

AMERICAN

HANDGUNNER

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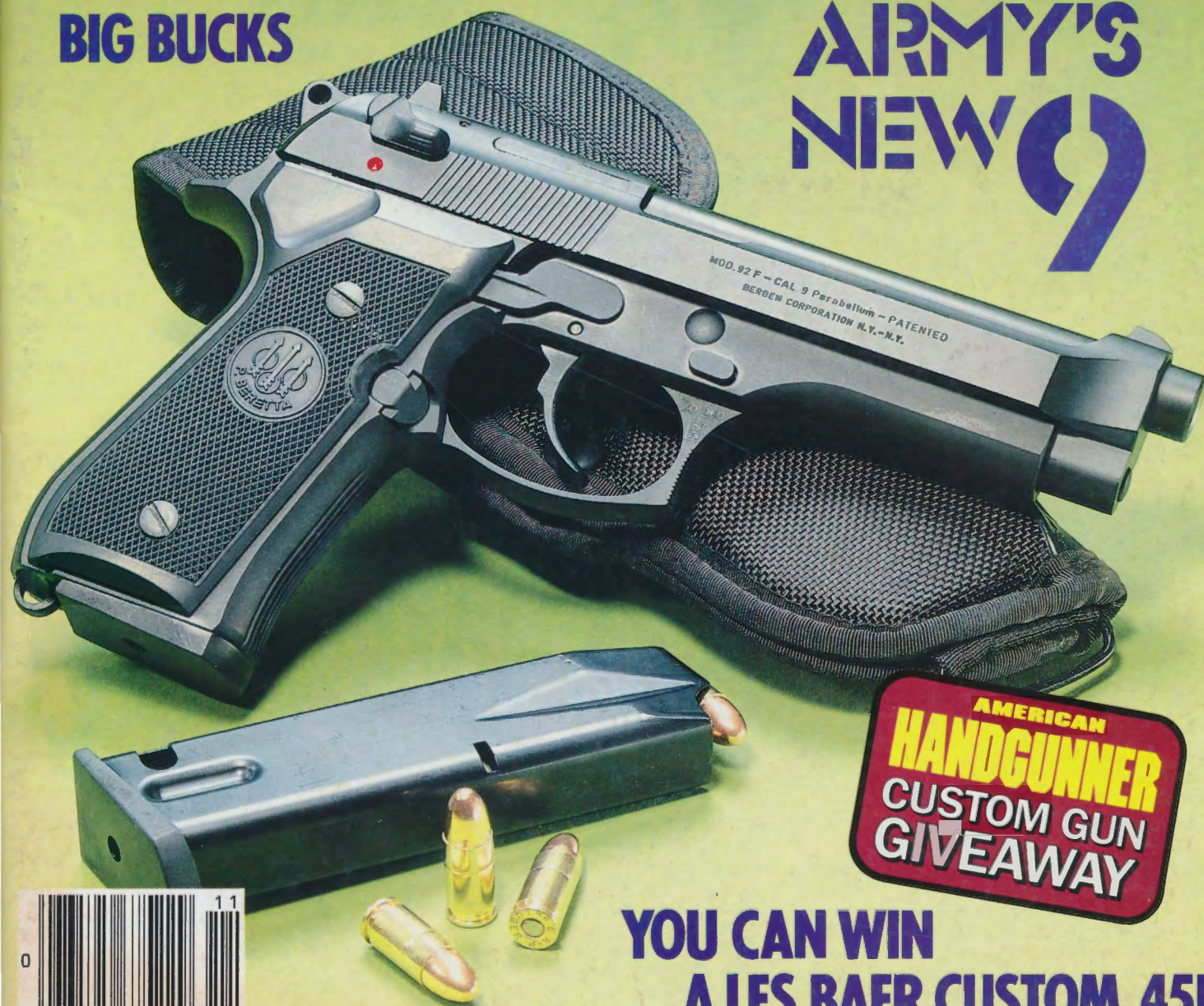
1985 Bianchi Cup

TOP SHOOTER WINS
BIG BUCKS

JEFF COOPER

REFLECTS ON THE

ARMY'S
NEW



AMERICAN
HANDGUNNER
CUSTOM GUN
GIVEAWAY

YOU CAN WIN
A LES BAER CUSTOM .45!



Presenting...

THE WORLD WAR II



A firing Limited Edition of 2500 selectively plated with 24-karat gold, that hails the days of glory of the old .45.



*For three quarters of a century
This gun has served us well,
On our march to Victory —
On our march through Hell.*

*Its long and glorious day is done
'Twill take its place beside
The Sharps, Springfield and Garand M1
Th' emblems of our pride.*

*We'll miss it. And who are we —
Who with the gun grow old?
We're America's Fighting Men, and we
Stopped 'em with it. Cold.*

*From "Farewell Old .45"
by The American Historical Foundation*

pistol ever adopted for service use in the world. And its battlefield reliability, combined with the knockdown punch of the .45 ACP ammo, have made it one of the — if not the — most famous and beloved handgun in American military history.

Ironically, times change, and this proud workhorse is being put out to pasture — being replaced by a 9mm pistol.

But now, in this the 40th Anniversary year of the World War II Victory — and in the 75th year of its use by our men in uniform — The American Historical Foundation is proud to hail the days of glory of the old .45 by announcing the firing, limited edition World War II Commemorative M1911A1 .45 Automatic.

When you hold this two and a half pounds of steel, gold and walnut you will recall the valor of Guadalcanal, Normandy, Iwo Jima, the Ardennes and the many distant battlefields that it once called home. It is a dramatic symbol of victory.

FIRING LIMITED EDITION OF ONLY 2500; SERIAL NO. 1 TO NRA MUSEUM

This is a firing limited edition of only 2500, worldwide. Each is specially serially numbered between 0001 and 2500, with the prefix WW (for World War II). This number is also inscribed on an accompanying Certificate of Authenticity. Serial No. 1 is being presented to the National Rifle Association's museum in Washington, D.C.

The fit and finish of each World War II Commemorative .45 Automatic is presentation grade. Special inscriptions are etched and gold-gilt inlaid on the slide. The flats of the receiver and slide are mirror polished and richly blued to con-

trast with the matt-finished, non-reflective, non-slip curved surfaces.

MORE 24-KARAT GOLD PLATING THAN ANY OTHER .45 EVER ISSUED

This M1911A1 has more 24-karat gold plating than any other .45 commemorative ever issued. The trigger, hammer, slide stop and magazine release are smoothly polished and richly plated



with gold. Even the grip screws are 24-karat gold plated. The hammer is the early, wide-spur design, and the G.I. lanyard loop is mounted on the mainspring housing. And all parts are interchangeable with G.I.-issued pistols.

SELECT BURL WALNUT STOCKS — SPECIALLY FINISHED

The beautifully figured American walnut stocks are specially crafted for this edition by the respected company of Herrett's. They are hand-

Old slabsides." "Hand Cannon." "Kicks like a mule." "Thumbbuster." "Pocket Artillery." Since 1911, America's Fighting Men have defended our freedom with the .45 Automatic.

The design is older than most living Americans. But this pistol served longer, fought more battles and won more medals of valor than any other firearm in America's history. It was the first — and most powerful — heavy caliber automatic

COMMEMORATIVE .45



finished with seven coats of lacquer to the "piano-grade" finish found on the finest presentation grade shotguns.

Each stock is fitted with a gold plated and black fired enamel cloisonne medallion.

NOT JUST A SHOWPIECE

This handcrafted M1911A1 Automatic is a fully functional, firing handgun. And because it's a firing weapon it could even be called upon to defend your home, family or country—with the same famous .45 ACP ammo GIs have used since 1911.

According to published accounts, it was Brigadier General John T. Thompson whose "...efforts in this direction are probably more responsible than anything else for the working out of the present service...automatic pistol (1911 Model)."

The .45 ACP rimless cartridge for this pistol is also credited to him. So, we went to Thompson/Auto-Ordnance Corporation, the company he founded to make his Thompson Submachine Gun, to custom build this .45 Commemorative to our specifications.

In fact, test firings of their .45 by the NRA showed its accuracy to be "...significantly better than the average as issued M1911."

COLLECTOR INTEREST

Only 2500 will be made—making it one of the rarest of all collectible firearms. Due to its highly collectible status, it has already been classified as a Curio and Relic by the BATE. You will be proud to own one and to hand it down to future generations of your family.

A furniture-grade walnut case is also available so you can display your World War II Commemorative on a desk, shelf or wall. With a locking

acrylic glass lid, it makes your .45 a visible symbol to you, your family and your friends of your pride in American military history, while it protects your .45 from dust and unauthorized handling.

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED; 30 DAY INSPECTION

This is available exclusively through The American Historical Foundation. You may write, call, personally visit or mail the reservation form below. You have full inspection privileges before you decide to keep it. Satisfaction is fully guaranteed, or you may return the Commemorative within 30 days, no questions asked, for a prompt refund. With your reservation, you will also be made a Member of The American Historical Foundation, with Members in 29 countries around the world.

If you do not have a Federal firearms license, the Foundation will coordinate delivery to you through your local firearms dealer, after your reservation is received here. If you do have a license, send a signed copy, and your World War II Commemorative .45 will be delivered directly to you.

This is a lasting, tangible American symbol of the valor and sacrifices made by our countrymen against the forces of darkness during World War II. The few men, museums and organizations who will own this rare, firing showpiece will find it becomes a centerpiece of their collection.

RESERVATION

Satisfaction Guaranteed or Return in 30 Days for Full Refund
To: The American Historical Foundation
1142 West Grace Street, Dept. A86
Richmond, Virginia 23220
Telephone: (804) 353-1812
24-hour toll free reservations: (800) 368-8080

Yes, I wish to reserve the World War II Commemorative M1911A1 .45 Automatic, selectively plated with 24-karat gold. I will also receive a numbered Certificate of Authenticity, membership in The American Historical Foundation and information concerning the history, care, display and firing of military arms.

- ☐ My deposit of \$95 (or credit card authorization) is enclosed. Please invoice (or charge my credit card) for the balance due...
☐ in four equal payments of \$175.
☐ for the balance.
☐ My payment in full (or my credit card authorization) for \$795 is enclosed.
☐ Also please send the optional, furniture-finished walnut display case. Please add \$85 to the final charge of the method of payment I have selected above.

Name

Address

For Visa, MasterCard or American Express, please send account number, expiration date and signature. Virginia residents add tax.

HANDGUNNER

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AMERICAN HANDGUNNER

1985 Bianchi Cup TOP SHOOTER WINS BIG BUCKS

JEFF COOPER REFLECTS ON THE ARMY'S NEW 9



YOU CAN WIN A LES BAER CUSTOM .45!

Cover: A brace of Berettas, the Army's new sidearm. Photo by Stanley Trzoniec



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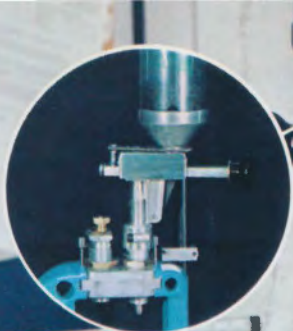
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New! Automatic fully adjustable powder measure makes it impossible to not charge your cases.



New! Precision engineered removeable tool head; order several and never adjust dies again.



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What's New?

While some manufacturers keep handing you the same old line, other old manufacturers hand you their thinly disguised copies of our successful designs. Dillon Precision strikes again. The results will leave some manufacturers red in the face; others green with envy.

You Talk, We Listen.

1984 I.P.S.C. National Pistol Championship, Dillon Precision was there; our shooters won. But perhaps more important, we talked with hundreds of our customers. Basically, the response was "Your RL450B is great, but I wish it had an adjustable, automatic powder drop." "It's a great reloader, but I wish it had automatic priming." "The Dillon RL450 is the best tool available, but I wish I didn't have to adjust dies when I change calibers." We listened. We went back to the drawing board; the results

The Dillon RL550

Reloading just became easier, faster and more precise than ever before. The new Dillon RL550 is so simple and easy to understand, that even a beginner can turn out precision rifle or pistol reloads on his first attempt. The easily removable tool head holds all of the standard 7/8 x 14 dies in perfect adjustment and allows you to switch calibers with ease. The first station of the RL550 resizes the case, deprimes it and seats a new primer to the correct depth; all automatically. The second station bells the mouth of the case and dispenses the powder; all automatically. The third station seats the bullet to its proper depth and in the fourth and final station, the bullet is crimped and the loaded cartridge is automatically dispensed into a cartridge collection box. All you do is put in a bullet, add a case, pull the handle and index the shell plate to the next station. Sound simple? It is. Fast? You bet! Production rates of over 500 rounds per hour are easily obtainable. Versatile? The RL550 is available in your choice of over 115 different rifle and pistol calibers.

Will I Like It?

World champion pistol shooter, Rob Leatham says "In performance, precision and quality, the Dillon RL550 is the best reloader I've ever used." 1983-84 Bianchi Cup winner, Brian Enos says "The RL550 is a superior machine designed by shooters that understand the shooter's needs." But don't take their word for it. Order a Dillon RL550. Try it for 30 days and if you don't agree that it's the best damn reloader you've used, send it back; we'll not only give you back your money, we'll pay the postage.

Beware of Cheap Imitations

Dillon Precision has done more to lower the cost of progressive reloading than anyone in the industry. Now there are some pretenders to the throne, and if the production of over 45,000 progressive reloaders has taught us anything, the most important lesson is this — *there is no substitute for strength and quality*. If something looks cheap and feels flimsy, it probably is both. Don't make a costly non-returnable error in search of false economy.

Factory Direct

We at Dillon feel that users of precision reloading equipment are entitled to deal with reloading experts. That's why we sell Dillon products direct from our factory. We're shooters and reloaders, not business executives in 3 piece suits with a lot of fancy degrees. When it comes to customer satisfaction, we take full responsibility. If you have a problem or a question, call us; we won't be in a conference. So, if you want the best in both a reloader and service, there is no reason to look elsewhere.

Previous RL450 Customers

The bad news is: the RL450 cannot be modified to accept the RL550 removeable tool head. The good news is: both the new fully automatic, adjustable powder measure system at \$24.95 and the new automatic primer system at \$14.95 can be fitted to your RL450 without any modification. Two out of three ain't bad.



New! Automatic primer system. No slides to pull or levers to push. Precise alignment of the primer each and every time.

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Bianchi Cup '83-'84 — Brian Enos
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Soldier of Fortune '84 — John Shaw
Second Chance '84 — Mike Plaxco

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7442 E. Butherus Drive
Scottsdale, Az 85260

HANDGUN LEATHER

AL PICKLES

DON HUME, EX-COP AND SAILOR, HAS COLORFUL PAST IN HOLSTER MAKING

Don Hume Leathergoods is *not* the largest holster maker in the United States. Compared to Number One, Don Hume Leathergoods is a smallish company. Don Hume, as a person, is not flamboyant or gregarious. Nonetheless, the single most popular holster in American Law Enforcement circles was, and still is, made by Don Hume. Other manufacturers may advertise "Jordan Style" uniform holsters, but only Don Hume makes them under exclusive rights from the designer, Bill Jordan. And Bill Jordan, in case you didn't know, is the last living legendary lawman.

Don Hume and I, while we never knew one another at the time, spent the same four year period in the U.S. Navy from 1948 to 1952. He was stationed in Guam and spent many of his off-hours engaged in his hobby of leathercrafting, while I was chasing around on an aircraft carrier or otherwise engaged.

Upon discharge we both entered into law enforcement careers. Don spent three years with the La Mesa PD in California, then another four with the San Diego County Sheriff's Office. Interestingly, during the last three years of that period I was also in California with the Merced Police Department where I stayed for a half dozen more.

Don, again in his off-duty hours and working out of his little garage, was busy making some highly desirable holsters for his fellow officers for miles around. Wanting to produce and sell only the best quality, and knowing that friends' lives may well depend on his holsters, Don acquired a mentor in the person of an old saddle maker from Europe named Konkus. It was under the instruction of Konkus that Don became an artist in leathercrafting.

While still working full time as a road deputy and part time as a holster manufac-

turer, Don met and struck up a friendship with U.S. Border Patrol Assistant Chief Inspector Bill Jordan. Nothing really remarkable as Jordan is both the friendliest and deadliest man alive, depending on where you are coming from.

Jordan was already utilizing his own holster design for lectures and demonstrations when Don asked for permission to copy it and use Jordan's name. Bill, undoubtedly in his classic slow drawl, said, "You can use my name and design as long as you make a quality holster." And with Bill's blessings, Don launched into a full time holster business producing, among other excellent designs, the fastest practical police uniform holster available.

That was all about 25 years ago and I purchased my Jordan Holster made by Don very early on. They were the rage among street cops and I can personally testify that the holster's inherent speed may have been one of the reasons I am here today and able to tell you about it.

I gave up my Jordan rig when I became an Inspector with Narcotics in Southern California. My reintroduction to Jordan Holsters by Don Hume came, surprisingly, when I went to the jungles of Vietnam as a police advisor. Many of my Vietnamese civil police were wearing them.

It has only been during the last year, however, that I have again taken to wearing a Don Hume holster system here at my ranch and during my travels. To satisfy a writing assignment to make an extensive test and evaluation of both the Charter Arms Undercover line and the Walther (Manhurin) PPK/S, I shopped around for the best possible shoulder rig for smaller guns.

After much testing I settled on the Don Hume Model H750 horizontal for each gun. My particular selections were plain, brown, lined, and complete with off-side accessories for ammo or magazine, and handcuff carrier.

Many shoulder rigs, including the Don Hume Model H750, are wet-formed to fit the intended handgun precisely. This can create some misunderstanding on the part of new purchasers so this column may just be the best place to clear things up.

Wet-molding, as practiced only by the finest holster makers, is done to prevent constant movement of the gun which would cause gun wear via sheer body movement. It also helps the holster retain its shape. Like a new pair of correctly fitted shoes, however, initial fit is going to be uncomfortably, or, in the case of a holster, impractically tight. You are going to have to break-in a wet-molded holster before you can ever expect to extract your gun with any real degree of speed—just like getting into and out of a new pair of fine leather shoes. If you want Hush-Puppies, buy a nylon holster.

If your involvement with guns and holsters is for serious purposes, you owe it to yourself to take a look at all his work. You can send Don Hume a refundable five dollar bill for his catalog at P.O. Box 351, Miami, OK 74354. Give him my best regards.



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6

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7



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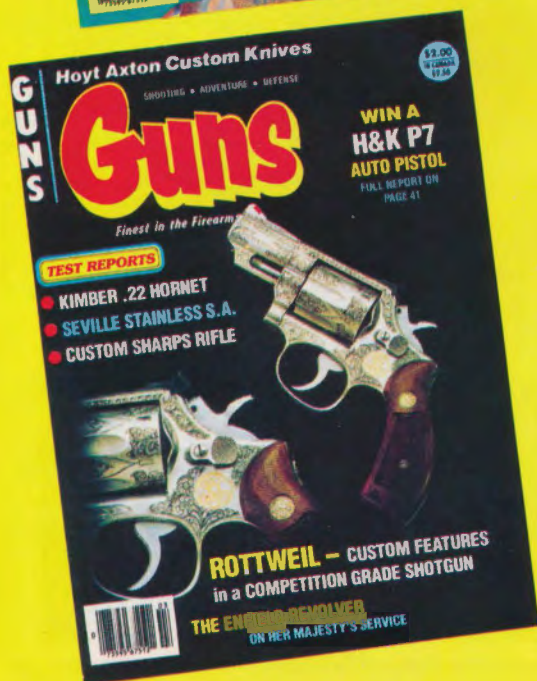
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COP TALK

MASSAD AYOOB

COPS WHO CARRY BACKUP GUNS 'BLOODY WELL BETTER PRACTICE'

Today's policeman is increasingly more likely to carry a second weapon on the job. In New York, roughly half of the cops do so, at least in the heavy action precincts, and the percentage is at least that on LAPD. In Chicago, according to one friend in the F.O.P. there, some 90% of the coppers pack at least two handguns.

Only New York places heavy emphasis on qualification with the 2" .38 normally carried as a backup weapon, and as with the NYPD service revolver training, there is no work out of the holster. I would like to see more tactical training devoted to the use of the backup in a heavy firefight.

There are essentially three uses for the backup gun. First, if you're disarmed or your primary weapon fails. Second, if you run dry in a firefight. Third, if the same happens to your partner.

In all these cases, you want the backup gun to be something powerful that you can hit well with and reload if necessary. When I carry a revolver on duty, it's a K-frame S&W loaded with 125-gr. Federal .357 hollow-points. The two speedloaders on my belt are loaded with hot Federal .38 Specials, so they will fit my backup Colt Detective Special in that caliber, whose cylinder is the same size as the Smith K-frame. That way, if the primary gun is out of action, I still have 18 rounds with my accurate, Colt Custom Shop-slicked D.S.

With the auto, this approach would make sense if you've got a compact Detonics backing your Colt .45 auto, or a Devel or Behlert chopped-and-channeled version of the S&W 9mm to back up the model 39 or 59 in your duty holster, for magazine interchangeability. Personally, I find such autos too bulky for the pocket and ankle holsters I favor; when carrying a Colt .45 auto in uniform, my backup gun is again the Detective Special, backed up now by a couple of Bianchi Speed Strips in my shirt pockets.

But understand me right now: the backup gun will only work for you if you're trained to reach for it. John Farnam recently ran a two-day Duelatron course at Lethal Force Institute, and many of the 20 students, mostly LFI graduates, took my advice and wore additional guns when entering the computerized firefights. Then, I saw something fascinating.

When under attack by the foe targets, the only ones who ditched their empty service

handguns and immediately drew their backups and continued firing were the graduates of LFI's Lethal Threat Management for Police course. The graduates of LFI's civilian program, almost to a man, left the loaded and ready backup gun in its holster and took the extra time to reload their primary weapons, something that could have gotten them killed in a hot and heavy shootout with multiple bad guys on the street.

That was significant, because use of the backup gun is a regular module in LFI's police course, but is not taught to civilians since so few of them ever carry more than one weapon. Farnam, overseeing the exercise, agreed. "This is something I see frequently," he said. "Never forget that under stress, you'll do what you've been trained to do. If you're going to rely upon a second weapon, you've got to practice with it!"

We've found that for the committed student, it is not terribly difficult to learn to draw the second weapon and keep it in your hand while reloading the primary weapon one-handed. All LFI students in the police and advanced civilian programs learn to draw, fire six, reload and fire six, all in 25 seconds, with left hand only and right hand only, the other hand holding the shirt collar throughout the entire exercise. To adapt this technique to the backup gun, one simply holds the backup gun in the strong hand and reloads the pistol or revolver solely with the weak hand. This enables the student to fire instantly if attacked during the reloading process. He or she may use one or both hands to do so, since our reloading techniques will place the primary weapon in belt or holster during the reloading process.

If you're going to have your backup gun in your pocket, your boot, or deep inside your shirt, you'd bloody well better practice getting it out of there in a hurry. Practice, incidentally, from the cramped kneeling or prone positions behind the cover you're likely to have taken under circumstances that warrant use of your backup gun. It's better to find out now that the more tightly drawn trouser material makes it harder to draw an ankle or pocket gun when kneeling.

You carry your backup gun as last ditch insurance. But it can't protect you just by being there. If you don't commit yourself to realistic and practical training with it, it will be only an amulet of false confidence that will detract from your survivability instead of contributing to it.



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THE GUILD SPEAKS

GEORGE WESSINGER

JIM CLARK HONORED AS OUTSTANDING AMERICAN PISTOLSMITH OF THE YEAR

The Outstanding American Handgunner Awards Foundation banquet, held in Seattle, in conjunction with the National Rifle Association annual convention was, as usual, a rousing success. Several hundred were in attendance. Along with many previous winners of the prestigious award was a group that has recently begun actively supporting the Foundation. This new supporter is the American Pistolsmiths Guild. This was the first presentation of the annual "Award of Excellence" to the Outstanding American Pistolsmith of the Year. In addition to this annual award there was a raffle of custom handguns built by members of the American Pistolsmiths Guild. The drawing takes place at the awards banquet.

This first year there were two custom handguns raffled off. Jim Clark of Clark Custom Guns donated a Clark Custom Bowling Pin Gun. It was won by Mark Bjishkian of Gaithersburg, MD.

The second custom handgun was a Mag-Na-Port Predator, with a Rybka Holster, donated by Larry Kelly of Mag-Na-Port International. It was won by Greg De Monte of Warren, MI.

When the Guild awards committee began the process of selecting a qualified recipient for the Pistolsmith Award of Excellence, the discussion seemed to center around one man

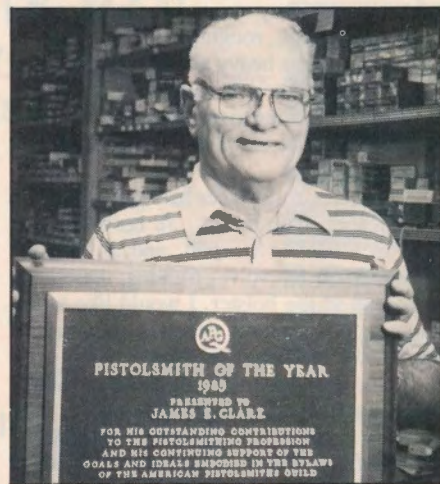
who has contributed more to the pistolsmithing profession than any other. A unanimous decision was easily reached and James E. (Jim) Clark of Clark Custom Guns, operating out of Keithville, LA, was named the Top Pistolsmith for 1985. The presentation of this award was by Tom Ruger of Sturm, Ruger and Company.

Jim is a unique individual who has been a full time pistolsmith since 1950. He has specialized in .45 accuracy work and converting .38 Supers to .38 Special for bullseye shooters. He has done more experimenting on the .45 auto than any other pistolsmith in existence. He designed and perfected the Pin Gun which is the most copied conversion ever used on the model 1911 Colt. He designed and built many long slide versions of the Colt and many have set national records. He has had as many as four national champions using one or more of his custom guns in one year. The stamp of approval has been put on Jim's guns by many other shooters of national standing who use them, and know by long years of experience that they have no equal.

Clark guns are not loaded down with gadgets nor are they prettied up just to look fancy. They are built with one purpose: to shoot with supreme accuracy and dependability. The large number of these guns being used in competition and the results of many

machine rest tests, prove that Jim is accomplishing his goal.

He has also done much work on Ruger handguns. He makes an outstanding PPC revolver, the Grand Master revolver, and converts the Ruger .22 auto to an exceptional target pistol using his own designed and built trigger. He makes and sells many accessories for combat and bullseye shooters. These include: six-inch national match barrels, scope and Aimpoint mounts, sights, triggers, and grips. While most of his work is on handguns he does offer one unique service to model 12 Winchester owners. This is a conversion of 12 or 16 gauge guns to 28 gauge. This is a truly outstanding job that must be seen to be fully appreciated.



Not only is Jim a top pistolsmith, but he has also been a top competitive marksman for many years. He retired from active competition in 1975 after 28 years of superb shooting. During these years he rose to the very top, the United States Open Championships, which he won in 1958. He is the only civilian to ever accomplish this feat. All others have been either police or military personnel. He has won major tournaments, too numerous to mention, set 64 national records, won the national civilian championship 6 times, was the fifth man in the country to break 2600 and the fourth to break 2650. These accomplishments as a match shooter and the demands of match pressure made Jim aware of the necessity for the best equipment and he has been building it for years.

These accomplishments as a top shooter and pistolsmith are impressive but are only a few of Jim's many and varied interests. He is truly a unique person who has been an active pilot since 1954 and still owns and flies his own Bonanza. He built his own log home and shop, and owns and operates a log home business. He was one of the founders of the American Pistolsmiths Guild and was the first president until he decided to step down in 1985. He has been nominated for the Outstanding American Handgunner Award several times.

