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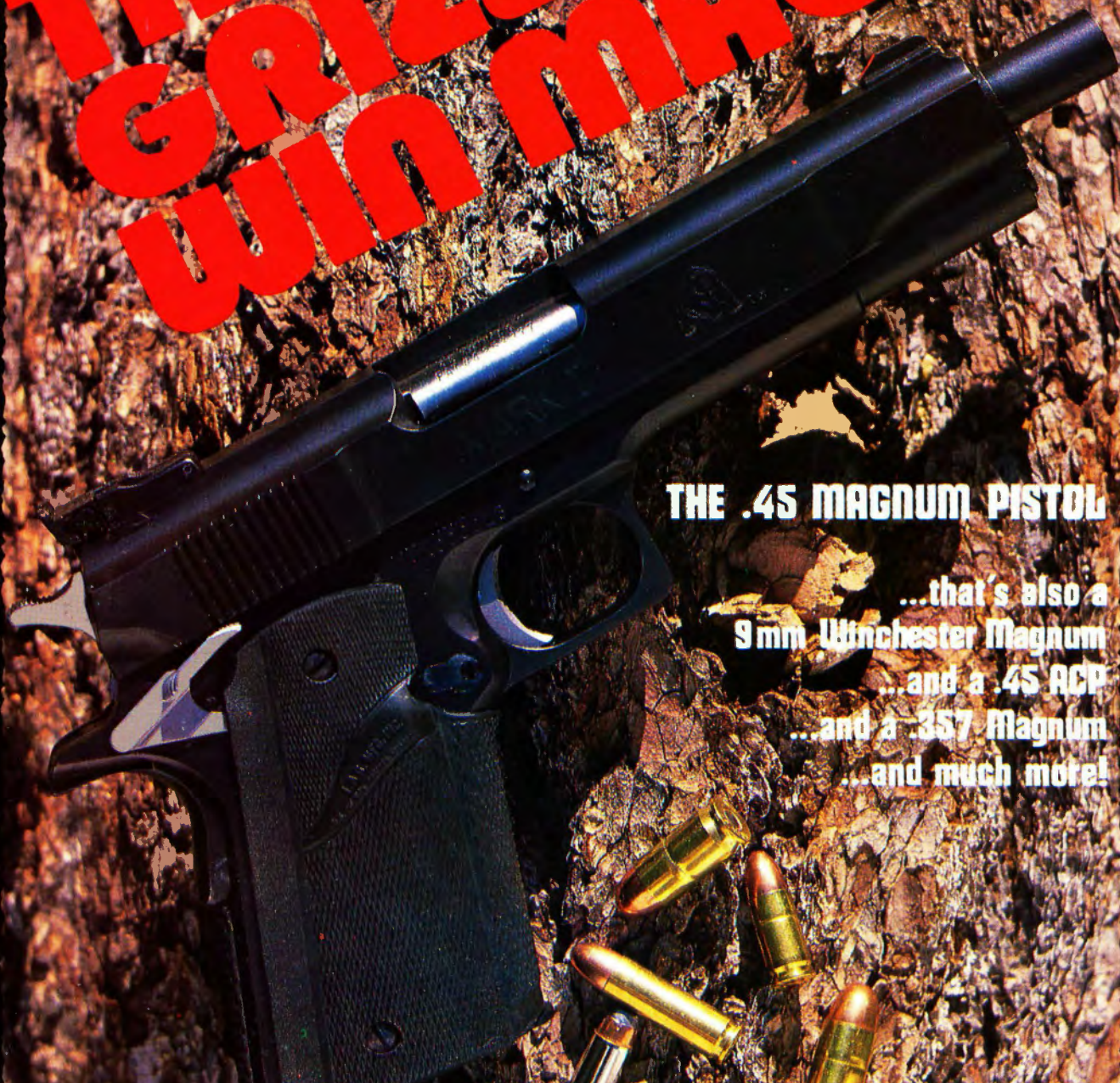
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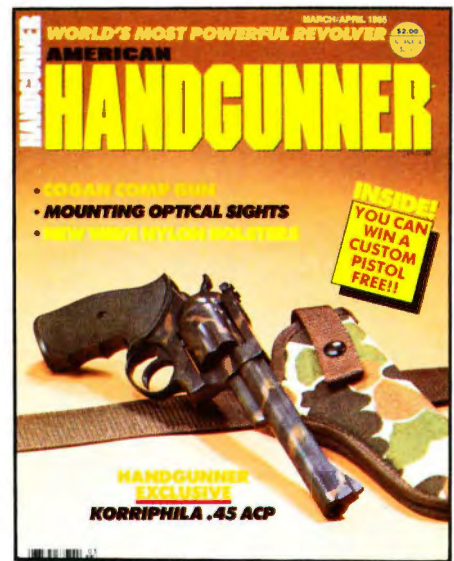
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PISTOLSMITHING

JOHN G. LAWSON

STAR 28 A PERFECT 10? CHECK AGAIN SAYS LAWSON, BO DEREK IT'S NOT.

I was impressed by the rating given the Star 28 in the '83 Handgunner Annual, a *Perfect 10!*

I was determined to own one of these highly rated handguns, so I walked into a local gun shop and bought one, then headed for the range. Within the hour I was asking myself whether that *Perfect 10* rating was a misprint or the reviewer had received one of those specially selected models one hears about during gripe sessions.

My Star 28, right out of the factory box, would not feed either round nose hardball factory loads or 115 gr. jacketed hollowpoints ahead of 5.1 of WW 231 in new Lapua cases. Misfires were common, but primers were deeply dimpled on feeding. The chamber was so rough that one out of five fired rounds stayed right there, the extractor hook slipping

past the groove, causing a double feed jam. The mating surfaces were rough. The barrel hood and inside of the trigger bow showed deep, rough tool marks. There was no evidence, under a microscope, of any hand fitting.

Back to Interarms the next morning with a list of gripes.

After what seemed an eternity, back came the pistol from the East. No letter of explanation. There was some evidence of peripheral stoning in spots where it showed and nothing anyplace else except rather crude filing done on the hook of the extractor, found later when I disassembled the pistol. The magazine safety no longer functioned and the pistol would not extract at all because the extractor spring had been sprung.

I very nearly threw the thing into the adja-

cent swamp. I was disgusted.

I detail stripped the 28 and began by unscrewing the nut at the end of the recoil spring follower. This is a tough job because it is fastened with a sealant, but it does come off. I replaced the recoil spring with a Wolff 14-8 cut to the same length. The replacement spring is made of .005" heavier wire. I replaced the hammer spring with a Wolff 1911 hammer spring settling, after some experiment, on the 28# extra power model.

I bent the extractor spring (integral with the part) back into shape. This spring is too soft, and should be re-hardened and spring tempered after achieving proper shape. You harden in a reducing flame in the acetylene torch and temper in a lead bath or by flash-off.

I stoned the sear nose and hammer notch in the usual manner and installed an overtravel screw at both ends of the trigger movement as there was slack at both ends for which I didn't care much.

The front screw, a 4-40 headless set screw 1/8" long is set into the front of the trigger linkage loop at a point where it bears against the front of the mag well. You can forget this one as it doesn't contribute that much overall. The rear overtravel screw, a 4-40 1/8", is set into the center of the frame bridge just above the sear, and it should have its point carefully rounded and glass smoothed for proper contact. You can see the contact with the hammer cocked. It bears just a tad to the right of center near the sear nose. Adjust it so that the sear clears the half cock notch, as per 1911 practice.

I bent the spring and got the mag safety functioning again.

I nipped a coil and a half from the mag catch spring, polished the mag catch bearing surface glass smooth after grinding in an easy entry radius. The magazine now releases easily and a loaded mag can be installed rapidly and smoothly.

The slide stop pin is too long, protruding so far that it would foul in clothing during a holsterless, belt-carry draw. It was shortened, radiused and polished glass smooth. The finger piece of the slide stop is poorly angled, causing the thumb to slip off during stress reloading at the point of slide release. It should either be radiused and grooved in the shaper or a modified shape installed to the ground stub by silver soldering. A hollow ground shape with grooves would be most effective.

The finger hook on the trigger guard is useless, and I found that it caught on my Bianchi inside belt holster during re-holstering, requiring that the belt be loosened and re-fastened. That lump should be ground to a nice contour and properly radiused. No problem since my pistol is going to receive a new finish anyway.

Similarly, the frame under the hammer is an awkward shape, overly long and wide for the dainty hammer used, and there is no possibility of hammer bite anyway as the hammer stops far short of this part of the frame. It should be ground shorter and

Continued on page 76

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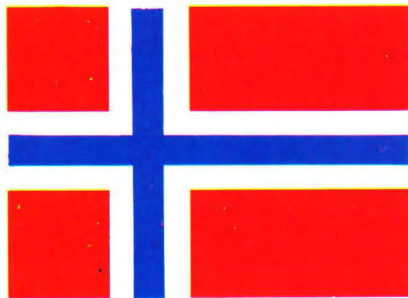
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NORWAY SECOND CHANCE '84



Americans aren't the only shooters busting bowling pins. In Norway, descendants of the Vikings proved they can pulverize pins as well as their ancestors plundered villages.

Up in the frigid fjords of Norway, primers were poppin' and pins were fallin' in the only reported duplication of the Second Chance Bowling Pin Shoot outside the United States. In May, 1984, 200 handgunners gathered in Oslo, Norway, to try their luck at the fast and furious sport of bowling pin shooting.

The Norway Second Chance course of fire called for shooters to clear a table of five bowling pins. Time stopped when the fifth pin fell from the table, and the quickest time in two runs counted. Shooters paid \$21 to enter and vie for prizes totalling \$7,500 as well as two Dan Wesson .357 Maximums.

It looked easy, those pins sitting there at a mere seven meters, but the pins seemed to have a life of their own. They would spin and topple, but stay on the table. But after seven hours and some 2,000 rounds later, winners emerged. Flemming Pederson took the revolver category with a time of 4.19 seconds

and Halvor Sponberg took the semi-auto class with a time of 3.67. Both winners are well-known IPSC shooters in Norway.

The Norwegians came up with a unique method of timing the event. Invented by IPSC shooter Erik Anderson, a nylon line was attached to every pin, leading to a contact and a stop watch. When all five pins cleared the table, the time stopped automatically. The match organizers say they will try to rig up a photoelectric cell for timing next year.

Sponsoring of matches is not common in Norway, but the organizers would like to extend deepest thanks to the importers of Smith and Wesson, Dan Wesson and Llama for their kind sponsorship. Also, thanks go to Avis Car Rental and Nissan automobiles for their sponsorships. Thanks, guys, for helping to make the Norway Second Chance Bowling Pin Shoot a grand success.



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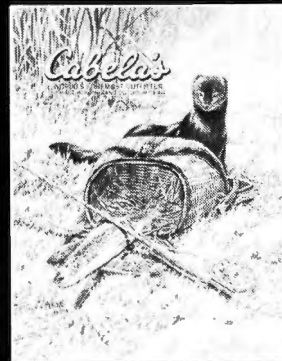
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COP TALK

MASSAD AYOOB

POLICE OFFICERS SUPPORT THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS AND DEFEND ONESELF

The scene was an LFI "Judicious Use of Deadly Force by Civilians" course, and I had just given the students a coffee break after screening one of my videotapes, "Physio-psychological Aspects of Gunfight Situations." It had been filmed at the Idaho Peace Officer Standards and Training Academy, and I had been wearing my police uniform in the video.

One student came up to me and said, "It's amazing to see someone in police work teaching citizens how to protect themselves. I always figured all you cops didn't want anyone but yourselves to be carrying guns on the street."

I told him what I'll tell you now.

The average street cop isn't the least bothered by the fact that law-abiding citizens have guns. Indeed, he probably wishes that more did. The only thing he's nervous about is that you don't have the training he does concerning when one can fire and when one cannot.

The high-profile police chiefs and ex-chiefs you see taking the side of the gun grabbers are in the minority. The International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Fraternal Order of Police, among others, have taken strong pro-gun and pro-armed citizen positions in the past. A poll by *Police Product News*, the most popular trade journal among street cops, showed the patrolmen to be overwhelmingly in favor of good-guy civilians having guns.

The great majority of cops I know make sure that at least one of their guns is home with their wife when the officer is at work. They've seen too many horror stories on the job to allow their spouse to become another headline like, "Home Invader Rapes, Strangles Housewife." And, because street cops are the most cynical and incisive people on Earth, they know that it would be hypocrisy for them to say someone *else's* wife couldn't have one.

Most of us have also seen cases first hand where a gun in the hands of a decisive storekeeper or homeowner kept tragedy from happening. In my book "In the Gravest Extreme" (\$7.95 + 1.50 postage from Police Bookshelf, P.O. Box 122, Concord, NH 03301), I tell of the time I'd just gone on midnight patrol when the call came in of a home invader. When we arrived, lights flashing and sirens screaming, the intruder was already gone. He was attempting to rape the lady of the house when the husband, hearing her screams, grabbed a .32 auto pistol from a drawer and ran to her aid.

The hulking attacker backpedaled out of the house cringing at the little pistol that was levelled at him. He reached the lawn, screaming murderous and profane threats, but by now the wife had recovered sufficiently to grab her husband's loaded 12-gauge shotgun from the closet and race to his aid. A round in the air sent the would-be rapist scampering, seconds before Officer Dan Gingras pulled up at the scene, with me a few seconds behind him in another cruiser. I was the designated "reporting officer," and I'll never forget the look of fear on the homeowner's face when he asked if "they" were going to arrest him, nor the look of relief when I assured him we not only weren't going to bust him, we were proud of him.

In 1983, I was working for another department where one of my duties was training not only officers but gun-owning civilians in fire-

Continued on page 25

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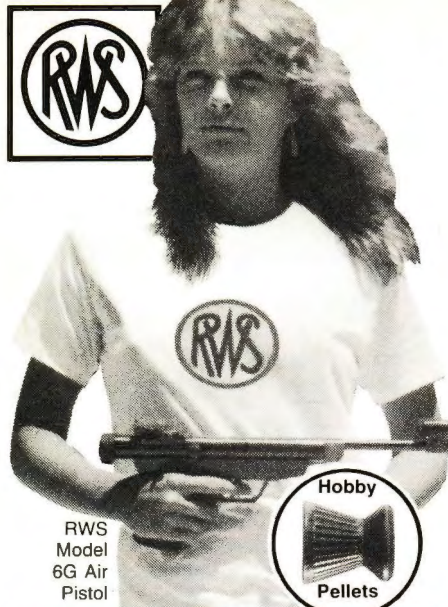
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INSIGHTS INTO IPSC

CAMERON HOPKINS

NEW IPSC COLUMN AIMED AT BEGINNER AND EXPERIENCED PRACTICAL SHOOTERS

The *American Handgunner* welcomes you to this new column, 'Insight Into IPSC', which will appear regularly in each of our bi-monthly issues. Devoted to IPSC shooting, this column is written for both the experienced IPSC shooter and the beginner. The *Handgunner* will strive to present incisive and pertinent information to benefit the participants in IPSC, the most dynamic handgun sport going.

'Insight Into IPSC' focuses not only on what is currently happening within the sport, but also what looms on the horizon. Look to 'Insight Into IPSC' for previews of what the World Executive Council and the United States Practical Shooting Association (USPSA) plan for the future.

Beginning with the next issue of *Handgunner*, 'Insight Into IPSC' will kickoff its regular format of a section devoted to beginners and a section devoted to experienced shooters. Sometimes the same topic will be covered in varying degrees of depth, and other times the column will cover different topics, one for the beginner and one for the accomplished shooter. In this manner, 'Insight Into IPSC' will cater to all of us involved, or hoping to become involved, in this exciting sport.

And you, the participant or prospective participant, are important to the *Handgunner*. Therefore, at the closing of each column there will be an open question directed to you, the reader, in hopes that you will express your views. From your responses the *Handgunner* will gauge the general feeling of IPSC shooters on any given question and then, in the following issue, present several representative responses. You are encouraged to participate, starting now with this first column, by responding to the question at the bottom of the column. The address to send your replies is given.

HOW TO GET STARTED IN IPSC

Many new people at an IPSC match at the local gun club are bewildered by the sport. They see fancy 45s, Pin Guns and compensators, quick-draw holsters and magazine pouches, and they are intimidated. Most local gun clubs help the prospective IPSC shooter get started, but the new shooter should be aware that USPSA is more than willing to help point the beginner in the right direction.

USPSA director Dave Arnold said new shooters can contact him and he will then put them in touch with the Sectional Coordinator in their area who will then in turn put them in

contact with the nearest IPSC club. From there the club president will assign new shooters a "Big Brother" to coach them and break them into IPSC slowly.

"You're doing a disservice to the new shooter if you don't do everything to help that person. I think it's our duty as an established group to help a new shooter to get started," Arnold said.

Arnold went on to say that a new shooter will be allowed to participate in IPSC matches, at first, without strictly adhering to IPSC equipment rules. Arnold said he encourages a new shooter to participate with whatever handgun and holster are available even though IPSC rules may technically prohibit such gear. In this way a new shooter can become involved without spending a small fortune for a 'proper' gun, holster, magazines, mag pouches, etc.

The Big Brother program in which a new shooter is assigned an experienced IPSC shooter provides the newcomer with not only a coach but also a buddy at the local match where he may feel somewhat out of place at first. The Big Brother can explain why things are done and how to best do them. He can introduce the new shooter to the folks in the club.

Club presidents and regular members who are interested in supporting the Big Brother program should contact their SC and make their willingness known.

So if you want to get into IPSC, don't be bashful. You don't need to start off with a gadget gun costing a month's wages, and you don't need any specialized gear. Just bring your pet handgun to the next club match and join the fun.

Drop Dave Arnold a line for information on the Big Brother program at P.O. Box 1990, Grafton, VA 23692. Or go directly to your local club for assistance.

READER'S QUESTION

What do you think of assault courses requiring three or more reloads and a good deal of running (more than 50 meters)? Do such assault courses represent practical shooting, or are they a physical endurance test with no practical application?

Send your answers to 'Insight Into IPSC', Suite 200, 591 Camino de la Reina, San Diego, CA 92108. Limit your response to 250 words. Answers must be either typewritten or clearly handwritten. The editor reserves the right to edit published answers for clarity or length.

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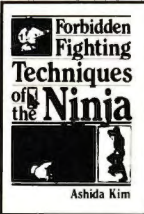
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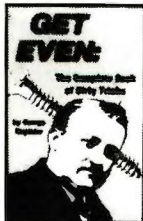
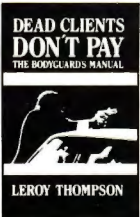
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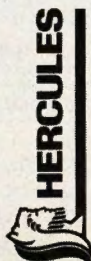


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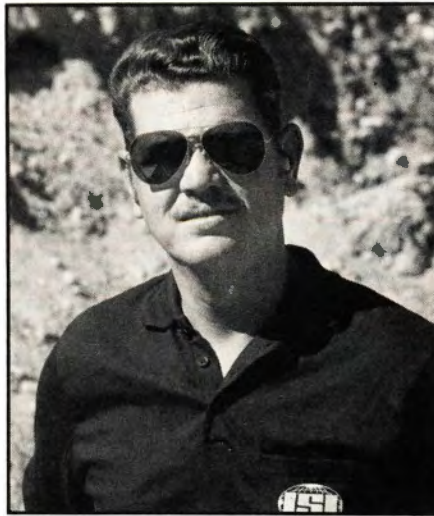


CONVERSATION WITH A CHAMPION

By Jon Winokur

Mike Dalton has won four Southwest Pistol League Championships, the Man vs. Man Speed Event at the 1983 Bianchi Cup, and dozens of other matches in a decade of competition. He has attained the rank of Combat Master, perhaps the ultimate achievement in practical pistolcraft. And he has the rare ability to communicate his expertise to others, a skill which has made him one of the country's top teachers of the game. Dalton and his partner Mickey Fowler operate International Shootists, Inc. (P.O. Box 5254, Mission Hills, CA 91345) and have co-authored a book on self-defense entitled *Life Without Fear*.

I questioned Mike recently about some of the teaching techniques that have made ISI one of the best shooting schools in the country.



JW: You've trained hundreds of shooters since ISI's inception in 1980, and you've seen many of your graduates become successful competitors. What training methods do you use to produce such results?

MD: Before Mickey and I started ISI we held clinics for the members of the Southwest Pistol League. We found that even at short ranges, a full silhouette target was too 'forgiving'. No matter what we did, we couldn't get the students to group their shots. Almost in desperation, we began putting a two-inch square of black tape in the center of the target to help them narrow their cone of fire, and it worked.

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COMBAT SHOOTING

MICKEY FOWLER

FOWLER LIKES NEW PRO TIMER II FOR PRACTICING COMBAT SHOOTING

As practical handgunning continues to grow in popularity, new equipment is being developed to help increase the skill of competitors. One of the most useful of these new devices available to shooters is the Pro Timer II. When I first started practical handgunning by joining the Southwest Pistol League in 1977, there were only two ways of timing strings of fire: having a friend accompany you to the range with a stop watch and whistle, or, if you were alone, you tape recorded the match to be practiced.

Both of these methods have serious drawbacks. Past experience has proven to me, that when using a stopwatch and whistle, there is an error factor of up to two tenths of a second per timed run from operator to operator. It can also be a problem finding someone willing to spend the day timing you. A tape recorder is fair for par time practice (Those with set time limits), but is useless for Comstock or straight time matches. Present trends in course design seem to favor the latter.

Couple modern electronic technology with programs for practical shooting needs,

and you have the Pro Timer II. The Pro Timer II is designed and built by Ronald Bailey. Bailey is a long time IPSC shooter and originally made a timer for his own use. As the sport grew, so did interest in his timer. Other shooters wanted units for themselves. He successfully marketed the Pro Shot Timer and from there, went on to develop the Pro Timer II.

The Pro Timer II has shot review data capability. It will save and display the time to each shot, shot number, and time between shots. The time to the last shot is displayed after every shot. After completion of firing, the shot number, time to each shot or time between shots may be reviewed. This mode is excellent for timing the increasingly popular Comstock events and live fire practice.

Pro Timer II allows setting of the time between the start and stop beeps. This is in increments of .1 second to 99.9 seconds. An important feature of this device is the overtime shot indicated by a flashing display. This mode is excellent for dry fire practice and par time events. It can also be used with an exter-

nal stop plate sensor.

The time is displayed from the start beep to a plate hit. It will detect and display an open sensor line condition. The Pro Timer II is compact in size, measuring 5 1/4" high by 4" wide by 2" deep. It weighs 16 ozs. and comes with a secure belt clip. Power is supplied by a 9 volt rechargeable battery. If you forget to recharge your battery, it can be replaced with a 9 volt alkaline battery. All shot review data is displayed on an easily readable screen.

Bailey informed me that each Pro Timer II is inspected at numerous points during assembly. Each printed circuit board is wave soldered for maximum reliability. After an operational inspection, each unit is taken to the range and individually tested under live fire conditions. It must pass checks for proper sensitivity and operation. Then it is ready to ship to the customer.

The proof of any new piece of equipment is in field testing. I took the Pro Timer II to the International Shootist Inc. Training Facility and the Shooting Machine Club Range for an on-hands evaluation. My first test was a IPSC assault course. I clipped the Pro Shot II on my gunbelt, turned the on switch to delayed start mode, then set the selector switch on shot record mode. At the start beep, I took off at a run to engage three targets through a doorway. After firing two shots on each of the targets, I reloaded and ran about 25 yards to engage three more targets and a stop plate. After completing the run, I pushed the review button. Every shot was timed and recorded showing how long each part of the assault course took to complete.

I let other shooters run this same course of fire with the Pro Timer II for over an hour and the unit performed flawlessly. One shooter accidentally dropped the timer while removing it from his belt, but nothing was broken. This speaks well for the durability of Pro Timer II.

My next test was using the timer in its Par Time Mode. I decided to use the "Falling Plate Event" from the Bianchi Cup. I moved the selector switch to Par Set and punched in the desired time limit, then moved the switch to the Par Run position. Once again, the timer worked perfectly, giving a start and stop beep and flashing when an overtime shot was fired.

The Pro Timer II passed all its tests with flying colors. I find it to be a very useful addition to any serious shooter's equipment. The Pro Timer II is the official timer of the World Speed Shooting Association. It was tested and used in the 1984 Steel Challenge and is being used at numerous IPSC matches.

The Pro Timer sells for \$274.95 and is available from Competition Electronics, Inc., P.O. Box 239, Roscoe, Ill. 61073.



