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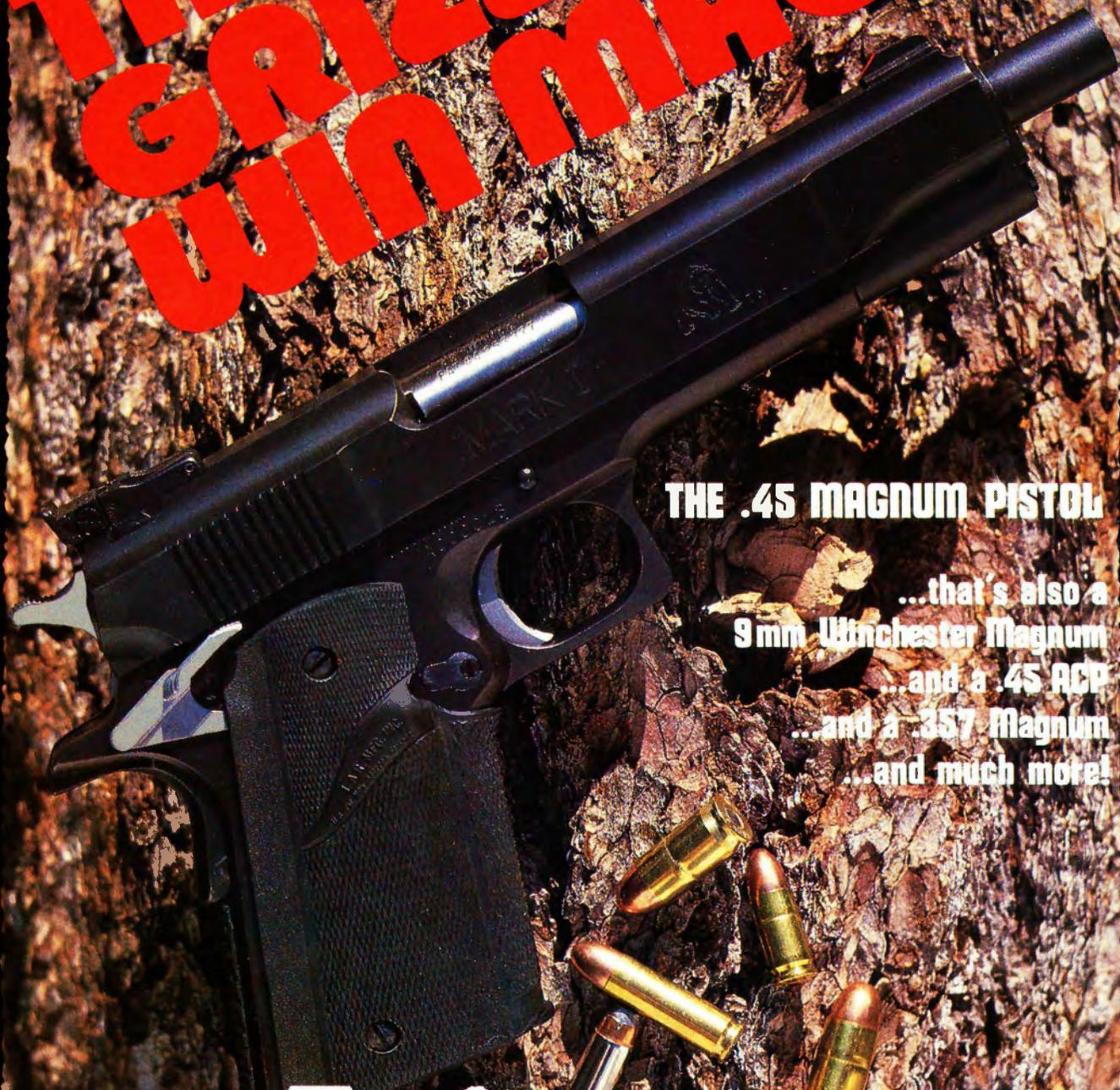
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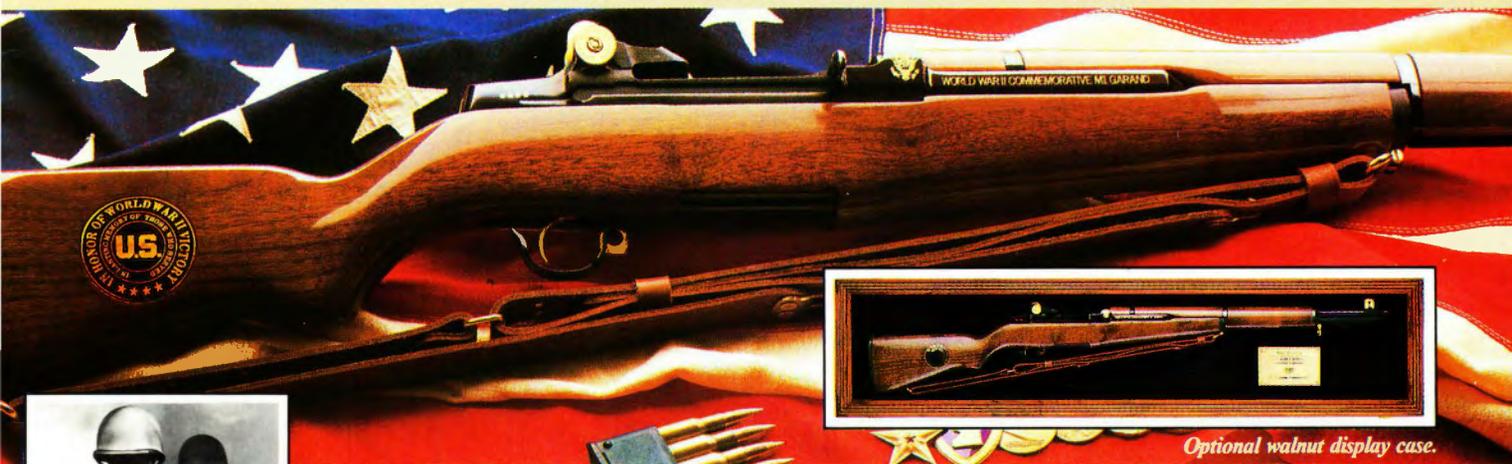
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The Cover: LAR's Grizzly pops through the page. Photo: Nick Karras

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PISTOLSMITHING

JOHN G. LAWSON

**CHIT CHAT IN THE OLE GUN SHOP
CENTERS AROUND AUTOLOADERS**

The hand-lettered sign above the coffee urn fluttered in a gentle summer breeze that had found its way through a partially open window. "Did you hear about the illegitimate .45 that we took in for repairs?" the note read; "It had a snick and a clack, but no pop!

It was 5:30 PM. For the first time in seven hours the old pistolsmith's shop was completely silent; everyone had said what he had come to say. The lack of dialog was making everyone uncomfortable, but the only sound was an occasional glug of hard core coffee from the overworked and underpaid urn. Finally a visiting mechanical engineer from Seattle broke the deadlock.

"I can't understand why there are so many kinds of recoil systems and so many different weights of recoil springs available for auto-loading pistols." Suddenly, everybody was talking at once.

"Pistols," the old gunsmith answered, "come from the factory with recoil springs balanced for commercial hardball loads. If a shooter handloads his ammo to reduced levels, uses lighter bullets or increases the loading density to accepted combat levels, he may experience malfunctions in extraction, ejection or feed that can only be overcome by exchanging the factory recoil spring for one that restores the gun to a reliable, functioning piece."

"A heavier spring feeds most shapes of bullet reliably by forcing them up the ramp and into battery," the engineer volunteered.

"That's the danger!" the gunsmith replied. "Even with a hard taper crimp, most bullets will recede to some degree if they are slammed against a feed ramp with too steep an angle by a more powerful spring."

"Well, then, the fault seems to lie with the angle of the ramp and not with spring tension at all."

"Not altogether true. Sometimes the heavier spring solves difficult feed problems like those you encounter in a frame that locks the magazine in a slightly low position. On the other hand, the heavier springs often cause primer dimpling or, in extreme cases, machine gunning."

"Another problem can be reduced case capacity due to bullet setback during feed that could result in increased or dangerous pressure levels."

"Well, I see that you have extra tension firing pin springs, hammer springs, sear springs, plunger springs and magazine springs in your display case. Don't these compensate for the use of heavier recoil springs?"

"Yes," one of the crowd chimed in, "but then every time you change your load, you will have to detail strip your pistol and re-install a different set of springs!"

"Or, keep it as a single load level weapon." Several men murmured agreement.

"I'm willing to lose some versatility to insure a reliable combat pistol, but just what is available and how do I go about deciding which parts to use?" the engineer sounded puzzled.

"You should give your pistolsmith a few dummy rounds and enough loaded rounds for a function test. He is the best judge of feed ramp angle for a given combination. You lose some support at the rear of the chamber when the angle is lessened, so this has to be held to an absolute minimum, or avoided if at all possible. Commander recoil springs come in 20, 22, 24, and 26 and 30 pounds. Government Model springs come in 18½, 20, 22, 24, 26 and 30 pounds. Hi Power springs are available in 20 and 22 pound levels and Model 39/59 springs in 18, 20, and 22 pounds."

"What about recoil buffers?"

"Well, the old spring plunger style "buffers" are actually at their best with very light loads, because they give the slide an initial extra forward thrust from the full recoil position that helps feed rounds being pushed by a light spring. My tests have shown that they don't do much to help curb recoil from heavy loads."

"What prevents frame damage from heavy combat loads?"

"The heavier springs, the neoprene, rubber or polymer buffer washers and the rod style spring guides that protrude through a hole in the spring plug."

"What about the long rod guide systems? Are they really useful, or are they just a gimmick?" Harry asked.

"They have some definite uses. They add a bit of friction to slightly retard functioning . . . so slight, however, it would take electronic instruments to measure the difference. The best feature of one kind is the double or triple springs on the rod with a built in polymer buffer. This kind of recoil system, and to a certain extent the single spring types, will tighten a loose slide into uniform battery position and will often be the only way to keep the frame from scraping all of the bluing off the slide where it recedes into the frame during recoil. Some people even claim that it keeps the recoil spring from humping and scraping the barrel bottom and keeps a spring from kinking, but I've very seldom seen a kinked or badly worn spring that is due

to that, when the shooter was really pinned down. I've seen quite a few damaged by improper handling and accidents. The little pre-war Colt pocket pistol will kink a recoil spring if the slide is re-assembled too slowly to the frame. Sometimes the spring will bow or kink right out through the ejection port!"

"What about muzzle brakes and all of that genre of appended anti-recoil devices?"

"Yeah, do they really work?"

"All of them that I've tested work to some degree. When I mounted the pistols on a Ransom Rest, I rigged a ruler and traveling cursor to record the height of recoil. One that I was impressed with because it took the sharp jolt out of recoil proved to be badly misaligned with the line of the bore. The bullet was scraping the top of the tube and actually giving the pistol a forward momentum to counter some recoil. You can draw your own conclusions about accuracy. Some others rely on porting or spring loaded parts or strange shapes of chambers that harken back to primitive silencer designs. They all work to some degree."

"Isn't the principal advantage the addition of a bit of weight forward?"

"It seems to be in the non-ported types. There is a definite down thrust with some ported devices, though."

"Hoo-wee!" Harry motioned frantically toward the door of the shop. A kind of thick silence fell over the group around the coffee urn as every eye watched the door open and a well proportioned young lady entered, then walked to the counter where the gunsmiths were standing. She produced a well worn Model 10 2" from her purse and asked: "Could one of you check my headspace?"

Harry inhaled his mouthful of coffee and went into a coughing spasm that, happily, covered the spontaneous explosion of snickers and titters that escaped despite hard bitten tongues.

"Well," said Harry, "I gotta go."

"Uh-huh," the engineer replied. "I think your Mama is calling you."



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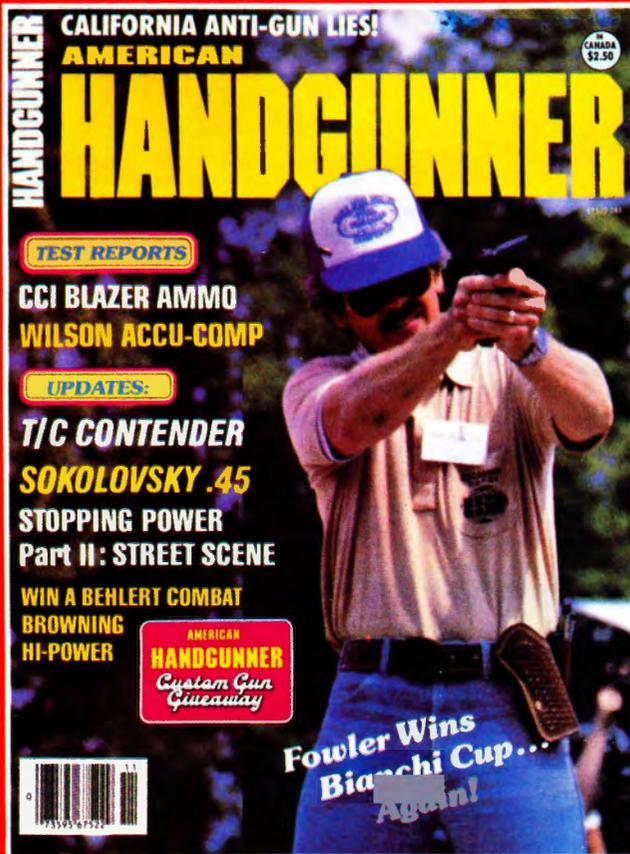
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DO COPS NEED IPSC TRAINING?

A category to make street guns competitive could make IPSC shooting the best bet for departmental law enforcement training.

By Evan Marshall

Fifteen years ago when I qualified prior to graduation from the police academy, it was accomplished on the traditional bullseye targets. While this is no longer the case in my department, law enforcement firearms training is generally found to be behind the state of the art.

I recently attended the annual meeting of the International Association Of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors, where one of the speakers was Bill Vanderpool of the FBI's Firearms Training Unit. He showed a video tape of their adoption of the Weaver stance as part of their program. The general reaction among the firearms instructors present was not agreement or disagreement with this policy, but "What the Hell is the Weaver Stance?" If sizable percentages of those indi-

viduals responsible for law enforcement firearms training are not aware of this stance, it's not surprising that law enforcement weapons training is in such a bad state.

Part of the problem, of course, is that the people responsible for police weapons training are often chosen for the wrong reason. These jobs are often given to friends, relatives, or even to officers who can't get along anywhere else. Even worse, police ranges are often run for the convenience of the range crew, not to provide training. Tragically, range crews frequently become inflexible bureaucracies that refuse to adapt to more realistic techniques. The result, of course, is the "qualification" of officers who genuinely believe that they are now capable of surviving a shootout.

There are basically two formalized styles of shooting competition that are advocated as practical for law enforcement personnel. The first is the PPC. Introduced by the FBI prior to World War II, it was a radical departure from the norm. Unfortunately, while it was a move in the right direction, it is sadly lacking in practicality. The faults of the PPC are well known, and include: time limits on the various stages that are too long; all targets are directly in front of the competitor at known, fixed distances; only single targets are engaged; loads and weapons bear little resemblance to those carried on the street; many of the positions (sitting, prone, barricade) are generally impractical on the street, and equipment used is rarely relevant

Continued on page 67



IPSC shares with PPC reluctance to require use of proper cover.



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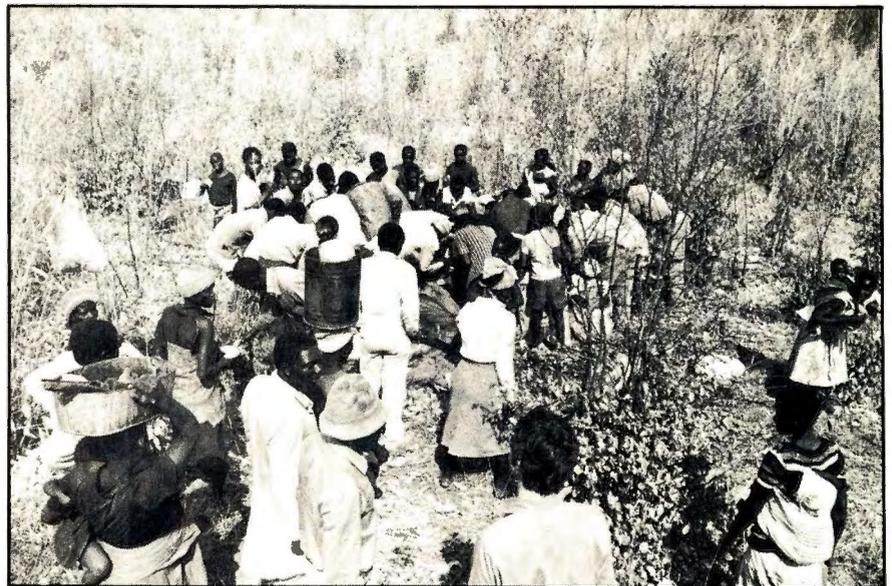
Late last summer, in the dreaded Tsetse fly infested area of the Zambesi river valley of northern Zimbabwe, two handgun hunters accompanied by their professional hunter and trackers were driving along in a land rover.

Dawn has just broken. The plan was to find elephant spoor at a waterhole and follow it up. Elephant usually move out at a good rate of speed and the footsore hunters were reluctant to think of working out the kinks before the already strained muscles faced another hard days walking in pursuit of that certain elephant that would satisfy government regulations and the hunters' expectations.

It seemed almost simultaneously that M'Koni, Mark and I looked to the left and spotted a herd of elephants. Even after we stopped, the elephants continued to drift in and out of sight through the bush, trees and mist. It was deathly still. A handful of dust slowly sifted through the hand merely emphasized the lack of air current. In elephant hunting those conditions can get you killed if a stray wind current takes your scent in the wrong direction at the wrong time.

tures and brought up the rear. Hunt, our tracker, flitted about to our left. Mark rechecked his T/C to make sure he had a 300 grain solid up the spout of the .375 JDJ. I tried to take a few photos during the stalk but had slow film behind the 200 MM lens of the Nikon. The slide camera was OK for film speed but not equipped with a motor drive.

After as quiet an approach as possible it became obvious the elephants were close. The noise of limbs being ripped from trees grew louder. Hunt stopped, took off his Goodyear sandals, slung them over his axe handle and rolled up his pantlegs as high as he could get them. That was the sure sign that all hell could break loose and Hunt wasn't going to be around if it did. Five elephant materialized fifty yards to our left. We quickly moved to our right in a circling manner. Our course and the elephants merged in a head-on confrontation. The bull looked ideal. He was totally unaware of our presence. At 30 yards he took a chew from a Mopani and seemed to look directly at us. Maybe it is just my imagination, but he seemed to see us and headed directly toward us at a brisk pace; not out of sorts, but in a curious manner. At a brisk



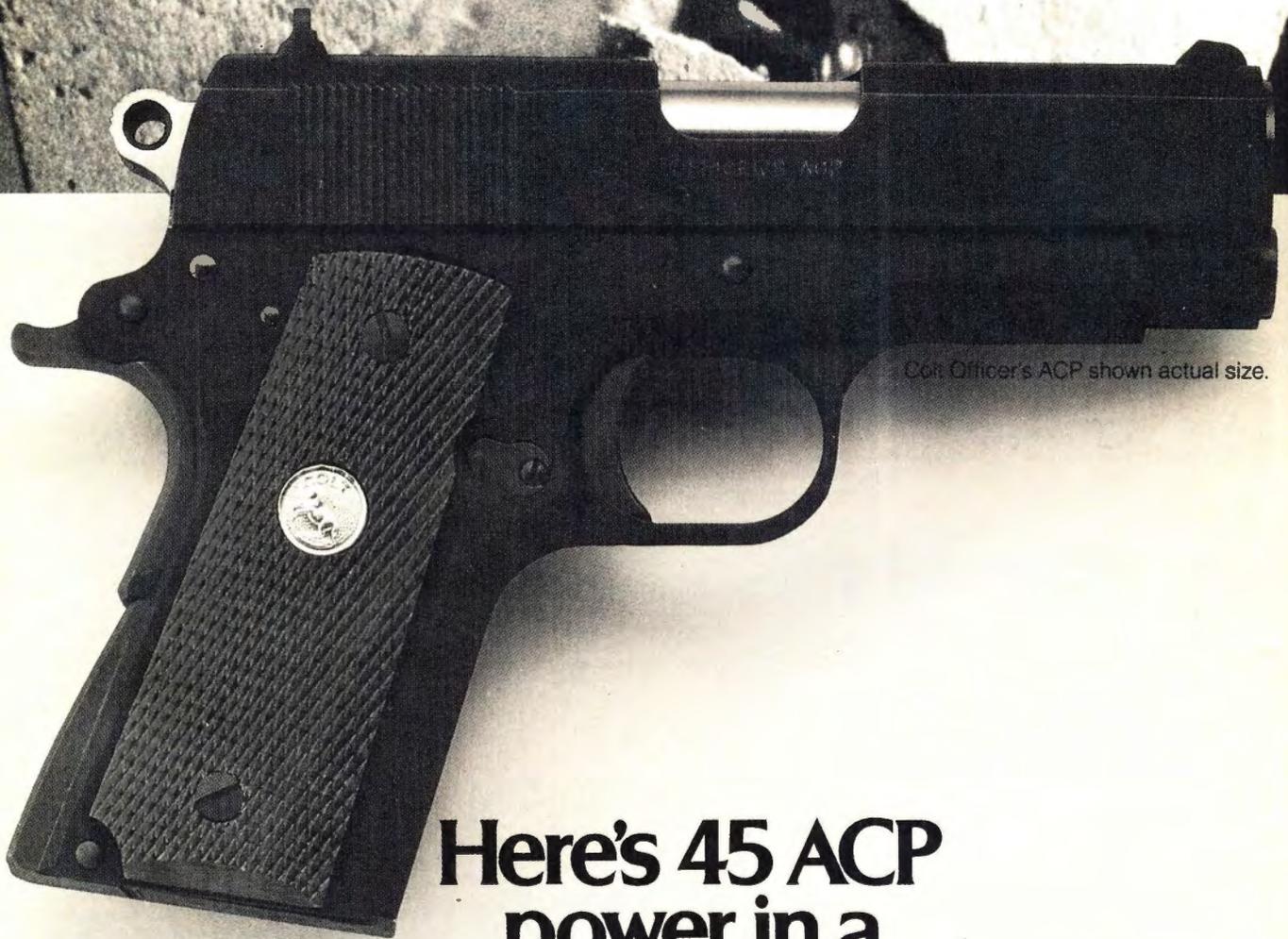
Natives quickly gather at the site of an elephant kill for the free meat.

The herd was feeding at a leisurely rate, heading in a southerly direction. One of the bulls looked interesting and he was in the lead; certainly an advantage for the hunter compared to one that is back inside the herd.

After a quick conference we set out at a ground-eating pace intended to put us into position for a positive intercept. M'Koni, the professional hunter, led. Mark, the hunter-shooter, closely followed. I got to take pic-

pace an elephant covers 10 yards in about three steps. Through the 200 MM lens he looked really close. I kept Mark in the edge of the field of view; saw the T/C swing up and at the shot triggered the motor drive as the elephant instantly collapsed—stone dead before he hit the ground sixteen paces ahead of Mark. At four frames per second the camera captured him on the way down and as he

Continued on page 12



Colt Officer's ACP shown actual size.

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HANDGUN HUNTING

Continued from page 10

hit the ground. That's quick!

Mark walked around behind him and gave him another in the top of the head—just to make sure. After taking photos we made it to the truck and headed for a native village about 10K from the elephant. M'Koni loaded 29 adults into the back of the Toyota Land Cruiser pickup and transported them to the elephant. Rules of the game called for them to wait until the tusks were pulled and skinning completed before digging in. By that time over 50 adults were waiting for the "go" signal.

At the signal all except the smallest babies dug in with a vengeance. Believe me, it was a sight to behold. A large number of native Africans suffer from malnutrition and are very grateful and appreciative of any gift of food. This group was certainly no exception. The elephant literally melted like butter under their onslaught. Remember, these people are destitute and had to manually carry every scrap to their homes. As we left we found natives 15K away walking toward the kill carrying their containers, knives, axes and the ever present babies wrapped in blankets on their backs.

Four hours later the ground was bloody where the elephant had been. All that remained were its genitals, two femurs, part of the pelvis and a small part of the skull.

In camp that evening over tea the conversation revolved around anti-hunters and their efforts to stop hunting worldwide while knowing very little about the subject of game management or conservation. Some of the recent letters in the *Handgunner* regarding my hunting—both pro and con—came into the conversation. I frankly don't much give a damn if someone doesn't like my hunting or me for that matter. It's a fact of life that neither I nor anyone else can or even wants to please everyone; but I think that you should know that in Africa or anywhere else we hunt food isn't wasted. Hunters in Africa give an enormous amount of food to starving people. I'd venture to say a hell of a lot more than those who cry "Stop Hunting!" As I see it, it's only common sense to say "thank you" for a gift. These people thank you so genuinely and profusely it's almost embarrassing. It makes you think a bit when you first see a child chewing on a piece of raw intestine. Africa is a harsh land. Life, including human life, is pretty cheap—in fact human life is the cheapest in many areas.

Take Mark for example. He paid a healthy air fare to get to Africa, and \$400 a day covered his daily rate while hunting. The trophy fee for the elephant was \$1,500. He threw a hell of a party for a bunch of people he had never seen before. We figured that few seconds of intense interest cost him a cool five grand. He'll probably get a lot of criticism for killing that elephant, but the only thing I'll criticize about it is that even though he threw a hell of a party he didn't even buy any beer!



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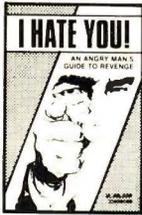
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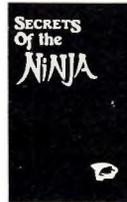
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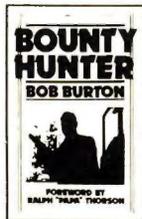
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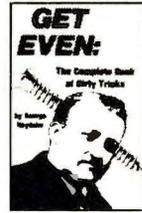
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COP TALK

MASSAD AYOOB

AYOOB: THE GUN IS NOT A WEAPON; THE MIND IS THE DEADLY WEAPON

I am very tired as I sit here writing this column. I return from a debriefing on the death of a police officer. He went into a place where there was known danger. He heard shots fired. He continued moving in, his gun still in his holster. The killer saw him first. The officer died with his gun still strapped in its leather.

It doesn't matter what sort of gun either of them had. What matters is their minds. One was poised and ready, with a gun that delivered a fraction of the shock power of the cop's weapon. The other was not ready for a gunfight, and when he was caught up in it, that lack of mental preparation cost him his life.

Let me tell you now what I have told so many cops in my classes: *The gun is not the weapon. The gun is merely a tool. The mind is the weapon!*

Man is a predator, the most highly evolved predator on the Planet Earth. Yet most of us are Civilized Man. The average civilian does nothing more predatory in his daily life than pounce on a frozen chicken in the supermarket, steal the Palmolive account from Benton, Batton, and Barton ad agency, or play the occasional game of Pac Man.

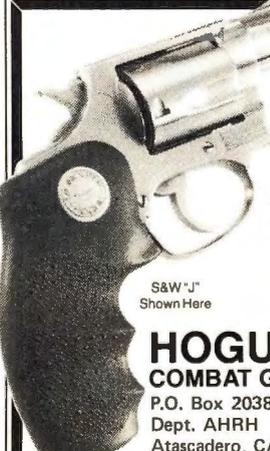
The cop is more predatory than that. Those of us who carry the badge laugh when dramatists call us "manhunters," yet that in fact is what we are. Our warrant for arrest is a hunting license, even though we intend to take our quarry alive. When we work traffic patrol we joke about "chasing taillights," yet in fact we are following the spoor of the traffic—the taillights that are weaving, the headlights that don't dim for oncoming traffic—seeking clues for the drunk drivers we are going to pull over, arrest, and deprive of

their freedom as surely as Frank Buck ever did to any wild animal he captured. The only difference is the duration of the captivity.