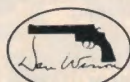
The Guild is proud to recognize Jim Clark and is pleased to be associated with the Outstanding American Handgunner Awards Foundation. We look to the future with much anticipation and hope for many years of continued growth.



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Rifle butt stock shell holder

HANDLOADING

DAN COTTERMAN

IPSC WORLD CHAMPION OFF BASE ON .38 SUPER RELOADING INFORMATION

When you're a winner everybody listens to what you have to say about how you succeeded in topping the competition. In fact, people even listen to you when you talk about what went wrong along the way. Rob Leatham, winner of last year's IPSC Nationals and reigning World Champion, spoke of having to chuck his .38 Super brass after but one loading, because of pressures that swelled the web. He used 158 grain bullets ahead of an undisclosed amount of DuPont 800-X, thus involving not only a bullet that is about 20 percent heavier than is normally used in the Super, but also a powder that is slightly slower burning.

"The costs of shooting a .38 Super loaded to make major caliber are astronomical," said The Winner—and everybody listened. Including James Glackin of Pasadena, Calif., who submits the following explanation for Leatham's one-shot brass problem.

"Some 10 years ago," Glackin writes, "I did a piece in *The Handloader* on the importance of slide mass ratio in controlling the cycling

of autoloaders with handloads. When I read in the May/June *American Handgunner* that Rob Leatham gets only one firing from his 158 grain .38 Super load, it convinced me that no one read it.

"You must increase the slide mass in proportion to the increase in power factor over the design load to keep the case from backing out too soon during the high-pressure stage of combustion!

"The weight of the slide is tuned to the momentum of the one load. You can hotrod the hell out of even a blow-back with lighter bullets (I recommend zinc), but if you go heavier you are risking case head rupture, even at normal peak pressures.

"Or you could increase barrel weight, or add a big rib, bolt-on muzzle weights—anything to delay it from popping out of battery before the pressure subsides . . .

"I consider the .38 Super to be one of the most underestimated cartridges of the 20th century, but if it gets a reputation as a rich man's toy, it will never get off the ground.

High-pressure loads simply are not tolerant of slide-weight variations from one gun to the next. Conversely, you can get fat energy increases in even blowbacks by slashing bullet weight, such as cast zinc or swaged low-density so as not to lose bearing surface. The safe peak pressure energy goes up with the drop in power factor (with slower powder, of course).

"With everyone in IPSC on an autoloader kick, it's about time to give slide-to-bullet mass ratio the attention it needs."

Glackin's right but we have Leatham saying his Bill Wilson .38 Super Accu-Comp weighs about four ounces more than the .45 he shoots. He goes on to talk about wanting to make his Super lighter, which seems to put it right back where we started as far as beefing up the mass of the slide is concerned.

When Leatham lamented the lack of cheap military brass, John Leamster, a Biloxi, Miss., hailed Jeff Cooper's "9mm Super" experiment of a decade or so ago. "He used a .38 Super barrel that headspaced on the case mouth and cut down and reamed .223 brass to handle the high pressure," writes Leamster.

Of course, Cooper's resourceful activities had to include coming up with an extractor that had a somewhat bigger bite because the .223's rim is nominally .028" smaller than that of the .38 Super. But if, as Leamster suggests, hot-load .38 Super fans come up with a quick method of altering .223 cases, we'll be off and running. Certainly, the performance potential of this most worthy round warrants the effort.

Your letters continue to bulge the mailbox, and only rarely is there a negative comment or an unusable tip. The problem lies in finagling enough space to include everything. So I know you'll forgive me if I condense a few valuable tips.

First, back to John Leamster, who says he has great results upon dumping brass into GI laundry bags with detergent, and tossing them into the washing machine.

Richard E. Siebold, of Hawthorne, New York, has a double-action derringer made by BJT, of Hamden, Conn. He has a load that starts out as .38 caliber, but yields expansion to .50 caliber. It's the 110 grain Speer JHP ahead of 10.5 grains of Blue Dot, ignited by a CCI 550 (hi-flame) primer. Want to go farther? Dig out the hollowpoint, with a drill bit, till the 110 is reduced to an 85 grainer, then stoke it with 12.0 grains of Blue Dot, and touch it off with the 550 primer. Siebold says they make it to .75-inch in his five-gallon pail of water-logged pulp.

Also, he's had a go with Glaser Safety Slugs: "... they're incredible. Recoil is no greater than with the loads I've mentioned, and in any medium, penetration is about one-half as great: four to five inches, and the wound channel is about three inches for its entire length. For my money, they're absurdly expensive, but they win, hands down!"

Marty Liggins, ballistics man for Accurate Arms, of McEwen, Tenn., writes to say

Continued on page 33

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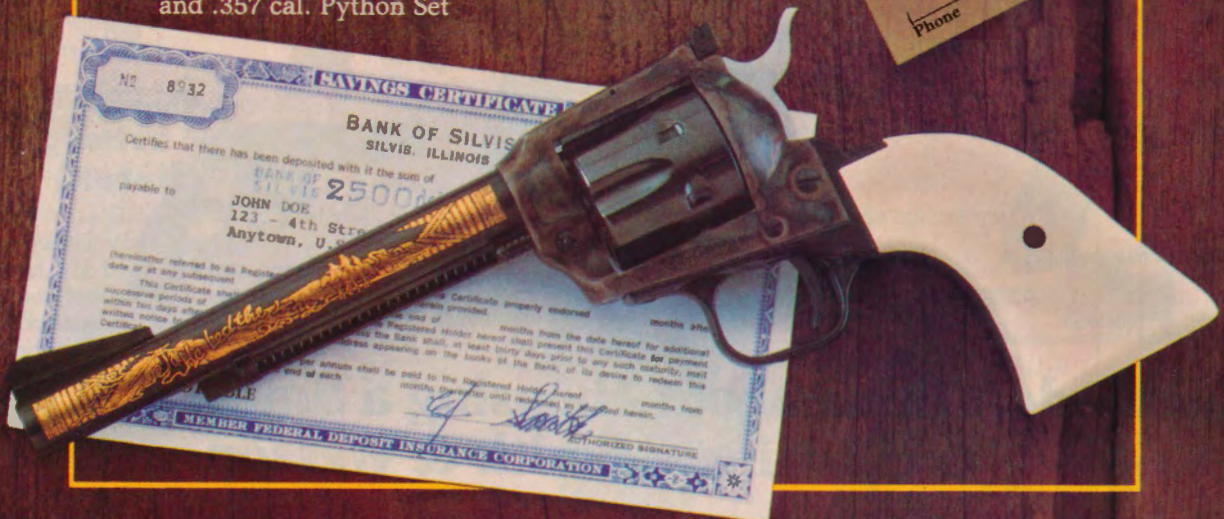
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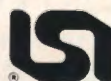
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SPEAK OUT

Reader Likes Crossfire

Just wanted you to know that, from one who has read just about every gun magazine for the last 25 years, *American Handgunner* is first class!

Reading again in the July/August '85 issue a discussion of "stopping power," I believe *Crossfire* does a fine job of spelling out some of the fine points of this argument that has been around a long time.

Here's the most important thing: whatever one's choice of equipment, practice and confidence are essential! If you can place your shots, know you can, and are using something reasonably effective, and you have the will to do so, you are a formidable foe.

In any event, despite the inability of handgunners to come to an agreement as to "stopping power," I like to see the debates still going on: that shows me that some people are thinking, testing, and most of all, shooting.

Richard O. Wallace
Auburn, WA

Charter Arms Wins Praise

I own a used Charter Arms revolver. When the front sight popped off and was lost while plinking recently, I wrote to Charter Arms and asked for a new sight. They wrote back asking that I send them the gun, which I did.

Just 18 days later I received the gun from Charter Arms. The invoice said, "No Charge." There was no question as to warranty. They just fixed it.

Now that's what I call a company that stands behind its products.

Paul Loschiavo
Jacksonville, NC

Detective Likes Metaloy

I recently sent a Gold Cup frame to Metaloy and requested it be refinished with electroless nickel. The frame was returned to me in a very short time and the work performed deserves comment.

The finish appears flawless. The price was reasonable and was exactly what was quoted to me over the phone. What impressed me most was the short turn-around time. I sent the weapon to Metaloy just before I went on vacation and it was waiting for me on my return having been shipped by "next day air."

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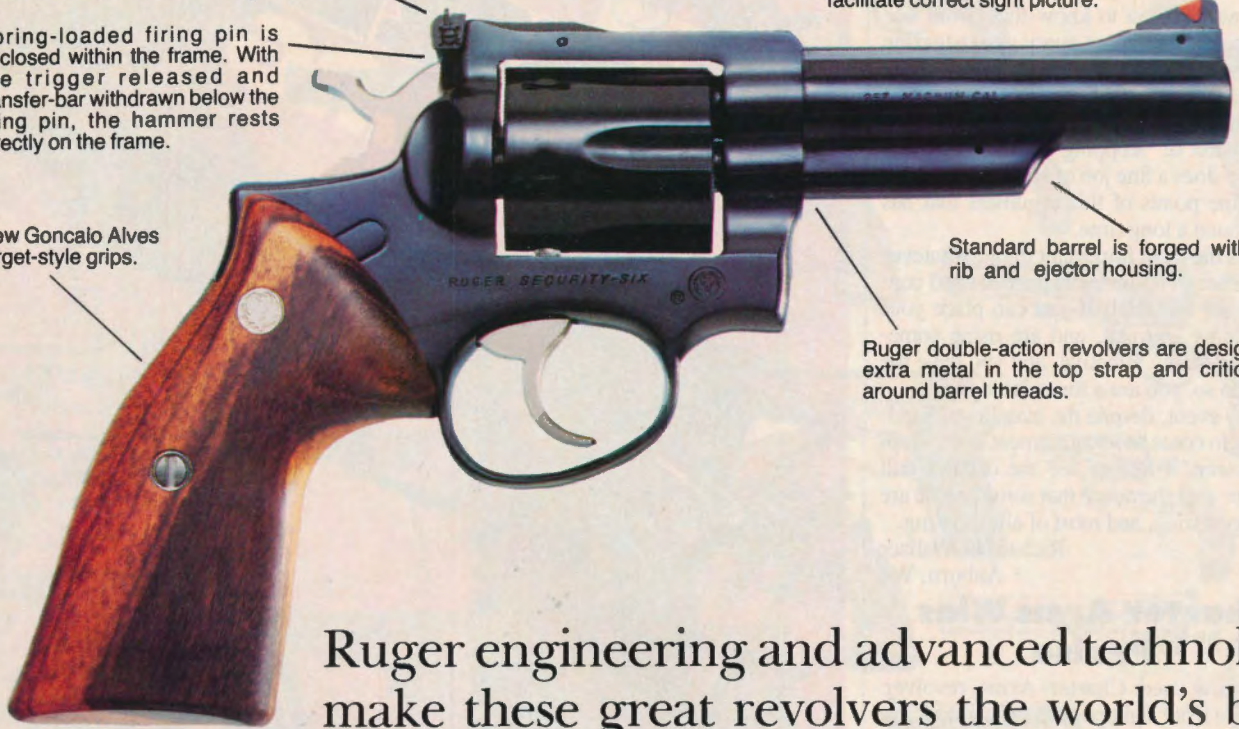
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Serrated ramp style front sight on target models has red insert to facilitate correct sight picture.

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INSIGHTS INTO IPSC

CAMERON HOPKINS

STANDARD EXERCISES SHOULD INCLUDE ALL SKILLS OF PRACTICAL SHOOTING

Standard exercises have a specific purpose and that purpose is not being served in many matches including the 1984 IPSC Nationals and the standards match of the current USPSA Classification series.

The purpose of standard exercises is to test all the basic skills of pistolcraft used in the sport of practical pistol shooting. A good standards should include strong and weak hands shooting, forced reloads, position shooting (kneeling, prone, standing, etc.) double-taps and a good mixture of long, medium and short ranges. The majority of shooting, however, should come inside of 15 yards in keeping with the principles of the sport.

IPSC World President Jean-Pierre Denis said, "Do not forget that it is by the standard exercises that we can evaluate the degree of skill of our shooters."

A well-rounded standards should expend between 40 and 60 rounds in order to insure that the wide variety of practical shooting skills are adequately tested. Of course such a standards does not ask you to perform 40 to 60 different drills, but, instead, to perform eight to ten drills with the drills repeated to test consistency. For instance: draw and fire one round from 25 yards; repeat five times for a total of six rounds.

An exhaustive standards will leave no stone unturned, unlike the pathetic excuse for a standards at the last Nationals. The standards at the '84 Nationals was the modified International Rapid Fire which tests only two things: freestyle shooting at long-range (25 and 30 yards) and engaging multiple targets. What about some "upper B" (head) shots? How about some weak-hand? Where were the reloads? Why not some double-taps?

The current standards in the USPSA Classification series is nearly identical to the IRF at the Nationals. Again only long-range, freestyle shooting is tested. Again a lack of understanding of the purpose of standard exercises.

I am not alone in my concern over the incorrect application of standards. World President Denis concurs as evidenced by his letter to all Regional Directors of the world advising them to revise their program of standards. Mr. Denis offered a list of "Classic Standard Exercises." Here is the list and I hope the encompassing nature of this standards appeals to you more than the current rage for the International Rapid Fire.

Of course the drills can, and should, be repeated several times to expand this standards to our criteria of 40 to 60 rounds.

"All starts are from Condition One, holstered, hands in various start positions such as shoulder level, at one's sides, clasped medially, clasped behind the back or arms crossed."

CLASSIC STANDARDS

| | | |
|------|---|-------------|
| 50m. | 2 shots | 7 seconds |
| 25m. | 2 shots | 4 seconds |
| 15m. | 2 shots | 3 seconds |
| 10m. | 2 shots | 2 seconds |
| 7m. | 2 shots | 1.5 seconds |
| 7m. | 1 shot 90° right pivot | 1.5 seconds |
| 7m. | 1 shot 90° left pivot | 1.5 seconds |
| 7m. | 1 shot 180° turn | 1.5 seconds |
| 5m. | 1 shot head box | 1.5 seconds |
| 10m. | 2 shots, reload, 2 shots | 4.5 seconds |
| 10m. | 2 shots, reload, 2 shots strong-hand only | 5.5 seconds |
| 10m. | 2 shots, reload, 2 shots weak-hand only | 6 seconds |



Standards should include reloads.

If you agree with me that standards should encompass the full gamut of the shooting skills used in our sport, then let your Section Coordinator and club Match Director know. Believe me, when you "clean" a 60 round standards you've attained a high level of skill and mastered the basics of practical shooting. And isn't that your goal?

READER'S QUESTION RESPONSE

The Reader's Question posed is the July/August issue was "What is your favorite practice drill, and why?" I'm happy to offer you the response of USPSA President Dave Stanford.

I emphasize shooting problems, drills, that require me to think and move. The movement does not have to be gross movement such as required in an assault course, but may simply require shootings at different targets from different positions and at different ranges. No one shooting drill does all this so I find that I have developed a shooting curriculum that covers a wide range of drills. Practice with a purpose.

I generally start with a standards at about 10 yards and emphasize the smooth movement of the hand to the weapon and its presentation to the target with the focus on the front sight. I'm shooting either for the "A" zone or the upper "B" zone. Sometimes for precision shooting I shoot for the "A" itself printed in the middle of the "A" zone. I then go back to 15, then 25 and then 50 yards starting all over again at each distance. This teaches mental discipline, trigger control and builds confidence. Do not be overly concerned with speed on these exercises until you can keep all your shots in the "A" zone at 50 yards. Smoothness will equate with speed as skill builds.

I don't shoot more than 40 to 50 rounds in the above exercises. I next go to a multiple-target, varying distance exercise and fire one round at each of three targets spaced at varying heights and distances from 5 to 25 yards. I shoot as fast as possible while still keeping the shots in the "A" zone. I vary my shooting positions and work with both strong and weak hand. Emphasis is still on center hits and smoothness.

Using the same format, I then include double-taps, reloads and kneeling and prone shooting.

I limit my rounds in these exercises to 40 to 50. Most shooters will find that after 100 rounds—some much sooner—their concentration wanes. Practice after this point can be detrimental. I have found that using an electronic timer such as the PACT or Pro-Shot and some sort of record keeping such as the G&A Unlimited Practiscore sheets (P.O. Box 5879, Abilene, TX 79608) is a definite asset to intelligent practice.

*Dave Stanford
President, USPSA*

READER'S QUESTION

Should we make an effort to make the sport of IPSC more spectator oriented and, if so, how?

Send your answers to 'Insights 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.

COMBAT SHOOTING

DAVE ANDERSON

DO YOU CITE IPSC AS IMPRACTICAL? YOU MAY BE A 'WOLFE INTELLECTUAL'

Dave Anderson is Section Coordinator for IPSC in Saskatchewan, Canada. He is a top IPSC shooter in Canada and highly regarded in Canadian IPSC circles.

One of the major problems the International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC) has faced since its inception has been to reconcile two different and opposing views of the purpose of practical shooting.

One group, the so-called 'martial artists', believe that the basic purpose of IPSC is to provide training in self-defense, and that the value of competition is to simulate (in some degree) the mental stress a person would face in an actual defensive confrontation. They coined the rather derisive term 'gamesman' to describe the second faction; those who, in their view, were overly obsessed with winning and would push the rules to the limit for a competitive advantage, even if it meant sacrificing practicality.

The gamesmen, (who prefer the term 'sportsmen') believe that IPSC competition is primarily an interesting and challenging sport, much like golf or tennis. They feel that achievement in competition is its own reward and needs no justification; and they point out that in many cases the practicality argument is used as a smokescreen to cover a lack of competitive ability.

Obviously these are not rigid categories and most IPSC shooters probably see some merit in both viewpoints. Critics from both sides, at least initially, had some characteristics in common: they were IPSC members and competitors; they agreed on the soundness of the Confederation's principles; and they were motivated by a genuine concern for the improvement and well-being of IPSC.

But the arguments about what is truly practical in course design and equipment have become a little tiresome. These days the

shooting periodicals (especially those which place great emphasis on the self-defense aspect) seem to be full of articles deploring the impracticality of pin guns, or IPSC, the Bianchi Cup, crossdraw holsters, the Weaver stance, or you name it.

I'm convinced that for many of these authors the motivating factor is not concern about improving anything; rather, it is ego gratification, a public statement of one's status as a sure-enough martial artist.

I was reading an essay recently by Tom Wolfe about the radical intellectuals of the '60s. Wolfe wrote, "What had become important above all was to be that polished figure amid the rubble, a vision of sweetness and light in the smoking tar pit of hell. The intellectual had become not so much an occupational type as a status type. Did he want to analyze the world systematically? Did he want to add to the store of human knowledge? He not only didn't want to, he belittled the notion . . . by the 1960's it was no longer necessary to produce literature, scholarship, or art—or even to be involved in such matters, except as a consumer, in order to qualify as an intellectual. It was only necessary to live *la vie intellectuelle*. A little brown bread in the breadbox, a stereo and a record rack full of Coltrane and all the Beatles' albums from *Revolver* on, white walls, a stack of unread New York Review of Books, the conviction that America is materialistic, repressive, bloated, and deadened by its Silent Majority, a small uncomfortable Euro-

Continued on page 20

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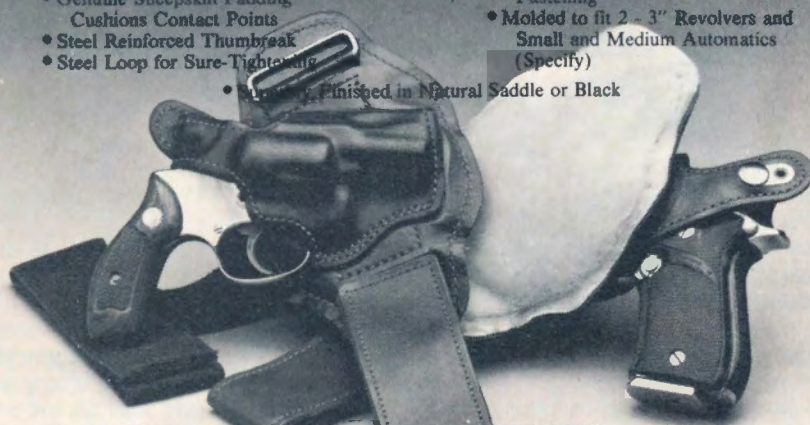
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COMBAT SHOOTING

Continued from page 18

pean car; that pretty well got the job done."

One sees the same pretense, the same claim to status through possessions rather than accomplishment, in many of the critics of IPSC. Here, though, the ultimate status figure is not the intellectual but the martial artist. And to claim that title it is no longer necessary to compete well, or even to compete at all; or to demonstrate ability in any way, other than by criticizing from the sidelines. It's only necessary to acquire the right items. A lightweight Commander with high visibility fixed sights, trigger job, and a speed safety; an inside-the-waistband holster; hard-ball ammo; *Principles of Personal Defense* by Cooper; and the conviction that competitive shooters are all game-playing dilettantes who couldn't outshoot their grandmother without a \$2000 comp gun and a speed rig; that pretty well gets the job done.

But there still remains the problem of recognition. How can these excellent items of equipment support a claim to martial-artist status when no one knows you have them? Telling the boys at work that you pack a .45 is out, since it's likely illegal; and even if it isn't, they won't know enough to appreciate the subtle difference between a Commander in a Summer Special and an RG-22 stuck in a coat pocket.

Going to an IPSC match won't help the old ego much, since it takes skill to win and you can't buy that. So instead we see yet another article in *Shooting and Blasting* in which the author breathlessly explains that the practical shooting competitions are a sham and a deception, and coyly reveals that he is a genuine, gun-toting Martial Artist.

Like Wolfe's intellectuals, many of the critics of practical shooting have no real interest in improving it. Denouncing IPSC is simply part of the package by which they seek to attain the title of a serious shooter. It's a good deal easier than working to become truly competitive. Actually it would be interesting to see what excuses would be made next if the rules were changed to accommodate these critics; when Fowler, Shaw, Enos, Plaxco, Leatham, Seyfried, etc. went on winning—as indeed they would.

The eight principles of practical shooting recognized by the IPSC provide an adequate framework for shooters of either persuasion. Personally I never use the terms 'martial artist' or 'sportsman' anymore. The only categories I recognize are those who understand and respect IPSC principles—and those who don't.



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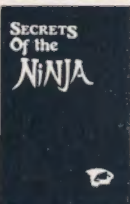
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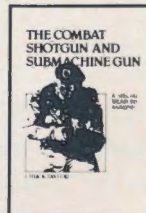
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CONVERSATION WITH A CHAMPION

By Jon Winokur

Murray Gardner has won seven consecutive Canadian IPSC (International Practical Shooting Confederation) Championships and a slew of local and regional matches since he first began competing in 1976. He's the 'father' of Canadian IPSC shooting, having almost single-handedly organized IPSC in Canada and having served as its Regional Director for most of its existence.

A resident of Vancouver, Murray is now Provincial Development Coordinator for the British Columbia Federation of Shooting Sports.



JW: What do you do in your job as BC Provincial Development Coordinator?

MG: I'm responsible for a number of shooting programs in British Columbia. Our federation is an umbrella organization which encompasses a number of sections, including trap and skeet, black powder, silhouette, practical, firearms safety and firearms legislation. I'm a facilitator and an administrator for all our shooting disciplines.

JW: How does that relate to your involvement in IPSC Canada?

MG: I was IPSC RD (Regional Director) for seven years, and for a time I was also Section Coordinator for British Columbia. I began with IPSC in 1977, and stepped down as RD in 1983 when I became Development Coordinator.

JW: Canada has proportionately three times as many IPSC shooters as the United States. Can you explain why?

MG: We feel our success with the sport has been largely due to organization, from day one. I think we were fortunate that IPSC hadn't existed in Canada prior to 1977, whereas various groups in the States had been playing at it for a number of years, all with their own rules. These groups did well with what they had, but they were disorganized. There was a lot of bickering and infighting.

We haven't had that much time to get into battles among ourselves. We started with the structure prescribed by IPSC: Regions (Canada, the United States, Australia, etc.) and, in each of those Regions, Sections. We broke it down so that each Canadian province is a Section. And in each Section there are clubs made up of individuals. So IPSC in Canada was built on a strong administrative base. Canadians are 'joiners,' anyway.

JW: *How many IPSC members are there in Canada?*

MG: About 500 registered members.

JW: *You've competed extensively in both the U.S. and Canada. Have you noticed differences in practical shooting above and below the border?*

MG: The biggest difference used to be the equipment. I remember seeing Ray Chapman's gun with a six-inch barrel at the '77 U.S. Nationals and thinking how revolutionary it was. And he was wearing a cross draw holster to boot. Since then we Canadians have become more aware of the 'trick' equipment, to the point where many competitors are shooting guns with modifications that they really can't take advantage of. Our guys have all the flash holsters and compensators. We can't help but be influenced by the magazines, especially the *American Handgunner* — that's where we learn about equipment. We buy all the neat junk like extended mag buttons. But you can take Rob Leatham's .38 Super and give it to an average shooter and he still won't match Rob.

JW: *But won't it help him in his own class?*

MG: If I'm a 'D' class shooter, is a compensator really going to make me shoot better than the other people in my class? If I can't make a two-second draw and fire at ten yards, what good is a compensator?

Instead of worrying about fancy equipment, we should encourage people to get into the game and get in cheaply. Shoot a revolver if you want, but learn the rules of the game.

JW: *What about the differences in rules?*

MG: We use IPSC rules in Canada—the international rules. But then we go down across the line and you guys shoot something called 'IPSC-USPSA.' That's like driving a Ford-Chevrolet. I mean, do you really need a rule that requires you to score after 14 rounds (USPSA) instead of IPSC's 12? Do you need to change the rule for two rounds? IPSC says there shall be a meter-and-a-half between shooters on the standard exercises. USPSA says two yards. That's a difference of 11 inches. Can you really tell 11 inches when you're out there banging away?

JW: *What's the reason for the differences?*

MG: I don't know—I've been asking for years. Maybe it's national pride. With Jeff Cooper as the founding father, obviously there's a lot of pride there, and well deserved. He did a fabulous job in getting it all going, and anyone who disputes it ought to hang up their gun and take up golf.

Not until I attended my first International Assembly and talked to shooters from other countries did I realize there are valid reasons for the International rules being the way they are. For example, the German's can't use concealed carry because it's against their law;

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if the Italians require competitors to unload and show clear in an effort to run a dry range, they won't get any shooters because everybody who carries a gun in Italy carries it loaded—it's too dangerous to carry it unloaded. So you have to consider the international ramifications. When you say 'international,' mean it.

JW: *Are Canadian gun laws conducive to the development of the sport—are they as variable between the provinces as they are between our states or is there one uniform set of laws?*

MG: There are federal laws that govern the acquisition of firearms, registration, carry permits, etc. Then there are provincial interpretations of those federal regulations. For

example, my permit allows me to take my gun anywhere to compete in an approved pistol match and to cross a border to do that. In Canada, a handgun is classed as a restricted weapon. That class of firearm can only be taken to an approved range or kept in your house as a collector's item. Those are the only reasons you can have a handgun in Canada. You cannot carry a handgun for protection. Forty percent of all the registered handguns in Canada are here in the province of British Columbia—they're handgun nuts.

JW: *The 'wild west' of Canada?*

MG: We never had a wild west in Canada. In the U.S., the people came and then the law followed. In Canada we were a little behind you guys—we sent the Mounties out west,

they established law enforcement, and then the people came. We didn't have the Dodge City sort of thing—there was always a cop around.

Getting a handgun in Vancouver is easier than getting one in Bellingham, Washington. In the state of Washington you go into a store, you have to wait 72 hours to pick it up. In Vancouver you buy it, register it and take it home. And if you have a carry permit, you take it to the club that day.

JW: *Again, by 'carry permit' you mean a permit to transport it to the range.*

MG: Right. There are very, very few concealed carry permits issued in Canada.