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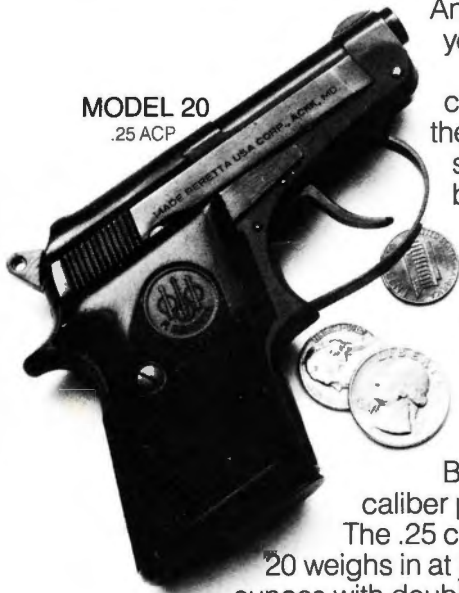
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HANDLOADING

DAN COTTERMAN

TRIAL OF LEE'S 2001 PRESS AND AUTO-PRIME II — VERDICT IS THEY'RE WINNERS

If you've been thinking of buying Lee Precision's new Auto Prime II or perhaps a starter kit like their 2001 Challenger, go ahead. Both have been wrung-out in the reloading shack here at the ranch, and both work well.

The Challenger is a lightweight aluminum 'O'-type press with toggle undercarriage that permits mounting on thick benches, a feature you'll appreciate if you've ever had to cut a large notch into a loading bench in order to mount a press whose toggle mechanism had too much underswing.

Strength is common to most presses made today, and even the smallest of them is advertised as having enough strength to withstand the full-length resizing of larger rifle cases. The ultimate test of strength, however, is bullet swaging, which stresses the ram as well as the frame. Swaging also calls for precise axial alignment. The 2001 meets the challenge.

The foregoing is not intended as a recommendation to use the Challenger to swage bullets. Instead it is a testimony to the strength and precision that have been built into this small, modestly-priced press.

The Challenger kit includes a set of dies and a shellholder, a powder scoop and funnel, a Ram-Prime set-up for large and small primers, and a tube of Lee's no-oil resizing lubricant. It amounts to a neat package for the beginner, although he'll probably have to add a powder measure and scale if he's going to get into handloading on more than a casual basis.

Lee's Auto-Prime II involves a disc-type primer flipper from which primers are gravity-fed into a small die that threads (7/8ths-14) into the top of most reloading presses. Included is a priming post that snaps into the ram of the press. You place a shellholder for the cases you're going to re-prime into the die, and primers slide down through the curved plastic trough and enter the die one at a time. It's duck soup, with each primer moving smoothly into position as the priming post is lowered to clear the way. As the last few primers reach the bottom end of the trough, it's necessary to nudge them along, gently, in order to assure their entry into the die. This minor inconvenience is, however, easily remedied by refilling the flipper tray when the last primer enters the trough.

Nothing's perfect, though, and anyone harboring a penchant for perfection may find himself at odds with the appearance of primers seated by either the Auto-Prime or Auto-Prime II. The seating punches, which are

lathe-cut, emboss tool marks on the impact surface of the primer. Circular marks appear and, if the cutting tool was slightly off-center, there'll be a tiny dimple.

The seating surface of the Ram Prime, supplied with the Challenger and Turret models, causes no such irregularities because it's glass-smooth as a result of cold-forming.

None of the foregoing should matter to anyone other than a perfectionist (like this one), and Lee is confident in assuring us that the primers are not affected. Still, it seems that adding a small measure of detailing would make a good, inexpensive priming system even better.

AND FROM SOME READERS

Stephen Shalet, of Elkins Park, PA, suggests as follows: "I have always adjusted my seating die so that it loaded my .45 ACP cartridges to headspace on the bullet. (That is, the bullet touches the rifling.) This allows the use of a heavy taper or roll crimp. All that is necessary is to assure that the base of the round is even with the end of the chamber hood. This is adaptable to any length or weight of bullet, except perhaps light, short semi-wadcutters. Feeding, chambering and headspace are constant. Also, cases require trimming less often, if at all, since the case does not headspace on the case mouth, and case length is not critical."

Feedback on Shalet's method will be welcome. Is he solving one problem while creating another? How about excessive pressures? Or has he succeeded in achieving improved accuracy potential (by minimizing bullet deformation), while simplifying the crimp vs. don't-crimp controversy?

Shalet also resurrects the idea of using the Ruger .30 Carbine revolver for a .32-20 case, necked down for .308" bullets. He suggests that the shoulder of the round be moved forward so as to prevent its chambering in old .32-20 revolvers. The advantage, over the .30 Carbine, would be realized in terms of slightly greater case capacity and being able to use a rimmed case. The disadvantages would have to include a lack of inexpensive and readily-obtainable brass. And, as with all home-brewed cartridges, dies would be special-order items.

Meanwhile, Donald R. Thomas, of Klamath Falls, OR, has gone a step further using a .357 Magnum case necked to accept .308" bullets. His gun is a Ruger Blackhawk originally chambered for the .30 Carbine. The only load he's reported so far exorcises a

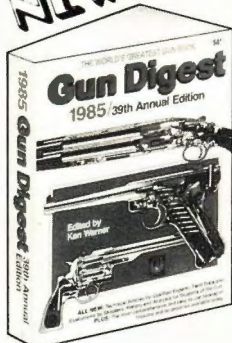
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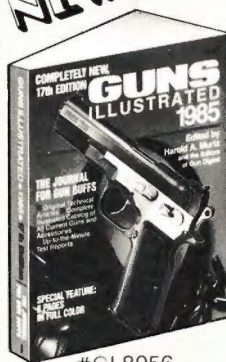
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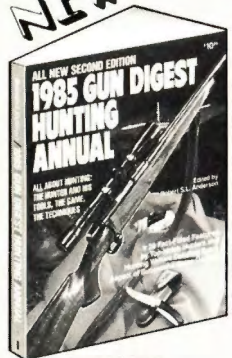
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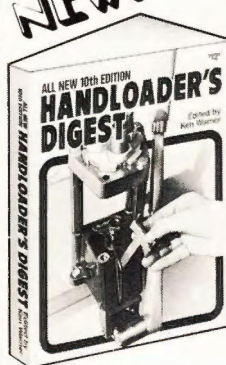
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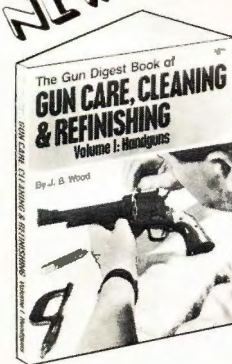
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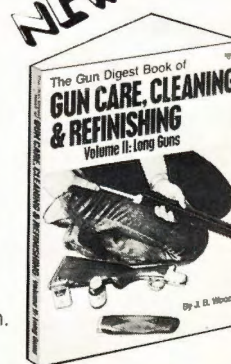
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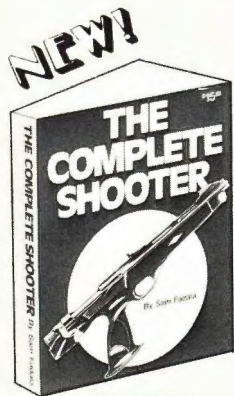
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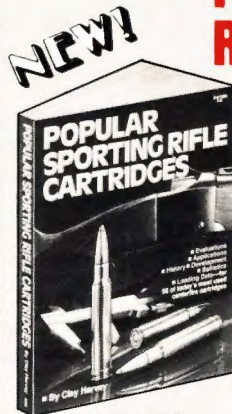
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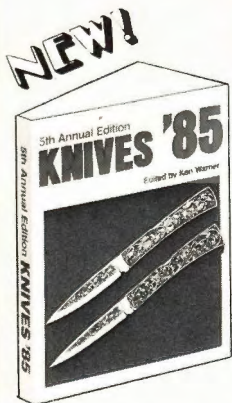
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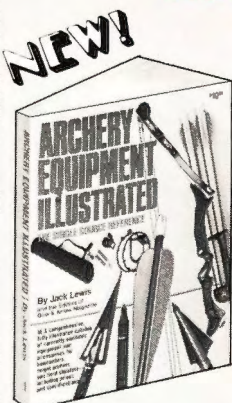
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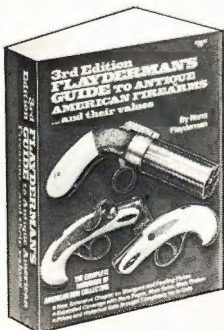
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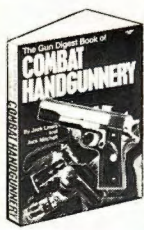
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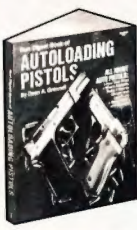
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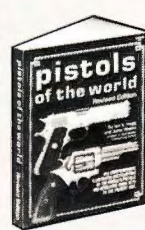
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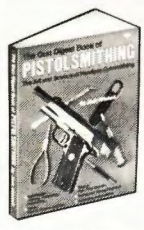
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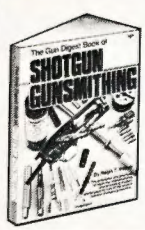
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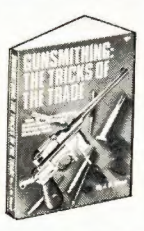
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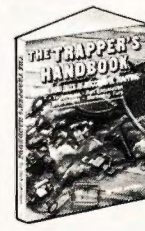
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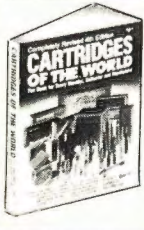
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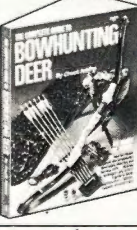
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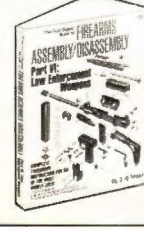
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XP-100 FARES BETTER WITH NEW STOCK AND NEW CHAMBERING IN HOT 7mm-308

When Remington decided to build a silhouette version of their XP-100 they created the modest sized 7mm BR cartridge, deciding, and rightly so, that this cartridge was powerful enough for most shooters. With top loads the little seven delivers respectable knockdown (momentum) at the ram line, and the recoil is about all most can tolerate.

But there are situations where more power would be useful, and that's where the standard Remington 7mm-08 comes in. Not only will the bigger case launch the same bullet 150-200 fps faster from a 15-inch barrel, with a corresponding increase in knockdown at ram ranges, but also the conversion offers reduced costs and elimination of hassles in buying or forming cases.

If you can handle the extra recoil, that added momentum is worthwhile insurance for the occasional hard-set ram, or wobbly stand or poorly hit ram (heaven forbid). And it brings the pistol into serious contention as a big game hunting weapon.

If the cost of the Remington 7mm BR appeals, but nothing else does—do what I did and get one rechambered. Terry Walker at The Gryphon Gunworks (6515 N. 12th St., Phoenix, AZ 85014) can do the job for you and is familiar with the conversion. Another option is to buy a rechambered pistol from IHMSA, the national handgun silhouette sanctioning organization. They sell to members only, but their prices are attractive; you can buy the pistol and join for less than the retail cost of the stock BR (IHMSA, PO Box 1609, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401, 208-524-0880). The test pistol came from IHMSA and performed flawlessly.

The 7mm BR case taper differs from that of the 7mm-08 (or the 7mm IHMSA) so that if you just run a standard reamer in, you'll more than likely end up with a ring on a fired case on the shoulder of the shorter case. That can be solved by using a slightly oversize .002" reamer. The chamber cleans up, and although the resulting fired case may not fit a standard chamber, it sizes without problem especially if you use a necksize die.

A note on nomenclature here. This pistol was chambered for the 7mm-08, that is, Remington's selected production version of a 7mm on the 308 case which should be identified as 7mm-308. The major difference is length. Remington's production brass is .010 inches longer. That's no problem if you want to make cases for it out of 308 brass, (be sure to check the neck diameter of a loaded round though) just don't try the reverse.

Reloading the 7mm-08 is straight forward. Just use the minimum suggested loads from your manual for starters, and concentrate on the faster burning of the indicated powders. The loads I tested were selected to have some overlap with the 7mm BR and to explore the performance increases possible with the added capacity.

To get a feel for the increase in performance provided by the conversion I checked my notes from an earlier test of a stock 7mm BR. One can expect to gain 150 to 200 fps with the conversion at a cost of about 10 grains of powder. Velocity variations, by the way, were less with the smaller case, but the accuracy of the two is about the same. You'll be able to duplicate the smaller round's top loads by loading the 7mm-08 down a tad.

Recoil by the way, is unpleasant in the 21st

century swoopy, brown-colored, nylon stock. After the last match with it (40 rounds is all) I was talking with another competitor and I found myself idly rubbing a rough spot on my right thumb. The sore turned out to be a skinned spot—darn thing bit me right through a golf glove.

Fired from the bench, the pistol, when gripped up high, really ate me up. Some photos Sara shot of me show the pistol turned 90 degrees to the horizon, and the end of the scope an inch or so off the bench top.

Tough business this load testing.

I finally gave up and did what I should have done at the start—restocked the pistol in something designed to be shot rather than looked at. There are quite a number of accessory stocks available for the basic XP-100, but the easiest to fit is the FRP-1000 Fiberthane stock from H-S Precision (PO Box 512, Prescott, AZ 86302, 602-445-0607). This stock features a cast-in-place, precision-machined aluminium bedding block. The barreled action just bolts in. The outside of the stock is done up in an acrylic primer and is ready to paint. No inletting, no bedding, no patching. Just paint it, bolt in the action with the high-strength bolts that are supplied and shoot it.


The improvement in control and shooter comfort are striking. With a stock that fits the hand, the recoil forces are distributed over the entire hand and pistol becomes comfortable to shoot.

At 100 yards, the best looking loads averaged about two inches for three five-shot strings (scoped, sandbags). Plenty good enough for 'possibles.' I'd expect smaller groups with a 4X or 6X scope, though, as the 2X Burreis I used (a fine scope by the way) turned out to not have enough magnification. I'd guess a higher power scope would cut those groups almost in half.

I shot around 600 rounds, and I like the cartridge. More gusto I guess. It won't do everything a full length 308 will, but damn few shooters would utilize that potential—it's just too much. The extra case capacity does not give an equivalent increase in muzzle velocity. In fact, there was space leftover in all the top loads. This indicates slower powders have a potential for even more velocity and I'd suggest you'd give it a try if you're one of those for whom too much is never enough.

For the rest of you, the elimination of the brass forming hassle makes it worth the conversion. And, as that's cheaper than the forming dies, you'll save enough money to pay for the extra few grains of powder needed to get to 7mm BR velocities. And the potential to send turkeys twinkling like edge-hit chickens, stun the adjacent competitors with muzzle blast and kill nearly any ram anywhere, anytime is just a tip of the powder can away.





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**DISCOVER
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100-grain Speer Plinker at 1489 fps from his 7½" barrel;. He used 14.7 grains of 4227, commenting that the charge was mild in his gun.

He continues, "I have been busy working on .45 ACP wildcats, and have worked up the following:

30/45/110-grain bullet/7.0 Herco. This load, not chronographed, shows no signs of excess pressure.

8MM/45/100-grain bullet/6.5 Unique/1153 fps. Also mild.

38/45/125-grain bullet/16.0 H110/1376 fps. Warm.

41/45/210-grain Sierra/7.5 Herco. Not chronographed, but mild, with no signs of excess pressure.

"I built the barrels and my favorites are the .38/45 and the .41/45, though the .30/45 shows some potential. All feeding problems are eliminated, due to the necked-down feature of the cases.

"On the .41/45, I use cut-down .30-06 and .308 brass because my overall case length on this round is .950" and finished overall length is just enough to clear the magazine with some margin to spare. I also use large rifle primers in these."

Thomas closes by saying that a .30/38 would be possible on the .38 Super, using .30 Mauser dies for sizing down.

Reader Terry Murbach, doubtless consoling himself during the Maumee, OH, winter, bought a Smith & Wesson Model 24, 6-1/2", only to discover that the barrel lacked about .025" of being screwed all the way into the frame. He sent it back to the factory, and was assured by S&W's Fran Longtin that he'd have a revolver he'd be "proud to own;" that is, after Longtin did his fixing. The gun was returned, at length, to Murbach, who reports: "I was able to run about 400 rounds through it, just plinking. Since then, I've chronographed several dozen different loads. The 429421 cast bullet, 8.0 grains of Unique, CCI 300 primers, and R-P brass usually will shoot one-hole groups; that is, all five shots are cutting each other. Velocities average 880 fps. The same bullet ahead of 15.0 grains of 2400 shoots equally well at 955 fps."

But there's a sour note as Murbach continues his report:

"I've managed to shoot up to 250 of Alberts 230-grain SWC bullets without finding a load that shoots under two inches. I've tried Unique, W-W 231, and HP-38 with those Alberts slugs, with some groups averaging over 4 inches. Alberts bullets are veritable 'tack drivers' in most any good revolver, with proper loads. I am, however, at a loss to explain their poor showing in the M24."

Murbach is a veteran handloader. So, why has he encountered this accuracy problem with Alberts bullets? This is especially perplexing when we note that he has had excellent results with other bullets.

The address for solutions, commentary, or revelation of your experiences with handloading is: Handloading, Route 1, Box 7, Llano, CA 93544.



The Hornady Guide to SILHOUETTE SHOOTING



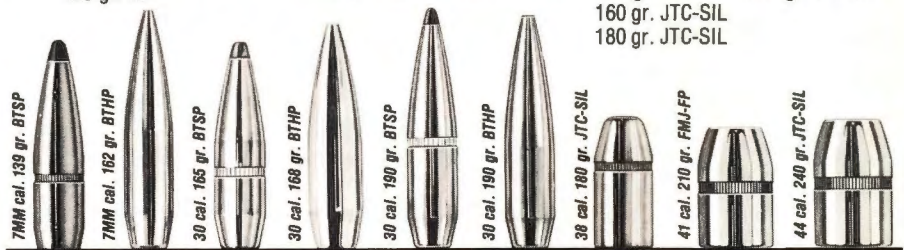
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HANDGUN LEATHER

BOB ARGANBRIGHT

TEX SHOEMAKER, MASTER HOLSTER MAKER, COMBINES TWO CAREERS

It is not really surprising that some of the greatest holster innovators have come from the ranks of law enforcement. After all, a policeman is donning one leather rig or another during almost all of his waking hours. If he is a thinking man who wants only the best functional equipment, he soon starts experimenting in leathercraft. Of all the American gunleather companies in existence today, at least a half dozen of the best are headed by former law enforcement people. Some employ scores of highly talented craftsmen.

Most of us, police and civilians worldwide, have heard of Tex Shoemaker & Sons Leather Goods and Equipment. It is among the largest of the gun leather companies and has been in existence since a modest start in 1936. The practical design and superb quality of Tex Shoemaker leather is definitely second to none.

What is really most remarkable, however, is Loren R. "Tex" Shoemaker, president of the company. Tex became a leather industry giant and also remained in law enforcement long enough to complete a brilliant 33 year career in 1966. It is a rare man who can become a success in two careers—simultaneously!

As a young man Tex Shoemaker worked as a mule packer and bronc buster in the Sierra Madre Mountains. His involvement with functional leather equipment was, obviously, early on. At the same time he was developing an interest in law enforcement through association with some of the rough and tumble lawmen of the roaring twenties era. The interest was so great that he joined the Sierra Madre Police Department in 1933—at the age of only 19! Two years later he was appointed Chief of Police of La Verne, Calif., to become the youngest chief in the state. One year later the Tex Shoemaker Leather Co. came into being. Obviously he was not completely satisfied with the leather gear he and his men had available at the time, hence the desire to design and manufacture his own.

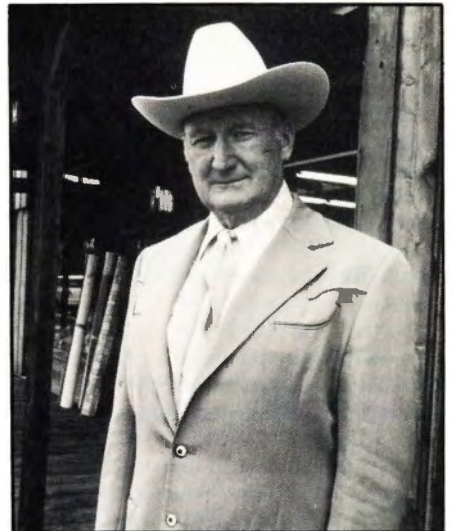
Those were very interesting times for law enforcement so Tex sought the fast-paced action of a much larger department. In 1941 he joined the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office and was assigned to a "radio car" in East Los Angeles, as hot a beat then as it is now as this writer can testify, having worked it as a State Narcotics Inspector 25 years later.

Tex's leather industry was growing and he was soon making innovative holsters for most of his fellow deputies. Some of the designs he invented then are police standard issue today. Every bit in character, his growth

with the LASO was equally fast. Within two years of joining the department he was promoted to Detective Sergeant and was handling significant cases. His unit was the elite Gangster & Robbery Detail. Where the hell did this man find time to build a giant leather industry in his "off time"?

The answer lies in an unusually strong family unit. Leather goods became a family affair involving strong support from his wife and children. The corporate name of his company, Tex Shoemaker and Sons, should really read "The Tex Shoemaker Family". The plant is constantly upgrading their production methods to keep pace of modern manufacturing techniques.

While Tex Shoemaker and family specialize in law enforcement leather from entire belt rigs and dozens of off-duty designs right

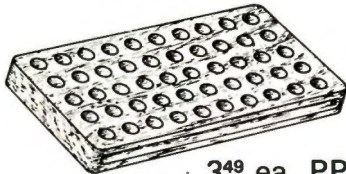


on down to badge cases and wallets, they also offer much for the civilian consumer. As a sub-specialty they offer some of the most beautiful and functional Western rigs available on the leather market today. Additionally, their new camouflage line features camo designs applied to their existing leather line and they can offer 90 percent of their huge catalog listing in camouflage. I know of no other company doing this, certainly none to this extent.

One of the most interesting Tex Shoemaker police duty holsters is the new "Quickfront" design for either revolvers or autoloaders. To execute a draw, one simply rocks the gun out by applying pressure downward on the butt. The barrel exits the spring loaded front and the gun ends up in firing position. The safety strap features a thumb break on the body side of the holster. The Quickfront is both fast and secure.



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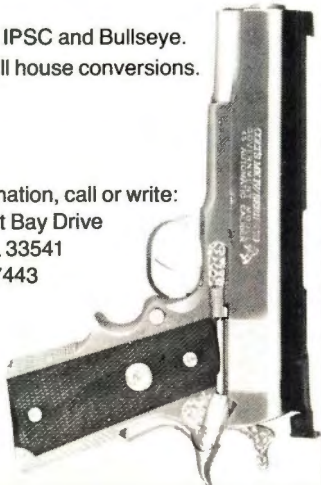
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The Tex Shoemaker catalog is packed full of new and interesting designs. It is hard to single out just a few for mention in this article. There is a small, narrow box holster for the AMT .380 Back-Up pistol that, worn in plain view on the belt, would never attract attention as something concealing a handgun. There are holsters through which you can fire without even drawing the weapon.

Maybe it would be best if you ordered your own catalog for \$2 from Tex Shoemaker at 714 W. Cienega Ave., San Dimas, CA 91773. By the time you have read the 56th page you will know Tex as a true giant of the industry — actually you will know that from his picture on page one. This old lawman looks as if he stands nine feet tall!



PRINTING THE HANDGUNNER

To print one issue of the *Handgunner*, it takes 85.6 tons of paper, and there are about 36 trees in a ton of paper. That's 3,082 trees. It also takes 2,570,400 gallons of water to print an issue. The water, however, is recycled.

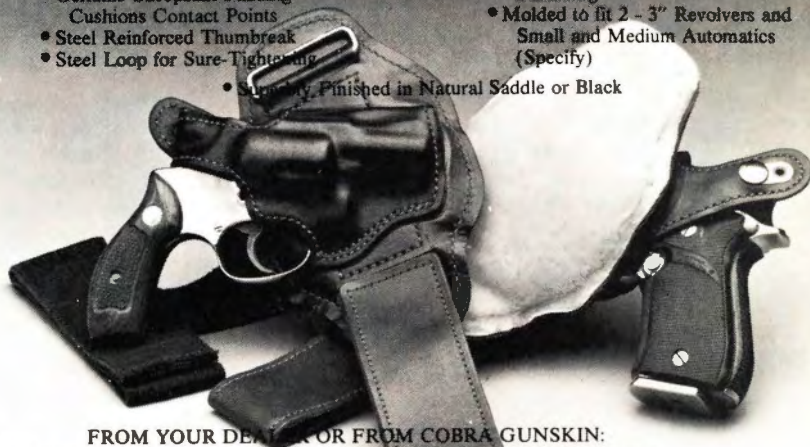
Here in the *Handgunner's* offices, we work on a four to six month lead time. That means we're working on the November/December issue in the middle of summer. Now you know why you don't read about a major match, such as the Bianchi Cup, until about six months after the fact.