Yet we fail to forget that sometimes, in the dark, we are stalking the one creature more predatory than ourselves: Feral Man. The criminal is nothing less than that, a man gone feral, back to the wild, away from society's laws and responding only to primeval needs of gratification and satiation, and the impetus of his own survival, no matter who must die to ensure that survival.

Nothing in modern life prepares you for that, not even the Police Academy. Yet the officer must understand one terrible truth that I try to hammer into every cop who sits before me in a lecture hall or on a training range: "If you patrol a neighborhood of 3,000 people and the newest incarnation of Charles Manson or Richard Speck strikes tonight, the citizen in that sector has only one chance in three thousand of facing that human monster. But if you are on patrol in that sector, and someone sees what's happening in time to call the police, *your* chances of facing him approach 100 percent!"

Notice I used the term "human monster." The key word there is not "monster" but "human." In my book, "The Truth About Self Protection," I compare hard criminals with werewolves. Yet, remember, the werewolf has a human mind. I see instructors who refer to criminals as "trolls" and "ogres" and "goblins." Such an instructor is preparing his people for gunfights in the Enchanted Forest, not the streets of America. One cannot fight an enemy one does not understand. This is why I go into prisons and debrief convicted criminals: to get into their minds, and trans-



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fer that knowledge to my students.

I am often asked two questions when I teach gunfighting, to classes as large as 200 cops: "How many armed encounters have you been in?" "How many people have you killed?"

Armed encounters? I've faced about twenty people over the gun, all in situations where they made it clear that they had the ability and opportunity to place my life in jeopardy. Kills? None. I've never had to fire a gun at a human being, because every man I faced in an armed encounter knew that I would kill him with the gun I already had levelled at him if he moved forward with his knife or reached for his gun. This is not a lot of encounters; I know cops in heavy action precincts who have lost count of their armed encounters that did not involve actual gunfire. I had to think for awhile to tabulate mine. Lawyers have told me I could have killed three or four of these people and gotten off on Justifiable Homicide.

Those people did not freeze obediently just because I had a gun. The most obsequiously-surrendering suspect I ever pointed a gun at was looking at my little J-frame 2" revolver; the most belligerent, at my issue Ithaca 12-gauge police shotgun. The first thought I was going to kill him for being a burglar caught red-handed, the second was an armed robbery suspect who didn't think I'd kill him in front of the multiple civilian witnesses so long as he didn't actually touch a gun of his own. Only when I made it clear to him that he would die in another second otherwise, did he finally obey my commands to put his hands against the side of his van.

The officer I spoke about in the beginning of this column may have felt that drawing his gun was too ominous an act. I will never know what he really felt until I find a spirit medium who can conduct seances with dead cops. I do know that he might have been alive if his gun had been in his hand when danger beckoned. He was a qualified pistol shot . . . but had any instructor ever taught him the mentality of combat?

Does it matter if that officer carried a .38 or a .357 revolver, a .45 auto or a 9mm.? The choice of the gun is the least concern. The most important thing is training the officer to understand that when faced with deadly danger, he or she must draw the service handgun and be prepared to use it to the gravest extreme, if necessary, to preserve their life and the lives of the innocent they are sworn to protect.

This column is not here just to talk about guns; this column is here to talk to human beings who use guns for serious purposes. Within that context, it must never be forgotten that the whole thing begins with the mind, and that the trigger finger and the gun it controls are secondary or tertiary considerations at best in survival of violent human encounters.

This article may not be what you expected to read here. In a sense, it's a test. If you wish to learn more about mental conditioning for violent encounters, let the editors know. They're receptive. So am I.



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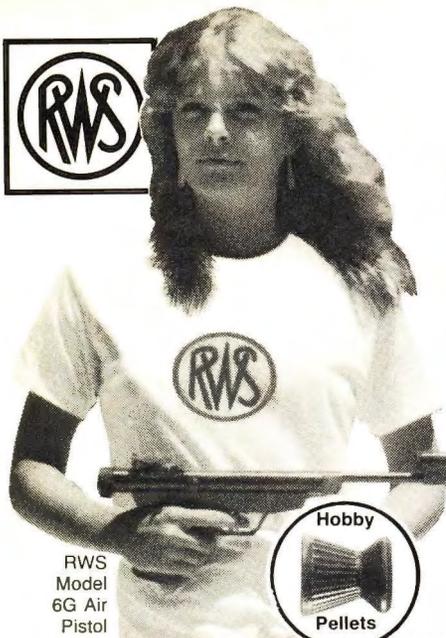
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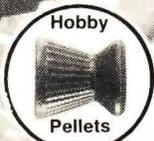
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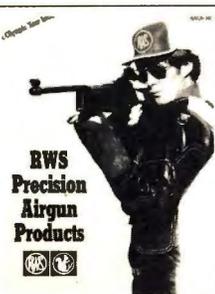


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HANDLOADING

DAN COTTERMAN

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Lyman Products Corp., Rt. 147, Middlefield CT 06455, has avenged the handloader's blind reliance on the accuracy of his powder scale by introducing a \$19.95 check-weight set. It consists of ten weights, made in accordance with National Bureau of Standards tolerances. The weights are .5-grain, 1-grain, 2 grains, 5 grains, 10 grains, 20 grains, 50 grains, and 100 grains. (The 2 and 20-grain weights are pairs.) By using the weights singly and in combination, it's possible to check a scale over a 210-grain range, from .5 to 210.5.

Such a check is critical to the success and safety of handloads for obvious reasons. What is perhaps less obvious is that sophisticated, state-of-the-art scales and simple single-beam scales alike, can go wrong after they leave the factory.

A letter just received from Fred Huntington, Sr., founder of RCBS, confirm the foregoing. He tells of a severely bulged chamber following the firing of what he thought were standard loads, taken from a reloading manual. Huntington's handloads were, however, far from what the manual recommended, for an error in weighing had caused the powder charges to be about five grains too heavy!

You'd think that couldn't happen with a new dial-type, double-beam scale. However, as Huntington explained, one of the movable parts had gotten off to a side, which fact had gone unnoticed, and a dangerous weighing error had resulted.

The worst of it is that, as the man puts it, "A scale can be correct at 5 grains, off at 50, back on at 60, and so on." It's a good idea, therefore, to check the accuracy of any powder scale, especially if it's been in use for a while.

High-tech scales are not necessarily more reliable. For instance, I like the \$34 C-H "Tri-Poise." Its poises tune the beam in three increments: 1/10th-grain, 1-grain, and 10-grain. I checked it for accuracy, using the Lyman set of weights, and was relieved to find that it was right on at all weight combinations.

What do you do, though, if you discover your scale to be inaccurate? Lyman's Ken Ramage adamantly recommends returning it to the factory.

We don't, as a general rule, publish information from persons who wish to remain

anonymous. However, the following from a deputy sheriff with over ten years' service to his credit, is considered too valuable to omit. His reasons for asking that his name be withheld will become apparent as you read this report.

"I doubt that the heavy-vs-light loads controversy will be satisfactorily answered until a medium which is satisfactory to both sides can be found. One thing that I believe favors the use of heavy bullets is that in actual situations there is seldom a chance for a clear shot at any unprotected 'criminal.' This man usually has some form of cover between the muzzle of your gun and his vitals, whether it's an automobile door, or even the auto itself. He'll also use the cover of a building, tree, or other object, which must be penetrated to reach him—and you had damn well better have something to hide behind yourself! The better law enforcement agencies teach this very well.

"I have only been in one deadly situation involving a high-speed chase of armed robbery suspects. There was a crash and a shootout in which one criminal was killed, but it was my 12-gauge shotgun and my partner's .357 Python that did this man in.

One other shootout, between an armed robber and a civilian, I believe merits mention, is the case of the armed robber fleeing the scene of the crime. He was approximately 140-150 pounds, 5 feet, four inches tall, and was fleeing when the civilian ordered him to halt. He turned and fired a .22 at the civilian, who then fired a .45 Automatic loaded with military hardball ammunition. The bullet entered the right side about four inches under the armpit. It exited the other side almost at the same height and was hardly deformed. The effect of this shot was almost instantaneous.

"There are several loads I regularly use, depending on which gun I am carrying. For .38 Special: 125-grain jacketed hollow or solid in my Bodyguard Airweight S&W Model 38; 158-grain jacketed hollow or solid in my Bodyguard (steel) S&W Model 49. For .357 Magnum: 158-grain hollow or solid. Also, the Speer 148-grain hollow-base wadcutter with a gascheck seated over the nose and backed by 10.0 grains of AL-5. This bullet is loaded backwards; a cup point! Alberts 148-grain Hydra-Shock is also an excellent choice for the .38 or .357, as is Lyman's 358156 gas check using 2400. For .44 Special: Manstopper bullets or 225-grain Speer jacketed hollow-points using 5.6 grains of W-W 231. For .44 Magnum: 240-

Continued on page 20



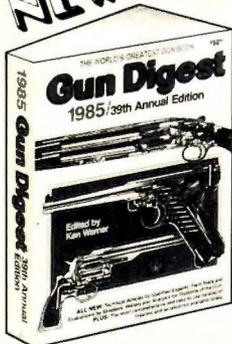
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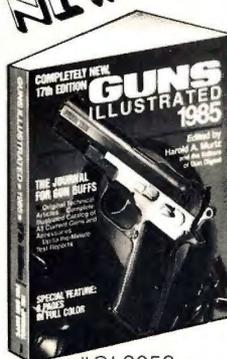
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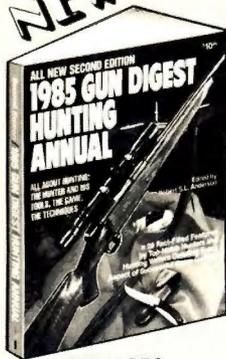
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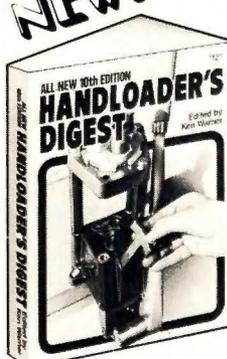
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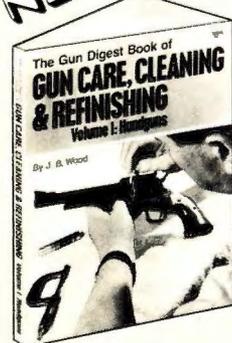
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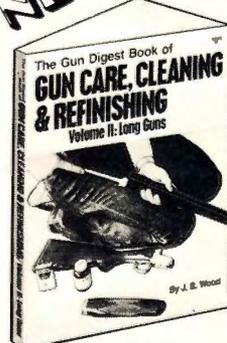
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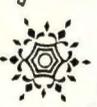
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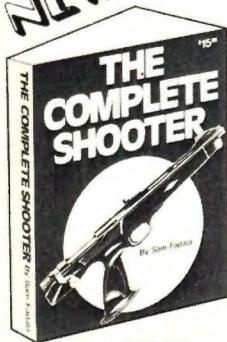
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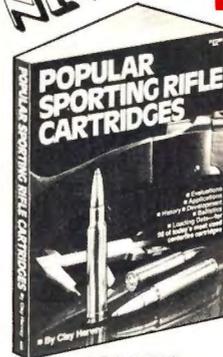
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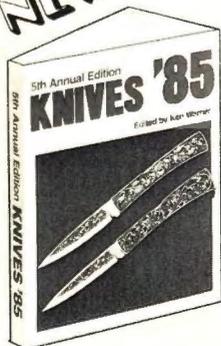
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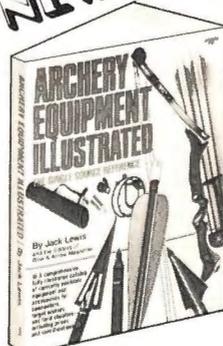
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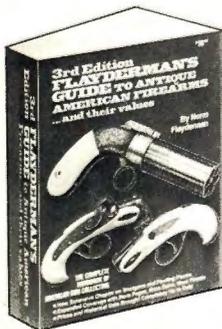
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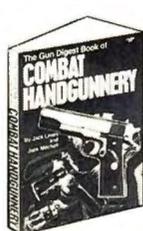
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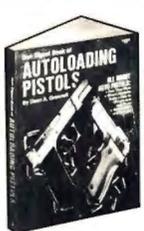
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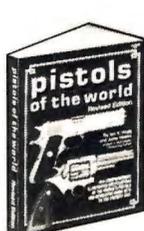
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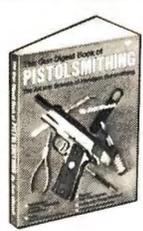
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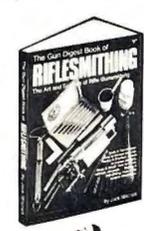
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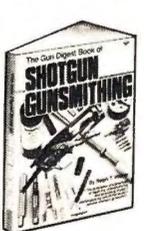
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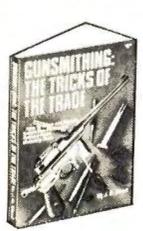
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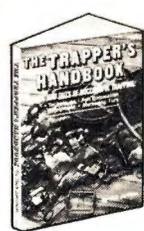
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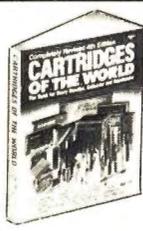
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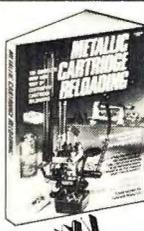
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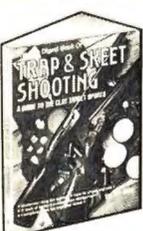
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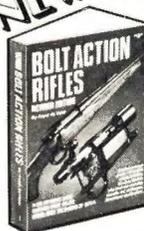
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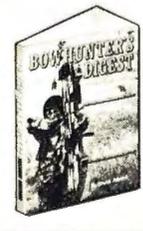
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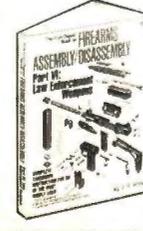
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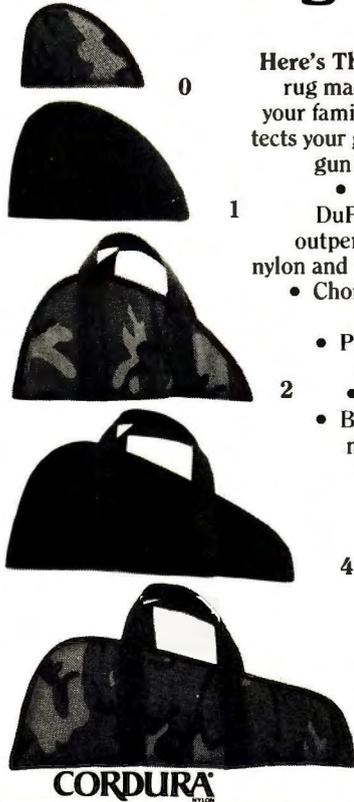
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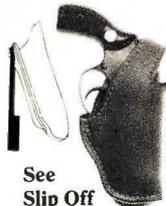


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HANDLOADING

Continued from page 16

grain jacketed solids or Lyman's 240-grain 429421, Keith-type, gas check.

"I believe that what this basically boils down to is using the heaviest bullet in the heaviest loading which is safe for your weapon, but which you can also comfortably control for accurate first and fast follow-up shots. I even carry an extra loading of .44 Magnum ammo using full-metal-jacket silhouette bullets in case I have to flush out a suspect from behind oil drums, concrete block walls, etc. I'm going to hunt cover and make *him* move, rather than taking a chance on trying for better position and getting shot!"

This officer's comments on the effectiveness of various bullet types and weights are well taken. However, since he didn't mention specific charge weights and powders for some of the bullets he uses, I'll list a couple that have worked well for me. None of the soft-lead, cup-point bullets have to be fired at high velocities to be effective in relatively soft media, although they're not much for penetration at handgun velocities. Realizing this, one can load them as special-use bullets that provide the advantages of low recoil and quick recovery for follow-up shots. A magnum case isn't necessary for this level of loading. I like 3.0 grains of either HP-38 or Red Dot behind the Hydra-Shock or the inverted Speer hollow-base in .38 Special loads. Both powders stand sufficiently high on the burning-rate list to be effective in barrels ranging in length from two to six inches. Velocities are moderate, usually between 600 and 750 fps, depending on barrel length and other factors, but this takes little from short-range performance.

A few years ago, I reported the effectiveness of graphite soft gas checks in reducing bore leading. Soon thereafter, the firm that distributed the sheets discontinued operations. However, the idea of using soft gas checks to reduce leading has blossomed again. This time the medium is a modern wax formula that is sold in thin 3" x 6" sheets. The stuff is thumbpressed against the mouth of the case, over the powder charge, after which the bullet is seated. It's important to let the bullet push the wax plug on in, because at no time should there be space between it and the base of the bullet. I've tested these wax gas checks with several loads involving soft lead bullets and have determined that leading is reduced. The wax maintains full contact with the bore, then is vaporized as it exits the muzzle. It seems to work as well as graphite, and at a lower cost. Boxes of 20 sheets each are available for \$10, postpaid in the U.S., from CF Ventures, Dept. AH, 509 Harvey Dr., Bloomington, IN 47401.

The address for sharing your comments on handloading tools and components as well as tips on better handloads is Handloading, Rt. 1, Box 7, Llano, CA 93544.

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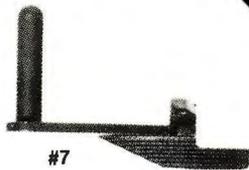


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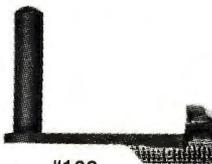
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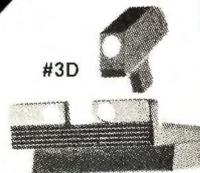
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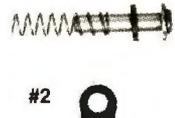
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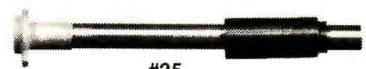
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CARRY GUN MODIFICATIONS

A select panel of experts tell what they would and wouldn't do to an auto pistol before banking their life on it.

By Greg Moats

Participants in practical shooting have found themselves on the cutting edge of defensive weapon-craft technology. By not cluttering the rules with numerous limitations on weapons and accessories, a spontaneous evolution has resulted. Course design has caused a natural selection process; things that work are improved and expanded, things that don't work are dropped. Due to this *laissez faire* procedure, equipment used in these events has evolved from the single action revolver (used in the earliest days when the sport was little more than an expanded fast-draw) through the double action revolver phase to today's standard of semi-automatic pistols. While this evolution has resulted in equipment and refinements that would make John Browning feel humbled, it has also caused a good deal of confusion as to which alterations are necessary and which are frivolous. As in any management decision, one must look at the alternatives in terms of what are absolute criteria and what are desirable criteria. Let's face it, the Model 1911A1 .45 Auto is very adequate as a defensive handgun as it comes out of the box; most of the refinements made for it are designed to make it easier and more comfortable to handle well, few are designed to make it function better.

The plethora of add-ons and equipment has resulted in two dichotomous groups, generally labelled "gamesmen" and "martial-artists." While the gamesmen look at practical shooting as a sport, trying to get every advantage they can to shave a second off their time or add a point to their score, the martial-artists tend to look at the events as scored street fights and therefore take a pragmatic view of what they would be willing to actually carry into the encounter.

Three of the most prominent "pragmatists" in the practical shooting arena are John Farnham, Ken Hackathorn and Massad Ayoob. While each is a prolific writer on the subject of streetworthy equipment and tactics, we decided to poll all three and compare their responses to questions regarding what



These two autos built by Bud Price reflect thoughts of experts.

makes a good *carry* gun for the typical IPSC competitor.

Question: Should the pistol be a shortened model or a full length version?

Ayoob: It should be shortened if necessary for a small person. If so, I recommend a Commander with a 5" ported barrel. It will carry like a Commander, have the ballistics of a full length Government Model and the recoil of a Browning High Power.

Hackathorn: Probably shortened and if so it should be a Lightweight Commander.

Farnham: It should definitely be shortened.

Question: Should it have fixed sights or adjustable?

Ayoob: It should probably not have adjustable sights; only if the shooter is using many different rounds.

Hackathorn: It should have fixed sights.

Farnham: It should have fixed sights.

Question: What brands of sights do you recommend?

Ayoob: I'm currently using a Bill Wilson fixed sight.

Hackathorn: I like the Swenson and Heinie fixed sights.

Farnham: MMC and Millet make good fixed sights.

Question: What about the front sight configuration and should it have colored inserts?

Ayoob: It should have a serrated ramp front

sight blade. The front blade and the rear sight should both be plain black unless the shooter is a night shift Police Officer, then they should both be white.

Hackathorn: The front sight should be a modified post like the Tappan front blade. For a carry gun, I like the night sights made by Self Powered Lighting Inc. (8 Westchester Plaza, Elmsford, NY 10523).

Farnham: I like either the serrated ramp or the modified post. Colored inserts tend to washout and become hard to see. I like plain black.

Question: What type of thumb safety should it have?

Ayoob: Due to holster availability, I recommend the factory short thumb safety. Thumb break holsters have a tendency to disengage extended or built-up thumb safeties. If the shooter is left handed, I recommend the short Colt ambidextrous safety.

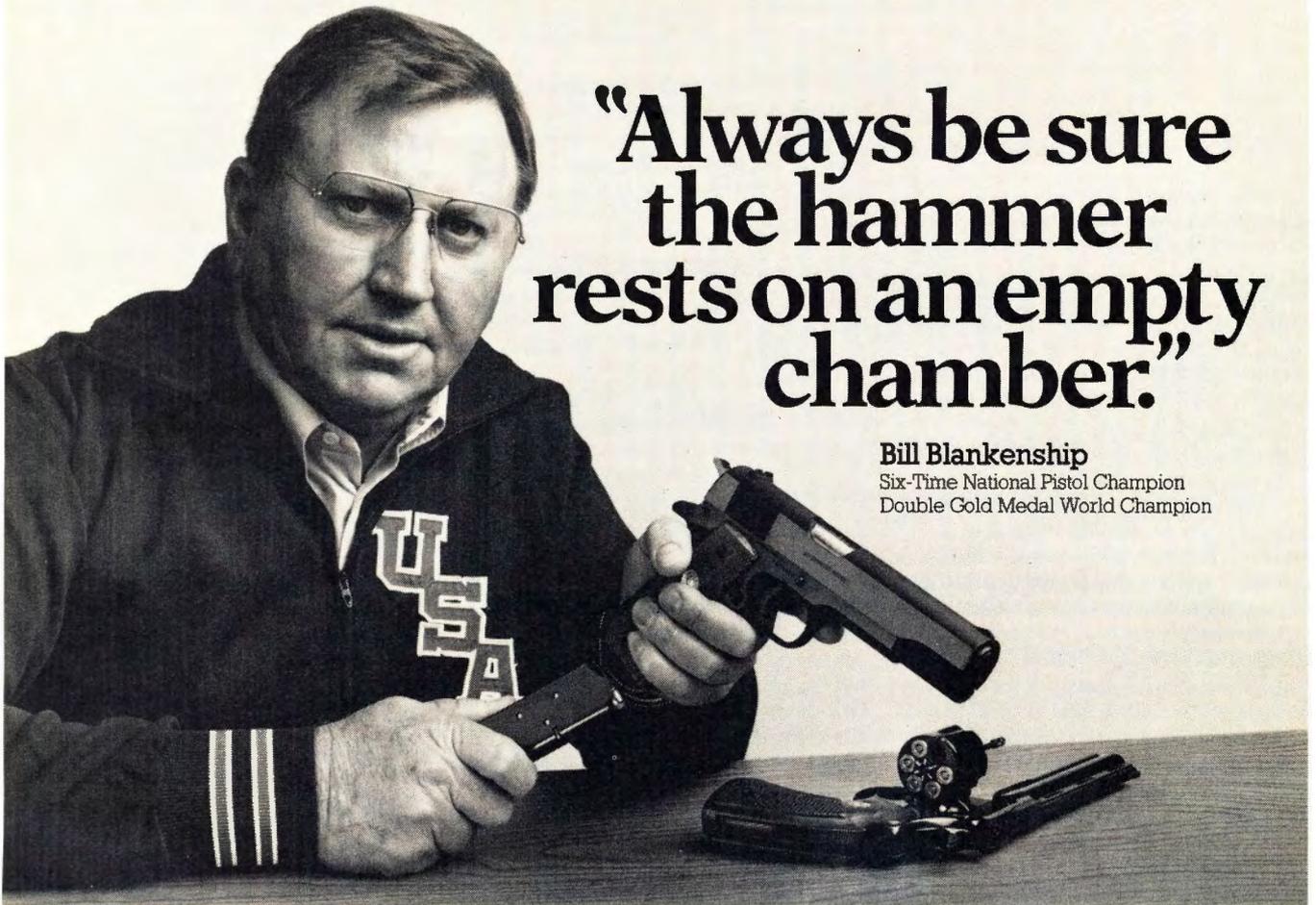
Hackathorn: The standard short safety as it comes from the factory, if the shooter is left handed they should use the short factory ambidextrous safety.

Farnham: The natural swinging of your arms has a tendency to rub against and disengage a left handed safety if worn on the right side of the body, or a right handed safety if worn on the left side of the body. Therefore, I recommend the standard factory safety for a

Continued on page 24

**"Always be sure
the hammer
rests on an empty
chamber."**

Bill Blankenship
Six-Time National Pistol Champion
Double Gold Medal World Champion



Think back about one-hundred and fifty years of handgun history. From the Walker to the famous Single Action Army, to today's MK IV Series 80, good shooters have always known the basics of handgun safety. No safe shooter would point his gun at anything he did not intend to shoot. Nor would he ever carry his sidearm with a chambered round under the hammer unless his situation required this state of readiness. Handgunners have known for years that was dangerous. We must remember today what has been common knowledge for over 150 years.

Shooting is a sport of responsibility, a sport where the equipment absolutely cannot be taken for granted. No matter how classic or modern the firearm, no matter who made it, safety is the byword of our sport.

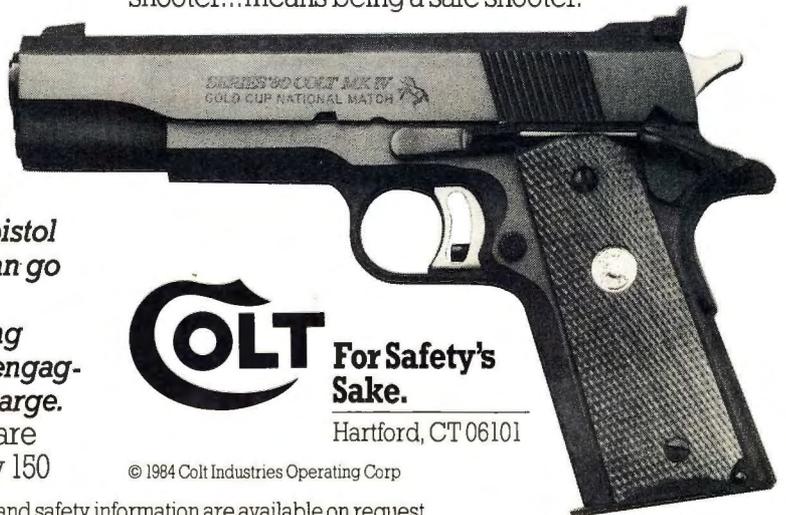
For example, if you drop almost any fully loaded gun, even a Colt Government Model pistol made prior to the MK IV Series 80 pistols, it can go off if it has a round in the chamber.

Also the "half cock" notch is not a carrying safety, because if the hammer is not securely engaged in its notch, the gun can accidentally discharge.

