few times, checking weight of pull after each "treatment." The second method is to install a bullseye Spring Kit #7, available from Brownell's, Inc., Rt. 2, Box 1, Montezuma, IA 50171. If you don't have a copy of Brownell's catalog, send \$3.25 for one.

Q. Some pistol and revolver sights, such as the Millett line, have white or colored patterns around the rear sight notch and on the front blade. What is the purpose of the patterns?

A. There are two methods of aligning pistol or revolver sights. The first, and oldest, is to focus on the sights, carefully centering the blade in the notch while letting the target fall into a blur.

Continued on page 56

DESIGN YOUR OWN PERSONAL .45



SIGHTS

- Wichita
- Bo-Mar
- Millet
- Quick Draw
- Patridge
- Smith & Wesson

GRIPS

- Herrett Skip Line
- Colt
- Pachmayr

BEAVERTAIL-GRIP SAFETY

- Safari blue or stainless
- Colt wide type
- Swenson
- Stock

RECOIL SYSTEM

- Stock Colt
- 2 piece with buffer

HARDWARE

- Ambidextrous Safety blue
- Ambidextrous Safety stainless
- Extended Safety blue
- Extended Safety stainless
- Ambidextrous slide stop blue
- Ambidextrous slide stop stainless
- Extended slide stop blue
- Extended slide stop stainless

NEW GUN

- New Government Model
- New Colt Commander

RECEIVER TREATMENT

- Stipple front strap
- Open mag well

MAINSRING HOUSING

- Pachmayr flat
- Pachmayr hump
- Stock Colt
- Colt flattened & stippled

HAMMER

- Spur Colt modified
- Commander lightened

BARREL BUSHING

- Colt
- Fitted

FINISH

- Super blue upper
- Metaloy lower receiver
- Metaloy whole piece
- Half and half

TRIGGER

- Long Skeleton aluminum
- Stock Colt with over travel
- 4#
- 3#

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- Blue
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HANDGUN HUNTING

J. D. JONES

HUNTING WITH A HANDGUN ATTRACTS MORE AND MORE SHOOTERS ANNUALLY

Each year more and more handgunners take to the field in pursuit of big game. Their goals vary. Some hunters find a pleasant day in the woods satisfactory. Others go with the idea of putting meat in the freezer. Still others are trophy hunters.

The definition of a "trophy hunter" varies from individual to individual. Some are content with harvesting only game of such quality for an attractive mount. Others will not harvest an animal unless it surpasses their personal best of the same specie. Others will only harvest an animal if it is large enough to "get in the record book." Still others must be sure an animal will rank well up in the book, prior to harvesting it. Other trophy hunters may also be collectors, harvesting only species of animals they have not previously taken.

Variations of the above are almost endless. The point is that all hunters are not guys who go out and shoot the first game they see.

The true trophy hunter is selective in what he shoots. He spends a great deal of time, money and effort pursuing his chosen sport. His equipment is usually of good quality and shows a little wear. As an enthusiast he pursues his sport relentlessly.

Record books of trophy animals exist to document the sizes of the animals and the individuals who have harvested them. Roland Ward and Boone and Crockett are well-known record books. Lesser known to the general public are Safari Club Interna-



Larry Kelly shot this rhino with his scoped .375 JDJ (J. D. Jones) T/C Contender and a Hornaday 300-grain FMJ bullet. Muzzle energy: about 2,000 foot pounds.

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tional's Records Of Trophy Animals, and Thompson Temple's Records of Exotics.

The Safari Club is the foremost hunting organization in the world today and its chapters and trophy measurers are widespread. Its scoring methods and minimums are realistic. That means that an individual who wants to "make the book" can do it if he works at it, and has a little luck. "Making the book" is an attainable goal for the serious hunter in this case; not a matter of 99.9 percent luck, as making the Boone and Crockett book seems to be in many cases.

Handgun Hunters International has recently become affiliated with Safari Club International for the express purpose of strengthening both organizations and beginning a record book for trophy animals taken with a handgun. HHI has adopted the SCI method of scoring trophies, trophy minimums and official scorers in total. All existing forms for record purposes are to be used. The only difference is that the submission for record will go to Handgun Hunters International, instead of Safari Club.

Handgun trophies taken since January 1, 1970 will be considered eligible for the book. They must simply be measured by official SCI-HHI scorer, and the proper submission made. The record fee is \$15. The book will be published when enough submissions have been made to make it worthwhile.

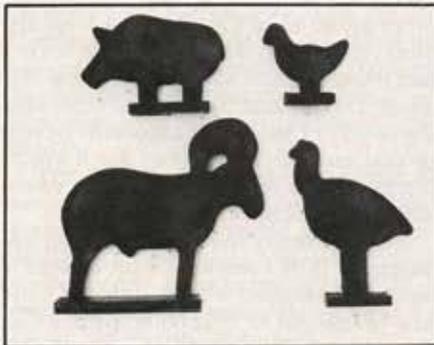
How many trophy hunters are going to be using handguns? I think the number will be relatively small, compared to the total. But I feel certain more and more rifle hunters eventually will switch to handguns.

For more information, contact Safari Club International, 5151 East Broadway (#1680), Tucson, AZ 85711; Handgun Hunters International, POB 357 MAG, Bloomingdale, OH 43910, and Records of Exotics, Texotic Wildlife Inc., POB 181, Mountain, TX 78058.

Let's help promote the sport of handgun hunting, worldwide. 

JDJ introduces rubber bird/animal targets

J. D. Jones, president of SSK Industries and recipient of the



Outstanding American Handgunner for 1983 award, is in the rubber birds and animals business.

He's developed a set of "somewhat self-sealing" silhouette targets that are scaled to NRA specifications (.22 rifle size).

"They are durable, lightweight, do not require painting and withstand 40 to 60 hits per square inch," Jones told the *American Handgunner*.

He added that they eliminate ricochets with .22 ammo and "are great for practice, plinking and long-range shooting with high-powered guns."

A set of four—chicken, pig, turkey and ram—retails for \$15 (plus \$2 postage).

They're available from gun dealers or directly from SSK (Route 1, Della Drive, Dept. AH, Bloomingdale, OH 43910).

INFO 'QUICKIE'

Handgun shooting sports are proliferating nationwide and include firing at paper targets, steel plates, metallic silhouettes and bowling pins. Ranges vary from seven yards to 220 yards. Calibers range between .22 and .45, in both revolvers and autoloaders. The sports appeal to men and women of virtually all ages; youngsters, too.

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Beretta sportsmen and sportswomen are born survivors. They know that Berettas are great values. Police and military personnel specify them for protection. Collectors lock them behind glass simply to exhibit. Our Model 84 is exceptionally reliable, safe, and delivers tremendous firepower.

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As for the 84, it takes on the powerful .380 cartridge with double-action dependability. Thirteen telling rounds fed from a virtually jam-proof staggered magazine, unlike many handguns. Ambidextrous safety. Handsome walnut or tough plastic grips. Only 22-1/2 ounces. And it's as close as your phone. Call us toll-free for the nearest Beretta dealer. He's a survivor like the rest of us.



Send for free Accessories Catalog.

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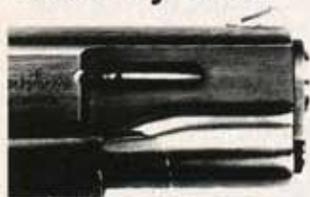


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COP TALK

Continued from page 6

GUN FAILS TO FIRE

According to Ulrich, the suspect swung the pistol across the faces of both officers, pulling the trigger; the gun did not go off. The second officer laid his revolver rather forcibly alongside the perpetrator's head, terminating the encounter. "I'm convinced that both officers would have died if the suspect had snatched a revolver instead of that Model 439," said Ulrich.

I once did a piece for the *American Handgunner* about two documented "saves" of police lives, one in Illinois the other in Salt Lake City. The magazine disconnecter safety on an S&W 9mm auto had foiled suspects who grabbed the police autos. This column continues to contradict the theory of having an automatic devoid of that feature, "so you can fire if you're jumped while reloading, with one round still in the chamber."

In that *Handgunner* story, which appeared in 1978, I challenged the readers to show me *one case* where someone's life had been saved by the ability to fire a Colt .45 auto's chambered round when caught with a halfway loaded pistol. I received many angry letters giving me theories about how it *could* happen; but not one documented incident where it *did* happen.

As I wrote in 1978, we don't run with theory, we run with what happens on the street. The incident in Illinois makes the third proven case I know of where a magazine disconnecter safety preserved an officer's life in a violent encounter—the lives of two officers, in this case.

The episode Mike Taylor describes has been repeated too many times to doubt any more, if ever you did. When a bad guy gets a safety-locked automatic away from you and doesn't know where the safety is, he can't kill you with it until he finds the magic thumb release. Argue all you want, revolver buffs; the auto wins on this aspect, and I know men who've survived those encounters and stand ready to tell you the difference between "theory", and the brutal reality of being a street cop.

INFO 'QUICKIE'

The cap-and-ball "Paterson" was the first revolver invented by Samuel Colt and dated by the first American patent of February 25, 1836. Features of this gun, which derives its name from having been made at Paterson, New Jersey, are traceable in all later revolvers of Colt design, even down to the present day.

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WHAT'S NEW

Detonics introduces its match Scoremaster

Detonics Manufacturing Corporation, a subsidiary of Energy Sciences Corporation, has introduced the *Scoremaster*, an all-stainless steel, semi-automatic pistol for match shooting.

It's available in .45 ACP and .451 Detonics Magnum calibers, with a five- or six-inch barrel.

The *Scoremaster* combines Detonics' patented self-centering cone barrel system and compound recoil system, precision-fit for maximum accuracy.

Other custom-type features include a National Match trigger and receiver; a low base, fully adjustable rear sight; an ambidextrous safety lock, and wrap-around Pachmayr combat-style grips. It is also equipped with three interchangeable front sights, an oversize combat ejection port, and a beveled magazine well (which speeds the loading of regular seven-round magazines and



the new, eight-round Super Combat Magazine, made by Detonics).

Designed for the competition shooter, the *Scoremaster* is manufactured to provide all the features sought by IPSC (International Practical Shooting Confederation) marksmen—including the unique and inherently accurate Detonics barrel design—features that, up until now, were available only in custom models.

The *Scoremaster* weighs 41 ounces empty, is 8 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches long and 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches high. It carries a suggested retail price of \$985.

For further information, contact the company at 2500 Seattle Tower, Dept. AH, Seattle, WA 98101.

Super Vel has new ammunition plant

Super Vel's high-velocity, expanding hollow-point ammunition is now being produced in a new facility at Fond du Lac, Michigan.

Produced and tested in small lots, all Super Vel ammo is hand-inspected before it is packaged in bright yellow and red boxes—each with a strong plastic reload tray.

Here are some examples of Super Vel cartridges, their bullet weights and muzzle velocities:

.380 Auto (88-grain JHP)—1,050 fps.

9mm (112-grain JHP and JSP)—1,240 fps.

.44 Magnum (180-grain JHP)—1,665 fps.

.44 Magnum (240-grain JHP)—1,335 fps.

.45 ACP (190-grain JHP)—1,035 fps.

Super Vel is also produced in a variety of soft-and hollow-point bullet designs in both .38 Special (+P) and .357 Magnum calibers.

The Super Vel .357 Magnum and .44 Magnum loads are popular with hunters and metallic silhouette shooters, because of their fine accuracy and high velocity.

For more information, contact Super Vel, POB 757 (Dept. AH), Salem, NH 03079.

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Colt Python & Old Style Trooper ...	\$11.50		

SILUETAS

Continued from page 14

subject, write to me at POB 22074, Phoenix, AZ 85028.

I've a nicely typed letter from a shooter with a problem, but the letter has no return address. Just in case you're reading this column, sir or madam, let me respond.

Yes, overweight, custom XP-100 unlimiteds can be put on a reducing diet by substituting an aluminum cocking piece (bolt plug, some call it) for the factory item. You'll save one ounce, and it will cost you a lot by the pound, but, if it's the last ounce it's worth it. These are benchrest shooter items, so you might check with your local source, or contact **Russ Binkley**, ISW, 106 E. Cairo, Tempe, AZ 85282.



INFO 'QUICKIE'

Ballistic coefficient is the ratio of the sectional density of the projectile to its coefficient of form (sometimes referred to as its Form Factor). It is an index of the manner in which a particular projectile decelerates in free flight, due to the resistance—or drag—of the atmosphere in which it is traveling.

Wichita Arms produces Power-designed ribs

Master gunsmith Ron Power of Independence, Missouri has designed a ventilated sighting system rib for automatic pistols and revolvers.

It incorporates a unique lengthwise "V" groove that emphasizes the front sight and prevents glare and light distortion.

Each solid steel rib includes a rugged mount, designed to withstand service ammunition and heavy loads. An oversized rear blade makes for quick sighting, and a low front sight allows more elevation adjustment. Ventilation helps dissipate heat.

The sight is ruggedly constructed and fitted for accurate, repeatable click elevation and windage adjustment. The tightness and rigidity of the sight insures smooth, precise adjustments and exact settings.

A variety of rib models (featuring square-cornered target sights or round-cornered combat sights) assures adaptability to all autos, including Browning, Colt and Ruger pistols, and Smith & Wesson revolvers.

The "V" ribs are priced at \$89.95. White outline is \$6 extra.

For more information, contact Wichita Arms, Inc. (Dept. AH), POB 11371, Wichita, KS 67211.



BULLSHOOTERS' SUPPLY
1241 East Prince Road/P.O. Box 13446
Tucson, Arizona 85732/602-298-6924

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WHAT'S NEW

Continued from page 27

Device boosts airgun's accuracy and velocity

Beeman Precision Airguns has developed a pellet-sizing device that boosts airgun accuracy and velocity by improving pellet uniformity and matching different pellet sizes with the bores of different airguns.



Called the Beeman *Pel-Size*, it takes four separate size, interchangeable dies; diameters are .1780 inch (4.52mm), .1785 (4.53mm), .1790 (4.52mm) and .1800 (4.57mm).

Shooters can experiment with these four dies to find the size that produce the tightest groups with various pellet and gun combinations.

Pellets are progressively sized in a compound taper, rather than just swaged—with resulting head deformation, or flowback—as in simple taper sizers.

Each Beeman *Pel-Size* is precision machined of the finest graphitic tool steel, and honed to a tolerance of 10,000ths of an inch. Its tubular housing is made of high-tensile aircraft aluminum, with a special slick, black, anodized finish. A non-abrasive Dupont Delrin plunger has built-in lubricity, supplemented by an impregnation of graphite.

The Beeman *Pel-Size* comes with a .1785 inch die, a size which tests show works well with most modern airguns. Other dies may be purchased separately.

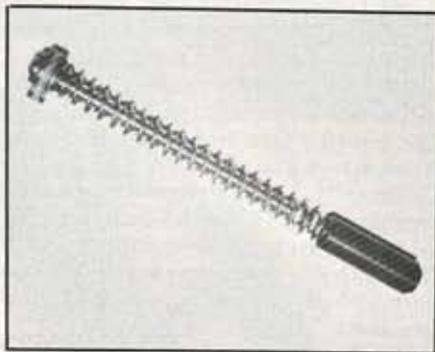
The suggested retail price for the pellet sizer is \$24.95. Separate dies are \$9.98 each.

For more information, contact Beeman at 47 Paul Drive, Dept. AH, San Rafael, CA 94903.

New recoil system has several fine features

Detonics Manufacturing Corporation has a new competition recoil system for full-size Colt autoloading pistols.

The one-piece system produces increased accuracy; greater reliability, control and safety and extends frame life.



It may be used for wadcutter, standard, intermediate and heavy loads in .45 ACP, 9mm and .38 Super calibers.

The system provides a faster cyclic rate of fire and helps reduce felt recoil and muzzle rise.

Its recoil cap threads firmly onto the outer recoil spring, preventing loss of

Continued on page 50

Introducing...

The NEW Stainless Steel .38 Spl.

OFF-DUTY

...The best value going!



The best value going is from Charter Arms—with the development of their new **OFF-DUTY** .38 Spl. — and here's what it's got to offer:

- New fluorescent "red-dot" front sight.
- All-stainless steel frame and internal parts.
- Smallest, lightest, stainless steel frame five-shot, double action revolver made.

Just when you thought you couldn't afford a stainless steel revolver, Charter's new **OFF-DUTY** .38 Special gives you the utmost value at a terrific low price!

All of this is possible through improved production technologies, product design, and metallurgical differences that enhance this new model. These improvements—combined with a special purchase of material—make the new **OFF-DUTY** the best value going!

Contact your local firearms dealer for a look at the new **OFF-DUTY** from Charter Arms and see its surprisingly low price tag.



CHARTER ARMS

Dept. 30-AHN, 430 Sniffens Lane, Stratford, CT 06497

By Russ Gaertner

Our hottest sporting revolver is the long-barreled, double-action .44 Magnum. It is tops for silhouette competition and handgun big-game hunting.

The latter sport has fascinated me for many years, and it is easy to predict that silhouette shooters in increasing numbers will be discovering this finest kind of hunting.

Smith & Wesson's M29 is the long-time standard of excellence for double-action revolvers, but S&W's stainless steel M629, the newer Ruger stainless Redhawk, and the versatile Dan Wesson are becoming extremely popular.

Recently, I have been working over a double-action .44, which I believe should also be considered by serious shooters. This gun is a new foreigner; but if that turns you off, you will be passing up a fine revolver.

The Llama *Super Comanche* .44 Magnum is made by Llama-Gabilondo of Vitoria, Spain, and imported by Stoeger. Llama has long been widely known for good .45 and .38 Super autos and a fine line of conventional autos and revolvers in a wide range of calibers. Its big .44 deserves high marks for both innovative design and excellent overall quality.

The Llama (pronounced *yama*) is a big, good-looking revolver with custom-type features, including wide target hammer and wide smooth trigger, a non-reflecting wide-vented sight rib, adjustable target sights, a high-luster black finish, and attractive checkered-wood target grips.

The Llama .44 Magnum looks good on the outside; inside, it is something else.

THE LLAMA DOUBLE- ACTION .44 MAGNUM

When tuned, the *Super Comanche* combines ultra-fine accuracy with strength and easy handling, in spite of relatively heavy recoil.

The action is based on an ingenious, foolproof "safe" hammer system. As the hammer is thumbed, or double-acted, back to the cocked position, the eccentric

cam (on which the hammer pivots) rotates downward, lowering the hammer.

When the hammer falls with the trigger held back, it strikes the firing pin below the frame block, and the gun fires. But, if the hammer slips and the trigger returns as the hammer falls, the hammer is cammed up to strike the frame block, and the gun cannot fire.

Another superior feature is the double cylinder/crane lock design. In addition to the usual rear center pin lock, the crane locks into the frame in front of the cylinder, providing a strong lockup, plus correct alignment.

The ejector rod has no internal pin and no locking function; the good-looking under-barrel shroud just protects the rod. The cylinder/crane assembly is released by the usual thumbpiece, but this operates both the rear center pin and an unusual bolt, acting on the front latch through the crane.