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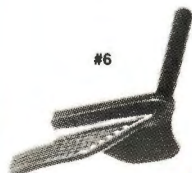
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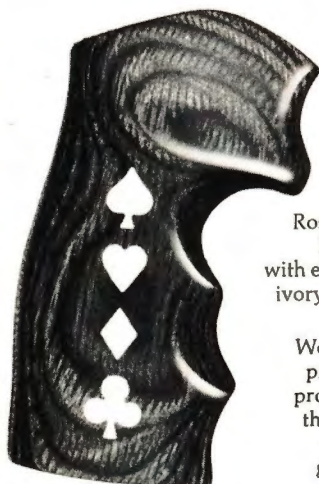
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HANDGUN HUNTING

J. D. JONES

VARMINT HUNTING WITH A HANDGUN? TODAY'S HANDGUNS CAN HANDLE IT!

A phenomenal number of hunters are turning to handguns to pursue the sport of hunting varmints. My correspondence and telephone inquiries indicates exceptional interest in 'long range' hunting handguns.

'Long range' must be defined by the individual and no one else. I usually ask the intended purpose for the gun or cartridge and how far the shooter wants it to be effective on game. Varminting for groundhogs or prairie dogs will be the most frequent use so accuracy and flat trajectory are important.

The usual effective range desired is 200 yards. Accuracy and the ability to kill humanely at that distance are almost always specified. Only a very small percentage of the 'long range' shooters want to stick with revolvers and will settle for 150 yard guns with adequate accuracy and power. Obviously scoped .44 Magnums are the best choice here.

A few individuals consider anything over 50 yards as 'long range'.

A small percentage of shooters are looking for an accurate, powerful semi-auto hunting pistol with at least .44 Magnum power and 150 yard accuracy. Almost as many automatic fans state they hunt brush, want good penetration and aren't really interested in any other form of handgun. They are not satisfied with the .45 ACP cartridge. As of this writing they are out of luck unless they can latch onto an Auto Mag. Strangely, SSK scopes quite a few Auto Mags so they are being used although out of production. I'm not too sure what all of this really means in the overall picture of the modern handgun hunter except that he is willing to try most anything that sounds logical to achieve his intended purpose.

My picture of the modern long range handgun hunter looks like this: he is very concerned with shot placement and range is only another factor in his ability to hit what he wants to hit where he wants to hit it. He knows his personal ability and is willing to work to achieve proficiency with any handgun. He recognizes the fact that scopes allow better shot placement on either still or moving game. He knows that under optimum conditions he has the personal ability to take game cleanly at 200 yards if the gun will do it. He knows optimum conditions usually only occur if he takes the trouble to set them up or by accident. He knows he can't hit a barn at 10 yards if he is totally exhausted from physical exertion. He frequently has a poor concept of what cartridge-gun combinations are available.

He is willing to travel long distances to hunt big game but is a regular deer hunter in his home state. He is not a spendthrift but is willing to spend a reasonable amount of money to engage in his sport of handgun hunting. He is a reasonably young guy and very enthusiastic about hunting in general. He usually sounds like a pretty good guy that you wouldn't mind hunting with. Every once in awhile he turns out to be a she; not a he. Audry Murtland of Detroit turned to handguns last year and gave a performance on deer and exotic game that won't take a back seat to anyone. Audry did her shooting with a .375 JDJ T/C.

Essentially it's best to analyze what you want in view of the job you want it to do. A .357 Magnum isn't a 200 yard varmint gun but it is one of the best 50-75 yard running jackrabbit guns you could select. No revolver is accurate enough to compete with the single shots as long range varmint guns nor do they give a very flat long range trajectory. However a good, scoped revolver will turn in some pretty amazing results in the field in the hands of a good shot.

Generally speaking, when deer are the quarry the current crop of automatics crap out at 50-75 yards. But the .45 Win Mag Auto is capable of almost doubling that. The revolvers are essentially 100 yard hunting guns with a good man with good loads able to increase that by another 50 under good conditions. Anything over 150 yards is strictly in the realm of the one-shooters as is most hunting of small varmints such as prairie dogs.

Exceptional killing power is also strictly available in the single shots although some very heavily loaded .45 revolvers are starting to show up. Just what they will actually produce and how long they will last with maximum loads is unknown at this point in time.

Few individuals seem concerned with the mythical 'all around gun' that has been eluding rifle shooters since gunpowder was invented. The handgunner seems more interested in trying quite a few things for himself with little reluctance to move on to something else if he thinks it will do a better job for him.

As the founder of Handgun Hunters International and owner of SSK I have a fair handle on what's going on in handgun hunting. The trend to long range guns, firing rifle or rifle-type cartridges is growing stronger by the day.

At this point the only over-the-counter revolver set up to take a scope is the Redhawk and many individuals don't like its balance with the scope so far forward. The T/C is

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pickup truck and loaded it.

The two men saw him and ran. I don't know if he remembered the part of the class where I'd said warning shots were generally a bad idea, but he did apparently recall the part where I said that if one felt utterly compelled to make a warning shot, one should make sure the round went in a safe direction and was accompanied by distinct verbalization that it was, in fact, a warning and not an attempted killing.

This was done, and at the blast, one fleeing thug froze in his tracks, while the other kicked in his afterburner and boogied. He was captured shortly by officers. The chief of police was ecstatic. So was I, although I made a note to speak a bit more strongly on warning shots in the next civilian class.

My friend Jim Cirillo, late of the NYPD Training Center told me once, "When I hear a cop say only cops should have guns, the first word that comes to my mind is 'hypocrite.'" Similarly, when I see some police chief endorsing a new ban-handguns law, I think, "Here's a behind-the-lines guy who's forgotten that his job is to protect the public, and that part of that job is teaching them to protect themselves responsibly."

Cops against armed citizens? Not by a long shot, my friends, not by a long shot.



COP TALK

Continued from page 9

arms. My chief, Paul Dewey, had formerly been in charge of training for the state-wide police academy, and had always believed that anyone who kept loaded weapons had a responsibility to know how to handle them safely and properly in a stress situation.

A man who had taken such a class a year before came home one night to find a couple of punks burglarizing his house. Fearing that he might be killed in a confrontation, he grabbed his 12-gauge shotgun from his

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COPING WITH MATCH PRESSURE

By Fred Romero

You've prepared for this match for months. You and your equipment are ready. All the important things have been attended to, and you feel good about your chances of doing well—maybe even winning. But strange forces, intent on taking away your moment of victory, are hard at work. Without your knowledge, these sinister forces have found a way in to the innermost recesses of your brain, and they are trying like hell to find the panic button.

As you drive to the match, you start thinking about your chances of winning, and your heart starts to pound. You pull up to the range and hear the sound of gunfire. Suddenly, a surge of Adrenalin courses through your veins. Your mouth goes dry and an overwhelming sense of anticipation overtakes your thought process. By the time you walk out to the firing line you're a ruddy basket case. No matter what you do, you can't stop the shakes, and you watch helplessly as your score drops into the basement. You've just blown another match, courtesy of *match pressure*.

Champion PPC shooter Fred Romero of the LAPD gives trade secrets on how to beat match nerves. And he's proven they work on the firing line, as his trophy cabinet attests.

To set the record straight, let's clear up some myths on the subject—right at the beginning. Match pressure is *real*; it exists in all forms of athletic competition, and everyone who competes experiences it. Make no mistake about it, even the 'big guns,' who always place high on the list at matches, suffer from the effects of match pressure. No one is immune.

To combat the withering effects of match pressure, you should first understand *why* and *how* it works. There are good reasons why shooters fall prey to the jitters.

Ordinarily, you body reacts to threat in the classic 'fight-or-flight' syndrome. The pulse quickens, nerves and muscles become taut in preparation for action, and all the senses are heightened. Along with this, you may also experience physical tremors and a feeling of anxiety. In a life threatening situation, all these reactions are normal and healthy, even desirable. But in competitive shooting, they can spell *disaster*.

MATCH-SHOOTING; A SPORT

Some sociologists believe that athletic competition is a civilized extension of man's desire to be aggressive; it's literally combat with rules. Match shooting is a sport and, as such, the mind reacts to it like any other physical challenge. If you're competitive, your psyche takes the task seriously. You mentally 'pump-up' for the effort and when that happens, the subconscious accepts the



Match nerves shake veterans too when crowds and TV cameras watch.

sporting performance as a challenge or threat to the physical and sometimes mental being. Couple this with a conscious desire to win and a fear of failure, and you can see why just before a match shooters can be a little on the testy side.

So how do the really good shooters deal with the problem? Most top match shooters perform as if they had ice water in their veins. They're only human, so they have to feel the same emotional and physical inputs that everyone else does. Obviously, there must be some way of holding back the little gremlins that creep into the side-door of your head, just before a big match.

The key is to harness all that potentially harmful energy into a productive force. Shooters who do well under pressure have developed a tremendous capacity to control their emotions and thought process. Different approaches may be used, but the end result is the same: each has found his own way of drawing from within to hold back the rigors of pressure.

Keep in mind that we are only talking about the kind of control that comes from a strong healthy mind, not the kind of artificial control that comes from drugs or alcohol. True, they may be effective at times, but there is also an obvious risk that goes with chemical control. For a shooter, the biggest risk may be a mental dependence on an outside substance that someday may not be available

at an important match. For this reason, we will only concentrate on those methods that have been shown to work with the power of the mind.

'TRADE SECRETS'

Following is a brief rundown of some of the 'trade secrets' used by several successful shooters. Maybe one or two ideas will work for you too, maybe not. Each person is different, as are his reactions to stress and pressure. Consequently, each approach to the problem should be carefully weighed before accepting it at face value. The important thing is to keep an open mind and be prepared to explore the possibilities.

"Shooters who practice self-hypnosis are usually the ones who look like they're in a trance . . ."

Self-hypnosis probably is one of the most popular methods of combating match pressure. It works by causing the subconscious to react to a pre-determined code. The code may be a musical piece, a visual image, or a key word or phrase. Any mental object will work, as long as the mind has been pro-

grammed to react to it in a positive way.

To effectively utilize self-hypnosis, the shooter fixes his attention on a key image. The concentration level is so strong that all other outside influences are effectively shut out. When the proper self-hypnotic condition is reached, the mind is in a state of calm; total tranquility is achieved. When everything works right, not even the subconscious demons of match pressure can break through. If they do, their negative influence on performance is usually not as bad.

On the practical side, you generally have to take lessons to understand the principals of self-hypnosis. This costs money and, sometimes, the lessons have to be fortified from time to time to keep the power of suggestion honed.

Shooters who practice self-hypnosis are usually the ones who look like they're in a trance just before they walk out onto the firing line. Sometimes they have earphones, attached to cassette players, wrapped around their head. Either way, they may look funny at first, but their results usually are quite good.

'QUIET SOUNDS'

Audio saturation is similar to self-hypnosis, except that the input is slightly different. Instead of a steady monotone voice talking the subject into a trance, the subject listens to

Continued on page 62

Of the many shooters currently using self-hypnosis to counteract the effects of match pressure, John Pride of the Los Angeles Police Department Pistol Team is one of the idea's more vocal spokesmen.

Pride, a 12-year veteran of the LAPD and a police firearms instructor, sports an impressive list of PPC (Practical Pistol Course) credits, such as California Governor's 20, 1490 Club, and President's 100. He was also Second Revolver at the 1983 Steel Challenge match and Second Overall in the 1983 Bianchi Cup match.

Just before walking out on the firing line, Pride will usually be seen wearing a set of stereo earphones, listening to self-hypnosis tapes. When questioned about this recently, Pride said, "I believe that self-hypnosis is the answer for many shooters who have trouble maintaining their composure during an important match. When I first started shooting in competition, my performance was routinely hampered by pressure. Then, I discovered self-hypnosis.

"I started out on a basic course on hypnosis taught by Captain Mike Nielson of the LAPD's Investigative Hypnosis Unit. After learning the fundamentals, I found that I was not as intimidated by pressure, and my scores started to improve. I thought about the possibility of putting together a set of tapes, specifically for shooters. Captain Nielson and I discussed the idea and we

JOHN PRIDE DEVELOPS HYPNOSIS TAPES



came up with a programmed course made to order for the shooter."

The two-cassette course is divided into four parts. The first is an introduction to the subject of self-hypnosis by Nielson. If the listener makes himself open to the suggestion, he will go into an actual hypnotic state. Part two then goes into the fundamentals of shooting—sight alignment, trigger control, etc. This clears the way for part three, which tells the listener how to deal with match pressure. Utilizing a technique known as "visualization," the listener is directed on how to channel his fears into a positive force. The last part of the tapes is an actual PPC course of fire, from beginning to end. Everything is included, even the staccato of gunfire.

The effect is so real that the listener may almost believe he's in a match. Above the usual range sounds, Nielson's voice is calmly talking to the listener, reminding him to disregard those things that cause pressure to build, and to think about the basics of shooting instead. The intended reaction is that the shooter will go into a match with numerous positive suggestions ingrained in the subconscious.

A gimmick? Maybe. But the results are there. Literally hundreds of shooters have used the Pride-Nielson tapes and improved their shooting.

For more information, contact Mike Nielson, 19585 Pine Valley Avenue, Dept. AH, Northridge, CA 91326.

MASTER TIPS

Collected by Jon Winokur

Grip and Fire Control



RAY NEAL, Combat Master, 1981 Soldier of Fortune Pistol Champion.



1. Pull back hard with the weak hand and push forward hard with the strong hand.

How tightly you hold the gun depends on whether you're shooting a single shot or a string of shots. For multiple shots where quick recovery is essential, hold the gun supertight — about as tightly as you can squeeze it. But for single shots, you can afford to loosen up considerably.



2. Push the weak hand index finger very tightly up **underneath** the trigger guard. This prevents most, if not all, of the up-and-down motion of the gun in recoil. Lock the weak hand thumb over the strong hand thumb.

A MINOR ADVANTAGE

IPSC scoring handicaps minor caliber loads, but there are some advantages to shooting 'minor.' Here's one gal's reasoning for shooting reduced, minor loads in her pet .45 ACP.

By Beverly Chapman

The founding fathers were in error. All men (people) are not created equal. All attempts to legislate equality aside, there remain, happily, differences between men and women. While it is true that some women are as strong as some men, and some men are as agile as some women, at 5'8" and 140 pounds I am not as physically strong as my 6'1", 210 pound husband, Ray Chapman. I've faced the fact that I'll never be able to shoot as well as Ray does (very few people can hope to attain that level of skill) but I can still enjoy competitive shooting, by shooting to the best of my ability. And that's the key, shooting to the best of my ability.

Last month during a period of two days I shot in three competitions and won three awards, my first in over four years of IPSC shooting. At the Sectional Shoot in Wheeling, West Virginia I took second place female shooter, and third in my class. After a long drive home I competed in the Macon Missouri Rod and Gun Club's Modified International Rapid Fire and an assault course, placing first in my class.

This sudden success can be attributed to three things: practice, my new gun, and shooting minor caliber ammunition. Everyone has heard that practice makes perfect. That remains to be seen. However, practice is definitely the number one cause of improved performance in the shooting sports today. It is highly recommended by the experts.

Good equipment helps too. My new competition gun is a .45 Combat Commander, magnificently modified by Steve Nastoff (1057 Laverne Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio 44511). Nastoff is an excellent gunsmith, with the soul and skills of a fine jeweler. My Nastoff custom gun greatly improved my shooting.

Now for the ammunition and my 'minor advantage.' Years ago when I shot with the Army we used hardball ammunition, of course, and I still won my share of trophies. But accuracy was the *only thing* that mattered in that type of competition as the time limits were so generous that competitors could take naps during a string of fire. But IPSC shooting is different in that there are three components of score equal to one another: speed, power and accuracy.

Using the formula for power factoring (Power factor = bullet weight x velocity/1000) it follows that in order meet the USPSA major power factor of 170 or IPSC factor of 175, my 200 grain semi-wadcutter bullet has to be traveling at 850 fps or 875 fps respectively. With my not-quite-five-inch barrel, the powder charges have to be 5.7 grains or 5.9 grains of WW231 powder. I've tried those loads and I don't like them, especially for those Comstock stages in which speed becomes more important than accuracy.

It is much more difficult to control a hot load than a mild load, and it takes more time, especially since I tend to develop a noticeable flinch after going through a few magazines of major ammunition. The simple truth is that I can't handle major caliber. I don't have the upper body strength that is necessary for quickly and accurately shooting macho loads. Since there isn't any point in shooting a load I can't handle, I don't.

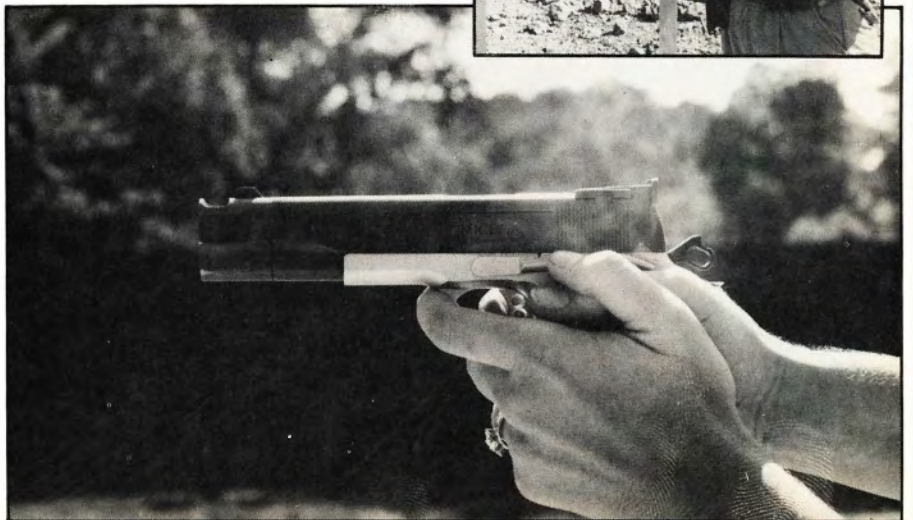
Note the 'snake-eyes' double-tap fired by the author into the 'A' zone. She contends it's better to shoot accurately with minor loads than spray rounds with hard to control major ammo.

The power factor for minor is 125 worldwide, so the same 200 grain bullet only has to have a velocity of 625 fps. All I have to do to reload ammunition for myself is adjust the powder slide on one of our old, trustworthy Star reloaders to 4.2 grains of WW231 powder and I have a controllable, accurate load that I really enjoy shooting as it travels about 675 fps. My load factors at 135, leaving me a comfortable margin for error.

That margin is especially important for minor caliber shooters. Shooters declaring major caliber loads and not making the factor are rescored to minor. So, if you are caught shooting minor after declaring major the only penalty you receive is having your score readjusted to what it should have been in the first place. Competitors declaring minor and not making the factor are disqualified from the competition.

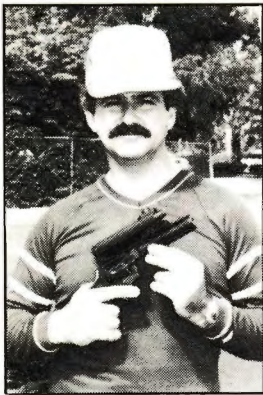
At the 1983 IPSC World Shoot only the top shooters had their loads chronographed. One of the members of the US Women's Team placed second in the Women's competition,

Continued on page 68



ACCURACY-DEPENDABILITY-QUALITY

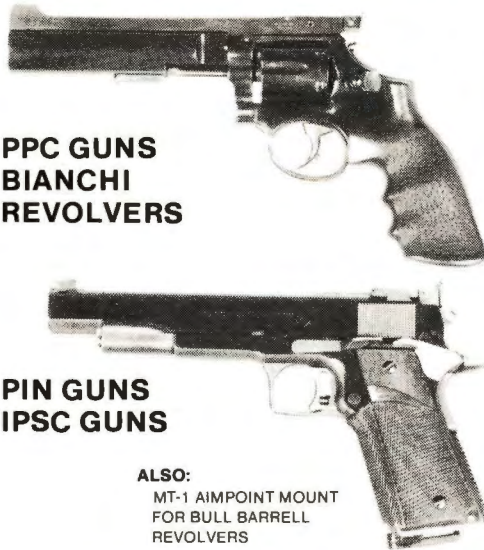
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Continued from page 12

sight picture, trigger control and follow-through.

Once you develop a narrow cone of fire, even if it opens up a little under stress, your shots will still be in the center of the target, and you'll be less likely to make big mistakes.

JW: What do you mean by 'cone of fire'?

MD: Nobody holds the gun rock steady. Even the top shooters don't hold it perfectly still. It might look like it when you watch them, but in fact the gun's moving all the time.

We teach a technique that allows you to convert that movement from a chopping wobble—up and down or side to side—to a circular wobble. Rather than trying to fight it and hold it still, allow the gun roll in a small circle. Let's say your gun is capable of shooting two-inch groups. At 50 yards, with your wobble factor, that may translate into a three or four inch group. The less your wobble factor, the tighter your cone of fire.

JW: How do you prepare your students for the pressure of actual competition?

MD: At the end of our five-day course the students participate in a man-against-man shootoff. It gives them the opportunity to learn to operate under stress, and we feel that any negatives involved in being eliminated from the competition are outweighed by the value of the experience.

JW: What else do you cover in your competition courses?

MD: In the five-day course we cover moving targets, night shooting, barricades, prone shooting, how to zero, how to select the best equipment. The student fires about 750 rounds in various training exercises, including the shootoff on the last day. We also spend time in the classroom every day analyzing what we've done.

Above all, we try to instill safe habits. We obviously want to prevent accidents, but there's a bonus in safe gunhandling. When you behave in safe manner you put the range officers at ease, you feel comfortable and confident, and you handle the gun faster. But if you haven't developed safe habits, it tends to make the range officials nervous, which in turn makes you uncomfortable and tentative.

JW: Are there common elements between your self-defense and competition courses?

MD: The shooting skills are parallel. In our self-defense classes we stress the same basics of marksmanship because we know that if you don't learn to handle the gun smoothly and keep your shots in a narrow cone of fire, when the stress hits and the blood pressure goes up and your dexterity goes out the window, you're not going to hit what you're shooting at.

JW: You and Mickey stress intelligent practice. Your ISI Basic Exercises (sidebar) is a blueprint for getting the most out of range time. What else do you tell your students about practicing?



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MD: We urge our students to dry-fire regularly using scaled-down silhouette targets to simulate various distances to the target.

The routine should be as follows: make sure the gun's unloaded. Cock it, put the safety on and holster it. Assume your stance and ready position. Practice drawing, coming on the target smoothly, aligning the sights, pressing the trigger and following through. Do that over and over, but in short sessions. We suggest six sessions of five minutes each a night. Relaxing in-between helps your concentration.

Practice at the range is a perfect controlled environment. You can test different loads, find out the fastest way to shoot a given match, and discover what suits your particular ability and style. If you have a malfunction during practice, you can stop what you're doing, identify the problem and trace it back to the gun, the ammunition or the magazine.

JW: Do you recommend any other training aids?

MD: Two things we've found helpful are a tape recorder and an air pistol. Pre-record match commands and use a whistle to indicate a variety of time intervals. Run through the sequence and you'll quickly develop a sense of how fast you have to move in a given time frame. You can even put complete matches on tape and run yourself through them at home. You can also do that at the range if you don't have anyone to time you.

Practice at home with an air pistol is an excellent way to develop follow-through because the pellet travels very slowly through a long barrel. If you anticipate the shot at all you change the point of impact drastically. And it's relatively inexpensive—a decent Daisy airgun costs about \$40.00 and match-grade pellets are cheap compared to .45 caliber practice ammunition.

JW: What's your advice to someone just starting out in practical shooting?

MD: Work on the basics of marksmanship. Attend one of the shooting schools. If that's not feasible, get hold of some books on the subject. Talk to experienced shooters. Join a local club and start shooting in matches as soon as you've got the safety procedures down pat. Get as much match experience as you can—it's impossible to shoot too much in the beginning.

JW: What about equipment selection and maintenance?

MD: Buy a Government Model type .45 automatic, install high visibility fixed sights, have it ramped and throated, bevel the magazine well, and have the trigger pull set at a crisp 3½ to 4 pounds.

Spend more money on powder and primers than on fancy equipment. Put your name on all your equipment. Number your magazines so you can identify defective ones. My rule of thumb is that if you have the same problem more than once, get rid of the magazine—either throw it away or give it to someone, but scratch your name off of it so you'll never get it back accidentally. Sometimes a given magazine won't work in one gun but will work in another. Keep track—if you have the same problem more than once, get rid of it.

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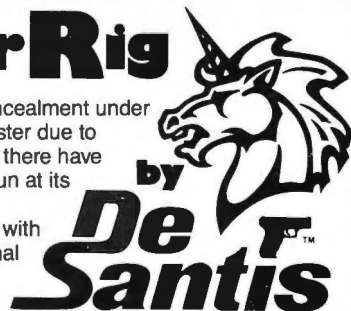
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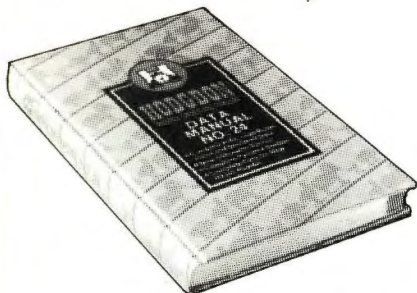
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JW: What shooting stance do you teach your classes?