Does this mean that handguns, even Colts, are dangerous? No! But when people don't abide by 150

years of established safety requirements, they can make them dangerous for all of us. And honestly, in this day and age, we should know a lot more about the safe use of our handguns than our forefathers.

Never carry your revolver or automatic with a chambered round. Always read carefully all the literature on gun safety supplied by the manufacturer...and abide by it. Colt, with all of us, loves the sport of shooting. But it is a sport of responsibility. A sport where safety is paramount. Being a good shooter...means being a safe shooter.



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CARRY GUNS

Continued from page 22

right handed shooter and the standard short Colt ambidextrous safety with the outside portion ground off for a left handed shooter. This will leave the ambidextrous portion for them to disengage without the standard side to be accidentally rubbed into an unsafe condition.

Question: **Should it have a beavertail grip safety?**

Ayoob: Yes, I like the MS Safari Arms.

Hackathorn: Yes, probably the MS Safari Arms is as good as any.

Farnham: Yes, I like the Hogue grip safety, the bigger ones seem to get in the way.

Question: **What should be checked?**

Ayoob: I have no preference regarding checking the main spring housing, the front strap probably should not be checked. If the shooter puts his weak hand index finger in front of the trigger guard when he shoots, then it should definitely be checked, if not, then it should definitely not be checked.

Hackathorn: The mainspring housing and the front strap should be checked, the front of the trigger guard should be left alone.

Farnham: I like light, almost smooth checking on the mainspring housing and the front strap, but the trigger guard should not be checked.

Question: **Should the magazine well be funnelled?**

Ayoob: Yes, but not an exaggerated amount.

Hackathorn: Just a standard bevel.

Farnham: It should be bevelled just enough to break a sharp edge and there should definitely be no flares or external funnels.

Question: **What should the trigger pull be?**

Ayoob: It should be no less than 4½ lbs. When holding the pistol at the ready position or when covering a person, you're under extreme stress. Therefore, you don't want too light of a trigger pull.

Hackathorn: The trigger pull should be kept at 4 lbs. to minimize accidental discharges. Anyone putting a trigger pull lighter than 3½ lbs. on a carry gun is making a terrible mistake.

Farnham: The trigger pull should be absolutely no less than 4 lbs. Anything less and you're flirting with disaster.

Question: **Should it have extended or ambidextrous slide releases?**

Ayoob: No! Your hand will hit it while firing and lock the slide back.

Hackathorn: No!

Farnham: No!

Question: **Should the recoil spring be altered?**

Ayoob: Leave the recoil spring alone. You

must have a locked wrist to insure that the pistol will function with a heavy spring and/or a spring guide. John Browning, Colt and history all support the use of the standard 17 lb. recoil spring.

Hackathorn: I like using a heavy spring and a shock buff for both Government Models and Commanders.

Farnham: Heavy springs, spring guides and buffers are unnecessary. The .45 is engineered from the factory to function with hardball, I very strongly recommend leaving all of that other garbage out of the recoil system.

Question: **Should the slide to frame fit be altered?**

Ayoob: No!

Hackathorn: No!

Farnham: As the .45's come from the factory, they're a little cobby, so a little tightening is O.K., however there must be a little slop in the fit to insure reliability.

Question: **Should the barrel and/or bushing be replaced?**

Ayoob: Again, in a Commander I recommend a 5" Colt Government barrel or a Bar-Sto if and only if installed by Irv Stone of Bar-Sto. Irv's installations are 90% of an accuracy job. I like solid bushings properly fitted to be hand tight.

Hackathorn: I don't see a reason to replace the barrel, possibly the bushing, if so then it should be fitted loose enough to be removed without tools.

Farnham: Probably keep the factory barrel, however, absolutely no collet bushings should be used on a carry gun.

Question: **What type of finish or plating should the carry gun have?**

Ayoob: Unless the shooter is on a SWAT team they will want an offender to see it and recognize it when they draw the pistol, therefore I recommend a light colored finish such as Nitex.

Hackathorn: I have no preference on a carry gun, however, I like the look of a two tone finish on most automatics. A hard chromed frame and a blue slide makes for an attractive .45.

Farnham: I like a one tone finish that is as nearly rust proof as it can be.

Question: **What type of grips should be on a carry gun?**

Ayoob: Leave the standard factory grips on it.

Hackathorn: My favorite grips are Aaron Hogue's diamond wood grips.

Farnham: I think that the checkered factory wood grips are fine, I don't like rubber grips. The more the grip approximates the shape of a cylinder, the harder it is for your hand to tell where the barrel is pointing, therefore, I don't like fat grips.

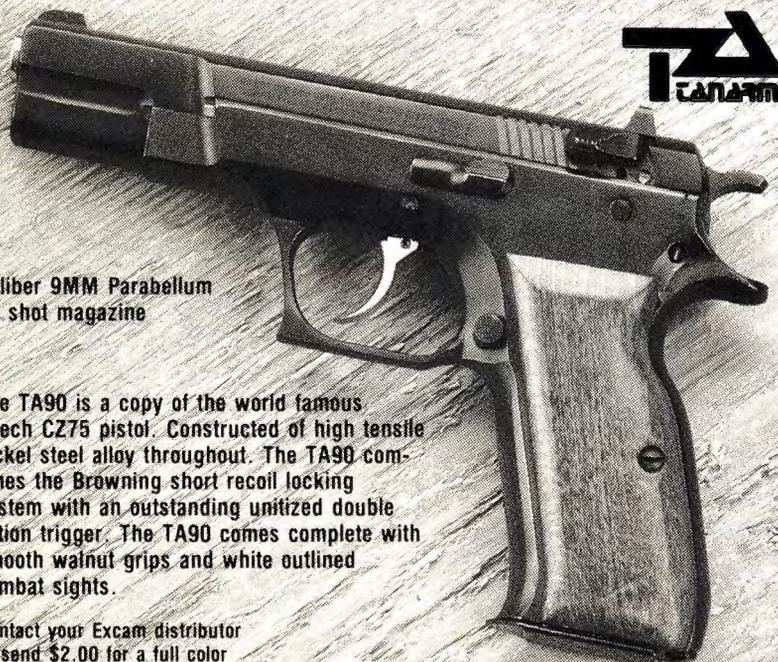
Question: **Are there any other alterations that should be made?**

Ayoob: It should be throated to allow flawless feeding with hollow points.

Hackathorn: The pistol should definitely have the barrel ramp throated and polished. I believe that a heavy firing pin spring should be used on a carry gun; this keeps the firing pin stop from falling down and it also reduces

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the chance of an accidental discharge if the pistol is dropped on its muzzle, and unfortunately carry guns *do* get dropped!

Farnham: The barrel should be throated and I recommend that the ejection port be enlarged, even on a Commander. This is necessary to insure that an entire cartridge can be ejected in case you have a dud round.

Question: What kind of ammo do you recommend be carried in this carry gun?

Ayoob: Due to penetration, hardball is dangerous; I like Federal 185 gr. jacketed hollow points.

Hackathorn: I like 190 gr. SuperVel or Frontier 230 gr. flat points.

Farnham: I go with Winchester 230 gr. hardball or Winchester 185 gr. Silvertip. Occasionally, SuperVel bullets will get set back into the case upon feeding; I might carry one in the chamber but not in the magazine.

Question: What type of holster should this pistol be carried in?

Ayoob: A Bianchi #3 inside the pants holster.

Hackathorn: I like the Milt Sparks Summer Special inside the pants holster.

Farnham: For external strong side carry, Alessi and DeSantis make good carry holsters. For inside the pants holsters, I like Milt Sparks Summer Special.

Bud Price, master pistolsmith from Commerce, Oklahoma, donated his efforts in building two pistols that closely followed these suggestions. These pistols were given as prizes, one for first place and one given in a random drawing, at the IPSC Indoor Championships held in suburban Kansas City on March 17th and 18th, 1984. The identically customized Combat Commanders had checkered mainspring housings and front-straps, checkered at 30 lines per inch. Each was fitted with a long Bill Wilson trigger with an over-travel stop that dropped the hammer crisply at 4 lbs. The pistols were each fitted with fixed Swenson sights and a plain black modified ramp front sight blade. The frames and slides of both pistols sported a silverish, non-glare Metaloy finish, donated by "Metaloy" Industries, Inc. of Berryville, Arkansas. Metaloy not only provides a semi-self-lubricating finish, it also provides a finish that is almost impervious to rust. The pistols were fitted with MS Safari Arms beavertail grip safeties, and although the panel of experts didn't recommend ambidextrous safeties, each was fitted with one in case they were won by a left handed shooter. The end result was a very attractive, "streetworthy," carry gun without all of the "bells and whistles" found on the competition pistols that scare away the tyros.

There's an old maxim that states, "when people are free to do as they please, they frequently imitate each other." Such seems to frequently be the case in the sport of practical shooting, where gadgets are utilized often because everyone else has one. In the case of our panel's recommendations, every alteration has a definite function, based on the expert's experience. Should you follow their advice, you'll have a carry gun that you'll be proud of.



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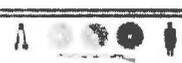
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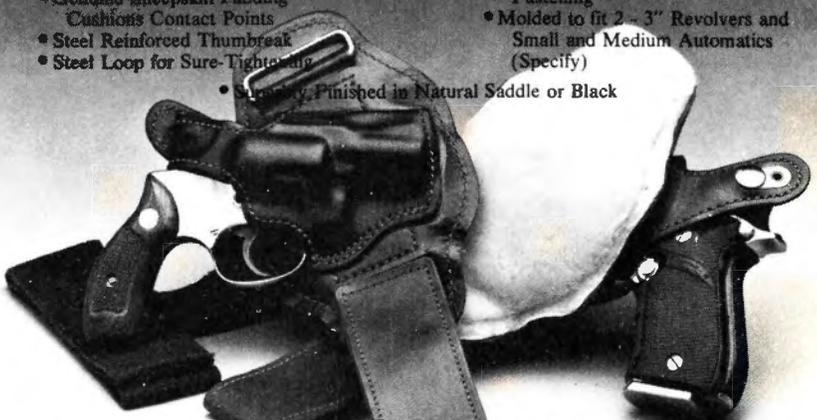


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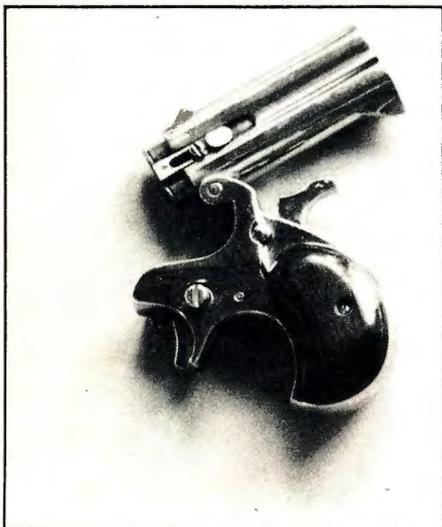
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DOUBLE BARREL BACK-UP

This officer found the ADC derringer in .44 Special to be a powerful one-two punch that is easily concealed.

By Stephen E. Crudele

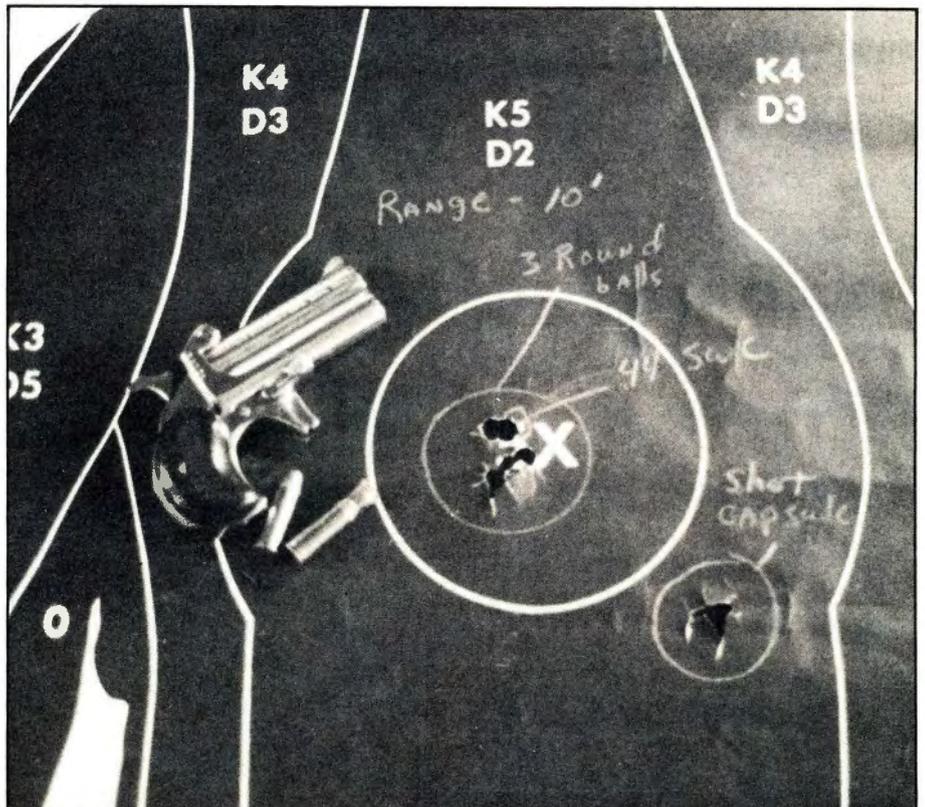
Shortly after starting my career as a police officer I read Joseph Wambaugh's excellent book, "The Onion Field." This thoroughly convinced me that I should carry a back-up weapon on duty in addition to my issue .38 Special. This back-up gun had to be, by necessity, small and concealable. With this criteria to go by I found myself trying several different makes of small autos in .22LR and .25 ACP and for the past several years I have carried the High Standard .22 Mag. derringer. The thought that one day I might have to use one of these underpowered pistols to save my life has always left me feeling a little uneasy. What I really needed was a small handgun capable of firing a large caliber bullet with reasonable close range accuracy. When I found out that the American Derringer Corporation of Waco, Texas was manufacturing just such a gun, I put in my order for one chambered in .44 Special. Five months later my gun arrived, and as I wrapped my hand around the stainless steel derringer I knew my search had ended.



A Texan's derringer, small yet big!



"Whoa, Silver, steady boy!" Rearing up, the .44 Special derringer recoils.



The author chewed up the X-ring from 10 feet with rapidly placed shots.

Upon examining the gun I found the overall quality of workmanship to be very good. The stainless steel is polished to a shiny lustre. Operation of the derringer is simple. A lever on the right side of the frame is pivoted down and forward to unlock the barrels which can then be pivoted upward and to the rear. A thumb extractor is located on the left side of the barrels to remove the spent casings. A spring loaded screw located on the left side of the frame is used to lock the barrels in place after loading. One of the main, and justifiably so, objections to this type derringer has been that if dropped, they have a tendency to land on their hammers and fire the piece. The A.D.C. has solved this problem by the addition of a hammer block safety located on the left side of the frame above the grip. *Before* loading the gun, the hammer is drawn slightly past the half-cock position and the safety button pressed inward. The hammer is then lowered to the half-cock position and rests on the hammer block. The gun can now be safely loaded and carried.

In the .44 Special chambering, the manufacturer supplies a warning about the severe recoil it generates. Enroute to the range I had visions of my battered wrist being wrapped in an Ace bandage for the duration of the summer. Upon firing the derringer with Winchester factory ammunition, I was pleased to find that my fears had been unfounded. While the recoil is sharp, it is not painful and is even controllable. Even inexperienced shooters found the recoil to be much less than they anticipated and not objectionable. Of course, nobody fired more than a few rounds per session. To fire more than 20 or so rounds at one sitting may well prove to be painful.

Being a firm believer in the Jeff Cooper school of thought on stopping power was one of the factors in choosing the gun in .44 Special caliber. The other was the diversity of reloads which can be concocted in this chambering. It must be stated, however, that the manufacturer does not warrant the gun if fired with other than factory ammo.

Before heading to the range I loaded some rounds in an attempt to improve stopping power over the factory round nose loads while at the same time reduce recoil. This I achieved by loading 232 gr. SWC Alberts' bullets over 5.1 grs. of Red Dot. I also made up a batch of multi-projectile loads using Speer shot capsules and .350 dia. round balls. Three balls are loaded in the capsule over 7 grs. of Unique. At the chronograph, Winchester 246 gr. factory RN loads went through the skyscreens at 625 fps. This works out to a RSP on Cooper's short formula of about a 23. A 20 is considered to be the minimum required for personal defense. The 232 gr. SWC's coasted along at an average velocity of 610 fps. This figures out to a RSP of 26 which isn't bad out of a 15 oz. gun. The recoil of this load was noticeably lighter than the factory round. The roundball loads clocked 705 fps and if fired at close range at an opponent should serve to get his undivided attention in a hurry. In terms of stopping

Continued on page 66

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New Speed, New Power for the COLT .45

By John Taffin

From 1873 to 1935, the most powerful handgun cartridge was the .45 Colt. When the .357 Magnum came along, the .45 lost many of its followers, though many returned to the .45. It was the introduction of the .44 Magnum which really eclipsed the .45.

Yet it did not die. Reloaders found that the .45 could be loaded to 900-1,000 fps, if there were a strong enough revolver to handle it.

This brings us to a whole new class of .45 Colt sixguns. What I am about to report should result in a lot of skepticism. To be perfectly truthful, I don't think I would believe it unless I had actually loaded, shot, chronographed, and collected the data. But I'm getting ahead of the story, so let's back up a mite.

A few months ago, a phone call was received from a young Cody, Wyoming, gunsmith, one John Linebaugh. Being very enthusiastic about his pet project, he had my attention quickly, although I had a lot of doubts. Sensing my doubt, his reaction was "Let me send you a test handgun and you can see for yourself."

I'll quote from a letter received from John:

Here's a single action conversion that brings new dimensions of power to the .45 Colt cartridge.



The 260 grain bullet at 1700+ FPS punches through 1/4" steel.

"I'm sure my guns will stay on a car door sized target to half a mile if you can hold 'em. There are bigger guns, both in caliber and size. We only claim 50 to 90% over a .44 Magnum, 1500 to 2000 ft lbs energy in 7½" or longer barrels."

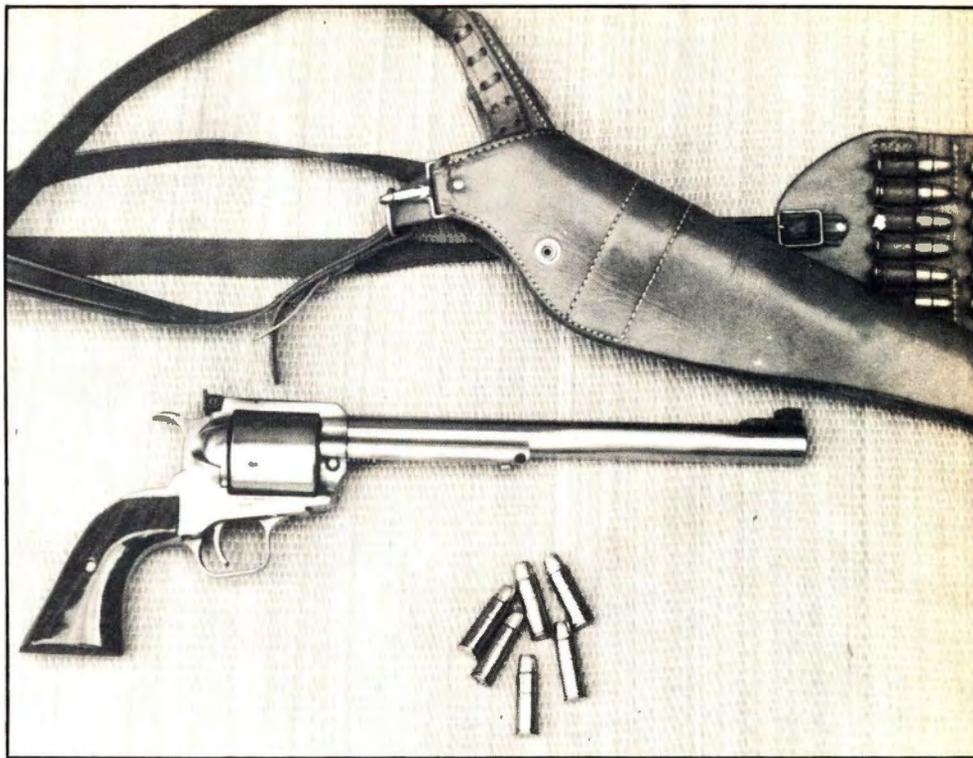
Now that's quite a claim! John goes on: "Practical, this gun uses .45 Long Colt brass (that's what he said, .45 Colt Brass!), bullets and readily available components. No brass forming, reaming, trimming, etc. No special dies or malarky. Use readily available bullets, moulds, powder, etc. . . . It is a total custom sixgun in barrel lengths from 4¾" to 10" or 12". It is packable in reasonable length barrels and handy enough for use from defense to hunting. The guns hold to the heavy single action tradition and are not specialized like the single shot TCs. They can handle factory or equivalent loads and be at home under your pillow or on your belt, or be moved up the ladder to full potential with our recommended handloads and be used successfully on the largest game. I'm old school (that means single action), and use and build common sense sixguns."

Now that got my attention real quick! That

old idea, .45 Colt brass is weak, came quickly to mind, but after shooting a test Linebaugh Custom Sixgun for two months, I will lay that notion to rest forever. I am now thoroughly convinced that everything John says is true and I haven't taken a wooden dowel and mallet with me since my first shooting session. I just knew I would have to pound cases out of the cylinder, but it just didn't happen. All loads I tried extracted easily. No stuck cases, no blown primers, not even flattened primers.

Linebaugh's Custom Sixguns are conversions on existing frames. He prefers, in order, to work with Sevilles, Abilenes, Virginians, and Ruger Supers. The test gun I received is an original El Dorado from Serial #125. The El Dorados became the Sevilles and Abilenes after the company split. John tuned the action, fitted a custom six-shot cylinder (not five-shot), and barrel, and a new front sight. Both front sight and ejector rod housing are held on with socket head screws, and they stay on. The key to the conversion, as John shared with me, is two-fold: close tolerances and an *oversize cylinder*. By this it is meant that John utilizes every thousandth of an inch of the frame in fitting the largest and longest unfluted cylinder possible. Barrel cylinder gap is .002", with the back of the barrel flush with the frame; not protruding through as on all other sixguns. The gun appears to be stainless in the pictures. It is not. It is still in the white and will be blued later.

With some trepidation I began to load for the Linebaugh .45. These loads are so far above .45 Colt loads I will call them .45 LCM (Linebaugh Colt Magnum) for want of a better name at this time. All loads were assembled with WW brass and CCI Magnum Pistol Primers. All bullets were sized to .452 for the .451 custom barrel. I started with new brass, full length resizing before loading, a recommended practice for all loading. Results were astounding! That is putting it mildly, with all loads checked and re-checked



Linebaugh's custom .45 rides well in Goerg shoulder holster.

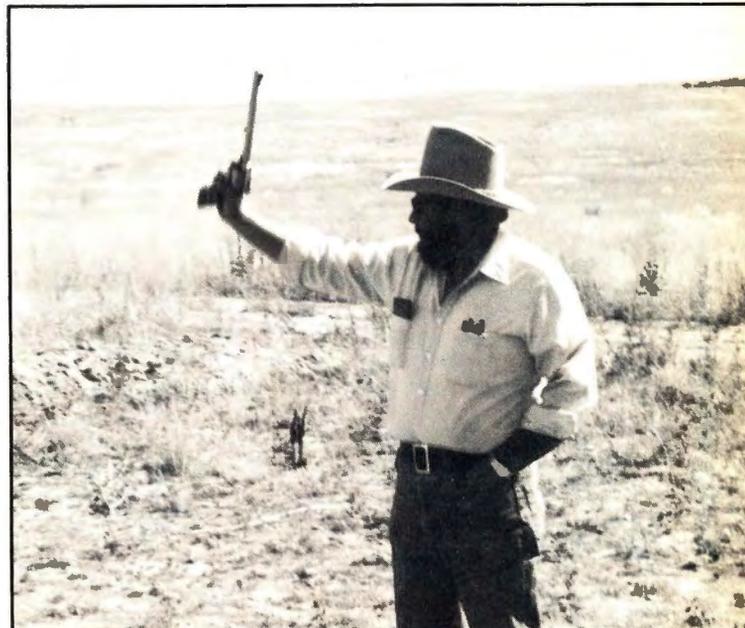
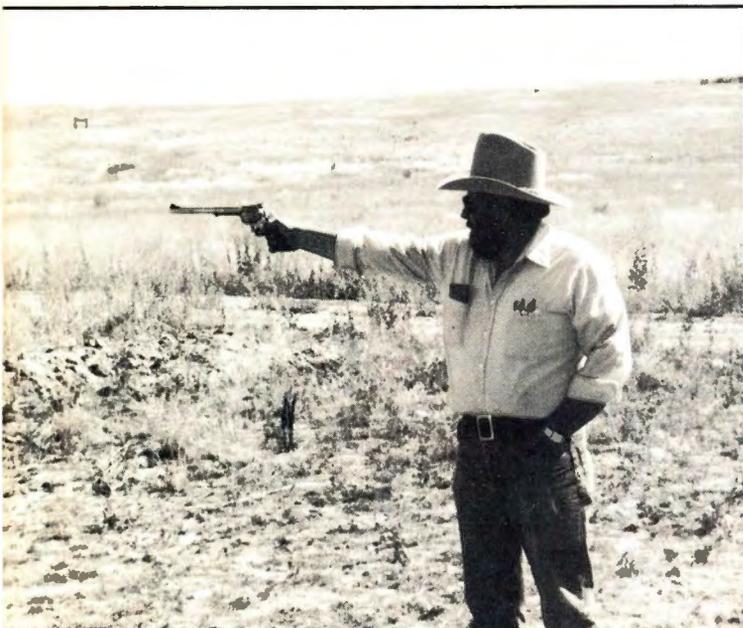
on an Oehler Model 12 chronograph. See Table #1.

Loads #1, 2, 3, were all fired at 50 meter chickens and 100 meter pigs, showing silhouette match accuracy. Lyman #454424 is, of course, the standard Keith semi-wadcutter, weighing 258 grains with my 2:1 type metal, lead alloy. All cases extracted easily except loads #9 and #14 which just began to show some stickiness and slight resistance to extraction. All other loads performed flawlessly with cases being loaded and re-loaded a total of four times with no problems.

After talking with John concerning the above results, he suggested I try some 300-400 gr. bullets. With this in mind he sent me fifty 310 gr. and twenty 330 gr. bullets and

I came up with a supply of Lyman #457124, 385 gr. .45-70 bullets which were sized to .452 before loading. N.E.I. Mould #310.454 produced the 310 gr. bullets which actually came out 315 grains, while the 330.454 is a Ross Seyfreid N.E.I. design weighing in at 332 grains. Both are Keith semi-wadcutters. Since I had such a small supply of these heavy bullets, I did something which is not normally acceptable. That is, top loads were assembled instead of working up. *This is not a recommended practice.* See Table #2.

Both loads #18 and #19 were fired at 100 yards with five-shot groups that could be covered with one's hand. That's better than I can see! Load #20 was assembled using Hornady .458 diameter jacketed bullets sized to



Author demonstrates that full house loads in Linebaugh's custom .45 does have considerable recoil.

.452. This was accomplished by oiling the bullets and running them through my Star Lubri-sizer. Recoil of all three loads off sandbags is fierce with the knuckle of my middle finger getting slapped with every shot. Loads #21-23 became downright painful being the same as a factory .45-70 from a 32" rifle! This from a sixgun! All six of these loads are no problem recoilwise when fired off-hand.