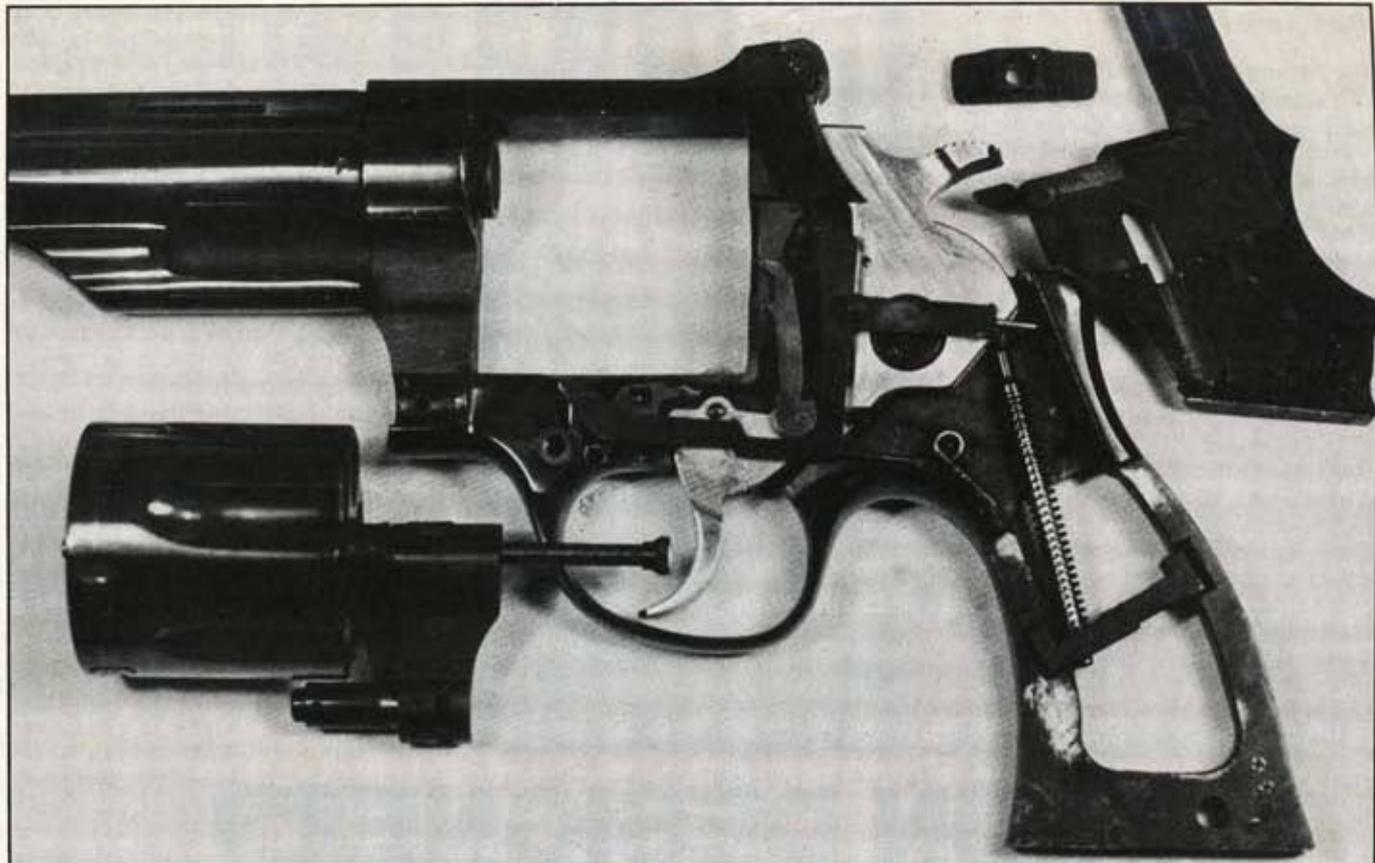
SIDEPLATE DESIGN

The gun has a sideplate, on the left side; the action can be cycled with the plate removed. This makes it much easier to work on the action. The trend to solid frames and removable trigger units may be fine for factories, but sideplate guns are easier and more reliable to tune and smooth. The great S&W sideplate design is the easiest of all to work on; I would rank the Llama right next to the S&W.

Gabilondo has a fine reputation for careful assembly and good quality control, with more hand-fitting than most American factories have employed in recent years. My gun's action was tight and solid; it cycled smoothly and without the obvious objectionable roughness associated with



Llama's Super Comanche .44 Magnum is a huge, good-looking, high-quality revolver with many custom-type features.



With sideplate removed, the Llama displays its simple lock-works. Design is based on eccentric-cam, safe hammer system.

many out-of-the-box American guns.

While it functioned perfectly, the trigger pull was not exactly the "smoothest going"—as Stoeger's ads claim. Not as smooth as those of S&W M29s; but they are at least on a par with other double-action .44s I've tried. Trigger pulls were on the heavy side: a crisp six pounds single-action and about 12 pounds double-action. Both were uniform.

When the gun arrived, I measured the headspace and cylinder-barrel gap. And I examined the internal surfaces with a borelight. They were finely lapped and slick, just like a M29.

After breaking in the gun with a variety of factory ammo and handloads without a malfunction or other mechanical problem, I knew two things. The gun was a shooter and I liked it. The grips are better than most factory grips; in fact, I can't think of better ones. They are not as fancy-looking as some, but they feel good and the checkering is both effective and comfortable while firing heavy loads.

My gun has the heavy 8½ inch barrel, making it a muzzle-heavy, two-hand shooter. It is heavy, 56 ounces empty. That mass certainly helps tame recoil.

Good adjustable sights are mounted on the gun, but they must have been designed for shorter barrels, or lighter recoiling loads. My 8½ inch gun hit two inches to eight inches above the point of aim with the rear sight screwed down tight. A call to the factory confirmed that the company was aware of this; a redesigned sight is al-



Two 25-yard groups show potential accuracy of cast bullets in the .44 Llama.

ready going on guns now being shipped.

ACCURACY TESTS

I set up the gun on a Lee machine rest, adapting the Lee grip for S&W guns by drilling and tapping new holes for the frame bolts. Shooting over the Sky-screens of my accurate Oehler Model 33 Chronotach, I was ready to clock each shot and group loads without depending on my somewhat lazy eye for sighting.

My first group from the Llama .44 in the Lee rest used three long-boarded original Super Vel 180-grain JHP rounds. Most experts consider these the hottest factory loads ever made. Three shots at 25 yards formed a group measuring .74 inch center-to-center of widest hits. The average velocity was 1,744 fps with 1,215 foot pounds of muzzle energy. That's hot *and* accurate.

A lucky three-shot group is not uncommon, so I went to other loads and five-shot groups. I had a series of handloads that were deliberately over-pressured; I decided to push the Llama to find out just how tough it actually is. Remember, these loads were not worked up for accuracy, but rather for borderline excessive pressure. I am not going to list exact charges, because neither the editors nor I recommend them, despite their fine performance from the Llama, they are simply *too* hot.

Accuracy in the 1.2 to 2.0 inch range is fine performance, especially with these handloads of above-standard .44 Magnum pressures. These firings definitely would

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By Charles E. Petty

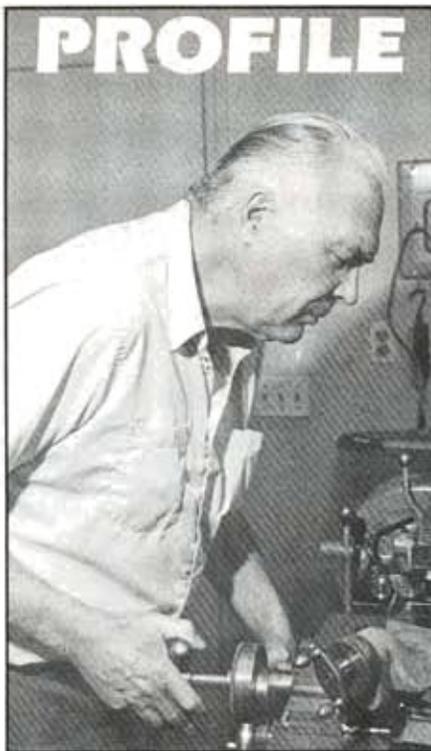
We have all heard stories of brilliantly creative inventors struggling to gain acceptance of their latest inventions.

Fred Stevens, for one, knows these frustrations well; although he has many inventions in many fields to his credit, his career seems to have been either feast or famine.

His first love, however, is firearms design; it is here that his frustration has been the greatest, for he has yet to achieve any monetary success for his many efforts and creations.

Stevens was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. in 1923. From his earliest memories, he has been fascinated with firearms and their mechanisms. In the days before restrictive firearms laws, he and some friends would pool their limited resources to buy guns. Their shooting was done at a beach near where the Verrazano Narrows Bridge now stands. An army installation, Fort Hamilton, was situated nearby and they would shoot on Saturdays when the noise of machine gun practice from the fort would cover the sound of their own firing.

His interest in guns and other things me-



duced a working model. This was in 1956. The gun was a gas-operated pistol chambered for the .357 Magnum cartridge. The model worked well, and fired thousands of rounds, but it also brought frustration—and rejection.

Although he showed it to the major firearms manufacturers, no one was willing to produce it. Other engineers, familiar with the problem, called it the "NIH Syndrome," meaning *not invented here*.

Most companies are not interested in manufacturing something not designed by one of their staff members, since it would require them to pay royalties.

The gun, remarkably simple, had several unusual features. When I examined it I was impressed by the natural feel and the extremely smooth and light double-action trigger pull. When I commented on this, Stevens laughed and assured me that the action wasn't slicked up in any way; the smoothness was "a result of the design," he said.

ENTER HIGH STANDARD

Even though none of the companies would produce his gun, Stevens was

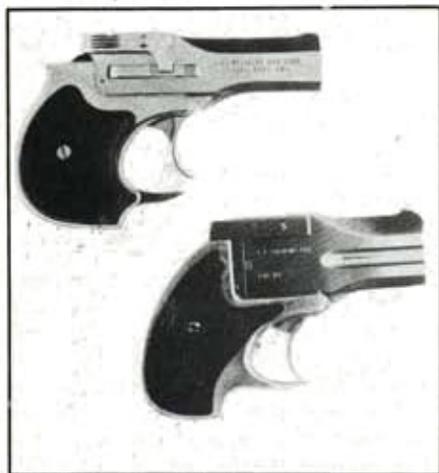
GUN DESIGNER FRED E. STEVENS

chanical overcame his interest in the academics of high school and he quit at 16 to pursue his education in the practical classrooms of machine shops. He became an accomplished tool and die maker by 21, and a tool designer a few years later. He spent much of his early working life with a company that made models for other people's inventions.

He was also something of an entrepreneur and was involved in several business ventures, including a gun shop.

VITAMINS FROM PLANKTON

Following World War II he opened the Stevens Machine and Instrument Com-



High Standard derringer, above, and Fred Stevens' latest design derringer.

His latest—and most novel—creation is a stainless steel revolver that shoots underwater; it has many other potential applications.

pany in Brooklyn and was successful until the general business downturn that followed the Korean War took its toll. Stevens sold the company for a modest sum and, with his brother, invested in a venture totally different from anything he had done before. A new company was formed to extract vitamins from plankton, and study the commercial cultivation of oysters. The enterprise was based on the British Columbia coast and collapsed when the scientist, around whom the company was built, died unexpectedly.

Broke and out of work, Stevens took a job as a logger to earn enough money to get back to the states. His first firearm design came to life while he was in Canada. Since there were no machine shops there, he made his initial model entirely of wood.

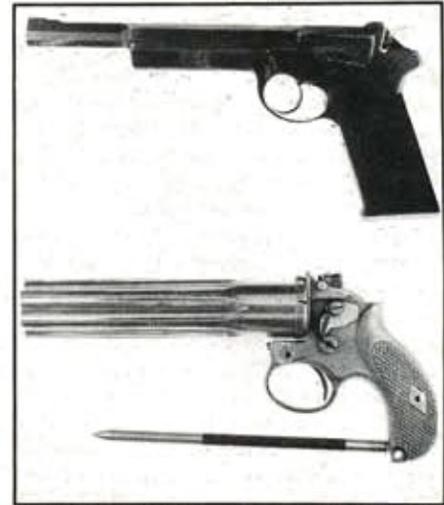
When he was able to accumulate enough money for himself and his wife to return to the states, he immediately pro-

ffered a position as a design consultant at High Standard.

What followed is still a matter of controversy. Stevens had been working on a small .22 caliber derringer, which soon appeared as the familiar High Standard Derringer. A lengthy legal battle ensued between Stevens and High Standard. Although Stevens held an unassigned patent, a state court held that he was not entitled to any royalties.

The court fight left Stevens virtually penniless, out of work, and angry at himself for his own naiveté. He found a job

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Fred Stevens' .357 gas-operated auto, top, and his underwater gun/cartridge.

BERETTA'S .380 AUTO: A WINNER

By Len Davis

When John Browning designed and introduced in Europe in 1912 his 9mm Browning Short (or .380 Auto) cartridge, he probably had no idea that more than 70 years later it would be recognized as a fine caliber for plain clothes police officers and home defense purposes.

The caliber was added to the Colt Pocket Automatic line in 1908. Named as the official military pistol cartridge by several governments, including Czechoslovakia, Italy and Sweden, it has been adopted also by several European police departments.

It is, however, the very lightest cartridge—in terms of stopping power—that should be used for self-defense. The soft point bullets will not offer much advantage over the full metal case bullets. This is due to the fact that the relatively low velocity of the 95-grain bullet—just under 1,000 fps—will not allow significant expansion of a soft-point bullet.

If a semi-automatic handgun is what you want, and you also desire maximum controllability and minimum recoil combined with easy concealment, this caliber might be just what you are looking for—especially if the gun is a Beretta M84 double-action pistol, with its 13-round staggered magazine and straight blow-back action.

As a veteran Colt Government Model .45 shooter, who has fired many thousands of rounds of hardball ammo in 2700 competition (both as a Marine and state police officer), I had some misgivings when I trekked to my local range with a new Model 84 and several boxes of factory-loaded ammunition.

We set up targets at 25 yards, the maximum range at which this gun should be shot, for any degree of accuracy (remember: this is a close-up gun, for self-defense; it was not designed to win matches or punch out X-rings).

Several different .380 Auto loads were fired, both slow and rapid fire.

TEST-FIRE RESULTS

After about 200 rounds had been shot, we made the following notes:

(1) Not one malfunction; all rounds fed perfectly.

(2) Superior accuracy, considering the gun's basic configuration (such as a 3.81 inch barrel and fixed sights) and general purpose: virtually all shots in the black, on the Standard American 25-yard center.

(3) Tremendous fire power: 14 rounds at one loading (one in the chamber)—nearly twice as many as most semi-autos.

Overall, the Beretta M84 is a good-looking, dependable semi-auto and has all the earmarks of top quality production throughout.

The price: \$425, suggested retail. Extra magazines are \$25 each.

Even though I'm a true-blue .45 hardballer, in every sense of the word, I recommend the Beretta M84 highly; in my



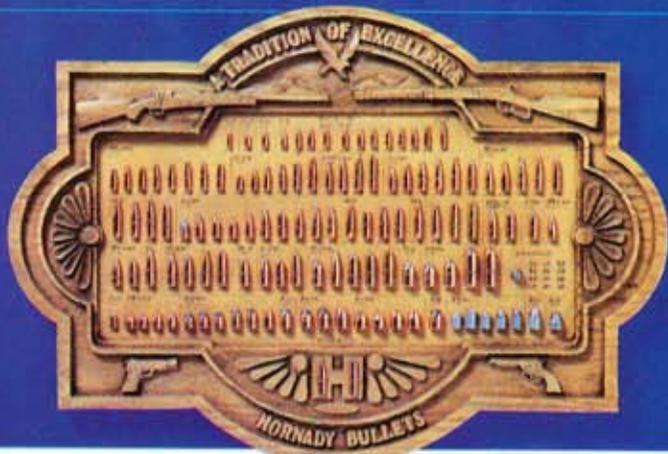
Here's an excellent holster for the Beretta M84—the Model 455 Security, made by Davis Leather Company of Arcadia, California. Note two swivel straps.

(4) A comfortable gun to shoot: low noise level, and felt recoil was virtually absent, in spite of its relatively light weight (22½ ounces, with magazine empty). And I like the feel of the gun's walnut grips. They're full (because of the thick magazine) and fill the average person's hands.

opinion, it's the best .380 Auto on the market.

And thanks to U.S. ammo makers, there are some great loads available for it—loads that combine excellent accuracy with effective stopping power: the real "bottom line." 

INVESTMENT-GRADE BULLETS



Own the complete Hornady Collection on this limited edition bullet board... the largest collection of one manufacturer's sporting bullets ever assembled. It's a visual history of shooting that can't be equalled, and is certain to become a collector's item. A handsome decoration as well as an invaluable reference for the serious shooter. Contains 118 hand-selected Hornady Bullets permanently mounted on a wood-grained shield precisely reproduced from an actual carving. It's perfect for your den, or a special gift. Only \$71.50 at selected shooting supply dealers.

(If ordering direct, you must include copy of Fed.

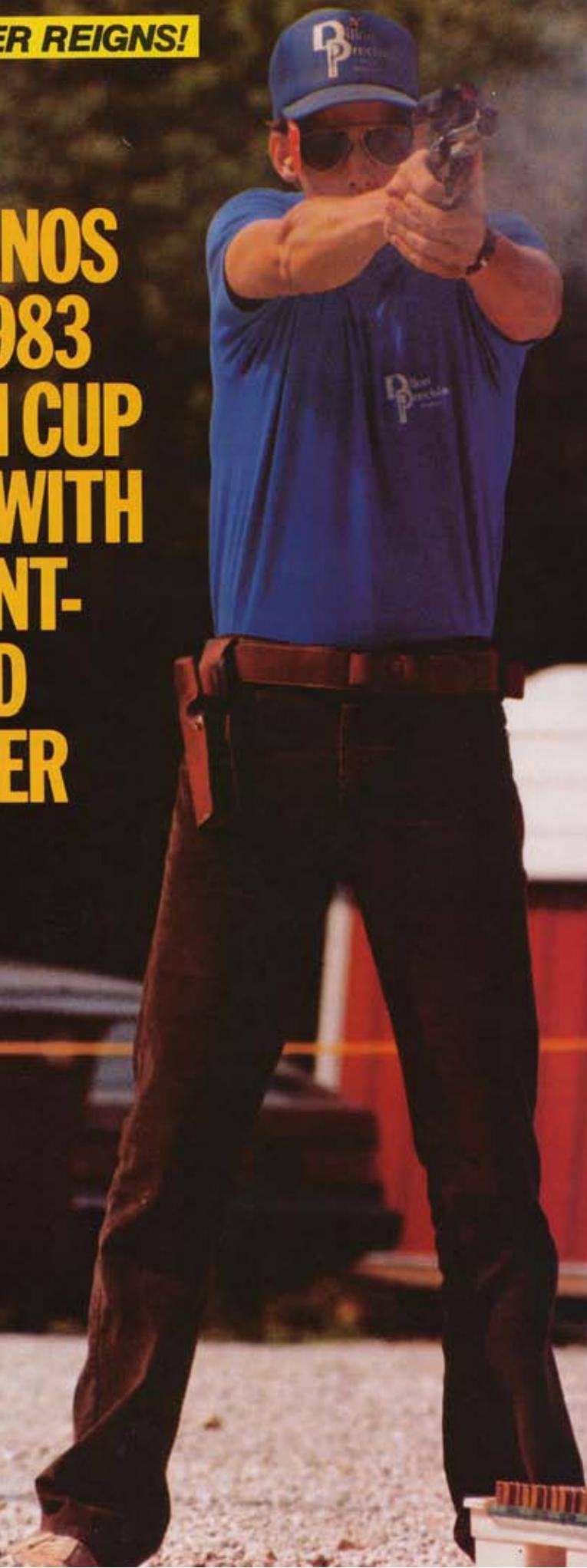
Firearms Lic.) Hornady Mfg. Co.,

Box 1848, Dept. AH-11
Grand Island, NE 68802-1848

 **Hornady**
Rifle-Pistol Bullets

THE REVOLVER REIGNS!