MD: For the past year or so, both the Weaver and the Isosceles. We help the student find out which one fits him or her. For many people, the 'classic' Weaver—body precisely 45 degrees to the target, right arm shoved out

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These exercises are designed to develop the basic skills necessary to become a well-rounded shooter and gunhandler. The time limits given can be increased as proficiency dictates, but all shots should be kept in the "A" zone. Anyone who can perform them within the stated time limits should be considered a proficient practical shooter.

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| 10 Yards | 1 shot, reload, 1 shot, 5 seconds. Repeat 5 times. |
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straight, left arm pulling back hard—is extremely uncomfortable for some people and they flat can't shoot well from it. We've learned there are few absolutes, and we try to tailor techniques to the individual. Whenever possible we show our students various alternatives and let them choose what suits them.

JW: You said few absolutes. What are they?

MD: We know that you're going to have to use both hands. The one hand shooting days are over. And we know that the basics of marksmanship are essential.

JW: What holster position do you recommend to your students?

MD: Strong side, forward rake. It's the safest position to draw from and it's faster than the cross draw.

JW: What about the kidney carry?

MD: We think it's a big mistake for competition. The muzzle is constantly sweeping your leg or your foot when you draw and reholster. And if you make an exaggerated arc to avoid sweeping yourself, it's incredibly slow. Now, for someone who needs to carry for police work or has a concealed carry permit, the kidney carry makes excellent sense. But not for competition.

JW: Where do you come down on the gamesman/martial artist debate?

MD: Most of the controversy is caused by people justifying why they don't win. They use equipment not adapted for competition because they think it's 'practical' and they lose. So they try to outlaw equipment that works in matches. They know their system's slower so they try to make everybody do it that way. They want you to compete under the same handicap that they've imposed on themselves in the name of 'practicality.' Well, I don't want a handicap.

Practical shooting was designed to be free-style partly as a reaction to the arbitrary restrictions of Bullseye shooting. The idea was to let everybody come out with what they had and find out what system worked best. We're still finding out.

On the other hand, if the system works, come out and beat us with it. Draw it out of your sock if you want to, and if you can beat me with it I might



move my gun.

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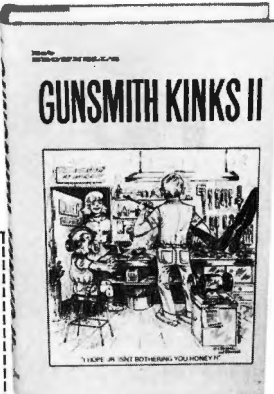
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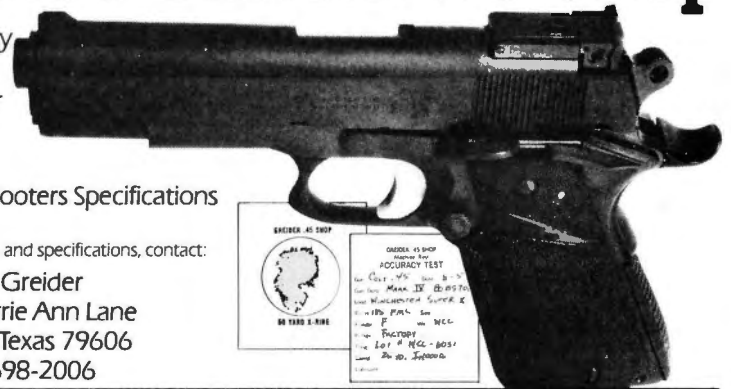
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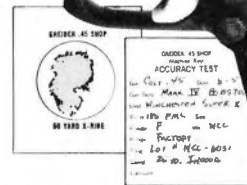
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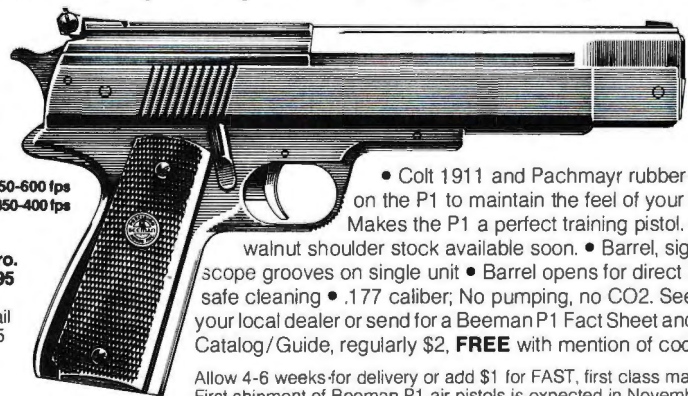
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.454 CASULL MAGNUM

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By James E. Fender

The .454 Casull Magnum. Tantalizing reports of a massive 5-shot single action revolver chambered for a maximum-sized .454 cartridge have surfaced periodically in the firearms press for the past 25 or so years. For at least the last eight years the State of Wyoming big game regulations have listed the .454 Casull as a cartridge legal for the taking of all big game in the state.

Last October, following an elk hunt in Wyoming, I stopped in Casper and saw a notice in a sporting goods store that orders were being taken for the .454 Casull Magnum, and deliveries would begin shortly after the first of 1984. No one in the store could give me any further information, and I was more than a little skeptical that anyone would ever see the revolver. Delivery of the .454 in early 1984? After all this time? The .454 had to be another of those pistols constantly advertised as almost ready for production once "minor problems" such as obtaining necessary tooling, financing, vendors, patents, etc. had been resolved.

But it wasn't. I've had the use of not *one* but *two* revolvers for over a month, have fired more than 300 rounds through them, reloaded for them, chronographed the loads, and have reached some preliminary conclusions which I'd like to share with you. Before we get into the gun's performance, though, it would be appropriate to discuss the genesis of the .454 Casull Magnum.

Dick Casull's father at one time owned an automotive repair shop in Salt Lake City, Utah, and was indulgent enough to let his inquisitive young son learn to operate lathes and other metal working machinery at a very early age. Young Casull used this equipment to whip together his first handgun at age 11, an accomplishment his father learned about only much later. Despite any misgivings Casull pere may have entertained about anyone's abilities to support himself as a firearms designer, Casull's life-long involvement with the production of firearms had begun.

In the early 1950s a lot of people were striving to develop handgun cartridges with more energy than the .357s, .44 Specials and .45 Long Colts then available. While Elmer Keith concentrated on beefing up the .44 Special, Casull devoted his efforts to improving the .45 Colt. Initially he used duplex and triplex loads to increase velocities of loads fired in the single action Colt revolver, but the duplex loads were just too much for the Colt. Cylinders cracked, top straps ruptured and accuracy wasn't very good. Casull made up new gasproof firing pins, stronger barrels and re-heat treated frames, but nothing solved the problems of handling the heavy duplex loads until he went to a completely new cylinder.

The conventional six chambered cylinder had walls between the chambers which were too thin to contain the high pressures gener-





MS, FREEDOM, WYO. USA .454 CASULL

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ated by duplex and triplex loads. Casull went to a five chambered cylinder with as large a diameter as possible. The resulting chamber walls were much thicker, and the locking recesses into which the bolt fitted when the hammer was at full cock were located between the chambers rather than having to be cut directly over the chambers themselves. The five chambered cylinder adequately contained the heavy pressures of the duplex and triplex loads, and the frame would not weaken from repeated firings as long as the cylinder was strong enough to preclude splitting or swelling of the chamber walls.

By 1956 Casull had refined his five round cylinder, its ratchet system, and his duplex and triplex loads to the point that accuracy was more than acceptable, loads were reliable, and custom-built revolvers could handle the tremendous pressures without problems. He gave the cartridge a name—the .454 Casull Magnum.

But 1956 was also the year that the .44 Remington Magnum was introduced, and even though the .454 was producing velocities with a 230 grain bullet in the neighborhood of 1800-2000 fps as a matter of course, the .44 Remington Magnum could be chambered in a factory produced pistol—the famous Smith & Wesson Model 29, followed closely by the Ruger single action. The .454 had no pistol specifically chambered for it, and no company interested in building a revolver to handle the cartridge. Casull's cartridge was quickly overshadowed by the new .44 Remington Magnum.

But Casull wasn't ready to let his cartridge die. He made numerous attempts to interest manufacturers and investors in producing a revolver to his design. In a very real sense Casull was working at the leading edge of handgun and ballistic technology, but, except

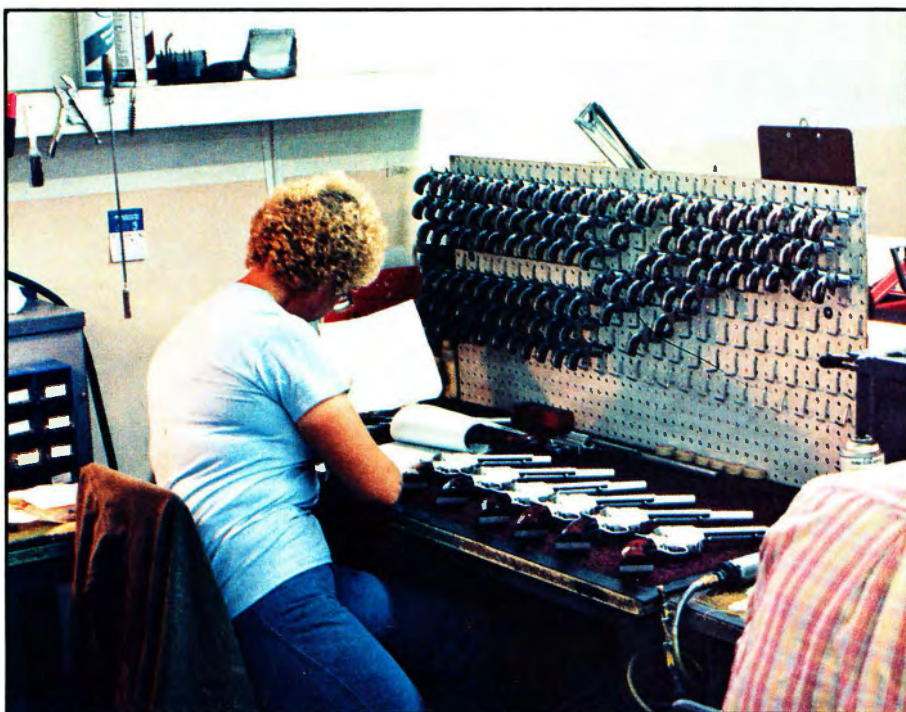


Freedom Arms can 'make your day' big or small. They make the mite-sized mini-revolvers in .22LR and the mammoth .454 Casull Magnum.

.454 CASULL MAGNUM LOADING DATA CHART

	Range/Yards	Rem Vel	Rem Energy	Drop
LOAD: Bullet: 200 gr. Speer Primer: 120M Winchester Powder: 42 grs. WW-296	0	2100	1958	0
	50	1856	1529	1.1
	100	1633	1185	4.7
	150	1433	912	11.5
	200	1264	710	22.7
LOAD: Bullet: 225 gr. Speer Primer: 120M Winchester Powder: 37 grs. of WW-296	0	1857	1723	0
	50	1675	1401	1.4
	100	1506	1133	5.8
	150	1356	919	14.2
	200	1228	754	27.2
LOAD: Bullet: 250 gr. Hornady Primer: 120M Winchester Powder: 35 grs. of WW-296	0	1821	1841	0
	50	1540	1316	1.5
	100	1304	944	6.7
	150	1128	706	17
	200	1015	571	34.1

STATS TO NOTE: Comparing the data from the loading with the 250 gr. Hornady bullet to Remington data for the .44 Remington Magnum, the .454 Casull Magnum produces 35 percent greater muzzle velocity, 90 percent more muzzle energy and 35 percent less bullet drop at 200 yds than the .44 Magnum.



Kaye Schultz carefully inspects some Casull .454s. Quality control is assured with in-house assembly and manufacture by trained personnel.

for the occasional custom pistol he assembled, the dream of one day building a completely new handgun around the .454 Casull Magnum cartridge remained just that, a dream.

After a number of false starts, the fortunes of the .454 took a decided turn for the better when Casull teamed up with Wayne Baker. Baker was in the process of establishing a facility to manufacture .22 caliber mini-revolvers in Freedom, Wyoming. Besides the obvious problems of money, refining the design for production and obtaining the necessary machinery, there is also the problem of training a work force to build the gun. Baker thought that the best way to get the .454 into production was to use the manufacture of the mini-revolvers to train a work force which could then branch out into the manufacture of the .454 once an acceptable "learning curve" had been achieved. Other production methods were attempted—contracting out most of the parts' manufacture and assembly by the Freedom Arms work force, but vendor delays and quality assurance problems convinced Baker and Casull that in-house manufacture was far and away the best method of producing the .454.

The first production .454 came off the assembly line in October 1983, and contrary to my earlier skepticism, customer deliveries did begin after the first of 1984. The .454 Casull Magnum and a five shot revolver especially built for it are now available—some 28 years after Dick Casull developed the cartridge.

The first revolver sent to me for testing was number 20 off the production line and came with fixed sights. It was a handsome piece of workmanship. The stainless steel is 17-4 PH and well finished in a subdued luster. At first glance the pistol could be taken for a Ruger stainless steel Super Blackhawk without adjustable rear sight and sans the squared off "Dragoon" trigger guard. I found the grip angle to be more ergonomically designed than other contemporary single actions. It differs subtly from both Colt and Ruger single actions, and is more akin to the 1860 Colt than today's design. The grip fits the hand well, not only my hand but also the hands of other shooters to whom I have shown the revolver or who have fired it in my presence.

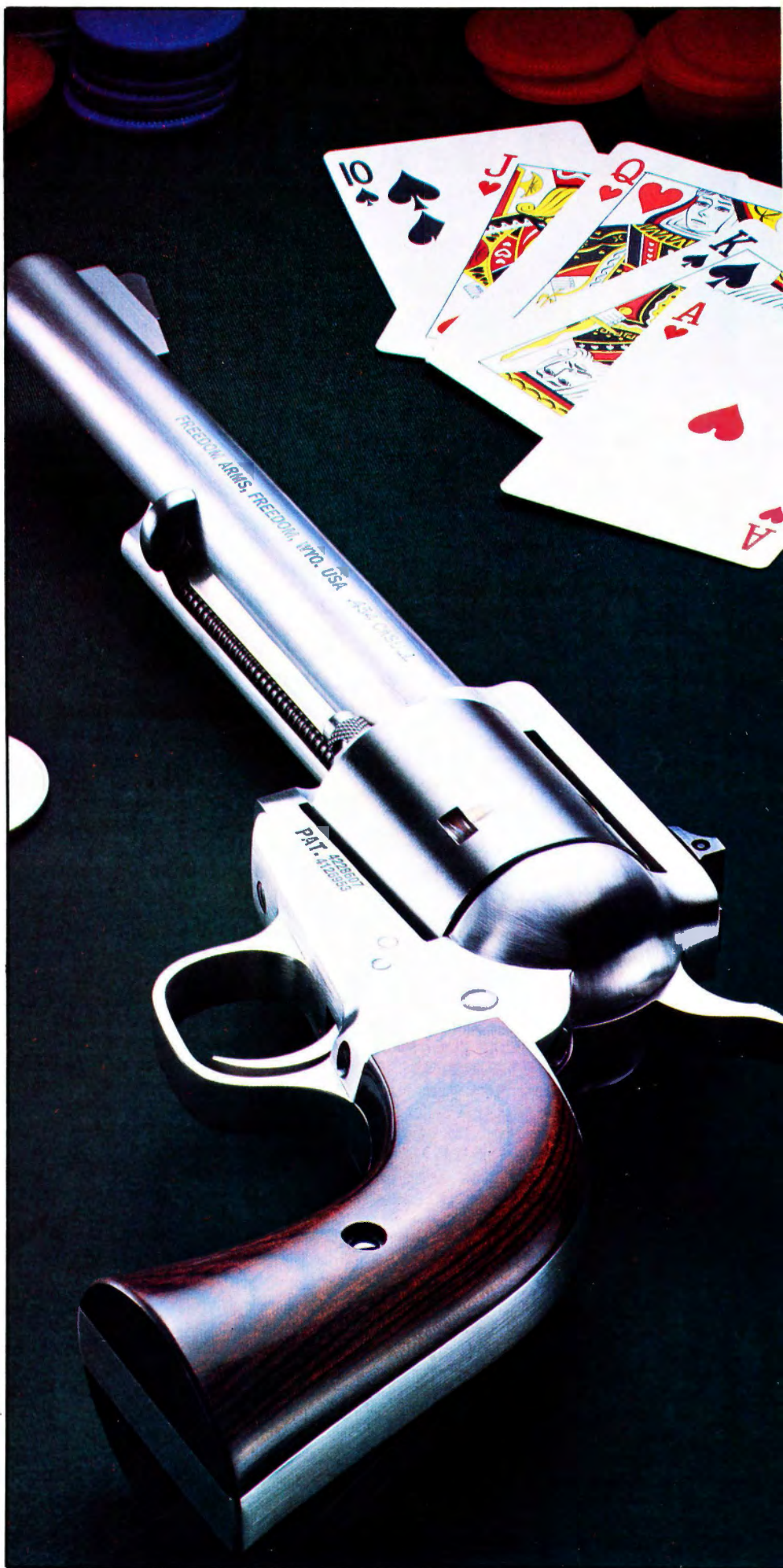
The cylinder is as massive as the cylinder of the Ruger Super Blackhawk, and like the Ruger is unfluted for additional strength. While giving the appearance of size, the Casull is not overwhelming, and at a weight of 3 pounds 2 ounces (fixed sights and 7 1/2" barrel) the Casull weighs only 2 ounces more than the Ruger Super Blackhawk, and is only half-an-inch longer.

Trigger pull was crisp though a trifle heavy for my tastes, breaking at 7 pounds. Despite being a little heavy, the pull does not vary from shot to shot, and I recommend leaving it the way it comes. The Casull is covered by four patents, with an additional patent pending. One of the patents covers the sliding bar safety system. This safety mechanism is substantially different from the transfer bar safety of other revolvers since a separate transfer bar does not rise to shield the firing pin as the hammer is cocked.

The safety lever in the Casull bears directly upon the hammer, camming back as the hammer is cocked, but securely blocking the hammer until the trigger is deliberately pressed and held back. I tried various methods of defeating the hammer's safety lever, but without success, and consider this system to be as good as any safety system currently available on a big-bore hand gun. However, it behooves all of us who use and enjoy firearms to constantly bear in mind that nothing mechanical is completely fail-safe.

The only disappointing feature to me about this first gun was the fact that it came with a fixed rear sight. A good, well defined fixed sight, but a fixed sight nevertheless. In my opinion, any hand gun other than those intended for close range self-defense work should be equipped with a good adjustable rear sight. I made this clear in a telephone conversation with Baker, and he quickly informed me that Freedom Arms was indeed making a revolver with an adjustable rear sight, and moreover, 60 percent of the guns sold to date have left the factory so equipped.

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MORTON GROVE HANDGUN BAN UPHELD

By Andrew Kendzie

Morton Grove. The name of that small Illinois town has become a focal point for America's gun owners, causing more fear and worry than the names 'Kennedy and Rodino.'

There's a good reason: Sen. Edward Kennedy and Rep. Peter Rodino would like to ban handguns; Morton Grove has *done it*.

The handgun ban in Morton Grove has become painfully real. On Oct. 19, the Illinois Supreme Court, by a one vote margin, upheld the validity of the law under the Illinois Constitution and in essence ended the courtroom battle which has been waged since 1981.

But contrary to the boasts of the National Coalition to Ban Handguns and Handgun Control Inc., both of which supported the ban either through financial contributions or 'friend of the court' legal briefs, the battle concerning Morton Grove is far from over. Moreover, Morton Grove-type statutes brewing in other locales can and must be stopped.

First, let's put Morton Grove into perspective. The town (pop. 24,000) is a relatively crime-free suburb of Chicago. Its handgun ban—Ordinance #81-11—was passed on June 8, 1981 by a 4-2 vote of its Village Trustees, despite citizen opposition which ran 8-1 against the measure. In passing the law, Trustees Neil Cashman, Lewis Greenberg, Don Sneider and Gregory Youstra said it would "send a political message" to other towns.

And one law enforcement authority, conceding that few law-abiding gun owners would surrender their guns, said the law "doesn't mean spit." Nevertheless, any Morton Grove resident found in possession of a handgun faces maximum penalties of up to six months in jail and/or a \$500 fine.

Immediately after the ordinance's passage, it was challenged in both the state and federal courts. The crux of the legal question centered around Article I, Section 22 of the Illinois Constitution: "Subject only to the police power, the right of the individual citizen to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." Did a local government—as opposed to the Illinois legislature—have authority to regulate firearms? Did a ban on a certain type of firearm constitute an infringement on the citizen's right to keep and bear arms under the Illinois Constitution?

The Illinois courts, unfortunately being very political in nature, upheld the town's ban. In a narrow 4-3 ruling, the Illinois Supreme Court sided with lower decisions which held that because the law *only* banned

handguns—and not rifles and shotguns—the right of Morton Grove citizens to have some form of firearm was protected. (If the same logic were applied to the First Amendment's freedoms of speech, interestingly enough, it could be argued that a town could ban newspapers—one form of media—as long as it left radio and television stations alone!)

Ultimately, what is the significance of Morton Grove? Where do we go from here?

"What must we, as gun owners, dealers, manufacturers and collectors do to combat Morton Grove?"

Those are the pertinent questions.

In legal terms, the Illinois high court's decision means specifically only that Morton Grove's ban is valid, although similar laws in the Illinois towns of Evanston and Oak Park obviously are aided by the ruling.

The decision does not automatically open towns in other states to handgun bans, although you can rest assured that HCI and NCBH will do all in their power to bring Morton Grove-type laws to as many towns as they can.

There are several legislative remedies to Morton Grove still at hand: A preemption bill gives the state legislature the sole authority to regulate firearms; an amendment clarifying the 'police power' section of the Illinois Constitution; or electing in the place of the four trustees who voted for the ban four pro-gun candidates who will vote to repeal it.

The NRA and state gun organizations will be exploring every means possible to nullify the law.

What must we, as gun owners, dealers, manufacturers and collectors do to combat Morton Grove?

First, we must recognize that the gun control groups are in earnest. They want nothing short of a complete ban on handguns in this country and they will put all their efforts toward that end. We must also realize that fighting them is a necessity and that we must all contribute our time, effort and money if we are going to win.

Second, we must pay close attention to our political backyards. We must know immediately if an anti-gun ordinance is to be debated in our city halls or town councils, and this

requires keen political observance on a day-to-day level. If your state does not have a firearm preemption bill prohibiting local governments from passing gun laws more restrictive than the state's, it is important to get such a law passed. Does your state constitution contain a "Right to Keep and Bear Arms" provision, and is that provision stated with such authority that your firearm rights are fully protected? If the answer to either of these is "No," then it is important to start framing such a measure right now.

Third, we must solidify and expand our communications network. Join your state rifle and pistol association or your local gun club. Most of these groups publish newsletters and some even have the capability of generating 'Legislative Alerts' when an anti-gun bill is to be debated.

Participate in these organizations.

If a restrictive gun bill comes up before your town council, get the word out—quickly. Strong showings of grassroots opposition have stopped many an anti-gun bill right in its tracks.

Fourth, we must continue to exercise our greatest strength: active participation in politics. We must attend public forums on the gun issue. We must get our neighbors, our friends and our families involved in supporting and promoting the pro-gun cause, and we must understand that silence or apathy on our parts are the only means by which the anti-gun side can win the battle.

Finally, we must vote. This country is still a democracy and political issues live or die at the ballot box. Your right to own firearms depends, in a large part, on how you pull the ballot box levers. You can vote in favor of pro-gun measures or against anti-gun proposals. You can send pro-gun, pro-hunting candidates to your town councils, state legislatures and to Washington, and you can send politicians who would subvert your rights down smoking. In the end, it is your rights that are on the line and it is up to you to protect them. Nobody can do it for you.

MORTON GROVE CHRONOLOGY

JUNE 8, 1981—By a 4-2 vote, the Morton Grove Village Trustees enact Ordinance #81-11, which bans the private possession of handguns, except for police and security guards. Testimony at public hearings ran 8-1 against the measure.

JUNE 9, 1981—Victor Quilici, an attorney residing in Morton Grove, files suit against the ban in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, contending the

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COGAN COMPENSATOR

THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

By Michael Bane

No doubt the biggest controversy to boil out of shooting in the last few years has been the rise of the .45 automatic 'pin guns.' The good ole Guv'mint Model has suddenly found itself with all manner of plumbing attached to its nose, from simple barrel weights to elaborate 'compensators,' weights with expansion chambers and ports, all designed to cut recoil.