It might be proper at this time to look at some muzzle energies. Being a loyal fan of the .44 Magnum, I do not intend to minimize it in any way, the .45 Linebaugh Colt Magnum is just simply more gun.

Factory .44 Magnums call for 240 gr. bullets at 1350 fps, say 1450 from a 10" barrel. That figures out to 1150 foot pounds of energy. My hand load of 310 gr. bullets at 1400 fps yields 1349 FP. Compare the following:

.357 Magnum	158 gr.	1550 fps =	845 FP
.44 Magnum	240 gr.	1450 fps =	1150 FP
.44 Magnum	310 gr.	1400 fps =	1349 FP
.45 LCM	260 gr.	1678 fps =	1628 FP
.45 LCM	330 gr.	1604 fps =	1896 FP

Linebaugh promised 50 to 90% more muzzle energy than a .44 Magnum and I achieved more than a 65% increase easily.

Do not, repeat, do not attempt to use any of these loads in any other .45 Colt. The results could be disastrous. The .45 Linebaugh Colt is designed to handle these pressures, other .45's are not.



260 grain bullet moving at 1,600 fps penetrated 10 inches into solid wood.

Cases were miked before and after firing with some interesting results. Cases measured .478" in diameter directly ahead of the web before firing. Here are measured diameters after firing:

Colt SA 4 ³ / ₄ " (1950's MFG.)	.478"
Colt SA 7 ¹ / ₂ " (1950's MFG.)	.479"
Colt NF 5 ¹ / ₂ " (1980 MFG.)	.484"
Ruger 7 ¹ / ₂ " Blackhawk (1971 MFG.)	.483"
Linebaugh custom	.480"

This simply means long brass life in my older Colts and Linebaugh Custom Sixgun, and short brass life for heavy loadings in the New Frontier and Ruger, as they both allow .005-.006" expansion.

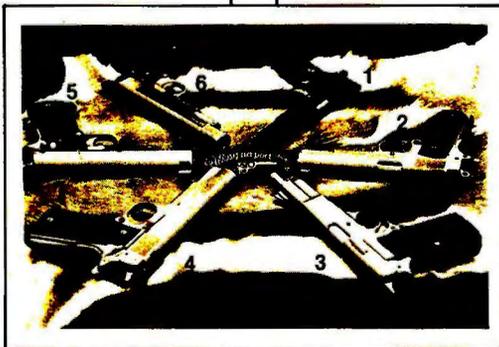
Twice, as I was shooting the .45LCM, the question was asked, "Why?" My response was simply because it is possible. John's six-gun performs exactly as he promised. With over 1000 heavy loads fired, the test gun is still tight, performed flawlessly and impressively.

Linebaugh is also offering conversions of

Ruger Redhawks to .45 Colt, Colt Python to .41 Magnum, plus Single Action conversions in .45 Colt, .32-20, .22 Hornet, 25-20, etc. He is willing to listen to and try any reasonable idea, and he may be reached at Box 1263, Cody, Wyoming, 82414, Phone (307) 587-6608.

The present cost of .45 Colt conversions are \$450.00, this includes custom fitted six-shot over-size cylinder, any length bull barrel and a wooden presentation case. With used .44 Magnum SA's available in the \$150.00 range, it is possible to have a really first class .45 sixgun for around \$600.00. A very reasonable price for the resulting quality.

Strangely enough, while the .45 Colt market has always been dominated by the single action, the Colt SA has been dropped from production and Ruger no longer catalogs their Blackhawk in .45 Colt. However the Smith and Wesson Model 25 is readily available and Dan Wesson has just recently announced that their large frame revolver will be available in both blue and stainless in .45's. The old .45 Colt is well ready to enter its third century.



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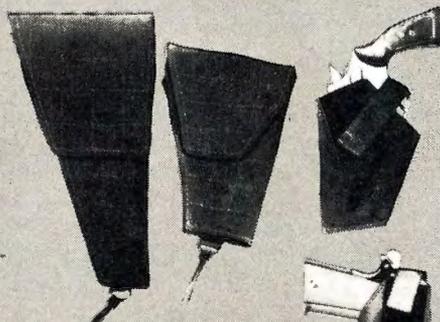
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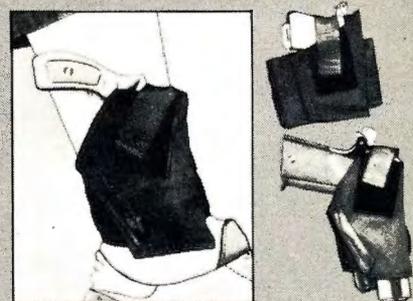


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DO YOUR GRIPS FIT YOUR GUN?

By Larry Sterett

Factory stocks, as they come on many handguns, particularly revolvers, are a compromise at best. There are some revolvers, such as the Colt Single Action Army and copies, which have a grip shape and stocks that seem to fit the hand well. Double action revolvers, however, are entirely different. Many of the revolver grips, with their factory slab stocks, are too small to provide a comfortable grasping surface.

The Pachmayr checkered rubber wrap-around stocks, which are available now to fit most revolver brands, are a step in the right direction, and they not only enlarge the grasping surface, they feel good. Still, there is often a desire to install a pair of walnut or zebrawood stocks, or a pair of molded synthetic stocks. These commercial stocks, not being custom fitted to a specific handgun frame, have to be inleted or molded to fit an average frame, and as with humans, there is no true average.

Handgun frames vary slightly from handgun to handgun, due to the original manufacturer's tolerances, grinding to shape, or even polishing. Thus, slab stocks do not have to fit the grip of a handgun perfectly, but stocks which fit around a grip to enlarge it, must be 100 percent inleted. If a particular grip is slightly larger than usual, the new stocks must have a bit of additional wood scraped away in order to insure a good fit, but if the handgun frame is smaller than usual, the stocks will wobble slightly when installed; there are not many things worse than having a handgun slide back and forth in a pair of



After being fitted, these custom grips now hug the frame like a glove.

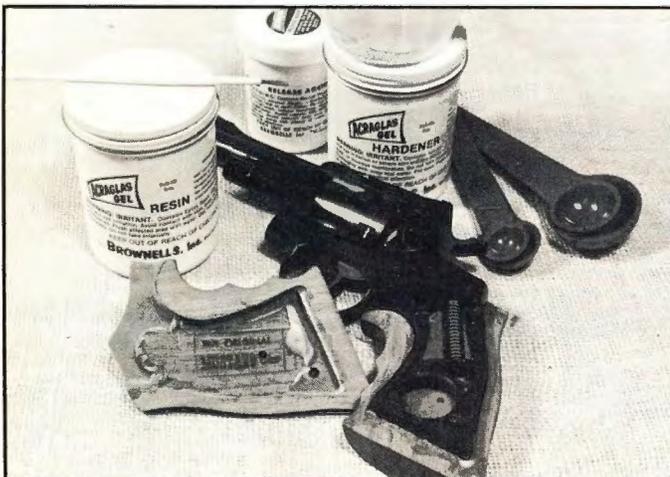
Eliminate wiggle and wobble with this easy method of fitting the grips to the frame.

stocks. Still, it is possible to have a pair of perfect fitting stocks on your handgun, with only a bit of effort involved.

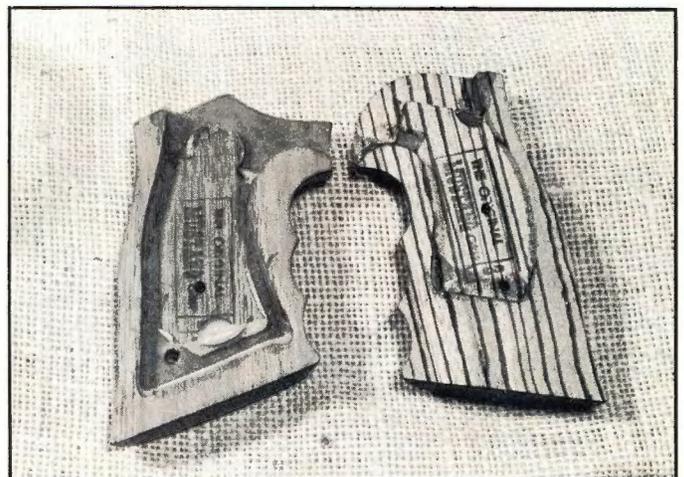
For this shooter, the Ruger Security-Six revolver with standard factory stocks, and the

Charter Arms Tracker with factory stocks, have grips which are a bit too small to feel comfortable. To determine if the fit of these two revolvers could be improved, a pair of smooth walnut stocks was obtained for the Ruger Security-Six, with a similar pair of smooth zebrawood stocks for the Charter Arms Tracker. Removing the factory stocks, and with the new stocks installed, each revolver was gripped in a shooting position and shook; each revolver slipped and wobbled slightly in its new pair of stocks, indicating the handgun frames were slightly smaller

Continued on page 59



This kit from Brownells has all you need to fit grips.



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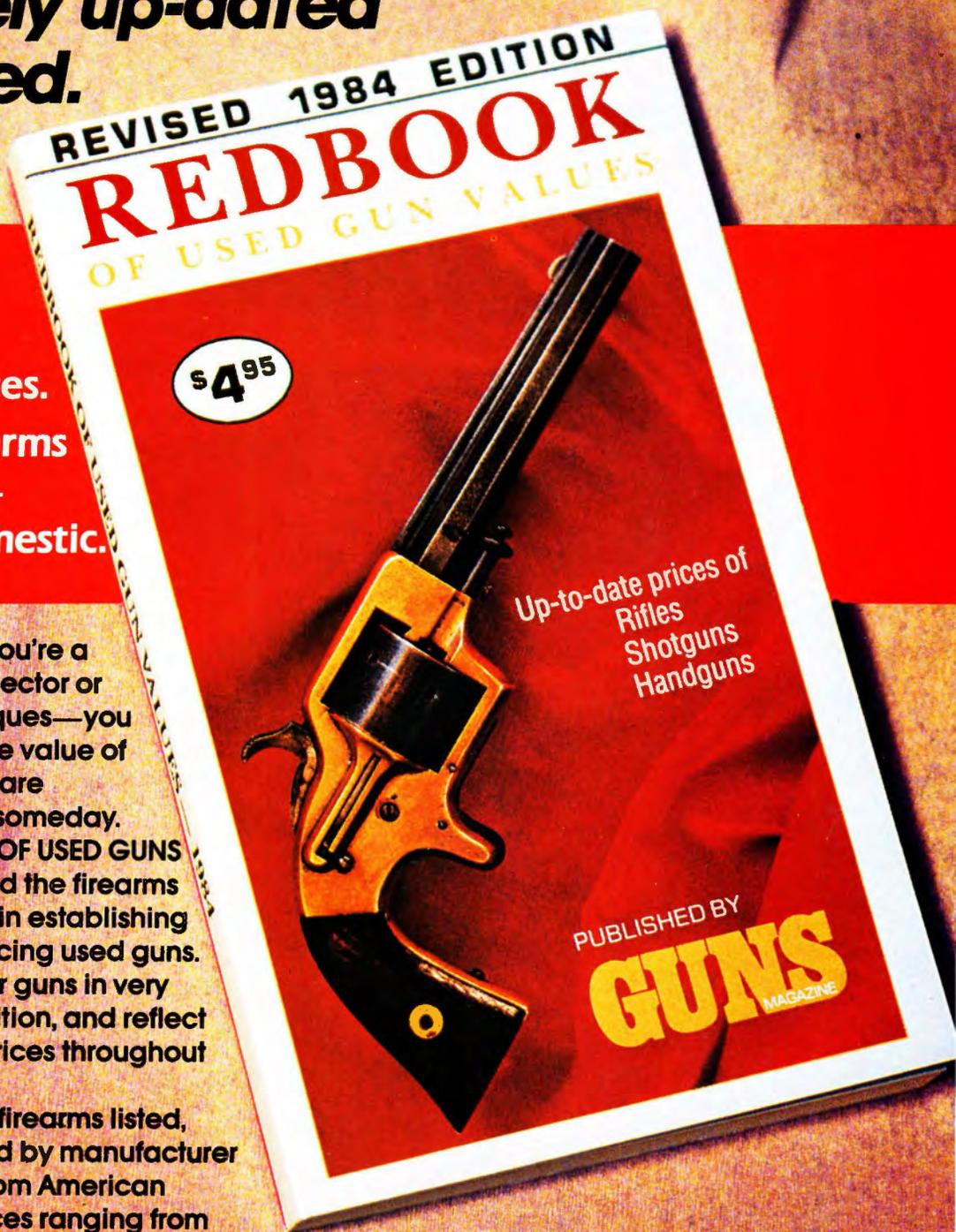
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THE L.A.R. GRIZZLY



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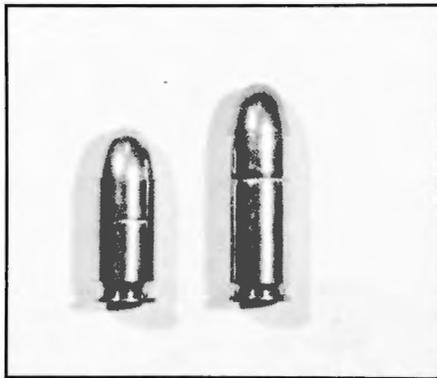


By Jim Weller

Since 1979, there has been a handgun round sort of floating around like a lost child looking for a parent—the .45 Winchester Magnum. The Grizzly Win Mag has now arrived, and coupled with the .45 Magnum cartridge is a most impressive piece of ordinance.

For years, if one wanted a powerful handgun, the .44 Magnum was the way to go, yet for the recoil conscious there appeared to be a gap somewhere along the line. People wanted something powerful, but didn't want the recoil associated with it. Indeed, I wish I had every .44 in my closet that was bought, shot, and traded in within about two weeks of purchase because of the inability of the shooter to cope with the sharp jab of a heavy recoiling .44. How does a 230 grain bullet at over 1300 fps with the recoil of a standard .45 auto using hot loads grab you? Because, as you will see, that sums up the Grizzly Win Mag to a "T".

If you look at one, your first thought will probably be that it looks like an overgrown Colt MKIV, and you're more than a little right. Out of 49 parts in the Grizzly, 39 of them interchange with the Colt product. The 10 that don't are those that were enlarged or beefed up to take the pounding of the larger cartridge, yet the appearance is basically the same. The most recognizable difference is the massive frame and slide, yet the entire tear-down and re-assembly is almost a carbon copy of the MKIV we all know and love. Should you desire to have the gun accurized, any pistolsmith that does good work on the MKIV should be able to work with the Grizzly just as easily.



Win. Mag. is .3" longer than 45 ACP.

The cartridge is a twin of the .45 ACP round with the exception of the .3" longer case, and, of course, the powder charge. The only load presently offered is from Winchester, and the only choice of bullet is the 230RNF MJ as used in GI Ball. On the performance end, the ACP round just isn't in the same league with the magnum version, but I'm getting a little ahead of myself.

As the gun comes out of the box, it is most impressive. The extra mass of the slide and larger frame combine to give an empty weight of 51 oz., hardly in the lightweight category. The slide was a nice flawless blue, but the frame exhibited a slight purplish tint. Metal fit was fine. I had expected to see the vents ported into the standard 6½" barrel, but a note enclosed in the box said that after testing, it was found that the ports were not only detrimental to accuracy and velocity, but that they did not significantly reduce muzzle jump enough to warrant the extra cost, there-

fore they were eliminated. The early Grizzlys had sights from Wichita, but that has since been changed to the excellent sights by Millett with a white outline/bar rear and blaze orange front. An ambidextrous safety and Pachmayr stocks and mainspring housing as well as an extended slide release complete the package.

As one would expect, the grip frame is longer to make room for the larger magnum cartridge which resulted in a real handful for me. The trigger is the standard "short" version and is the right length for the size of the frame. Had a long trigger been installed, I would have had trouble reaching the trigger. The trigger broke at 6½ lb., and was gritty with a noticeable amount of creep, however it isn't any worse than any other .45 you're likely to pick up these days. I would never have the extended slide stop on any of my standard .45's, but it is a needed piece of equipment here and worked well. Magazine capacity is seven rounds.

Winchester was kind enough to furnish me with 200 rounds of factory ammo. After sighting in offhand at ten yards, I fired ten rounds over my Custom 900 Chronograph using the light screens. Air temperature was 55°. The high round was 1394 fps and the low was 1294 fps for a 100 fps spread between high and low velocities. Truthfully, I had expected a little better. All rounds but two were over 1300 fps with the average for the ten coming out at 1330 fps, that calculates to 900 fpe. Take the same velocity for the 240 grain bullet in the .44 Magnum and you would have 940 fpe or a 5% gain which is hardly worth noting. The factory manual lists



The author says the Grizzly is easy to shoot with surprisingly little recoil.

velocity at 1400 fps from a 5" barrel, but I never hit that figure from a barrel 1½" longer. At any rate, this cartridge is no slouch and the fact that it fires from an autoloading pistol makes it that much better. It exhibits absolutely none of the jabbing recoil associated with the revolver. In fact, during the whole test period I found this to be a very pleasant gun to shoot, hardly worse than a standard MKIV using hot handloads. The only thing that let you know you had something else up the pipe was the muzzle blast, which is considerable, and right up there with any of the .44's.

The Grizzly averaged groups of 2½" at 25 yards, and I suspect that a really good trigger job giving a good 3 lb. pull would shrink that somewhat. The trigger work should be on the first priority list for purchasers of the Grizzly who may want to compete in metallic silhouette matches, and it wouldn't surprise me at all to see a few of these in accurized form turn up at a match here and there. In fact, L.A.R. even has oversized barrels available to be handfitted by the gunsmith. I did not get

into handloads with the Grizzly, but I suspect that Blue Dot powder would be a good starting place, and coupled with a good hollow point bullet would make this a most desirable hunting load which I myself prefer to shoot over any .44 Magnum that I've ever run across.

In the 200 rounds of testing there was one failure to fully go into battery on a live round. This was traced to a dirty gun, which the Grizzly seems to become rather quickly. The lugs in the slide are massive and rather sharp, and these apparently tend to shave brass from the magnum casings upon extraction. When the malfunction occurred, an inspection of the chamber area and inside of the slide showed a lot of small brass shavings, which, coupled with the powder residue, tends to get things a little sticky. Whether or not the shaving may cease at some other point down the line, I can't say.

In addition to the .45 Magnum, the Grizzly is able to be converted to several other calibers through the use of the Multi-Caliber Conversion Units (MCCU) available

from the maker, including one for the rare 9mm Winchester Magnum round. Whether or not the 9 Mag will become a reality remains to be seen, as L.A.R. is also planning on offering a conversion kit in .357 Magnum as well. I suspect that the .357 will do about the same as the 9 Mag, and is certainly more readily available as the 9 Mag ammo is non-existent as of this writing. Plans include kits to convert the gun to a .38 Super, .30 Mauser, and others. Each kit includes an extractor, ejector, barrel, recoil spring, and magazine, and any of the kits may be changed with the standard equipment in about 3 minutes time. L.A.R. included a kit to convert it to standard .45 ACP which I happily gave a run on the range. In over 300 rounds of mixed ammunition types, it gave not one failure in any department, with accuracy on a par with any stock Colt product. As one would expect, the recoil of the .45 ACP, not much to talk about in the first place, becomes totally laughable when fired in the heavy 51 oz. Grizzly.

I believe that there is a place for the Grizzly in the shooting world. I don't think that there's any doubt that the power of the factory round could be elevated through some judicious handloading. Hornady lists loads for the .45 Magnum in their reloading manual, although they are for the T/C Contender single shot, and may be on the hairy side for the Grizzly. If you plan on hunting somewhere where the autoloader is allowed, I certainly wouldn't be afraid to tackle anything with the Grizzly that could be tackled with the vaunted .44 Magnum, and I, for one, would prefer it. With an accuracy job, it should do fairly well at the silhouette game as well. I believe that the current retail price is somewhere in the \$600-\$700 bracket, but compare that to the Wildey at \$1250 (if you can find one), and it doesn't look so bad at that.

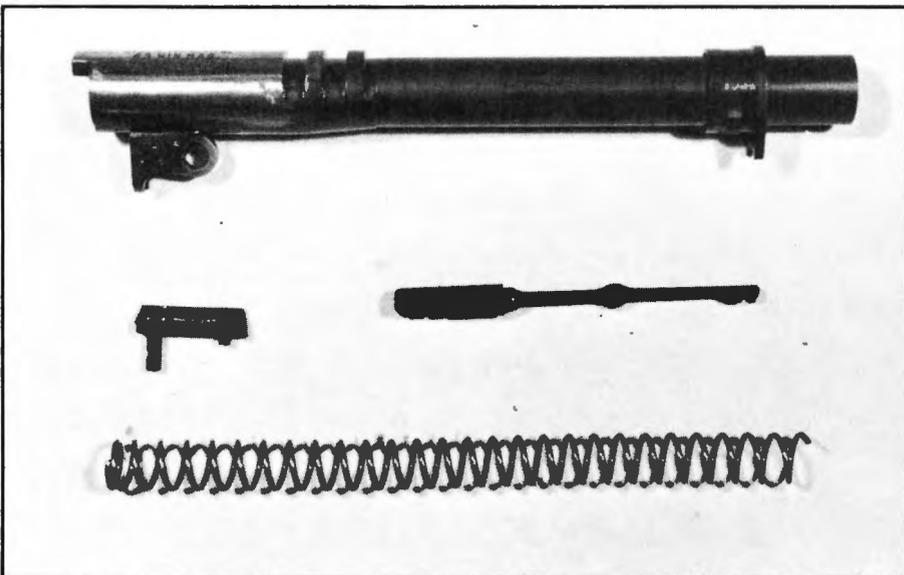


RELOADING THE .45 WIN MAG

By Joe Zambone

One of the most powerful handgun cartridges around has been, until recently, also one of the best-kept secrets because only one self-loading gun is chambered for it. The .45 Winchester Magnum, originally developed for the Wildey gas-operated pistol, went into production at Olin's East Alton, Illinois plant some years back, but the Wildey failed to materialize on schedule. Shooter interest dropped off like a fizzled Roman candle and hard-bucking handgun enthusiasts turned back to the all-time favorite .44 Magnum. Only Thompson/Center produced a handgun chambered for the .45 Win Mag, and not a whole lot of folks dabbled with reloading the cartridge.

With the introduction of L.A.R.'s Grizzly self-shucker pistol there's a lot of renewed interest in this caliber; unfortunately, the only



The Grizzly can fire the 9mm Win. Mag. cartridge with a conversion unit.

reloading data is for Contender pistols with stronger actions and longer barrels than found in a semi-auto pistol. Since Winchester's factory load is a zippy 230-grain full metal jacket (FMJ) round-nose slug totally unsuitable for self-defense and marginally applicable for hunting, handloading becomes a necessity for good performance. This article will address loads which can turn

Here's a cartridge that just begs to be reloaded, and here are six-dozen loads for the Grizzly that make it a winner.

1,360 fps after the Grizzly was broken in. That's a muzzle energy figure of 943 foot-pounds (written as fpe, foot-pounds of energy), or about what a .44 Magnum delivers. That's also nearly three times as much energy as a .45 Auto offers with the same 230-grain bullet.

Penetration with factory ammunition is absolutely awesome. I shot a six-inch-thick



Factory powder looks like Unique.

the Grizzly into the first cousin of a full-house .44 Magnum with eight-shot repeatability.

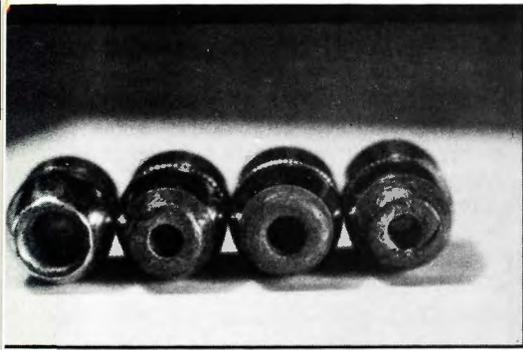
The factory load is inadequate for self-defense because it shoots through many things before slowing appreciably. There would be very little energy transfer and great potential for casualties to innocent bystanders even many blocks away. In my Grizzly, the Winchester 230-grain "hardball" ammo chronographed at 1,340 feet per second (fps) when the gun was new, and an average of



Most slugs mushroomed beautifully.

LOADING DATA ...45 WINCHESTER MAGNUM IN L.A.R. GRIZZLY WIN MAG PISTOL

HERCULES UNIQUE	10.0	10.5	11.0	11.5	12.0	12.2	12.5	12.6	12.8	13.0	13.2
200 gn Speer JHP	1149	1196	1244	1300	1342		1378		1396	1387	1393
	12	17	26	13	19		11		17	22	16
225 gn Speer JHP								1316	1314	1333	1356
								14	13	11	10
240 gn Sierra JHP						1266	1293				
						7	8				
260 gn Speer JHP	No loads listed—Unique rather fast for this bullet weight										
230 gn Alberts Swaged Lead		1205	1239	1279	1320	1339		Heavier loads possible at expense of accuracy			
		17	18	12	12	14					
POWDER - BLUE DOT	15.0	15.5	16.0	16.5	17.0	17.5	18.0	18.5	19.0		
200 gn Speer JHP					1246	1257	1317	1323	1442	Note: Mild recoil, huge flash	
					24	13	5	18	10		
225 gn Speer JHP			1278	1307	1341	1355					
			13	12	14	10					
240 gn Sierra JHP	1169	1215	1263	1283	1327						
	24	24	14	2	9						
260 gn Speer JHP		1214	1254	1284	Best powder for 260-gn bullet						
		11	8	18							
POWDER - HODGDON HS 6	12.0	12.5	13.0	13.5	14.0	14.5	15.0	15.5	16.0	16.5	
200 gn Speer JHP	896	992	1052	1090	1132	1190	1242	1324	1351	1388	Not an ideal powder for .45 Win. Mag.
	21	30	18	27	12	27	7	40	22	28	
POWDER - HODGDON HS 7	14.0	14.5	15.0	15.5	16.0	16.5	17.0	17.5	18.0	18.5	19.0
200 gn Speer JHP									1315	1382	1400
									24	15	23
225 gn Speer JHP					1141	1176	1226	1279	1338	Max. load very accurate—huge flash!	
					14	19	22	20	6		
240 gn Sierra JHP			1090	1117	1172	1216	1248	Max. load very controllable and mild			
			25	30	23	28	21				
260 gn Speer JHP	1001	1053	1089	1115	1169	Not best powder for heavy slugs					
	24	17	9	11	11						
POWDER - OLIN "??"	12.5	13.0	13.5	14.0	14.5	15.0					
200 gn Speer JHP				1424	1467						
				22	29						
225 gn Speer JHP				1393							
				8							
240 gn Sierra JHP			1344								
			16								
260 gn Speer JHP	1239										
	12										
230 gn Alberts Swaged Lead				1465							
				59							
185 gn Silvertip					1500						
					22						



The hollow points mushroomed well.

live pine tree (in an area about to be cleared) to determine if the slug would penetrate fully. It did, and then penetrated completely through another tree the same size which was four feet behind the first one. Such penetration is impressive to a novice, but seasoned shooters (both self-defense and hunters) know that bullets which travel through a target do not get their job done efficiently. Expansion is needed so the bullet stops in the target, delivering its full energy for a quick kill rather than slaying a Douglas fir 200 yards behind the target.

You can't buy unprimed (or primed) factory brass for the .45 Win Mag; only a factory-loaded round is offered, in the single 230-grain flavor. Handloaders must therefore purchase loaded rounds first; instead of simply shooting 'em up in a hurry to get brass for reloading, however, use these rounds to break in the Grizzly. Velocities and accuracy will improve after about 500 rounds through the gun, and all parts are settled into place by a thousand rounds. Winchester helped in this reloading project by supplying me with a case of factory ammo; they're obviously interested in ensuring that sales of the cartridge pick up, but a vote of thanks is owed them for such cooperation.