**BRIAN ENOS
WINS 1983
BIANCHI CUP
MATCH WITH
AIMPOINT-
SIGHTED
REVOLVER**





*By Officer Fred Romero
Los Angeles Police Dept.*

The 1983 Bianchi Cup match brought honors to the revolver, the Aimpoint sight and a 27-year-old auto mechanic from Mesa, Arizona who finished second in last year's match, one point behind Mickey Fowler, three-time winner of the cup (Fowler placed eighth this year).

Brian Enos, competing against 206 other shooters, won the match by one point, outshooting Officer John Pride of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD).

Both shooters fired Aimpoint-sighted Smith & Wesson revolvers.

Fourteen of the top 20 shooters fired revolvers; eight of the top 10 used an Aimpoint sight, and members of the winning LAPD team all fired Aimpoint-sighted revolvers. Only three of the top 10 competitors shot autos (Tom Campbell, Bill Gambill and Fowler).

It was not a good event for auto shooters, many of whom were plagued with jams that cost them precious points and forced them out of the winner's circle, stage after stage as the match progressed.

After three gruelling days of shooting (May 26-28) at the Ray Chapman Academy in Columbia, Missouri, it came down to the Falling Plate event: *the moment of truth.*

Enos, Mark Duncan of North Wilkesboro, North Carolina, and John Pride all were but a few points apart going into the plates.

Duncan faced the plates first and left one standing out of 48. Mitchell McNece, of Mantachie, Mississippi finished his run by setting a match record of 129 plates.

One point behind was John Pride of the Los Angeles Police Department, who also fired an Aimpoint-sighted revolver (as did 7 of the top 10 competitors).

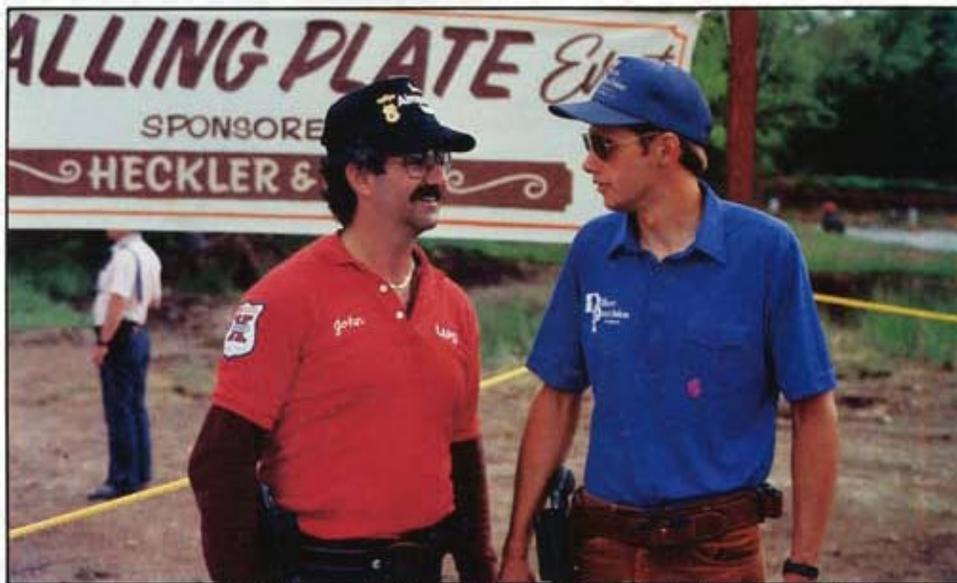
Pride followed and cleaned the plates; he went on to knock down 311 consecutive plates, establishing a new match record. Both Duncan and McNece fired revolvers with iron sights.

Sitting off to one side, Enos waited quietly until he was called to the line.

PRESSURE PEAKS

By now, a large crowd of spectators had gathered behind the firing line. In order to beat Pride and win the match, Enos had to knock down *all* 48 plates.

Like a well-oiled machine, the lanky shooter proceeded to do just that. When the last one fell, the crowd broke into loud applause. Enos then went on to knock



The two top scorers in this year's Bianchi Cup match, John Pride, left, and Brian Enos compare notes after having jointly shot down 816 consecutive plates.

THE LAPD PISTOL TEAM

The Los Angeles Police Department Pistol Team has been around for a long time. Tracing its roots back to Camp Perry in the early 1930s, the team has found itself in the winner's circle many times. In the old days, the boys in blue from L.A. virtually dominated the bullseye scene. Then came the slow transition to PPC (Practical Pistol Course) and the door to combat-type shooting was opened.



From left: Officers Fred Romero, J. P. Nelson, John Pride, Chris Kaufmann.

Being a predominately police shooting sport, PPC ran alongside, but separate, from civilian-combat shooting. Over the last 20 years, the PPC course remained the same, while civilian combat shooting underwent a series of changes directed toward a more "practical" approach to combat handgunning. With this in mind, the LAPD shooters had much catching up to do during the past few years to become viable competitors at the Bianchi match.

Four shooters from the LAPD Pistol Team banded together to make a serious assault on the Bianchi team event this year. John Pride, Fred Romero, J.P. Nelson, and Chris Kaufmann, all sworn members of the Los Angeles Police Department, made up the winning team.

Each team member had participated in the Bianchi match at least once before. This was a prime consideration; the shock of the match can take its toll the first time out. Capitalizing on past lessons, and staying with what they knew best—consistency—the LAPD team gained control of the team event early in the match and held on to the lead to beat out the strongly favored ISI (International Shootists, Inc.) team.

TRAINING: DAYS OFF ONLY

All the LAPD shooters used S & W K-frame revolvers equipped with Aim-

Continued on page 55

down a total of 505 plates, taking the record for the event to an all-time high. It was truly Enos' day—and a well-deserved one.

Also vying for top honors was Tom Campbell, a S & W product engineer who fired a prototype .45 auto, which he designed and built. It carried an Aimpoint sight. Had Enos and Pride faltered on the plates, Campbell would have won the match.

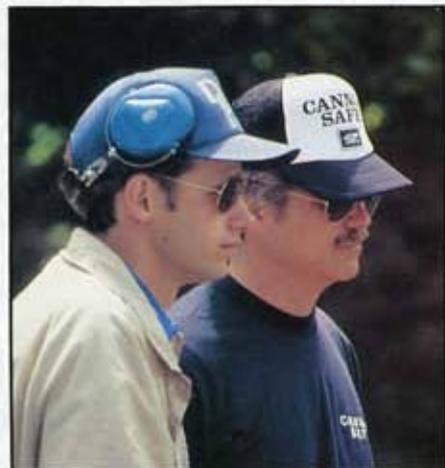
A few years ago—the first Bianchi Cup match was held in 1979—few people believed that optical sights could seriously compete in the Bianchi Cup match.

Last year, Enos used an Aimpoint sight to take second place. Many felt it was a fluke; after all, didn't Mickey Fowler win three Bianchi championships with iron sights?

This year, Fowler and several other top-drawer shooters came with optics; most were Aimpoints, the electronic marvel made in Sweden. A few shooters sported 4X handgun scopes.

The results were startling; optics proved to be an advantage over iron sights in the hands of many a skilled shooter (mainly because the Bianchi Cup match is designed to test the limits of basic accuracy, with no advantage given for firepower or reloading ability; also, there is not the emphasis placed on speed, as there is in the Steel Challenge match.)

Coupled with the advantages of optics, however, is controversy. Are optics practical? Are they in keeping with the spirit of the Bianchi Cup match? Should they be allowed? The consensus appears to be split, and undoubtedly will be considered with respect to next year's Cup.



Brian Enos, left, and Mickey Fowler are among finest shots in the nation.

Another departure this year from previous Bianchi Cup matches is the use of electronic timing devices, instead of handheld stop watches and their inherent human error factor.

The timing devices used during Bianchi Cup 1983, built and installed by Caswell, proved to be the undoing of some highly skilled shooters. Unlike an impressionable human timer, the electronic timer showed no favorites.

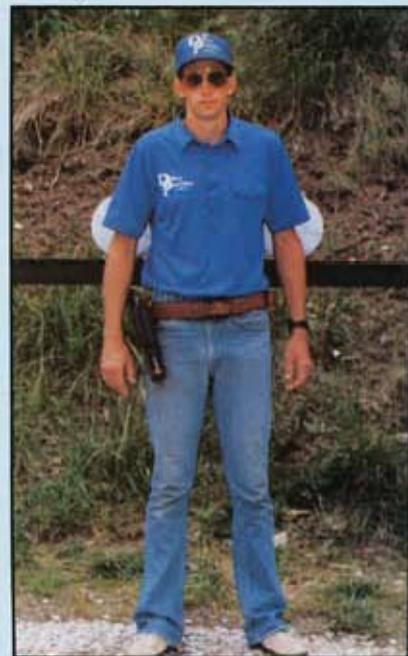
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CONVERSATION WITH A CHAMPION

By Jon Winokur

Here are some of Brian Enos' reflections on this year's Bianchi Cup match, and on practical shooting in general:

In the four short years you've been shooting professionally, you've racked up some impressive credentials. You've won an Arizona State IPSC Championship, two IPSC President's Cups, and the four-inch barrel revolver title at Second Chance. You've also finished high in the Steel Challenge and Soldier of Fortune shoots. Why do you think you've been so successful?



"I guess I'm a perfectionist by nature. I tend to go into things in a lot greater detail than most people do. On the other hand, I wouldn't say I have a compelling desire to win, although winning is a lot more fun than losing, even in local matches. I just can't stand to go out there and not perform as well as I know how."

Have there been any other shooters who've helped you or influenced your career?

"The one person who's helped me most is John Satterwhite, the former U.S. Shotgun Champion and U.S. Olympic Team member. He's helped me tremendously with the mental aspects of shooting: discipline."

The big story at this year's Bianchi Cup was the fact that you knocked down an astounding 505 plates, after waiting

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THE COURSE

The Bianchi Cup International Pistol Tournament, as the name implies, is a handgun match open to shooters from around the world.

The privilege to compete is by invitation only, based on an individual shooter's known achievements and qualifications in the field of handgun shooting.

All others who wish to compete, must contact the Selection Committee and request an invitation, based on their demonstrated abilities. Entries are limited to approximately 200 competitors. By the day of the match, you can be sure that all present represent a good cross-section of the best shooters.

The match itself is divided into five events: Practical, Barricade, Moving Target, Falling Plate and Speed. The first four events are used to determine the individual and team winners. The Speed Event is handled as a separate match.

Except for the Speed Event, each phase of shooting has a set time limit. Three events are fired on cardboard targets, and one event—the falling plates—are fired on nine-inch metal discs. One event—the moving target—requires the shooter to engage a target in motion (10 feet per second) from both the right and left side. Although speed is a factor in the Bianchi match, the course emphasizes accuracy; and timing.

Following is a detailed breakdown of each event (the starting position for each phase of fire is with the gun loaded and holstered and the hands held shoulder high):

Match I: The Practical Event: Two cardboard targets are set down range, approximately three feet apart. The first phase is at 10 yards; on the command to fire, the competitor must engage the targets and place one shot on each in three seconds. On the second signal to fire, two shots are fired on each target in four seconds. Next, three shots are fired on each target, using only the weak hand, in eight seconds.

OUT TO 50 YARDS

At the 15-yard line, the competitor fires one shot on each target in four seconds, two shots on each target in five seconds, and three shots on each target in six seconds. The final phase is at 50 yards; one shot on each target in seven seconds, two shots on each target in 10 seconds, and three shots on each in 15 seconds. A 10-point penalty is given for any premature start, each shot fired overtime, and each shot fired over the designated number of rounds.

Match II: The Barricade Event: This match is fired from 10, 15, 25, and 35 yards. At each distance, the shooter stands behind a six-foot barricade with both hands flat on the barricade surface. At the command to fire, the shooter draws his gun and shoots the required number of rounds (six) on one of two targets down range, depending on whether he is firing from the left or right side of the barricade. At 10 yards, six seconds are given for each side. At 15 yards, the shooter has seven seconds for each side of the barricade, and at 25 yards, eight seconds per side is allowed. At 35 yards, the shooter is given nine seconds for each side. Same penalties as in match one.

Match III: The Moving Target: This

line; 12 plates at each distance. The time limits for each six plate group are: six seconds at 10 yards, seven seconds at 15 yards, eight seconds at 20 yards, and nine seconds at 25 yards. Penalties are given for premature starts, late shots, firing more than the required number of shots and for leaving any plates standing. Each miss costs the shooter 10 points.

Match V: The Speed Event: This match is based on time. The shooter—only the top 20 finishers of the first four matches are eligible to compete—stands facing five "pepper-popper" metal targets at 10 yards. On the command to fire, he must knock down all five targets within six shots. The course is run on the right and left side. After running



Match winner Brian Enos knocked down 505 consecutive plates at this stage.

match is considered the most challenging by many competitors; surprisingly, however, many good shooters do very well at it. The first stage is at 10 yards, where six shots are fired as the target moves from left to right and six more shots are fired before the target disappears behind a wood barricade.

At 15, 20, and 25 yards, the shooter fires in three shot groups as the target moves across the range. A total of 12 shots are fired at each distance. The important thing to remember here is that there is a different lead for each distance, depending on the velocity of the ammo being used. Penalties also apply for this event.

Match IV: The Falling Plate Event: This match is the one that even the "big boys" have trouble with. Forty-eight metal plates must be knocked down, in order, from the 10, 15, 20, and 25 yard

through the course four times each, the initial field of 20 shooters is narrowed down to six finalists; these competitors square off man-to-man until a winner is determined. This is a tough course for those competitors not comfortable with speed shooting. Penalties are imposed for premature starts and shots fired over the designated number.

The cardboard targets used in matches I, II, and III were made especially for the Bianchi Cup match. They appear blank when viewed by the shooter.

Ammunition is restricted to a minimum caliber of 9mm, with the lower limit of power being the 158-grain .38 Special cartridge in commercial loadings intended for police use. In order to assure compliance with this rule, all ammunition is tested before a competitor goes on the firing line. (F.R.)

The method of timing—the use of impact-sensing devices linked to an electronic counter—left some doubt about its actual effectiveness. Most shooters liked the idea of precision timing, but they also felt that the more conventional turning targets would be better. It is expected that the “turners” will be used in next year’s Bianchi Cup match.

The LAPD team defeated one fielded by International Shootists, Inc. (ISI), considered by many to be the favorite (based on previous wins).

Scores were LAPD, 7412/737X; ISI, 7359/480X.

LAPD team members were John Pride, Fred Romero, J.P. Nelson and Chris Kaufman.

ISI members were Mike Dalton, Mickey Fowler, Mike Fichman and Jim Zubiena. All are members of the Southwest Pistol League in California.

What about the guns used in this year’s Bianchi Cup match?

Here’s a rundown, by calibers:

The .45 ACP, 116; .38 Special/.357 Magnum, 77; 9mm, 9; .38 Super, 3; and one each for the .44 Magnum and .41 Avenger.

Fourteen of the top 20 shooters fired Smith & Wesson handguns; six of the top 20 fired Colt handguns.

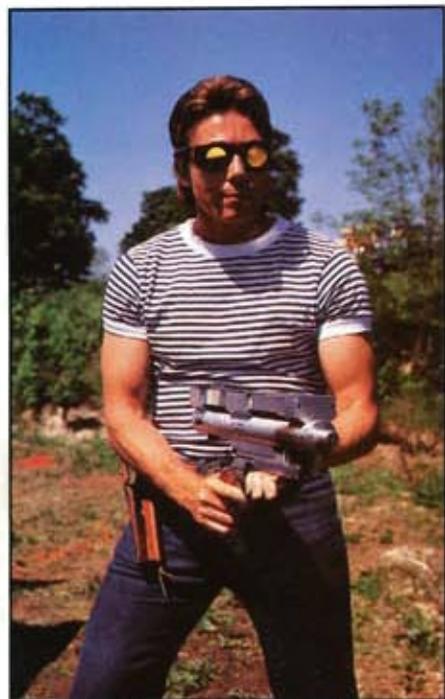
Totally, 121 shooters fired Colts; 75, Smith & Wesson.

Others were Heckler & Koch, 7, and one each—SIG, Ruger, Vega and Auto Ordnance.

The top five holster manufacturers represented at the match were:

Rogers, 45; Bianchi, 41; Reno, 33; G. William Davis, 28; Ted Blocker, 25.

A breakdown of the 207 competitors included:



James Anthony fires laser-sighted gun.

Will California host Bianchi Cup next year? It's a possibility...

Police, 63; international, 13; and women, 10.

Nine teams participated.

The high woman competitor was Sara Van Valzah of Maryland with a score of 1765/91X. She placed 58th in the match.

James Anthony of Beverly Hills, California, placed 194th.

What's so newsworthy about that, you ask?

Simply because Anthony fired a *laser-sighted*, custom-built .38 caliber revolver (see photo).

The sight's frame is made of aluminum and ballistic plastic. The power source is a nicad (nickel-cadmium) battery; Anthony plans to convert to the more dependable lithium type.

In order to see the light better in daytime, Anthony wore a pair of special goggles that look like one-way mirrors, giving him the appearance of someone from outer space.

Several shooters complained about the weather—heavy rain and poor light conditions—which wasn't the best for handgun competition.

As a result, there was widespread talk in Columbia about the possibility of holding next year's Bianchi Cup match elsewhere—possibly in California.



TOP 20

(1) Brian Enos	1903/612X
(2) John Pride	1902/407X
(3) Tom Campbell	1897/141X
(4) Bill Gambill	1890/158X
(5) Mark Duncan	1890/123X
(6) Rob Leatham	1886/142X
(7) Jerry Usher	1882/131X
(8) Mickey Fowler	1878/136X
(9) Mitchell McNeece	1876/217X
(10) Fred Romero	1876/109X
(11) Mike Dalton	1873/126X
(12) Bill Wilson	1872/131X
(13) Eddie Brown	1869/141X
(14) J.P. Nelson	1867/116X
(15) William Rogers	1858/129X
(16) Roger Burgess	1852/122X
(17) Ross Seyfried	1848/130X
(18) Royce Weddle	1842/123X
(19) Sam Yarosh	1840/117X
(20) Rick Castelow	1835/120X

TO THE VICTOR

This year, more than \$150,000 in money and prizes was awarded to Bianchi Cup match competitors.

Brian Enos, the 1983 overall individual winner, earned \$12,500 in cash and more than \$6,000 in prizes.