JW: *How did you get into practical shooting?*

MG: I started out as a teacher, then got into the family business, which was burglar alarms, but I got tired of that so I got into the motorcycle business. I was a motorcycle freak and built motorcycles for seven years. Then one day a truck hit me at a red light and left me with only the use of my right hand for a while. That's when I got interested in pistol shooting. I got hooked and eventually converted my bike business into a gun business.

JW: *How did you get involved in competition?*

MG: I picked up a copy of *Cooper on Handguns*. I had two friends who were also into shooting. We ended up travelling to California one weekend, to a place called Gridley. That's where we really got hooked.

JW: *In addition to your seven Canadian National Championships, you've also done well in the U.S. Nationals.*

MG: My best finish was 16th, in 1983. Then last year I was 75th. But that's because I under-trained and over-practiced.

JW: *I'm not sure I understand the distinction.*

MG: Most people don't realize there's a difference. When you *train*, you don't have to shoot. You can work on your grip, for example, and you can do that at home. Or you can work on picking your sights up, or your reload technique. Even just the magazine button push. You can do all that at home. You train and train until it becomes an unconscious skill.

When you *practice*, you go to the range and you shoot something that might be a match. It might be something like a 50 meter draw and fire. We always shoot at 50 meters standing up because we figure if you can hit at 50 meters standing, everything else is a piece of cake. You do the toughest stuff.

We keep track of the scores, the times, the hits. But last year, we *practiced* like crazy, but we didn't *train*. They say "practice makes perfect," but that's not entirely true. *Perfect* practice makes perfect. We weren't practicing perfectly, we were burning ammo. We took the approach that if we fired 15,000 rounds last year, 30,000 rounds this year will make us twice as good. Wrong. It might make us *half* as good if we don't *train* along with it. We *under-trained* and *over-practiced*.

JW: *What else do you do to stay in shooting shape?*

MG: We've been on a weight training program for shooters, play racquetball four

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better shooter. Find the reasons that you're not doing what you want to do and if there are certain physical attributes or mental attributes, accept them. Enjoy the game. We put so much emphasis on winning that we forget that we're there to have fun. If you have fun and win too, that's just gravy.

JW: What's your advice to new shooters?

MG: I tell new shooters that the best thing they can do in their first match is finish last. Where can you go from there but up? If you come in dead-last and you shot your personal best, write it down. Savor it, wallow in it. You shot your personal best! My 16th place finish in the '83 U.S. Nationals was my personal best.

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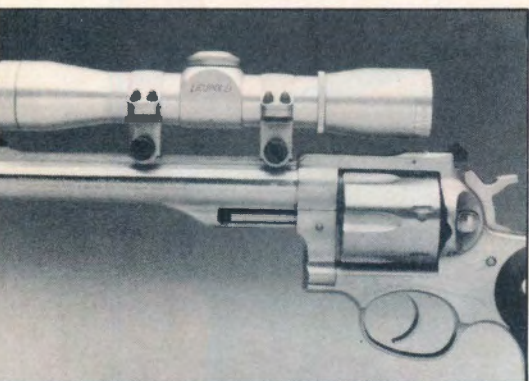
WHAT'S NEW



Viking High-Ride Holster

Viking Leathercraft announces the new #9 High-Ride holster for all popular auto pistols. The holster is designed to ride high on the hip and hugs snugly against the body.

The High-Ride is lined with suede and hand molded for an exact fit. The High-Ride retails for \$36.95. For more information and a free catalog write to Viking Leathercraft, Dept. AH, 2248-2 Main St., Chula Vista, CA 92011.



Leupold 4x EER For Stainless Handguns

Leupold now offers a 4x EER pistol scope in silver color to match nickel and stainless handguns. This scope features the same popular stainless appearance of the Leupold 2x EER scope.

Anodized with a clear finish instead of the usual black, the silver scope is built to exacting tolerances and can withstand the recoil of even the most punishing magnums.

The silver 4x scope is 8.4" long and weighs seven ounces. Equipped with the Duplex reticle, the scope makes sighting simple, quick and precise—even in low light conditions. Optimum eye relief is 12-24". For more information contact Leupold, Dept. AH, P.O. Box 688, Beaverton, OR 97075.

New Bar-Sto Barrels

Bar-Sto Precision Machine, renowned for their accurate .45 ACP barrels, is now offering their stainless steel barrels for the Colt Officer's Model and the CZ and TZ 75s.

These oversize barrels require gunsmith fitting in order to get the best results from their inherent accuracy. Master machinist and pistolsmith Irv Stone of Bar-Sto will fit his Officer's Model barrels for \$25 plus return shipping.

The Officer's Model and CZ/TZ barrels retail for \$145. For more information contact Bar-Sto Precision Machine, Dept. AH, 73377 Sullivan Road, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277, (619) 367-2747.

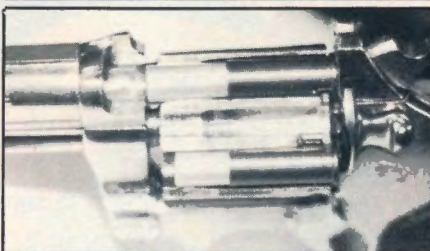
BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

Shooters rejoice and pistolsmiths wail! COLT has taken away one of the staples of the .45 auto pistolsmithing business, a boon for consumers.

Quick—what's the most widely recommended *basic* modifications of the M1911? You should instantly respond, "lower the ejection port and throat the barrel." The former facilitates reliable ejection and the latter guarantees reliable feeding.

COLT FIREARMS is now making all M1911s with these features that have previously graced only their top-of-the-line Gold Cups. All Commanders, Officers and Governments will now have this essential "custom work" done during manufacture.

COLT claims there will be no price increase for these improvements.



Child-Proof Revolver Lock

A nifty new gadget from Top Brass Ammo allows you to leave your nightstand revolver loaded yet safe from inquisitive, tiny fingers.

The device resembles a cartridge with a spring loaded plug in lieu of a bullet to prevent the cylinder from rotating. The device fits into the chamber of the cylinder in line with the bore. To activate the spring loaded plug, insert a pen or rod down the barrel and gently press on the plug. The plug then extends into the bore a short way to prevent the cylinder from turning. To remove the plug, press it back in with the pen or rod.

In this way you can load the other chambers with live ammo, and if trouble beckons, merely poke the plug to free the cylinder for action. For more information contact Top Brass Ammo, Dept. AH, 16135 Cohasset St., Van Nuys, CA 91406.



P.A.S.T. Recoil Absorbing Glove

Nothing equals the exhilaration of shooting powerful magnum handguns, but one pays the price with hand numbing recoil. No longer!

P.A.S.T. introduces a new product aimed at magnum lovers which incorporates their patented recoil absorbing pads into the palm portion of the gloves. These gloves are lightweight and ergonomically designed for comfort and protection of the hand from recoil. The P.A.S.T. gloves protect the palm and thumb web of the shooting hand as well as the back of the hand and knuckles of the supporting hand.

The pair of gloves retails for \$24.95 and more information can be had from P.A.S.T., Dept. AH, 210 Park Ave., Columbia, MO 65205, (314) 449-7278.



Pachmayr Grips for Silhouette, Hunting

Pachmayr has created two new grips for silhouette shooters and handgun hunters for the Ruger Redhawk and Thompson Center Contender. These new Pachmayr "grippers" offer the natural feel of a palm swell and a finger groove design for superb comfort and correct hand position.

Pachmayr grips are especially beneficial in minimizing hand pounding from recoil of heavy silhouette and hunting calibers.

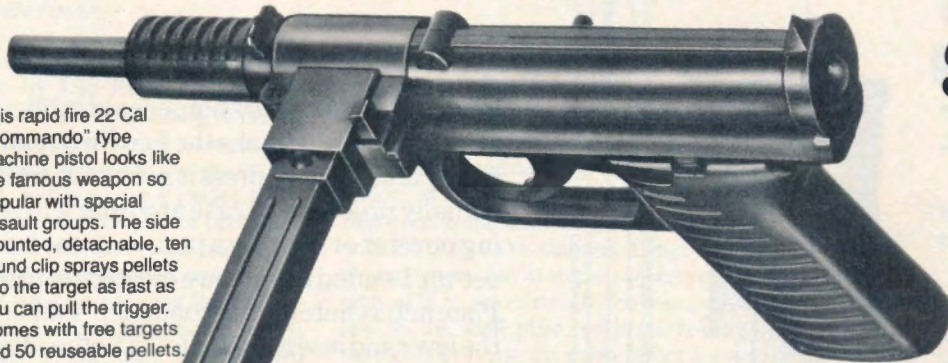
They are manufactured of the finest synthetic black rubber with a molded-in lightweight steel insert. Practically indestructible, they will not chip, break or crack.

For more information contact Pachmayr, Dept. AH, 1220 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90015.

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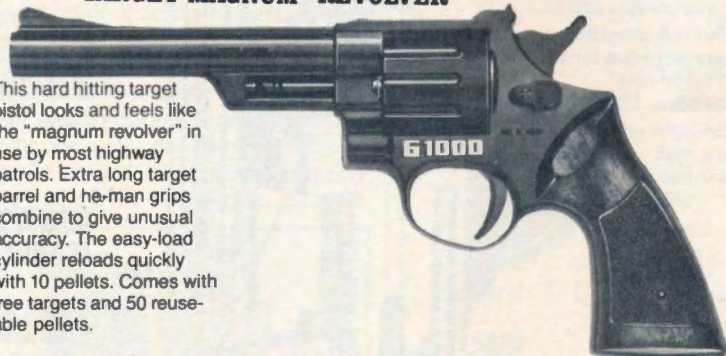
This rapid fire 22 Cal "Commando" type machine pistol looks like the famous weapon so popular with special assault groups. The side mounted, detachable, ten round clip sprays pellets into the target as fast as you can pull the trigger. Comes with free targets and 50 reusable pellets.



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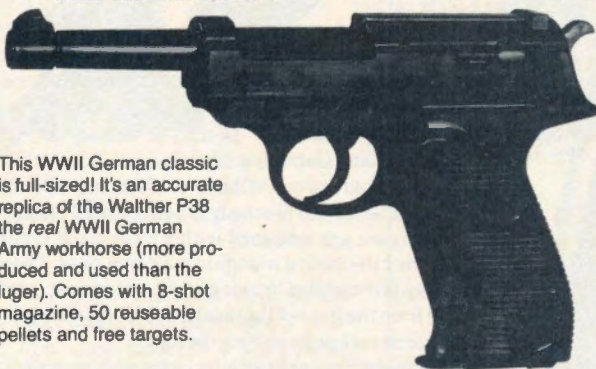
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An Automatic Primer Feed is included with each shell plate carrier. The detachable primer tray is not only easy to fill, it also turns the primers right side up. Every detail has been carefully thought out. Cases can be removed from each station for progress inspection or to correct operator errors.

If you already own Lee Dies, Turret and Powder Measure, you need only the Progressive 1000 Basic Press and a shell plate carrier for \$124.98. Optional Case Feeder, \$25.00.

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Lee Progressive 1000

By Dan Cotterman

The Progressive 1000, introduced a short time ago by Lee Precision, Inc., of Hartford, Wis., is an auto-indexing reloading machine that inserts an empty case, seats a primer, dispenses a powder charge, crimp-seats a bullet, and kicks out a loaded round following each complete cycle of operation. The operator has but to move the handle and place a bullet in an expanded case mouth. Repeating the foregoing actions, he will harvest handloads at a production rate that is surpassed only by the most sophisticated commercial operations.

It's that simple—or is it?

Let's run the Pro 1000 through a complete cycle and see what happens. Our test sample is set up to load either .44 Special or .44 Magnum, two of a dozen or more popular handgun rounds the Pro 1000 is equipped to handle. We'll number the positions on the shell plate (one, two, and three), in a counterclockwise direction, and begin with the downstroke.

A) As shell plate rises, a case is resized and decapped at position one. (The sizing die used at this position must also decap.) The Pro 1000's ram is positioned directly beneath the sizing die.

B) Another case, at position two, is expanded to accept the bullet. As expansion takes place, a free-moving expander plug is lifted so as to activate the powder measure, which then dispenses a charge. (The Lee "Powder-Through" expander die and the Lee Auto Disk measure must be used.)

C) Bullet is crimp-seated at position three. More action takes place during the upstroke.

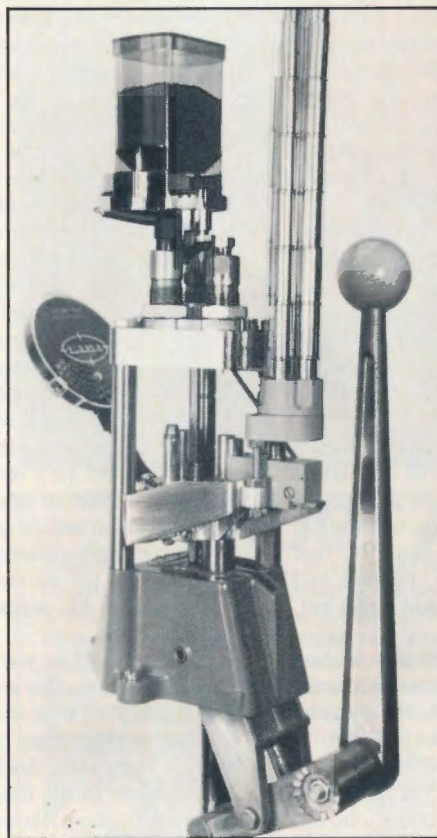
D) Sliding block beneath case feeder moves another empty into shell plate at position one. (The case feeder is a \$25 option; however, satisfactory operation can be achieved by placing empties in the shell plate manually.)

E) Near top of stroke, shell plate begins its 120-degree, counterclockwise turn. It will click-stop over a ball-check.

F) At top of stroke, shell plate carrier will have moved all the way down. At this point, a fresh primer is seated at position two. (Primers slide from the primer tray through a plastic trough, then move into position on top of the priming pin.)

G) A loaded round, deflected from the shell plate by an ejector rod, falls onto an inclined chute from which it will slide into a box or onto a cloth, either of which is to be provided by you.

All you've had to do so far is pump the handle and move bullets. You're cookin' with sunshine, and distressing news about unemployment or the latest episode in the continuing saga of international "Car Wars" is as remote as your next 50,000-mile check-up. However, as the instruction sheet that comes with the Pro 1000 cautions, things can go wrong when, for example, an empty case jams as it is automatically fed into position one on the shell plate, or if the handle is moved in a reverse direction before a stroke is completed. The least difficulty you'll experience as a result of reversing the handle at mid-stroke will be a jam, and jams are easily corrected, because the damaged or mishandled case can be removed from any of the shell plate's three positions without otherwise fouling the operation. A greater penalty may, however, be exacted if the handle is waggled near the end of the downstroke, because



doing so can cause the powder measure to dispense a double charge. Also, it's important to keep the primer trough full, because allowing it to empty may cause a jam.

Continued on page 84

REDI-SET TARGETS Introduces the Combat Silhouette in IPSC-type and PPC Resetting Targets.

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A Debate Forum Featuring Experts

AUTO OR REVOLVER FOR SELF-DEFENSE?

Revolver

By John Pride

If you're a spray-the-area fan, the 18-round auto would be your choice, no doubt. Depending on one's background in the use of firearms and exper-



tise in self-defense, many people make the improper choice when purchasing their first handgun, whether it be for entertainment or self-protection. Until you've had that first jam or forget to take off the safety, you won't quite know what I'm about to talk about.

What is the best gun for you? It depends who *you* are! If you are a competitive shooter who maintains his firearms with diligence and expertise, then whatever you choose *may* not matter. May not? That's right! Even autos in the hands of experts jam frequently! If you are an average shooter (a few times a month or less), then the wheelgun is your best bet. "Why?" you ask.

Throughout a 12 year period I've taught hundreds of civilians as well as thousands of police officers to shoot, and during that time I've seen about everything happen with guns that can be imagined. For instance, a lady brought a .25 ACP auto to class and when we fired it, you guessed it, one shot fired and that was it! She had loaded the magazine jam-packed to the top and put one in the chamber, put it in her drawer for a year and a half, never test-firing it, or taking any lessons with the gun! Ouch!

Recently an off-duty policeman was in line in a bank when a robbery went down. He pulled his .380 auto and fired one shot at the lone robber, hitting him. The .380 *jammed* on the second round. Though the suspect was hit, he returned fire, missing the policeman, who moved back and forth to avoid being hit (got lucky), then the gunman ran to the door where he collapsed and died! 'Jam-a-matic' time; another case of load 'em, and forget 'em. Can't do that with an auto!

Autos require more maintenance, training, and practice clearing malfunctions. In the previous officer's case in the bank, accuracy saved his bacon. I'm sure he's traded the .380 by now for a gun he can depend on in a pinch when there's no time for gun problems.

Some years ago Fred Romero (a competitor and *Handgunner* writer), an LAPD officer, was involved in an on-duty gun battle with an armed and dangerous, shots-fired type of robber, one-on-one situation, where he got six hits for six shots fired. Using a revolver he was able to successfully stop a mad man and win a desperate gun battle. Accuracy is most important.

How about accidents? More people have shot themselves or others accidentally with auto pistols than those intentionally shoot-

"Autos are inherently dangerous, complicated and demanding firearms."

versus

"I personally feel more comfortable with a good Colt .45 auto than anything else."



Automatic

By Massad Ayoob

There are certain people for whom the auto pistol is a bad self-defense choice: amateurs; those with little time or inclination to practice; and those who don't

make a point of keeping their equipment in top condition. That said, there are many who will be better served by the combat autoloader. Here's why.

You'll hit better with an auto under stress. Because you're not fighting a heavy double-action trigger, at least after the first shot with a DA auto, you'll hit better under extreme pressure with an auto than a wheelgun. Actual street gunfights show that revolver-armed officers hit the man they're shooting at only about 20 to 25% of the time, but those with DA autos are closer to 65% hit potential at the same combat distances, and single-action autos like the Colt .45 have an even better success rate. As a civilian, you can't afford missed rounds zinging through walls and down sidewalks to zap customers, bystanders, or your own family members.

An auto with a safety catch is harder for the bad guy to kill you with. The burglar may just be lifting your gun out of the drawer when you unexpectedly walk in, and bad guys train in prison to disarm and kill anyone capturing them at gunpoint. As a weapon retention instructor who studies a lot of actual case instances, I find a lot of times when the bad guy shoots the good guy with his own revolver, but very few instances where the bad guy could find the safety to make an auto fire before the good guy could resort to Plan B and either escape or get his autoloader back. Because criminals think straight citizens are soft, they're more likely to jump them than cops, yet one out of every five murdered policemen is killed with his or his partner's revolver. For civilians, the risk is even greater.

Autos don't let you fudge with wimp practice loads. Civics and cops alike practice with feeble wadcutter ammo in their revolvers until they're fair to middlin' good, then stuff the cylinder with .357 Magnum loads they haven't learned to control but expect to defend their lives with. Such people are walking around waiting to be taught one awful, final lesson. You can't kid yourself that way with an auto without laboriously changing the springs, which means that all practice has to be done with full-power ammo that simulates the blast and recoil of the street combat load. Otherwise, the gun won't cycle. Thus, every bit of training and practice with the auto translates more realistically to real-world preparation.

Autos can be safer around the home. Many young parents, with

Continued on page 32

Continued on page 38

COURSES OF FIRE

YOU CAN SHOOT THE BIANCHI CUP!

The Bianchi Cup (actually the National Rifle Association's Bianchi Cup Action Shooting Pistol Championship) consists of four courses of fire. Three of the courses are permanent and one is a "rotating" match that varies from year to year.

The permanent matches are: The Barricade Event, The Falling Plate Event and The Moving Target Event. This year the "rotating" match was the International Rapid Fire Event. The NRA has yet to announce the "rotating" match for 1986.

The NRA is actively supporting the growth and proliferation of Action Shooting on the state and local levels. Below follows a brief description of the Courses of Fire for the Bianchi Cup, but further information and a complete Rule Book may be obtained by writing to NRA, Competitions Division, Dept. AH, 1600 Rhode Island Ave. N.W., Washington DC, 20036.

BARRICADE EVENT: Two Bianchi targets at 10, 15, 25 and 35 yards. One target left side of barricade, one right side. Shooter begins behind barricade with palms flat against it; on signal shooter engages either right or left target from corresponding side of barricade with six rounds; repeat from opposite side of barricade. Time limits are: 5 seconds at 10 yards; 6 at 15; 7 at 25; 8 at 35. Total rounds: 48.

MOVING TARGET: One Bianchi target moving at 10 fps left to right and right to left. Shooter engages target with 6 rounds each way at 10 and 15 yards; 3 rounds each way (repeat twice) at 20 and 25 yards. Total rounds: 48.

FALLING PLATES: Shooter faces two banks of six plates, 8-inches in diameter, at 10, 15, 20 and 25 yards. Shooting is freestyle. Time limits are 6 seconds at 10 yards; 7 at 15; 8 at 20; and 9 at 25. Plate must fall to score. Total rounds: 48.

INTERNATIONAL RAPID FIRE: Shooter faces five Bianchi targets one target width apart at 25 meters. Shooter engages each target with one round in 8, 6, and 4 seconds. Shooter performs each exercise four times in the given time limits. Shooting is freestyle. Total rounds: 60.

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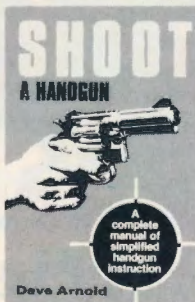
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CROSSFIRE REVOLVER

Continued from page 30

ing someone, in all wars, police shootings, etc. True fact! "I forgot the one up the spout!"

Autos are inherently dangerous, complicated and demanding firearms. Revolvers, on the other hand, are easy to handle, simple to shoot, and cycle faster than an auto pistol. (Ed McGovern opted to set his world speed shooting record with an out-of-box revolver because the .45 auto wouldn't go into battery fast enough!)

If an auto misfires (bad news in a life-and-death situation) the shooter has to charge another round or cock the hammer again. With a revolver, the person merely has to gently stroke the trigger and go to the next round.

Let's talk about knockdown and stopping power. The ultimate knockdown power is a Mack truck on I-5 and the firepower champ is Mississippi moonshine! Or better yet, a swift blow with a 2x4 is the most absolute in knockdown in the real world. Having worked the firearms unit in the police department (ballistic tests and bullet comparisons for homicides throughout the city, including coroner bullets and gun shot residue tests) I found out many interesting things about bullets. Surprise, surprise! As I went through the homicide ballistic information for the past 10 years, I was amazed with the conclusion I comprised: the majority of deaths were

caused by .22, .32 and .38 caliber and most agreed that the .45 slug didn't do all it is hyped-up to do. Not to say that the lower calibers weren't doing more immediate damage, but in some cases were doing just that—bouncing around in the body and taking a person down right now!

Out of the box dependability. You can buy most any revolver and shoot it, with little or no work performed on it. Sorry, can't say the same about the auto. Again, not all autos but most auto fans put a few bucks into their pieces especially if they carry them for self-defense.

For the first-time shooter, whether you are a woman or a man doesn't matter, the revolver is the best way to go. You can shoot 10,000 rounds a week or merely six rounds a year, but when it comes to your life there is absolutely no room for guess work, error or having to learn the bad bumps about a gun at a time when you should be thinking tactics and how to defeat your attacker!

The question concerning competition will saunter back-and-forth forever, but for the money, accuracy and dependability, the revolver is superior and very close to my heart! It's defended me in police-related shoot-outs, it's won me money, and it's (what my father would call) my body guard.

Many large police departments have switched from autos back to revolvers because of accidental-discharge problems and malfunctions.

Another problem I've observed over the

years concerning the use of autos to teach a new shooter how to shoot is if the person has a flinching problem, it is only amplified by the heavy recoil experienced with the .45 auto. A person should be taught the fundamentals with wadcutters so that the instructor can recognize violations of the most basic fundamentals. Little by little the new shooter should be stepped-up to hotter loads to prevent outrageous flinching problems.

When you choose that special gun for yourself or someone you love, take your time to shop around for a good bargain. The Smith and Wesson L frame is a good buy and a great shooter. Keep an eye out for the new 2-inch 649 5-shot body guard, made for law enforcement. This stainless steel beauty is a must for the serious collector, self-defense conscious person or police officer.

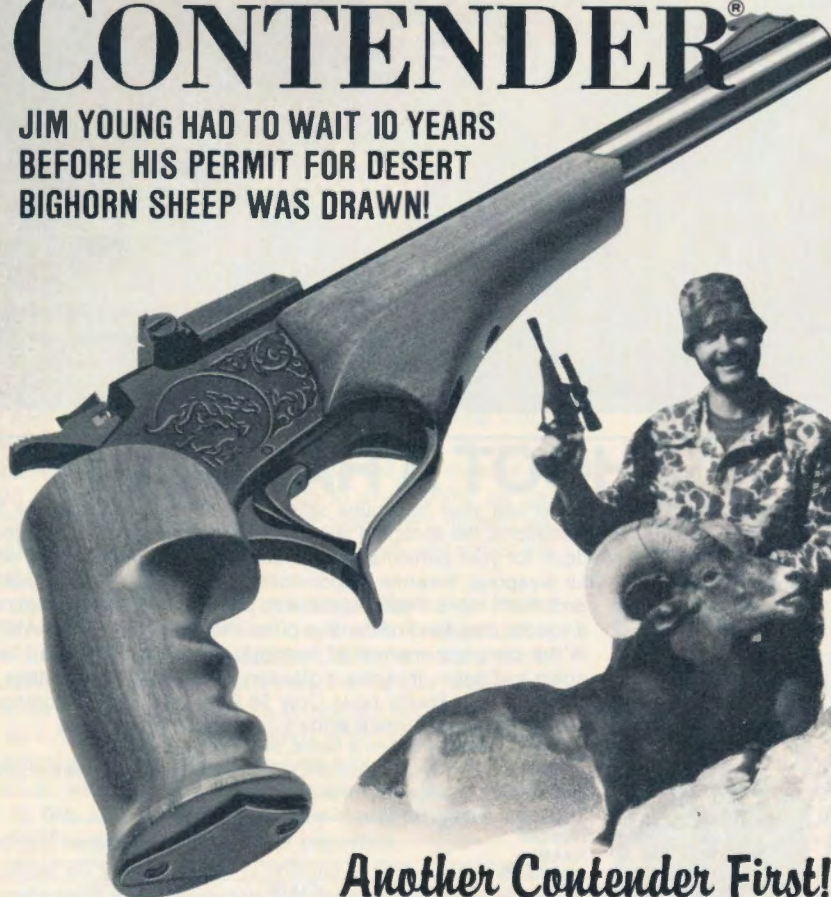
My overall recommendation for the new shooter is the 4-inch 686 S&W L frame or the 586 L frame. This gun affords the shooter an easy-handling house gun as well as a beginner's target piece; able to shoot target wadcutters to full, round-house .357 Magnums: ballistically superior loads for overall performance and knockdown power.

Whatever your choice is, get some lessons, practice, know the law, and watch out for those jam-a-matics!

The argument over what type of gun is best will go on indefinitely. You have to judge for yourself what is best! I base my findings on years of experience in the field of firearms and reams of facts about shootings, compiled

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*John Pride is a 15-year veteran with the Los Angeles Police Department and has won many shooting awards in both PPC and combat shooting. He's well-versed with both revolvers and auto pistols. He was the 1979 NRA's National Municipal Police Pistol Champ; 1983 Canadian National Police PPC Pistol Champion; Number One California's Governor's 20 in 1984 PPC; Number 2 in 1983 Bianchi Cup. He is one of the world's foremost experts in the use of hypnosis in shooting sports. Keep an eye out for his new book this fall, *The Pride Method In The Mental Aspects Of Shooting*.*

HANDLOADING

Continued from page 12

he's had more calls for load data on the .32 Magnum than he's had on the 9mm Magnum and the .45 Magnum, put together.