Factory ammo clocks rather accurately, with an extreme spread between slow and fast rounds in a string of about 60 fps and a standard deviation measurement of 14 to 20. Winchester factory fodder is loaded with 14 grains of a powder which looks a lot like Hercules *Unique*, and the bullet is asphalted into the case to develop high case pull for better powder ignition. It's basically a longer version of the .45 ACP with a lot more powder and nearly three times the recoil (about 12.3 foot-pounds of recoil versus some 4.5 foot-pounds in a .45 ACP). The recoil is *not* really hard to handle, I might add, and some two dozen .45 ACP pistol experts I allowed to shoot the Grizzly were all surprised at the mild recoil.

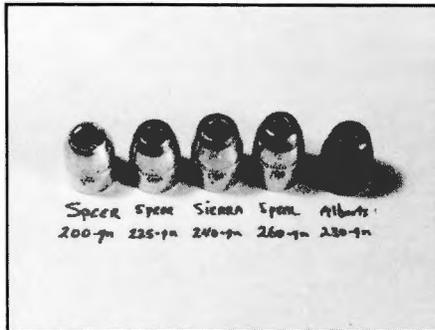
Since there was no valid reloading data for this cartridge in a semi-auto pistol with six-inch barrel, I started with Blue Dot powder first. It's a good powder for magnum cartridges but is also applicable to lesser loadings. A variety of bullets were loaded up and many problems arose right away.

This cartridge requires a cannelured bullet because the recoil will sometimes pull taper-primed slugs out of the cases enough that they won't chamber. Sierra's 185-grain JHP

slug, a whiz-bang bullet for the .45 ACP, is thus not a good choice for the Win Mag Grizzly. And, as the slide whips back to spit out a spent case, it's compressing a spring about the size a car's suspension uses. Slide forward travel is quite fast and a bullet that isn't held tight may be driven back into the case upon contact with the feed ramp. About half the 185-grain Sierra bullets did this.

Only those bullets with a rounded nose profile would feed reliably in my Grizzly, and not for love nor money could I get Hornady's 185- and 200-grain truncated cone target bullets to chamber. Removing metal in the throat area to facilitate chambering of odd-shaped slugs is not a good idea because that also weakens that area and allows more of the cartridge case to be unsupported.

I found through trial and error that only six factory bullets will chamber well and have the needed crimping cannelure, too. Speer's 200-grain JHP bullet is the best choice for self-defense because it can be driven at supersonic velocities without heavy recoil. Speer's 225-grain exposed lead nose JHP slug is suitable for self-defense or hunting deer-sized animals, and can be driven at mind-boggling velocities without too much recoil. Sierra's



Some jacketed bullets used in test.

240-grain JHP slug, designed for the .45 Long Colt, is an excellent all-around choice for hunting when driven at 1,300 feet per second or so. Speer's 260-grain JHP "monster slug" would be good for hunting large animals or plugging away at silhouette targets; it can be driven safely to nearly 1,300 fps although recoil becomes rather fierce at that speed. And Winchester's 185-grain Silvertip slug, available only by breaking down .45 ACP ammo, can be slung for self-defense at velocities of 1,500 fps or better.

The Alberts Corporation swaged 230-grain lead flat point bullet will also feed well in the Grizzly and would make a devastating hunting slug at ranges up to 75 yards or so. Since the bullet material is soft it doesn't take rifling as well as a jacketed slug, and accuracy isn't as good as with the other bullets just mentioned. But for close-in work at over 1,400 fps, this bullet will mushroom reliably, not splatter into pieces (as will some of the JHP slugs), and it will retain 100 percent of its weight. It's not a good choice for self-defense because it shoots through small trees even after mushrooming, but for bear or deer this one is excellent. And yes, it will lead the barrel in a hurry; a seven-round magazine will severely foul the barrel, but firing one or two jacketed rounds after that will clear the

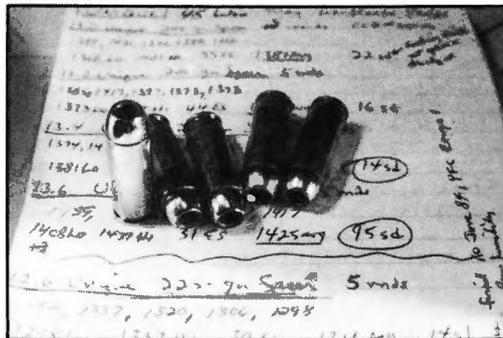
lands and grooves quickly. Besides, if a hunter needs more than seven rounds maybe he shouldn't be after moving targets.

There's a whole world of development possible with such slugs as Lyman's cast 225-grain hard lead bullet. There shouldn't be any problem driving this at velocities over 1,500 fps, but penetration will then be about like that offered by factory hardball ammunition. These would probably be good moose rounds if pistol hunting for such large animals ever became legal or necessary for survival.

Hercules Blue Dot is the best powder to use with heavier bullets in the .45 Win Mag cartridge. It will drive the 200-grain "flying manhole cover" Speer JHP slug to 1,442 fps while still not exceeding handloading manual max load data, yet it will also propel the 260-grain Speer safely (by manual data) to a chronographed velocity of 1,254 fps. I went half a grain heavier with the 260-grain slug, with a charge of 16.5 grains of Blue Dot, and clocked the velocity at 1,284 fps with no signs of excessive pressure. Keep in mind, however, that this is an over-max load and I don't recommend you start out with it or even use it at all. What worked for me, in my Grizzly #043, may not be safe for your Grizzly.

The nicest feature of Blue Dot in this hefty cartridge is that felt recoil is reduced somewhat from that experienced with full-blown factory or Unique powder loadings. There's some unburned powder going out the barrel in the heavier charge loads, which gives muzzle flash visible a block away at night, but it's a pleasant powder to use. Factory loads offer a sharp recoil, as do my Unique loads, since faster powder lights instantly and all the kick is generated in a short time. Slower powders along the Blue Dot burning curve kick the same but it's spread out over a slightly longer period of time and will make the Grizzly easier to shoot for some folks.

Loading manuals list Winchester 296, Hodgdon H110 and Hercules 2400 as powders applicable to the .45 Win Mag cartridge used in Contender pistols. Since this



"Flying manhole cover" from Speer.

caliber nearly duplicates .44 Magnum ballistics and physical size, I tried some slow-burning powder loads. They aren't worth a damn.

A max charge (by the Lyman manual for 250-grain bullets) of 23.0 grains of 296 behind Speer's 260-grain JHP slug produced a blinding muzzle flash and velocities of 1,183 fps in one string and 1,124 in another. Felt recoil was very sharp and spread between

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Speed Shooting's Wunderkind

Even the grueling Steel Challenge Match had a hard time separating the men from boys like Alan Jenkins of California.

By Rebecca Thornton

His friend, Ray Ramirez, worked with him the last few weeks before the Steel Challenge by seeing that he got out to practice several times a week, and coached him whenever necessary.

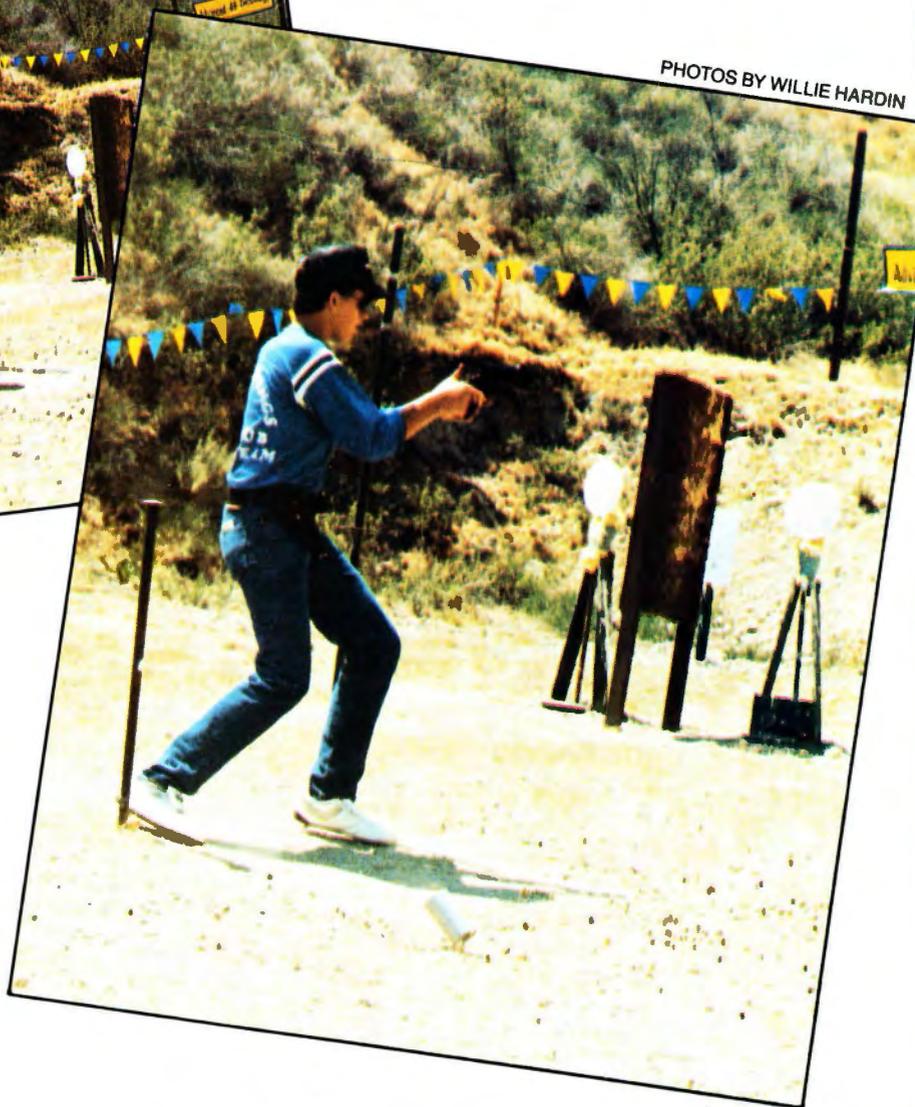
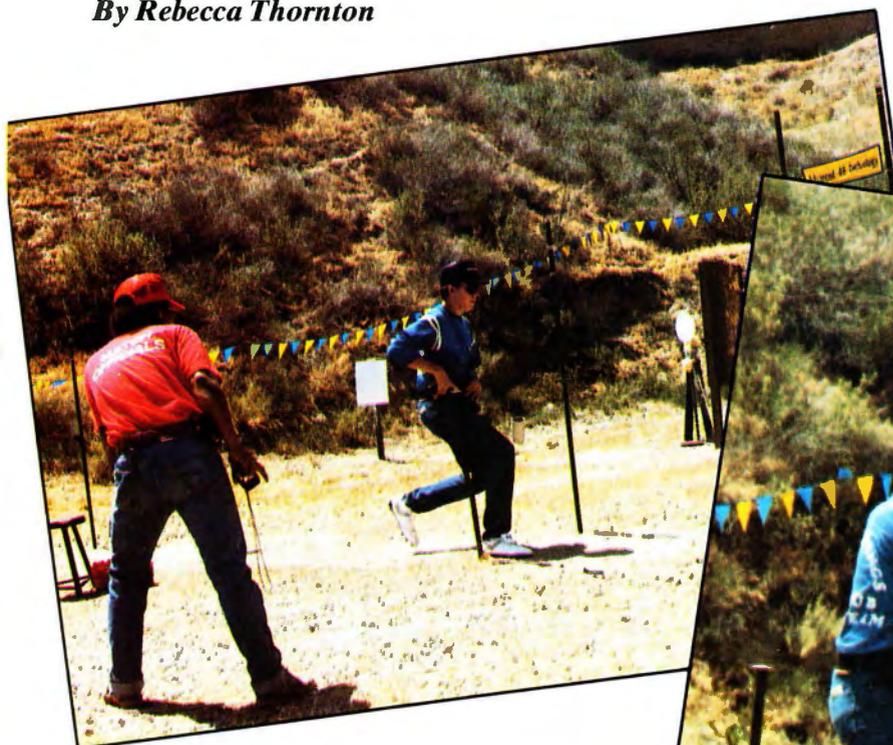
Alan's schedule was a tight one with school at Palm Springs High and the part time construction job at the Lexington Hotel in Cathedral City, but he was determined to do his best.

The word spread throughout the range that a "new kid" with a revolver was the one to watch. Whenever he was called to the line, a crowd would gather along with the twenty shooters from the Palm Springs Gun Club. The applause between strings is something he may have to get used to in the future.

The highlight of the entire match was when a well-dressed gentleman in a convertible drove up to him and said "nice shooting."

Jerry Ushers' advice to him was "stick with that gun until you master it."

American Handgunner will be watching Alan at the 1985 Steel Challenge and Bianchi Cup matches.



PHOTOS BY WILLIE HARDIN

Alan Jenkins was the first teenager to place 2nd in the Revolver Class and the first 15 year old to break into the top 50 at the Steel Challenge. He was strong on the Outer Limits, holding 3rd place position the first day until Rick Castelows sizzling times knocked everyone down a notch, settling Alan into a solid 4th place overall for his consistent shooting. Outer Limits didn't go easy for him and could have possibly cost his 3rd overall. The loud timer from the Speed Option echoed over to this stage. Alan had been given the line call, heard the buzzer and dropped his hands only to hear the Outer Limits horn. The penalty, 30 seconds maximum.

Alan shows speed at Flying M. Note can at his knee (top) and just hitting ground (bottom).



IPSC SHOOTING IN SOUTH AFRICA

By Cameron Hopkins

In spite of arms embargoes and because of a threatening environment, IPSC matches are serious business in South Africa.

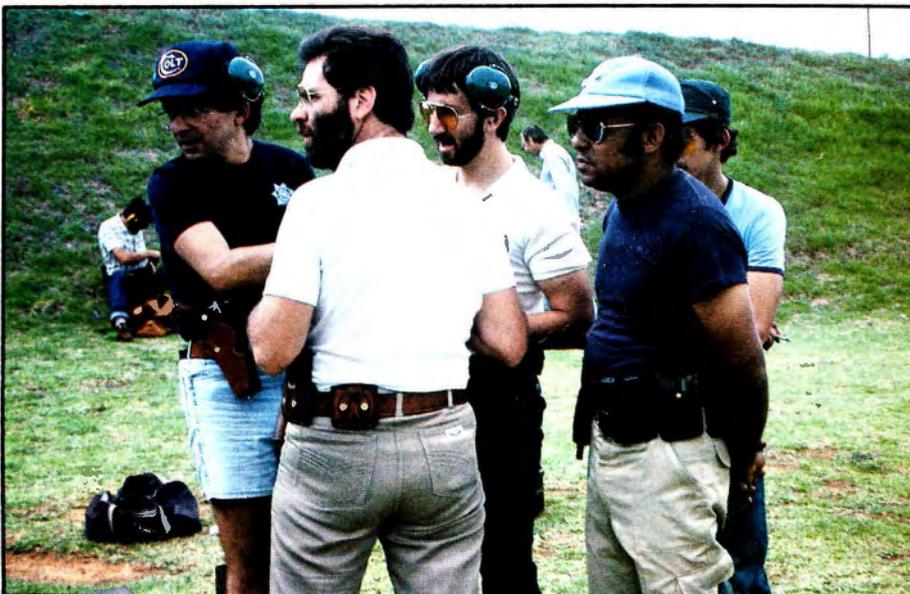
Terrorists infiltrating from Marxist territories pose a constant threat of bloody bombings, political assassinations and civilian terror raids in South Africa. In the big cities of South Africa, like Johannesburg, street crime also presents an everyday specter of violence.

Faced with these very real dangers of things that go boom in the night, South Africans find security in the cozy feeling of a cocked and locked .45 snugly pressing against their hips. The South African perception is that their life insurance is better handled by Sam Colt than by more conventional means.

In a country where it is legal to carry a sidearm without a special permit, South Africans realize that practical pistol shooting and IPSC competition hone their street survival skills.

IPSC shooting is popular in South Africa, and while I was in the country for a six-month stay in 1983 I had the opportunity to compete in many IPSC matches and the chance to size up South African IPSC. IPSC is an international sport, theoretically the same in the various participating countries, but South African IPSC differs in several ways from American IPSC.

First of all, matches in South Africa utilize the Item target for the most part—strange when you consider the Milpark target was adopted and named in South Africa. (IPSC trivia: the Milpark target was adopted at an IPSC World Executive Council meeting held at Holiday Inn Milpark in the Milpark suburb of Johannesburg. Hence the name Milpark target.)



Top: In this exercise, shooter must first douse flame with wet blanket; try shooting with wet hands? **Below:** there is no apartheid at the matches.

The South African "shottists," as they call their shooters, prefer the Item target because the A zone extends to the neck. They argue that a Milpark yielding only the minimum two points for a neck shot, a fatal shot, is unrealistic; a valid complaint in a country clouded by the omnipresent danger of terrorist attack. The Item target gives the maximum five points for a neck shot.

Facing Item targets at a match is but one of many subtle differences at a South African IPSC match. Also, the matches place a high premium on the standard exercise portion. A typical match features a 60-round standards comprising 50 percent of the contestant's overall score. The other half of the total score, in general, is made up of two speed shoots each accounting for 25 percent. Blow the standards, then, and you've blown the match.

A portion of the standards usually requires some "walk and draw" shooting where a competitor starts at, say, 50 meters and on a signal advances downrange with gun still holstered. At a second signal, a whistle, the competitor then halts, draws and fires. This can be tricky as the whistle can blow while you're in mid-stride making the establishment of your shooting stance a bit awkward.

The standards emphasize consistency and accuracy. Most of the courses of fire require the "shottist" to draw and fire a set number of rounds in a given time limit with the exercise repeated several times before advancing to the next exercise.

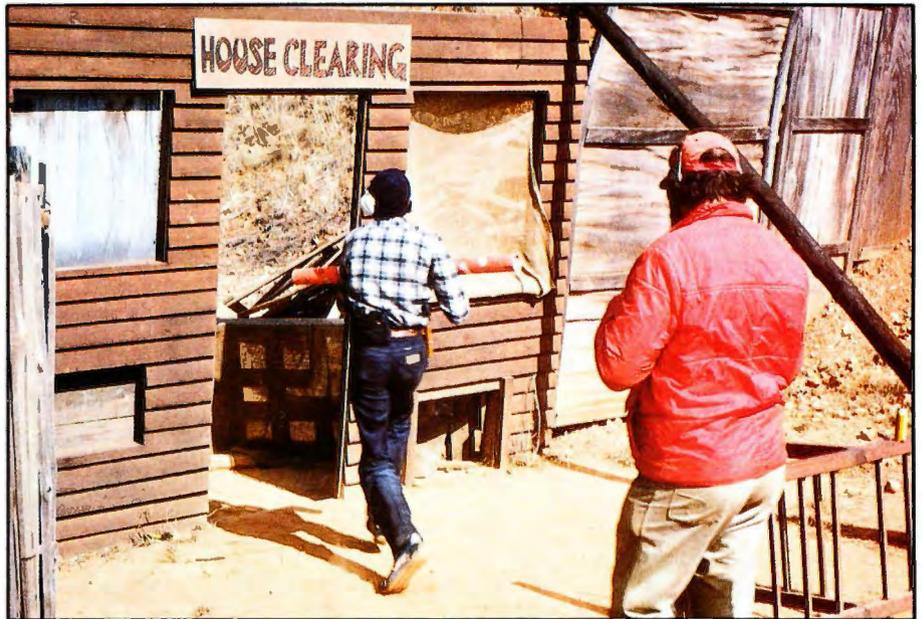
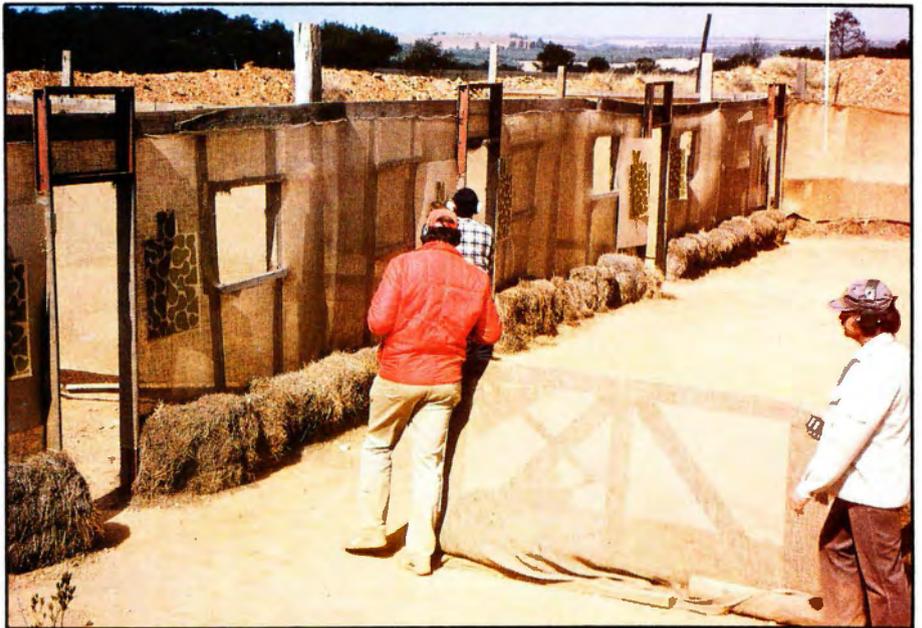
Time limits are strict and all facets of IPSC skills are tested from rapid reloading to weak-hand firing. Look for a bit of everything in a South African 60-round standards. Because of the large number of rounds fired, targets are scored and patched periodically throughout the standards.

This emphasis on the "basics" makes for some very good scores among the top "shottists." Out of a possible 300 points, I overheard on several occasions Springbok shooter Paul Bromfield lament dropping ten points. And that's with a goodly number of rounds from 50 meters! I never saw a "possible" fired, but I saw several targets go down only a few points during my six-month visit.

The most remarkable performance I witnessed on a standard exercise came from a woman, 1983 World Champion Wallie Louw, at the Kilbarchan Open, a major match. One drill called for the "shottist" to draw and fire one round from 40 meters in a time limit of—get this—1.5 seconds. Wallie dropped an unbelievable one point on this exercise which was repeated six times for a possible of 30 points. 1979 World Champion Jimmy von Sorgenfrei dropped only four points. I was lucky to get three out of six rounds on the target.

Along with the marathon standards, a typical match also has a couple of speed shoots. The bigger matches tend to run on a generic formula, and you can count on facing some form or another of a jungle lane, a house clearing, and a close-range, rapid-firing drill comprising the speed shoot portion of the

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Series show house clearing drill. Competitor enters the door carrying an awkward container. Inside, moving target is hidden behind hostages.



By Curtis R. Rich

One fifth of the world is left-handed—if left to our own devices. In areas where rigid school training demanded right-handedness (such as pre-war Germany), this percentage dropped to less than 10% of course, but one can imagine the problems forced right-handedness caused. Twenty percent of people is hard to ignore, but amazingly most gun makers do.

Historically, this is no surprise. The handshake was designed so strangers could show their right arm was not holding a dagger. I wonder how many right-handed knights were done in meeting left-handed strangers who shook right-handed and stabbed left-handed.

But then in that instance the ADVANTAGE was to leftie. However, in a time when left-handedness was considered a sign of the devil, or at least of illegitimacy (the bar sinister, or pointed left, on a coat of arms indicates illegitimacy in one's lineage), showing oneself to be left-handed was dangerous enough to outweigh the advantage. They liked to burn left-handers at the stake. The connecting of illegitimacy with left-handedness didn't die in the middle ages, however. I encountered a devout Catholic old lady in the sixties who thought I had to be a bastard because I was left-handed. At least she didn't have me burned at the stake, though I'm sure she wanted to. Catholicism is not the only religion to have a problem with lefties. Hindus and Moslems do, too. It is, for example, in Moslem countries, quite rude to use the left hand when eating as it is reserved for "toilet functions." I think I might starve in a Moslem country.

In the Army I learned to feint right-handedness, but not for fear of burning at the

THE LEFT- HANDED GUNNER

Here's one southpaw who can cope with a right-handed gun—with only a few modifications—in a match or on the street

stake. The Army had begun, by then, to teach rifle-shooters left-handed if the student desired, but since I had no desire to volunteer for anything, I shot rifle right-handed. But one fires a rifle with both hands. The left hand is as important as the right, no matter which pulls the trigger. And, there are no left-handed machine-gunners. If you don't know why, ask a vet. If he has a patch over his right eye, don't ask him, because chances are he found out why the hard way.

With the M1911A1 .45, though, it was different. I asked for left-handed training (because I was going to war by then) and was told by the old Sergeant, "Sir, you'd better learn it right-handed. It's just designed that way."

Yep, it was. Devout Mormon John Moses Browning did not believe in lefties. Ol' Slab-sides is very right-handed in military issue form. But I was adamant for the same reason you'd be if you're right-handed and someone told you to learn left-handed. The Weaver stance wasn't known to the Army then, and a .45 was a one-handed weapon, but I used a two-handed hold and the isosceles stance to qualify. This wasn't illegal, but it did get the full attention of the cadre, who thought I had to have cheated to score as well as I did. Consequently I got to requalify with a high-ranking audience. The score was about the same.

The Army has a cure for the weapon's right-handedness, so to speak, in the required method of carry: condition three, seven rounds in the magazine, none in the chamber, hammer down, and therefore, safety off. Then two hands are needed to fire the pistol, as one is needed to rack the slide to chamber a round.

I was not enamored with the thought of having to chamber a round before returning fire, so in the late Southeast Asian unpleasantness I ignored that rule and carried eight rounds, cocked, safety off, but holster strap below the hammer. I still have all my toes, so it worked, but I do not recommend it for obvious reasons. Jeff Cooper told me later that the Australian SAS carries the Browning P-35 cocked and unlocked just because the safety on the P-35 is so hard to get on and off, so at least I wasn't alone in this semi-sane method of carry. I did not use a military holster, because those, too, are all right-handed. I had neither knowledge of nor money for John Bianchi's marvelous ambidextrous military holster. I had a Vietnamese make what would now be called a "practical" holster with a strap and a covered trigger guard. I didn't know ambidextrous safeties existed then, and couldn't have acquired one if I wanted one. In any case, the .45 did fine in my left hand. I fired it with both hands and never had to reload it under pressure so its right-handedness and my left-handedness caused no problems.

But the point is that modifications are necessary and possible for left-handed use of the Government Model .45.

A completely left-handed model such as the Randall I found not only unnecessary, but impractical. The left-handed Randall cannot use stock magazines, and the magazine release and slide release, as we'll see, are easier used by this lefty where they are.

An ambidextrous safety goes without saying. It's a shame no one has made a left-handed safety — not ambidextrous, but purely left-handed — because the ambidextrous ones are a little fragile. Of course, it can't be helped for us 20%. If you carry it in the "FBI Tilt" behind your strong side hip, you might even have the left-hand side of the safety carefully ground down so that someone brushing against you can't flip the safety off.

But that doesn't make the gun fully left-handed. Have the gunsmith who fits your ambidextrous safety put a detent in the stock slide release. Obviously you don't need an extended slide release (if anyone with an intact thumb does). The purpose of the detent is to keep you from, under recoil, locking the slide back with your trigger finger. The detent will add enough resistance to keep you from looking foolish in competition or perforated in real life. Don't say it won't happen. Do enough double taps, and it will. Of course, you use your trigger finger to activate the slide release when you commit the unforgivable gaffe of running dry in a combat situation. Do not have an ambidextrous slide release fitted. I realize that if your techniques are absolutely perfect, you won't need this \$5.00 detent, but then you're probably not reading this anyway, you're out spending your Bianchi Cup winnings or writing your own articles.