Following is a rundown of prize money:

Champion:	\$10,000 (Brian Enos)
Second:	\$ 7,000 (John Pride)
Third:	\$ 5,000 (Tom Campbell)
Fourth:	\$ 3,000 (Bill Gambill)
Fifth:	\$ 2,000 (Mark Duncan)
Sixth:	\$ 1,500 (Rob Leatham)
Seventh:	\$ 1,000 (Jerry Usher)
Eighth:	\$ 800 (Mickey Fowler)
Ninth:	\$ 600 (Mitchell McNeece)
Tenth:	\$ 400 (Fred Romero)

Match I

First:	\$ 1,000 (John Pride)
Second:	\$ 500 (Rob Leatham)

Match II

First:	\$ 1,000 (Chip McCormick)
Second:	\$ 500 (Paul Liebenberg)

Match III

First:	\$ 1,000 (Brian Enos)
Second:	\$ 500 (Mark Duncan)

Match IV

First:	\$ 1,000 (Brian Enos)
Second:	\$ 500 (John Pride)

Match V: The Speed Event

First:	\$ 5,000 (Mike Dalton)
Second:	\$ 2,500 (Ross Seyfried)

Team Award

First:	\$ 2,000 (LAPD)
Second:	\$ 1,000 (ISI)

Ruger International Award

First:	\$ 1,000 (Paul Liebenberg, South Africa)
Second:	\$ 750 (Ronald Pearse, South Africa)
Third:	\$ 500 (Gavin Carson, South Africa)
Fourth:	\$ 250 (Jeff Nelson, Guam)

High Woman

First:	\$ 1,000 (Sara Van Valzah)
Second:	\$ 500 (Lee Cole)

High lawman

\$1,000 (John Pride)

High Revolver

\$ 500 (Brian Enos)

Colt Award

First:	\$ 1,500 (Bill Gambill)
Second:	\$ 500 (Mickey Fowler)
Third:	\$ 500 (Mike Dalton)

H&K Award

First:	\$ 1,500 (Ken Dunlap)
Second:	\$ 500 (Bobby Reed)
Third:	\$ 500 (Massad Ayoob)

1900 Club Award

\$5,000 (Awarded to the highest scorer over 1910; no one won.)

In addition to the above cash awards, all shooters received merchandise prizes of various values, depending upon their final standings. (F.R.)

MASTER TIPS

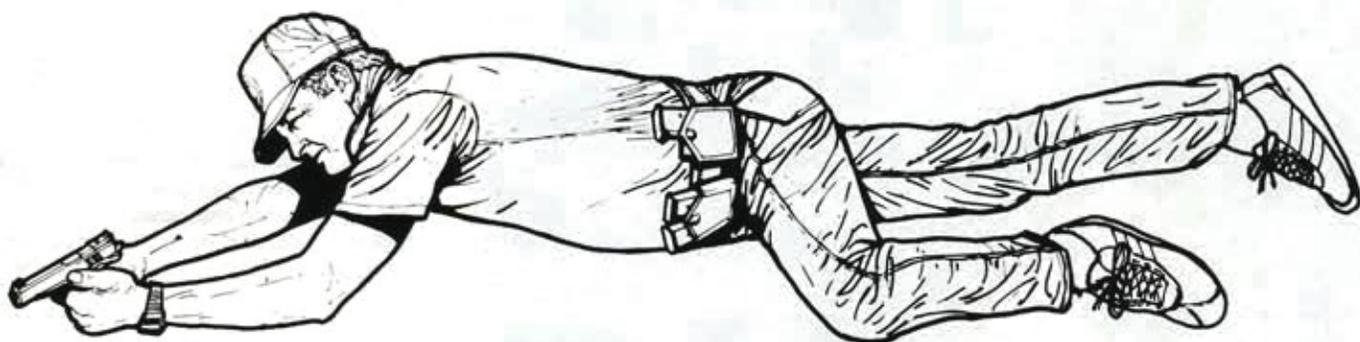
Collected by Jon Winokur

The Roll-Over Prone

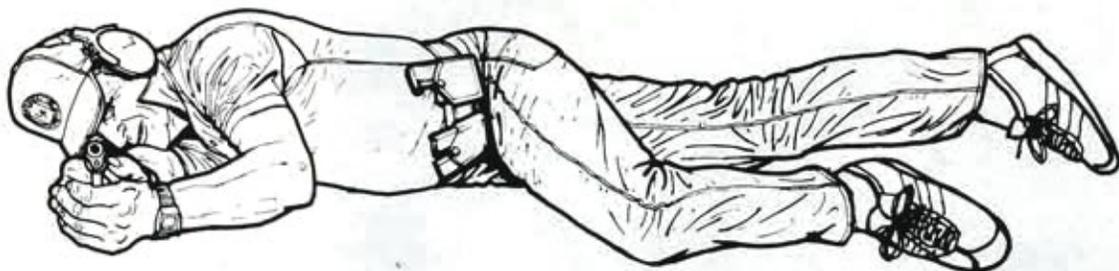
The most popular position for practical shooting is the Roll-Over Prone because it can be assumed quickly, can be used to fire from cover and is very steady for precise shot placement. It works best on smooth, flat surfaces. It does not work well on rough, heavily vegetated or rolling surfaces because the line of sight can be obstructed.



RAY CHAPMAN, Combat Master,
1975 IPSC World Champion, founder,
Chapman Academy, Columbia, Missouri



1. The body is positioned at a forty-five degree angle to the target. Both legs, the torso, and the strong side shooting arm are in full contact with the surface. The weak side leg is bent so that the inside of the knee contracts the surface in a relaxed position.



2. The head is supported, and the eye kept steady, by resting some part of the cheek or chin on the shoulder or biceps. People have different body types and physical makeup, so experiment with the Roll-Over Prone to find the most comfortable position for you.

IS THE AUTO PISTOL FOR POLICE?

By Stanley W. Trzoniec

"It's not going to work!"

That, my friends, is the biggest problem today facing law enforcement personnel when they start to consider the transition from revolvers to semi-automatics as a practical duty weapon.

Can it be done? Is it practical? Can the auto pistol stand up to the change? Will it be accepted by the rank and file? Would the net gain ever be fully realized?

For the answers to these and other questions, I went directly to the source: the Smith and Wesson Academy (2100 Roosevelt Ave., Springfield, Massachusetts 01101).

Smith & Wesson says yes, and explains why during its courses exclusively for law enforcement personnel.

We will present here a rundown on how this academy operates.

I have nothing against revolvers, nor

does the Academy. In fact, it still teaches, and will continue to do so, many courses based on this time-proven gun. As a writer, I can't afford the bias; as a manufacturer of both autos and revolvers, neither can Smith. Therefore, when I make a comparison of each in this story, it's just that; a comparison, nothing more.

The Academy began operations about 15 years ago. Then, it had but one course; now it has 20. The staff consists of four highly professional men. Director Robert Hunt's experience in the law enforcement field encompasses more than 20 years with the Massachusetts State Police.

His staff of instructors include Henry Kudlinski, Jerry Lane and Tom Campbell. Kudlinski is a former New Hampshire deputy sheriff; Lane spent nearly 11 years on the Dallas Police Department. Campbell is a world class IPSC shooter and, in this capacity, adds his thoughts on the history and use of the auto.

The auto pistol course was developed to accommodate the law enforcement shooter. It is *not* a course for the aspiring target shooter, but rather a plan of action laid out objectively for police personnel only. That in itself is a tall order, since just about all law enforcement people were trained with the revolver.

AUTO ADVANTAGES

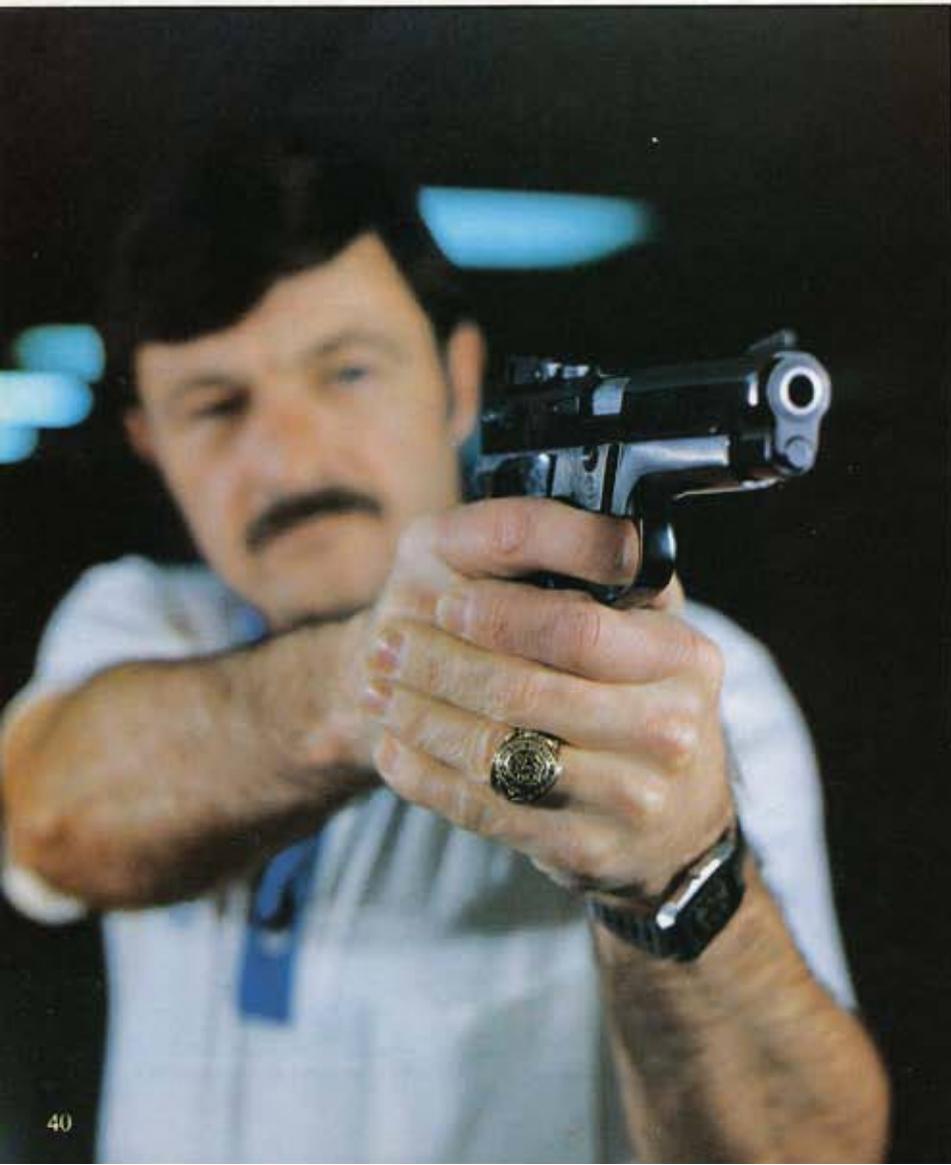
For the duration of the course, virtually all talk is focused on the automatic. Since most people have the "six-shot syndrome" burned into their brain cells, the Academy has taken the revolver and put it aside to show the students the advantages of the high-capacity gun: the auto.

Although the auto has been around for nearly 100 years, it is just beginning to gain mass popularity. With the advent of better ammunition and reloading components, the auto is reaching a peak of reliability.

The military has used it since the turn of the century, with little or no regrets. Now, the police are looking at that same long track record and wondering if they should use it, too.

Most autoloaders today are equipped with an inertia firing pin. Carried cocked and locked, when dropped on the muzzle, they will fire. Because the firing pin is not

A well-trained police officer will find that an autoloader serves his needs.





This sequence shows the proper method of drawing and loading the autoloader.

locked, its own weight will carry it forward during an accidental drop, thus discharging the weapon. Newer designs incorporate a firing pin lock. A few years ago when Smith and Wesson developed the three digit system for the M439/459, M539/559 and M639/659, it changed the firing pin design to this modern system.

This allows the gun to be carried perfectly safe in the holster with a round in the chamber, safety off. You see this system in many auto pistols, not only the Smith series. Brought on mainly because of product liability problems, the gun will only fire when the trigger is pulled, because then, and only then, all the internal linkage is locked up into one complete firing mode.

After a week of using a M639 in the school, I have no reservations about using this type of gun over extended periods with complete peace of mind.

Tom Campbell pointed out that the automatic's reliability depends on three things: ammunition, magazines, or the "just don't like it" attitude.

AUTO DISADVANTAGES

In all probability, one of the auto's biggest disadvantages can be traced to ammunition. Automatics are finicky when it comes to the type of ammo being fed through their systems. Since the auto depends on the power generated by the cartridge to cycle the action, this could be a problem, especially if the department is using underpowered reloads for practice. This could lead to questions concerning the auto's reliability in stress situations. The only answer here, and the Academy backs this up 100 percent, is to use only fresh factory ammunition.

Magazines play an important part in smooth functioning in any auto pistol. They must be checked constantly and inspected for dings, nicks or bent lips. During the S & W course, all students are told emphatically that when reloading, to allow the magazine to clear the weapon full, by letting it drop to the ground. "Don't pull it out and put it in your pocket. Let it fall. They are expendable, and in a firefight are not worth two cents compared to your life. Keep factory fresh ones for your duty rig; practice mags are used for just that, practice."

All guns, both autos and revolver, must

Smooth loading techniques are taught to law enforcement people at the Academy.



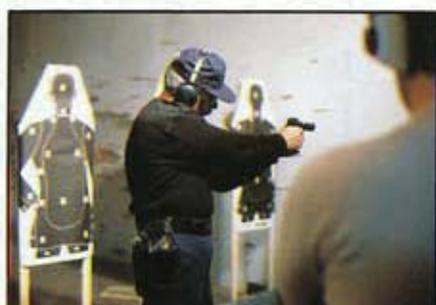
Note how the eyes follow the gun as it is removed from the holster into the

left hand. Next, both hands grip the gun firmly as both arms are extended.

be kept clean. This is the responsibility of the police officer. The revolver generally is more susceptible to dirt and debris than the auto.

The attitude question usually stems from someone getting a bad gun, poor ammunition or faulty magazines. Some inherent problems of the revolver were noted, again only for the sake of comparison. First, most of the situations where problems occur are not of the "fixable type." When a revolver locks up on you, for example, you have trouble.

Probable causes can be traced to a number of things. Primers blown back into the firing pin or the recoil shield. Result: you can't turn the cylinder. The extractor rod



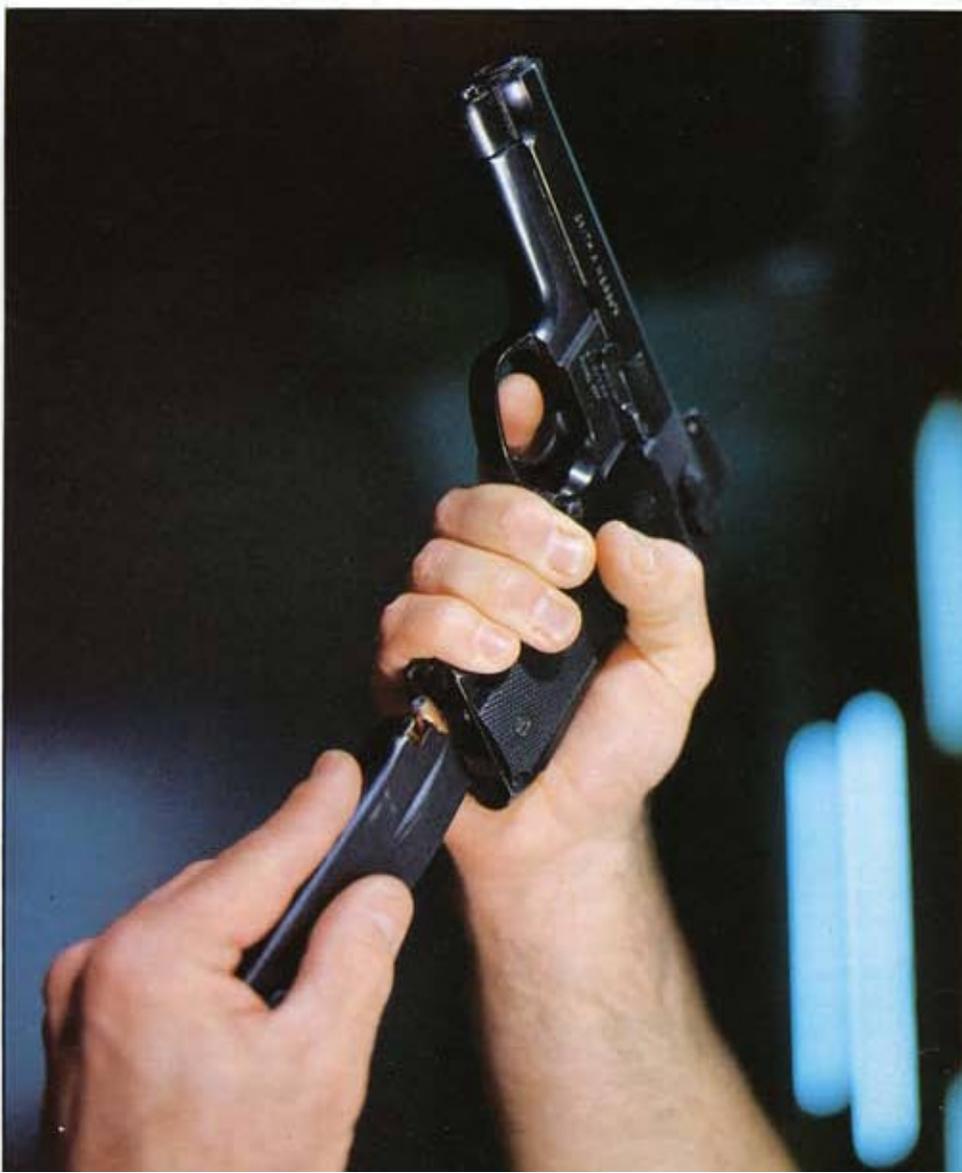
left hand. Next, both hands grip the gun firmly as both arms are extended.

starts to back out, hampering cylinder rotation and loading. Bullets getting stuck between the barrel and cylinder.

Here, the auto is no bed of roses either. No one says the auto will not malfunction, but the Academy shows you how to clear the piece by the use of immediate action, and how to cope with a stoppage, or failure to feed, extract or eject. Under class supervision, using dummy rounds, all students are shown how fast an auto can be brought back into service *quickly*, with a minimum of fuss or bother.

AUTO MALFUNCTIONS

While on the subject of malfunctions, in
Continued on page 61



RANDALL FIREARMS



THE ONLY STAINLESS STEEL FIT FOR DUTY

TEST-FIRE REPORT

INDUSTRY'S FIRST FULL-SIZE, ALL-

By Len Davis

Take a well-designed gun, top quality control during manufacture, glowing corporate enthusiasm, more than 350 years of accumulative firearms industry experience on the part of key employees and you have the new, all-stainless steel, full-size .45 auto made by Randall Firearms Company of Sun Valley, California.

It's a winner on the range when it comes to total reliability, fine accuracy and overall appearance.

We test-fired one of the company's first 100 production models with a variety of factory-loaded ammunition at 25 and 50

Made by Randall Firearms Company, test-firing produces high marks: a predicted *winner* as an out-of-the box gun selling for \$450.