Meanwhile, John Kaelberer, tall dog at J&J Custom Bullet (P.O. Box 2029A, El Cajon, CA 92021), has innovated 175 and 200 grain JSP bullets for the lauded Bren Ten. As soon as the guns are shipped from the Bren Ten factory, you'll be in as far as bullets are concerned.

Gene Crum, Bloomington, Ind., purveyor of sto-leading wax sheets (509 Harvey Drive, Bloomington, IN 47401) writes to advise against leaving loads containing his product in hot sunlight. The wax melts and mixes with the powder, which can cause squibs and ploopers. Which carries us to a point in fact: It's not a good practice to leave loads where they're exposed to high heat, whether or not they contain a meltable component. In the least extreme, the propellant will suffer, or pressure potential will be raised. But none of the foregoing has much to do with using Crum's wax sheets, cookie-cutter fashion, as over-powder and over-shot wads. Try No. 9s over a few grains of some fast-burning mix. They're great for rattlesnake shooting, if it's absolutely necessary. I've loaded approximately 40 grains of No. 9s atop 3.0 grains of Super Balistite in the .32 Magnum. They pattern like crazy at four yards, and punch holes clean through both sides of an Alpo can. Hodgdon's HP-38—whatever—if it's fast will work. You can experiment with your favorite.

Terry Murbach, of Maumee, Ohio, has gone the limit with 2400 behind Hornady 85s in his Ruger .32 Magnum revolver. He worked up to 11.5 grains, and velocity was increasing with each half-grain increment. Then, at 12.0 grains, ominous indications of excessive pressures were noted. That's where he backed off. The 11.5/ 2400/85 Hornady loads had yielded over 1500 fps and had shot 1.38-inch groups at 25 yards. Another half-grain gave only 1519 fps, while groups spread

to over 2½ inches. Not only that, but, according to Murbach, the pressure ring on the Federal brass was a full .001-inch over the factory ammo's pressure-ring specifications.

J. Harvey Wieler, of Fairbanks, Alaska, reported no difficulties with 158 grain lead semi-wadcutters in his .38 Super autoloader. He said he loaded them ahead of Hercules Blue Dot.

We'll be sharing more information in the next issue. Meanwhile, if you have favorite loads or pointers on improved handloading, please include them in a typewritten or printed letter. The address is Handloading, Rt. 1, Box 7, Llano, CA 93544. (Include stamped, self-addressed envelope if you want a reply.)



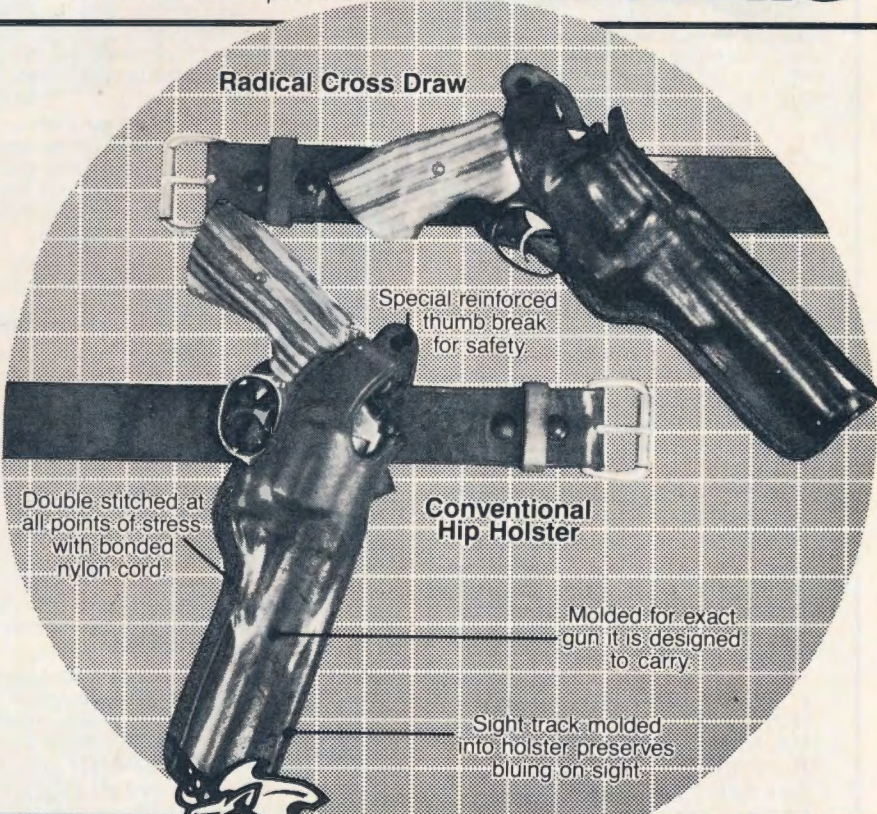
CORRECTION

The fine custom gun pictured in *Guns of the Steel Challenge* (AH Sept/Oct '85, p. 45) credited to gunsmith Paul Liebenberg is, in fact, a product from the workbenches of PACHMAYR GUN WORKS. For further information about this and other custom pistols from PACHMAYR, write:

Paul Liebenberg
Manager, Custom Gun Division
Pachmayr Gun Works
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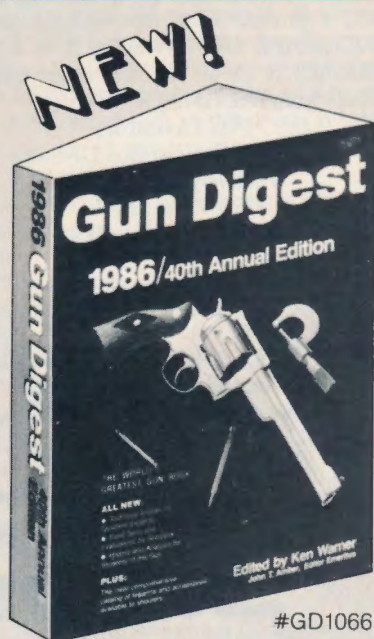
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The Model 94 And The 30-30 by Sam Fadala. After years of muzzle-loading, Fadala rediscovers the Model 94 and the 30-30 cartridge.

Last Chance Buffalo by Spence Dupree. Taking Cape buffalo in Zimbabwe the hard way — from a wheelchair.

I Won't Hunt With Single Shot Rifles by E. A. Matunas. **I Do Hunt With Single Shot Rifles** by Layne Simpson. These two hunter/writers who ought to know disagree vehemently, but with style, on the use of the single shot rifle for hunting.

1986 GUN DIGEST

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Edited by Ken Warner

Guns We Never Should Have Sold

by David Petzal. One editor gathers the tales of woe from seven others: Barrett, Brister, Carmichel, Hagel, Nelson, Warner and Woollers.

Early Pump Guns by John Malloy. A detailed look at the guns that replaced double guns almost as fast as factories could build them.

The Truth About The Cavalry

by G. N. "Ted" Dentay. The British Cavalryman's kit consisted of two guns, a sword, a bayonet, a lance, and three bushels of assundry other trappings. All Dentay had to do was figure out how to get it all on a horse and leave room for the rider.

Picking Your Go-Along Gun

by Don L. Johnson. After dozens of trips and hundreds of miles on foot, this writer knows what gun to carry. He's tried plenty.

The Extra-Quality Guns by J. W. "Doc" Carlson. Even if most off-the-rack front-stuffers don't suit your taste, and you can't stand either the price or the wait for a pure handmade article, there are still guns out there for you.

Pump Guns In The Real World by Peter Nelson. When it's freezing, wet, muddy and it's going to be an interminably long day, the slide-action shotgun is the one to carry.

The Man Who Builds Punt Guns by David J. Baker. A look at the guns designed to throw a pound of shot into a flock of sitting ducks.

The Extraordinary Glock by Raymond Caranta. A nearly all-plastic 9mm pistol that went from a blank sheet of paper to military acceptance in under four years.

Up The Spout With John and Ken by Roger Barlow. Paper wadding works fine in muzzle-loading shotguns, just as it did in the last century.

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One Good Gun Section: A 721 Remington by Bob Bell. An S&W Trail Masterpiece by Terry Murbach.

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A New Sniper Round by Larry S. Sterett. A new sniper round (the 8.58 x 71mm) puts a 338 bullet out there for a long-range smash.

All-Out Autoloader by Ken Warner. Here's how one man does it when he makes a cost-no-object pistol.

Big News In Airguns by J. I. Galan. The airgun factories are busy, but there are only two first-ever, stop-the-presses trends this year.

Rigby's by Jerry Evans.

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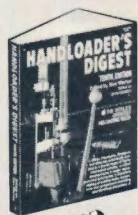


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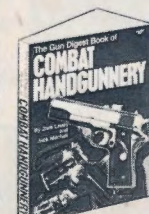


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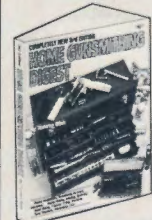


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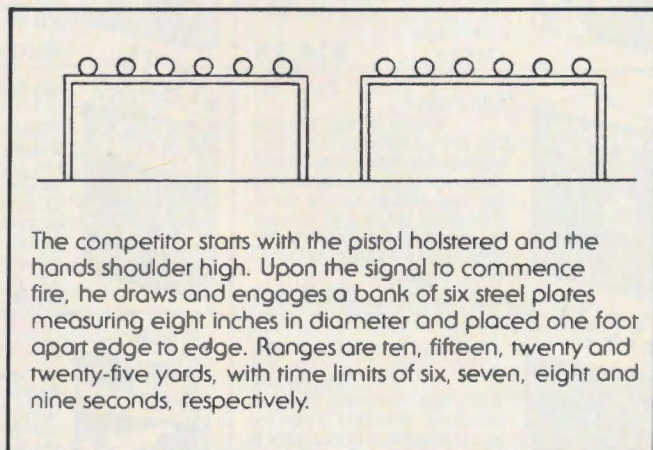
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Collected by Jon Winokur

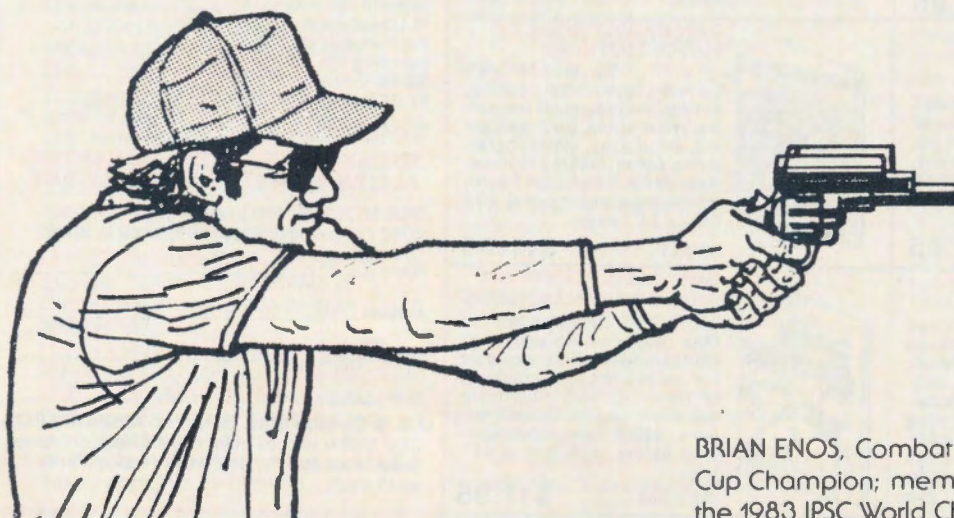
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- 5. RIGHT TO LEFT OR LEFT TO RIGHT?:** I shoot left to right but it doesn't really matter — just do what's comfortable for you.
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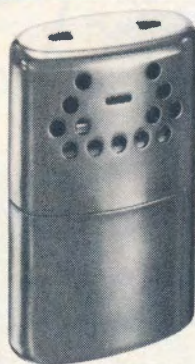
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CROSSFIRE AUTO

Continued from page 30

rug rats scooting around the house, are leery of loaded handguns left in storage. An auto can be left empty, with the magazine secured or on the adult's person. It can be loaded and made ready in a couple of seconds. Autos with magazine disconnector safeties like the S&W 9mm or Browning Hi-Power are particularly suitable for this strategy. An H&K P9S auto in 9mm or .45 can even be stored field-stripped. I've been able to assemble, load, and fire my P9S in seven seconds. The only wheelgun technology that approaches this for safety is the MagnaTrigger conversion of the S&W, which can only be fired by someone wearing special magnetic rings. However, few laymen seem inclined to spend \$250 on this life-saving modification.

Autos are superior for night shooting. The shorter, more modern, high-efficiency cartridge design of auto pistol ammo causes less blinding muzzle flash when firing at night, an important consideration since most shoot-outs occur in the dark. Round for round, revolvers are much harder to shoot in dim light without being dazzled: the .38 Special + P flares more brightly than the 9mm Parabellum; almost any bigbore wheelgun round flashes more than the .45 ACP; and the muzzle flame of a .357 Magnum is vastly greater than that of the .38 Super.

Auto pistol firepower is significantly greater. No one argues that the auto's greater cartridge capacity and quick-changing magazines give it a distinct firepower edge. Wheelgunners confidently point to the FBI's "2.3 rounds per gunfight" statistic, not realizing that the very fact that you're in a shooting at all means the statistics have already gone against you. Multiple offender situations are more common today than ever, and bad guys are learning to take cover, both of which mean you're likely to need more ammo to survive a gunfight than you would have a few years ago. More bad guys wear ballistic vests today than even during the Dillinger years, and the strategies for dealing with that all involve more than "2.3 rounds per bad guy." Today's more sophisticated armed robbers are working in teams of four to six, and three or more is a likely-size squad of professional burglars. Factor that in with the four to five shots that the statistics show are necessary to hit one bad guy once with a revolver, and the auto starts looking almost necessary.

Most of the "anti-auto" arguments don't apply today. The sixgunners claim, "If your revolver misfires the first time, just pull the trigger again for a certain shot." Humbug! If that misfire was a primer-only round, you now have a bullet lodged between barrel and cylinder, and your wheel ain't gonna rotate until you get a cleaning rod and pound the bullet out. Another common problem is for the S&W revolver's ejector rod to loosen and work forward, freezing the gun until you can get at it with tools. By contrast, most auto stoppages can be quickly cleared by a trained shooter.

Wheelgunners like to say autos jam all the time, especially if fed anything but hardball. Old-style autos like the GI .45 and the Browning Hi-Power often choke on hollow-points if not throated. However, modern guns such as the Colt Combat Government and the Star PD in .45, or the HK P7 and third-generation S&Ws in 9mm, will feed hollowpoints without custom gunsmithing. I say this as director of a shooting academy, Lethal Force Institute, where I see about 10,000 rounds fired in a typical week from all manner of revolvers and autos.

A standard anti-auto argument is that you won't remember to release the safety catch in time of stress. That might be true of people who are stupid, or never practice with their safety equipment, or fall apart under pressure—but I don't think people like that are equipped to be using judicious lethal force for self-defense in the first place. The fastest draw-fire-hit sequences on record have been recorded largely with cocked and locked Colt .45 autos. Those who worry about it can choose the squeeze-cocking P7, or a quality double action auto like the SIG-Sauer or the new-generation S&W's, carrying the latter with the safety off.

The compactness issue can go both ways. For hiding in nooks and crannies—ankle holster, pocket, belly band—a small frame revolver with snubbed barrel and round butt is indeed better. But for carrying behind the hip in the manner favored by most fighting men, the auto rides flatter and literally more comfortably than the thick-cylindrical revolver. In a combat-size handgun, you can stuff more power into a smaller package by going the auto route.

You can also take comfort in the fact that an increasing number of top professionals generally carry an auto to protect their own personal skins. Bill Jordan, the most outspoken advocate of the revolver, has allowed in print that he thought a 15-shot 9mm auto would make a fine backup. Skeeter Skelton, a wheelgunner to his bones, allowed his brain to win out over his heart and can give you very logical reasons as to why his personal carry gun is usually an auto. John Lawson and J.B. Wood, the world's two top gunsmith-writers and men you'd expect to pack the most reliable equipment, both carry square guns instead of round ones; John likes the LW Colt Commander .45, while Jay rotates between various top-quality double-action autos. When a full-time cop, Ray Chapman switched his whole department over to .45 autos, no small task back in the '50s. I've never seen John Farnam wear anything but a .45 auto, and Evan Marshall packs a pair of S&W 9mm's when he works the dangerous streets of Detroit. I expect Jeff Cooper would no more pack a revolver than wear polyester, and such authorities as Chuck Taylor, Ken Hackathorn, and Rick Miller are deep-dyed .45 auto believers.

Hell, this writer is one of the few who packs a revolver half the time and an auto the other half, and you see which side of this article I'm writing.

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time are many, but the fact is that I feel quite comfortable and safe with a reliable 4-inch .357. Compare revolvers to autos and you'll find a nearly equal list of attributes; each is better for certain persons and certain missions. I must admit that I personally feel *more* comfortable with a good Colt .45 auto than anything else, but your decision is yours to make, objectively and subjectively.

All I ask is that you consider your options logically. If you decide to go with the revolver, do so for the right reasons, not because you were stamped by myths about autos representing firepower you'll never need, or being too complicated for a trained person to shoot under stress, or likely to jam every second shot.

What a well-selected, well-maintained auto has going for it in trained hands is plenty of firepower *and* stopping power in a compact package, a gun that in some scenarios is distinctly safer for you than a revolver, a superior night-shooting instrument, and perhaps most important, it is the gun most people will hit better with under the enormous stress of the situation they acquired a defensive handgun to deal with.



Massad Ayoob is director of Lethal Force Institute, PO Box 122, Concord, NH 03301. Travelling the nation, he teaches about 1500 police officers and law-abiding citizens annually, using both revolvers and autoloading pistols.

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#HSR REVOLVER HOLSTER

By Timothy Johnson

Everyone including Santa has been notified, now what? As a Christmas present, the proverbial 'first gun' is a most perplexing decision for a pistol shooting parent. Out of sheer frustration over the myriad of .22 pistols, I almost settled on a rifle as a yuletide gift for my oldest son.

In order to avoid the 'Machine Gun Kelly' syndrome, target and semi-target automatics having high capacity magazines were rejected. Firing a single-action revolver like a matinee western hero is a good method for



getting to know your podiatrist on a first name basis. TV police stories show the young shooter constant examples of how to adapt the military 'field of fire' techniques to the double-action revolver.

Surely, none of the previously mentioned scenes are supposed to happen, however, it's best to remove the temptation from the outset. For when parental control becomes overbearing, the trip to the range becomes a chore resulting in the loss of a potential shooter. In today's political climate, this a loss we can ill afford.

Single shot pistols such as the XP-100, Merrill and T-C Contender are all too expensive.

Since we have just run out of options—buy the kid a rifle. Right? Wrong! Well, sort of wrong.

What to get junior for Christmas? How 'bout a Chipmunk silhouette pistol for that special "first gun?"

Chipmunk Manufacturing Inc., 114 East Jackson, Medford, Ore., a relative newcomer, is marketing a shortened, restocked version of their, for lack of a better word, 'cute' single shot rifle. The Chipmunk Silhouette Pistol is, like the rifle, a single shot bolt action .22 measuring 20½ inches long, from the back of the pistol grip to the muzzle. It has a sight radius of 14 inches from inside the rear sight to the inside face of the front sight. The Chipmunk is built to conform to IHMSA unlimited class specifications for

Buy Your Kiddo A Chipmunk



rimfire caliber pistols. Numerous articles have probably been written on how to turn the Chipmunk into a first rate competition gun. Triggers drilled and tapped for adjustment screws to control over-travel and take-up creep, a little judicious stone work, clipping a coil here and there, adding a better adjustable rear sight, or perhaps a King Tube Sight, adding weight to the stock to bring it closer to the four pound limit, are all fine modifications. Lack of these, however, in no way precludes the Chipmunk from performing admirably in the role of a training weapon.

'Out of the box,' the pistol has the single most important of all first gun requirements: absolute simplicity. Youngsters should have considerably less trouble operating the Chipmunk than reading the accompanying instruction manual.

Rotate the bolt handle up and pull back. Making sure there is no barrel obstruction, insert the cartridge. Push the bolt forward and downward. Pull back the cocking piece until a discernable 'click' is heard. Line the target up in the sights, squeeze the trigger and bang. What could possibly be simpler than that?

Disassembly for cleaning purposes is a snap. Simply: squeeze the trigger back to its

limit, rotate the bolt handle up and pull the bolt back and out of the receiver. Removal of the take-down screw allows you to separate the barrel/receiver/trigger assembly from the stock. Further disassembly is unwarranted. Unless of course, you enjoy chasing pinned screws.

The barrel is blue steel and both the trigger and bolt are left 'in the white' with the bolt exhibiting a fair degree of polish. The two piece stock is a rather nice piece of straight grained walnut that appears to be oil finished. Consistent accuracy should be enhanced by the fact that the barrel is free floated.

Most moving parts within the Chipmunk seem to perform at least two functions. The trigger, in addition to its normal duty, is also the bolt stop. The cocking piece serves as both the arming device and the safety. The firing pin also serves as the case kicker in the ejection system.

All in all everything is nicely engineered except the sights. Conventions of courtesy, with regards to the usage of four letter words, precludes the voicing of my true feelings concerning the rear sight. Suffice it to say, it's awful! Elevation is adjusted by loosening a retaining screw in the receiver and sliding the sight up or down as necessary. Windage corrections are similarly made by loosening a



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screw and sliding the aperture left or right. Neither windage nor elevation screws have 'click' adjustments, only hash marks machined into the sight and receiver as a basis of comparison.

Considering the price of a good set of sights, and the fact that the Chipmunk retails for less than \$175, the shortcoming is understandable. The Chipmunk Silhouette Pistol is, however, a gun the young shooter can never out-grow (unlike the tiny single shot rifle).

Once a certain proficiency level has been achieved, simply add a good set of sights. After mounting a 1.5x4.5 Simmons wide-angle variable scope, it was off to the range for test firing.

Eley Tenex at 9/16" gave the best groups and CCI mini-group at 1 1/8" gave the worst. The Chipmunk, strange for a .22, shoots better with a clean barrel. After 50 rounds accuracy started to dwindle. The pistol also has close chamber tolerances. Some wax coated Remington ammunition proved both difficult to chamber and extract. Due to both the heavy trigger pull (5 lbs.) and the gun's light weight, most shots were laterally displaced. A little gunsmithing to lighten the trigger should cut the group size in half yielding 1/2–3/8 in. at 25 yards. The chart shows the 'pure stock' accuracy, but it does not reflect the potential accuracy.

| Ammunition | Average Group Size (Center to Center) |
|--------------------------|--|
| Eley Tenex | 9/16" |
| Remington Target | 1 1/16" |
| Remington Thunder Bolt | 1 7/16" |
| CCI Mini-Group | 1 1/8" |
| CCI Stingers | 3/4" |
| Remington Yellow Jackets | 3/4" |

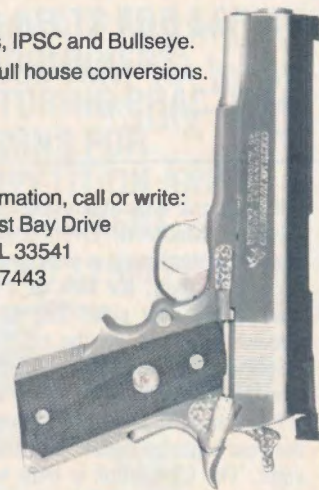
Accuracy tests notwithstanding, there is one additional test a 'first gun' must pass. I'm not exactly sure how this is done scientifically. But a quick glance at the photos of our evaluation team in action shows the Chipmunk passes the user satisfaction test with flying colors. My checkbook is happy with it as well, a truly remarkable achievement!



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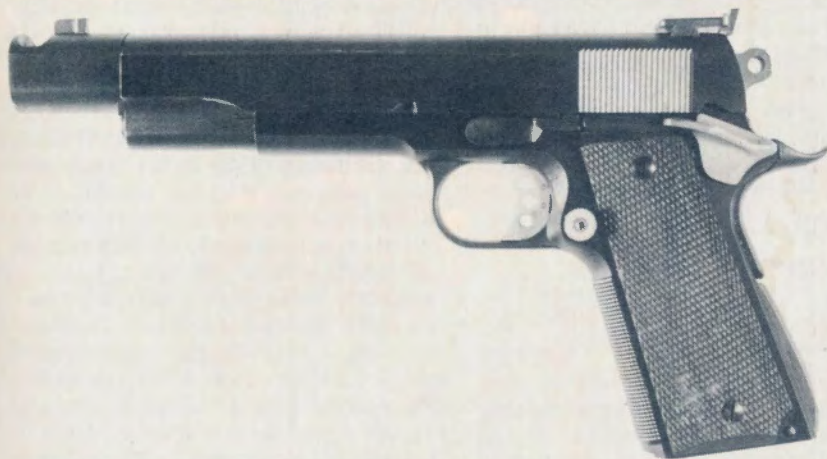
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DO-IT-YOURSELF



COMP GUN

By Charles E. Petty

When a writer and editor get together over a beer, ideas bounce around from one to the other. Such was the case when editor Cameron Hopkins and I shot the breeze at the SHOT Show in Atlanta recently. We were discussing the general topic of comp guns, and bemoaning the price of a good one. What, we wondered, could be done to give the average shooter a good gun at a modest price?

Could it be a do-it-yourself project? After all, the parts needed are offered for sale as components. Yes, we agreed, but all of them are sold with the caution, "installation by a competent gunsmith is required." And so ideas are born. Could a shooter with a little gunsmithing experience and readily available home tools build one? The philosophical discussion got serious and we concluded it was worth a try.

As luck would have it, Bill Wilson, nationally ranked shooter and merchandiser of parts and accessories, was present at the SHOT Show, and agreed to help with the project.

New among his offerings are frames and slides, manufactured to his specifications by Caspian Arms Ltd. The frame is sold with the magazine well already beveled, contoured to accept the popular beavertail grip safeties, and the ejection port on the slide is already lowered. I was immediately impressed with the frame. It is undoubtedly the nicest aftermarket frame I've seen. All finishing operations such as surface grinding, bead blasting and bluing are done in Wilson's shop and the finish is first rate. Gone

are the rough casting marks often seen on others, and the slide can be ordered with sights installed. In short, the operations beyond the reach of the home gunsmith are already done. But, since things are so nicely finished, it means that great care will have to be taken in assembly to avoid marring the finish. He catalogs a couple of barrel/comp combinations so we decided to go with the simplest of those, his *Accu-Comp LE-K* kit.

In a step by step procedure, here's what I did.

The first step is to fit the bushing to the slide. The objective is to have a fit that is snug, but not too tight. Ideally the bushing is more than finger tight, but not much. Chances are that the bushing won't begin to go into the slide as it comes, so the outer surface of the bushing must be polished until it does. A simple fixture can be made out of wooden dowel rod to hold the bushing during polishing and a narrow strip of emery cloth used in the fashion of a shoeshine rag is used to polish evenly around the entire circumference. Constant trial fitting is the rule here.

A trick that I find very helpful in this, and other fitting operations, is to use a red felt tip marker to coat the surface. After it is tried in the slide, the red marks will be rubbed off, and the high spots obvious.

After the bushing fits the slide properly, the barrel and bushing must be fitted together. If the bushing will go on the barrel, then a little polishing may be all that's needed, but if it is really tight some metal will have to be removed from the inside of the bushing. Bill Wilson reports that this is only a few



Checking fit of barrel bushing. Petty prefers solid bushing to breakage prone collet type.



For final fitting of barrel lugs, Petty uses emery cloth around file.

thousandths, but doing it by hand is slow. A simple tool made of a split dowel rod to hold some emery cloth so that it's a snug fit inside the bushing is easy to make. This might be turned with an electric drill to speed things up, but only if frequent stops are made for trials on the barrel.