I prefer a stock magazine release button, but I can't use a stock one quickly without removing a few coils from the magazine release spring. My trigger finger doesn't have

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Lefties can hit the mag release button without shifting the firing grip.



THE

If you thought that the Star Model 28 was something, wait until you get your hands on this new 9mm.

By Charles Petty

Spanish gunmaking has come a long way since the flood of cheap pistols that came into this country in the fifties and sixties. Their sole appeal was price, and functional reliability was somewhere down the line in priority. Understandably, these guns left a bad taste in the American shooter's mouth and created a prejudice that has taken years to overcome. Judging from Star's latest offering it's time for us to sit up and take notice.

The latest gun to come out of the Eibar works of Star (distributed by Interarms) is the Model 30 PK. In 1980, Star introduced the Model 28; their first offering in the field of military style, double action, high capacity, 9mm pistols. The Model 28 broke new ground for the company, and received good reviews. The Model 30 is the next step in the evolution of, and a major improvement in, the Model 28.

The biggest change is the use of an aluminum alloy frame that brings the weight down to a comfortable 30 ounces. That, coupled with a ½" shorter slide, makes the Model 30 a compact gun. Although the magazine capacity is 15 rounds it fits the hand well.

The most significant design element, shared by both models is the "works in a drawer" concept that places the sear, hammer and mainspring components in a unit within the backstrap. The result is a simplicity that makes the innards of the Star seem rather barren, especially when compared to the rabbit warrens of springs, screws and other bits that inhabit the trigger mechanisms of many other DA autos. It seems that the engineers at Star have taken the KISS (keep it simple stupid) rule to heart. With the possible exception of the magazine safety (a feature which I personally don't like) there are no superfluous parts. The only screw used in the whole gun is a small one in the magazine catch. The grips are dovetailed into the frame and the backstrap group serves to lock them in. It is elegant simplicity.

The Star's ambidextrous safety is another bit of intelligent design. While some manufacturers' safeties are complex, multi-function devices, the Star's does only one thing. It simply locks the firing pin. As the safety is applied, the firing pin is cammed forward slightly and locked so that it can move neither

forward nor backward. This means that the Star can be safely carried with a round in the chamber (for a total of 16) as long as the safety is on. The trigger remains fully functional, but there's no way the hammer can contact the firing pin unless something breaks. With the safety applied, an empty gun can also be dry fired without fear of damaging anything. As it came from the box the Model 30's double action trigger pull was 15 pounds; single action was 5.5 pounds. The double action pull was smooth almost all the way through with only a slight amount of roughness near the end. The single action pull was nicely crisp. Another nice touch is the extra use of the extractor as a loaded chamber indicator. There's a red dot on the top of the extractor that is exposed and visible when the gun is loaded.

The action is a short recoil, Browning type lockup that is the same as the Model 28 and field stripping is quick and easy. To field strip simply align witness marks on the frame and slide and pop out the slide stop. The slide pulls off forward. The recoil spring and guide are assembled as a unit which is a

NEWEST STAR MODEL 30 PK

convenience, and precludes launching the recoil spring when taking it out. It's a nice convenience, but also a practical feature since it prevents any possible misalignment when putting things back together. With the recoil spring and guide removed, the barrel just lifts out. That's as far as one needs to go for cleaning. To reassemble, simply reverse the procedure. There is one small point not mentioned in the instructions that I found to make reassembly a little easier. The slide stop pin must pass through both the recoil spring guide and the barrel and alignment of these two is easier if there isn't any tension on the recoil spring. Look through the slide stop hole as the slide is moved to the rear and observe when the holes in the frame, barrel and recoil spring guide line up. This will happen before the witness marks are aligned. At that point put the slide stop in about half-way and then continue until the marks line up and assembly can be completed. This step lets you put the slide stop in without having to use any force to overcome the spring tension and prevents the possibility of a slip which could result in scratching the frame.

With the preliminary examination out of the way it was off to the range to see if the Star would shoot. I'm pleased to report that it did, and quite well, too. The first test was simply

functioning so I ran 50 rounds of W-W ball through the gun as fast as I could. On round 13 I experienced the only malfunction that I couldn't blame on something else. The gun failed to go into battery by about 1/2". A little push was all that was needed, and I attribute it to new gun tightness. It was the only malfunction that I could remotely blame on the gun. While shooting some reloads later, I did

have two more but I'm sure they weren't the gun's fault. Over the course of some 500 rounds three malfunctions isn't bad anyhow, and after the break in period functioning was flawless with factory ammunition. I fed it everything I could find and hollow points fed just as well as ball. I also reloaded a few rounds at minimum charges shown in several

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Just pop out slide stop and the model 30PK field strips easily.

Star disputes bias that Spanish guns are poorly made.

S&W 'L' FRAME REVOLVERS

More Than Just a Compromise

The design changes in this new series provide strength for magnum loads plus the time-honored "K" frame grip size.

By Bill Worley

When Smith & Wesson introduces a new revolver, in one of the most popular calibers and offers it in a stainless configuration, the handgunning public is going to be intrigued. Smith's newest offering in .357 Magnum is the "L" frame. The gun is designated the Model 586, Distinguished Combat Magnum, blue or nickel finish, and the Model 686, in stainless steel. Both of these guns have adjustable sights. The basic, fixed sight service models are the 581, in blue or nickel, and the 681 in stainless. Both models are based on the new frame size designated "L" by the factory.

The "L" frame is a good blend of the strength and durability of the larger "N" frame guns with the smaller grip and handling qualities of the popular "K" frame revolvers. The most noticeable difference between this gun and other Smiths is the full length lug under the barrel which naturally invites comparison with the Colt Python. The top side of the barrel however, does not have the Colt ventilated rib. The functional reason for the under barrel lug is twofold: it shrouds the ejector rod and it places useful weight at the most needed spot—the muzzle end of the barrel. None of the other current production Smiths have the full length lug and it makes the new "L" frames very distinctive in profile.

The lockwork in the new Smith is the same as used in the other Smith models but the parts are sized differently and are *not* interchangeable with the "K" or "N" frames except for the trigger which is the same as used in the "K" frames. The "L" frame cylinder is beefier and is not counterbored. Another beefed up area is the frame/barrel juncture. These two departures from the "K" frame should assure that the "L" frame will hold up under a steady diet of magnum loads.

Some shooters have questioned the need for the new frame size. It is a fact that some "K" frames such as the Model 19, have not taken well to continual pounding from magnum loads. These guns were designed to shoot the milder .38 special loads with occasional magnum shooting. The problem with the larger framed magnum guns is that they

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The 681 offers a full length barrel lug, adding weight and stability. The inner parts are same as "K" models but slightly larger.





PREVIEW: NEW ELECTRONIC SIGHT

It's no secret that some kind of optical device has been the way to go at matches like the Bianchi Cup, with the field dominated by the reliable Aimpoint. This year's Bianchi match, however, marked the introduction of a new soon-to-be Aimpoint competitor.

The new sight, from InterAim of Sweden, was used by both Bill Rogers and Tom Campbell at the 1984 Bianchi match with extremely good results. Rogers set several Bianchi records with his Ron Power's revolver before finishing eighth overall; Campbell finished tenth with the scope on his S&W Super-gun.

Like the Aimpoint and its imitators, the new sight—as yet unnamed—features a glowing red dot in the center of the field of view. Unlike the Aimpoint, the new sight mounts in standard one-inch rings. One of the major objections to the otherwise excellent Aimpoint is that it requires a special mount.

The new sight is also *small*. The pistol sight is a one-inch nitrogen-filled aluminum tube five inches long, with a second battery tube on the side 2¾ inches long. The whole unit weighs only 106 grams. A slightly longer sight will be available for rifles. The overall pistol package is about one-third smaller than an Aimpoint III.

The unit uses Eveready E-640 batteries, and claims 1,000 hours between battery changes.

While the debate on whether a heavy-barrelled PPC gun with an electronic sight is really "practical" will probably continue indefinitely, the new sights have been a boon to handgun hunters and others interested in long-range accuracy. Just put the little red dot on the target and *squeeze*.

The new InterAim sight should be available by press time from either Safariland or Rogers Holsters in Jacksonville, with an *estimated* price of \$200.



This S&W Model 10, as modified by Andy Cannon for Bill Rogers, was used in the 1984 Bianchi Cup Match. It features a Douglas barrel with under-rib, a full house action and accuracy job. The cylinder and internal locking parts are hard chrome plated to assure a long life through thousands of rounds of practice and competition.

The Weaver base has been modified to accept the prototype of the new electronic sight. Here's a report on that sight.

1985 Custom Pistolsmith Directory

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1985 DIRECTORY OF CUSTOM PISTOLSMITHS

This directory is as complete as possible. If any of our readers have any changes, additions or deletions, we would appreciate hearing from you.

Listing in this directory is for information only, and is not an endorsement; nor is an omission from this list meant to be a negative indication.

Members of the American Pistolsmiths Guild are indicated by the initials APG after their listing.

There are many fine custom pistolsmiths in this country who are invited to become members of the Guild. Write to George Wessinger, Rt. 1, Box 40, Wessinger Rd., Chapin, SC 29036 for detailed information.

On July 21, 1984, the American Pistolsmiths Guild held its annual meeting in conjunction with the National Pistol Championships at Camp Perry, Ohio. Three new members were inducted; Jim Stroh of Atlanta, Richard Heine of Havana, Ill., and Jack Guttridge of Dyer, Ind.

The 1985 annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the SHOT Show in Atlanta, Ga. in January, 1985.

ALABAMA

Walker Arms Co., Rte 2, Box 73, Selma, AL 36701 (205) 872-3888. Action, accuracy and conversions.

ARIZONA

Accuracy Unlimited (Frank Glenn), 16036 N. 49th Ave., Glendale, AZ 85306 (602) 978-9089. General services, plus full-house PPC revolvers. Colt .45 auto conversions.

Combat Fireworks (Robert Smith), 6617 S. McKemy St., Tempe, AZ 85283 (602) 839-0033. Combat conversions of .45 autos, PPC conversions, tuning S&W/Ruger revolvers.

The Gun Shop (R.D. Wallace), 320 Overland Rd., Prescott, AZ 86301 (602) 445-0568. Complete service, including manufacture of obsolete and specialty parts and accessories. Custom grips. Carving/engraving.

Hammond's Custom Guns (Guy Hammond), 619 S. Pandora, Gilbert, AZ 85234. Home of the Hammond Recoil Reducer, general customizing, sight work.

H-S Precision (Tom Houghton) POB 512, Prescott, AZ 86309 (602) 445-0607. IHMSA unlimited silhouette guns, and glass Fiberthane stocks, Atkinson barrels. Catalog \$2.

J&G Sales, Inc. (Richard Aldis), 442 Miller Valley Rd., Prescott, AZ 86301 (602) 445-9650. Tuning/customizing revolvers (S&W, Ruger, some Colt); also .45 combat conversions.

ARKANSAS

Broadway Arms Corp. (Joe Pruden), 4114 East Broadway, No. Little Rock, AR 72117 (501) 945-1853. Custom combat Colt, S&W, Ruger.

J. Michael Plaxco, Rte. 1, Box 203, Roland, AR 72135 (501) 868-9787. Full competition combat autos for IPSC, basic to full-house custom packages. Delivery within 14 weeks, in most cases.

Watson's .45 Shop, 2057 Cline Ave., Fayetteville, AR 72701 (501) 442-2967. Colt auto modifications: competition, defense, sport.

Wilson's Gun Shop Inc. (Bill Wilson), Rte. E, Box 211-D, Berryville, AR 72616 (501) 545-3618. Wilson Combat .45 autos, basic to full-house selection, with varying price ranges. Complete line of custom handgun accessories. Catalog \$2.

CALIFORNIA

Auto Shop (Craig Wetstein) 8545 Washington Blvd., Culver City, CA 90230 (213) 836-0179. Customizing/accurizing .45 autos.

Bain & Davis (Jon Harting), 559 W. La Tunas Dr., San Gabriel, CA 91776 (213) 284-2264. Accurizing and action work on all autos and revolvers. Chambering for .357/.44 B&D cartridge.

Bar-Sto Precision Machine, 73377 Sullivan Road, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277 (619) 367-2747. Match barrels and accessories for pistols and revolvers.

Cheshire & Perez Distributors, 136E Walnut Ave., Monrovia, CA 92016. Custom PPC revolvers, ribs/barrels.

F. Bob Chow's Inc., 3185 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94110. .45 auto accuracy jobs. PPC, NRA bullseye.

Chris Smith's (Donald Weir), 917 Trent St., Concord, CA 94518 (415) 798-7583. Custom combat, action jobs, PPC and IPSC. Specializes in Dan Wesson PPC, .45 combat autos, Ruger actions.

Davis Custom Guns (Bill and Gil Davis), 2793 Del Monte St., W. Sacramento, CA 95691 (916) 372-6789. All types of accurizing and action work; PPC a specialty. (Formerly Cake-Davis.)

Davis Co., 1176 No. Knollwood Circle, Anaheim, CA 92801 (714) 952-2191. Bill Davis' second shop, managed by son Jeff; home of the Davis Custom PPC gun, the Smolt, and the Cougar; PPC custom conversions and super duty-tunes on S&W, Colt, Ruger.

Davis Co., 3942 Trust Way, Hayward, CA 94545.

Davis Company, 3904 Convoy St., San Diego, CA 92111 (619) 279-2722. Bill Davis' fourth shop with pistolsmithing by Al Cobertson.

Duncan's Gun Works (Bud Duncan), 1619 Grand Ave., San Marcos, CA 92069. Customizing .45 autos, PPC guns, restocking, Colt SA restoration.

K. Genecco Gun Works, 8825 Thornton Rd., Stockton, CA 95209 (209) 951-0706. General accurizing, and manufacturing in wood and metal. Works on customer specification; builds quality guns from scratch.

Bruce E. Gray Pistolsmithing, 8009 White Birch Ct., Citrus Heights, CA 95610 (916) 726-3850. S&W and Colt revolver work, combat Colt auto, bob-cats to long slide.

Guice Gun Works (Jim Guice), 405 S. Vanderhurst, King City, CA 93930 (408) 385-1113. Custom silhouette and target handguns, wood stocks for T/C and XPI00.

Keith Hamilton, Box 871, Gridley, CA 92948 (916) 846-2361. Action work, accurizing autos/revolvers.

Hoag Gun Works (James W. Hoag), 8523 Canoga Ave., Ste. C, Canoga Park, CA 91304 (213) 998-1510. Accessories for Colt .45 auto, competition grade pistols/revolvers.

J. J.'s Gunsmithing, 1637 S. Broadway, Box 369, Santa Maria, CA 93456 (805) 925-2721. Specializing in rebarreling and .45 modifications.

Jarvis Gunsmithing, 4418 Larkstone Cr, Orange, CA 92669 (714) 538-2603. Custom parts, competition handguns.

King's Gun Works Inc., 1837 W. Glenoaks Blvd., Glendale, CA 91201 (213) 956-6010. Manufactures King's Sights and shooting accessories for Colt .45 autos. Custom gunsmithing of all types; .45 auto accurizing, custom sight installation.

LaFrance Specialties (Tim LaFrance), POB 178211, San Diego, CA 92117 (619) 293-3373. Manufacture of Nova Pocket Pistols and custom combat sights. General handgun modification. Free brochure on Nova pistols.

Lee's Red Ramps, Inc. (Lee Baker), 7252 East Ave. U-3 (off 75th St.), Littlerock, CA 93543 (805) 944-4487. Custom Rugers built to order, rebarreling, rechambering, Ruger/Colt/S&W trigger/action work.

Mac's .45 Shop (Jim McDonnell), Box 2028, Seal Beach, CA 90740 (213) 438-5056. Customizing/accurizing .45 autos. Patented "AccuGuide" combat system. Also custom .45 barrels to order. Trigger installation and other work done while you wait. Call for appointment.

John V. Martz, 8060 Lakeview Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648 (916) 645-2250. Luger and P38 custom work in the following calibers: .30 Luger, .22 Magnum, 9mm, .45 ACP and .38 Super. General repair on Lugers & P38s only. Brochure/parts list \$4.50.

North Valley Gun Shop (Charles Clemens), 179 East Ave., Chico, CA 95926 (916) 345-2928. PPC revolvers, N-frame conversions to .44 Special or .45 Long Colt. Parkerizing/electroless nickel/blueing.

Nygord Prec. Prod., Box 8394 La Crescenta, CA 91214 (213) 352-3027. NRA and Olympic pistol work.

Pachmayr Gun Works, 1220 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90015 (213) 748-7271. Pachmayr grips, combat and NRA autos, finishes, .45 accurizing.

Poway Gun Works (Bill Simpson, Ray Peet, Ken Johnson), 13168 Poway Rd., Poway, CA 92064 (619) 486-0680. .45 auto (target/combat), bluing, custom work (both wood and metal).

Robert Richter, 5792 Vista de Oro, Riverside, CA 92509. Mini-.45 conversion for Govt. or Commander Colts. Action and accuracy jobs on revolvers and autos.

Chuck Ries, Box 205, Culver City, CA 90230 (213) 837-6858. Autos and revolvers; tuning, action, accuracy. List \$1.

Greg Roberts, Roberts Custom Guns, 2145 Delaware Ave., #21, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 (408) 426-7630. High quality revolver work: S&W/Colt. Also quality reloaded ammo in .38, .357, .45 calibers. APG

Schluter's Gunsmithing & Sales (Don Schluter), 568 6th Ave., San Diego, CA 92101 (619) 239-1386. Custom tuning Colt and S&W revolvers, .45 auto tuning for combat or match. Customizing most autos/revolvers.

Mac Scott's, 880 Piner Rd., #49, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 (707) 546-BANG. 45 accuracy, pin guns, blue & nickel finish.

John Spillborgh's JS Custom Guns, Box 40529, Santa Barbara, CA 93103. Custom .45s and PPC work. Long slide and rib .45s.

Earl R. Stroup, 30506 Flossmoor Way, Hayward, CA 94544 (415) 471-1549. .45 auto accurizing, rebarreling S&W K/N frames, Rugers, Troopers (MK III/MK V) Pythons; custom ribs with Elliason sights (on .45 Autos). Fine-tuning for PPC/IPSC/NRA/combat competition. Rebluing/electroless nickel finishes. General repairs/tuning. Brochure \$1.50.

Swenson's .45 Shop (Armand Swenson), Box 606, Fallbrook, CA 92028. Swenson ambidextrous safety, "Swensight," fixed combat sights for .45 Auto/P35 Browning; customizing .45 autos.

COLORADO

Don Bower, 1964 Lansing St., Aurora, CO 80010 (303) 343-9596. T/C and XPI00 long range pistols, conversions.

Dick Campbell, 1198 Finn Ave., Littleton, CO 80124 (303) 799-0145. Custom PPC guns.

Dominic Di Stefano, 4304 Friar Lane, Colorado Springs, CO 80907, Full-house combat autos, NRA bullseye.

Fisher Custom Firearms (Don Fisher), 2199 S. Kittredge Way, Aurora, CO 80013 (303) 755-3710. Colt .45 auto accuracy packages.

Jawbones Ltd. (William C. Bidwell), 1555 Abilene Drive, Broomfield, CO 80020. Custom auto pistols for duty/IPSC competition; "Art Form" weapons built to customer specifications. Colt, Brownings, and CZ-75 work. SASE

Robert A. McGrew, 3315 Michigan Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80910 (303) 636-1940. Action jobs on S&W, Colt, Ruger, Browning autos/revolvers.

Fred Sadowski, 300 Gunsmith Service, 4655 Washington St., Denver, CO 80216 (303) 893-2158. Combat and PPC revolvers/autos; short-action Blackhawks.

CONNECTICUT

Colt Custom Gun Shop, 150 Huyslop Ave., Hartford, CT 16102. Custom engraving, tuning, grips.

D.R. Corbin, Inc. 44 Old Middle Rd., Brookfield, CT 06846 (203) 775-2432. Colt .45 slide & butt shortening; Seecamp double action conversions. List.

Campbell H. Irwin, Rte. 20, E. Hartland, CT 06027 (203) 653-3901. Action work, accurizing revolver and pistols, barrel and cylinder conversions, Luger rebarreling, trigger work. Colt warranty station. High Standard specialist.

Philip Bruce Mahony, White Hollow Road, RRI, Box 223, Lime Rock, CT 06039. .45 combat/accuracy work; trigger stops for odd model Ruger SA revolvers. General pistolsmithing.

FLORIDA

Accurate Plating, 1937 Calumet St., #22, Clearwater, FL 33575 (813) 733-0923. Specializing in .45 accurizing, sight alterations, trigger jobs. All types of gun finishes.

Boz Custom Guns, 2933 East Bay Drive, Largo, FL 33541 (813) 531-7443. .45 pin guns, auto and revolver accuracy and action jobs.

Crawford's Gunsmithing, Rte. 2, Box 80, Altha, FL 32421 (904) 762-8164. Specializing in IPSC pistols. Home of the *Tink Comp*, a unique compensator (completely removable, no pistol alterations needed to install, fits all govt. models and Gold Cups with 6" barrel, and Commander with 5 1/2" barrel).

Jack's Guns & Reloading (Jack Abene), 3911 W. Waters Ave., Ste. 3, Tampa, FL 33614 (813) 932-8824. PPC tuning/auto accurizing. Barreling, industrial hard chroming.

Reed Knight, 1306 29th, Vero Beach, FL 32960. Custom conversions, unusual jobs.

Log Cabin Gun Traders, Inc. (Steven D. Rupert), 91 Hwy., 17-92, De Bary, FL 32713. Custom combat IPSC .45s/Brown. Hi-Power; custom combat revolvers.

Sherman's Custom Guns (Walt Sherman), 9621 Rose Rd., Tallahassee, FL 32304 (904) 877-3390. Specializes in Colt Python actions, but will do S&W or N frames.

The Shooting Shed (A. Carl Steinmetz), 1100 Sunset Strip (Suite 2), Sunrise, FL 33313 (305) 792-8885. Match, combat, full-house conversions of Colt, S&W and Ruger revolvers; also IPSC conversions of Colt, Browning autos. Custom grips. Discount to police officers.

GEORGIA

Alpha Precision, Inc. (Jim Stroh), 1231 Sunderland Ct., Atlanta, GA 30319 (404) 453-0477. Custom .45s, barrels, compensator system for .45, bluing/plating. Brochure \$2. APG

Ed Banks, 2762 Highway 41 North, Fort Valley, GA 31030. Chopped .45s, pin guns, IPSC.

Bullseye Gun Shop, 5091-F Buford Hwy., Doraville, GA 30340. Colt .45 accurizing, S&W K frame action jobs.

Ralph W. Ingle, #4 Missing Link, Rossville, GA 30741 (404) 866-5589. Engraving in the traditional manner: hammer/chisel. Color catalog \$3.

Magnum Dist. Inc., 1798 Shelly Court, Marietta, GA 30062 (404) 973-0883. Custom 45 auto packages.

Strahan & Son, Inc. (Travis Strahan), Rte 7, Townsend Circle, Ringgold, GA 30736 (404) 937-4495. Custom work on PPC/bullseye revolvers/autos. Design/manufacture Mascot sights and slide stop scope mount. Accurizing work.

ILLINOIS

Donald W. Baron, 6060 W. 95th St., Oak Lawn, IL 60453 Customizing combat .45 autos; also multi-caliber Colt Commanders and fine-tuning revolvers: both target/duty.

Bells Custom Shop (Dave Norin), 3313 Mannheim Rd., Franklin Park, IL 60131 (312) 678-1900. Reliable/accurate .45s for combat.

Custom Gun Repair (Bob Finkbeiner, Len Irlacher), 2908 W. Route 120, McHenry, IL 60050 (815) 385-2111. S&W, Ruger, Colt action jobs; duty guns made smooth, but "street legal." Graduates of S&W and Ruger armorer schools.

Hallock Enterprises (Steven Hallock), 1207 Kirkwood Drive, Pontiac, IL 61764. Action jobs: Colt/Ruger/S&W. Combat work on Colt .45s. Ransom Rest testing.

Richard Heinie, 821 Adams, Havana, IL 62644 (309) 543-4535. .45 combat autos, bluing/parkerizing. Brochure \$1 APG.

Mid-America Recreation, Inc. (Miller Custom Guns), 1328 5th Ave., Moline, IL 61265. Match-grade long slide .45s, short slide combat autos, revolvers, custom tune-ups.

Quality Pistolsmithing (Stephen M. Snider), Box 301, Energy, IL 62933 (618) 942-7285. Custom duty-grade S&W 39s and 59s, combat .45s. Special finishes: Nitex, Metaloy; PPC conversions.

Harold Shockley, Box 116, Hanna City, IL 61536 (309) 565-4524. Refinishing, bluing, plating: sights, parts for Colt and Browning M58s.

Village Gunsmith (Wayne N. Hill, Sr.), 310 Sheperd, Port Byron, IL 61275 (309) 523-3444. Tune-ups on revolvers for PPC; S&W specialty. Some auto work, prefer Browning. Has limited edition M58s.

INDIANA

Brown Custom Guns, Inc. (Steven N. Brown), 8810 Rocky Ridge Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46217 (317) 881-2771. Colt .45 auto only/accuracy, custom and combat. Brown Custom Combat. Brochure.

Gutridge, Inc. (Jack Gutridge), 2143 Gettler St., Dyer, IN 46311 (219) 865-8617. .45 auto and PPC accurizing/tuning. Popular Quickline combat sights, also custom sights. List 40 cents. APG

Kent Lomont, 4236 West South, Poneto, IN 46781 (219) 694-6792. Tuning, custom barrels/accessories for .44 Auto Mag.

IOWA

Miller Custom Guns (Fred R. Miller), 2620 E. 32nd St., Davenport, IA 52807 (913) 355-6165. (see Mid-America).

Tom's Gun Bluing Shop (Tom Volquartsen), 1818 Crestview Dr., Carroll, IA 51401 (712) 792-4238. Ruger, High Standard .22 target conversions. Brochure \$2.

KANSAS

Duane A. Hobbie, 2412 Pattie Ave., Wichita, KS 67216 (316) 264-8266. Custom silhouette (unlimited) guns. PPC/auto tuning. S&W, Ruger, Colt, Dan Wesson tuning.

KENTUCKY

Valley Gun Repair Service, 103 Valley Dr., Florence, KY 41042. Custom tuning Colt/S&W/Ruger/Dan Wesson revolvers; also Colt/S&W autos.

LOUISIANA

Clark Custom Guns, Inc., Rte. 2, Box 22A, Keithville, LA 71047. Bullseye and combat .45, .38, 9mm and .38 Super conversions. Bowling Pin models. .45 grip mounts for scope and Aimpoint. Match Colt auto barrels (6") for .45 ACP, .38 Special, 9mm and .38 Super. APG

Ken Eversull, Box 8603, Alexandria, LA 71306 (318) 487-0823. Custom PPC revolvers, .45 long slide combat autos. APG

MAINE

Liberty Antique Sixgun (Dave Chicoine), 19 Key Street, Eastport, ME 04631. Restoration/repairs. S&W collectibles (1885-1950). Catalog \$5.

MARYLAND

Lou Ciamillo, Maryland Gun Works, Ltd., POB 130, Clarksburg, MD 20871. Custom revolvers/barrels, .45 accuracy work, PPC revolvers, custom sights, accessories. Brochure \$1. APG

Alan C. Marvel, 3922 Madonna Rd., Jarrettsville, MD 21084 (301) 557-7270. Accurizing autos/revolvers; specialize in Colt .45 autos and .38 Super conversions to .38 Spec on standard and long slide for bullseye/IPSC models. Trigger tuning on High Standard and S&W M41 autos.