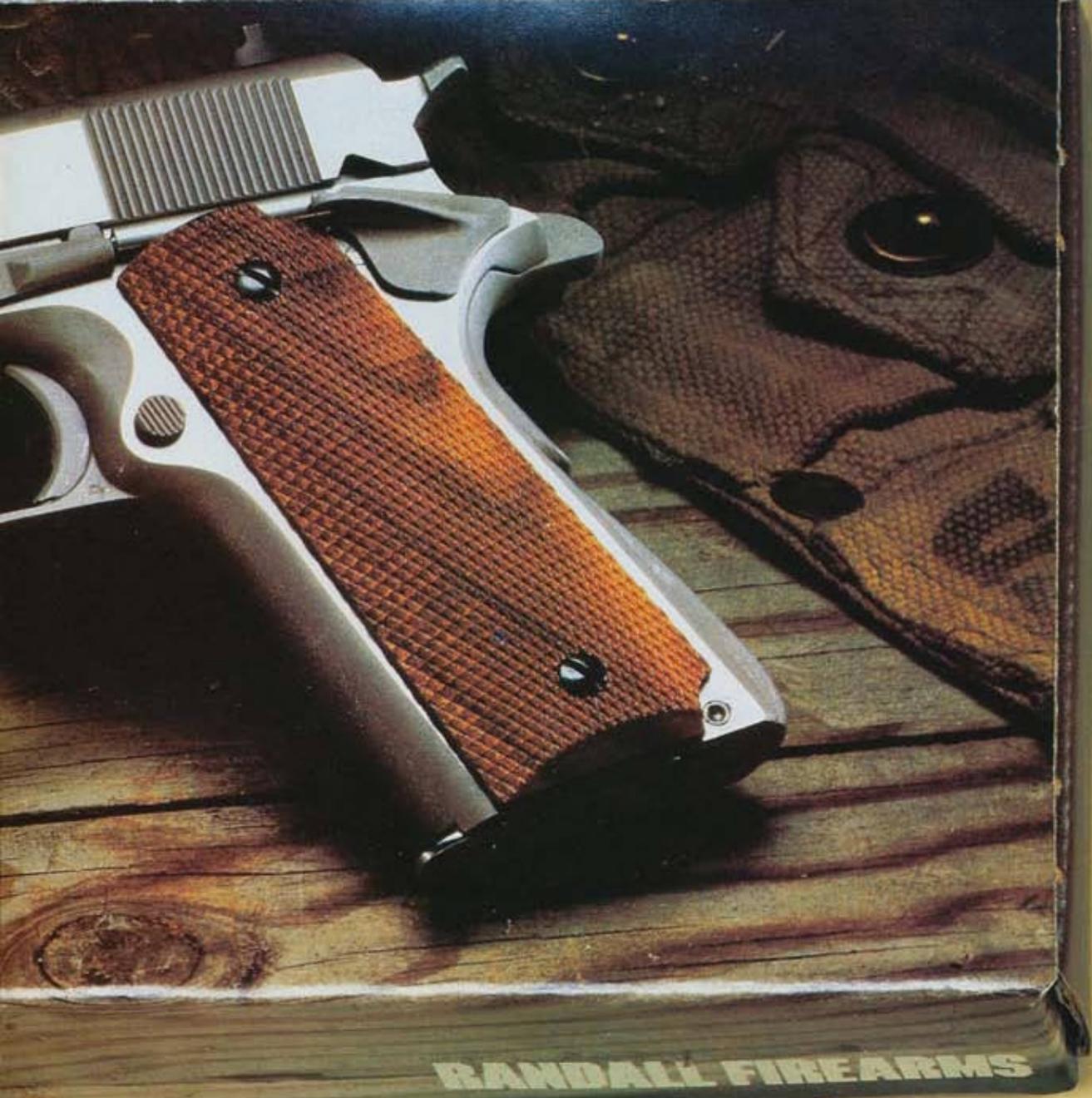
yards on the U.S. Navy Range at Miramar, California.

More than 200 rounds were put through Randall's 10-groove barrel auto from the 25-yard line. Using three of the company's fine, stainless steel magazines, most of the rounds were shot "super" rapid fire.

All rounds functioned perfectly. The Pa-

tridge-type *fixed* rear sight required no lateral adjustment, or drifting in its slide slot. A point-of-impact hold produced excellent center groups—freehand—with the gun's stock trigger pull; a crisp four pounds.

In a Ransom rest at 50 yards, the gun produced eight groups averaging just un-



STAINLESS STEEL .45 AUTOLOADER

der four inches—mighty good for an out-of-the-box auto!

Ray Peet and Bill Simpson, co-owners of the Poway (California) Gun Works and former members of the U.S. Navy Pistol Team, provided the ammunition and conducted the tests.

"I've never seen a straight-from-the-factory auto shoot the way this gun does," said Peet. "When can I get some for my customers?" he asked.

A good question.

INITIAL PRODUCTION

Russ Long, Randall's vice president and general manager, told the *American Hand-*

gunner that initial production goals, beginning in July, are "800 to 1,200 guns a month.

"We have 50 major distributors throughout the United States," he said, "and they will be handling our backlog of orders, which today (June 17) total more than 18,000 individual guns."

"The domestic market (about 85 percent) will be served first, then export," he added.

What's behind the phenomenal success of Randall Firearms, formed in January of 1981 by its parent company, Ken Air, Inc. (a Federal Aviation Agency repair station that does licensing, testing and repair of

aircraft components and accessories)?

Much of the technology and innovation that goes into producing the new Randall .45 auto comes directly from Ken Air experience, according to Ken Lau, founder and president of Ken Air. (Randall's president is Ms. Marian Ryle, who was instrumental in forming the company, first as a division of Ken Air.)

This includes the use of stainless steel—a basically tricky proposition when it comes to matching parts that bear against one another, as in a semi-automatic pistol.

One disadvantage of stainless steel—the glamour gun metal of the 1980s—is *galling*. Shooters know it as a mechanical "hang-



Here's the Randall, above, in a Model 1045 Usher International combat rig made by Davis Leather Co., Arcadia, California. Upper-right photos show the Randall in a Davis Model 455-C Security inside-the-pants clip holster, left, and a Davis Model 456 Gridley Special holster; ideal for maximum concealability, quick-draw.

up," or failure of soft parts to function properly, because of metal loss caused by friction or abrasion.

Galling in Randall autos has been virtually eliminated through the skillful use of proper alloys, heat treating and finishing, according to Robert Bolling, director of research and development.

AIRCRAFT ALLOY

"Most of the parts in our new .45 auto are made from SAE 17-4 PH stainless steel," he said. "This alloy—of aircraft quality—exhibits considerably less galling than other commonly used stainless alloys."

The Randall pistol is made entirely of 100 percent stainless steel, including springs, magazine and full-length recoil spring guide; even the custom combat sights are made of 100 percent stainless steel (SAE 410), but are black in color. Pins are made from SAE 17-4 PH stainless steel. Building an entirely stainless steel production gun has never been done, which makes the company's new model a firearms industry first.

Bolling explained that stainless steel alloys normally associated with the aerospace industry were selected for toughness and resistance to corrosion.

"Because these alloys will precipitation-harden," he said, "parts in our new gun possess remarkable strength and uniformity."

Their uniformity enables them to inter-



This 10-shot group, fired in a Ransom Rest at 50 yards with Federal 185-grain, FMJ match ammo, measured 4.5 inches on 8-inch bullseye.



Another 10-shot group, also fired in Ransom Rest at 50 yards, measured 4.25 inches. Ammo used was Winchester-Western match ball, 230-grain FMJ.

change with Government Model .45 auto parts, a key factor in the company's decision to provide components for the auto-loader aftermarket.

"Our parts update program, designed to replace other guns' components with our stainless steel parts, is scheduled to get under way in the latter part of 1983," said Sy Wiley, marketing director.

Randall's new auto, a half-ounce lighter

than the standard Government model .45, comes with National Match-style checkered walnut grips and features a unique recoil spring guide that enables the pistol to be easily disassembled and provides extended spring life and smooth functioning.

RETAIL PRICE

The all-stainless steel auto, which meets or exceeds U.S. military specifications, is





Pete Johannes explains quality control and shows how precise measurements are obtained/maintained.

expected to retail for around \$450, according to Wiley.

Another model, also in .45 ACP caliber, will have an adjustable rear sight with rib and long or short triggers. It will sell for approximately \$490.

Wiley said the first 50 guns will be shipped with fixed sights, and that the initial production ratio probably would be 60 percent fixed and 40 percent adjustable sights.

The gun also is scheduled to be produced in two other calibers—9mm and .38 Super—"sometime in 1984," according to Bolling.

Randall backs up its production know-how with a five-year warranty on all parts and workmanship.

At a company news conference for gun magazine editors held in the Randall plant board room on June 17, Bolling announced that a short model .45—similar to the Detonics, but with a slightly longer grip—would be produced shortly.

Shorter than a Colt Commander, it probably will be named for Air Force General Curtis LeMay, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and now a resident of Newport Beach, California.

The Randall Company exudes an aura of both Colt and the Air Force.

The corporation, for example, was named for U.S. Army Air Corps General Russell Randall who flew with General Claire Chennault's Flying Tigers during World War II.

General Randall and Ken Lau are old friends.

Now 83, General Randall is a member

of the parent company's board of directors. He lives in Pasadena.

MASTER GUNSMITH

Randall's technical director, Don Tedford, spent more than 40 years with Colt, where he was a master gunsmith. He is perhaps best known for the fine customizing work he did on the early Python revolvers.

Russ Long, prior to joining Randall, was general manager of M&N Distributors, for more than 10 year the major wholesaler of Colt firearms.

Robert Bolling was Western District Manager for Colt for five years.

During the two-year development, testing and tooling phase for the new .45, Randall manufactured and sold more than 75,000 high-quality, heat-treated stainless steel (17-7) magazines.

Randall magazines feature a unique stainless steel spring and convex follower that keeps all cartridges centered and affords maximum reliability in feeding, especially with the last round.

They are handmade, hand-polished and carefully inspected to provide the toughest, best looking and most reliable product of its kind available.

Randall welds the magazine seam—dead center—and the base in four places, creating a body that stays together.

Its magazines will function in virtually all .45 ACP pistols and retail for \$14.95.

The magazine's specially-designed follower will be sold within the company's aftermarket program, according to Wiley.

In addition to its own magazines, Randall builds magazines for Pachmayr, with rubber bumpers on their bases. All are stamped with Pachmayr's corporate logo. As of this writing, more than 20,000 have been produced by Randall for Pachmayr.

PISTOL RUGS

Randall also makes a new line of pistol rugs. Cut from super-tough 65/35 abrasion resistant, breathable canvas, they are padded with filter dacron and lined with a rich pile for maximum protection.

The rugs are bound with a strong nylon binding, sewn with nylon tarp thread and sport a large, heavy-duty nylon zipper that will not mar the gun's finish. They are offered in a variety of sizes to accommodate most handguns, including T/C Contenders and eight-inch barrel revolvers.

Part of the aforementioned press conference involved a brief, escorted tour through Randall's two-story plant, situated adjacent to the Burbank airport in a highly industrialized section of Sun Valley—a close-in suburb of Los Angeles.

Leaving the plushly-appointed executive offices—which serve both Ken Air and Randall employees—we donned safety glasses and entered a ground-floor area where white-coated technicians were busily engaged scanning huge computer screens. Here, computerized overlays of components—magnified several hundred

times—were being examined for the many close tolerances imposed by Randall designers and quality control people.

A huge, Vermont pink granite slab about the size of two military footlockers—we asked how much it weighed; no one knew—stood near the center of this area. Absolutely flat, it is used to maintain exact tolerances of flat-surface parts. Nearby, a set of National Bureau of Standards gauges rested in a wooden case. The gauges, accurate to *one-millionth* of an inch, are used to calibrate precision tools.

From this area we proceeded to the fluorescent-lighted manufacturing area—the heart of Randall's plant. Here we watched skilled machinists operate lathes, grinders, drill presses, deburring tools and welding equipment (used in the manufacture of magazines.)

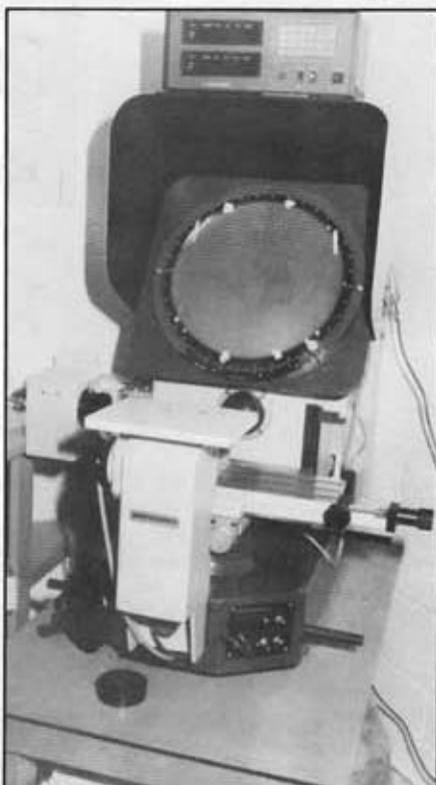
CLEAN AND ORGANIZED

Next was the assembly area, where Don Tedford and his crew examine every part that goes into every gun produced by Randall. Quickly eyeballing the area—we weren't there more than a couple of minutes—we couldn't help but notice how clean and organized it appeared; a place for everything and everything in its place.

The fourth area we visited was shipping and parts storage. Randall maintains a 30-day lead on its inventory of components.

Area five was the test-fire range, complete with its Oehler Model 43 chronograph/screens, pressure barrels and backstop—a snail drum set down-range in reinforced concrete and heavy timbers for

Continued on page 59



Optical Comparator superimposes part on original drawing, and magnifies image on screen to ensure accuracy.

TOM CAMPBELL'S SUPERGUN II



By Michael Bane

Tom Campbell, a product engineer for Smith & Wesson, is perhaps best known for the gun he shoots—a prototype S&W .45 auto he designed and built.

Campbell, 32, is one of the top combat shooters in the world. In this year's *Steel Challenge* match (California) he placed 12th in a field of 198 competitors; in the 1983 *Bianchi Cup* match (Missouri) he placed 3rd in a field of 207 competitors. He is a consistent handgun shooter and has either won or placed high in many major matches.

His .45 prototype—dubbed Supergun II—is a sequel to Supergun I, a 9mm auto developed from the S&W M39/59 series.

Campbell found the minor caliber unsatisfactory in combat shooting—so Supergun II emerged. Smith & Wesson has no plans to produce either version, according to Campbell.

As an engineer and “factory shooter” for Smith & Wesson, Campbell travels around the world, extolling the virtues of his company’s products.

In his spare time, he teaches classes in IPSC (International Practical Shooting Confederation) competition.

In his classes, Campbell emphasizes the importance of a clear mind, while firing competitively.

“I think that match shooting is 95 percent or more mental,” he said. “Once I

happy to, but there wasn’t one to compete with the highly-customized Colts. They said they’d build me one.”

Did you do the design work?

“Not only did I design it, but I actually built it. It took about eight months to do the design work and build the parts, most of which I made myself.”

So it wasn’t just “take a slide from there, a barrel from there”?

“No, we had to make many special parts. There were only seven or eight stan-

A product engineer for Smith & Wesson, and a top combat shooter, he designed and built this prototype S&W .45 auto—from scratch. The company has no plans for producing the gun, according to Campbell.

know how to line up the sights and squeeze the trigger, and realize I’m strong enough to control the recoil to a certain degree, everything after that is mental attitude and mental preparation.”

ANALYZES COURSES

Campbell methodically analyzes each course of fire, using his engineer’s sensibilities to break down each match into all the separate movements necessary to get from the holster to the target. Then each movement is carefully analyzed. Is it the fastest? Is it the best? Is there another way of looking at the problem?

“One thing I tell my classes,” he said “is that a man’s got to know his limitations. If you do know them, and know exactly where the ragged edge is *for you*, then you have the ability to push yourself and, hopefully, hang on in. If you don’t know where the edge is it’s like walking around in a fog. All of a sudden, you fall off the edge.”

We asked Campbell several questions, during an interview. Here they are, with his answers:

How did Supergun I, the 9mm, come about?

“It all began in 1977, after I came back from the world match in Rhodesia, having finished fifth with a Colt M/1911. It was well publicized that I had shot a Colt; and everyone knew where I worked, although I wasn’t representing the company at that time. When I returned to Massachusetts, my bosses congratulated me on the fifth-place finish, but indicated they wished I’d shot a Smith and Wesson. I said I’d be

dard parts in the gun that was off the counter. Everything else was custom done. But the gun worked fine.”

Single action?

“It was set up to be single- or double-action, just like Supergun II. You can select it, although I only shot it single-action. I carry it cocked and locked, just like a Colt. The magazines held 16 rounds instead of 14. It’s a five-inch instead of a four-inch gun, and it has all the bells and whistles of a Colt—fully adjustable sights, checking on the frontstrap, flared magazine well and oversized grip safety. Shoots great!”

It proved itself in competition?

“Right. I shot it in the Bianchi cup match for two years, finishing fourth and fifth (pre-1983). I used Supergun I in three U.S. nationals, finishing third, fourth and third—in that order. I like the gun a lot. It’s good to shoot; *but* it’s a minor caliber.”

NO ADVANTAGES

There’s no way to get around that minor caliber?

“No, there isn’t. I did experiment with some major caliber loads, and I was able to make major caliber on a pendulum, but I couldn’t make it on the momentum formula. It just tore up the gun. It wasn’t worth it. You had a violent gun to shoot, all the recoil of a .45 and none of the advantages.”

So this is where Supergun II was born?

“Supergun II was in the planning stages for a long time. I finally got the go-ahead from the company about four years ago. Once it was built, it took a while to convince them that I should shoot it. The

problem Smith had with it was that the company didn't want to put anything out there that was radically different—something that might entice the public into believing it was going to produce the gun.”

This is where your “disclaimer” comes in—right?

“This is the one and only .45 of its kind ever made. It was built expressly for me to shoot in matches, and Smith and Wesson has absolutely *no* plans for producing the gun.”

That aside, tell us about Supergun II.

“Supergun I was basically a highly modified Model 59. Supergun II is *totally* different. It has its own frame, its own slide and all the internal parts are different. It doesn't share anything in common with the standard M39/59 systems. Unfortunately, we are not going to make it.”

How many shots in the Supergun II magazine?

“Eight and one in the chamber, single- or double-action. It's stainless steel blued. It has no barrel bushing, *a la* the Browning P-35. It has checkering all around, a giant flared magazine well and the usual competition stuff—such as an oversized magazine catch. It's not really that radical, compared to some of the compensator-type guns built around Colts that many people are shooting. It's a pretty standard, out-of-the-box auto.”

You said that each magazine has to be made by hand.

Both sides of Supergun II are unique in appearance. Note the giant, flared magazine well, oversize magazine catch and specially designed thumb safety. The sights are from the S&W M39/59, M459/659 series.

“There are only nine magazines in existence, and every one is lovingly handmade. I have to be pretty careful with them. In fact, at the World Match last year on one assault course, I had to carry every magazine on my body.”

Have there been any problems with Supergun II?

“None whatsoever. Like Supergun I, the trigger is set at four-and-a-quarter pounds. I don't believe in two-and-a-half pound triggers. I've always shot four pounds or more pulls, even when I shot bullseye matches.”

FOUR-INCH GROUPS

The sights are from the M39/59 system.

“Right. The same sight that was on Supergun I is on Supergun II, and that's the same sight we produce on the M459/659

and M39 series. It's a fully protected rear sight, and works very well. It was designed to withstand the rigors of a lot of shooting. Many adjustable sights on automatics tear themselves apart from the slide motion. This sight was designed to eliminate that problem.