The temptation to take the easy way and polish the barrel instead of the bushing must be avoided. Match barrels such as these are relieved a little just behind the bushing lockup area and polishing the barrel may eliminate that needed clearance. When a

accuracy job. If the bushing is too tight the gun may not function well, but if it's too loose accuracy will suffer.

Many of the remaining operations will require the use of files. It would be a common misconception to think that since the parts we're working on are small, the files should be small too. Actually a large file is easier to control than a small one, and I've found that the pillar files sold by Brownell's are best for this sort of job. The six and eight inch sizes are available in several cuts (medium and fine work best for most of these steps) but it is best

"Can this be done by the average shooter? Yes, as long as your definition of 'average' includes a substantial quantity of patience."

bushing is properly fitted, it should slide freely on the barrel when held parallel to the bore. In the locking action of the .45 the barrel is actually tipped when in battery. So, if the barrel slides freely when the parts are parallel, but gets slightly snug when the barrel is tipped up, the bushing is fitted correctly. This is one of the keys to a successful

to practice with them on a piece of scrap before using them on expensive parts. Most important of all is to make sure the file isn't tipped when cutting. Files used in gunsmithing should always have 'safe' edges so they won't cut anywhere they're not supposed to. The Brownell's files come that way, or it is a simple matter to grind one or both edges smooth.

The next step is to fit the headspace extension or hood on the barrel to the corresponding recess on the slide. Here it is really helpful to have an old, loose GI barrel bushing to use as a work bushing, for the barrel will have to go in and out many times before it's done. Making sure the barrel lugs are perfectly vertical try to see if the barrel will fit into the slide. Chances are it won't, and some metal will have to be taken off one or both sides. When the sides are fitted just enough to allow the barrel to go all the way back to the breech, stop for the time being and begin taking a little off the back of the headspace extension until the barrel begins to go into lockup. This normally won't be very much either, but it must be square with the slide. Just like everything else about building a gun, patience pays here. It is easy to take off too much metal and hard to put it back. At first it will take a few raps with a soft mallet to get the barrel to lock all the way up, and the red marker will help here as well. When finished, the barrel should go freely into and out of lockup, but there should be very little light showing when the slide is held up to a light. When the fit is correct, the corners should be slightly broken with the file.

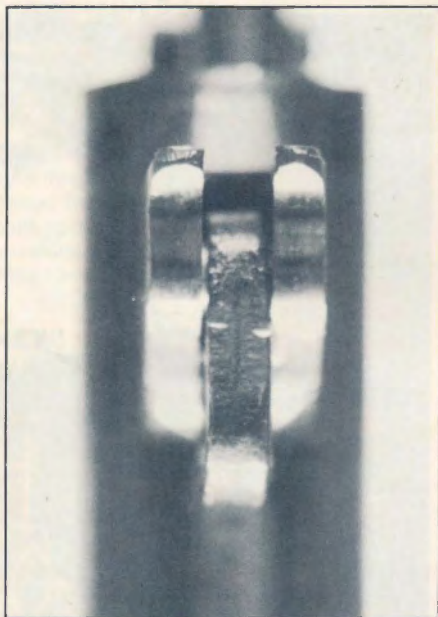
Now, with the barrel removed, try the fit of

slide and frame. It is a common misconception among shooters that the fit of slide to frame is critical. This just isn't so. If the slide is too tight functioning will suffer and a loose one will rattle, but the damage is more psychological than real. Slide fitting is best done with some special tools that aren't normally available to the home gunsmith, and is sometimes tough even for an experienced worker. Remember, we're not looking for 50 yard X-ring accuracy here.

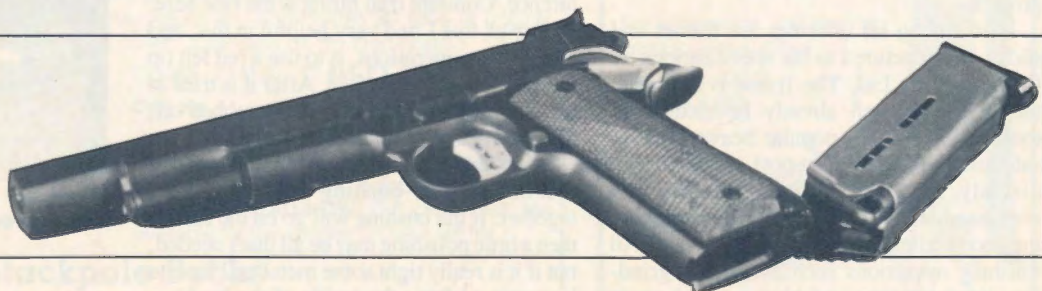
One of the pleasant surprises with Wilson's parts was the lack of slop between frame and slide. I didn't have to do any fitting there at all. Just make sure that nothing is rubbing. The area to watch is the ejector. Sometimes it will interfere with the slide, and may have to have a little metal taken off the outside surface or top. The slide should go freely all the way back, and fall off of its own weight. If there are any tight spots in the slide travel, they must be found and remedied. Lapping the slide is required only if the overall fit is too tight. If a bind is caused by one particular high spot, lapping may not be the answer since the compound will remove metal wherever it contacts and may result in an even worse fit. When in doubt don't use lapping compound; complete the job and run a box of rounds through the gun. This may be all that is needed to insure a good fit, but if lapping is required it should be done slowly and carefully with 400-800 grit compound. Wash all of it off with something like Gun Scrubber, lightly oil the rails and try the fit. Lapping may need to be repeated, but as long as there are no tight spots in the slide movement it will do fine. Remember too that a great deal of slide play will be taken out with a good barrel lockup.


The next step is to fit the barrel lugs. Install the barrel in the slide, and slip it on the frame. Insert the slide stop pin and try pushing the slide forward into battery. Wilson has intentionally set the dimensions of his barrels so that a minimum of metal will need to be removed, but there are still variations between slides and frames, so if it doesn't go into battery, tap gently on the back of the slide with a soft hammer. This will cause the slide stop to leave a mark on the barrel lugs where they are too high. If metal needs to be removed, an ordinary 3/16" chain saw file works just fine. Again this process is one where caution is the rule. It is vital to be sure that both lugs are cut evenly. When the gun begins to go into battery start using fine emery cloth wrapped around the chain saw

Continued on page 81



Properly fitted lugs are shiny and smooth through careful work.



A man in a blue polo shirt, blue jeans, a blue baseball cap with a logo, and sunglasses is in a shooting stance. He is holding a handgun and aiming it at a large, reddish-brown wooden target. The target has the word "tasco" written on it in white. He is standing on a wooden platform. In the background, two other men in red shirts and white caps with earmuffs are watching. The setting is outdoors on a gravel area with trees in the background.

The Cup is still the Cup
and still *the* premiere match
though now known
by a different name.

The Cup Runneth Over

By Camerou Hopkins

Photos by Nyle Leatham



Bill "The Flying Squirrel" Rogers has one of the slickest techniques for going prone fast. He wears knee pads and a

No longer can Rob Leatham's domination of combat shooting competition be termed trendy. You've seen him emerge through the ranks of IPSC shooters as 1983 National Champion, then World Champion, then National Champion in '84, and now you're witnessing him entrench himself as perhaps the greatest professional pistol shooter ever.

perspective, bear in mind that the best score shot previously, out of 1920, was a 1910, 'ten down.' Now, with more shooting, thus more chances for goofs, Rob shot better than any of the previous Bianchi Cup champions in terms of points lost.

Rob shot a Frank Glenn custom Smith and Wesson revolver in .38 Special with an Aimpoint sight out of Gordon Davis leather. Aimpoints adorned 70 of the 146 handguns in the tournament—so follow the bouncing red dot as we see how the match progressed.

NRA RUNS THE CUP

John Bianchi founded professional shooting in 1979 with the first Bianchi Cup match. Bianchi International, the makers of some of the finest handgun holsters in the world, hosted The Cup for six years until January, 1985, when the National Rifle Association took the reins.

This was not Bianchi Cup VII, it was—take a deep breath—the *National Rifle Association's Bianchi Cup National Action Shooting Pistol Championship*. What a mouthful—let's just call it The Cup.

With their extensive experience with bullseye at Camp Perry and elsewhere, the NRA staff conducted The Cup professionally, authoritatively and fairly. I mention this because there was some concern among the shooters—I know, I competed—that the NRA would muck it up. On the contrary, the NRA knows how to run matches as well as it knows how to thwart liberal, anti-gun politicians. They ran a smooth match and did not tolerate any hanky-panky as occurred last year with the power factor controversy and Leatham's notorious late shot. However, this is merely my opinion. All do not concur, and the opposing view can be evaluated in the accompanying sidebar.

GUNS OF THE CUP

Revolvers with electronic sights dominated. Four of the top five finishers shot wheelguns with space-age sights. The exception, runner-up Tommy Campbell, used an InterAim electronic sight on his custom

S&W .45 auto, Supergun II. Each of the four stages was won with a revolver/electronic sight.

Shooters favor wheelguns for The Cup because it's easier to control a smooth double-action trigger. As Mike Dalton says, "It's too easy to wank (jerk) a single-action trigger." Mike fired a .45 auto with an Aimpoint sight, but he added that next year he'll shoot a



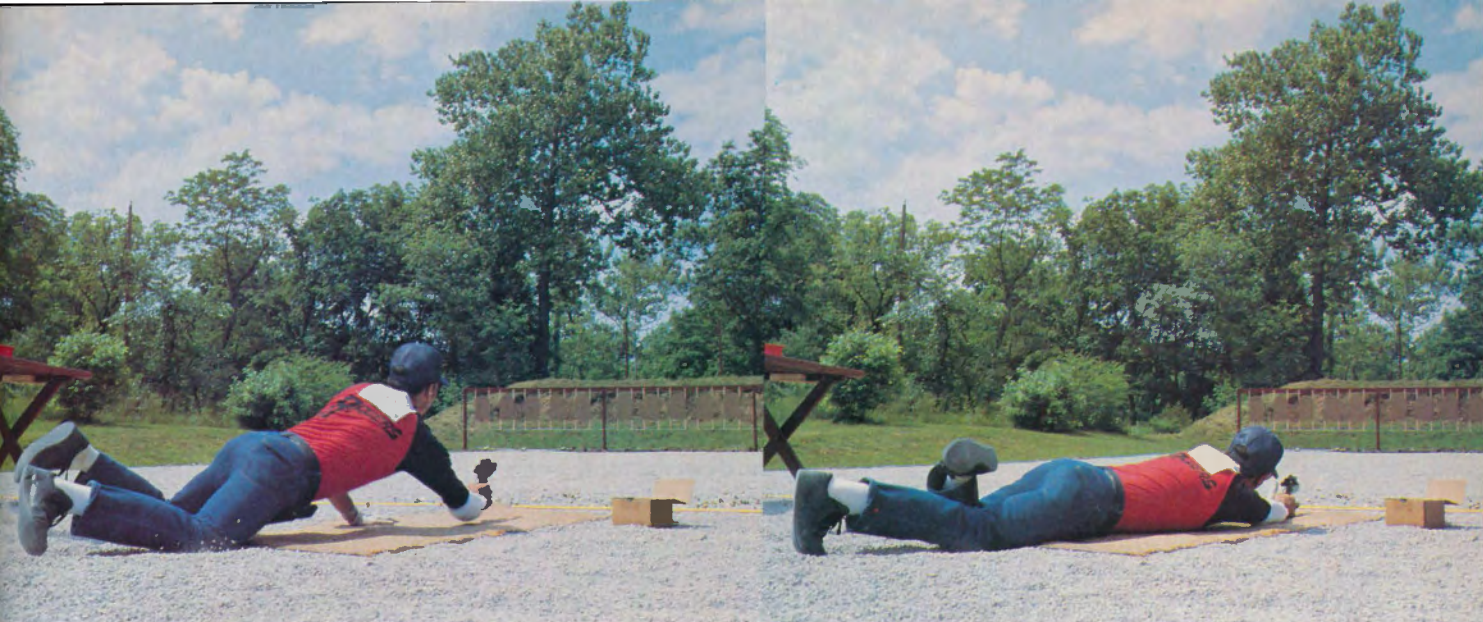
Rob Leatham (near) and Brian Enos used Accu-Comps in shoot-off.

His Bianchi Cup victory comes less than six weeks after he won the World Speed Shooting Championship proving he can not only 'hose,' but also can shoot accurately under intense pressure (if shooting for \$15,000 isn't pressure, I don't know what is). His 1985 winnings, so far, total over \$25,000.

Rob's winning performance at the 1985 Bianchi Cup is yet another chapter in the amazing Leatham Legacy. Out of a possible 2040 points, Rob lost only six points. This year, for the first time in The Cup's seven years, a new course of fire allowed the possible points to escalate to 2040 over the traditional 1920. To put Rob's 'six down' score in



Brian Enos tackles the barricades.



long elbow pad. He can go prone and fire five accurate shots in four seconds!

revolver.

Electronic sights with parallax-free aiming dots eliminate the need to align front and rear sights as is the case with iron sights. Thus shooters can focus their attention exclusively on trigger control and allow the bright red aiming dot to take care of sight alignment. The Aimpoint sight has proven itself in bullseye competition winning the



John Pride's 'Heavy Metal' weighs six pounds with Tasco scope.

National Championship. Aimpoints won the past three Cups.

Of the 146 competitors, 90 fired wheelguns, 89 of which were Smith and Wessons. *Handgunner* author Massad Ayoob fired the exception, his four-inch Colt Python duty gun. Electronic sights adorned 110 of 146 handguns.

NEW COURSE OF FIRE

The NRA designated one of the four traditional Bianchi Cup courses of fire as a "rotating" match which changes every year. The three permanent matches are: The Falling Plate Event, The Barricade Event and the Moving Target Event. Gone was the Practical Event and in its place was the International Rapid Fire. The IRF has 600 possible points as opposed to 480 in all other matches, thus the points possible grew to 2040.

For a complete description of each course of fire, see the *Courses of Fire* article on the Bianchi Cup elsewhere in this issue.

Before moving on, the IRF deserves special mention beyond what is in the *Courses of Fire* article because the IRF took on special significance partly because it was worth 600 points and partly because of its difficulty factor.

IRF: THE CRUX OF THE CUP

I chatted with some top shooters and they all agreed: why not just shoot the four second stage of the IRF and go home? The Cup hinged on this crucial portion of one crucial match. The Cup used to be decided on the Falling Plates, but no longer. The IRF fondly referred to by Jason Cole as the "International Ragged Fire," mandated firing four repetitions of five shots at five targets, one per target, in four seconds.

Five shots at five targets in four seconds is as much a roll of the dice, luck, as it is a test of shooting prowess. The distance was 25 yards, and to repeat this four times for 20 rounds and 200 points called Lady Luck to the firing line.

For example, in practice Combat Master Mike Dalton dropped anywhere from four to 20 points on the four second portion. Mike is no slouch, and he's a very consistent shooter. Such erratic scores are due only to one thing—luck. I queried other top shooters including Rob, his pal Brian Enos and Tommy Campbell. They all concurred that the match would be—and as it turned out, was—decided on the IRF four second portion.

HOW TO WIN THE CUP

First, have a clone of Rob Leatham made for you. No, seriously, the anatomy of Rob's performance hinges on two factors: shooting well on the IRF, and consistency.

Rob won the Barricade Event, sponsored by *Tasco*, with a perfect score of 480. He hit 38 'Xs' out of 48. Bill Rogers was second firing a Frank Glenn custom S&W .38 Special with an InterAim Mk V electronic sight.

The barricades in *Tasco's Barricade Event*

aren't barricades. They resemble diving boards. They spring back and forth with the gun's recoil and cause the sights to jump



Jo Anne Hall, second lady, shot with Aimpoint in Clark mount.

erratically. "Beef up the barricades," was the complaint of many shooters.

Rob's secret to winning *Tasco's* event? A rock-solid grip on the gun and not relying exclusively on the feeble barricades for support. He appeared to lean all his weight into the bouncing barricades to minimize their bobbling.

At *Aimpoint's Moving Target Event* Rob lost two points for 478-36X. John Schatzel, a cop from New York, won the Moving Target with a perfect score of 480. The secret to the Moving Target is dialing in the correct amount of 'lead' just like in wingshooting with a shotgun.

Rob's next match was *Action Arms/Action Ammo's International Rapid Fire*. Here he won The Cup by dropping four points for a 596-33X. Had Rob fumbled his draw just once, or lost sight of the red dot, he would have dropped more points and lost The Cup. How did he do it? Consistency, and a tad of luck. Tommy Campbell, shooting Supergun II, a modified Smith and Wesson .45 ACP

auto, was second with six points down.

Winchester's Falling Plate Event was anticlimactic for Rob. He entered the stage knowing that he could miss one plate and still win The Cup. In the previous six years of The Cup, the luxury of this margin for error on the plates has never occurred. Always before the plates determined the winner. Rob didn't need the cushion—he cleaned the plates, one of only 24 shooters to do so. Bill Rogers won the Falling Plate Event with a 480-155X, a new Cup record.

TOP LADY

Lee Cole of Arkansas was Top Lady placing higher than any female has ever ranked in the seven years of The Cup. She placed 35th overall shooting her beloved Wilson Accu-Comp in .38 Super with an Aimpoint.

Lee just won the Steel Challenge's Top Lady honor, and she has now won two Cups and two Challenges back-to-back. Such performance is unequaled. Lee received a standing ovation at the Awards Banquet when she was called to collect her trophy. Jo Anne Hall, second lady of The Cup, rose to applaud her main rival.



Jason Cole drills second plate.

BITS AND PIECES

Bill Rogers must have a good rapport with the Lord. On his first run at the plates for score (subsequent runs are for X-count only to determine National Records and stage winner) he missed the second plate at the 15 yard line. But it went down anyway! He hit the steel railing just under the plate at 5 o'clock, and the plate wobbled. Bill said he'd experienced this before in practice, and he

knew what to do—nail the next plate instantly. By hitting the next plate immediately, Bill said the vibration is sometimes enough to topple the wobbling, missed plate. It worked—his missed plate fell! He went on to hit 155 consecutive plates.

On the other hand, Combat Master Jim Zubiena hit a plate squarely at the 20 yard line with a 9mm, and it didn't fall. He protested (so would I!) but the NRA Referee disallowed the protest. "The plate must fall to score." Perhaps, but the plates should be constructed so that they fall if hit with a round that makes The Cup's ammunition power requirement. Even if this freak occurrence happens to only one shooter (it didn't; others had the same problem) it is justification for re-evaluating the construction of the plates.

Speaking of the plates, Brian "505" Enos missed a plate. His miss came at the 25 yard line where he shot standing while most others fired from the stable prone position. The ground was irregular and rough on the right banks of plates where Brian shot. The ground was relatively smooth in front of the left banks of plates, and I have no doubt that Brian would have gone prone if he could have.

I got a kick out of one "never say die" shooter who protested his score on the IRF. Each target should have had 12 holes, but this shooter had four targets with only 11 holes. "Perfect doubles!" he cried. Four rounds on four targets went into exactly the same holes! The NRA Referee politely "plugged" all the holes to make certain, and then awarded the shooter with four misses.

John Pride was back with "Heavy Metal," the six-pound wheelgun that Massad Ayoob calls, "The Gun That Ate Cincinnati." He used a Tasco scope and won \$1,000 for shooting the highest score with a Tasco product. John finished 16th overall.

John Sayle won "High Metallic Sight" by shooting his Bo-Mar sighted .45 ACP Nas-toff Supercomp into 59th place. Opting for iron sights over the various optical sights available is quite a handicap in The Cup, but John nevertheless bested a slew of Aim-points, Tascos and other optics.

A side-match open to rimfire handguns allowed the shooters a welcome chance to just have fun while shooting the pressure-intensive Cup. The rimfire event, sponsored by CCI, featured five one-third scale Bianchi targets made of steel which were shot at 10, 15, 20 and 25 yards. Six rounds were allowed for the five plates. The plates had to fall to score. Score was time—lowest time won the event, and a missed plate cost you a five second penalty. W.R. Bowker won CCI's event.

COLT SPEED EVENT

The top 20 shooters competed in a shoot-off for separate cash in *Colt's Speed Event*. The course of fire was five Pepper Poppers at 10 yards, the fifth one being the 'stop plate.' Shooters were allowed six rounds to knock down the five Poppers (hits were irrelevant if the plate didn't fall).

The pressure was intense. Imagine shooting in front of a gallery of spectators esti-

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Tom Campbell engages moving target.

END ZONE SEATS; 50 YARD LINE TICKETS

By Fred Romero

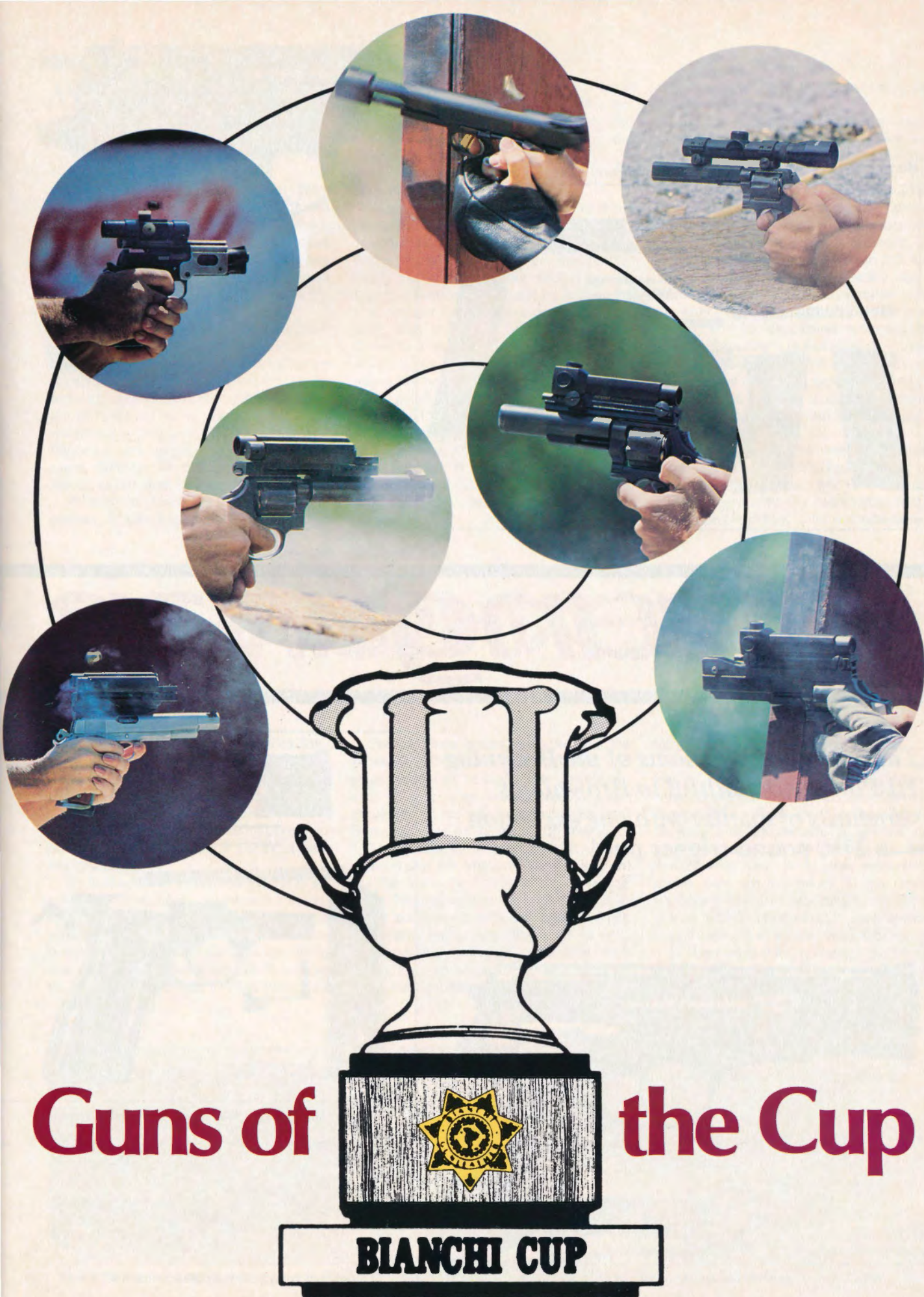
When you receive a "limited edition" invitation to shoot in a pistol match and pay \$275 for the privilege, you hope like hell that you are going to get your money's worth. Well, in spite of all the hype and fanfare—and Lord knows there is plenty of that—I personally don't think the Bianchi Cup (now officially known as the National Rifle Association's Bianchi Cup National Action Shooting Pistol Championship) has lived up to its expectations or promises. And if the feedback on this year's match means anything, it's safe to say that my view is shared by many of the other shooters.

For several years now, we have been hearing about how great The Cup is and what an honor it is to shoot in such a prestigious event. The finest shooters in the world (we are told) all come out of the woodwork for a chance at fame and fortune; so many, in fact, that entries have to be limited to only 200 hand-picked shooters each year. This year not everyone

Continued on page 95



Handgunner writers competed in The Cup: (L to R) F. Romero, M. Ayoob, C. Hopkins, M. Dalton.



Guns of the Cup

BLANCHI CUP



Hungarian FEG Model P9R field stripped.



Hungarian

The communist versions of the Browning Hi-Power are faithful to Browning's standards of quality with one exception —a 27½ pound trigger pull!



Hungarian FEG Model FP field stripped.

We usually don't think of Eastern Europe as a source of particularly interesting or innovative sidearms. Nevertheless some intriguing designs are beginning to appear, especially from Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

In the shadow of the Iron Curtain, Hungary maintains an industrial complex in Budapest known by its initials FÉG—which translates into *Arms and Gas Appliances Factory*. I don't know what appliances they produce, but one of the arms is an almost perfect facsimile of Fabrique Nationale's Hi-Power, the Browning Hi-Power.

That pistol should need little introduction. It was John M. Browning's last, and incorporated the best features of his 30-odd years experience in designing autoloading pistols, together with extensive research into combat use of handguns during World War I. First introduced by Belgium's FN Works in 1935, it became known variously as the Grand Puissance, GP/Mle 35, P-35, Browning High Power, or just plain Hi-Power.

Probably its most novel feature is a double column, 13 round magazine. While not the

did the French. Unquestionably, excluding most (but not all) of the Communist Bloc, this pistol is the most popular and widely distributed military/police handgun in the world.

FÉG's *Model FP* is identical to the Browning with a few modifications.

These changes, which are minor, relate primarily to cosmetics. A ventilated rib sits atop the slide—a bit superfluous, but some might like it. Sights are wide, low profile, highly visible, and without colored inserts. Lateral adjustments are made by drifting the rear member sideways in a dovetail. At the back, slide and frame are differently contoured to a slight degree, which combined with a shorter hammer spur reduces any likelihood the beast will bite your hand if you hold it a bit high.

The slide stop is shorter and lacks an extended flange at the front which is characteristic of other P-35's and the thumbpiece is more rounded. A lanyard loop styled after the U.S. Model 1911A1 is used in place of a ring mounted in the grip's lower, left rear corner.

rency and/or political objectives in any number of markets.

The piece we tested was an early example—serial number F00054M—which was kindly provided by Erwin Daigger (International Gun Company; P.O. Box 35551; Tucson, AZ. 85740), who stated it was unlikely he would be able to import more because of State Department and BATF regulations concerning trade with communist countries.

Its polish and blue weren't up to that usually seen on FN's, but was better than a Czechoslovakian CZ-75 we examined about the same time. The sights, as noted, were better, and its checkered walnut grips equaled Browning's. In fact I was never quite sure they hadn't originated in Liege. Everything worked fine and its general fit was what would be expected in a quality sidearm. There was one notable flaw however, and it was stupendous.