William L. O'Rourke, Jr. 5198 Grant Pl., Frederick, MD 21701. APG

MASSACHUSETTS

Precision Specialties, Ltd., (Fran Brown), 24 Davis St., Springfield, MA 01104 (413) 734-2665. PPC custom revolvers, action tuning. APG

MICHIGAN

Accuracy Arms, 677 W. Hollywood, Detroit, MI 48203.

Clinton River Gun Service, Inc., 30016 So. River Rd., Mt. Clemens, MI 48045. Hunting/pin/PPC; accurizing/repairs/alterations. Custom metal finishes.

Mag-Na-Port International (Larry Kelly), 41302 Executive Dr., Mt. Clemens, MI 48045-3448 (313) 469-6727. Special porting of barrels on revolvers; custom work on revolvers. APG

Moran Custom Guns (Jerry Moran), 2275 E. Farrand Rd., Clio, MI 48420. Browning autos and Auto-Mag/Ruger SA; tune revolvers.

Rupert's Gun Shop (John E. Rupert), 8936 Amsden Rd., Rte. 2, Fenwick, MI 48834.

.45 auto (stress reliability over accuracy for combat or hunting). Brochure \$2.

The Sho Gun Shop (Richard Nott), 26646 Five Mile Rd., Redford, MI 48239 (313) 535-0819. PPC revolvers, .45 and Browning Hi-Power, NRA target accurizing work.

Snapp's Gunshop, 6911 E. Washington Rd., Clare, MI 48617. Reborning large-frame revolvers, custom barrels, integral front sight ramps, unusual revolver conversions.

Trapper Gun Inc. (Lin "Trapper" Alexiou), 18717 E. Fourteen Mile Rd., Fraser, MI 48026 (313) 792-0133. Custom handguns, PPC/custom Rugers, custom combat autos, bullseye shooting aids, sight blades, tooling, bluing and plating, barrels for handguns.

MINNESOTA

Action Works (Charles Lowden), 6814 Elliot Ave. S., Richfield, MN 55423. Hand-fitted action work on S&W, Colt, Ruger revolvers.

MISSOURI

Eddie Brown, Route 1, Box 153, Perry, MO 63462 (314) 565-3261. Custom competition pistols and revolvers. Maxi-Comp, accuracy and action work; all custom refinements.

Nu-Line Guns (Gary L. Robison), 1053 Caulk's Hill Rd., Harvester, MO 63301 (314) 441-4500. Auto/revolver accurizing and action jobs. Brochure \$1.

Power Custom, Inc. (Ron Power), Box 1604, Independence, MO 64055 (816) 833-3102. High grade PPC revolvers. Grandmaster PPC and Bianchi Cup revolvers. Aimpoint sight bases, pistolsmithing tools (marketed by Brownells). Catalog \$2. APG

C. Ward Conversions, P.O. Box 610, Raymore, MO 64083 (816) 525-4767. Radical custom conversions on S&W Model 629 and Model 60 revolvers. Long waiting list.

MONTANA

Cannon's Guns (Andy Cannon), POB 357, Victor, MT 59875 (406) 642-3937. Specializing in custom actions of "L" frame Smiths and Colt Pythons. Brochure.

NEBRASKA

Cylinder and Slide Shop (Bill Laughridge), 523 No. Main St., Box 937, Fremont, NE 68025 (402) 721-4277. Auto/revolver accurizing. Brochure \$1.

NEVADA

The Accuracy Den (Vern S. Juenke), 25 Bitterbrush Rd., Reno, NV 89523 (702) 345-0225. T/C Contender specialist. Championship match grade guns for silhouette, hunting, target; .221 Rem/.222 Rem/6x221/6x47/.257 VJ/.270 VJ/.270 VJL/.270x50R/.22LR.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Benjamin Kilham, Main St., Box 37, Lyme, NH 03768 (603) 795-4112. Accurizing, chopping, conversions.

Silver Dollar Guns (George E. Sheldon), 10 Frances St., Box 475, Franklin, NH 03235. Combat/custom .45s.

Vic's Gun Refinishing (Victor Strawbridge), 6 Pineview Dr., Dover Point, NH 03820. Combat conversions, competition set-ups, general action/sight work; factory-trained on S&W, Colt, Ruger, Bluing, color case-hardening, nickel-chrome.

NEW MEXICO

Jim & Phil's Gunsmithing, 753 Gibson's Shopping Center, Box 102, Alamogordo, NM 88310 (505) 434-1388. All custom .45 work plus exclusive "linkless Colt system."

Barry Mowry (BJ's Sporting Goods) 513 San Mateo N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87108 (505) 255-9259. Custom pistols and revolvers, action work.

NEW JERSEY

Armament Gunsmithing Co., Inc., 525 Route 22, Hillside, NJ 07205 (201) 686-0960. General repair, revolver action jobs.

Joe K's, Inc. (Joe Kassay and Jim Arbes), 500 High St., Perth Amboy, NJ 08861 (201) 442-4114. Customized autos/revolvers (IPSC, PPC, street/target); custom finishes and combat equipment. Brochure. APG

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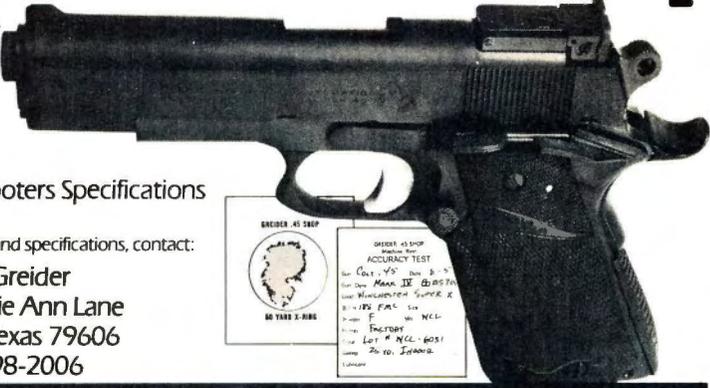
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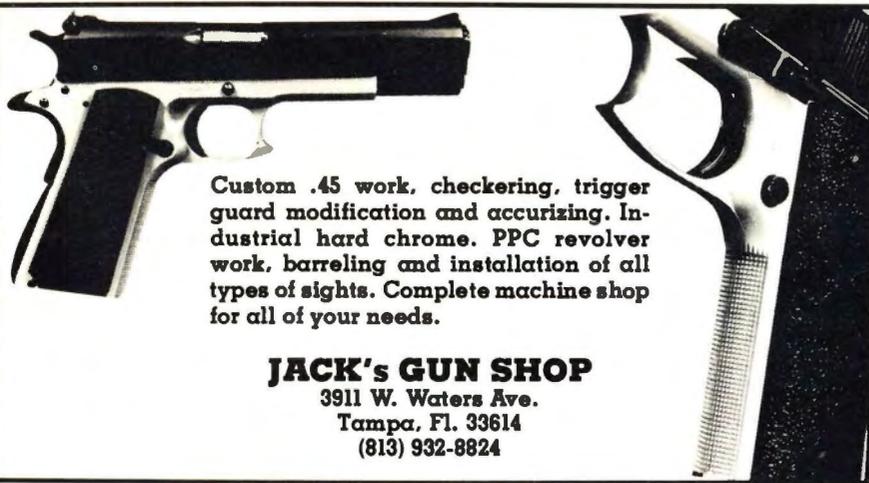
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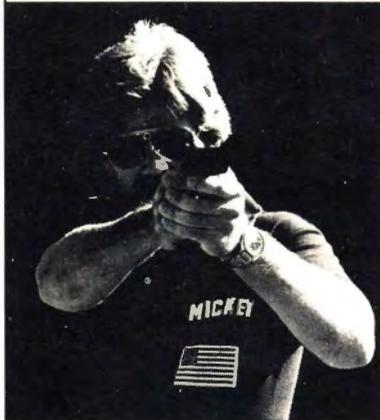
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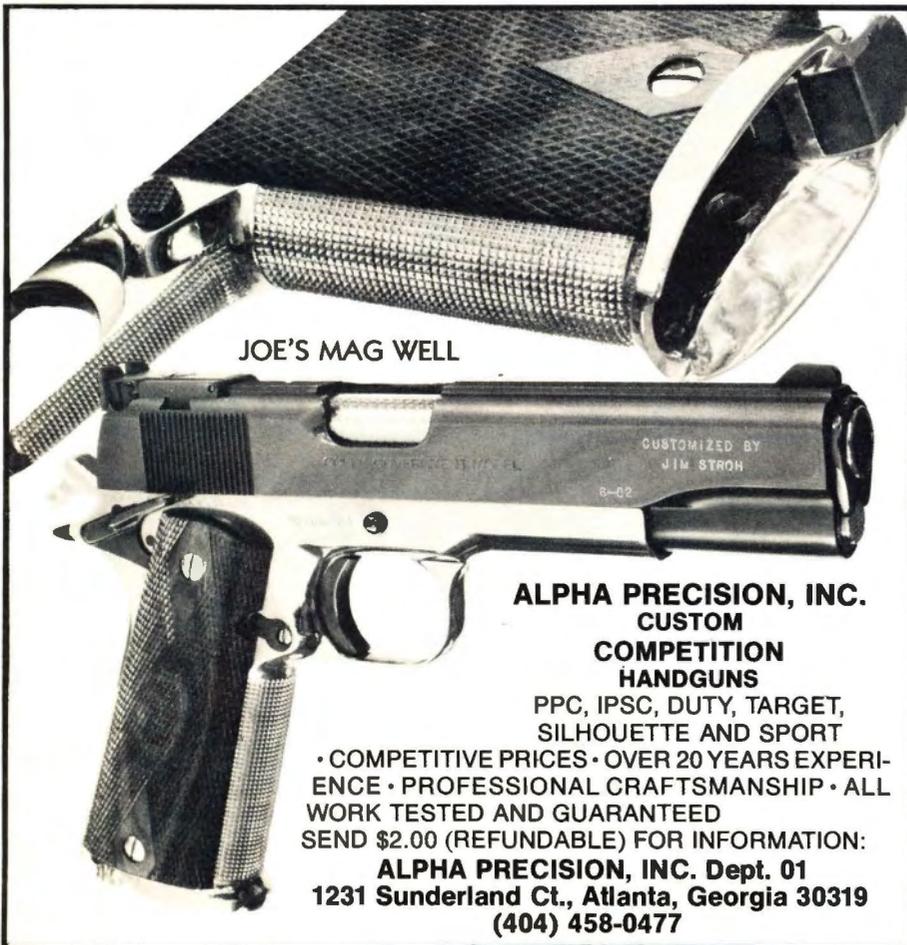
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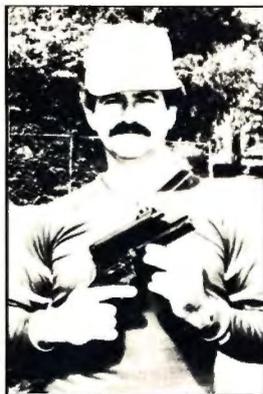
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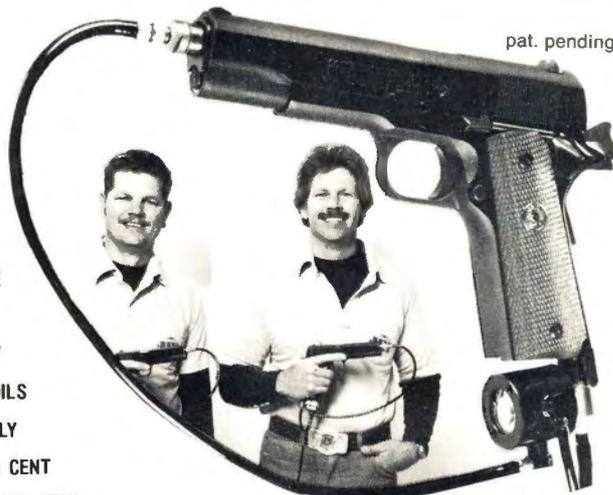
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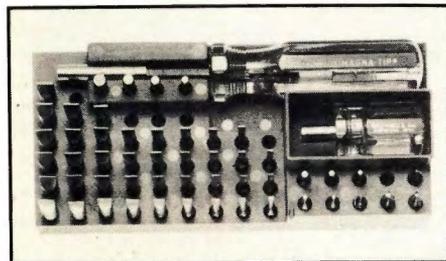
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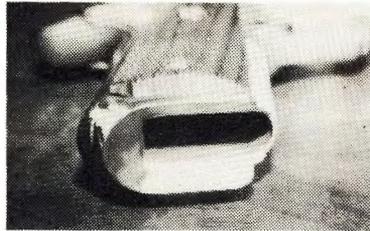


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The AMERICAN HANDGUNNER incorrectly quoted the price of a brass catcher from M.A.M. Products in the November/December 1984 issue. The editor regrets the error. The correct prices are \$34.95 for the bench model and \$44.95 for the stand up model.



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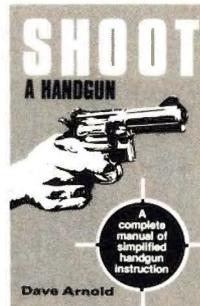
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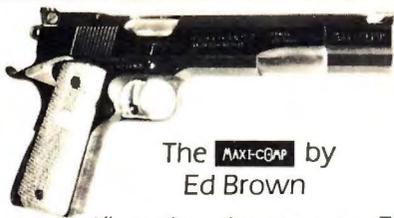
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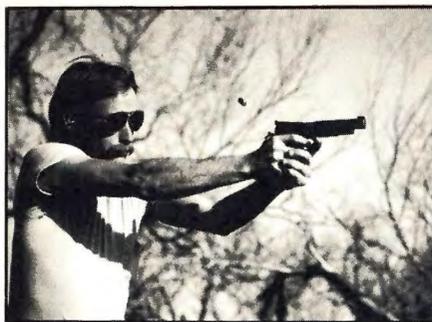
HANDGUNNER APPOINTS NEW EDITOR

The American Handgunner is pleased to announce the appointment of a new editor. Cameron Hopkins, of Waco, Texas, joined the Handgunner in September of 1984 to replace Len Davis, the previous editor, who departed to start a free-lance editorial service.

Publisher George von Rosen and Editorial Director Jerry Rakusan welcome Hopkins to the Handgunner's offices in San Diego, Calif., where he assumes the position of editor.

The 29-year-old transplanted Texan holds a master's degree in journalism from Baylor University. He has long been active in various handgunning sports including IPSC, Silhouette and Bullseye. Prior to coming to the Handgunner, Hopkins worked as a reporter for the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal in Lubbock, Texas.

As an active handgunner, Hopkins will bring to the American Handgunner the background and knowledge necessary to continue the tradition of editorial excellence our readers have come to expect.



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FIT THOSE GRIPS

Continued from page 32

than the standards for which the stocks were inletted at the plant.

No problem. The stocks were removed from the frames, and only the right stock installed to determine where the gaps existed. After this observation, a kit of Brownell's Acraglas Gel was obtained; this gel, which is frequently used by gunsmiths, is often available at well stocked gun shops, and it comes in very handy for repairing many items. (There is also regular Acraglas, which is a thick liquid, and which, when mixed, sets up chemically.)

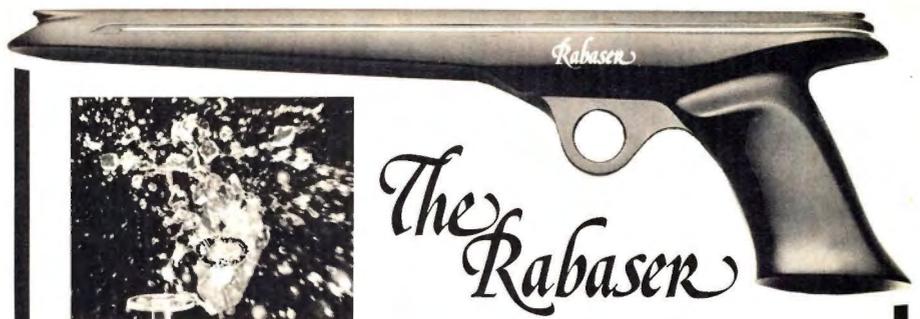
The Acraglas Gel kit contains three containers—the actual resin, a hardener, and a release agent which must be painted on all surfaces that are not to be bonded. Before the Acraglas was applied to the stocks, the revolvers grip frames were prepared by removing the hammer springs, and thor-



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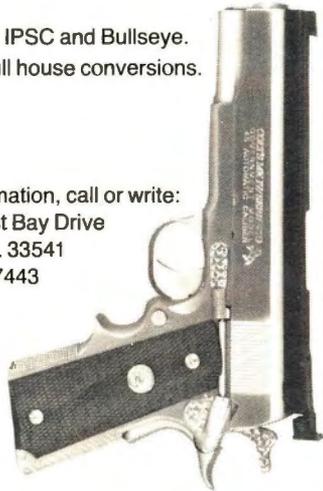
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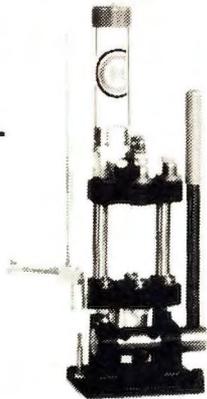


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oughly covering all surfaces with release agent. The release agent was allowed to dry and the surfaces given a second and third coat. With this completed, a small batch of Gel was mixed—equal quantities of resin and hardener—in the plastic bowls provided in the kit, which also contains a set of measuring spoons. A small amount of the mixed Gel was then placed in the previously noted gaps in the right stock and the revolver frame pressed into place; where any Gel oozed above the stock surface, it was carefully wiped away. With the right stock reinstalled, the separation line was covered with thin strips of 3M or Scotch tape to prevent the left stock from sticking to the right stock; this is very important, for combining of the Gel on the two stock halves will produce permanently installed stocks. A new batch of Gel was mixed, placed in the left stock gaps as done previously on the right stock, and it in turn fitted on the revolver grip; the stock screw or bolt was then installed, and the left stock shifted as necessary to insure the parting lines were perfectly aligned for appearance and comfort, and the screw tightened. After 24 hours, the stock screw was loosened approximately halfway and tapped slightly to break the stocks free.

Some excess Gel had oozed out under the



trigger guard, and along the top of the backstrap; these areas were trimmed and carefully sanded, and the now completed, custom-fitted stocks reinstalled. The fit was perfect on both revolvers, with no slipping or wobbling, and it had taken less than an hour, excluding the curing time.

It is not difficult to custom fit stocks to your handgun; almost anyone can do it. There are, however, some cautions. A bit of modeling clay stuck in each end of the roll pins, used as a positioning stud near the butt of the frame, will prevent the Gel from entering and causing a sticking problem. And, remember to use plenty of release agent and cover all surfaces with which the Gel will come in contact; modeling clay can be used to fill the cavities of the frame grip, if desired, and even masking tape can be used and covered with release agent. Work slowly and carefully, making sure uncured Gel in the two stock halves does not come in contact; you do not want a permanent installation. (Haste in this instance does not make waste; it can create unwanted problems.) If you follow instruction, and take your time, you'll be rewarded with a pair of stocks custom-fitted to your handgun.

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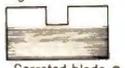
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RELOADING 45 WM

Continued from page 38

rounds wasn't very tight (57 fps); standard deviation (a measure of how close to average velocity a bullet can be expected to travel) was from 16 to 23, compared with 14 to 21 in factory-loaded ammo and 8 (very good) standard deviation in the 260-grainer over 16.0 grains of Blue Dot. H110 and 2400 offered much the same performance and it isn't hard to conclude that slow-burning magnum powders aren't applicable in a six-inch barrel with semi-auto action.

All cartridges loaded for this test program had magnum pistol primers, incidentally (Winchester's #WLP primer, for standard or magnum loads). All loads were chronographed over Oehler Model 33 Chronotach skyscreens at five feet from the muzzle in 75 degree temperatures.

Because the factory loads appeared to have a look-alike Unique powder, I tried this next with excellent results. This is probably the best all-around powder to use if you're limited to one choice, although as mentioned felt recoil may be a bit heavier with faster powders.

Behind Speer's 200-grain JHP slug, which is a truly excellent expander, Hercules Unique is as diverse as you could wish for. A tiny 10.0-grain charge will offer 1,149 fps but have virtually no recoil (and it just barely functions the slide), while a 14.0-grain charge will sling the manhole cover at 1,448 fps with standard deviation of a mere 10 (and good accuracy!). The ideal load . . . one which doesn't recoil much but which would be devastating for self-defense work . . . is 12.5 grains of Unique. Recoil is light enough to get off rapid-fire shots and hit what you're aiming at every time.

Unique also functions well with the heavier bullets, driving the 225-grain Speer to 1,356 fps accurately and taking Sierra's 240-grain JHP to 1,293 fps with excellent accuracy also. Even the 260-grain Speer JHP slug responds well with Unique, but I list no loads for it because other powders will do a better job.



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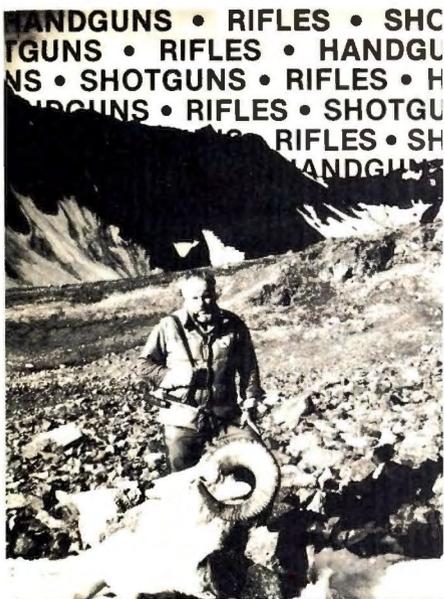
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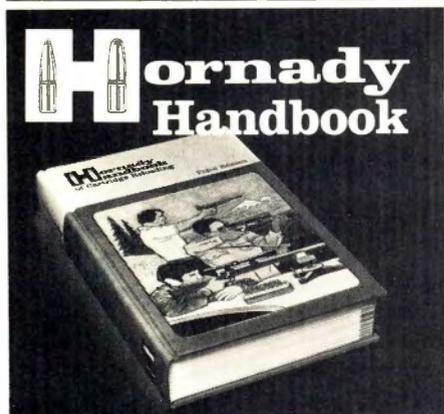
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Hodgdon's HS6 powder is a fast-burning spherical shotgun powder which often delivers good velocities in moderate to heavy handgun loads, so that was tried next with Speer's 200-grain JHP slug. There is no listed data for this powder in .45 Win Mag, so I winged it here by starting very low (as you should also do when working up to any of my max loads). Up to 15.0 grains of HS6 accuracy and recoil is pleasant, but above that to a maximum of 16.5 grains I tried, recoil is sharp and muzzle blast gets awesome. All in all, this powder doesn't work very well in .45 Win Mag, but in a pinch 15.0 grains at 1,242 fps is the best accuracy load with most pleasing recoil.

Hodgdon's HS7, a bit slower than HS6, worked well in lighter bullet loads. An over-max (by one grain) charge of 20.0 grains of HS7 behind the 200-grain Speer offered 1,504 fps with recoil still milder than that of factory ammo. At Hodgdon's recommended 19.0-grain load the Speer slug will hit an even 1,400 fps with good accuracy and fairly mild recoil, and would make a nice all-around self-defense loading.

With heavier bullets HS7 offered velocities slightly lower than Blue Dot-equivalent charges (recommended levels by loading manual data).

The last powder tried was that packed in each factory round. High-power rifle competition shooters call this "Mexican Match" shooting; the factory bullet is pulled and another substituted of about the same weight. I tried over a hundred Mexican Match reloads and determined that this would be an easy way for the reloader to go if he didn't wish to fiddle around working up loads over a chronograph.

After pulling bullets I weighed each powder charge to get exactly the 14.0-grain weight of a factory round. Some broken-down rounds had as little as 13.6 grains while others had as much as 14.3 grains, an inherent problem with automated filling equipment as used in modern factories.

Substituting 200-grain Speer JHP slugs for the factory 230-grainers, I arrived at very consistent velocities of 1,424 fps using Olin powder. By weighing out an extra half-grain the velocity jumped to 1,467. In each case recoil was about like that with factory loads. The 225-grain Speer bullet, a wonderful all-around choice, clocked 1,393 fps with the factory charge of 14.0 grains of powder. Standard deviation was a mere 8, and a shooter could do much worse than simply replacing the hardball bullets with this slug and forgetting all about an involved reloading program.

With Sierra's 240-grainer I dropped back half a grain for safety (because the bullet is slightly heavier and slightly larger in diameter) and came up with 1,344 fps. This would be a nice hunting load suitable also for self-defense or silhouette shooting. At 12.5 grains of Olin powder (again to reflect heavier bullet weight) the 260-grain Speer clocked 1,239. Winchester's Silvertip hit 1,500 fps over a weighed charge of 15.0 grains of Olin powder, but muzzle flash was severe.

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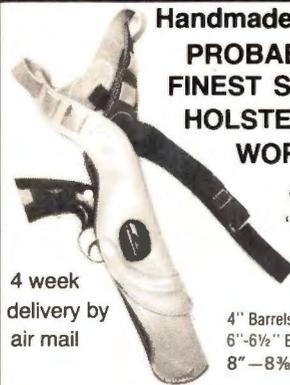
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gram received a medium roll crimp, both to promote bullet retention and to ensure proper powder burning. Factory bullets are asphalted into their cases, and thus will not suffer being driven back down into the case under stressful chambering forces; nor will asphalted bullets work out of their cases as uncrimped slugs of the handloaded variety might.

It's important to recognize that, within limitations, this auto pistol case does *not* headspace on the case mouth. Manuals will tell you otherwise, of course. The Lyman reloading manual, for example, states that overall case length must be maintained because the .45 Win. Mag. headspaces on the case mouth; in the next breath, the same page tells you that trim-to-length specs are 1.188", or a total of 10-thousandths of an inch shorter than factory length specs call for. I measured many factory cases before they were fired, and some of them were as short as 1.183", or a grand total of 15-thousandths of an inch shorter! It is difficult to believe that such a short case would headspace properly, if indeed this cartridge spaces on the case mouth.

No attempt was made to control overall loaded length, since the crimping cannellure on the recommended bullets determines this measurement. I experienced only one failure to chamber in over 600 handloaded rounds, and that was traced to a burr on the case mouth (a result of improper case preparation on my part). It is clear that crimping the .45 Win. Mag. case mouth is the *only* way to handload this cartridge so the bullets stay where they are supposed to, without being driven back down into the case with attendant sky-high pressure specs.

The Alberts swaged bullet also received a crimp, right into the bullet metal because there's no crimping cannellure. The Alberts slug was seated to arrive at an overall length of 1.530" to 1.540".

The loads detailed in accompanying tables show what worked for *me*.

When working up loads based on my findings start one or even two grains lower than maximum charges. Unique loads for 200-grain bullets over 13.2 grains are not shown, but I experienced no signs of excessive pressure up to 14.0 grains. That does not make this a safe load in all guns, however.



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IPSC IN SOUTH AFRICA

Continued from page 41

match. Here again, the standards are weighted more heavily than the individual speed matches.

A jungle lane, the equivalent of an American "assault course," is just what the name implies—a path cut through the bush (jungle) with numerous targets scattered about and well-hidden. The bush resembles brush country of South Texas, and is not a steaming tropical jungle that most people incorrectly associate with Africa.

A competitor dashes down the "lane," which is roughly marked to prevent a "shot-tist" from bumbling off in the wrong direction, and engages targets dotted along the way plus any steel plates. The targets are camouflaged and hidden behind bushes and trees. Some matches feature moving targets, and the dreaded Guillotine Target that drops out of a tree and must be shot before it hits the ground. A jungle lane is scored Comstock, so you must move quickly but without missing any of the cleverly hidden targets.

Another common stage format, the house clearing drill, reveals a nasty truth about living in a country under the insidious shadow of terrorism—be ready to come across a multiple-hostage situation at any time and any place. And be ready to dart room to room eliminating the "terrs" without nailing any hostages. House clearing drills are invariably littered with numerous hostages.