Supergun I has in excess of 80,000 rounds through it; and Supergun II just passed the 25,000 mark, with no problem. Same hammer, same scar, same everything. We had some feeding problems when I first built it, but that was with Hornady 200-grain semi-wadcutters. It just didn't want to feed them reliably, so I switched over to ball ammo. I've been shooting Federal ball ever since. The gun itself is capable of shooting four-inch groups at 50 yards—regularly.”

Continued on page 67



SNUB-NOSE .357 MAGNUMS

In spite of severe muzzle blast, they have more punch and accuracy than many people believe. And they're easy to stash.



This S&W M66 is the stainless steel version of the M19 mentioned in text. Both are fine examples of .357 Magnum snub-nose revolvers.

By Jim Williamson

Most sportsmen and police officers are aware of the snub-nosed .357 Magnum revolvers, but relatively few have tried one. Many believe that velocity loss is so severe in the short barrels that the guns offer no more than a .38 Special with a long barrel. Others feel that the guns cannot be shot accurately.

I decided to investigate this category of sidearms, to determine how practical they are for both police and sporting use. Selecting a Smith & Wesson M19 *Combat Magnum* with a 2½ inch barrel, I fired it in comparison with two more conventional revolvers of the same caliber by the same maker.

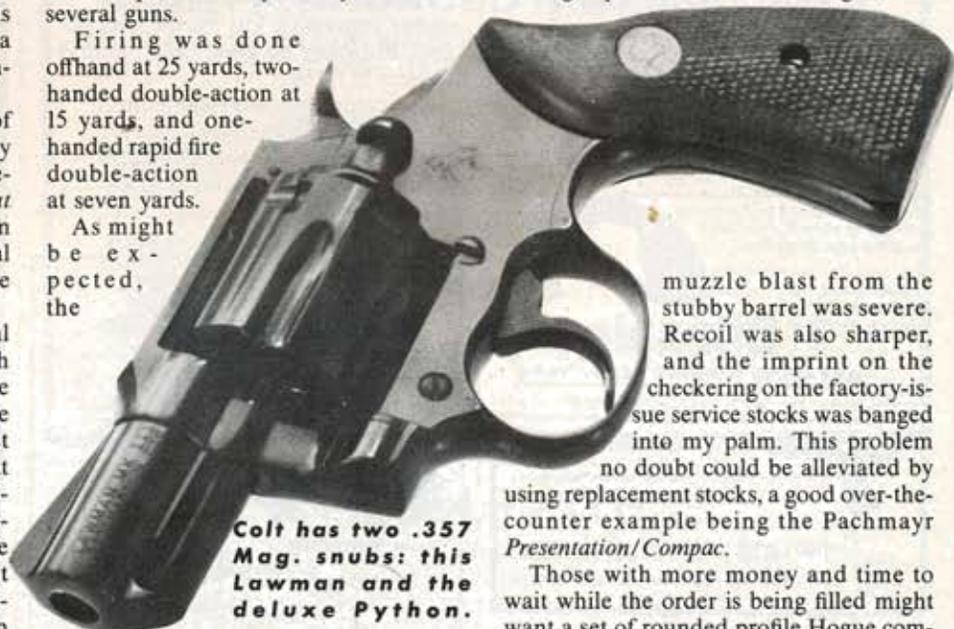
These were the Model 27, the original .357 Magnum; and a second M19, but with a four-inch barrel. All were fitted, for the test, with the original factory grips. The two larger guns have square-butt target stocks, and the snub-nose has round-butt service stocks. The advantage was obviously stacked in favor of the longer, heavier, better-stocked guns. Certainly, all three guns would benefit from replacement grips. The only one I own, a M27 with six-inch barrel, has Herrett's Bill Jordan *Trooper* grips in fancy-grained walnut. If the snub-nose could perform with the deck stacked against it, it would surely be worthy of respect.

Ammunition consisted of .357 Magnum Remington 148-grain wadcutters, its JHP loads with both 125- and 158-grain bullets, Speer-CCI 140-grain JHPs and an old box

of S&W 125-grain JHPs. I added a box of Hornady's Frontier .38 Special lead SWC standard velocity rounds. These cartridges have all proven exceptionally accurate in several guns.

Firing was done offhand at 25 yards, two-handed double-action at 15 yards, and one-handed rapid fire double-action at seven yards.

As might be expected, the



Colt has two .357 Mag. snubs: this Lawman and the deluxe Python.

heavy-frame M27 had less apparent recoil than either M19, but a seasoned shooter shouldn't have too much trouble with the 19s. I was both surprised and gratified to find that the snub-nose shot almost as well as the four-inch M19, with the M27 turning in considerably better groups than the lighter guns. Some of this no doubt was

due to the M27s longer sight radius and added weight.

It was necessary to concentrate more on the sight picture with the short gun, and

muzzle blast from the stubby barrel was severe. Recoil was also sharper, and the imprint on the checkering on the factory-issue service stocks was banded into my palm. This problem no doubt could be alleviated by using replacement stocks, a good over-the-counter example being the Pachmayr *Presentation/Compac*.

Those with more money and time to wait while the order is being filled might want a set of rounded profile Hogue combat grips, or the Herrett *Detective* series. The test gun (snub-nose) had a slick, hand-honed action, which added substantially to the results obtained with it.

Having found that the snub-nose M19 could be shot almost as well as the four-inch example of the same model, and that

Continued on page 60

Specially designed, match-quality front and rear sights are securely installed. The micro-click rear sight is adjustable for both windage and elevation. The front, Patridge-type blade may be quickly and easily exchanged for other styles.

Pachmayr recommends that the kits be installed by a competent gunsmith. Once installed, the owner can then convert the pistol back and forth between centerfire and rimfire configurations.

Kits retail for \$300 and are available only through Pachmayr's Retail Mail Order Division (Dept. AH), 1220 South Grand Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90015 (attention Bruce Baker).

Omark introduces new RCBS reloader

Omark Industries has introduced a new RCBS reloader (RS2) to replace its older model.

The new unit features a patented compound leverage handle linkage, which greatly reduces the effort required to full-length resize bottle-neck cartridges.

The handle is counterbalanced to prevent unwanted drop; there is no underswing of handle or linkage. This permits flush-mounting against the front edge of the reloading bench for maximum rigidity and stability. Wide-spaced mounting holes assist in secure mounting.

The frame is of the Block-O design, offset 30 degrees for easy access. Inside clearance of the frame is three inches wide and 4-3/16 inch high. It is made of high tensile, aircraft-type aluminum alloy with a yield strength of 48,000 pounds per square inch.

The RS2s ram throat is line-bored to provide absolute concentricity with loading dies. The ram is 13/16 inch in diameter and has a 3/8 inch stroke.

The frame has 9/4 square inches of ram-bearing surface, which assures concentric alignment of the ram, even under heavy loads.

The press uses the ram-priming system introduced in 1982 on the company's Big Max loading and swaging press.

A new, positive containment spent-primer-catcher eliminates primer residue in the ram slot.

The tool frame and toggle are finished in an easy-to-clean, tough, epoxy enamel that is impervious to oil and solvent. The surface is highly chip- and fade-resistant.

The RS2 weighs six pounds, eight ounces and has a suggested retail price of \$71.50—same as the earlier model. Part number (press only) is 09256.

The press is available with dies for the four most popular handgun cartridges.

For more information, write Omark Industries, Sporting Equipment Division, POB 856 (Dept. AH), Lewiston, ID 83501.

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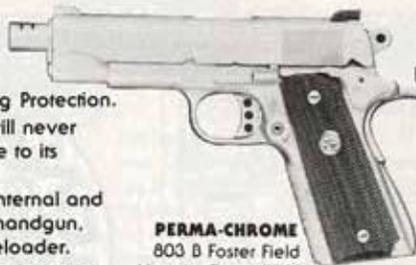
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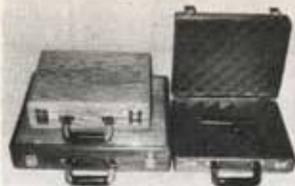


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ORDNANCE EXPO SET FOR JANUARY

By Len Davis

Law enforcement officials from the U. S. and 30 foreign countries are scheduled to attend *Ordnance Expo '84* January 24-26 at the Los Angeles Police Department Academy, where they will test and examine the latest police equipment.

LAPD Sgt. Dick Newell, exposition director, told the *American Handgunner* that next year's *Expo* "is expected to greatly exceed in participation and attendance" that of last year's *Expo*.

Ordnance Expo '83 was attended by about 5,000 lawmen and exhibitors; 41 states and 22 foreign countries were represented.



The newest ordnance-related products will be on display, including handguns, ammunition, reloading supplies, leather goods, gun cleaning gear, body armor, computerized target systems, laser devices, low-light level optical equipment and a variety of targets for police marksmanship training.

The internationally-oriented *Expo* is one of the few events of its kind where buyers of police products can actually test-fire guns, which they do on the Academy's ranges, part of the scenic, 21-acre Elysian Park complex situated close to downtown Los Angeles.

Seminars to be held at *Ordnance Expo '84* cover such subjects as international terrorism, officer survival tactics, Olympics security planning and police armorer's training.

Provisions are being made for *Expo* attendees to tour the various sites selected for the 1984 Olympics competition.

For additional information, contact Newell at the LAPD Academy, Box 1591, Main Office (Dept. AH), Los Angeles, CA 90053.

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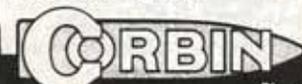
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QUICK QUIZ

By Len Davis

Here are 10 true or false statements developed from recent issues of the *American Handgunner*. If you get seven or more right, you win the *Careful Reader Award* and a tip o' the hat from Editorial Director Jerry Rakusan. Answers are on page 77.

(1) A major feature of the new French police ammo is that much of the powder charge is contained in the projectile. (T) (F)

(2) Metallic silhouette shooting with a handgun is becoming increasingly popular as a sport. (T) (F)

(3) Ted Blocker recently introduced a line of padded nylon hip holsters that fit virtually all handguns, including air pistols. (T) (F)

(4) Federal was the first company to offer high performance jacketed hollow-point handgun ammunition to police and sportsmen. (T) (F)

(5) Puerto Rico's gun laws are the most lenient anywhere. (T) (F)

(6) The *Steel Challenge* match emphasizes both speed and accuracy with autos and revolvers. (T) (F)

(7) The two most popular holsters used in the 1983 *Steel Challenge* match were made by Ted Blocker and G. William Davis. (T) (F)

(8) No one should ever resort to point shooting when there are sights through which to aim. (T) (F)

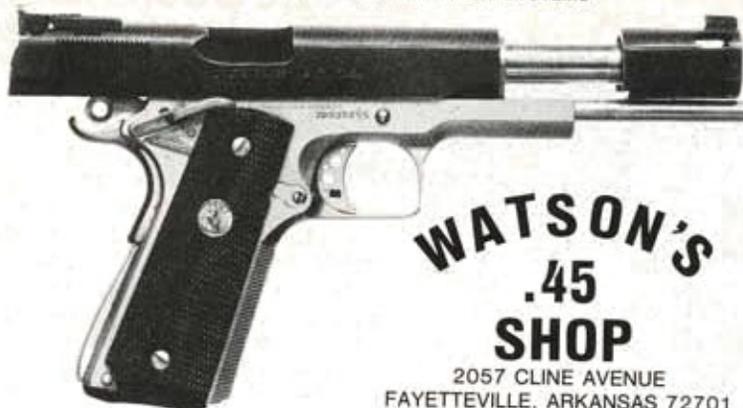
(9) The .38 Super cartridge was introduced in the late 1920s for use in a specially designed version of the Colt Government Model .45 auto. (T) (F)

(10) There's a shock watch on the market that helps reduce the effect of felt recoil with a handgun. (T) (F)

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EXOTIC WOODS MAKE FINE HANDGUN GRIPS

By Len Davis

He doesn't advertise (except by word-of-mouth) and works out of his home—yet his exotic wood handgun grips are fast becoming popular products among the cognoscenti in his field.

He's Russ Maloni, president of Russ-wood Custom Grips in Elma, New York, a suburb of Buffalo.

Maloni began making handgun grips 15 years ago.

His grips are not ordinary ones; they're superbly handcrafted from a variety of imported woods—such as coco bolo, ebony, zebra, rosewood, tulip, padouck and bubinga—and sell from \$42 to \$80 a set (more for special inlaid work).

He doesn't believe in checkering.

"It detracts from the fine grains and intricate designs of my woods," he told the *American Handgunner*, when he visited the magazine's offices in San Diego recently.

Each of his painstakingly carved grips—all fitted on the inside to insure perfect mating to the frame of the handgun for



which they are designed—are finished with many coats of acrylic lacquer.

"Most take 32 coats," he said, "except for woods such as ebony, which take only four, due to its greater density."

Perhaps the best feature of his custom grips is the way they are contoured to fit a person's hands—perfectly and comfortable—and help reduce felt recoil.

Maloni emphasizes "fit, finish and function" in the design and manufacture of all his grips, whether they be for revolvers or semi-automatic pistols.

He explained that it takes considerably longer to make a pair of slab-sided grips for an auto than for a revolver, because auto grips must fit perfectly on all four sides.

"There's just one side (the backstrap) to fit on revolver grips; the rest is enclosed," he said.

Maloni pointed out that grips should contrast perfectly with a gun's appearance.

"Nothing looks worse than a pair of black grips—ebony, for example—on a dark blue gun," he said.

All of his grips are ambidextrous, with wood grains that match perfectly, even on the butts.

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LAPD TEAM

Continued from page 36

point scopes. Ammunition was Winchester-Western factory loads (158-grain lead round-nose), and their leather was supplied by Ted Blocker Custom Holsters of Rosemead, California. Aside from the addition of the Aimpoint sights, the guns used by the L.A. police shooters were the same ones they fire in PPC competition.

Because of a full work schedule, each shooter had to train on his days off. Preparing for the match was essentially an individual effort. In spite of the obvious difficulties encountered, the LAPD team was determined to make every shot count in Columbia. Its unity and *esprit de corps*, noted by many observers, also contributed to the team's winning performance.

Next year, the LAPD team knows that it will have to fight—and fight hard—to keep the team title. Considering the high caliber of shooters making up some of the other teams this year, and the amount of attention drawn to the team event, the team match could well become increasingly popular—and even more competitive. (F.R.)

INFO 'QUICKIE'

Here are a few of the "favorite handguns" of some Old West gunfighters:
Bat Masterson—a .45 Colt Single Action with a 4¾ inch barrel and special sights.

Wyatt Earp—two .45 Colts; the left, a Colt Peacemaker with a 7½ inch barrel; the right, a Buntline Special with a 12-inch barrel.

Doc Holliday—a nickel-plated Colt .38 double-action revolver.

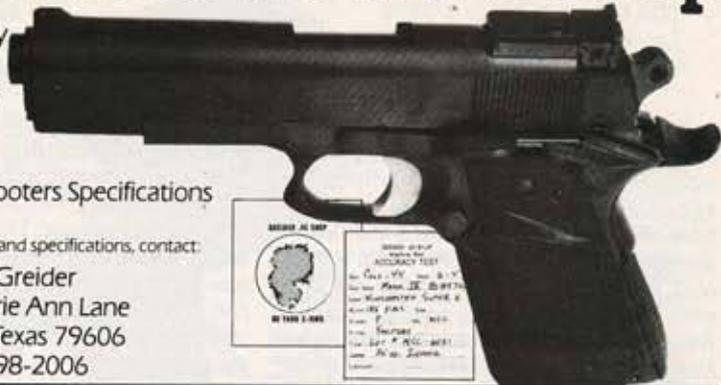
Billy the Kid—a .41 Colt double-action revolver.

Butch Cassidy—a Colt .44-40 Frontier model with a 7½ inch barrel.

Wild Bill Hickok—a pair of ivory-grip Colt Navy models (1851) in .36 caliber. Later, he favored a pair of .45 Colt Peacemakers. He died with a Smith & Wesson tip-up .32 rimfire model in his pocket. His favorite derringer was a .41 caliber Williamson single-shot, which could be shot either as a rim-fire breechloader, or as a percussion muzzle loader by using an auxiliary chamber.

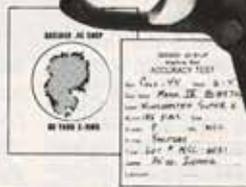
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PISTOLSMITHING

Continued from page 23

It is necessary to let the target blur because the human eye does not have the necessary depth of field to give a sharp image of near and far objects at the same time. This is a good system for bullseye shooting; but in combat shooting, it may lead to multiple hits on a little old lady with a shopping cart. So, combat shooters focus on their target, interpose the sights shotgun style, and align their gun with the sights blurred.

A wide rear notch serves for some. But others favor easily defined outlines or patterns that seem to "come together" rapidly. I use a white outline rear and a white line front sight with good results on both indoor and outdoor ranges in anything but strongly backlit situations, where the wide rear notch reigns supreme. For me, anyway.

Q. My rear sight has worked loose in the dovetail and I can push it from side to side several thousandths of an inch, though it would not release from the end of the cut. How can I tighten this factory rear sight in place permanently?

A. Drift the sight out with a brass or nylon punch. Raise a few dimples on the

bottom of the dovetail cut with a center punch, and drift the sight very carefully back into the centered position.

Q. I have a S&W K-frame revolver that I am considering as the basis for a PPC revolver. Do custom barrels deliver more accuracy than factory barrels, or is this just my imagination?

A. If the custom barrel has a faster bore twist and a tighter bore than the factory tube, it will stabilize the longer, heavier bullets slightly better, as with a Colt Python, for example. The real advantage is in adding muzzle weight, which increases handling speed and recovery and keeps recoil down to a minimum. Tape a piece of steel rod to your present barrel for a few shots, and notice the marked difference.

Q. When my Government Model pistol came back from my gunsmith, one grip screw was loose enough to allow the grip to shift, giving a very insecure feeling. He said he had put Loctite in the threads. I tried to remove the screw, but the bushing came out of the frame. How can this be fixed?

A. Put the point of a soldering gun on the rear of the bushing and apply heat until the bond is broken. Use a small vise grip to hold the bushing from turning while you apply plenty of muscle to the screwdriver. You will have to replace the bushing, and probably the grip screw.

The bushing must be staked into position, since Loctite will not hold it against screwdriver torque. Modern pistol frames are radiused at the rear of the bushing

position, almost like a countersink; so the bushing will have to be well spread with the special punch to make a permanent mounting.

You may have to replace the grip panel, if it has been deformed around the screw and no longer seats tightly; or you can apply wax to the screw and use a few drops of epoxy or glass bedding compound to replace the compressed wood for a tight fit again. Another "quick-and-dirty" fix is to apply rubber cement to both grip and frame, or to use strips of double-sided tape.

Q. I have heard discussions of "night sights" for pistols and revolvers. Do you think these are practical? Which company makes one that is both inexpensive and reliable?

A. The one I like best is made for any sight large enough for a three dot alignment by drilling three holes carefully with a center drill (#1 size) and applying a dot of luminous insert material, which can be obtained from Bullshooter's Supply, POB 13446, Tucson, AZ 85732.

The inserts are a yellow-by-day, but may be "charged" with any strong light source for a faint glow at night; this permits concentration on the target, easy alignment and no loss of night vision.

Q. I like the idea of a buffer in my Government Model .45, but the buffers available will not work in a Colt Commander. Is there a type of buffer that will work in the smaller pistol?



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A. I have made a small batch of buffers designed for use in the Commander. Unlike the Government Model buffers, they are fabricated from a special polymer material used in the nation's space program. You can get them at your local gun shop, or order directly from *The Sight Shop*, 1802 E. Columbia Ave., Tacoma, WA 98404. Price is \$2, postpaid.