The point of it all, aside from the simple virtue of cutting recoil, is to give competitors in IPSC matches or bowling pin matches an edge for a fast second shot. Less recoil means a faster second shot, and since most IPSC matches are scored 'Comstock'—the point score divided by the time to get the final score—a few seconds saved can add up to victory.

The major controversy has come over the word 'practical.' Is a compensated gun practical? Well, we'll leave that one to the theologians and other deep thinkers. The other parts of the controversy are more realistic—the things cost a lot of money, the going price for a compensated gun is around \$1500, roughly the price of a used Volkswagen bug. Secondly, the conversion to a compensated gun is pretty final. If you change your mind and want your good old Commander back, it's going to cost you a bunch more for that.

Bob Cogan, the gun-plating wizard at Accurate Plating and Weaponry in Clearwater, FL, and Aron Lipman, guru of Personal Protection Systems, Ltd., in Scranton, PA, may have come up with a solution.

That solution is a removable compensating system, adaptable to a wide range of semi-autos, including the Colt .45. The original system was designed, amazingly enough, for the diminutive Walther TPH, and consists of four components—a cover sleeve to protect the barrel threads when the gun is used in its standard configuration; a special adaptor that threads onto the barrel; a lock nut and the compensator head itself.

The compensator is first and foremost a muzzle weight. Gases escaping from the barrel blow into the compensator's expansion chamber, then out a single large port cut in the top of the comp. Because the compensator screws on from the front, it can be used on such popular 9mms as the Browning Hi-Power and the TZ-75, which have barrels that remove from the rear rather than sliding forward out of the slide à la Colt.

"This system," says Cogan, "was designed to do one basic job, and that is to reduce recoil. It's a great system for the guy who wants to shoot four or five matches a year and



James Bond's 'Q' would be jealous of compensated Walther (upper left).

You don't need a tricked-out competition gun and a practical personal defense gun with this removable compensator system. Now your gun can serve double-duty!

doesn't want to put \$1,000 in a pin gun."

Our test gun was a TZ-75 outfitted just like this month's Giveaway Gun. The TZ-75 is the Italian copy of the Czech CZ-75 and has been selling like hotcakes, thanks in no small measure to its obvious high quality and—

amazing in this day and age—low price.

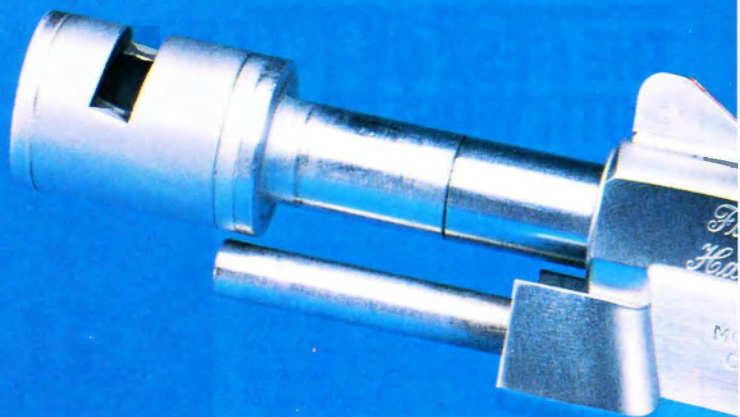
If you've never shot a compensated gun, you're in for a shock. The 9mm isn't exactly a hard-slammung cartridge, but with the Cogan Compensator fitted, even that recoil drops dramatically—Cogan puts the recoil reduction for a 9mm at 50 percent, and I wouldn't argue with that.

Recoil is largely a subjective phenomenon. You can measure muzzle rise and foot-pounds of energy to death, and it still doesn't tell you all that much about how a gun feels to shoot. The great thing about a muzzle weight on an automatic is it subtly changes the way the gun feels. The pounding of the slide back and forth is partially offset by the additional weight on the muzzle end; the gas port helps keep the muzzle down; the gun becomes much more manageable.

Continued on page 61



The KISS principle at work: only three parts comprise the Cogan comp.



WIN THIS **CUSTOM TZ75** FROM C&L PRECISION LTD.

In early 1984, Aron Lipman of Personal Protection Systems of Scranton, PA, and Bob Cogan Jr. of Accurate Plating and Weaponry of Clearwater, FL, formed a new company, C and L Precision Ltd., devoted to creating state-of-the-art accessories and components for competition and carry guns.

This month's Custom Gun Giveaway is the American Handgunner Custom TZ75 featuring a C and L Precision compensator counter-weight system. This detachable compensator makes this weapon a carry gun, target pistol and quick-recovery competition gun all rolled into one.

The barrel has a blind bushing for carry purposes and protection of the barrel threading. By simply attaching the compensator counter-weight system it becomes a quick-recovery, recoil-reducing competition pistol.

In addition, under the master pistolsmithing of Bob Cogan this weapon also has a custom extended slide stop, custom thumb safety and an extended mag release. The thumb safety has been altered to allow the weapon to be carried cocked-and-locked as well as with the hammer down for double-action first shot capability.

The slide stop, thumb safety, trigger and mag release are gold plated.

The beautiful custom TZ75 sports a set of Millet sights, stippling on both front and back straps and grooving of the back of the slide.

These well-executed touches make the piece not only attractive to the eye but also a combat-ready handgun.

The weapon is accuplated with Bob Cogan's unique stainless finish and has custom grips made from genuine Buffalo Horn tastefully scrimshawed by Art Jewel Enterprises (421A Irmen Drive, Addison, IL, 60101).

If you're not the lucky winner of this Custom Gun Give Away you can still get your hands on one of these fine custom TZ75s from C and L Precision, 101 Pittston Ave., Scranton, PA 18505. The piece sells for \$1,495.



TO ENTER CONTEST: Use a postcard, follow sample; include name, address, HOM M/A, local dealer name and address. Mail before April 1, 1985. Send to AMERICAN HANDGUNNER, Box 16025, San Diego, 92116.

Name _____

Address _____

City & State _____

HOM-MAR./APR. 1985 Phone _____

If I win, please ship my gun through the following dealer:

Dealer _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

AMERICAN
CUSTOM GUN
GIVEAWAY
HANDGUNNER



The Korriphila .45 ACP

By Walter L. Rickell

Back in 1968, while I was on the staff of Guns & Ammo, Jeff Cooper would sit in my office and relate tales of woe, how this world needed a new and better locking system for the big-bore semi-automatic handgun. Jeff had toyed with many designs and one day he popped into the office all excited with a CETME rifle that featured the roller delay principle. This was the answer he said, "all you have to do is adapt it to the 1911 semi-auto pistol."

Well, that's easier said than done and not until the spring of 1984 did I finally see that basic roller system adapted to a functional handgun. With the strange name of KORRIPHILA, I was surprised to find that it was of German manufacture. The correct name is the Model HSP 701.

The first thing that I noticed was workmanship and finish. Flawless machining and polish, deep bluing and classic walnut, checkered stocks are the calling card for this unique handgun, chambered for the popular .45 ACP cartridge. The first impression is that this pistol is a blend of many semi-automatic designs manufactured today. It's very reminiscent of the Smith & Wesson Model 39, yet still carries very strong resemblance to the H&K P9. But closer inspection reveals some basic improvements of the American and German double action autos blending the two into one pistol.

You may have trouble pronouncing the name, but you won't find it hard to like this German .45.

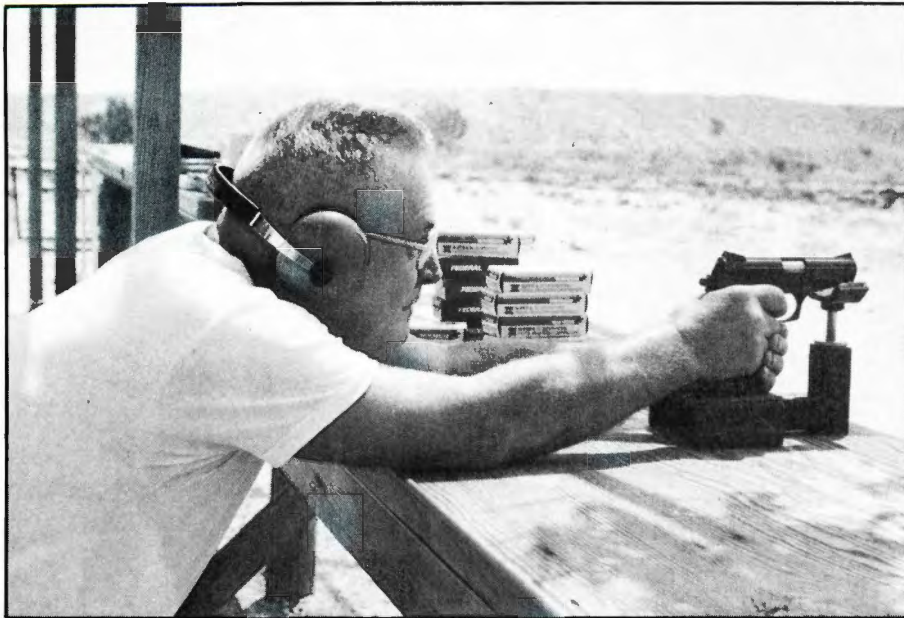
The barrel is stationary to the frame, with the recoil spring wrapped around it. The clean slide sports Smith & Wesson style combat sights (a ramp quick draw front and a fully adjustable for windage and elevation rear), a squared trigger guard, à la Swenson and a short stroke double action trigger. There are no thumb safeties, so it being ambidextrous is a moot subject.

The firing pin is blocked similarly to the S&W but is lined up for firing when the double action trigger is pulled or the hammer is cocked manually. Either of these actions raise a lever on the right side of the hammer, which in turn lines up the firing pin. This block also affords a solid steel block keeping the hammer from coming in contact with the firing pin.

This safety is automatic and is in action at all times, not just when activated by a thumb lever. Thus, this eliminates the bulkiness of external levers on the frame or slide, leaving a very flat contour to the weapon. The only lever or button is the slide release on the left side of the frame and the magazine release button.







Irv Stone found the Korriphila a pleasure to shoot. Accuracy improved as test firing continued due to breaking-in the pistol. There were no jams.

As mentioned, the barrel is fixed and the slide is locked in place by a roller lock. This is accomplished by a movable breech-block within the slide. When in the firing or forward position the breech-block and slide are mated and the roller lock is pressed into the frame by an incline plane on the slide. Firing the cartridge activates the rearward pressure, which first moves the slide to the rear a fraction of an inch. This also moves the incline plane (see drawing), releasing the roller that is part of the breech-block, thus it recesses into the slide, allowing the slide to cycle, loading the weapon for the next shot.

This system, called the BUDIS-CHOWSKY, is very smooth and soft on recoil even with military hardball. It eliminates the sharp punch of the traditional round. In fact, it is difficult to tell the difference in recoil between hardball and wad-cutter ammo.

To take-down the piece is simple, but first make sure the weapon is unloaded and magazine removed. Now, pull downward, toward the bottom of the frame, the button located at the front of the trigger guard, just under the serial number. Which, by the way, on this particular pistol is 0017, one of the first production pieces and the only one in the USA at this time. After the button is locked down, pull the slide to the rear and lift upward (lowering the button allows the slide to travel further than normal to the rear). Now ease the slide forward over the muzzle and you have field stripped the weapon. At first this might seem a little clumsy since the recoil spring is quite heavy and requires a set of strong hands and arms to control the action.

To remove the breech-block, depress the lever on the right side of the slide and push the breech toward the muzzle and it falls into your hand, through the bottom of the slide. This is all the take-down that is needed to care for the weapon or to maintain it. Further take-down is not recommended by the manufacturer.

To load the gun simply charge the maga-

zine with seven rounds and insert it into the grip-well till it clicks into place just like the old 1911. This can be accomplished with the slide locked to the rear or forward. If locked to the rear, simply depress the slide release lever (keeping the trigger clear) and it will bounce home ready to fire; remember, don't touch the trigger while doing this. When you release the slide, the hammer will fall forward with the slide—don't be alarmed since the automatic safety that releases the hammer also blocks the firing pin. The only way to release it (the safety) is to pull the trigger double action or cock the hammer for single action fire. A very simple and positive sys-

tem. This system also eliminates all of the external levers and gadgets common to double action autos.

While we are on the subject of triggers, this one is excellent. The double action pull is short and smooth allowing a good first shot placement from a holstered draw. The contour is not sharp and does not pinch the fleshy part of the trigger finger. As for the single action trigger, it is one of the best I have ever tried and on a par with top match-grade weapons.

The magazine is much like the 1911 but can be taken down by sliding out the base plate to the front and then removing the secondary base plate, the spring and the follower. It's very well made and finished and shows considerable hand fitting. It holds seven rounds of .45 ACP.

The overall shape of the weapon is similar to that of the S&W Model 39 in size and feel. In fact, the sights are a direct takeoff, especially the rear. It's fully adjustable for both windage and elevation with a quick draw ramp front. They are refined, low profile in contour, and compact. The trigger guard is squared off and checkered very tastefully for the two hand hold, as are the front and backstraps. The grip panels are of walnut, flat contour, neatly checkered and feature a flat oil finish.

The overall length is 7¼ inches by 5¾ inches high, with a thickness of one inch. The barrel is 4⅞ inches in length and comes in five calibers, .45 ACP, .30 and 9mm Luger and .38 Super. The design of this semi-auto pistol is not easily changeable in calibers without tools, since the barrel is fixed. At present this model is chambered for the .45 ACP caliber but by simply changing the barrel, breech-block and magazine will effect a



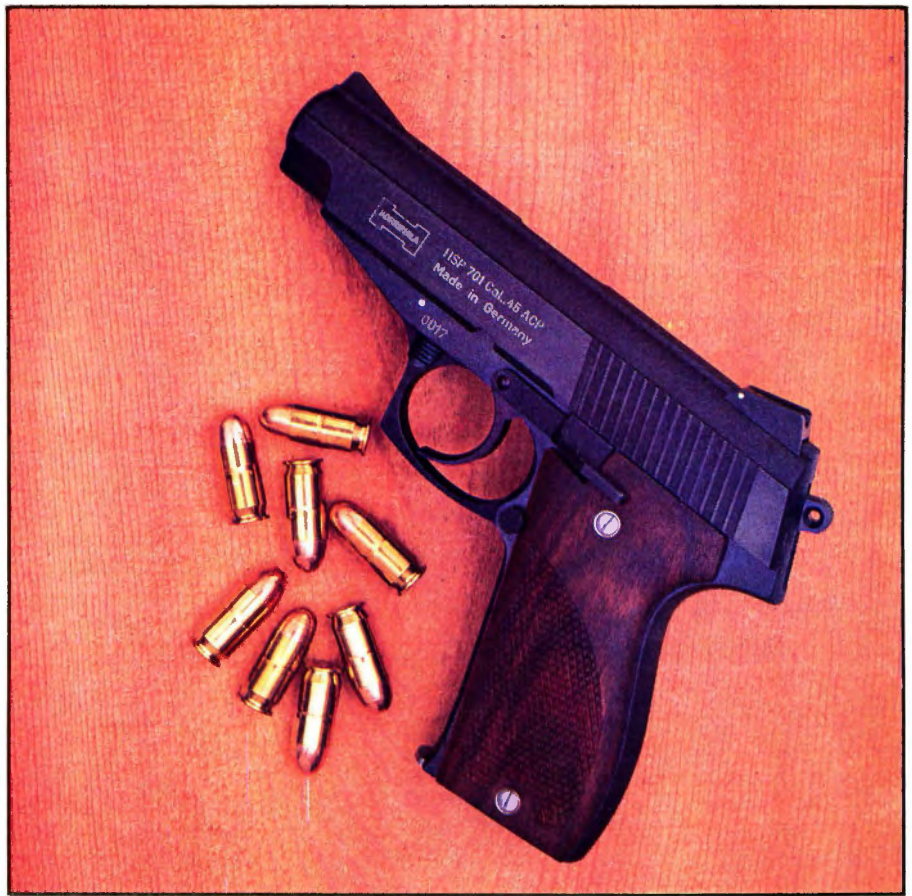
The German auto field strips into four parts. A simple and reliable design.

caliber change. This cuts the cost on manufacturing and an interesting concept.

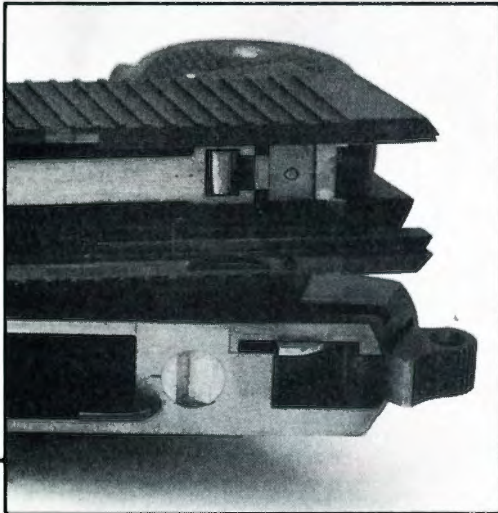
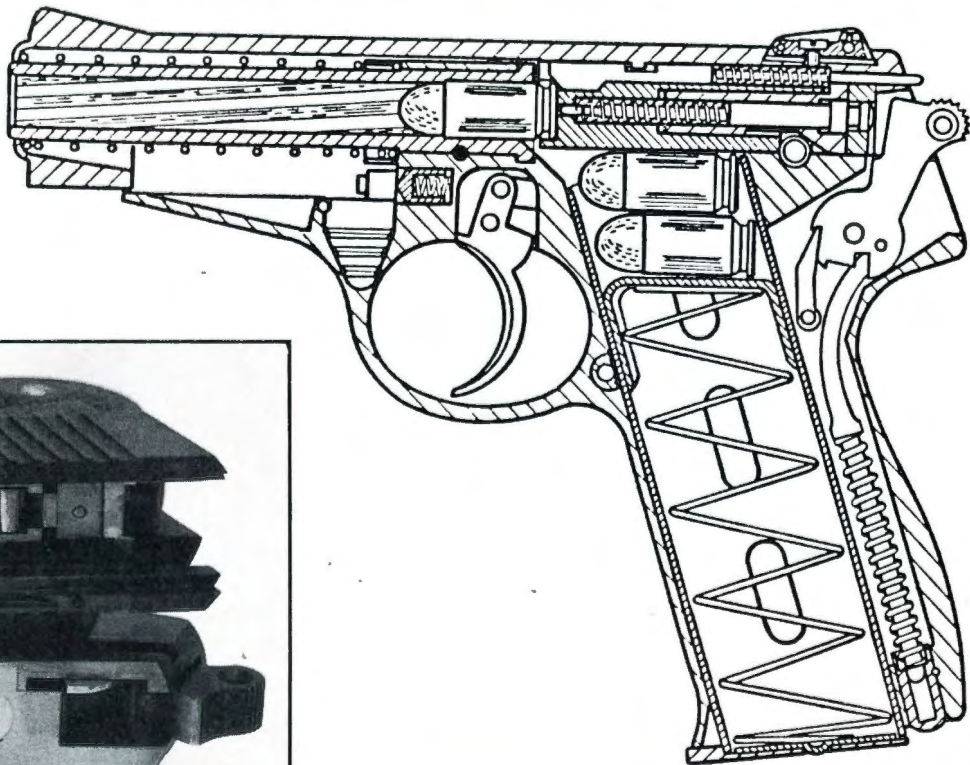
Test firing the pistol was a pleasure and accomplished with Irv Stone of BarSto Precision who is the owner of this rare pistol at the 29 Palms Gun Club. Setting the targets at 25 yards and using a rest, the Korriphila HSP 701 was loaded with five rounds of Federal 230 grain hardball. All the shots stayed in the black, but not doing anything spectacular after 100 rounds we switched to Winchester 185 grain match wadcutters. Besides producing clean neat holes in the paper the groups shrunk. The best one measured out at 2 3/8 inches by 1 3/4 inches.

The German auto fed hardball, hollow-points and semi-wadcutters (jackets and lead) without fail. An interesting fact is that the groups shot with this ammunition got smaller the longer we fired it. This being a new gun, it probably took some breaking-in and it's proven that a breaking-in period is necessary to settle the parts before you can get the maximum accuracy from a handgun.

This new offering to the handgunner is a very well made and designed piece, offering a variety of calibers. Price and availability at this time are unknown. Who will be the importer of the weapon is also a mystery. For full information concerning the HSP 701 write to: KORRIPHILA - Prazisionsmeckhanik Gesellschaft m. b. h., P.O. Box 103447 - D-6900 Heidelberg - Germany.



Superbly handcrafted Korriphila should retail for about \$1,200.



Drawing reveals design genius of Korriphila. (Inset) Roller-lock is visible on the slide, and locking recess in the frame.

THE NEW WAVE OF HOLSTERS

By Bob Arganbright

A tide of new holsters is gushing into the market offering low cost, durability and utility. Here's a run-down on the new wave of nylon holsters.

In 1983 Uncle Mike's (Michaels of Oregon Co.) introduced their "Sidekick" holster, the first of the soft, padded nylon holsters. Currently, many holster manufacturers including Bianchi International, Boyt, Brauer Brothers, El Paso Saddlery Co., Roy's Custom Leather and Smith & Wesson Leather offer some type of low-cost nylon holster.

Some are made from "ballistic nylon" while others are of DuPont Cordura® nylon. According to DuPont, their Cordura® is "more puncture/tear resistant than cotton canvas, vinyl, standard nylon or ballistic nylon." Some figures given in their brochure are: three times as abrasion resistant as standard nylon, five times the puncture/tear resistance of standard nylon, and two times

the puncture/tear resistance of leather.

Most of the nylon holsters are constructed of an exterior and an inside lining, with soft padding between, thereby making a "padded nylon" holster. They are referred to as soft because the nylon doesn't have the body of leather, though leaving the gun stored in the holster overnight does cause the nylon to take a set, forming to the individual gun.

A nylon holster has the advantages of low cost, scuff and tear resistance and very light weight. It will wrinkle if crushed for a very long period of time. One used in my tests was stored in a box with another holstered gun on top of it, and when retrieved after a few days it was badly wrinkled. However, the wrinkles disappeared after a few hours with a gun in place.

While there are a number of specialty companies producing nylon holsters, samples were obtained from Bianchi, Brauer Bros., El Paso Saddlery, Roy's, Smith & Wesson and Uncle Mike's as these are most likely to be found in the average gun shop.

BIANCHI INTERNATIONAL

Just as John Bianchi has established a reputation for producing the Cadillac line of shooting leather, samples of his new "Ranger" line of ballistic nylon holsters appear to be the Cadillac of the new breed of soft holsters.

Shortly after the turn of the century, S. D. Myres Saddle Co. of El Paso, Texas, developed the Threepersons hip holster for Tom Threepersons, a famous Southwestern lawyer/gunfighter. This high riding, skimpy hip holster with what has come to be known as the "FBI rake" (gun butt tipped slightly forward) became the benchmark by which all new holsters were measured. Bianchi has wisely chosen to offer the Threepersons style, constructed of padded ballistic nylon, as his new "Ranger" holster line.

The "Ranger" series of holsters is available in eight sizes to fit the gamut of handguns from two-inch snubs to 8½ inch barreled revolvers. Bianchi's new offering differs from its competition in having the traditional fold over belt loop construction and in having a sight channel similar to their leather holsters. The "Ranger" sight channel is made of nylon webbing stitched in such a way as to form a "V" for the front sight. The traditional over-the-hammer-safety-strap is adjustable for length by attaching to the holster with Velcro on the inside of the belt loop, such that the belt adds to the grip of the Velcro. The snap for this strap is set in a circular piece of hard



New nylon camo holsters complement Z-Coat camo finish.

nylon which is stitched to the holster body so no metal is inside the pouch to scratch the gun's finish. All edges of the holster and gunbelt are bound with a separate nylon strip.

The "Ranger" series gunbelt is also special. Of similar construction, it is available with or without cartridge loops. The version I tested had cartridge loops formed from two strips of heavy elastic. This allows one to carry cartridges varying from .22 LR caliber through .458 Magnum in the same cartridge belt. The synthetic loops also prevent the formation of unsightly verdigris which forms on brass when stored in leather loops. I did find it a bit difficult to insert large cartridges, loaded with SWC bullets, in the elastic loops.

As the 1984 Bianchi International catalog states, their new "Ranger" line will set the world standard for nylon holsters.

BRAUER BROTHERS MFG. CO.

While Brauer Bros. offers only a hip holster in padded Cordura construction, their version is unique in having a thumb break safety strap. This "Blake Break" strap is

Continued on page 69

Z-COAT CAMO FINISH

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Z-Coat is also available in one color finish, matte or gloss black or grey.

One of the unique features of the Z-Coat process is that it adheres equally well to stainless steel, regular steel and aluminum. Also, the color remains constant on the three surfaces unlike conventional bluing which tends to turn pinkish in color on stainless steel.

Z-Coat is available for long guns as well. The process lends itself well to plastic so that an AR-15 can be completely camouflaged with the plastic stock and steel parts matching in color.