One house clearing I shot at a National Trail in Pretoria contained several "rooms" in the "house," several of which contained moving targets that were activated by hitting a steel plate in the preceding "room." (The rooms were made of burlap sacks as can be seen in the accompanying photos.) You really had to hustle to engage the mover in the next room before it disappeared behind a cluster of hostages.

On the house clearing, as with all stages of a match, IPSC match officials enforce a rigid safety standard. Violators of major safety offences, such as fanning the audience with the muzzle, are not only disqualified from the match, but also barred from competition for the next six-months. All matches are fired on a "cold" range with all weapons unloaded with the hammer down. After completing a stage, a competitor must "hold open for inspection" to allow the range officer to make sure the weapon is safe.

Moving to the final aspect of a typical match, up-close-and-personal, rapid-firing events, one can generalize that these speed shoots require between eight and twelve rounds with the range less than 10 meters, and with a steel stop plate. Target placement and use of hostages vary greatly. All such stages are scored Comstock.

The start position favored for all stages is the hands clasped in front of the body. The

surrender position is not widely used. With the hands-clasped position, it is little wonder that cross draw holsters are popular.

While the courses of fire at matches vary a bit from American IPSC matches, the equipment used by South Africans is almost exclusively American. Like the lion's share of IPSC shooters, the South Africans favor the Colt Government Model pistol, usually modified to some extent.

The popularity of Colt .45s should come as no surprise until you consider the United States arms embargo against South Africa imposed by President Jimmy Carter. All American guns and accessories must be smuggled into the country by European and African black marketeers, and you can imagine the ramifications of that. That's right, prices are soaring. A Gold Cup costs around 1,200 Rand, about \$1,000. A Government Model goes for about 850 Rand, or \$740. A Randall magazine will set you back 30 Rand; a Rogers holster, 100 Rand; brass 300 to 400 Rand per thousand; and primers, five cents apiece.

One gun shop in Johannesburg was "raided" by the US embassy. A diplomat went to the gun shop, browsed around, and lingered at the counter with some Colt .45s for an inordinate amount of time. Of course the gun shop owner had no idea why this guy was staring fixedly at his Colts.

The diplomat was memorizing serial numbers! He returned to the embassy and initiated an investigation into the original American purchasers of those Colts. Mysteriously the gun shop owner's source for Colt .45s disappeared. Now when you go in that gun shop you will see strips of masking tape covering the serial numbers on all American made guns.

So the South Africans must battle with forces we don't even consider to pursue the sport of IPSC shooting. They are a dedicated bunch of shooters.

Their equipment certainly doesn't give one the slightest hint of an American embargo on firearms and related equipment. Everything from RCBS shell holders to Bar-Sto barrels sneak their way into the country. Colts abound. In my six-months in South Africa, I saw only one "shot-tist" using a non-Colt pistol—he fired a Browning Hi-Power.

And the South Africans' Colt pistols feature all the gadgets and modifications found on American pistols. Bo-Mar sights are popular as are MMC and other American custom sights. Swenson safeties adorn many of the pistols. Bar-Sto barrels with small compensator cuts in the end of the six-inch barrels are also in wide use.

In the leather department, again American-made holsters predominate over locally made leather. Remember, South African Springbok Captain, the late Gavin Carson, designed the original Rogers World Speed Model, the prototype from which the various off-shoots, such as the Hackathorn and Plaxco models, derived. Davis holsters were well represented as were Blocker and Bianchi. But the Rogers holster was the most popular.

And American reloading equipment, also subject to the embargo, finds its way into the country by the ton. I recall a gun shop owner complaining that his shipment of RCBS equipment had been seized by US customs, but he added that the customs only managed to intercept a tiny portion of the sporting goods smuggled into South Africa.

The popularity of American equipment might lead one to suspect that the South Africans look with envious eyes across the Atlantic. They do. South African attitudes toward American IPSC include a touch of green jealousy. Springboks Paul Bromfield and Sidney Thorne, as well as other "shot-tists," remarked to me that the Americans have an unfair advantage in international competition because they claim the top American shooters are "pros." They point to the rich prize money at the Bianchi Cup as a glaring example of how Americans can make a living at IPSC. One South African growled that Ross Seyfried "makes once-fired brass for a living."

I pointed out that only a handful of Americans make a living through prize money, product endorsements, and shooting schools. But they retorted that it is precisely that group of shooters, the likes of Shaw, Fowler, and Dalton, who they find have an unfair advantage. After all, these were top shooters speaking who compete against our top shooters—they weren't concerned about the rank-and-file American shooters.

Another common South African attitude toward American IPSC concerns the safety standards at matches. At the 1983 World Shoot in Virginia, the South Africans were aghast at the "loose" safety. A friend of mine, Brad Butler, who attended the World Shoot (I was in South Africa at the time) reported that the South Africans scurried around trying to locate a range officer to watch them take their pistols from their carrying cases. In South Africa, one is not allowed to even touch one's pistol except under the watchful eye of Big Brother Range Officer.

The South Africans raise a skeptical eyebrow when told about matches fired on a "hot" range with all weapons loaded, cocked and locked. The South Africans shook their heads when I tried to convince them that a cocked and locked .45 in a secure holster is a thoroughly safe method of carrying the Colt .45. Of course they carry cocked and locked on the street, but they somehow fail to apply the same thinking at a match.

Having shot in matches in South Africa and the United States, I am impressed with the average level of skill of the South Africans. An average South African would be considered above average here, and an average American would be seen as below average there.

However, in the upper echelons of the pyramid of American IPSC, our glamor boys outdistance the South African elite as proven at the 1983 World Shoot. Americans dominated with the top South African, National Champ Sidney Thorne, placing 13th. I spoke to several of the Springboks after their return from the World Shoot. No sour grapes or

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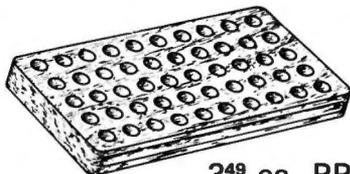
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bitterness, one and all the Springboks admitted they were out-shot, pure and simple. They also went on to make a prediction—watch out for Rob Leatham as this young sharpshooter will dominate international competition for years to come.

Comparing South African IPSC and American IPSC, I find our IPSC to be more enjoyable because our matches are more informal and lack the sometimes ridiculous safety rules of South Africa. I have never been disqualified from a match in America; I was DQ'd at the first match I shot in South Africa. Apparently I took more than two steps backwards on a house clearing drill while facing downrange and with the muzzle in a safe direction. South African rules prohibit moving more than two steps backwards if by chance a shooter over-steps a target while dashing through a course of fire.

On the other hand, I prefer the South African emphasis on the basic shooting skills as shown in their marathon standard exercises. To fire a 60-round standard wrings out all aspects of IPSC skills, which I feel is one element we lack in our IPSC. Matches in this country lean more heavily on speed while South African matches weigh accuracy higher.

I look for continued American dominance on the international level. Among the various countries participating in international IPSC, the South Africans pose the most serious challenge to us. But the days of South African domination of the mid-1970s are over. Blessed with the world's best gunsmiths and the world's finest shooting equipment, American IPSC shooters can be proud of our top IPSC shooters who proved in the 1983 World Shoot that America is the country to beat.



.44 DOUBLE

Continued from page 27

power, these loads have it all over the small autos I used to carry.

The manufacturer states that the intended purpose of this weapon is for close range work as a police back-up gun. In keeping with this, all range testing was done at 7 yards and less. At this range the lower barrel hit just slightly right of the point of aim, however, all shots could be kept in or near the 5X ring on the standard silhouette target. The top barrel was a different story. At the 7 yard line it also struck slightly right of point of aim, but 12 in. high. Even so, point shooting at the abdomen area produced hits with both barrels in the kill zone. Moving to the 3 yard line it was no problem to keep two quick shots in the chest area. The roundball loads proved very effective out to five yards and this is the load I keep in the top barrel, set to fire first. The heavy SWC is carried in the more accurate lower barrel for the second shot if needed.

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COPS AND IPSC

Continued from page 9

to routine law enforcement needs.

The second form of relevant competition, IPSC, has been touted by many (including me) as a superior approach to developing those shooting skills that will assist the officer in surviving long enough to enjoy his pension. The benefits of this form of competition include: the ability to engage multiple targets at a variety of unknown distances; time limits are extremely short or the shooter is penalized for taking more time; ammunition is subject to power factoring; targets can be found anywhere, and competitors are often forced to choose between hostage and bad guy targets, and shooting stances have practical application.

IPSC, however, is not perfect and has some rather glaring faults that limit its effectiveness. First of all, IPSC shares with PPC a reluctance to require the proper use of cover. The IPSC approach to cover generally duplicates the PPC barricade position using it not as a defensive tactic, but as a rest for the weapon. Second, the weapons used by serious IPSC competitors are not going to be found in police holsters. They are simply too expensive and finicky to be exposed to the rigors of daily law enforcement use. Besides, while the Colt .45 Auto is ubiquitous in IPSC circles, in law enforcement it's a genuine rarity. Third, like PPC, holsters and ammo carriers used by most top IPSC competitors are not really practical for daily law enforcement use. Fourth, many IPSC clubs publish their courses of fire in advance, seriously negating the value of these events as training exercises.

The police officer who wants to gain the maximum benefit from participation in IPSC will enter matches with his duty weapon and rig. Unfortunately entering a match thus equipped, is an almost guaranteed way to lose. The .38 Special is still the most commonly-encountered caliber in law enforcement, but under IPSC rules the officer so equipped is doubly handicapped; trying to reload a revolver faster than automatic-equipped competitors, and shooting a minor caliber against major calibers.

The S&W 9MMs are the semiautomatic pistol seen most often in police holsters. While they are substantially quicker to reload than a revolver, they cannot equal the long range accuracy of the .45 without major changes. Besides the double action first shot (the very reason for their popularity among police administrators) is a further handicap to long range accuracy.

Now, I'm not advocating a change in the power factoring that is at the center of IPSC, but I would like to see a production class for unaltered weapons. Furthermore, proper use of cover should be required where cover is available. IPSC shooters routinely use cover just like their PPC "brothers" use the barricade—to steady the weapon. Also, I have a serious problem with those IPSC matches



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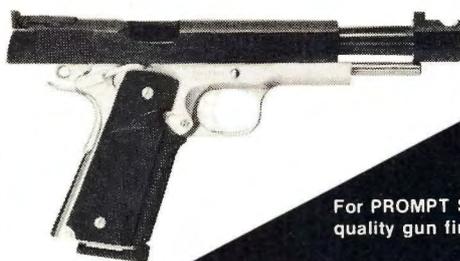
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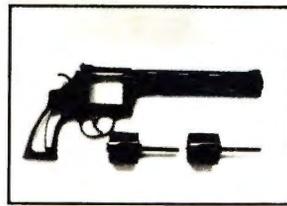
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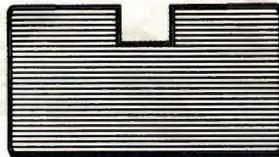
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that require more than one reload. As someone who has survived lethal confrontations, I can assure you that six magazines were not needed to come out alive.

The biggest reason that IPSC has not been more responsive to the needs of law enforcement personnel, is simply because cops make up such a small percentage of IPSC competitors. The way to make this organization more cop-oriented, is to join it and change that emphasis.

IPSC may not be the perfect vehicle to sharpen the survival skills of a police officer, but is certainly better than the bulk of the weapons training offered by police departments. The exceptional minds that developed and have refined IPSC to its current state are working to overcome many of the concerns I've raised.

I personally participate in IPSC matches to hone the technique needed to survive. While adherence to sound street survival principles may take me out of winning contention in matches, it has made me a winner in the street, where it really counts!



SOUTHPAWS

Continued from page 43

the strength my thumb does, and a short spring makes it light enough to drop a magazine in a hurry under stress. Obviously if you remove so many coils that the magazine drops on its own, you have gone too far, so cut one coil at a time. We left-handers don't have to shift our grip to drop magazines as most right-handers do. An oversized or extended magazine release button will merely get in the way of your trigger finger. The extended magazine release which extends back into the grip is downright hazardous for a left-hander. Use one and sooner or later you will drop a magazine in mid-string.

I've tried a lot of the gadgets, but the more I shoot, the fewer gadgets I want on my guns anyway. Anything that can break will break, and even an oversized magazine button cost me a match once, so I stopped using them. Your trigger finger can work the slide release and the magazine release as well as a long right thumb. Compared to a right-hander with short thumbs, you have an actual advantage.

You won't want to practice hip-shooting (such as the Speed-Rock) too much when shooting your .45 left-handed—not without a facemask. Hold the .45 close to your left side and sooner or later it will eject into your eye and cheek. (Yes, the Randall's left-handed ejection cures that.) Of course, should you need to shoot from this position, it is unlikely that that will be your greatest worry, because you will only shoot from that position if extending the pistol would allow the three-hundred pound bad guy to take your \$1500 combat custom .45 away from you and insert it rectally.

Other pistols have different problems for southpaws.

Continued on page 70

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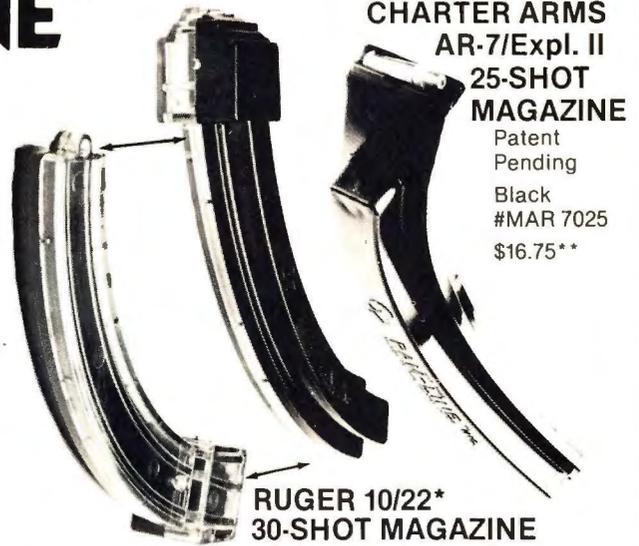
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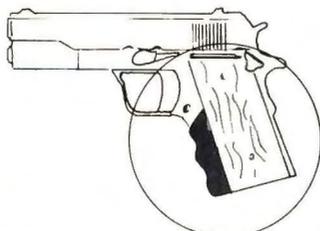
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Walther PP, PPK, and PPK/S have no ambidextrous safety. If you're adventurously inclined, you can leave the safety off and the hammer down and rely on the double-action feature. It seems safe on the PP series, but I'm not so sure about some of the copies. A policeman friend of mine has carried one this way for 15 years without problem. The current P-38s and P-5s are designed to be carried that way. The real problem with the PP series is the magazine release button. My trigger finger hits it when firing under stress, dropping the magazine, I know of no cure for the problem. Suddenly a butt-mounted magazine release makes some sense. Perhaps a good gunsmith could fit a stronger spring to the stock magazine release. You're probably not too concerned with speed reloads with a PPK.

There is no ambidextrous safety that I know of for the otherwise excellent Star PD. Several fine pistols are hopeless for left-handers, the Heckler and Koch P9S, SIG-Sauer P220, Browning BDA and others are examples. S&W is finally fitting ambidextrous safeties for the 639, 659 series.



Southpaws must modify most guns.

Several small imported pistols, in order to meet the points system for legal importation, have thick grips with thumb rests for a right-handed shooter, making otherwise ambidextrous pistols hopelessly right-handed. Of course, a set of custom grips will cure that problem. The point is why should left-handers have to pay extra for special grips, safeties, or whatever?

One company, however, has made a perfectly ambidextrous pistol, the Heckler & Koch P-7. It has none of the normal external safeties and double action is handled by the squeeze-cocker on the front grip. Thin and without projections, it may be carried concealed safely with a round in the chamber. The rear-of-the-butt magazine release, so hated by U.S. competitive shooters, works flawlessly with practice only slightly slower than the Colt in competition. But this is not a competition gun. It is a "real life" gun. The fact that it is reliable, accurate, beautifully made, comfortable to wear and shoot doesn't hurt any. It has near perfect combat sights and brilliant human engineering to boot.

What we need are more manufacturers who think of the 20%, more Bren 10s with screwdriver reversible safeties, more S&W 639s with ambidextrous safeties, more P-7s (such as a .45 ACP model, please). Perhaps if lefties buy only factory ambidextrous guns, maybe the manufacturers will get the word.

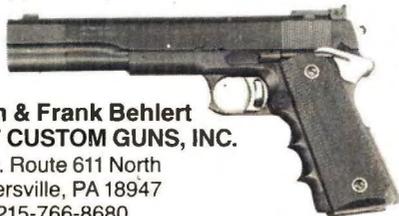


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2. The finger contacts the trigger at the first or second joint, depending on hand size. For speed shooting, I prefer the smooth, rolling motion of the straight pull.



MARK DUNCAN, PPC Grand Master, 1490 Club Member, Winner of 8 State Championships in IPSC and PPC Competition.

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STAR MODEL 30PK

Continued from page 45

manuals and they worked, too.

The Star 30 has sights adjustable for windage only and W-W ball consistently shot 4-5" high at 25 yards, but when I changed to Silvertips bad things began to happen to the ten ring. In fact, most of the hollowpoint loads I tried shot close enough to point of aim to ignore any small differences. Next came some accuracy testing over sandbags at 25 yards. The W-W ball averaged 3.8" for five five shot groups and Silvertips 3.7". My first surprise came when I shot a couple of groups with some of the reloads I had prepared for function testing. 5.0 grains of Unique behind a Hornady 115-grain hollowpoint, a mild and pleasant load, averaged 1.9", and an even milder load with cast bullets came out just a little over 2".

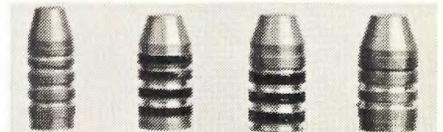
The next test was a hundred round function test with mixed ammunition. When I loaded the magazine I deliberately mixed ball, several different hollowpoints, and cast bullets so that each cycle fed a different type of bullet. I went through the 100 rounds just as fast as I could pop them off, and experienced no malfunctions.

The Star 30 PK is a thoughtfully designed gun that avoids many of the pitfalls seen in some other guns of the same type. There is a simplicity to the design that reduces the chances for something to go wrong, simply by eliminating functional parts that are not absolutely needed. Since the initial testing and break in period I have fired several hundred more rounds of mixed reloads and factory ammunition without a malfunction; and it's hard to find fault with any gun that works so well. If, however, I were forced to nitpick, my sole criticism would be the trigger pulls. Anyone who can make such a nice gun could make the trigger pull a little lighter and smoother.



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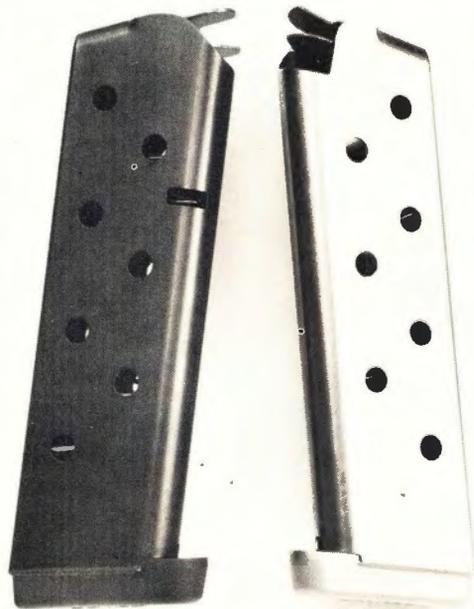
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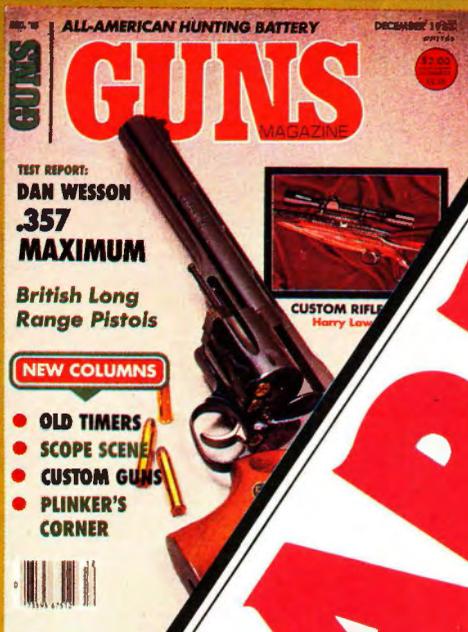
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S&W MODEL 681

Continued from page 46

are usually too large through the grip area for small or medium sized hands. The shooter's hand often could not gain a firm grip, the trigger required a long finger stretch, and the cylinder release could not be reached with the thumb of the shooting hand. The new "L" frame solves most of these problems by strengthening the weak points and retaining the same grip size as the "K" frames.

No matter how good a gun might look, the main question is—will it shoot? The 681, which I tested, does, and in a way that makes standard factory magnum loads if not pleasant to shoot, at least more controllable. The gun will print inside 2½ inches at twenty-five yards and that is more than adequate for a defensive type weapon. With the fixed sights my gun shoots about an inch low with 158 grain, round nose bullets. The adjustable sight models 586 or 686 would, of course, be better suited for ventilating paper targets. With any fixed sight pistol, you must know your ammo and raise or lower the point of aim visually.

Stainless steel handguns have taken some harsh criticism in the past, mostly due to complaints of rough actions. The internal parts on the stainless "L" frames are flash chromed which allows a great degree of rust resistance. This also prevents two like metals rubbing together which caused much of the roughness in the action of earlier made stainless guns. The action on my Model 681 is similar in feel to other Smith models that I have fired. The single action letoff is the usual scalpel sharp release that is typical of the breed. I did feel that the double action was a little rough. In any revolver the smoothness of the action is dependent on the amount of friction present when all the parts are moving. If you remove the sideplate, you will see that there are a lot of parts moving when the action is cycled. A trip to my local gunsmith brought the double action down to a smooth,

SPECIFICATIONS	
S&W Model 681	
Caliber357 Magnum .38 Special
Capacity	6 Shots
Barrel Length	4"
Overall Length	9¾"
Weight	42 oz., Empty
Stocks	Checked red Walnut.
Sights	Fixed
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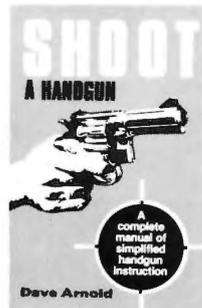
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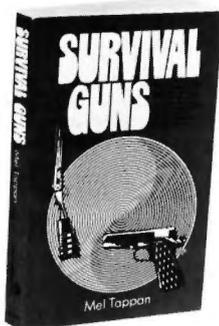
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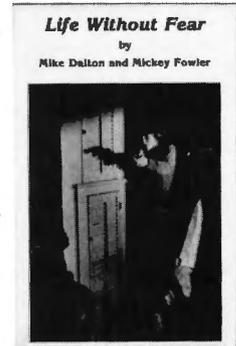
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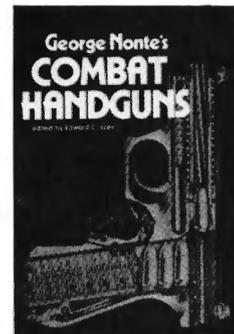
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INDUSTRY INSIDER

JERRY RAKUSAN

HIGH STANDARD TO GO ON AUCTION; UNUSUAL NEW ITALIAN REVOLVERS

On the same date, August 14th, I received in the mail two letters which tell divergent stories about the past, present, and future of the handgun industry. The letters came from cities about as far apart as you can get, East Hartford, Connecticut and Pavia, Italy.

The first came from High Standard, Inc. It is headlined, "High Standard, Inc., intends to completely dispose of all of its product lines by offering them for sale." It appears that successful bidders will get all of the dies, fixtures, drawings, etc., for each of seven lots. Lot #1 includes the auto pistols, from the Victor to the Sport King; Lot #2, the revolvers, including the Sentinel and the Double Nine; Lot #3 is a one-gun lot, the venerable .22 Derringer; Lot #4 is the Crusader line of revolvers. The other lots include the High Standard rifles and shotguns and the .22 Plinker and Duramatic.

Although the results of this sale are unknown at the time of this writing, it certainly appears that this will herald the end of an era; when the .22 auto pistol was king; when High Standard guns were seen in numbers at premier national and international competitive shooting matches; when the name High Standard was reknown as the first to offer a gas-operated auto shotgun.

But let us not write the obituary of High Standard too soon. The sale may bring forth a new High Standard. We shall be anxiously awaiting word.

The second letter, from a Mr. Emilio Ghisoni, described several new concepts in revolver design. Not the usual re-inventing of the S&W Model 10 nor the fancying up of an existing design. This is the Mateba, as the

photos show, a most unusual revolver design.

The Mateba has several features that bear explanation. The first is that the cylinder is situated in front of the trigger guard; this brings the bore line down almost an inch below that of a standard revolver. The current model is chambered for .38 Special, and the cylinder capacity is 8 rounds.

The cylinder is designed to be loaded by means of what Mr. Ghisoni calls a "speed loader." It is actually an 8-round full moon

clip with a covering plate. The plate locks the cartridges in place and has holes for passage of the firing pin.

The Mateba is a double action revolver; to shoot single action one must cock the gun by use of a cocking lever (ambidextrous) located just above the stocks.

As this is written (August, 1984) there is no U.S. importer. However, Mr. Ghisoni indicated that he is talking to several prospective importers and he hopes to get an agreement soon.

It appears that innovation in revolver designs from Mr. Ghisoni does not end with the Mateba. He also sent the *American Handgunner* photos of a prototype revolver in which the firing mechanism and barrel are aligned with the bottom chamber of the cylinder!

We have been promised an early test model of the Mateba, and will report on it in an upcoming issue of the *American Handgunner*.



Thus we have a tale of two cities; East Hartford, Connecticut, where a respected name in American firearms manufacturing may soon fade away, and Pavia, Italy, where an unknown gunmaker is breaking new ground in an effort to keep the revolver from being overshadowed by the self-loading pistol.

A recent note from Sturm Ruger indicated that as a result of bankruptcy proceedings of United Sporting Arms of Arizona, the licensing agreement between that company and Sturm Ruger for use of the patented Ruger "transfer bar" system is no longer valid.

Bill Maley, of the newly organized United Sporting Arms, Inc., tells the *Handgunner* that a new safety system is in the works which does not use any of the Ruger patented features. This new system is being incorporated into guns shipped at this writing. Bill tells us that production of the single action revolvers is running at about 200 guns per month, with great interest from silhouette shooters for the .375 chambering.



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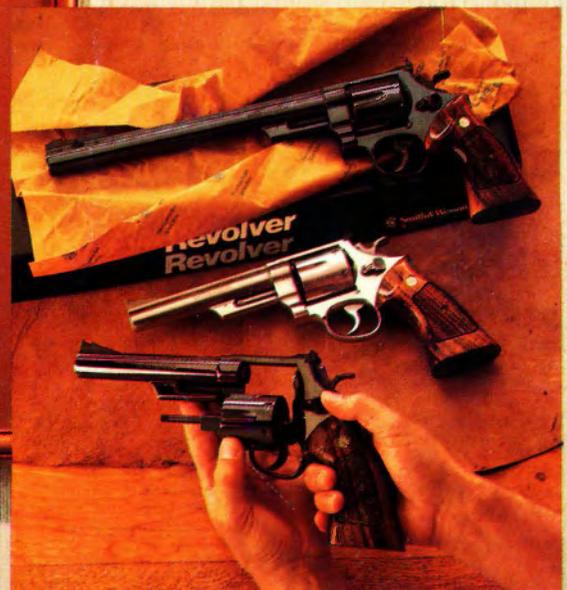
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