Any questions from you readers?



COMBAT SHOOTING

Continued from page 18

will teach you how to be a safe and professional gunhandler, and to hit your intended targets quickly and with reasonable accuracy. These events will give you experience operating under stress. This will help you develop good self control and enhance your ability to make quick decisions under pressure. Combine the serious study of survival tactics with the shooting skills you will develop by competing in IPSC matches, and your goals will be achieved.



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Q. *What is the best way to operate the trigger when firing the double-action revolver? A friend told me to pull the trigger straight through, without hesitating, until the gun fires. Someone else said to pull the trigger back quickly until the gun is almost ready to fire, then squeeze off the last amount of pull as you would with a single-action. Which is correct?*

A. For fast work with a double-action revolver, I pull the trigger straight through without hesitation. This is done in a smooth, controlled manner so the sight picture is disturbed as little as possible when the hammer falls. This method of trigger manipulation has some real advantages for fast shooting. When done properly, pulling straight through (single-staging) gives you a surprise break every time and eliminates flinching. It can also be slowed down a bit and used for accurate long-range shooting. Pulling the trigger

Continued on page 58

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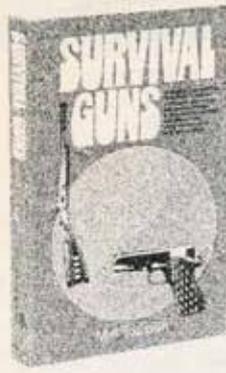
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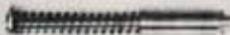
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COMBAT SHOOTING

Continued from page 57

back quickly, until the gun is almost to the point of firing, and then squeezing off the last bit of pull until the shot breaks is an accurate way to shoot; but it defeats the purpose of double-action shooting. You might as well be thumb-cocking for each shot. There is also a greater possibility of flinching when two-staging the trigger.

Q. How can I control match nerves? In practice, I shoot good scores but never seem to come close to my practice potential at the actual match.

A. Every competitive shooter I know feels match nerves. It can be a positive or negative influence, depending on the way you handle it. To be confident going into competition, have your equipment in good working order. This means your pistol is functioning flawlessly and your ammunition, if handloads are used, is reliable.

Have a definite game plan. This is a detailed written description of how you will shoot the match. Each stage should be broken down in detail and practiced, to work out any problem areas and correct them. Even a less than perfect plan is better than no plan at all.

Once you have decided on your strategy and written it down, go over it in your mind until it is memorized. Just knowing you have done all you can to prepare properly gives peace of mind, and helps get rid of some anxieties—match nerves. Do not hang around the match for hours watching other people shoot before it is your turn.

I like to arrive at the range about 45 minutes before my scheduled shooting time. This allows me to observe what is going on, without wearing myself out watching other people shoot. This also allows less time to be distracted by outside influences.

Once you have been called to the firing line to shoot for scores, go over your game plan once more, take a few deep breaths and tell the range official when you are ready.

You have then done everything within your power to be well prepared; it should show up in the form of a good score.



INFO 'QUICKIE'

During the Civil War (1861-1865), the handgun used more than any other, on both sides, was the .44 caliber percussion Colt revolver, Army Model of 1860.

COMING NEXT
ISSUE!

Results of the
1983 IPSC Nationals

RANDALL .45

Continued from page 46

maximum safety. There were no provisions for testing accuracy—only velocity, functionality and chamber pressures. Safety signs, printed in huge letters, were everywhere.

The plant tour ended with a walk through the magazine assembly area, where sandblasting of parts also is done.

The editors returned to the boardroom for further questions. We had one more: Why the 10-groove barrel?

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We thought we would end this report with the box, because this gun is indeed a reliable shooter, in every respect, *out-of-the-box*.

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SNUB-NOSE .357

Continued from page 49

it could be concealed better in some locations, there remained the question of its power.

Lacking a chronograph, I referred to the Speer Manual #9 (#10 does not have a chart showing the velocities of factory ammo in various guns). Using the Speer-CCI cartridges, the S&W .357 snub kicked out the 140-grain JHP at 1,138 fps, the 125-grain at 1,223 fps and the 158-grain at 1,085 fps. By way of comparison, the six-inch gun belted the middle-weight 140-grain out at 1,410 fps. That's quite a difference; but the same bullet in a .38 Special clocked only 1,059 fps from a six-inch S&W. That's a very hot .38 load, one that handloaders shouldn't try to exceed; yet, it is of marginal velocity to expand the bullet. The snub-nosed .357 model should do the trick inside 25 yards; and it's considerably more compact.

This doesn't tell the whole story. A couple of years ago, Federal changed the design of its .357 Magnum loads, so that the bullet would open more reliably when fired from short barrels. This should be kept in mind when choosing ammunition for the magnum snub-nose. Another factor to consider is that guns with fixed sights are generally meant for the 158-grain bullet, and the lighter stuff shoots a foot or more low.

NYCLAD EXPANDS WELL

In that weight, I'd lean toward the Federal load, unless the company markets the 158-grain Nyclad hollowpoint when it gets into production on this exotic and useful ammo once made by S&W. The lead SWC Nyclad, with its deep hollow-nose protected by only a layer of nylon, should be the most reliable expander of any 158-grain .357—just the ticket for the excellent Ruger *Speed-Six*, or the Colt *Lawman* with fixed sights.

I wouldn't want to recommend the snub-nose as one's *only* .357 Magnum; but it does have more punch and accuracy than many people think, and will kill deer-size game under ideal conditions to as far out as the shooter can group his shots well. It is very handy for stashing where longer guns can't be hidden, such as in some books (hollowed out, of course), glove compartments, and in front of the abdomen in inside-the-pants holsters. The .357 snubs are all a bit heavy for pocketing.

Which is best? That's an awkward question. The Ruger is most practical and the best buy; the S&W's are probably the most popular; the Colt *Python* most prestigious—and the most expensive. I'd probably choose the Ruger stainless steel *Speed-Six*, or the S&W M66. Ruger makes



BROWNELLS CATALOG #36

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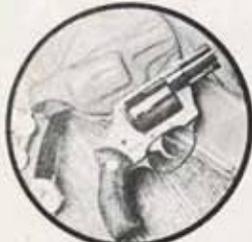
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the standard *Security-Six* with adjustable sights, but it's a square-butt affair—harder to hide than a round-butt—and I personally don't care for the lines of the ramp front sight and its rib. With a longer barrel, the *Security-Six* is among my favorite .357s.

Been thinking of trying a magnum snub-nose? It's worth a go. One thing for sure, with the muzzle blast from that short barrel, you'll get one helluva bang out of the experience!



AUTOS FOR COPS?

Continued from page 41

more than 3,200 rounds fired during the week by students, I witnessed only two auto failures. They could have been avoided because one was caused by a bent lip in a Beretta magazine, the other by the use of hollow-pointed ammo that I mixed up purposely in my own M639. This relates to a failure rate of .0625 percent. Since the average shootout on the street is over in 2.2 to 2.7 rounds, the failure or malfunction factor is then computed as zero, if attention is paid to maintenance of the pistol and the use of proper ammunition.

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Reloading is another advantage the auto has over the revolver. If you don't have to reload, no sweat. When the chips are down, however, the auto can be reloaded fast—very fast; in fact, within seconds. Try that in a tense encounter with a revolver and speedloaders.

Lastly, the auto gives you the confidence
Continued on page 62

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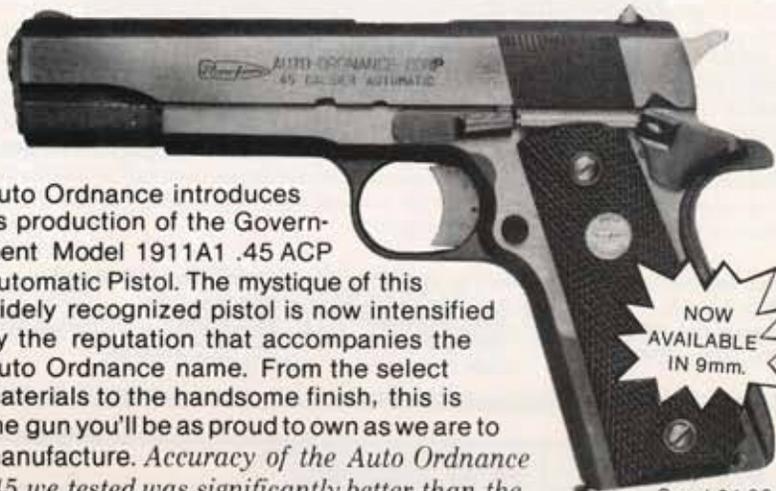


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AUTOS FOR COPS?

Continued from page 61

you need. The ability to take control in any firefright situation with an auto is, in my opinion, beyond reproach.

In a demonstration by the three instructors, about 140 rounds were laid down in a short period of time. If I were in a group of radicals on the receiving end of that burst, I'd surely have second thoughts about bucking the system. The energy being expended here in foot pounds alone could never be compared to that generated by a six-shot revolver.

Range sessions were last. On the line, all shooters were pleasantly surprised with the control they had with the auto. Reason: the 9mm is pleasant to shoot. Recoil control assured almost instant target recovery for the second shot if needed.

Part of the reason for this good control stems from the fact that the Weaver stance is used throughout the course. Additional fundamentals of auto pistol shooting were covered to complete the circle. Tips on grip, sight alignment and trigger control were not only discussed but practiced over and over on the Academy's indoor range. A smooth draw was demonstrated, with the accent *not* on speed; that comes later.

One big feature of the S & W course was the use of video equipment to record each shooter's drawing and firing motions. By slowing the tape machine down to a crawl, each student was given a critique of his actions, again followed by more practice.

Other subjects on the academy's agenda included weak hand shooting, use of available cover, traverse fire, low light and night fire and double taps. These subjects were covered extensively in both classroom and range sessions.

The course I attended for 40 hours is called *Auto Pistol I*. There is a follow-up course called *Auto Pistol II*, which is tactically oriented and picks up where *Auto Pistol I* leaves off.

After graduation, I visited with the director, Bob Hunt. He is responsible for many of the innovative courses now being conducted at the Academy. Hunt told me that improvements are being made at all course levels, no matter what the subject.

I asked him, "Is the auto pistol the wave of the future for police work?" He replied, "It has the potential for police use, with adequate training, and has greater potential than the revolver." The key to the whole situation is training, according to Hunt, and that's where the S & W Academy shines.



INFO 'QUICKIE'

Although rust-resistant, stainless steel handguns must be carefully maintained for lasting efficiency.

LLAMA .44

Continued from page 31

LLAMA .44 MAG. OVER-PRESSURE FIRINGS

Bullet/powder	Velocity (avg.,fps)	Muzzle energy (ft. lbs.)	Group size (5-shots)
Norma 240			
JHP/2400	1520	1231	1.99"
Rem. 240			
JSP/H110	1470	1150	1.32"
Rem. 240			
JSP/H110	1495	1193	2.03"
Sierra 180			
JHC/H110	1736	1204	1.20"
Sierra 180			
JHC/H110	1736	1204	1.26"

have loosened some fine American guns. The Llama was not loosened; I could detect, at most, a .001 inch of front-to-back cylinder play. After considerably more heavy firing, I am satisfied that the gun is exceptionally strong and accurate.

The Llama also handled lead bullets in medium loads accurately. For example, Hornady's swaged 240-grain SWCs and 8 grains of Unique averaged 1.66 inch in a series of five-shot groups. Utility-grade cast 185-grain wadcutters, with the same charge, averaged 2.44 inch groups.

The un-tuned Llama .44 Magnum did more than I could reasonably expect. However, I have never seen a factory-assembled gun, excepting the best custom models, which could not be improved by smoothing and tuning. I am strictly an amateur at this work, and the idea of working on a completely new action gave me pause, but it was also a fascinating challenge. As it turned out, the work was relatively simple. The results were excellent, and any careful person should be able to do as well, with the steps outlined below. Neither the writer nor the editors can be responsible for an unsafe gun resulting from the work of others.

TUNING THE LLAMA

Before tackling the job, I primed several empty .44 Magnum cases with CCI #200 large rifle primers, for test purposes only. Firing these double-action showed that the hammer blow was more than powerful enough for pistol primers. Rifle primers are harder to ignite than any pistol primer, therefore, I could safely lighten the mainspring. I also noted that the trigger return was both stiff and rough, contributing to the heavy trigger pulls.

First, I took down the conventional cylinder/crane assembly, following the disassembly instructions with the gun. These specify placing empty cases in the chambers and turning out the ejector rod "anti-clockwise," by which they mean that the threads are right-handed. The sharp and rough edges on the back end of the crane were smoothed, using a fine-grit Cratex tip in a Dremel Moto Tool. A light

Continued on page 64

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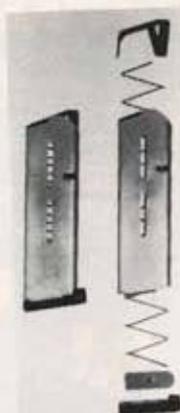
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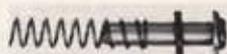
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LLAMA .44

Continued from page 63

touch with this high-speed outfit removes roughness, without loosening the fit of parts. The bearing surfaces on the crane, the center flat on the back end of the ratchet, and the slotted stem of the ejector were also smoothed.

No other work was needed on this assembly. The parts were cleaned free of grease and grit, lubricated with Break Free, and reassembled. It then turned freely, and was set aside until the lockworks had been tuned.

The lockworks presented several inter-related problems. The first was trying to visualize the operation of the action from the exploded diagram in the instructions. I always try to do this before starting the work, but I finally gave up. Removing the thumbpiece and sideplate screws, I was relieved to find that nothing went flying across the workshop when I lifted out the sideplate. (But watch the tiny plunger and spring in the tail of the bolt; they could be overlooked and lost.)

The mainspring was removed from its guide by backing out the roll pin holding the retaining washer. Three turns were cut off the spring, and the stirrup at the upper end of the guide was polished. The spring, washer and pin were replaced.

The stiff trigger return spring leg was carefully pried out of its slot in the frame and the coil nudged off its pin. The spring had an angle of about 110 degrees between its legs; I opened the angle to about 130 degrees to lighten its action.

I then removed the hammer from the cam and smoothed the edges of the hole, which fits over the cam and edges of the double-action sear (fly) slot in the hammer. The circular projection of the cam was polished around its circumference, as was its back surface, its arm, and the frame under the cam.

The double-action sear was smoothed lightly, along with the trigger nose. After assembly and trial, it was decided to stone these surfaces, along with the SA notch. The angles must be carefully retained and the engagements must not be shortened at this stage, the idea being to lighten the pull before making any other changes. Squareness of the finished edges is also important. Sight black can be used to obtain a wide contact area. Hard Arkansas stones are best for trigger work.

STONE-SMOOTHING

The trigger edge which engages the cylinder stop also was smoothed with the stone. The corresponding surface of the stop also was smoothed, but it had fairly deep machine marks which were not tackled. Other edges of the stop were smoothed; its slot in the frame was also

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radiused. The legs of the cylinder stop spring were straightened, to lighten its action.

Reassembly of the gun showed that the desired lightening had been accomplished, but the trigger did not return reliably. Working the action with the sideplate removed, I could see that the trigger was hanging up as it passed the double-action sear at the back and the stop at the front. Those machine marks were the obvious cause. The edge of the stop was ground down flat and then polished to wash out all of the marks. The trigger return problem was solved and the gun was found to be completely reliable with several brands of pistol primers, both the regular type and the magnums.

The return may not be as fast as a first-class double-action shooter needs, but it is fine for me. The trigger pulls are about as light as any amateur can expect to make them, and still keep the gun reliable with all well-made loads.

One further addition was a cylinder endshake washer, which I placed over the cam pivot pin to improve the cam smoothness. This seemed to be effective, and it also removed some of the hammer wobble without causing binding. I used the Ron Power hardened washer designed for N-frame S&W revolvers.

The tuned gun was much improved. The trigger was crisper in single-action and smoother in double-action. The pull weights were lighter: 4½ pounds, single-action on my Ohaus gauge, eight pounds double-action on a larger spring scale. These are manageable pulls, even though the single-action pull is a bit heavier than I prefer. The limiting factor is the eccentric cam design, and the fact that the return spring must do much of the work. It pushes back the stop and double-action fly, returns the cam and hammer to their high positions (rotating the cam inside of the hammer), resets the hand, and returns the trigger. Probably a professional pistolsmith could improve the gun further; but I'm highly pleased with it, as is.

In direct comparison to my S&W M29 (six-inch barrel), which has been expertly field-tuned by Mag-na-port Arms, I can hit almost as close and fast with the Llama with the same loads, either single- or double-action.

The M29 has my homemade grips and a fast 10-pound double-action pull; the difference is that I am more familiar with it, while I'm still learning the Llama pulls. It takes a lot of shooting to get used to a different trigger pull.

The Smith's two-pound-plus pull is great. The Llama has a more uniform double-action pull. The Smith has also been Mag-na-ported, a definite advantage; I haven't yet had this job done on the Llama, primarily because even heavy loads fired in it are not that bad.

One other factor is an unusually early cylinder lockup in the Llama double-

Continued on page 66

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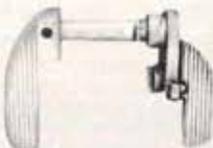


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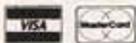
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LLAMA .44

Continued from page 65

action cycle. The lock clicks in solidly, then the hammer must travel back about 1/8 inch more before it falls. I haven't gotten used to the extra travel; this calls for a two-stage pull, taking the trigger rapidly to lockup, then more carefully to hammer fall, as the sights are aligned. Shortening the pull to approximate the Smith pull is a possible, but touchy, solution.

Finally, I went the extra mile, as they say, and tried to extract even finer accuracy from the Llama .44. I used a Brownell target cone reamer (11-degree cutter) and removed the minor concentric machine marks and other minor faults from the factory cone in the Llama to form a smooth, round, and slowly-tapered new cone to minimize bullet distortion. The original cone was fairly good, judging from the gun's accuracy, but it was greatly improved by this job.

Lead bullets were also handled somewhat more accurately on the average, with no fliers. The gun showed close to custom target-grade accuracy. This demonstrated once again that revolver accuracy can usually be upgraded by cutting a new precision cone.

I consider the big Llama to be a high-quality revolver, ingeniously designed, manufactured to close tolerances, and carefully fitted and assembled to make it a solid, tight, strong, smooth and very accurate gun. It is reliable and trouble-free out-of-the-box; but serious shooters will want to tune it a bit to obtain even better handling and performance.

The tuned Llama combines ultra-fine accuracy, strength-to-spare for the heaviest loads, double-action smoothness, and good handling with tamed recoil.

The big Spaniard has a lot going for it, and deserves to be considered by more American handgunners.

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The International Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association (IHMSA) is the sanctioning body for virtually all handgun silhouette matches held in the United States. Its 20-page official rule book—the "bible" of the sport—emphasizes big bore shooting, although there is a category for those who wish to fire at silhouette targets at shorter ranges, with .22 caliber pistols and revolvers. For more information on this increasingly popular handgun shooting sport, write Elgin Gates, president of IHMSA, at POB 1609, Idaho Falls, ID 83401. He and his colleagues have made many substantial contributions to the sport and Gates is held in high esteem by the shooting fraternity.