The trigger pull—by careful measurement—went $27\frac{1}{2}$ pounds! You'd squeeze . . . then pull . . . and finally grit your teeth and JERK! Regrettably this unfortunate condition tended to debase what was otherwise a

Hi-Powers

first to offer this option (Elbert Searle's Savage-made pocket pistols did that as early as 1908) the Hi-Power was the first full-sized military model to do so. Simple, straight forward, highly reliable. It's capable of delivering 14 shots fast, and is manufactured to outstanding standards of material and workmanship.

By 1980 some 64 nations adopted it as an official sidearm. Many others used it extensively if less formally. Of the major Western powers only the United States, West Germany, France, and Italy opted for something else, and the U.S. at least used Hi-Powers in certain special situations. For that matter, so

Exclude these points and you have the venerable Hi-Power. Most lockwork and grips will, or can, be modified to interchange with FN's or other licensed copies. Hungarian magazines will work in conventional Browning's, *but not the other way around*.

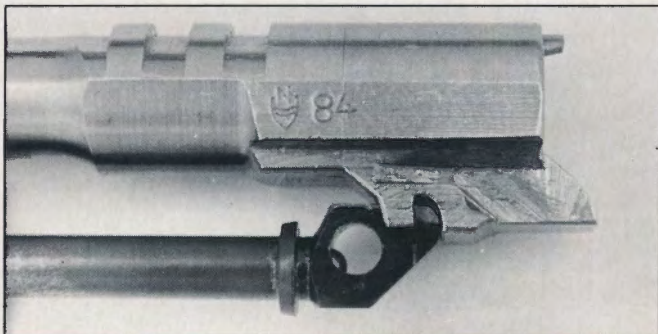
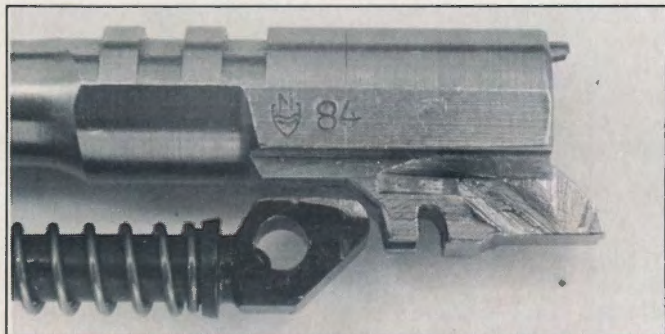
The capability to produce a Hi-Power clone within the Marxist Sphere might—to say the least—be handy to the Soviets if Cuba, Nicaragua, or some other leftist state found itself cut off from the original. While it's unlikely any arm twisting would be used to terminate the Belgium connection, such pressure would be useless. Meantime Hungary's trade commissars can pursue hard cur-

very decent weapon.

One substantial reason is hammer spring tension. That part feels like it might have come out of a half ton pick-up's suspension. In Europe service pistols are expected to handle the same ammunition used in sub-machine guns. Because most of the latter are open bolt designs with fixed firing pins, extra stout primer cups are mandatory. In any event, someone who wasn't expecting to use European or NATO military fodder could have the trigger adjusted to a more reasonable level.

It functioned like a champ. Some 60 rounds of Canadian NATO 9mm x 19 Para-

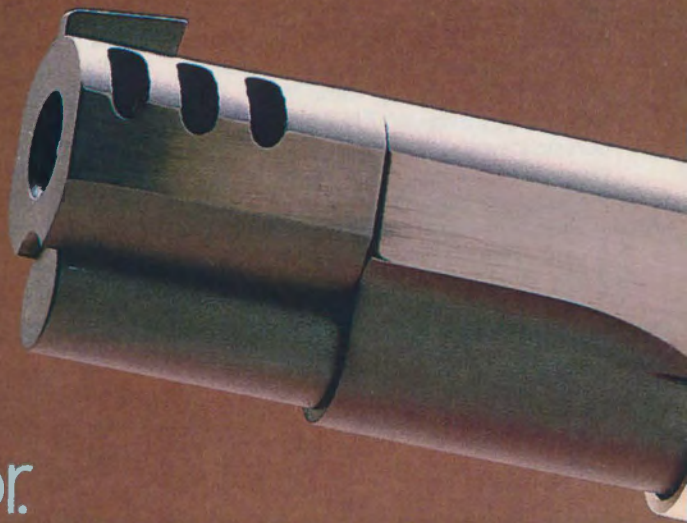
Continued on page 87



FEG P9R barrel and recoil spring guide with shelf lifts and lowers barrel thereby locking/unlocking from slide.

Win This **LES BAER CUSTOM COLT .45 ACP!**

This full-house conversion of a Colt Series 70 features Baer's superb compensator.



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Nov/Dec '84: W.R. Cate; Custom Aimpoint Hunter
Jan/Feb '85: NO CONTEST
Mar/Apr '85: M.A. Shoup; Custom TZ 75

Les Baer is one of the hottest young pistolsmiths in America, and after paying his dues for a decade he is now receiving the national recognition he so richly deserves. Les has made his mark with many varieties of custom pistols for silhouette, Bianchi Cup and PPC, but his outstanding contribution to the art of pistolsmithing comes with his Baer Custom Comp II shown here.

Beginning with a Colt Series 70, Les fitted a Kart five-inch National Match barrel. The Comp II compensator, the result of intensive research, is milled from a solid piece of 4140 steel. It is a cone-shaped sleeve silver brazed to the barrel with six ports and baffles milled into it to redirect gases up and out.

The Comp II system reduces muzzle flip and felt recoil dramatically.

Not only does the Comp II aid in speed shooting, but it also contributes to superb match accuracy thanks to the Kart barrel. Les guarantees 2½-inch groups at 50 yards.

The slide to frame fit is tightened. The trigger is honed by skilled hands for a smooth, travel-free release. The trigger is an aluminum videki replacement. Pachmayr grips adorn the Baer Custom pistol.

Les lowered and flared the ejection port for reliable ejection. He polished the feed ramp and throated the barrel as well as beveling the mag well and installing an extended mag release button. The extractor has been modified with a deep hook and a Commander-style hammer replaces the original. An M-S beavertail grip safety insures against painful hammer bite.

Bo-Mar adjustable combat sights are melted into the slide. The completed pistol features a gorgeous brushed nickel frame and deeply blued slide. Les charges \$985 for the custom work on your pistol as shown.

For more information about Les' work, write to Baer Custom Guns, Dept AH, 1725 Minesite Rd., Allentown, PA 18103, or call (215) 3982362.

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

Name _____

Address _____

City & State _____

HOM-NOV/DEC 1985 _____

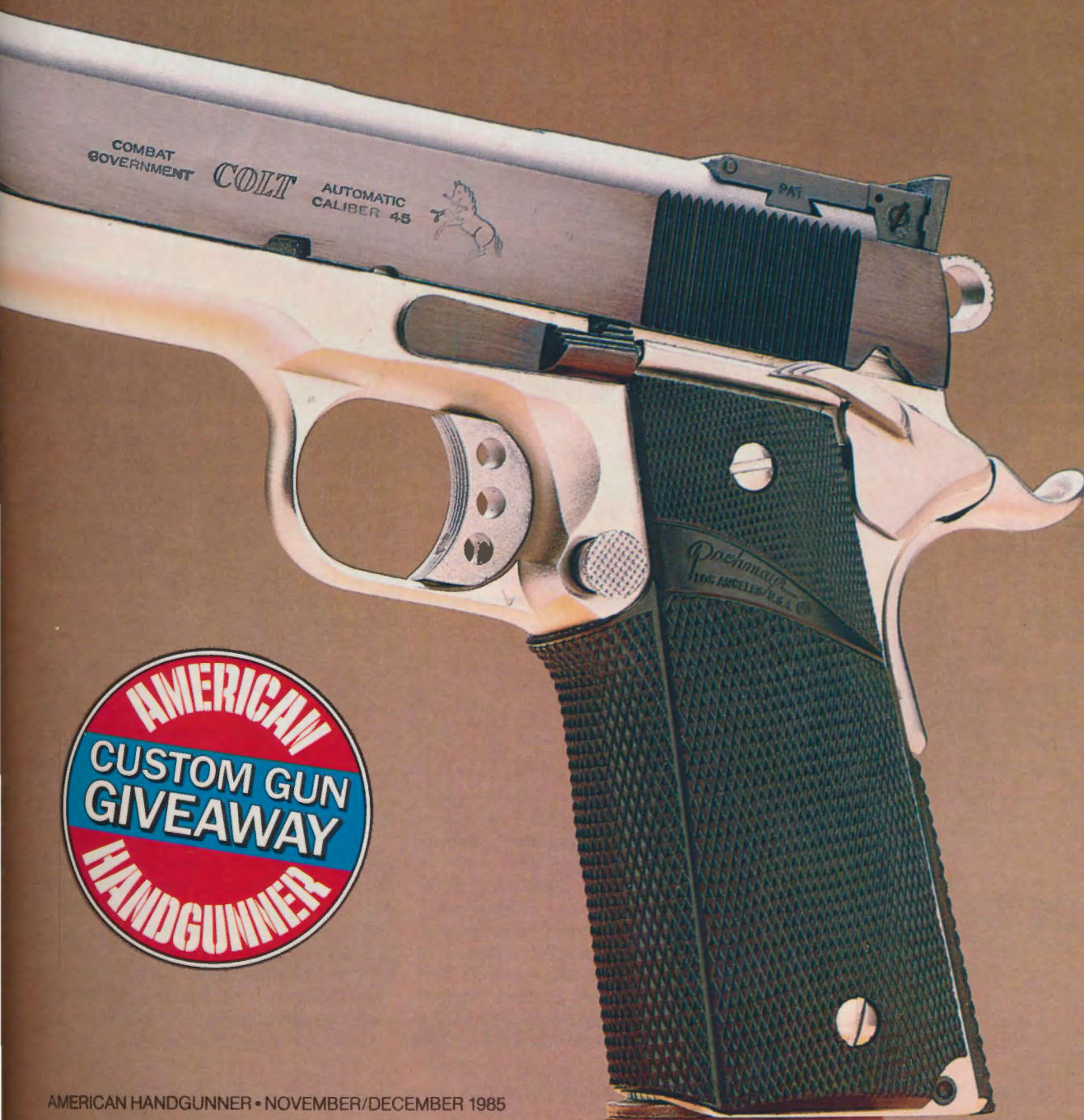
If I win, please ship my gun through the following dealer:

Dealer _____

Address _____

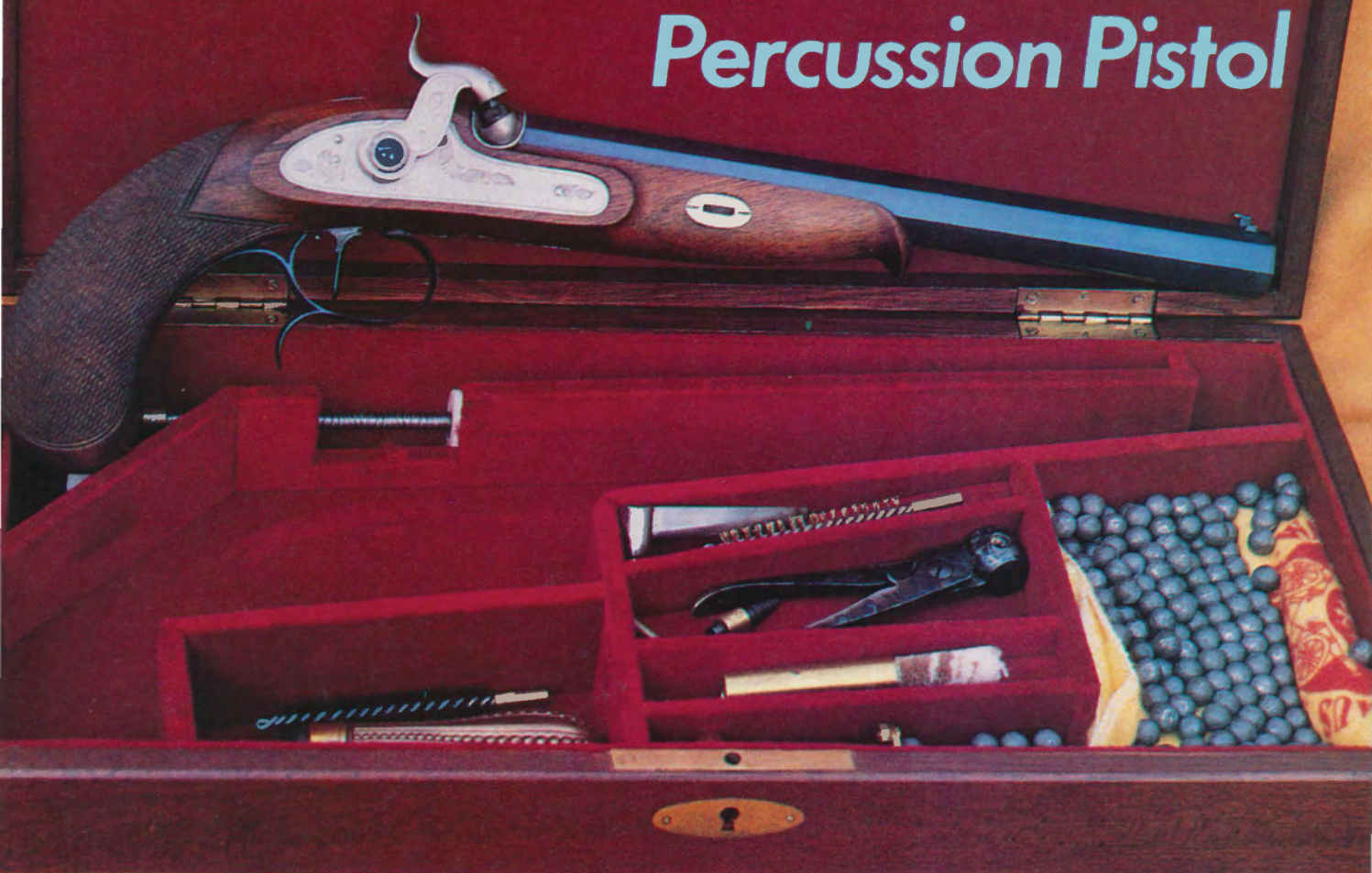
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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.



HEGE-SIBER

Percussion Pistol



By Mike Nesbitt

Black powder pistol replicas speak loudly of a bygone era. The revolvers portray the times and events which center around the Civil War. Single shot pieces such as the Kentucky pistols recapture everything from life on the early frontier to swashbuckling buccaneers to gentlemanly duels of honor.

The subject of this review, a target pistol,

Take a modern German gun maker, add a Swiss designed target pistol from 1812, and you get an exquisite reproduction of the famed Siber target pistol.

shows us the best about the precision of yesteryear's time and it speaks with a definite percussion accent.

Precision has different sides, and it can be seen in different ways. With handguns, precision is highly appreciated in the design and assembly of the piece. Performance is another area where precision is desired. The Hege-Siber target pistol captures both of these aspects of precision and the clearest way to look at it is to understand the history of this gun's design.

Jean Frederick Siber was born in 1812 in Switzerland. He became a master gun maker and engraver. His original shop is still being used under the name of Forret, the son-in-law of Jean Siber's son. Jean Siber learned his trade in the micro-dimensional world of the watch making trade and he incorporated these talents very well. His guns were of watch maker's quality, especially the mechanisms required for locks and triggers.

Competitive target pistol shooting was very popular in 19th Century Europe, as it still is today. Like the target pistols of today, the percussion pistols of yesteryear had to fit some fairly rigid parameters to be competitive. Desirable features included: small bore, high precision barrel, low recoil, and fast ignition.

Small calibers would naturally use small powder charges and Siber believed the best place to ignite these powder charges was right in the middle of the powder chamber. The spark from the cap would ignite the small powder charge in the middle allowing the powder to burn both forward and backward. This created two burning areas in the powder charge and ignition time was reduced.

Lock and trigger mechanisms which

Continued on page 90

Beretta 92 F. The Ultimate 9mm Sidearm is now the Official Sidearm of the U.S. Military.

When the U.S. Government went looking for a new standard issue sidearm, it tested the best pistols in the world. But the Beretta 92 F 9mm Parabellum thoroughly out-classed the competition in every government performance trial.

In accuracy. Safety. Reliability. Firepower. In grip, feel, lightness and pointability. The Military was convinced. Now America's fighting men will carry the finest 9mm sidearm in the world.

Consistently superior quality and service have also convinced

law enforcement agencies like the Connecticut and Wyoming State Police and the Texas Rangers to switch to Beretta. You'll be convinced, too. Look at its outstanding features.

Check out the 92 F and the 92 SB Compact along with the complete line of quality Beretta firearms for law enforcement.

For complete information, contact Beretta U.S.A., Law Enforcement Division, 17601 Indian Head Highway, Accokeek, Maryland, 20607; (301) 283-2191.



Open Slide

Design. Cut-away slide reduces weight and eliminates jamming and stovepiping. Also allows reloading from the breach, one bullet at a time.

Ambidextrous

Safety. Easy access for all shooters. Spring loaded so it's either positively on or off.

Disassembling

Latch. Allows swift field stripping, but makes accidental disassembly impossible.

Sure, Firm Grip.

Grooved grip and squared-off, serrated combat style trigger guard insure a consistently firm hold. Flared grip frame enhances pointability and control.

15 Round Staggered

Magazine. Nearly doubles conventional capacity without added length. Easy field stripping and cleaning without tools.



Double Action.

Cocking and firing achieved with one trigger pull.

No Glare Finish. Non-reflective matte finish on all metal parts.

"Quick Read"

Sighting. Front and rear sights allow swift location and sighting of the target. With fluorescent dot and post for poor light.

Unique Ultra Safety

Design. The slide safety rotates the striker away from the hammer face so a falling hammer can never "break safety" and cause accidental discharge.

Blocking Device.

Prevents firing pin from moving forward until the trigger is actuated.

Exposed Hammer Spur. For single action operation.

Reversible Magazine Release Button.

Designed for right or left-handed shooters. Allows quick, convenient magazine exchange.

Chamber Loaded Indicator. User can tell when a round is chambered by sight or touch.



Beretta U.S.A.

By Fred Romero

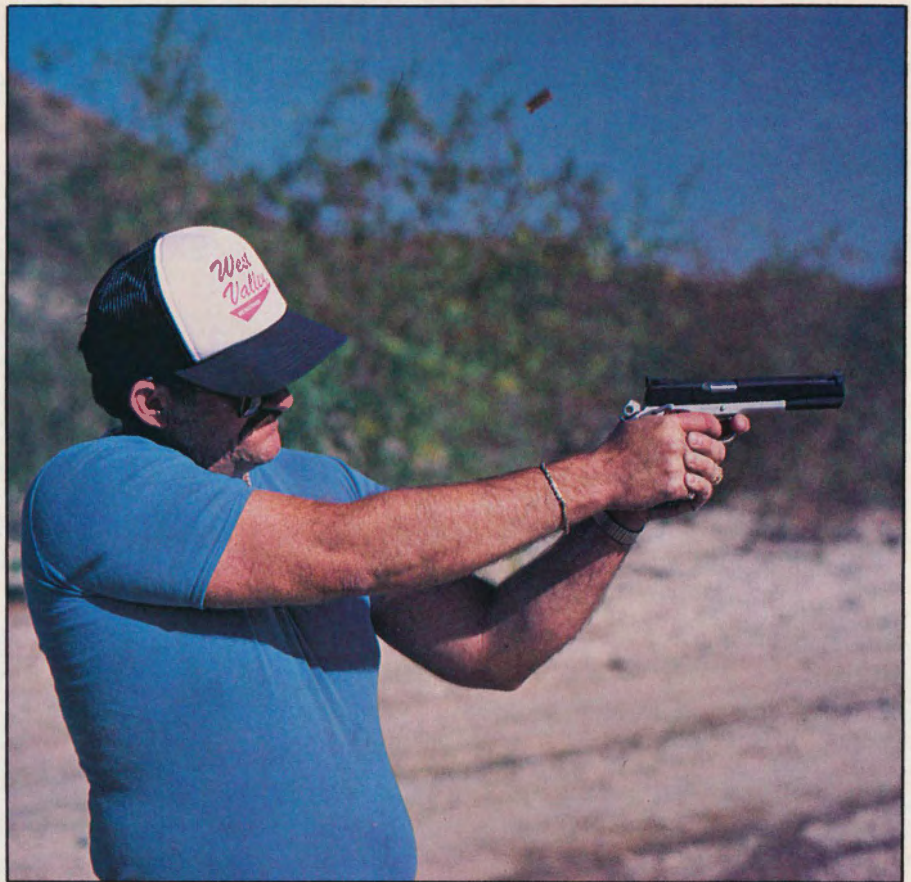
The .38 Super is gaining popularity in IPSC. Here's an introduction to the newest trend, and a comparison to the old standby, the .45 ACP.

If you follow the action in combat shooting, it should come as no surprise that the gun of choice for this unique sport is the Colt .45 auto. More matches have been won and more records set with the .45 auto than any other gun around.

The .45 ACP cartridge—in conjunction with a well made gun—is popular in combat shooting circles because it offers the best options in power factor, speed and firepower. That was until someone decided to dredge up the old .38 Super and look at it from a different point of view.

For several reasons, the .38 Super was never seriously considered as a match-grade gun. A full-house .38 Super is hard to shoot and hard to hold. In spite of its relatively small size, compared to the .45 ACP, the .38 Super packs one heck of a punch, and that translates to unwanted recoil.

But things have a way of changing and



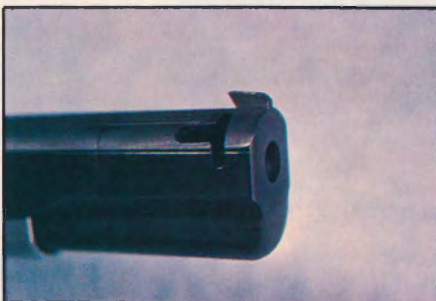
LAPD Detective Jerry Fritz test fired a Watson custom in .45 ACP.

DAWN OF THE .38 SUPER

getting better, and the days of using a stock out-of-the-box gun for match shooting are long gone. The technology involved in gunsmithing today can literally make a Porsche out of a VW, and it was only a matter of time before some shooters decided to look at the .38 Super with intent.

For whatever reason, someone equipped a .38 Super with all the goodies normally found in an expensive high-performance .45 auto. With the addition of a beefed up recoil system, a slicked-up trigger job and a muzzle compensator (to name a few), the Super started turning heads at a few matches. The thing that seemed to impress people was the low recoil and fast cyclic rate. In the hands of a skilled marksman, this gun was capable of some impressive shooting.

Continued on page 86



Watson's "T" shaped ports in comp.



Both of Watson's custom pistols exhibit exquisite workmanship.

Dependable Company!



PONY .380
SEMI-AUTOMATIC

TRAILSMAN .22LR
SEMI-AUTOMATIC

Iver Johnson high quality American craftsmanship since 1871 presents a company of classic pistols that perform as sharp as they look.

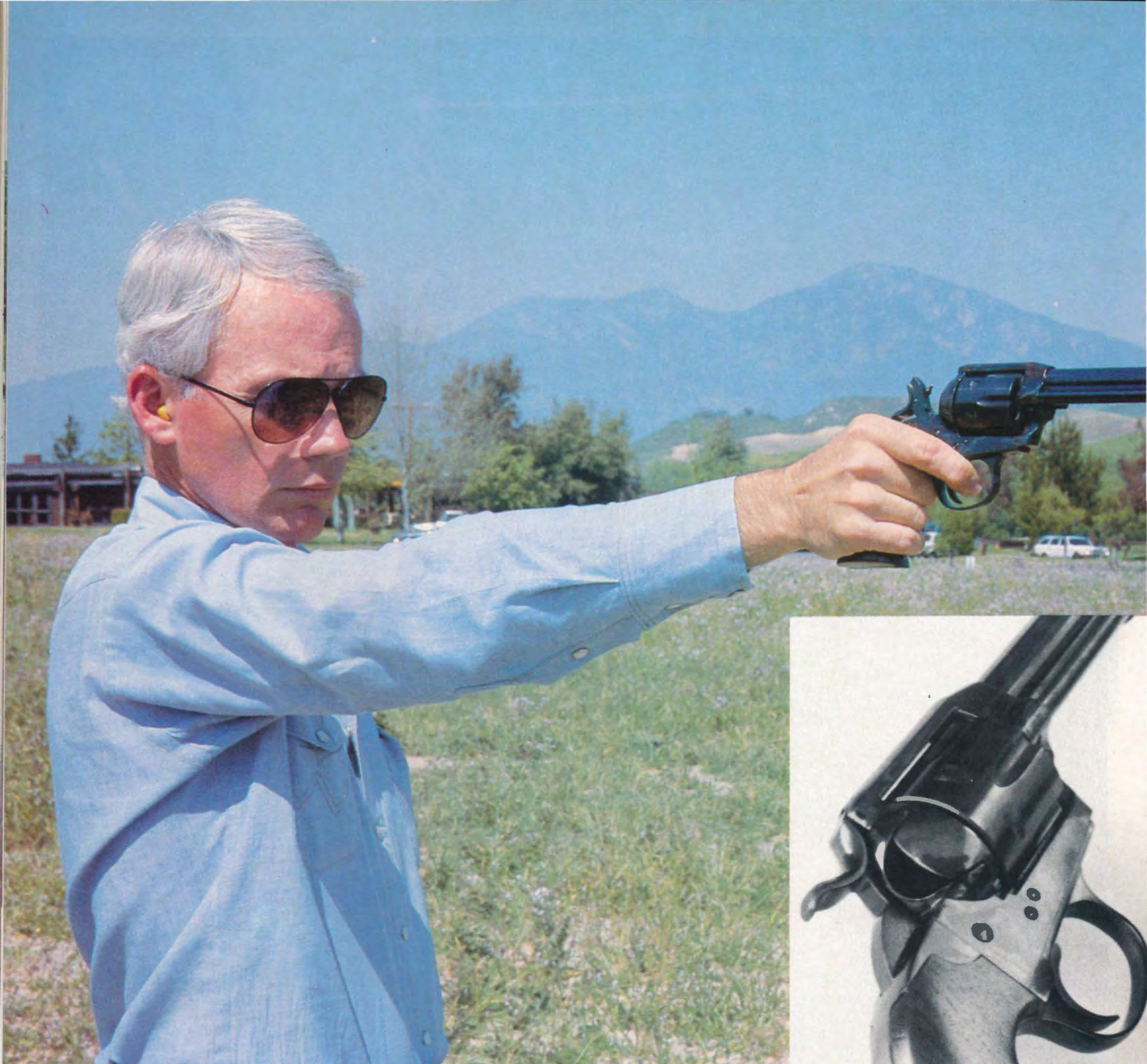
The aggressive bold new looks of Iver Johnson feature high quality, precision and economy to accurately target your own needs.

For the shooter, we offer a wise choice of dependability and affordability. We may be the *new* Iver Johnson but we're living up to that *old* Iver Johnson tradition . . . craftsmanship.

That's a dependable company!

Made in U.S.A.





By Dave Arnold

The Early and Modern Firearms Company of Santa Ana in Southern California boasts an extremely large selection of Single Action Army replicas. Better known as EMF, this company has been importing well-made copies of Colt's six shooter manufactured by Armi Jager of Italy and marketed in this country under the name of Dakota. These revolvers are offered in all the calibers and barrel lengths of the originals and are, generally speaking, faithful reproductions of Colt's famous Peacemaker.

EMF's latest model is a replica of the Bisley Model, the target version of the Single Action Army with the long, rounded stocks and the smaller hammer with the lowered spur. At the moment, these guns can be had in .357 Magnum/.38 Special, and .45 Colt with either a 7½ or 5½ inch barrel. In addition to the standard model with the rounded top

frame and fixed sights, there is also a target version. The latter has the same type frame with a fully adjustable rear sight.