Prices for the Z-Coat process for handguns at press time vary from \$95 for camo on semi-autos to \$89 for a single color on revolvers. Prices vary according to large or small frame size. Price changes are expected to vary, according to the manufacturer, so write for a current price list to J&M Distributing, Dept. AH, 404 E. Broadway, Brunswick, MO, 65236.



Holsters from left to right: Brauer Bros., Bianchi, Uncle Mike's and Roy's.



Uncle Mike's offers inside-the-waistband, ankle and shoulder holsters.



El Paso Saddlery's unpadded nylon belt slide holsters will fit any handgun.

MOUNTING OPTICAL SIGHTS—TO STAY

By Russ Gaertner

Mounting handgun sight systems is now a serious concern for many shooters. Frowned on by most of us a few years ago, scopes have now become widely popular among handgunners. Serious competitors have a bullseye gun (or two) with an Aim-point and silhouette and hunting guns with scopes of various types and powers. Winners of big cash matches, like the Bianchi Cup, all use optical sights.

This is all great for handgunning because it means better scores, cleaner kills of game, and greater enjoyment of the sport. But there is a real problem about which little is said—because it is a sore point, I suppose. The experts know it is out there, and it worries them.

The problem is how to mount these increasingly popular sights on sharply recoiling handguns so that they stay on. There are dozens of mounts available, but unfortu-

nately some are too weak, or poorly designed, to do the job. Worst of all, the mounting methods used by do-it-yourselfers usually just can't cut the mustard, even with the right hardware.

Almost any mount made by a reputable company today will work and hold scopes on guns in the milder calibers from .22 up

Hard-kicking handguns can jar loose scopes. Here are the how-to's and what-for's of mounting optical sights on handguns.

through .38 Special. Many mounts are reliable on .357 Magnum guns, with proper installation. But when you go up to the big magnums—.41, .44, and the heavier single-shot calibers used for silhouette shooting and big game hunting—only the best will hold for long.

When I asked experts to estimate how many amateur jobs would shoot loose or off the more powerful guns, their educated guesses ranged from a third to two-thirds, but the average was about 50 percent failure. These men get many bad jobs to fix, and business is good these days.

A well-respected company president said, "When a scope shoots off, it means a trip to the emergency room and six stitches to close the cut in the guy's forehead." I've know several such cases. The shooter's embarrassment is usually worse than his wound, but

Continued on page 53



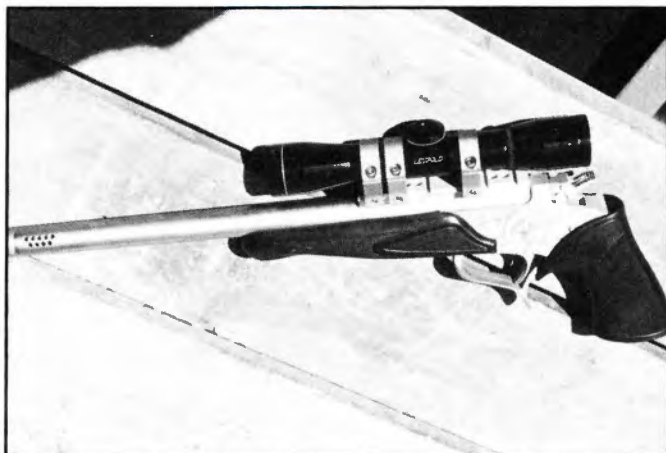
Clark mount has a large cavity for Devcon cement.



Leopold mount holds tight on Model 29 .44 Magnum.



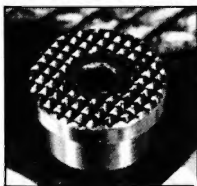
Bushnell scope/mount (left) and Leopold 4X EER scope.



Three rings hold Leopold scope on SSK Hand Cannon.

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some accidents have inflicted serious eye injuries.

When I began using handgun scopes almost 20 years ago, two types were available. Heavy rifle scopes and mounts were used, but they were bulky and not suitable for many guns. The only true pistol scopes were light and flimsy and so were the mounts. It was a question of which would shoot loose first, the scope's optics or the mount.

Finally I obtained a 'magnumized' prototype of the Bushnell Phantom II, the first such scope which held up on a fullhouse .44 Magnum revolver for me, after half a dozen of various makes had failed. With that Phantom on my old Herter .44 I took my first dangerous big game with the handgun, a big male Colorado black bear. Since that hunt, I've used scopes on autos, revolvers and the Contender in calibers from .22 Jet to .30-30 and .45-70. I'm sold on them, but I'm also very careful about mounting.

In order to help handgunners who want to try a new optical sight, or who now have such sights which may not be securely mounted, (whether they know it or not!), I've done a partial survey of mounts and methods. It was not practical to cover every mount. I've limited this work to a few examples trying to show how they work, what to look for in a good one, what their limitations are, and how to install them.

Before discussing examples, let's review why it's tough to keep a scope on a recoiling handgun. When a gun is fired, the laws of physics tell us that the gun recoils equally and in the opposite direction to the energy generated by firing the cartridge. Thus the gun initially moves *backward* and slightly *downward* (because the bore is above the center of mass). The inertia of the scope and mount exerts a powerful thrust *forward* and *upward* on the mount screws. Then the wrist and arm of the shooter pivot the gun *upward*, pressing the mount/scope *down* onto the frame. Finally the shooter halts the recoiling gun, and again the scope's momentum pulls *upward*.

Little wonder that the mount screws and other links in the mount system will loosen if there is any weakness. Screws stretch if they are not strong, hardened steel. Ordinary sight screws are useless. Threads in the frame holes must be clean-cut, tight and straight. Screws may even shear off, and then the whole shebang comes flying back in the shooter's face. Usually, however, looseness develops first, and an alert shooter can detect trouble before the final blowup.

The first principle of scope mounting is simply stated: use a strong mount designed for and closely fitted to the gun frame. The second principle is obvious: install the mount and scope properly. That is easy to say, but some examples will help the amateur avoid serious trouble.

To take a standard example, let's consider putting a Leupold mount on a Smith & Wesson Model 29 .44 Magnum revolver. Leupold & Stevens (P.O. Box 688, Beaverton, OR 97075) makes fine scopes, including the 4X EER, and their well-designed mounts fit popular handguns. Like all mounts, the fit

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must be checked individually on your gun.

The rear sight was removed from the M29. The front sight screw and hole are too small for use in a mount, and three holes must be drilled and tapped in the frame for the Leupold mount. Mount screws must be at least 6-40, preferably 8-40 or 8-32. First the holes must be spotted. This is done with a drill bit the size of the holes in the mount to center the holes perfectly, cutting a cone-shaped dent with just a few turns with a sharp bit.

Leupold screws are the 6-48 size. I spotted the holes with a 3/64-inch (.141) bit and drilled the holes with the .120-inch bit. The mount fits in the sight slot with a lower recoil shoulder bearing on the back of the frame.

Only high-quality, sharp drill bits and gunsmith's taps are suitable for this work. They can be obtained in matched sets from Brownells (Rt. 2 Box 1, Montezuma, IO 50171), a good idea because the exact hole size is important. A small hole can mean a tap broken off in the hole; a large one can strip its threads. I drill and tap in a drill press to insure straight holes, turning the spindle by hand for tapping and using a lubricant such as Brownells Flute Juice. The tap is backed out frequently to clean out chips. Drilling and tapping guides can be used if you must employ a portable drill.

On the M29, the rear and middle holes are easily prepared, but on my gun the front mount hole is located over the barrel pin and the barrel threads. The barrel pin must be punched out and the barrel turned out of the frame. Then the hole is drilled and tapped as usual, and the barrel tightened and the pin replaced.

An expert could drill and tap the hole, using a bottoming tap to thread the blind hole. But an amateur risks breaking off drill bits and taps or weakening the barrel throat if he drills too deeply.

I use Loctite to seal mount and ring screws. Ordinary Loctite is best for this job, because its bond can be broken easily. If necessary, a hot soldering iron on the screw-head will help. Both screws and holes must be degreased well with acetone or lighter fluid and dried. I applied Loctite to the screw threads, tightened them, then set them with a sharp tap from a light hammer, tightened again, and set the gun aside for a day to cure.

Ordinary rosin helps to prevent scope movement in the scope rings. It can be dusted on or painted on as a solution in alcohol. With the Leupold mount, rings are installed just like rifle rings. The rings should be tightened on a one-inch dowel and turned to a position exactly square to the mount length.

With the scope turret bearing against the front ring, the rings are assembled with Loctited screws and tightened. Such an installation should hold perfectly, barring a fall down a mountain. I check a new mounting job before each firing, but I have yet to see one fail, if done this way, even on .44 Mag revolvers.

Bushnell Phantom scopes are light, and lighter scopes are easier to hold on the guns. Installing a 1.3X Phantom (5.5 oz.) on a

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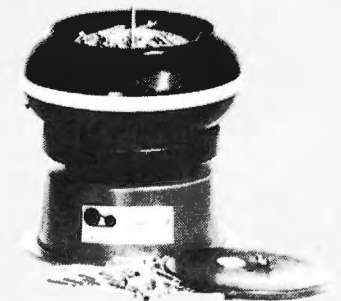


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Ruger Super Blackhawk .44 is easier than the Leupold job.

The Phantom has a dovetail rail to fit the clamp on their compact sight block. The block fits in the Ruger sight slot, and the threaded sight hole is used, but the front hole must be drilled and tapped. Since the block fits over two hardened studs which screw into the frame, the positioning of the front hole is critical.

With the rear stud in the hole, and the block positioned on it, the front hole was spotted through the mount with a 3/32-inch bit, then I finished drilling and tapping it (6-48). The mount did not quite bottom on the studs, and a little filing on the bottom of the rear extension was necessary to bring the front down onto the frame.

Next, the studs were degreased, Loctited, and seated in their holes. The block was snugged down on them and the set screws Loctited and tightened. Attaching the scope was a matter of placing the mount clamp screws through their holes and the channels in the scope rail. I did not Loctite these; it was unnecessary and I have watched the scope to another gun temporarily, on occasion.

Bushnell's Centurion scope is a high-quality 1.3X glass. With the unique power booster screwed on its front end, power becomes 2.5X. The price to be paid for that excellent feature is the scope's 10-inch length and 10-oz. weight. That means that the Centurion needs a strong, well-fitted, secure mount to hold almost a pound of total weight on a powerful handgun. I haven't had a chance to test any mount extensively for the Centurion yet.

These are probably the best choice for semi-auto pistols of the 1911A1 class. I have an old Whitney Sales mount, but it tends to loosen because only the two grip screws hold it. Recently James E. Clark, the well-known pistolsmith (Rt. 2, Box 22A, Keithville, LA 71047), has come out with two excellent grip mounts, one for scopes and the other for Aimpoints.

These Clark mounts use the grip screws for installation, but they also require drilling and tapping the gun frame for two added screws, and Devcon cement is applied in cavities inside of the mount to stabilize it completely. The mounts are well designed and made, and they are highly reliable when installed according to Clark's directions.

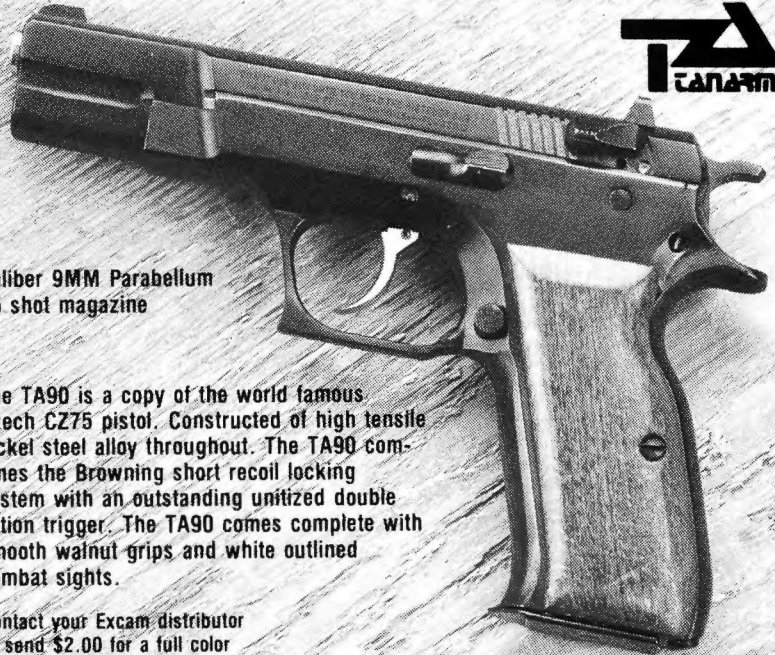
He specifies a #28 bit to spot the holes, which are finished with a #33 drill and 6-40 tap. The Aimpoint has an adjustment slot for one grip screw, to line up the sight with the open sights before spotting the extra holes. The grip screw bushings should be checked for tightness before installing the mount. They may have to be restaked or replaced.

Other companies make .45 Auto mounts for installation on the slide. I have not tried them, but heavier loads will be needed to cycle a slide with a mount and scope on it. A grip mounted scope takes much less pounding.

While on the subject of .45 Autos, some shooters have complained that they can't keep a sight rib on their guns. I installed a Bo-Mar

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for a long time. Manager Bob Ray sent me a prototype of their new "no drill, no tap" mount for calibers up to and including .357 Magnum. It is for a Dan Wesson, but it differs from the B-Square mount in that it clamps onto the gun frame, not the vent rib, and replaces the rear sight.

Buehler's mount is nicely machined from high-tensile aircraft aluminum alloy. The compact mount fitted perfectly and it is suited for one-inch rings. An unusual, but desirable, feature in a handgun mount is the provision of windage adjustment screws on the rear ring socket. This means that higher power scopes can be adjusted to give a full image.

Other companies make handgun mounts, many of them of very good quality, but I have not been able to evaluate them all. Certainly Redfield and Weaver offer good mounts, for example. It is always best to check the fit of the mount on your own gun, in every case.

No mount is better than its installation. Either do it right, or have it done by an experienced gunsmith who specializes in this work.

Optical sights are revolutionizing nearly every aspect of competitive handgunning. Secure mounting is the key to the fine performance which these sights are capable of delivering.

As a closing suggestion in the interest of good optical sight mounting, may I propose that manufacturers of magnum handguns adopt a standardized rear sight mounting system which is suitable for mounts to carry such sights. This could be a variation of present long sight slots (such as the S & W) with a locking pocket or undercut frame. Then a good-sized front screw would have a ready-made threaded screw hole. In this way one design would fit every mount and hold any sight. Such a universal sight mounting system would greatly simplify and improve the present multiplicity of designs. Until this idea is adopted, mounting calls for individual judgments.



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The action shooting event attracted over 60 shooters from the Tri-State area. Mike Moy of Chalfont, Pa., was the Grand Aggregate winner taking first on three of four stages. Mel Hockwitt took high overall revolver and the Colt Officer's Model as a prize.

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SWISS PLINKER

Though dubbed a hunter pistol, the Hammerli was sired by the family of world record-breaking autoloaders from the workshops of Menz.

By J.B. Wood

There are two reasons for buying a Hämmerli pistol: One is instant status at the target range, and the other is its almost legendary quality and accuracy. Whatever model is chosen, it will do both. Its name will impress the peasants, and its meticulous fitting by the gnomes of Lenzburg will enable any competent shooter to put tiny groups in the center of the black, time after time.

Until recently, owning a Hämmerli was a thing that was of interest only to those actively engaged in competitive target shooting. For that purpose, the Swiss craftsmen offered both mechanical and electronic single-shot Free Pistols, and five Target Automatics. Now, there is one for the sportsman. A Hämmerli brochure calls it the "Hunter's Pistol," and the factory designation is Model 212. It is derived from the well-known (in target circles) Model 208, but is reduced and simplified for field use.

The changes from the Model 208 pattern are all external. The Model 212 has a barrel counterweight, but the barrel is shortened. It lacks the full target grips and the elaborate frame-mounted rear sight. Otherwise, it is essentially the same. There is still a trigger that is fully adjustable for both weight of pull and over-travel, and an internal pivoting hammer that gives lightning-fast lock time.

The walnut grips of the Model 212 are separate panels that meet at the rear, but the joining line is so precisely fitted that it's almost undetectable. Hand-checkering of the lower half on the right side extends around to the rear, ending on the left panel. On the left side, there is a rectangular checkered area near the front, in just the right location for the fingertips of a right-handed shooter. The front-strap of the grip frame has fine vertical grooving on its entire surface. This combination, along with the graceful sweep of the grips at the

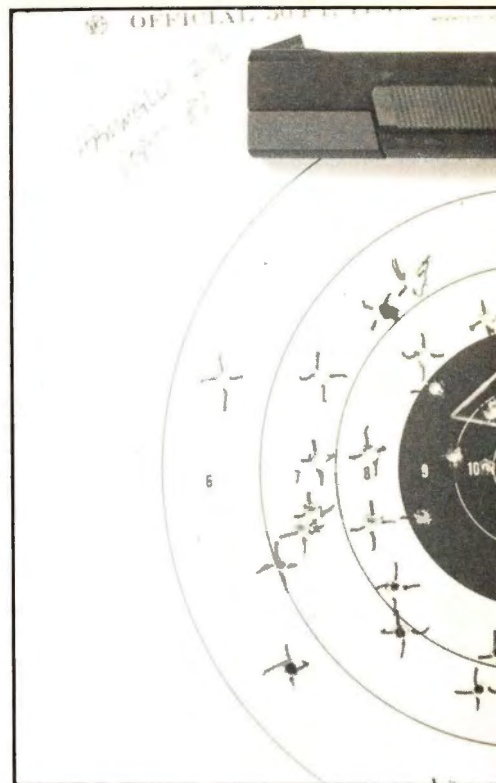
rear, gives a superb hold. The only thing I would wish for is a thumb-rest, but that feature can be easily added by the individual shooter. Those with very large hands will welcome its absence.

While not in the same class as those on the full target models, the sights on the Model 212 are excellent, and they are fully adjustable. The rear sight has a dovetail-mounted base in the slide, and a separate leaf which can be moved horizontally by tiny opposed screws. The vertical adjustment is in the front sight blade. Loosening a small screw on the right side allows the front blade to be pivoted on an internal track, raising and lowering its rear face. In keeping with the intended field use of the Model 212, the front sight has a recessed white dot, and the rear leaf has an ample square notch for easy eye pick-up.

The magazine has a checkered button on the right side as a loading aid, the tip of the button shaft protrudes slightly on the opposite side, giving a good thumb-and-finger grip for lowering the follower. The large, contoured endpiece of the magazine is of a high-quality plastic, and except for the grips it's the only non-steel part in the pistol. The magazine catch is a conventional push-back type at lower rear, easy to operate, but not likely to be released accidentally.

My sample pistol, cheerfully supplied by firearms entrepreneur Marty Mandall of Scottsdale, Arizona, has a pivoting trigger-block safety lever on the left side, at the lower terminus of the trigger guard. My first reaction was that it appeared to have been added as an afterthought, and was not part of the original design. This may well be the case, as I later learned that the safety is an optional feature—for the product-liability-prone American market, perhaps? It works beautifully, turning it over forward solidly blocks all trigger movement. Personally, I'd order the pistol without it, loading the chamber only when immediate firing was intended. Carrying "cocked & locked" is something I'll never do, with anything.

The slide is held open after the last shot by an external latch that is perfectly positioned for easy release at the top center of the left grip panel. While I had no difficulty in operating it, it needs just a little

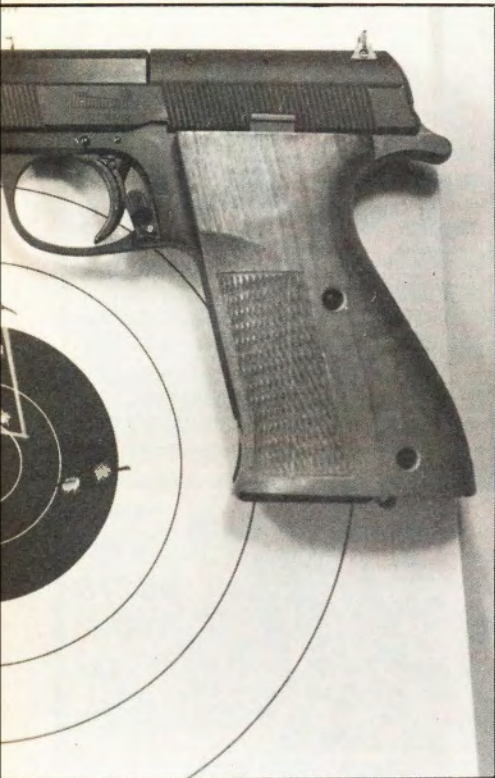


more outward protrusion, as the grip is quite thick in that area. The contour at the rear of the slide and frame, along with several other construction features, is strongly reminiscent of the pre-war Walther Olympia. This is not surprising, as Walther and Hämmerli were associated in coproducing a line of fine target pistols during the post-war years.

At the range, I tried the Model 212 with several brands of ammunition, but I saved some special for the serious target work; the fine Match Grade load by Lapua of Finland (now imported by Kendall International, 501 East North Street, Carlisle, KY 40311). From a sandbag rest at 25 yards, the first firing showed the sights to be off to the left and a little low, probably due to my peculiar hold and the difference between the factory sighting ammunition and the Lapua rounds. Around twenty-five rounds were fired during the adjustment of both sights, bringing the five-shot groups into the black. The trigger pull was a nice, clean-breaking 3 1/4 pounds, and I left it alone.



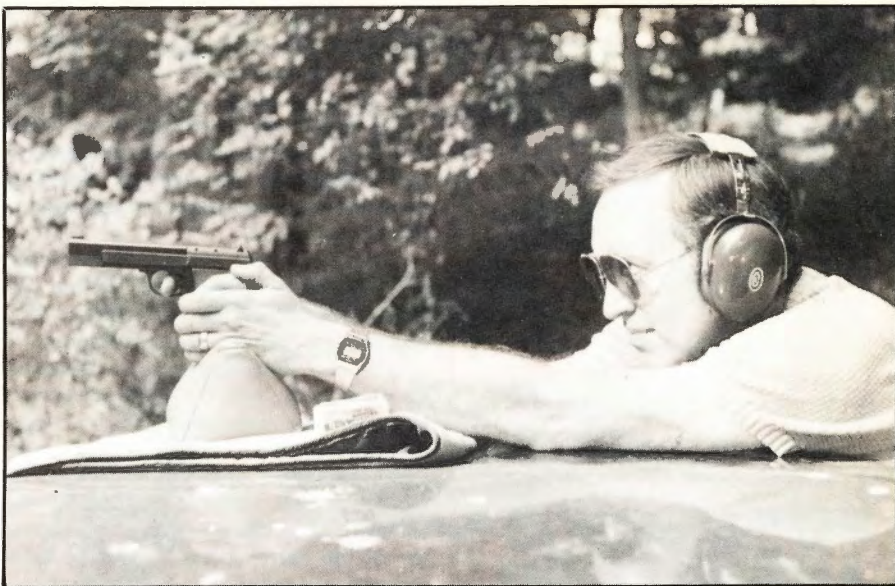
Height of front sight (elevation) is adjusted with recessed screw on right.



White triangle shows sub one-inch group fired after casual shooting.

It was at that point that I discovered the spare targets were not in my range box. So, I marked the sighting-in holes, and using the same target, fired a carefully-held group. The five rounds printed into a neat triangle just above the X-ring, measuring 7/8" by 3/4", perfectly centered. The Hämmerli, I concluded, will shoot a lot better than I can. Since I'm not really a paper target shooter, I spent the rest of the time at the range firing the Model 212 at plinking-type targets, such as bottle caps and drink cans. These were flicked off the log with eerie regularity.

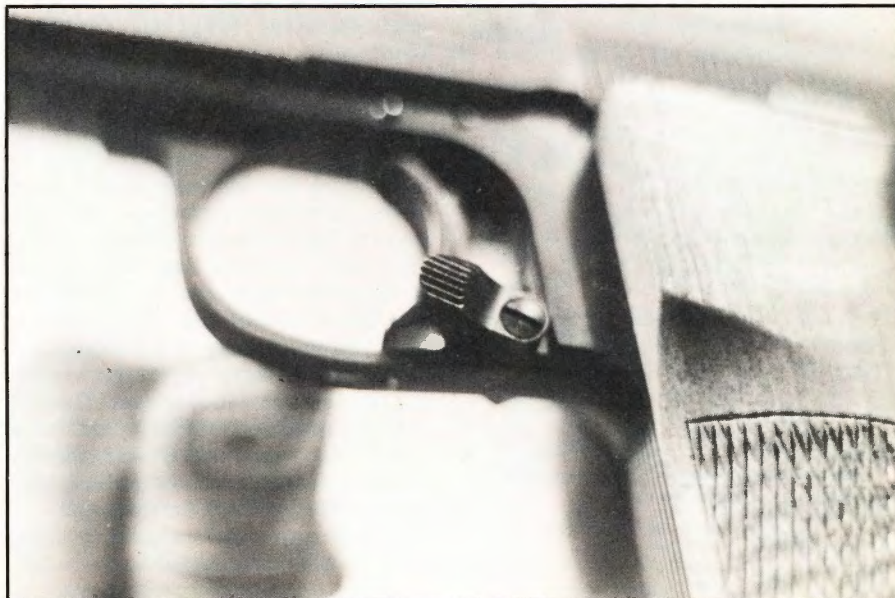
It occurred to me that the factory name, "Hunter's Pistol," was quite appropriate. This gun would be perfect for the handgun hunting of small game. I also discovered that the sights are engineered for a center-of-target hold, not the traditional six-o'clock target picture. The factory data says the magazine holds eight rounds, but it actually will hold nine, comfortably. The next point is almost needless to note with a Hämmerli, but I should add that there are no malfunctions of any sort.