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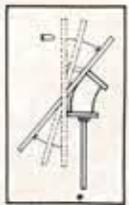
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SUPERGUN 11

Continued from page 48

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Didn't you use an Aimpoint at Bianchi last year (1982)?

"Right. It was mounted on the frame and proved to be highly successful (Campbell finished ninth). I was happy with the score—and the Aimpoint. I never shot a handgun that precisely, until I installed an Aimpoint sight."

But is it "practical?"

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BIANCHI CHAMP

Continued from page 36

for more than an hour to shoot while you
 watched Mitchell McNeece shoot 129 plates
 and then John Pride shoot 311 plates. What
 was going through your mind?

"I was trying to think about as little as
 possible at that moment. When McNeece
 shot down all those plates, I thought it was
 pretty amazing. It's funny, Rob Leatham
 and I had joked in practice about going out
 there and shooting maybe a hundred or
 two hundred plates, but we were kidding.
 Then, when John Pride came up and shot
 more than 300, it seemed unreal.

"I can remember feeling kind of de-
 tached. It also occurred to me that all that
 waiting might be bad for me, since I was
 ready to shoot when I got there. But as
 John (Pride) continued on his 'roll,' I think
 watching him may have helped me be-
 cause I finally said to myself, 'Hey, this is
 easy—I can do it too.'"

*You made it look easy. Specifically, how
 did you practice for this year's Bianchi Cup?*

"We don't have a mover to practice on,
 so we just set up the Practical, the Bar-
 ricade and the Falling Plates. We shot each
 of them once, just like in the actual match.
 We don't shoot the match again for score
 in that session. We record the scores, and if
 we detect a problem, we go back and work
 on that particular area. We don't tape the
 targets, and we change them at the same
 intervals, as they do in the match."

*You try to simulate match conditions as
 closely as possible?*

"We try to make conditions a little
 worse. For example, we try to shoot with
 the sun in our faces, so it's difficult to see
 the scoring rings."

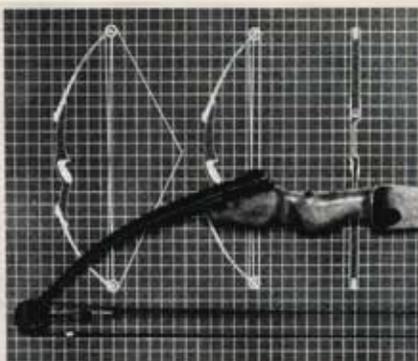
*What's your advice to shooters who can't
 seem to shoot as well in a match as they do in
 practice?*

"Learning how to shoot your practice
 scores in a match is the whole ballgame.
 Most people shoot way too tense. You can
 see that their facial and stomach muscles
 are too tight. You need to be relaxed, so
 you can concentrate on the same things
 you do in practice. There's a lot more pres-
 sure in a match, from all angles, and that
 tends to erode your concentration. You
 have to 'shoot through' the pressure and
 concentrate. The name of the game is *men-
 tal discipline*."

*Do you have a pet device that helps you do
 that?*

"I'm still experimenting, and it varies
 with the type of shooting; but for the
 Bianchi Cup, I concentrate on trigger con-
 trol and what I call a 'relaxed focus' on the
 center of the target. In other types of
 matches, I try to keep my muscles as loose
 as possible for fluid movement. I try to re-
 lax and focus on my front sight."

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Fowler in the last year's Bianchi Cup match affect you?

"I think it fired me up. I worked much harder in practice this year, even though I shot fewer rounds. My mental attitude was tougher this year—I drove myself harder. By the time I got to the match, I knew I was ready, so the only thing on my mind was shooting the stages, to the best of my ability."

What equipment did you use at this year's Bianchi Cup match?

"I shot a Smith & Wesson M10 with a six-inch (one-inch diameter) Douglas barrel, customized by Frank Glenn of Accuracy, Unlimited in Glendale, Arizona. (Glenn is a well-known PPC shooter and armorer for the Arizona Department of Public Safety.)

"My ammo was a 148-grain, cast, bevel-base wadcutter ahead of 3.5 grains of 700X, with Federal primers and Winchester cases. They were all reloads made by the Sun Cartridge Company of Phoenix, Arizona.

"I used Gordon Davis leather, and the same Aimpoint MK II sight that I used last year."

What's your opinion of the controversial electronic scoring system used at this year's Bianchi Cup match?

"That's a tough one. I think the ideal solution would be to get rid of it and go to turning targets. I heard complaints from a lot of shooters that they were unfairly penalized for late shots. And it was suggested that the video tapes be used to overrule the electronic system; but I don't think there's a provision in the rules that allows a call to be reviewed just because someone happened to be video-taping the shooter. Many of the shooters who complained weren't being taped anyway, so they would have no recourse. I hope we go to turning targets next year."

Are you optimistic about the future of practical shooting?

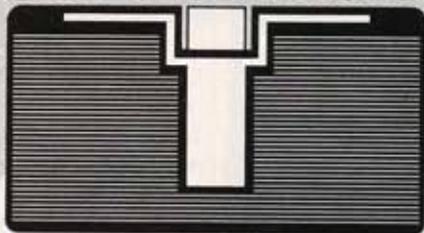
"Definitely. Media coverage has been increasing every year, and that's something that's got to happen in order to attract more participants—and spectators. I hope the trend continues. If the sport becomes more professional, and there are more tournaments and more prize money, it might even be possible for the top competitors to concentrate on shooting on a full-time basis. If I didn't have to spend so much of my time just earning a living, my shooting would improve tremendously. But there would have to be at least a half dozen matches like the Bianchi Cup in order to justify quitting my job."



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FRED STEVENS

Continued from page 32

with a plastics manufacturer, which took him to Hong Kong. While there he learned of another company's unsuccessful attempts to design an improved device for tapping draft beer kegs. This was all that was needed to get his creative mind going, and he soon came up with an entirely new system.

When he returned to this country he and a partner formed the Hoff-Stevens Company and set about making his improved beer tapping system. Although it was a slow process, the company became successful and eventually cornered approximately 80 percent of the market. The financial security that resulted enabled Stevens to pursue his love of gun designing, and his next project was more than a little unusual.

He was aware, from his own experience as a skindiver, of the inadequacy of underwater weapons. Most spearguns have a very short effective range, are single-shot, and the target takes the expensive spear away with it if it isn't killed instantly.

SHOOTING UNDERWATER

He began to experiment to see if a firearm could be made to function *underwater*.

The first step was to develop a workable cartridge/projectile system. To do this, he used an old Remington Rolling Block action, to which he fitted various length barrels.

He found that a spear-like projectile, about eight inches long, could be fired successfully underwater. He then designed a gun around it. The result looks like one of the old pepperboxes, in that it has a rotating six-chambered barrel/cylinder assembly. The gun is made entirely of stainless steel and weighs a little more than four pounds. The weight is intentional, so that the gun and extra cylinders can take the place of the ballast weights divers must carry.

Reloading simply involves replacing the cylinder with a fresh one.

The round evolved through testing is a .375 inch diameter, two-part projectile that weighs 730 grains. The point section is stainless steel, about three inches long. It is joined to a Micarta (plastic-like) shaft to give an overall length of about eight inches.

The projectile is precision, centerless ground to give a close fit to the bore, so that little water is displaced by firing. It protrudes a short distance from the muzzle for the same reason, and enables the diver to identify—by sight or feel—the type of ammunition loaded.

The cartridge case is a much-modified .30-30 that has been shortened, expanded

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and had the rim turned down.

Stevens explained that the use of the .30-30 case was simply an expedient to save the expense of having a case made from scratch.

VIRTUALLY NO NOISE

He will not reveal the powder type or charge, except to say that it is "conventional smokeless powder." Stevens reports that when the gun—which is patented—is fired underwater there is virtually no noise, and only a small bubble of escaping gas is noticeable. In tests conducted in a swimming pool, a diver was able to place two shots within approximately 2½ inches at 60 feet. At that distance, the projectile penetrated about four inches of pine.

What the effective range might be in open water, Stevens does not know; but he says he feels sure it is greater than the 60-foot limit imposed by the swimming pool.

When fired in the air, the 730-grain projectile was chronographed at 750 fps.

Stevens visualizes a James Bond type of weapons system, based around the gun. It would not necessarily be limited to underwater use, and a wide variety of ammunition would be possible to enable a diver—presumably military—to emerge from the water and engage an enemy, or perform other assault functions.

Some other applications might include:

- A multi-shot stud driver, for use both under and above water;
- A gun capable of firing a heavy, multi-ball load, for use against personnel above water;
- A gun designed to fire a special grenade-type, anti-personnel projectile, with a range in excess of 300 yards;
- A gun that would throw a light line a considerable distance;
- A gun made to discharge a flare underwater that would rise to a substantial height above water; and
- A gun capable of firing a harpoon-type projectile with line attached, for use both below and above water.

Stevens' latest project is a hammerless derringer chambered for the .38 Special cartridge. Made of stainless steel, it bears a similarity to, and isn't much larger than, the High Standard model. Plans are underway to produce it, according to Stevens.

We can expect many other new guns to come from the fertile mind of Fred Stevens; we'll hear about them when the time is right.



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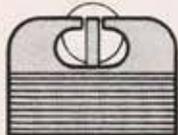
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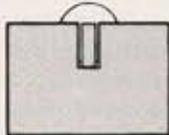


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Arnold is highly experienced in competitive marksmanship, both as a soldier and civilian. He was a member of the Rhodesian team that won the 1976 World Practical Pistol Championship, and has since fired many excellent scores in handgun matches throughout the United States. His present position is that of chief training officer for Westec Security, Inc., Santa Monica, California.

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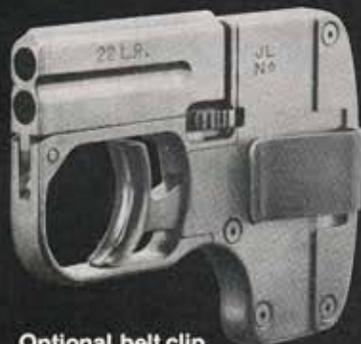
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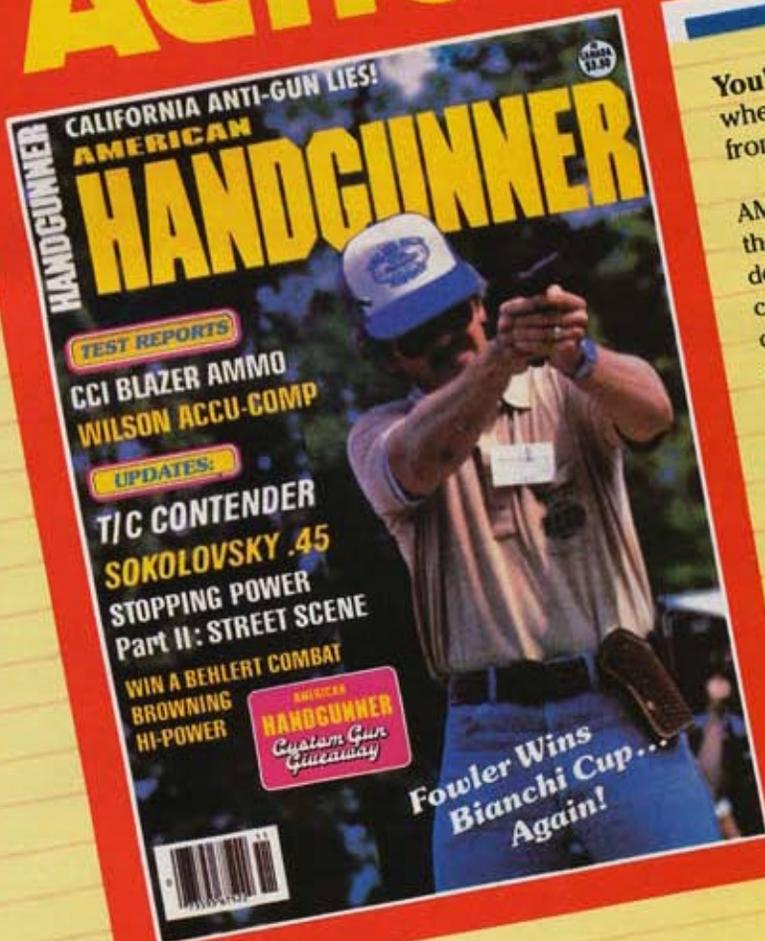
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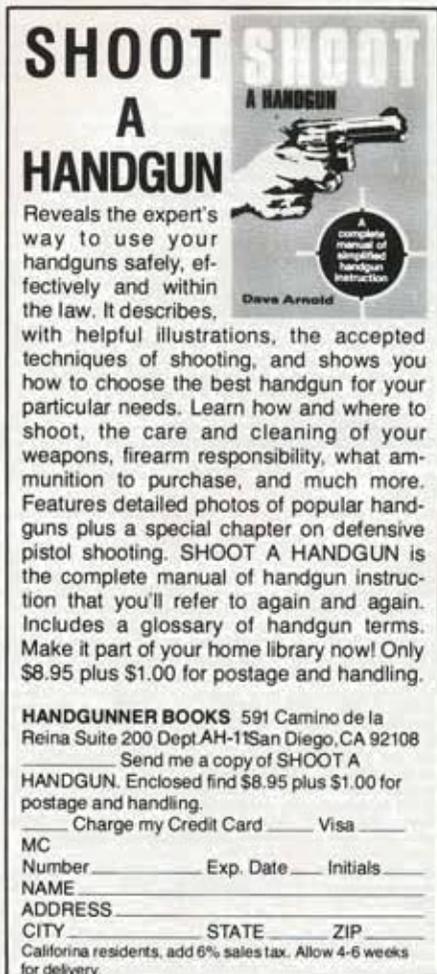
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HANDLOADING

Continued from page 12

on the 7mm T.C.U. sheet, and vice versa."

Hail to the Speer people for their dedication in serving handloaders with accuracy, conscience—and safety! Here are a few 7mm T.C.U. loads (the ones listed on the corrected table are included):

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.284-115 HP	H335	30.5	2246 fps
.284-130 SP & BT	BLC2	31.0	2173 fps
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.284-160 SP, BT, MT & GS	Re7	21.0	1681 fps
.284-175 MT & GS	H380	29.0	1764 fps

Note: All loading data was furnished by Omark-Speer Corp. An accompanying note from the company stated that these loads (1) had not been pressure-tested, (2) some might be excessive in certain guns (although maximum loads have not been shown here), and (3) commercial reference ammunition was not available at time of testing.

Those of you who engage in home handloading, as well as manufacturers and dealers, are urged to take part in this column. May we have your contributions, for publication? Letters with questions about handloading cannot be answered unless accompanied by a SASE. Our address is: Handloading, POB 222, Pinon Hills, CA 92372. Let's hear from you!

QUICK QUIZ ANSWERS

(Continued from page 53)

- (1) True.
- (2) True.
- (3) False. Substitute Ted Blocker with Michaels of Oregon.
- (4) False. It was Super Vel.
- (5) False. They're tough!
- (6) True.
- (7) True.
- (8) False. There are times when point shooting is best.
- (9) True.
- (10) True. They're available from Future Sports USA, Dept. AH, POB 5118, Ridgewood, NJ 07450.



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INDUSTRY INSIDER

JERRY RAKUSAN

DAN WESSON'S NEW .357 MAXIMUM COMES WITH EXTRA 8-INCH BARREL

Tom Campbell, the Smith & Wesson combat shooter, has been scoring well in a number of matches with what has been dubbed a "mystery gun." Every time he, or another S&W official, was asked about the chances of the gun going in production the answer was something like: "We have no plans..." (See feature in this issue.)

Well, S&W may have no plans, but my scouts tell me that they do have two guns being shown to dealers that may take the mystery out of Tom's guns. Both are .45 caliber; one is a double-action with fixed sights, the other is a single-action version accurized for IPSC competition (rumor has it that the SA version is based on the M52).

If you are tired of the round top on your Colt MK IV auto pistol, we've just discovered a pistolsmith who is reworking the top of these slides into a good-looking, octagon shape. From the photos I saw, it appears that the workmanship is excellent, and it sure gives the Colt a handsome look. Frank Kriegbaum is the pistolsmith, and he's at 126 Onondaga Ave., Buffalo, NY 14220.

The proprietor of a local gun shop picked up an interesting auto the other day. I did not see it, but from the description it appears to be a Browning Hi-Power 9mm, with an alloy frame, in double-action. Stamped only with the FN logo, it could be something that slipped out of the military tests, or perhaps a gun that is just not becoming available in Europe. We'll try to have more details on this gun as soon as we can get our hands on it.

CHINESE HANDCANNONS

Visitors to the IWA (international weapons exhibition), held earlier this year in Nuremberg, Germany, saw many of the pistols banned from U.S. import by the Gun Control Act of 1968; the Baby Browning, the original Walther PPK, and others which are still available to the Europeans—but not to us. On exhibit at the booth of the Peoples' Republic of China was a variety of firearms, including some interesting handguns. The target pistols looked surprisingly like some of the Soviet models; the familiar lines of the WWII Tokarev 7.62mm auto pistol were seen in a new version, and the Makarov 9x18 double-action pistol was shown in a Chinese look-alike.

While some of the Chinese long guns and ammo are going to be imported by a midwest firm, there is no word yet on the availability of the handguns.

While we're on the subject of new guns, word has come from Bill Grover (Texas Longhorn Guns, 6833 S. Gessner, Houston, TX 77036) that he will soon be in production with his right-handed, single-action revolvers. What's a right-handed single-action? According to Bill, his revolvers have the loading gate, ejector rod and housing on the left side of the gun. Again, according to Bill, this means that when you load, fire, and eject, the gun never leaves your right hand!

Bill is offering three models: the *Texas Border Special* with a 3½ inch barrel and bird's head grip, the *South Texas Army* with a 4¼ inch barrel, and the *West Texas Flat Top* with a 7½ inch barrel. Calibers run from .32-20 to .44 Magnum. Only 1,000 of each model will be made, and the price for each gun is \$1,500.

MODEL 19 CONVERSION

Some time ago, I mentioned a cylinder conversion of the S&W M19 that permitted the use of .357, .38, .380, 9mm, and 9mm Win. Mag. cartridges interchangeably. We have been informed that the conversion is now in production, and you can have your M19 converted for about \$250.

Full information is available from Phillips and Bailey, POB 21253, Houston, TX 77218. We will have a test report on this conversion in a forthcoming issue.

We have one of the new Dan Wesson M40 revolvers in the field, being tested. This is the big frame model chambered for the .357 Maximum cartridge. Several features of the gun will be covered in more detail in our test report. For example, the gun comes with several warnings about the possibility of the hot gasses cutting the topstrap and the forcing cone. The topstrap cutting seems to be no problem. It looks heavier than any other we've seen. Dan Wesson has an answer to the forcing cone problem, too. When it begins to effect accuracy, simply install the extra eight-inch barrel, which comes with the gun! Look for our test report soon.



INFO 'QUICKIE'

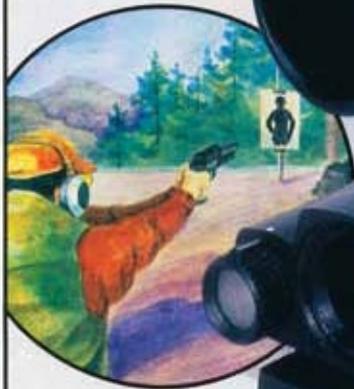
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