I had the opportunity to evaluate both versions in March, 1985. Both guns were chambered for .357 Magnum, the standard model having a 7½ inch barrel while the target version was two inches shorter. The former gun is a faithful reproduction of the original model in every respect except for the base pin which incorporates the hammer block safety that is unique to all Dakotas. This is applied by rotating the base pin 180 degrees to place a protrusion in its rear in front of the hammer, preventing the firing pin from coming in contact with the cartridge primer. Because it is applied and released by rotating the base pin, it can only really be used when the gun is being loaded and unloaded.

Apart from this feature the Dakota Bisley

is exactly the same as the Colt. It has the same color-case-hardened frame with a blued finish applied to the rest of the gun. It has two piece wooden stocks that have been hand rubbed to a polished finish and the same hammer with the lowered spur and long rounded grips.

I took out my Colt Bisley for comparison and found the Dakota to be dimensionally the same proportions except for a very slight different contour of the grips. This difference was very slight and hardly noticeable unless both guns were viewed side by side.

The Dakota Target Bisley is exactly the same except for its sights. The front is of the ramp type while the rear is fully adjustable for windage and elevation. This differs from the Colt Target Bisley Model, which had the rear sight that was adjustable for windage only, set in a dovetail in a flat top frame.

The Bisley Bounces Back

Reproductions from EMF hail the return of the Colt Bisley.



The general overall fit and finish of both test guns were good. The wooden stocks, backstrap and trigger guard all mated perfectly with one another while polish and bluing was of a high standard with no evidence of buffing marks. The colors of the case hardening was not far off that of the originals.

The actions of both guns were initially a little stiff and gritty especially when cocking back the hammer. However, this improved considerably after I had put about 50 rounds through each gun. The trigger pulls of both guns were good, being reasonably light although there was evidence of some creep.

Shooting the Bisleys was quite a novel experience compared with the standard SAAs and it took me some time to get used to the different grip and hammer. Bearing in mind that in the days when the original Bisleys were made, shooting was invariably

done with only one hand, I did some of the testing in this manner to compare its performance with the standard models.

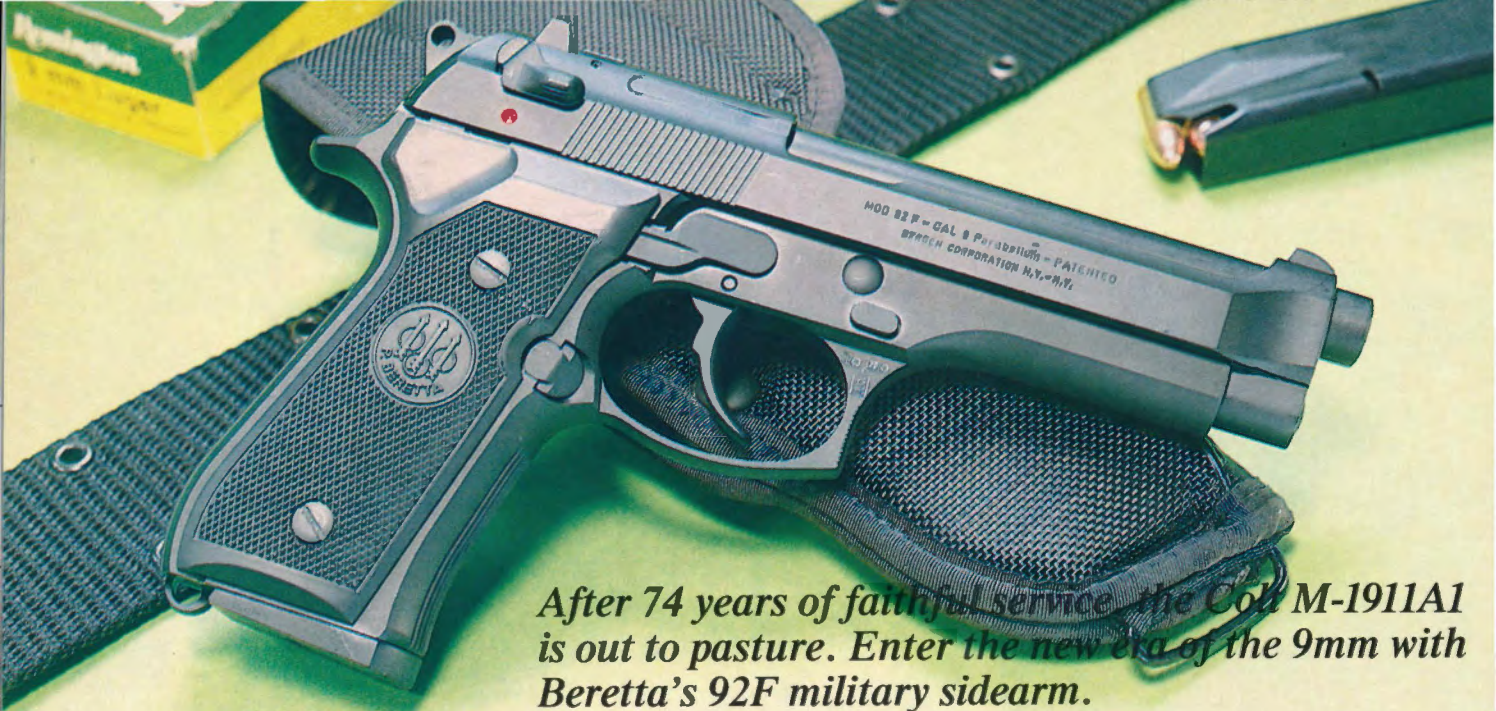
The regular single action Peacemaker design was designed especially for single handed thumb cocking. The shape of its grips is such that the recoil generated from firing causes the gun to roll up in the hand placing the thumb over the spur of the hammer to facilitate cocking it for the next shot. The shape of the Bisley provides a completely different grip and, in recoil, it does not roll in the hand in the same manner, but provides a much firmer hold. However, I found that cocking the hammer for each shot caused my grip to change in such a manner that I could no longer comfortably engage the trigger with my index finger. Consequently, I often had to alter my grip on the gun during fast

Continued on page 98

A Look Back at Colt's Bisley

Colt's Bisley Model was a target adaptation of their famous Single Action Army revolver. The prime motivation for introducing the Bisley was the growing popularity of the sport of target revolver shooting especially in England in the 1880s where keen competitions were staged in the little town of Bisley. So popular were these matches that the major firearms companies were soon offering target versions of their service revolvers. Colt's first target handgun was a single-action with a hand-honed action and target sights mounted on a flat top frame. Only just under 1,000 of this model, com-

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After 74 years of faithful service, the Colt M-1911A1 is out to pasture. Enter the new era of the 9mm with Beretta's 92F military sidearm.

THE ARMY'S NEW

By Stanley W. Trzoniec



PHOTOS BY STANLEY W. TRZONIEC

After all the testing, retesting and deep controversy concerning a new sidearm for our servicemen, the decision has finally been made in favor of the Beretta 92F 9mm semi-automatic pistol.

Shaken down, the idea of a 9mm to be used in combat is slowly settling in. For while it does not have the inherent stopping power of the big .45 ACP, nevertheless, its high capacity combined with quick recovery has proven itself in counter operations. This, plus the advantage of aligning our sidearm ammunition with NATO, was obviously a deciding factor with our small arms advisors.

While all this seems to put both gun and cartridge on the plus side of the ledger, opponents have made remarks about a service pistol manufactured outside this country. This comes in part, I suppose, from the solid entrenchment of the Colt pistol, but in reality, the Beretta will be made here in the 'good ole US of A' as soon as time and proper tooling allow.

We find, if only to belabor the point, that Browning's famous P-35 is the service pistol

NINE

for some 65 nations around the world including such exotic places as Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Togo. Yet it is made in only one country (and an outside one at that), Belgium.

Be that as it may, the United States does have a new sidearm which I think is a grand event in itself, since the last time this came about was in 1911.

Starting at square one, the forerunner of this generation of pistols began (in any major quantity) in 1957. Called the 'Brigadier' or Model 951, this early version shows Beretta already had its eye on military service units as this semi-automatic 9mm soon became the service pistol of Italy, Egypt and Israel. Design-wise, we can dig even deeper going back to their Model 1934 which even then had the familiar open slide and locked type of operating mechanism.

Recently, we've seen the advent of the Model 92 and it is, for all intents and purposes, an upgraded Model 951 with a double-action trigger, large capacity magazine, and magazine release located at the base of the grip frame. The 92SB came along adding some additional refinements like moving the mag release to just behind the trigger guard. This brings us up to the present military model now known as the Beretta 92F.

Visually the gun is very attractive both in appearance and physical design. From its squared off trigger guard to its redesigned grip frame, this Beretta looks poised for action. Unloaded, she checks in at 32 ounces. With a full complement of 123 grain Federal ammunition, weight is increased to 39 ounces with the balance point now in the hand

Reflections on the New Order

By Jeff Cooper

There is probably no one who can read who does not know that the people who took away our 30-caliber rifles and gave us a 22 have now decided to take away our 45-caliber pistols and give us a 36 (9mm Parabellum). The wails which have greeted this quaint decision come from people who know about shooting, but who are still innocent enough to believe that shooting—specifically the shooting of smallarms—is an item of importance to those who are responsible for modern war planning. The obvious fact is that the war planners, the procurement officers, and the weapons designers *are not fighters*. The whole concept of fighting has become so foreign to the thinking of the defense departments of the world that it is unfashionable even to bring it up in conference. The warriors in our military establishment have for the most part been 'invited out,' and they have been replaced by management engineers.

We should perhaps not list the embarrassing examples of personal combat failure which we see regularly in the public press, but the fact remains that fighting is today almost the last thing a soldier is expected to do. That being the case, it is clearly unsound to worry about the quality of the instruments he is supposed to fight with. Much as this pains the 'old guard,' it is a fact of life and should be recognized as such.

So here we have the Beretta 92F service pistol, selected by the Pentagon as the American soldier's friend for the new era. We have been shooting it here at the Gunsite school for about a week and can present a fairly generalized view of its characteristics.

First the good news: Our test piece (serial number C 27870 Z) was very nicely fitted and finished. Its function was completely reliable and it came in a nifty little carrying case. Naturally reliability cannot be tested with one gun and a few thousand rounds, but as far as we are concerned the 92 is completely reliable. (Curiously enough the case has its label affixed upside down. There may be something significant here but I am not sure what it is.)



That is the end of the good news.

Our overall impression of the weapon is that it is excessively large, blocky and 'busy' for best use. A pistol taking this small cartridge could be made about two-thirds as big as the 92 without loss of efficiency. There are far too many switches, buttons, levers, pins and exposed moving parts on the outside of the weapon. Every one of these can break or hang up under hard use and—in accordance with Murphy's Law—probably will.

The common opinion is that the 92 is 'uncomfortable.' Lest it be advanced that our hands are accustomed to the 1911, few of us feel that the 1911 is the most comfortable pistol we know—that vote going to the P-35 Browning, the Czech 75, or the Bren X.

The sights are not bad but could be a good deal better. A two-vertical-dot system is used

rather than at the muzzle.

With a priority toward ergonomics, Beretta engineers modified the lower grip frame with a slightly forward radius thus increasing the purchase of the hand during sustained firing. Combining this with an arched backstrap enables this nine to fit very comfortably in the shooter's hand even though it hides a staggered 15 round magazine within. Vertical grooves cut into both front and rear surfaces give additional holding power.

The trigger guard is hooked and checkered on the front surface for off-hand support allowing the user to address the target with a Weaver stance. Comparing it with the civilian 92SB, I find interior dimensions a bit larger; obviously made for bulky gloves, those which have military type liners.

Directly behind the trigger guard on the left side is the magazine release. Moved from the heel of the butt—as on the Model 92—to its present location, a few moments time on the part of your gunsmith or armorer can convert it for southpaw shooters. Like other

automatics on the market, a slight shift of the gun (in this case to about 45 degrees) is necessary to comfortably lay one's thumb on the button to drop the mag. The grip panels are plastic and relieved for both the ambidextrous safety lever and magazine release. Beretta has wisely installed screw heads with slots wide enough to accommodate American screw drivers. Before this it was a real chore to remove grip panels for inner maintenance due to European (or metric) grip screws.

The 92F's magazine well is not beveled and since I doubt the average field soldier will be performing classy IPSC reloading maneuvers, I find this is of little importance although I am not discounting the fact that it could have been included on the weapon for easier operational efficiency. The magazine is tapered on top and slips very easily in and out of the well especially when the action is open, ready for a reload. When the magazine is empty it drops out with some enthusiasm thanks to the inclusion of a modified butt pad at the base. The pad also protects the maga-

zine somewhat as it comes in contact with the ground and makes full seating easier.

Under 'essential characteristics,' the military establishment requests that the new pistol "be operable by right and left hand shooters." To this Beretta answers with an ambidextrous safety and decocking lever. Spring loaded by design, there is no middle ground for false indications. It is either off or on; down or up respectively.

Three safeties are incorporated into the Beretta. Number one is the automatic firing pin block safety so common on today's field automatics. But with a twist. When you pick up this pistol you will notice a small rectangular block at the rear of the slide, just in front of the rear sight blade. This is your passive safety in that it holds the firing pin at bay until the trigger is at its most rearward position. At this point the block raises allowing full travel between firing pin and cartridge. Any malfunction can be seen immediately if the block remains in a top rest position indicating full contact at all times.

The second safety is in the decocking lever



Take down lever frees slide.



Note rear sight white dot.



Closeup of how staggered magazine feeds.

BERETTA RESPONDS TO COMPLAINT

During his test and evaluation of the Beretta 92SBF, Jeff Cooper noted, "Another curious feature is the exposure of the trigger-bar, so that the weapon can be fired by pushing forward on it without touching the trigger. This is not easy to do, however, and should not be equated with the execrable mechanism of the Japanese Type 94, which permitted that pistol to be fired when squeezed. You can fire the 92 without touching the trigger, but you do have to work at it."

Striving to be fair and objective, the *Handgunner* contacted Beretta for an explanation of this apparent defect. Robert L. Bonaventure, Vice President and General Manager, replied:

"We believe that the extensive testing as well as the long and wide use of the pistol attest to the weapon's safety and general excellence."



Field stripping is a cinch for cleaning.

mounted on the rear of the slide. Here Beretta uses a modified plunger arrangement—actually a two piece firing pin—to disconnect one part from the other while the safety is off. Close examination reveals the rearmost part of this two-part system is rotated upwards and under the slide proper avoiding a direct blow by the hammer. In this way, you can decock the piece while halfway through a magazine without the fear of a round going off because the hammer comes to rest on the back of the slide. Last, for those who care to use it, yes, Virginia, there is a half cock position which also protects the gun from going off accidentally by catching the hammer if it should fall due to rough treatment. There is no magazine disconnect; the gun will fire without a magazine.

Rear sights are adjustable for windage only, are blocky in shape and contain two white dots for sight alignment. The rear blade should be a hair deeper in reality because, as I look through them, lining up the front blade over the top of the rear notch I can only see half of the front dot.



Note the exposed draw bar.

There is also a chamber indicator mounted top-side about 2 o'clock as you view the uppermost part of the slide body. When loaded, you can visually check your weapon by just glancing down. The extractor will show red, a direct indication of a chamber loaded. Jutting out as such allows the user to feel if the gun is charged as would be necessary in a night time situation.

I am sure many will look in awe at that open topped slide sitting over and around the barrel. Some will frown on this especially on a military weapon because it almost seems to invite a malfunction especially if it is involved in a dirty or muddy field condition. (This hostile environment—dirt, mud and the like—if you can believe it, falls under only desirable characteristics; those deemed not really a priority design feature, but one that could enhance the pistol choice if looked at from a practical point of view.) This could be true to a point, but on the contrary, I do see other advantages.

For one, if a magazine gets damaged, inoperable or just plain lost, you can, with plenty of patience, load the pistol with single

for alignment accentuation, but this is not as good as three horizontal dots. The outside surfaces of the rear sight are properly rounded to avoid tearing clothing and hands.

The double-action feature is *not selective*. The pistol may be carried only with the hammer back and the safety off, or with the hammer all the way down. In the latter case it will be fired by a long pull on the trigger or by thumb-cocking on the way up. The double-action pull is far too heavy for serious use. Presumably, in accordance with the current Austrian philosophy, the first shot will not be fired to hit anyway. If this weapon is to be carried in a serious defensive mode it will have to be holstered in "Condition Zero"—cocked and unlocked—which is doubtless contrary to various regulations. As we know, the closer one gets to the front line the less attention one pays to regulations of this sort.

The pistol mounts a curious two-sided hammer-dropper on the top rear of the slide. When this switch is depressed it drops the cocked hammer safely on a live round. Why it is desirable to be able to do this on both sides of the weapon is not clear. Dropping of the hammer on a live round is not the sort of act one needs to perform in a hurry, and might just as well be handled by a skate key.

Oddly enough the magazine release, of the type we are accustomed to in the Browning family, is reversible so that it may be placed on either the left or right side of the weapon at choice. This is an interesting feature since the original Browning buttons were all placed on the *wrong* side of the weapon—for a right-handed shooter. We can now change this on the 92 by replacing the button on the right side, where it is more easily operated with the index finger than with the thumb. Since either system can be learned easily with a little practice, this would seem to be an unnecessary complexity.

The trigger pull in the cocked mode is best described as fair-to-poor, and in the uncocked mode as unsatisfactory. People who are concerned with practical accuracy (as



Which would you rather face? The new nine or the old .44 caliber? Cooper says Civil War vintage pistols were better stoppers.



The 92F can be fired merely by pressing forward on the exposed draw bar. An accident looking for a place to happen!

opposed to intrinsic accuracy) should take note of this. We are often amused at the notion that the old 1911 is somehow 'inaccurate,' despite the fact that, except in worn-out examples, it will always shoot better than the shooter. The trigger on the 92 is far more of an obstacle to practical accuracy than recoil.

A curious feature is the placement of the slide-stop so far to the rear that it is normally depressed by the firing thumb when shooting. This, of course, prevents the slide from locking open on the last shot. The slide-stop should properly be placed on the right side of the weapon, since here again is a device which is never needed in a hurry.

Another curious feature is the exposure of the trigger-bar, so that the weapon can be fired by pushing forward on it without touching the trigger. This is not easy to do, however, and should not be equated with the execrable firing mechanism of the Japanese Type 94, which permitted that pistol to be fired when squeezed. You can fire the 92 without touching the trigger, but you do have to work at it.

The weapon cannot properly be 'press-checked,' as with the Browning family, but it does incorporate a chamber indicator which is designed to serve the same purpose. Personally I would rather look and see than put my trust in a gadget.

It is interesting to note, in the era of girl soldiers, that this new 92 will prove very difficult for our girls to use. The trigger is too far forward for a small hand, and the pull is too heavy for any but a muscular shooter—and not easy even for him. The operation of the slide is much stiffer than on most current auto pistols, and we may even find women who cannot work it at all. One might think, in view of the peculiar comments we have seen in the press about the 'bone-wrenching recoil' of the .45, that any new sidearm should be easier rather than harder to manage than an older weapon.

The unanimous and independently reached impression of those who shot the piece here at the ranch is that it was not designed by, or for, shooters. This is not remarkable since very

rounds. Another point would be clearing the piece. By just racking back the slide you expose a large area thereby allowing your fingers to get right at the thick of it, applying corrective action if need be.

Considering the type of action the pistol operates on, I find it relatively narrow in overall width. The Beretta is termed a "short-stroke, delayed blow-back pistol," recoil operated. Internally, for those technically oriented, design features follow that of a dual locking block very similar to the systems employed on the Walther P-38. Typical of



other oscillating block designs, the barrel and related assemblies do not go off axis as the gun is cycled. For reloading or safety at the range, the slide will stay open after the last shot.

A few other points worth mentioning. As required by the military, a lanyard loop must be attached and here Beretta has approached it in a novel and totally different way. Instead of running the loop in the traditional way (crosswise to the base of the grip frame) they turned it around a full 90 degrees thereby running it perpendicular to the sides of the pistol. In this way, when loading the gun, it should, by all standards, not interfere.

Trigger pull, while not on par with target standards, is crisp after the initial takeup. My sample registered six pounds, single-action. A trifle more stubborn on double-action, she took 14 pounds before letting loose.

I mentioned before that even with the use of dual locking lugs in the recoil system, the gun remains on the narrow side. Part of this reason is the external application of their trigger bar arrangement. While otherwise an extremely fine pistol, this has always been part of my never ending crusade on why they put such an important part of the gun in such a *vulnerable outside position*. If anything is going to make this gun inoperative, I'll bet you dollars to donuts this is where it will happen.

Field stripping is a joy. Making sure the 92F is *unloaded*, push the safety downward, remove the magazine. Holding the gun in your right hand, push the disassembly latch release in with your forefinger. After this release button has reached its limit, take the left thumb applying pressure in a downward motion on the disassembly lever until you turn it 90 degrees from its original position. At this point, the slide assembly will slide forward by itself. Now, free it from the frame by sliding it forward off the frame rails.

To liberate the barrel and related parts, slightly press the spring and guide towards the muzzle until it separates from the locking

Continued on page 74

few weapons are designed by shooters, and even fewer gun manufacturers think it necessary to submit their designs to a knowledgeable test group before freezing them into a production model. It is certainly clear that no one seriously interested in riflecraft could have passed the M-16 rifle for service use, and it is equally apparent that the committee which ran the tests on the 92 was not composed of experienced pistoleros. It is possible that this policy is intentional rather than accidental. Perhaps we should *not* utilize experts to check our equipment before we issue it. Perhaps experts would seek the wrong things, but eventually the decision must be made as to the *purpose* of the instrument to be produced. The critical question about any weapon must be *What is it for?**

Now I and those in attendance here at the school—both faculty and students—have a pretty clear notion of what a pistol is for. *A pistol is to stop fights*. A pistol must provide its wearer with the ability to turn off the threat of deadly force at close range, with as much certainty as is possible in an uncertain world. The 92 does not seem to be the best solution to this challenge—since it is essentially complex, difficult to use, and under-powered.

It would appear that those who ran the tests on the various test pistols were tremendously concerned about mechanical safety. They went to great lengths to build a fool-proof weapon—flying in the face of the ancient Egyptian truth that *nothing is proof against fools*. The safe operation of a weapon is a matter of the brain of the user—not of switches, gadgets and arrangements. It does not seem to us that the Beretta 92 is any safer than any other handgun, despite all its buttons, signals, blocks and levers. If a man wants to do something stupid with a pistol, he can do it with a 92 just as easily as he can with a double-action revolver, or any other sidearm.

What is most important, above every other consideration, is the power of the pistol to turn off an enemy with one well-placed hit. Anyone who has gone deeply into the matter understands that the 9mm Parabellum cartridge is not a reliable man-stopper. Just this week we had a report from a major department in California which last year had 26 shooting incidents, using the 9mm cartridge, and achieved *two* one-shot stops—both of which were head-shots. This is only one of an endless series of examples, but the people who have decided to saddle us with an under-powered sidearm are obviously not interested, primarily because they do not see the sidearm as an important instrument. Perhaps it is not, but I can give you one recent example of evidence to the contrary. In the Lebanese war of 1982 a one-star general, whom I knew slightly, decided to move his command post from the roof of a high-rise building to a deck below. Being a proper forward sort of leader, he burst into the room he had chosen and ran squarely into three enemy soldiers armed with assault carbines. Neither he nor they had any anticipation of this confrontation, and it is my considered belief that if he had been a qualified pistolero he could have terminated all three of those people before they could have got their AKs into action. As it happened there were no survivors, but there were observers from outside the room whose testimony suggests to me that there was plenty of time for an expert pistol response. *But not with any 9*. The chances of putting three enemy soldiers out of action with three shots from a 9mm are almost nil. On the contrary, the chances of doing that with a major caliber weapon are pretty good.

Seen in this light, the question is not whether the United States should surrender its major-caliber .45 for the minor-caliber 9, for the answer to *that* is clear. We have, however, ignored that answer, so the question is: since we are going to a 9, which 9 should we adopt? My own first choice would be the Czech 75, but there is a strong minority view that if one is going to carry an underpowered pistol he should carry the neatest and handiest one available, and that is the Heckler & Koch P7. (And if you insist upon the smaller caliber there is nothing much wrong with the old P-35 Browning that a little tinkering will not fix.)

One does wonder how the decision of the Pentagon to buy the 92 was reached. The fighting capacity of the weapon itself cannot have been weighed significantly—at least not by people deeply instructed in handguns. Evidently the view must have been that pistols don't matter anyway, so all that is important is who gets the contract—and in return for what?

The fact remains, as we have attempted unsuccessfully to get across to Mr. Weinberger, that a modern army probably does not need a pistol—but that if it does, the old 1911 Colt is the best thing in common use at this time. It does seem curious that at a time when budgets need to be cut the Pentagon has seen fit to spend perhaps \$600 million of your money to make our armed services a little bit less efficient.

In 1860 the Union Army was sent into combat with a 44-caliber cap-and-ball single-action revolver, a defensive sidearm far superior to that which we have adopted in 1985. Look at the photos and decide for yourself which of those two weapons you would rather carry into a serious, short range scuffle.

When we went to war in 1941 the United States handed its young men the best personal fighting tools the world has ever seen. Times, however, have changed.



*In this age of innovative technology, one can make himself very unpopular by asking what a particular innovation is *for*, since the innovator often does not know, and this embarrasses him.

Keeping Your Cool in Competition

By Kathleen Kudlinski

Olympic bullseye shooter Cathy Graham offers tips on how to beat match jitters.

Whenever I go into a big match, I'm visibly shaking. I can't hold a gun steady to save my life." Sound familiar? But this is no beginner talking. It's international gold medalist Cathy Graham confessing to the same shakes that turn your knees to jelly and leave you hoping the Porta-potties are somewhere nearby.

She may get nervous, but it hasn't held her back. Cathy won the Woman's National Champion bullseye title after only three years in the sport and held on to it until winning a place on the US training team four years later. Within two years, she'd won the gold at the Pan American games in Caracas, Venezuela. Her impressive performance in last summer's Olympics is history.

How does she manage to settle down and shoot, unaffected by the tension of these high-power matches? Part of it is practice, part is preparation for each match, and part is knowing how to handle her reactions on the line. None of it is luck. Here are a dozen tips from Cathy Graham on overcoming your own stress so you can go on to win.

CATHY'S 12 WINNING TIPS

Good shooting takes concentration and determination. Not only do international competitors practice their shooting, they also practice concentration techniques and positive thinking.

Practice a breathing routine. Time all your shots to a rhythm of breaths and motions. If you've used a breathing pattern during the non-stressful practice session, slipping into the rhythm during a match immediately calms your nerves, clears your head, and sharpens your vision.

Practice Key Phrases. Many international competitors psych themselves into their top performance using a series of catch-phrases like: "I have perfect trigger control." "The gun is rock steady in my hand." "I can see the sight picture clearly." "I am not nervous." Winners recite these over and over, from index cards or memory. "Auto suggestion," Cathy calls it. "Somehow they just float down

into your subconscious. When you lose your nerve, just reciting key phrases calls up your confidence when you need it the most. Never underestimate the power of your mind."

Practice Disasters. This may seem to be just the opposite of positive thinking, but it prepares you to deal calmly with the unexpected. Imagine the worst that can happen to you at a match. Gun malfunctions? Faulty target systems? Sudden crashes of thunder? A shoot-off with all eyes on YOU? Picture exactly how you should handle each mishap, then mentally rehearse this ideal response until it becomes second nature.

Stay Fit. If you run or work out regularly, you learn to handle a racing heart, breathing rate and physical exhaustion. These are the same symptoms you'll face during an adrenalin rush at a match. A body in good shape can absorb this adrenalin more rapidly and better resist the 'let down' feeling that follows. Keep your weight down and cut back on drinking and smoking. The advantage of being fit for an event like IPSC is obvious, but every shooting sport requires stamina and precise muscle control.