Gary Luebbert, shooting from sandbag rest found Hammerli to be a champion.




The optional manual safety is shown in its vertical "off-safe" position.



Turned toward the front, the safety lever blocks any movement of trigger.



Small screws on base of front sight offer windage adjustment to blade.



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Furnished with the pistol is a typical Hämmerli accessory kit, a plastic roll with pockets that contain a spare magazine, a two-piece cleaning rod with brush and patch jag, a screwdriver, three Allen wrenches, a pin punch, and a spare mainspring and firing pin. The last two items named may never be needed, but they're there, just in case.

Takedown of the Model 212 for routine cleaning follows the classic Walther pattern, but first the large Allen wrench must be used to loosen the counterweight at the muzzle and slide it off toward the front. Then, with the internal hammer cocked and the magazine removed, the trigger guard is pulled downward and held there while the slide is drawn all the way to the rear and lifted upward. Taking care that the underside clears the nicely-grooved top of the barrel, the slide is then eased forward and taken off.

That's as far as the non-gunsmith needs to go for cleaning, but the very detailed instruction manual that comes with the Model 212 gives further data for takedown, including replacement of the mainspring and firing pin. Even so, if these operations should ever become necessary, the average shooter should leave them to a careful and knowledgeable gunsmith. While there's no real difficulty, a gun of this quality deserves not be gouged.

It was with great reluctance that I packed up the Model 212 and returned it to Marty in Arizona. If you happen to buy number 90595, treat it kindly—it's a little jewel. I expected it to perform like a Hämmerli, and it did.

CASULL MAGNUM

Continued from page 37

customer in the Freedom, Wyo., area agreed to let me borrow an adjustable sight Casull which was ready for delivery to him. This was not a factory owned revolver, and I deeply appreciate that person's kindness in letting me fire the pistol first.

The two Casulls are identical except for the adjustable rear sight on the second gun, a removable front sight on the second gun, and a small screw on the right side of the frame which I initially mistook for a barrel locking screw such as seen on some older Smith & Wesson revolvers. It was not a barrel locking screw, but more on this later. Workmanship on the second revolver was even better than that of the first pistol. The adjustable rear sight is of Freedom Arms' own design, and should prove to be one of the finest hunting sights on a hand gun. There are no visible increments to facilitate adjustments for various ranges, and IHMSA shooters won't find it as easy to elevate precisely when adjusting for increased distances, but once adjusted for a given load and range the Casull rear sight will remain adjusted.

I slugged the bore of the second pistol and came up with a groove diameter of .453"

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As was to be expected, recoil in the .454 was quite heavy once I got the Casulls to the test range, but I found recoil to be very manageable both off-hand and shooting from a bench rest. As with any hand gun, the more one shoots the .454 the more adept one becomes. However, I suspect that IHMSA shooters who choose to use full house loads in this revolver will know they have done something when they complete a standard course of fire. I was very pleasantly surprised with the accuracy of the revolver.

Al Libby, an engineering graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, handled scoping and chronographing chores during the initial testing sessions. A standard 25 yard conventional pistol target was set up for that distance and the Oehler skyscreens were placed 10 feet in front of the muzzle. I was initially more interested in velocity figures than accuracy, so I did not pay particular attention to the sights—just put them in the black of the bull at the 6 o'clock position, enough to ensure I didn't hit the sky screens, and squeezed the trigger. However, the muzzle blast was triggering the "start" screen before the bullet reached it and the first few chronograph readings were gibberish. On the fifth shot of the first string my attention was diverted by the awesome muzzle blast whipping the tall grass in front of the bench. It reminded me of firing the M-14 from the sitting position.

"What happened with that last shot?" Al Libby asked, looking up from the spotting scope.

I shrugged. "I was watching the muzzle blast, not the sights."

"Well, that last shot was an inch outside the ragged hole your first four shots made."

The first group fired, excluding the fifth shot, went into 1½ inches center to center. This was no fluke, and was repeated several times during the initial shooting session, with the adjustable sight gun shooting just a little over 2½ inches consistently, and the fixed sight gun going a little less. I subsequently fired the adjustable sight model at 200 meters and had no difficulty keeping five rounds on the outline of a standard IHMSA ram at that distance.

Earlier I had pulled a bullet from the custom loaded ammunition provided by Freedom Arms and had determined that the powder charge was 37 grains of WW-296 behind a Speer 225 grain bullet. Once I moved the sky screens 30 feet beyond the muzzle I began getting reliable velocity readings averaging 1857 fps for this load. Even though the fixed sight gun was slightly more accurate at 25 yards, the adjustable sight revolver turned in almost 80 fps more velocity—a matter which I attribute to the slightly larger gap between the barrel and cylinder of the fixed sight model. The fixed sight gun went .0006 while the adjustable sight revolver had a gap of only .0002—very close tolerance indeed.

Chronograph results of other loads are reflected in the accompanying table. The

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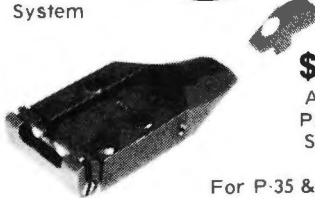


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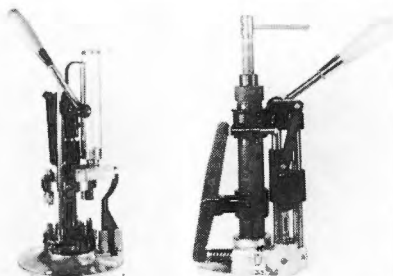
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results I obtained were very close to the hand-loading data supplied by Freedom Arms, and it was evident that the loads listed by the factory had actually been chronographed rather than estimated. Another friend used the velocity results coupled with the ballistic coefficient of the bullets to produce energy and trajectory figures which are summarized in the second table. The software program "Trajectory Program for GI Projectiles" written by W. C. Davis, Jr. was used. This program is very simple and is available for TRS, IBM, Apple, Atari and other personal computers. When muzzle velocity and ballistic coefficient are plugged into the program trajectory, remaining velocity, remaining energy, and several other interesting data items are quickly derived. This is a very useful tool for the handgunner, and I predict we'll be seeing its use much more frequently in the future.

I did some firing with rifle primers and some with CCI magnum pistol primers. I had received some primed cases from Freedom Arms, and these cases were already primed with the Winchester 120M. Velocities of the rifle primed loads were consistently higher by at least 150 fps than equivalent loads with pistol primers, and in some cases when pistol primers were used all of the powder was not consumed.

Which brings me to some observations on reloading for the .454. Dick Casull had originated his cartridge years ago by using duplex and triplex loads. As the names suggest, such loads are combinations of two or three powders with different burning rates which are deposited in layers in the case. A typical triplex load for the .454 was 2 grains of Unique, 25 grains of 2400 and 3 grains of Bullseye in the order indicated. When the bullet was seated the load would be compressed and theoretically at least the different powders would retain their relative positions.

Triplex loads are hardly new. Experimenters such as Elmer Keith worked with such loads in the 1920s and 30s. Various ordnance departments around the world have developed "stratified" propellants for self-contained artillery and anti-aircraft munitions. The theory is sound, but I personally believe that the interests of the American handgunning public are much better served through the use of single powder loadings. The .454 Casull is adequately powerful without the use of duplex or triplex loads.

The .454 Casull Magnum cartridge cases produced for Freedom Arms by Winchester are .1 inch longer than standard .45 Colt cases, the same precaution as was taken with the .357 Magnum and the .44 Remington Magnum to keep those cartridges from being chambered in .38 Special and .44 Special revolvers. Yet, I've seen a lot of .38 Specials and .44 Specials which can chamber the magnum cartridges, and doubtless there are some .45 Colts around which can chamber the .454. If any shooter discovers that a .454 Casull Magnum cartridge can be chambered in a .45 Colt revolver DO YOURSELF AND THE SHOOTING WORLD A FAVOR AND DON'T TRY TO SHOOT IT. And

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make sure no one else shoots it, either. The .454 Casull Magnum revolver produced by Freedom Arms is built to contain the tremendous pressures generated by the cartridge. In fact, Casull has stuffed as much as 24 grains of Bullseye, the fastest burning smokeless powder available to handloaders, into the .454 cartridge case and touched off the charge. The revolver came through this rugged test unscathed, though chamber pressures were probably well in excess of 70,000 pounds per square inch. The cartridge cases, however, were grossly deformed and head stamps virtually obliterated. But this is a test that no one else should repeat.

Handloaders should remain within the loading data supplied by Freedom Arms, and when loading for the .454, as with any magnum pistol cartridge when using heavy charges of WW-296 and similar powders, it is essential to have a good, heavy crimp on the case mouth to hold the bullet firmly in place long enough for peak pressures to occur.

As mentioned earlier, the adjustable sight Casull revolver had a small screw on the right side of the frame, but it secured an experimental bushing which incorporated the barrel's forcing cone, not the barrel itself. This bushing will resist gas erosion much longer than the normal barrel steel. It permits much longer barrel life—after all, it's not uncommon for an IHMSA competitor to burn out a revolver barrel in one season. Alternatively, the hardened bushing will permit the shooter to use heavier charges of powder for the

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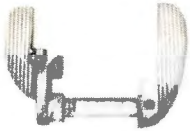
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resulting increased velocity without the gas cutting which has been experienced in other revolvers such as the Ruger .357 Maximum.

When accuracy does begin to fall off, the bushing can be replaced with much less expense than replacing an entire barrel. This feature is a good one, and while the bushing is only experimental at this time, I encourage Freedom Arms to implement it for all future production guns.

I experienced only one malfunction with either of the two test pistols. On the 57th round, the firing pin of the fixed-sight model failed to retract into its bushing in the recoil shield. After diagnosing the problem, I used a plastic-faced mallet to gently tap out the cylinder. The data sheets furnished with the Casull caution against dry firing the revolver. Some people are bound to overlook this caveat and will dry fire the pistol.

This particular pistol had been exhibited at a lot of gun shows, and several shows had required the removal of the firing pin to render the revolver incapable of being fired. I believe the removal and reinstallation of the firing pin and its bushing, not to mention the inevitable dry firing which takes place at gun shows, possibly raised a small burr on the firing pin, bushing or revolver frame and caused the firing pin to bind. I don't believe this situation will extend to other Casulls, but I do recommend that the revolver not be dry fired without a snap cap in the chamber. The gas proof firing pin in the Casull has to withstand much more pressure than other revolvers, so it just makes good sense not to batter the firing pin unduly.

I thought I had a lot of recommendations for Freedom Arms, but as my evaluation of the Casull continued I learned the company and Dick Casull had already anticipated most of the ideas I had for improving the revolver. I do hope that the experimental barrel bushing and forcing cone becomes standard, and I think the company should offer a set of snap cap dummy cartridges. The Casull is a high-priced revolver, and high-priced English double rifles come equipped with snap caps, so why not the Casull? Also, I had to grind down a screwdriver blade to fit the slot of the screw which locks the axis pin in place. A small screwdriver, perhaps the circular type with several blades ground to fit the various screws on the Casull would be very much appreciated and worthwhile.

The Casull has been billed as "The World's Most Powerful Handgun", but I don't think that is necessarily true. There are several cartridges which can be chambered in the Thompson Center Contender (.45-70, .444 Marlin) which produce greater velocities and energies when shot in the Contender. However, I do believe that the .454 Casull magnum can realistically be termed the "World's Most Powerful Production Revolver".

It is too early to say if the .454 Casull will gain much of a following among IHMSA shooters. There are a lot of cartridges which reliably knock down the steel targets, and the .454 has to compete against them. I think the .454 will find its greatest market in the field of handgun hunting. The cartridge offers sig-

nificant energy advantages over the .44 Remington Magnum with almost the same weight of revolver. I have already heard of one Alaskan game warden who was very grateful he was carrying a .454 Casull when subjected to an unprovoked attack by a black bear. The .454 Casull Magnum, revolver and cartridges are available, and they function as advertised.

The future of the revolver and its ammunition rest with the American handgunning public and the country's economy. I wish Casull and associates well because they do have a great revolver-ammo combination. Next April when I travel to Kodiak Island for a long planned bear hunt I'll have additional peace of mind because of the .454 Casull Magnum I'll be packing on my hip.



Do not duplicate any of the experimental loads mentioned as they are UNSAFE and could result in a destroyed gun or personal injury. The experimental loads are included merely to inform the reader of the development of this cartridge, and are not intended to be duplicated. —Editor

COGAN COMP

Continued from page 39

Minor caliber or not, 9mms have been showing up more and more in IPSC matches and are even more visible in steel matches such as those hosted by the World Speed Shooting Association (WSSA). Unlike IPSC, which penalizes minor caliber, steel shoots require only that the ammunition be able to knock over the steel plates. In that situation, a muzzle-heavy compensated 9mm—such as the Cogan system—really shines.

One of the advantages I noticed with the Cogan Compensated TZ-75 was a major reduction in muzzle blast, due, no doubt, to the well-designed gas ports. With the 9mm, the muzzle blast is a lot more offensive than the recoil, especially in an indoor situation such as practicing in an indoor range or a defensive situation in the home. A compensator is a definite asset in those situations.

Cogan is quick to emphasize that this compensator system is no substitute for a fully tricked-out match gun. At least, he adds, it's a way to compete with the same gun a person carries—a definite plus—and still have a competitive shot against pin guns and the like.

The only trouble I had with the unit was tightening the compensator to the barrel. No matter how tight I screwed it on (pin wrenches are supplied), it shot loose after several magazines. I'm told the answer is Loctite, but I felt bad about gumming up someone else's gun.

He also sees the compensating system as viable for police officers who want a concealable weapon with an absolute minimum of recoil. Accordingly, Personal Protection Systems offers fully compensated Walther PPKs. The cost of the system right now is a modest \$249 (\$259 for Colt .45s), which



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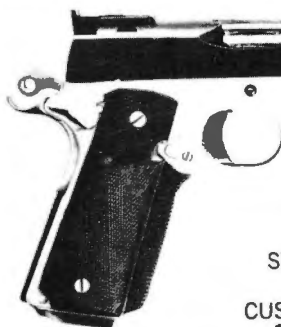
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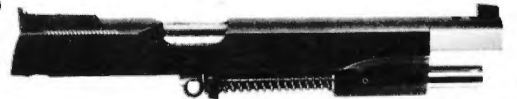
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C&L Precision has a few more tricks up their sleeve, including an integral compensator/bushing and a compensator system for rifles. For more information on the TZ-75, see the Custom Gun Giveaway.



MATCH PRESSURE

Continued from page 27

'quiet sounds' or music. Quiet sounds can be recordings of the ocean, running water, the wind whistling through a stand of trees, or any number of other relaxing images. The music is usually something that calms the mind or inspires the listener.

The whole idea is to saturate the brain with soothing sounds to the point that it 'forgets' about outside influences. A good portable cassette is necessary for this method.

Positive thinking is the most widely used method of dealing with match pressure. Often mentioned by top shooters as the true secret to performing well, positive thinking does everything that all the other methods do, and it does it without any outside influences or gimmicks.

While other alternatives rely on tricks and devices to control pressure, positive thinking comes totally from within the individual. No batteries, no tapes, no chants.

Many fine books and articles have been written on how to use the natural powers of the mind. To go into detail here on the subject would take more time than space allows. But a few guidelines are in order. The first thing you want to do is get rid of *all* negative thoughts before a match. Don't worry about the scoreboard, your pending performance, the competition, your equipment, or any number of other factors. Go into the match thinking that everything is good as it can be, and you're going to perform up to your best level.

If you throw a bad shot or two, don't dwell on it. Go right back and go for the gold. Worrying about little things will add up. Staying eager and aggressive in competition will keep your performance at its peak.

There's no quick way to achieve the confidence needed to support positive thinking. You have to start from day-one building a foundation for success. Even the failures are good because, with the right attitude, you should be able to profit from your mistakes.

These are just a few of the many ways that some shooters handle match pressure. As we said, not everything will work for you. You should try and expose yourself to the stiffest competition possible to learn to live with the pressure. Experiment with old and new ideas. Nothing is guaranteed; but then what have you got to lose—besides the match?



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In your recent article "Do You Really Need A Full House .45?" (AH, Nov./Dec., '84) you explain why these guns are so accurate. But the real question should be one of amazement that the 1911 Colt and its clones could ever be made accurate. Mechanically the Colt is full of design features that were perfect for its original purpose but not suitable for target accuracy.

The fact that Colt has a superb record in match work is due to several factors. First, the gun looks good, or tough or macho or whatever the current American fantasy might be. Secondly, more American men have touched or held or shot or carried this piece more than any other. Last but not least, the caliber is right. It's big! Ballistics to the contrary, the number 45 is bigger than the number 38. The nearest thing to marketing a smaller number to compete with a bigger number is the use of three digits such as .380 or .357, and, of course, the use of suffixes like Magnum.

Because of the popularity of the Colt and the quantities produced, the aftermarket accessory business is booming. The word "extended" is to Colt what "light" is to beer and "turbo" is to cars.

I read another article sometime back in which a shooter, after his first full day with a Colt .45, came home with cuts and bruises about the right hand. He cut off the offending part (the tang, not his thumb), bobbed the hammer and completely solved the problem.

Aftermarket parts people don't make any money selling hacksaw blades, so they sell huge chrome plated, beaver tail grip safeties. And we buy this overkill solution because it looks sexy at the gun shop.

The Colt has become the dominant gun at many events because modern machine tool precision has over-ridden the inherent design looseness.

Where is it written that if all winners shoot Colts, that only Colts are winners?

Malcolm Nevin
Lutherville, MD

MORTON GROVE

Continued from page 38

law violates both the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions.

AUGUST 10, 1981—The National Rifle Association, in conjunction with four Morton

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Grove residents, files suit in the Circuit Court of Illinois, maintaining that Ordinance 81-11 violates Article I, Section 22 of the Illinois Constitution: "Subject only to the police power, the right of the individual citizen to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

DECEMBER 29, 1981—District Court Judge Bernard M. Decker upholds the state and federal constitutionality of the ban. Decker ruled that because the Morton Grove law banned only one type of firearm—handguns—and citizens were free to own rifles and shotguns, the right to keep and bear arms was not infringed. Decker also held that local governments, under their police powers, had the right to impose such restrictions on their citizens.

JANUARY 29, 1982—Illinois Circuit Court Judge Albert Green upholds the state constitutionality of Morton Grove, saying the right to keep and bear arms was a "conditional" right which could be limited by local jurisdictions under the police power provision.

DECEMBER 6, 1982—The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, by a 2-1 decision, upholds District Court Judge Decker's decision. Dissenting Judge John L. Coffey called the majority opinion "a new nadir for the fundamental principle that a 'man's home is his castle.'"

FEBRUARY 9, 1983—A three-judge panel of the Illinois Court of Appeals in Chicago upheld Judge Green's ruling, agreeing that because the law banned only handguns, it was valid under the state constitution.

MAY 31, 1983—The National Rifle Association filed a petition urging the U.S. Supreme Court to consider the Morton Grove case.

OCT. 3, 1983—The U.S. Supreme Court declines to hear the Morton Grove case, thereby shifting the legal focus to the Illinois courts.

OCT. 4, 1983—The Illinois Supreme Court in Springfield agrees to accept the Morton Grove case.

JANUARY 19, 1984—The American Federation of Police files "friend of the court" brief with the Illinois Supreme Court, calling the Morton Grove handgun ban "palpably discriminatory, unfair and a violation of equal protection."

OCT. 19, 1984—The Illinois Supreme Court, in a 4-3 decision, upholds the state constitutionality of the ban. The majority opinion held, by a one vote margin, that because Morton Grove residents could possess rifles and shotguns, the right to keep and bear arms was protected. In his dissent, Chief Justice Howard C. Ryan said: "If the police power can be exercised for the sole purpose of publicizing a political viewpoint, then I feel our constitutionally guaranteed rights are in serious jeopardy."

Andrew Kendzie is director of publications for the NRA Institute for Legislative Action.

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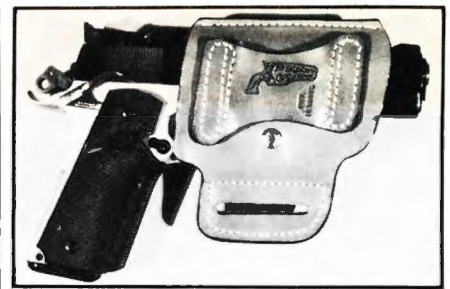
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Ted Blocker's 4 Way Holster

For the person who carries a concealed handgun, the new Ted Blocker 4 Way holster will be a dream come true. Depending on what clothes one is wearing, sometimes a cross-draw holster is best while other times a strong-side holster is preferable. And sometimes it's nice to have a gun positioned with a forward cant and sometimes with a backward cant.

Now the concealed carry individual can have his cake and eat it too.

The 4 Way holster can be worn in all of the above positions safely and comfortably. The holster features an adjustable tension screw for positive retainment of the weapon. It is made of top grade leather with solid stitching holding the seams.

The holster is currently available for the Colt Gov't and Commander models, S&W 59-39-469, Browning Hi-Power, Bren 10, Randall, Beretta 92 SB and SBC. The holster will shortly be available for other autos and revolvers.

Write to Ted Blocker's Custom Holsters for further information about the 4 Way holster which sells for \$29.95. His address is P.O. Box 821, Dept. AH, Rosemead, CA, 91770.



Silvertips Now In 41 Magnum

Winchester now has its potent Silvertip available in 41 Remington Magnum.

Providing magnum performance at approximately 40 percent less recoil energy than other 41 Magnum loads, the new Winchester offering delivers its 175 grain Silvertip hollow point bullet at a muzzle velocity of 1,250 fps from a 4-inch barrel.

Boasting a muzzle energy of 607 ft./lbs. from a 4-inch barrel, the new load showed outstanding energy deposit in ordnance gelatin. Tests further revealed the load's consistently reliable bullet expansion.

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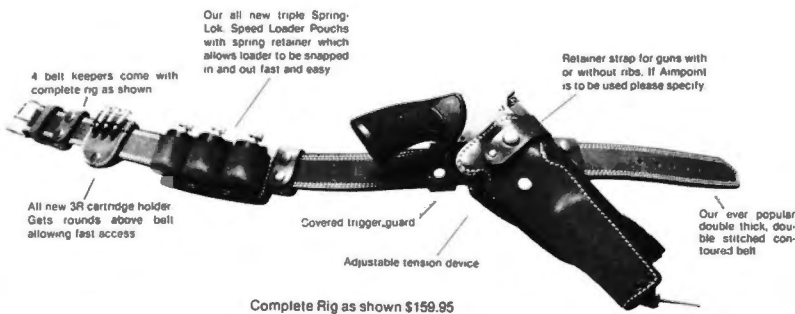
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Here's what the L.A.P.D. P.P.C. Pistol Team of Chris Kaufmann, John Pride, J.P. Nelson and Fred Romero say about our new P.P.C. Rig: "It's been a long time coming and worth the wait. This Rig is the ultimate for P.P.C. competition." This Rig was designed by Ted Blocker for this Pistol Team to use in the Prestigious 1983 Bianchi Cup of which they took top honors as a team.

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Lee's Red Ramp Offers Rear Sight Blade

The folks at Lee's Red Ramp have introduced a rear sight blade to replace factory blades for a better, sharper sight picture.

The sight blades are available to fit the stock rear sights of Smith and Wesson, Colt, Ruger, Micro, and Virginia Dragoon.

The sight blade will not fit J frame Smiths.

The blades are easily installed and come with screws and nuts to complete the simple replacement task. The blades retail for \$19.95 for Smith and Wessons and \$7.50 for other gun makers listed above.

For further information about dealer prices, contact Lee's Red Ramps, 7252 East Avenue U-3, Dept. AH, Littlerock, CA 93543.



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Shooters know that exposure to loud noises ruins the hearing, thus we wear hearing protection. And Bilson Viking has announced a new set of "ears" for the shooter.

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For more information, contact Bilson International at 11800 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA, 22091.

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B-Square Mounts introduces a new mount for the ever-popular Ruger Mk. I/II autoloader.

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Guy Hogue, maker of the highly regarded *Hogue Monogrips*, is touring the country with a complete custom workshop to make his fine, custom wooden *Monogrips* to customers' tastes from coast to coast.

Hogue is travelling in a one-ton Ford diesel van towing a custom built (of course!) trailer containing his workshop. He is toting a generator so he can pitch-up at any gun club and make custom wooden grips on the spot.

Hogue's schedule was not available at press time, but call one of his courteous and helpful sons at (805) 466-6266 for information on Hogue's current whereabouts.

Also, call his sons to make an appointment for Hogue to visit your gun club, police department or local gun shop.

Give his sons a call—how many times do you get the chance to have custom work performed 'while you wait'?

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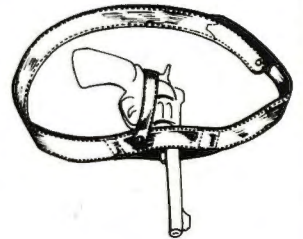
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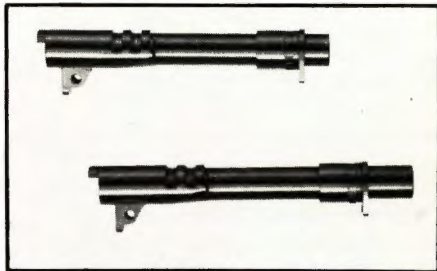
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Wilson Now Making Match Barrels

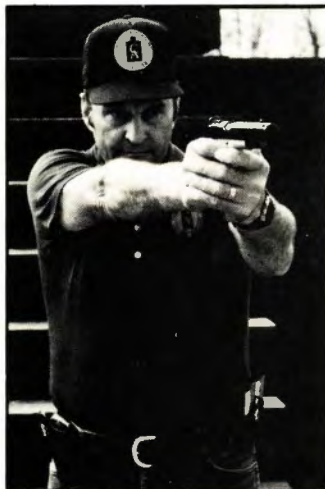
Wilson's Gun Shop, owned and operated by champion practical pistol shooter Bill Wilson, proudly announces their new Match Grade barrels available in either 38 Super or 45 ACP.

These barrels are precision machined from 17-4 stainless forgings to precise dimensions and heat treated for maximum wear. The barrels are available in five or six inch lengths.

Wilson recommends that a qualified gunsmith fit the barrels as they are machined to precise tolerances and require slight handfitting.

The barrels sell for \$95 for the five-inch 45 ACP, \$125 for the six-inch 45 ACP and \$150 for the six-inch 38 Super. Prices include a solid Match bushing. A shipping and handling charge of \$2.50 accompanies each barrel.

For further information, write Bill Wilson at Wilson's Gun Shop, Rt. 3, Box 211-D, Dept. AH, Berryville, Ark., 72616.



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MINOR ADVANTAGE

Continued from page 29

but when her load was chronographed she didn't quite make the major power factor and her score was refigured to minor, placing her fifth overall. Her load just didn't quite make major but was still a healthy load. That gal is a good shooter, very good, and after watching her shoot, fighting the kick of her marginal major load during the fast shooting stages and still shooting well, I can't help but believe that if she had been shooting a more controllable load during the competition she could have held her second place finish or even become the Women's World Champion.

Some competition shooters will go to minor caliber with a 9mm pistol specifically

for the extra magazine capacity, hoping to avoid a reload. Lately though, the course designers have been getting very shrewd by either making reloads mandatory or providing places within a course of fire where the competitor can easily make magazine changes while doing something else, i.e. moving from one shooting position to another.

So, often the extra capacity of a 9mm pistol does not turn out to be an advantage. A typical 124 grain factory 9mm round will travel about 1100 fps, factoring approximately 136. Not much difference between that factor, and that of my powder puff load factoring 135. However, the recoil of my Colt .45 is easier to handle than that of all the 9mm pistols I've tried.

Given that extra capacity of a 9mm is not often an advantage in courses designed by .45 auto buffs, I've seen that my .45 minor has a slight advantage over 9mm in competition simply because of the bullet diameter. In a competition where every point counts, especially for minor caliber shooters, the extra tenth of an inch diameter of the .451 bullet will cut scoring lines more often than the 9mm will, qualifying for the higher score.

In IPSC competition, both minor and major calibers are scored five points for A-zone hits, and both are scored four points for B-zone, but for anything other than center hits the minor caliber shooter is severely penalized. For C-zone hits major scores four points while minor scores three, and in the D-zone the minor caliber shooters get one point to the major caliber shooter's two points.

Obviously the best strategy for the minor caliber shooter is to get only A-zone hits, so you can't be penalized for the minor loading. I've found a load that allows me to do just that more often than not. My recent shooting successes indicate that I've found the balance of speed, power and accuracy that works best for me. Minor caliber—it just might work for you.



NEW WAVE HOLSTERS

Continued from page 47

adjustable so that a few different sizes of holsters fit most handgun needs. Brauer's "Professional" has two belt loops allowing use of 1½ or 2¾ inch belts. This high ride thumb break holster should be popular with the cost-conscious police officer needing an off-duty holster. Brauer Bros. is quick to point out that the "Professional" does not have a steel snap on the inside surface of the pouch which might cause excessive blue wear on the gun. The sample supplied was for a 4¾ inch SA revolver in camoflage and was found satisfactory in every way.

EL PASO SADDLERY

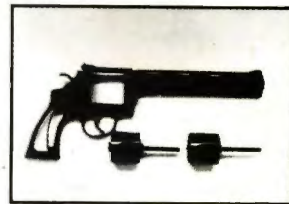
El Paso Saddlery is well known for their extensive line of 19th century styled Western revolver holsters. They have just entered the

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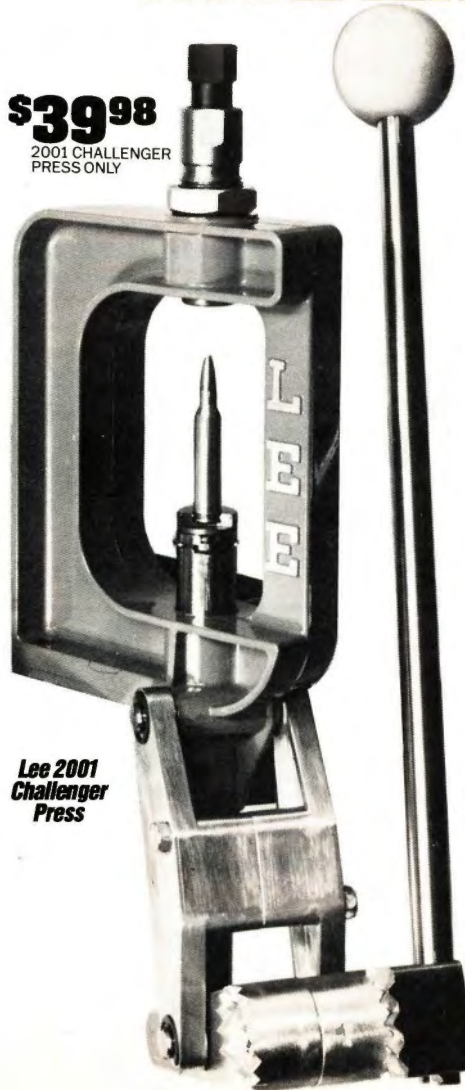
as compound leverage, 30° offset frame for easy access, larger than average opening, built-in primer catcher, ground ram, tough fused-on epoxy finish and no under-swing for flush mounting to the bench.

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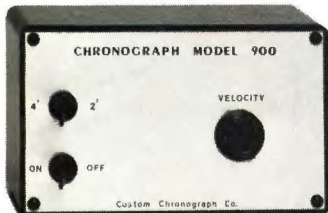
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nylon holster market place with their "Number 100 Ballistic Nylon Belt Slide" holster, selling for \$15.00 and guaranteed to fit any handgun.

Bob McNellis, head honcho, sent me two sample #100's, one in black and one in brown. This is meant to be a universal holster and is constructed of unpadded ballistic nylon with belt loops for up to a 2 1/4 inch belt placed on each side. This makes the holster useable for right or left handers. A thumb break safety strap is attached on both sides with Velcro making it infinitely adjustable. This Velcro also acts as padding between the holster and wearer, adding to the comfort.

I tested a #100 using my Colt-Wilson .45 Auto with compensated long slide. Worn on the inside of the belt behind the strong side hip, with the muzzle tucked in the hip pocket, even this large gun is well concealed. The belt provides adequate security when worn in this manner, so I removed the thumb break straps. I wore this gun/holster for half a day and it was so comfortable that after a few minutes I had forgotten I had it on.

ROY'S CUSTOM HOLSTERS

Roy's offers a complete line of padded Cordura nylon holsters including hip holsters, shoulder holsters and ankle holsters. Roy's nylon holsters differ from their competitors in the use of leather for some portions. All of their lined nylon holsters use the more traditional "silicon suede" leather for lining. The hip holsters use leather for the belt loop and the shoulder holsters use leather to reinforce the top of the holster where the harness attaches.

I tested a hip holster for 4 3/4 inch large SA revolver, a horizontal shoulder holster for small/medium frame revolvers and a conventional shoulder holster for large SA's with 7 1/2 inch barrels.

The hip holster worked fine and I liked the leather belt loop which allows the use of 1 3/4 inch or 2 inch gunbelts. Roy's nylon gunbelt is 2-inches wide and made to fit all sizes from 30 to 46 inches, with Velcro in place of a buckle. It comes packaged with a metal clip to bind the end and instructions for installation after cutting the belt to the desired length. Gun shop owners should like Roy's belt as it reduces the necessary inventory with the "one size fits all" concept.

The horizontal shoulder holster worked well with a S&W Chief Special and was very concealable. As shoulder holsters go, it was comfortable, though a means of anchoring the off side harness loop to the waist belt would help. The wide shoulder loop is an improvement over many shoulder holsters, and is unpadded in this version to increase concealability.

The large shoulder holster was of conventional vertical style with a wide padded shoulder strap for extra support and comfort. It should be noted that all of the vertical shoulder holsters of nylon are conventional in that the gun draws out the top, rather than the usual spring retainer, draw-out-the-front style. But it must be remembered that the nylon holsters are meant to sell for approximately 50% of their leather counterparts.

SMITH & WESSON

S&W's "Scout" hip holster is of Cordura nylon and appears to be identical to Uncle Mike's "Sidekick". Unique to the S&W line is a nylon shoulder harness which converts the "Scout" to a shoulder holster. The S&W belt is similar to an automobile seat belt, with similar buckle so that one belt fits all sizes. However, I would pass on this belt, as well as Uncle Mike's, as a single thickness of this material doesn't offer the necessary body for a gunbelt, unless used with the lightest handgun.

UNCLE MIKE

Uncle Mike's original "Sidekick" hip holster line has been expanded to include ankle, inside the waistband, vertical and horizontal shoulder holsters.

Their hip holster was the first padded nylon holster offered. It includes a reinforced nylon strip down the inside face of the holster to prevent excessive wear from the front sight, an over the hammer retaining strap which snaps to the holster face, and a separate belt loop which is sewn to the back side. Uncle Mike's competitors were quick to point out that the male half of the snap for the strap was left uncovered on the inside of the holster, possibly increasing gun blue wear. While this is technically correct, it should be pointed out that a vast majority of the holsters produced from leather in the past 80 years were constructed in this way and if placed

Introducing DEVEL'S Competition 8-Round Magazine

Devel's Competition 8-Round Magazine is intended especially for the competition shooter seeking an advantage over ordinary magazines with rubber and plastic base pads. This magazine is available as standard in blued finish (nickel plated magazines are available as an option). The Devel Competition magazine incorporates all of the features common to the standard Devel 8-round magazine with additional features as follows:

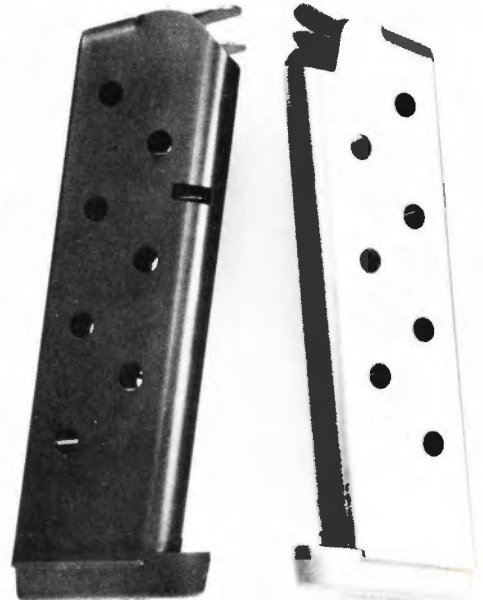
- A steel bottom is laser-beam welded to the magazine tube. The Devel cast steel bottom incorporates in one part, what ordinary magazines require two parts to accomplish (standard type floorplate with add-on rubber or plastic bumper pad).

- The Devel one-piece steel bottom provides added weight equal to approximately two 45 ACP rounds that facilitates rapid ejection of empty magazines.

- The Devel cast steel bottom also protrudes from the pistol butt. This assures the shooter's ability to achieve positive locking during a speed load; yet, the part will not bend or break out of the magazine tube as is often the case with other types of magazines.

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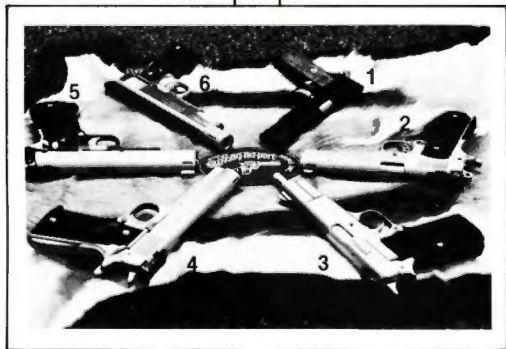
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properly, the snap does not come in contact with the holstered gun.

The inside the waist band holster tested worked as well as any such holster. I liked it because it felt softer than one of leather and seemed more comfortable to wear. It also has an exterior surface which tends to cling to fabric, preventing shifting of the holster. This is similar to the better leather holsters which have the rough side of the leather out for the same reason. Uncle Mike's version has a metal belt clip.


The vertical shoulder holster tested was for a large frame auto with up to a six-inch slide, and it fit my Wilson compensated .45 Colt perfectly. The only problem I have with it is the fastener which anchors the toe of the holster to the waist belt. This should be replaced with a one-way snap, as I found the one tested would not remain fastened under normal useage.

The horizontal shoulder holster, tested with a Ruger Speed Six, was judged satisfactory. The point of attaching the harness to the holster needs to be moved, as the gun tends to hang away from the wearer's body. When purchasing any of the nylon shoulder holsters it should be remembered that you are getting a low cost substitute and compromises in design have been made. Great advancement has been made recently in shoulder holster design, mostly in the area of the harness to maximize wearer comfort. But these improved harnesses are expensive and are not included in the design of any manufacturer's nylon shoulder rigs.

Uncle Mike's expanded line of padded nylon holsters will undoubtedly capture a large share of the market.

SUMMING UP

In general, I found the nylon holsters to be an acceptable low cost alternative to the traditional leather holster. The buyer must understand that he/she will not get the beautiful full molded fit we have become used to. Rather than molding each holster for a specific gun the nylon holster is made to fit a number of different guns of similar frame size and barrel length.

Now, if only nylon could be made to smell like fresh cut leather. 

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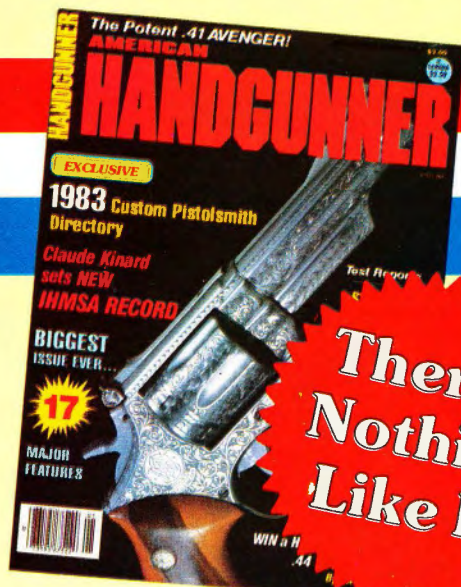
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PISTOLSMITHING

Continued from page 6

tapered, then nicely rounded at the rear.

The trigger has too long a span for my fingers. There is wasted space behind the trigger when fully pulled anyway, so it will probably be forged about 1/4" to the rear. It would be better if somebody produced a longer trigger, set closer to the frame at full depression, radiused better and rounded up at the bottom like the trigger on a Colt Diamondback.

The firing pin still dimples primers on feeding, so I'm reluctant to shorten it very much. It will still occasionally misfire under full hammer drop, so it is going to have to be shortened. I have not found a spring of this type with different tension. Maybe Wolff will produce a better one for us.

The slide rails need stoning, as does the top of the frame and some bearing parts, as per standard pistolsmithing practice.

The barrel hood needs to be worked over with fine abrasive cloth and polished mirror bright. The pistol looks better by orders of magnitude now that the portion showing through the ejection port is mirror bright.

The barrel has one of the new NATO

chambers. Good enough for Government work. The .120" long freebore is a whopping .363" diameter. This is OK for long hardball bullets which is what it was designed to digest. Somebody will make a fortune by producing a better barrel with a throat (not a full freebore) designed for H&G's new semi-wadcutter bullet. These weigh in at 130 grains and should be as accurate and reliable as their big brother, the H&G 68. The 115 gr. Hornady HP jacketed bullet works acceptably in the present chamber, but I can dream, can't I? (I polished the chamber with crocus cloth.)

Last, and certainly not least, the factory concession to an insistent demand: that windage-only rear sight has to go. My own favorite, the S&W K rear sight is lost in the overlarge dovetail. But surprise, surprise! The Millett replacement K adjustable rear can be grafted into the slot cut for the rather useless loaded chamber indicator spring and the massive dovetail. I would alter it to work like a S&W J rear, with an elevation screw, rather than a screw that cinches downward against spring tension, but this is a matter of choice and circumstance.

In its favor, the Star 28 has a slim feel that impresses those to whom the Browning Hi-Power seems thick and clubby. The magazine holds a large supply of fodder and functions with certainty, but it could benefit from a rubber bottom pad. The narrow magazine

top makes funneling of the mag well unnecessary. The wide trigger is a definite asset.

The 5.1 gr load of WW 231 behind the 115 gr Hornady JHP pumps out at 1280fps (in my pistol) and should be acceptable in polite circles. The aforementioned H&G should prove even more interesting. I intend to find out in the very near future. I have a brand new head for the Star press in 9mm and several thousand of the H&G's cast by Red Stripe Bullets on hand ready to go.

So there you have it. Is the Star 28 as the reviewers claimed, a *Perfect 10*? Not in my book. However, with some intelligent pistolsmithing it has the potential to be raised from an 'as issued' two to an eight or nine. I like mine better every time I fire it, but I insist on 100 percent reliability before I will carry it on the street and while it is getting there, I don't think I'll throw my

Commander away just yet.



NEXT ISSUE

MAJOR PD ADOPTS IPSC

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INDUSTRY INSIDER

JERRY RAKUSAN

DEFINITELY MAYBE—ARMY REMAINS IN A QUANDARY OVER NEW SIDEARM CHOICE

In case you haven't heard, Colt has finally introduced their first stainless steel auto pistol, the Government Model 45. This will be offered in the Mark IV, Series 80 configuration. No investment castings in this gun, as the Colt announcement says, "... this model utilizes high strength forged stainless steel in all critical and major components." Colt has also announced the "Peacekeeper," a medium frame .357 Magnum revolver with a non-reflective matte blue finish and a "gripper" round bottom rubber grip. This appears to be a no-frills version of the Trooper, and will be, according to Colt, "... among the lowest priced .357s available from a major manufacturer."

Coonan Comeback

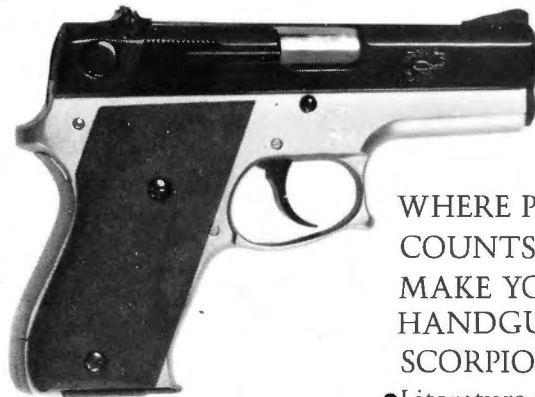
Just when you might have thought that the Coonan .357 Magnum was lost in that strange morass where guns that are announced are never heard from again, comes a note from Chuck McDonald announcing the following: "Coonan Arms Inc. has reorganized under the management of William A. Davis, President."

The new location of Coonan Arms is 830 Hampden Ave., St. Paul, MN 55114. The company is, according to the latest release, in "limited production," and Dan Coonan is perfecting a .38 Special Conversion Unit Kit.

By the time you read this, either the military will have announced the winner of the test to find a 9mm replacement for the .45 auto—or the announcement will be delayed once more. The speculation has been whether this will be a technical or a political decision, and you can bet that no matter what gun is announced as the winner there will be much rhetoric and millions of ems of type devoted to the selection. Whatever gun may be selected, I wonder if it will have as much impact on the combat or IPSC shooter as has the Colt .45? Certainly, if the sport can accept the 9mm caliber, the accessory manufacturers will not be far behind.

Willey Moore, who is reluctant to talk about delivery date of his newest auto pistol design, was not reluctant to talk about the gun itself. I'll not give out too many details at this point; I'll leave that for our test report in an upcoming issue. However, here are some things we can look for: a solid replaceable barrel à la the Dan Wesson revolver; twin action bars with a tip-up bolt; gas system with double pistons, and adaptable for top mounting scopes. We hope to have a test pistol in mid-year, so look for our report before year-end.

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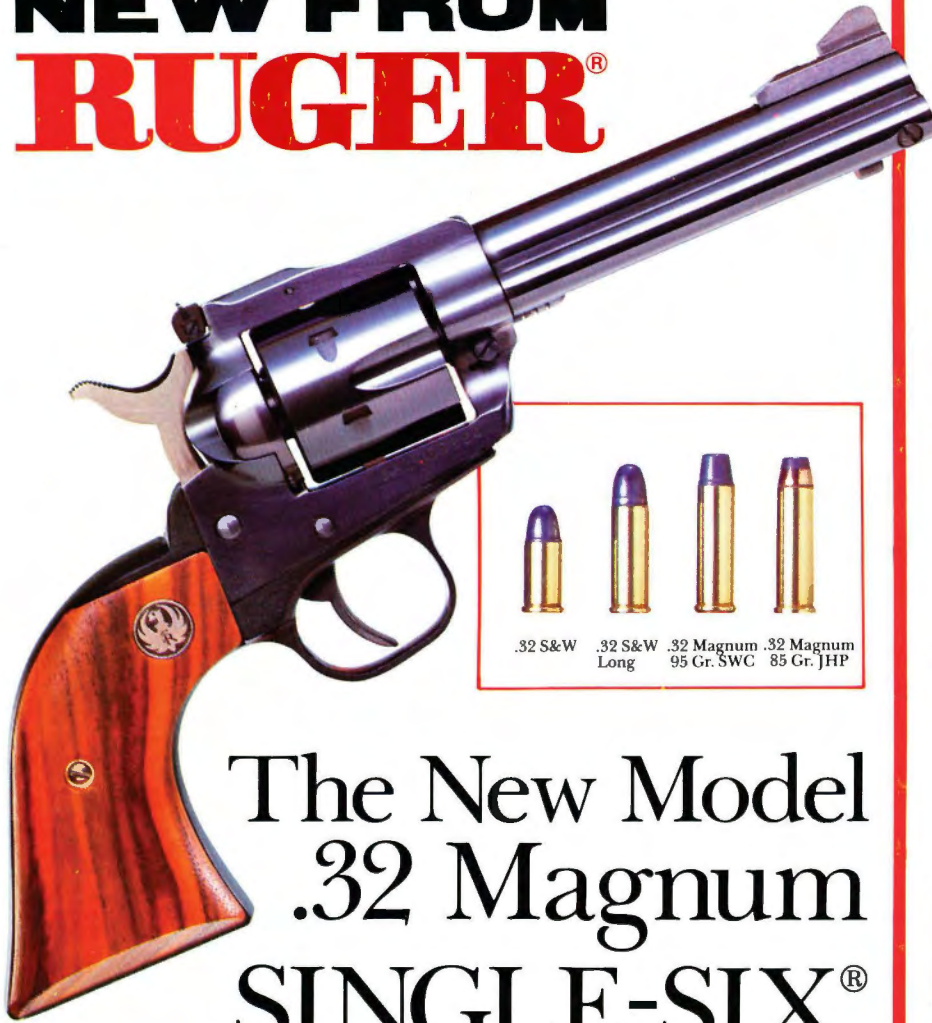


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