Pack a gun box. Having everything ready to go saves you the worry of forgetting something in a last minute rush. Guns, ammunition, spare parts, tools and special equipment, even lucky pieces should be packed in advance. Tuck bug spray and a rain hat, too, if there's room. Remember what you've wished you'd brought to other matches, and pack it away now.

Eat to Win. All the mental preparation and hours of practice can't make up for a body that isn't up to shooting its best. Treat it right, for this piece of equipment is as critical to your success as your gun. Switch to decaffeinated coffee or cut out caffeine altogether for up to a week before the match. Cut alcohol down—or out. Cathy reports that some top competitors will take a shot to relax the night before a big match, while others will have nothing to do with upsetting their body chemistry when so much is at stake.

Continued on page 89



A Tour of Beretta's Factory

By Jan van Driel

By now everybody probably knows it: the U.S. army has chosen an Italian pistol to replace its Colt M1911-A1 and other sidearms. The gun in question is the Beretta 92F, a 15+1 round DA gun in caliber 9 mm Luger (or 9x19 as it is called in Europe). In other articles in this magazine you can read all about the technicalities of this weapon. But who or what is Beretta?

Pietro Beretta S.p.A. cannot be called a newcomer in the field of firearms. Its written history goes as far back as 1526, when the sale of a rifle made by Bartolomeo Beretta was registered in the archives of the Republic of Venice. One can safely assume that Bartolomeo or his father were already making guns before that so you might say that Beretta was already making guns before America was even discovered. In fact, the present day factory is still 70% owned by the descendants

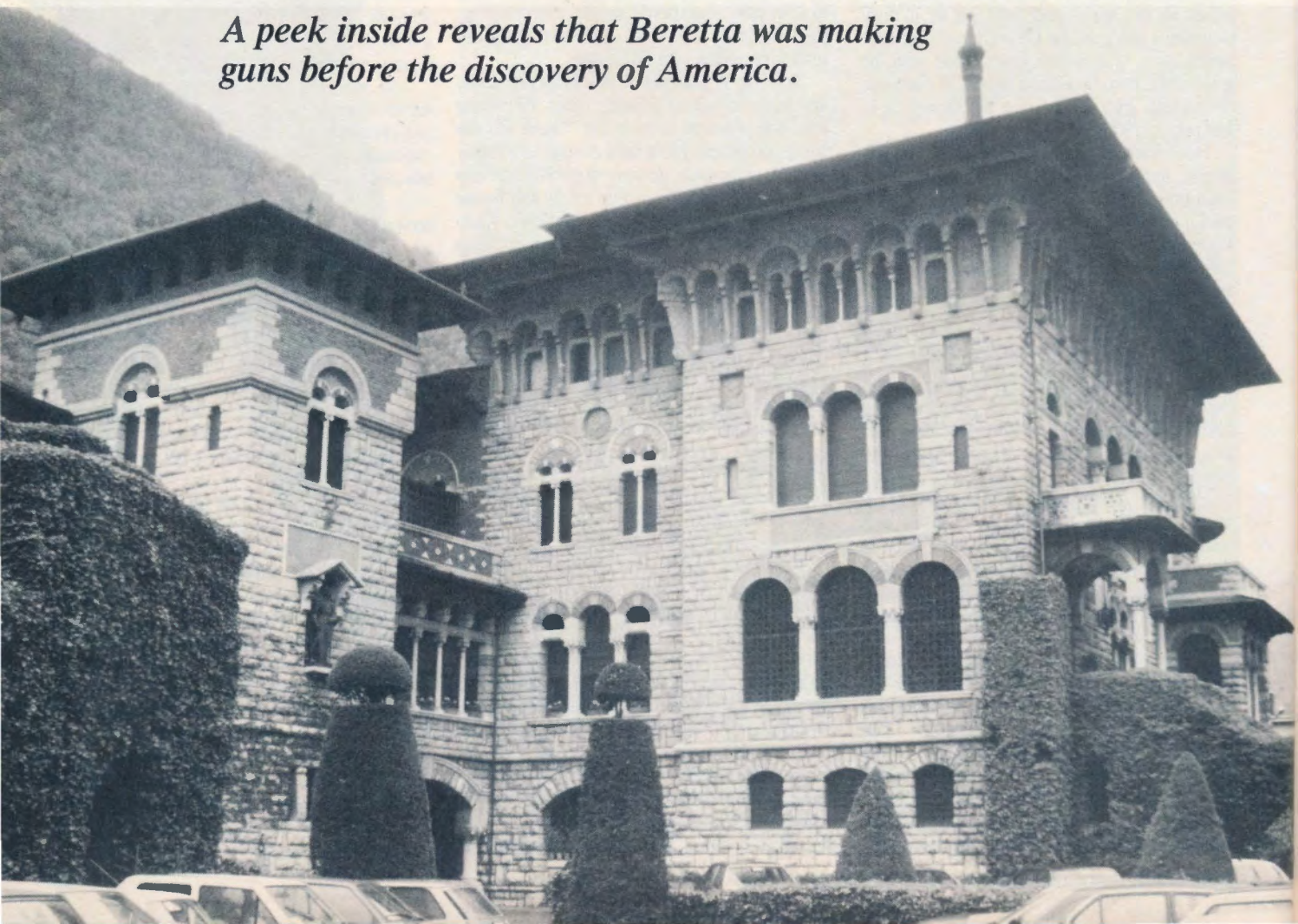
of that first gunmaker. They are now in their twelfth generation.

The factory is located in Gardone Val Trompia near Brescia in northern Italy, an area where 95% of Italy's firearms industry is situated. Apart from large caliber pistols they also produce small caliber pistols, shotguns, submachineguns, assault rifles and machineguns. The company employs 1140 people and produces about 1500 firearms per day. Of the production, 35% is for the military and this includes the 92 pistol.

The basic design of the 92 stems from 1976. It was designed in answer to demands for a high capacity military pistol firing the NATO 9mm round. The advantages of this caliber choice are obvious: high penetration (necessary for military applications), interchangeability with submachinegun ammunition and enormous firepower in a relatively

small package. In order to make it possible to carry the gun for a long time, and still have it ready to fire in a split second, without having to worry about a separate safety catch that might be forgotten, a double-action trigger system was chosen. This, combined with a staggered magazine and the locking system of the Beretta 951 resulted in the Beretta 92. Later a slide safety with decocking function was added (92S) and also, influenced by experiences in IPSC competition, the magazine release was moved from the heel of the butt to behind the trigger-guard (92SB). This last type was competing in the army test and, apart from a few small modifications it is identical to the 92F. In the past years about 250,000 92's have been produced and they have been sold to countries like Italy, the U.S.A. (the Connecticut state police carries them), Brazil, Egypt, India, Jordan, Iraq,

A peek inside reveals that Beretta was making guns before the discovery of America.



Oman, Algeria, Korea, Thailand, Cameroon and Lesotho.

The 92F is, unlike many other handguns, mainly produced by milling. Investment casting is only used for minor parts like the safety catch. The slide is milled out of a solid block of steel, on a milling machine in which the only thing that is done by hand is the mounting of the slide-to-be on the machine. Milling, cutting, adjusting rpm and changing cutters is all done by the machine itself. The same goes for the production of the frames, though they are made out of a solid aluminum forging. The barrels are hammered and then chrome plated inside.

Through the whole production process the parts are regularly checked (by hand) with several gauges and micrometers to detect any production problems at an early stage. In fact Beretta lately invested quite some money in quality control. New electronic measuring equipment was purchased together with a complete chrome plating installation and new production machines.

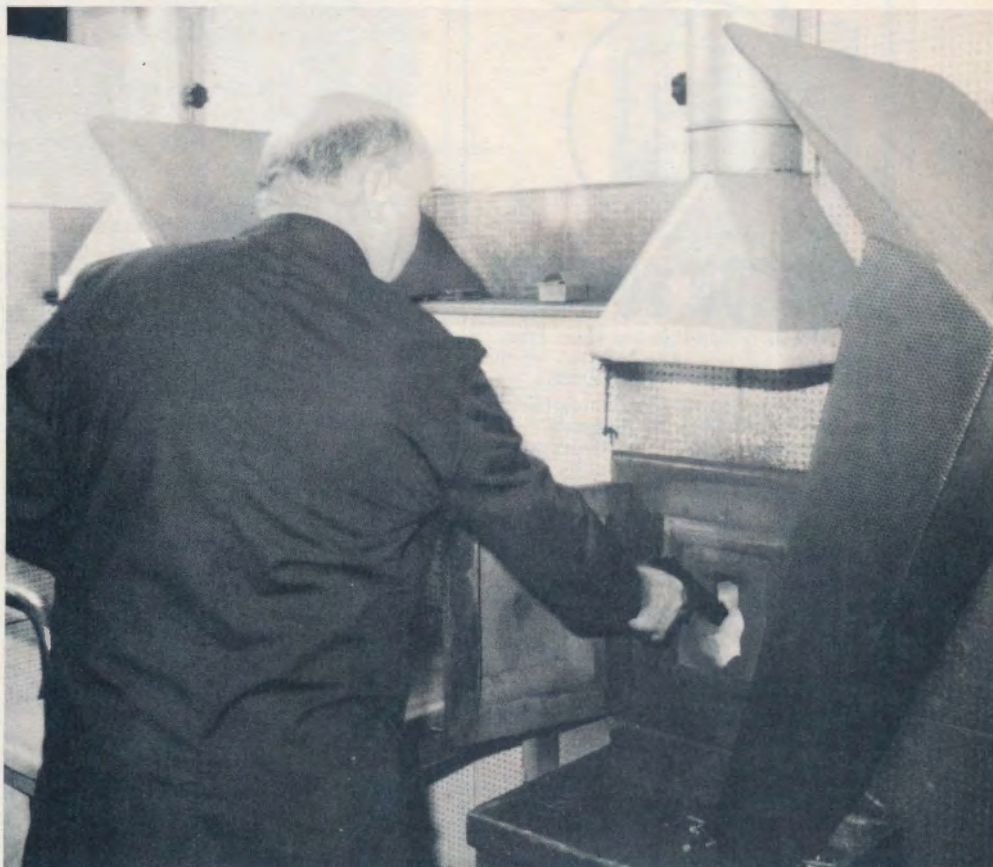
At the end of the production process the parts are put together in the assembly room where the functioning of the weapon is checked manually. After that the pistols are taken to the shooting range where each one is tested for functioning by putting 15 rounds (a full magazine) through it. Every gun is also proofed by firing an overpressure cartridge in it. Ten out of every hundred guns are checked for accuracy while ten out of every production lot (of 2000 to 3000 pieces) are taken apart and checked for interchangeability of parts. Also one pistol out of each lot is checked for durability by firing 3150 rounds through it and checking for wear every 150 rounds. Only after passing these tests is the lot considered ready for shipment.

The same procedure goes for all the other guns that Beretta produces in Italy. That includes the proof firing as that is prescribed by law there. The shotguns, of course, take some extra work for most of them have to be engraved, which is pure handwork and takes a lot of time. This is really one of the things in which old-fashioned workmanship has been maintained almost unchanged since the founding of the company. For the actual production this has been replaced by ultra modern technology but, when you look at the 92F, the 450 years of gunmaking experience show in many details. Master Bartolomeo can be proud of the gun that his company is now exporting to a land he hardly knew existed.



Large magnifier allows worker to inspect closely critical parts.

Testing includes function firing into a bullet trap of water.



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Up In Smoke

By S. A. Numbthumb

The Vice President of the Gee Whiz and Golly Wow Gun Club carried an NRA Life Master rating. He almost made the Olympic Team, and if you were to check your files under the heading of "You Guys Don't Know Beans!" I'm sure his name would surface.

Not only that, but rumor has it that he went through the FBI training course in record time. The course was a "house clearing" with the inside of the building like a hotel with bunches of open doorways through which good guys and bad guys came popping out.

It was a record score until . . . a closer inspection of the targets revealed all head shots—little old ladies, cripples in wheelchairs, women with babies. All head shots!

This lowered his score considerably, but not his standing in the "One of the Ten People You Would Least Want to Get into a Gunfight With" club.

In any case, the President of the gun club retired his office. The Vice President, due to his bubbly nature and otherwise sweet disposition, lost his bid for the Presidency.

What we wound up with was an invader. The new president (yup, the small letters are appropriate) was from Pennsylvania.

I mean, "What is this?"

The club took a downward turn; no more fun; no more diversification; no International courses; no air pistol or 50 feet.

It turned into a damn "Bang-Bang Bowling League." For hours the new president would lecture on the merits of 3.4 grs. versus 3.7 grs. of Bullseye or Allox versus Beeswax lube. Blah!

What got me was his voice. I mean, I'm a normal type of pistol shooter—half deaf. But, I could hear this guy's booming voice over range commands, .45 reports, ear muffs and plugs, and, for that matter, the clubhouse walls.

He was driving me nuts!

My first act of revenge was after the reverberations of Monster Mouth caused me to waffle my slowfire score at a bullseye match. I positioned myself just a little behind him and softly whistled "On Top of Old Smokey" while he was shooting.

He just mentally sung along. His resulting scores were really covered with snow! Mr. president started grumbling about "inconsiderate people" and the like.

For some reason I was never confronted personally. You see at the time I was shooting a Ruger .45 ACP/.45LC conversion and to try to shoot a SA on the NRA Course is a sure indicator of instability.

"Git yawsself a Giles or a Clark, boy, get rid of that cowboy gun!"

Whatcha say? Cowboy gun, ha!

What's he know? I'm hitting 255s real regular now. My 90-95 slowfire and 85-90 timed fire for some unknown reason fell apart on rapid fire.

Anywho, Mr. president "Man with the Cannonade Contralto" was still getting on my nerves. But . . . I had a plan.

Enlisting the services of my shooting partner, Rich, we devised some special loads one evening. They were amazingly accurate. Better'n that, they suited my plan perfectly (which is better than perfectly).

Together we practiced. Interspersing our timed fire shots so that as I fired Rich cocked, he fired, I cocked. We meshed into a perfect cadence.

We were ready.

The club night arrived.

I took position #1, Rich took #2 and Megaphone Mouth always (I mean always—superstitious) took #3.

Rich brought along his bored out and re-barreled Model 28 Smith and I my Ruger with the .45 Long Colt cylinder. We positioned our ammo boxes so as to gain easy access to the powder blue headstamped "special loads."

"The course will be slowfire," called the Range Officer.

It went nicely and the targets were replaced and backers repaired.

At last: "The course will be timed fire—10 shots in 20 seconds—two strings of five shots each. For your first string, LOAD." "One . . . Two . . . Three (or is that hee, hee, hee?) FIRE!"

In the dimly lit range both guns belched at least two-feet of flame. A strange blue-grey haze covered the room. The odor could only be described as the later hours of a Chili Eating Contest.

In any case within days the club had erected an overly large sign with ugly red letters in Mr. president's scrawl: "Absolutely No Black Powder Due to Fire Hazzard"

He can't spell either.

HANDGUNNER

Christmas Shopping Ideas



Browning Competition Model Still Available

The Browning Hi-Power Competition Model is now out of production, but there are still a few available from the suppliers of Fabrique Nationale S.A. in America.

The Competition Hi-Power features a six-inch barrel with a counter weight attached like a Pin Gun. The sights are fully adjustable for the demands of target shooters. The Competition Hi-Power has a special trigger to insure light, crisp let-off. The pistol comes in a carrying case with cleaning and adjustment tools. It retails for \$665 and may be obtained (with FFL) from GSI-Dept. AH, P.O. Box 129, 108 Morrow St., Trussville, AL, 35173, (800) 821-3021.



Nevins 12-PAK

Nevins Ammunition, Inc. now offers their popular handgun ammunition in 12-packs. A total of 13 different loads are available for .38

New!

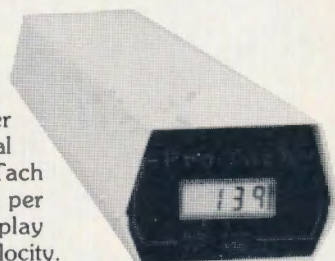
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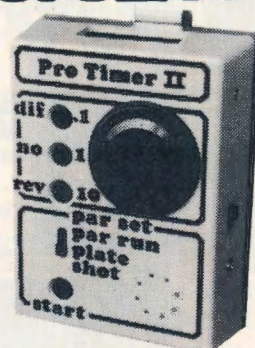
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The Pro-Tach operates on one standard alkaline 9 volt battery (not included). Low battery indication is provided on the LCD display.

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- 1984 IPSC Canadian Nationals
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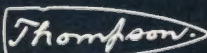
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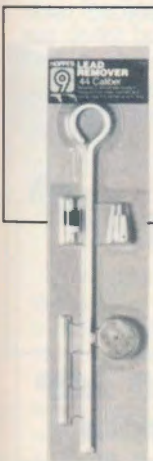
comfort. The unique Mag-Grip four-way adjustable molded handgun tray secures all sizes and styles of handguns. The cases retail for \$125 (3-gun), \$135 (4-gun) and \$145 (5-gun). For further information call toll-free 1-800-423-9704.



Ruger Mk II Mag Release

Red-E Products now offers a thumb activated mag release for Ruger semi-auto pistols (Mk I and II). Made of #304 stainless steel, the mag release requires no fitting, drilling, tapping or machining. A small relief cut must be made in the left grip panel to accommodate the mag release, but a template is included for the do-it-yourselfer. Installation is a snap even for those with five thumbs on each hand.

For further information, contact La Paloma Marketing, Dept. AH, 1735 E. Ft. Lowell Rd., Suite 7, Tucson, AZ, 85719, (602) 881-4750.



Hoppe's Lead Remover

"Getting the lead out" is more than just an old military expression. In handgun shooting, because so much of it is done with lead and lead alloy bullets, some stripping of metal particles occurs with each round fired.

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Glossary of Terms

We publish articles about handguns for the handgun enthusiast with a deeper than average understanding of handgunning. However, we realize that some of you are just beginning to be infected with the handgunning bug. For your benefit we selected some terms used in this issue for further explanation.

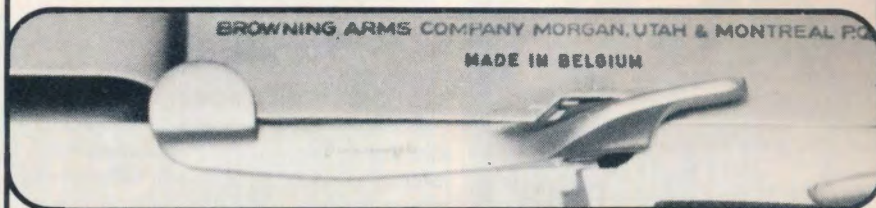
SHOT Show: (Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade Show) Annual gathering of firms and individuals associated with outdoor sports.

Comp gun: Generic abbreviation for "compensated pistol" sometimes used interchangeably with "pin gun." Briefly, a compensator serves to reduce felt recoil and muzzle rise.

Silvertip: Brand name of Winchester for their uniquely jacketed hollowpoint ammunition.

Press-check: The method taught by Jeff Cooper of verifying if a Colt auto pistol is loaded. One presses the slide rearward just enough to expose the chamber to inspect if it's loaded.

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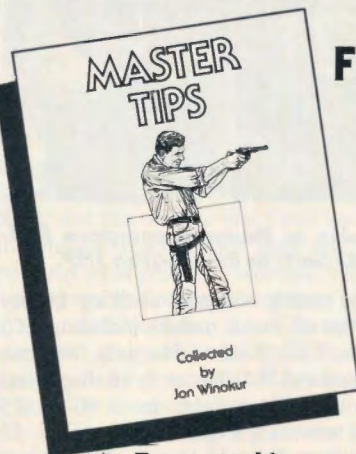
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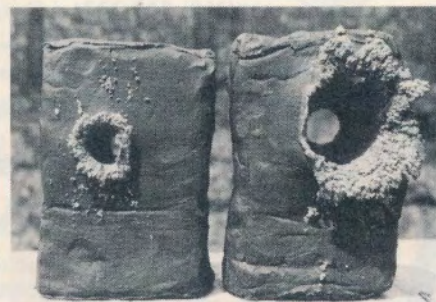
ARMY'S NEW NINE

Continued from page 64

block. Be careful here as the spring is under tension. To complete field stripping, lift the locking block from the slide assembly.

Reassemble in the reverse order making sure that before you nudge the disassembly lever upwards the slide is even with the rear edge of the frame. Another maintenance tip: Beretta has made things easy to take apart its magazines for cleaning. Simply use the locking bar plunger located on the locking bar to separate the magazine plate from the magazine bottom plate. This is accomplished by merely pushing in one the detent located on the magazine plate.

Interior workmanship indicated the same measure—and possibly more—of attention needed on a gun designed to function no matter what. The feed ramp was polished as was the breech block for complete and even closing of the system. The feed ramp step was not polished, however, indicating to me Beretta engineers felt this helping plane was just that—an assistance angle to stabilize the bullet as it enters this critical stage of movement. Without the barrel or spring assembly in place, tolerances were tight, but with enough allowance for proper functioning typical in all automatics.



Exit holes in Duxseal compare Federal FMJ (left) to Remington JHP.

Range testing consisted of firing factory loads from all major makers including CCI Lawman, CCI Blazers, Hornady, Federal, Remington and Winchester. In all shapes and sizes with bullet weights from 90 to 125 grains, I was ready to go.

But perhaps I should regress a bit. Prior to this trip, and thanks to Dave Andrews at CCI for supplying the ammo, I broke in the Beretta with about 300 rounds of Blazer 115 grain JHP ammunition. There were no problems, no hangups, no misfires. The gun, as expected, performed without a hitch.

Now, without cleaning the weapon, I was going out again this time as mentioned with as many different loads that I could find. The distance was roughly 10 yards (off-hand) which I figured would be an average field combat range. Since this is not a target gun, testing at 25 yards would prove nothing to me and while accuracy was a consideration, it was not the only consideration. In this case, my testing revolved around functioning.

Firing the 92F felt good in the hand. By design its broad grip frame was not only

harboring 15 rounds, but also was supposed to tame recoil. It did just that. Combined with the hooked trigger guard, the gun was easy to control no matter the load or firing technique used.

Testing started with the Hornady 90 grain hollowpoint. Recoil was mild, with 10 shot groups centered just above the bull obviously due to this lightweight's higher velocity. From here I blasted away with some CCI and Hornady 100 grain bullets. Next came the ever popular 115 grain pills in such varieties as Norma, CCI, Remington and Winchester. Accuracy was good, with groups in the 2 1/4- to 3-inch range. Functioning was perfect.



Federal's 123 grain FMJ hit 2 1/2 inches, Remington's 124, 1 3/4 inches. Groups were a tad lower, here again owing to a drop in velocity due to a slower moving bullet. Even the much maligned CCI Lawman ammunition with the infamous 125 grain soft point fed through the gun with absolutely no problems. When the smoke cleared and the paperwork completed, the average group turned out to be in the neighborhood of 2.82 inches.

While firing, I did get a chance to query that sight problem we talked about before. With the white dot on the front sight riding high, the gun shot dead-on which proved the 92F is factory sighted-in for such a sight picture, not a 6 o'clock hold.

With over 500 rounds put through the gun at this point, I had no feeding problems whatsoever, nor ejection nor stovepipes, all with no maintenance on the gun save only to wipe down the piece between range sessions. Certainly I will never get even close to the 28,000 rounds put through these Beretta's during the Army testing program, nevertheless I think I did enough to convince myself that for a carry gun this Beretta rates high on my list.

Concluding, I loaded up two full mags and proceeded to blast away at a silhouette target at a moderate cadence from about 15 feet. When the last of the 30 empties hit the ground a close look at the target revealed a group that could be covered with one hand.

Surely this is the time to rejoice the beginning of a new era in military armament. While the .45 ACP automatic has served us well, the Beretta will undoubtedly open wider doors of information if only by cartridge alone. Naturally, we are not going to bury the .45. Memories and service to the country run deep, but progress calls, so we must move on.



Man of Steel

By Bruce Thorstad



Handgun silhouetter Dave Whitman, of Colton, California has won more than his share of honors at the steel shooting game. Among his achievements: he was the first International Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association (IHMSA) competitor to shoot a perfect 40 in the revolver category; the first to reach a lofty 150 (out of a possible 160) four-gun aggregate in a single match. He was IHMSA Internationals Standing Champion in 1978, has won the High Aggregate awards at several California State and Region Six (western U.S.) championship matches, and is a perennial fixture near or at the top of IHMSA's prestigious 140 and 100 Clubs.

Besides these distinctions, Dave may have competed in more handgun silhouette matches, and toppled more targets, than any other shooter. At any match he attends, whether he captures the elusive High Aggregate award or not, you can depend on him to be among the very top guns when trophies are handed out.

At a recent interview at his home range—Inland Silhouette—in Redlands, California. Dave talked about how he started in silhouette, what guns and loads he favors for Standing, Production, Revolver and Unlimited, and the future of the sport.

AH: *I'll bet you were an accomplished pistol shot before you started silhouette shooting.*

DW: I got into handguns in the middle-1950s when I bought a Ruger Blackhawk .357 Mag, a flattop. That got me into reloading. Like everybody else I couldn't afford factory ammunition. In those days there was only one way to fire a handgun—the one-handed NRA bullseye stance—unless you were into quick-draw, which I wasn't. So I shot that Ruger a good many years. I hunted rabbits with it, popped tin cans and shot paper targets.

About 1975 I had a few bucks extra, and I acquired a Government Model Colt .45 auto. I decided to have a combat accuracy job done on it. Once I had the gun I had to use it for something, so I got hooked up with the Southwest Pistol League shooting combat matches for a year or more. I was never a match winner because I never practiced—I picked up my practice by going through the match. About this time in one of the gun magazines, I read about the first handgun metallic silhouette match that Lee Jurras put on in Arizona. I must have read that article ten times, because that looked like something I would really love to do.

AH: *What appealed to you about silhouette?*

DW: The long range, the heavy calibers, the precision. And at this time I had also bought a Ruger 7½-inch Blackhawk .44 Magnum. You get a massive sense of overkill shooting paper targets with a .44 Magnum. I had also acquired more reloading gear and gotten a little more sophisticated about it. As I say, I read the article many times. Then word came through the grapevine, word came that John Adams, (head of Saeco Bullet Moulds) was putting on another silhouette match at the Los Angeles Range in San Fernando Valley. So I thrashed around and finally got an entry form. I sent it in and waited with bated breath for the match. I remember how I sighted in: I reloaded a bunch of ammunition, sat down at the bench and sighted in for point of aim at 25 yards. I had a one-hole group at 25 yards so I figured that was going to put me on the silhouettes.

Well, when I lay down on that chicken line—at that time we were all shooting forward prone—it wasn't until the fourth or fifth shot that I realized that I was a foot over the chickens at 50 meters. So I cranked my sight down and finally got on the chickens, and then I used Kentucky windage all the way through, so much front sight held up over the rear notch, and let 'er fly. I shot a 19 in that match, and placed 10th, and I still have that little chrome chicken they gave me. That's one of my most prized possessions. We were all pretty much in on the ground floor in those days. It was a lot of fun, it really was. There were wild and wonderful guns there that would be illegal now by IHMSA rules, and a lot would be simply outclassed.

AH: *Well today, you're a top shooter by any standard. Why is it so many otherwise good silhouette shooters who are in the top classes in Production and Unlimited can't get their standing game together?*

DW: As I said, I've been shooting fairly heavy caliber handguns since 1955 or so and standing was the only way to go. You learned to control your flinch or you didn't shoot. You weren't wearing ear protection, so you just tempered your nerves. After I started using ear muffs that kind of concentration seemed the easiest thing in the world. With most people, it's not the recoil that bothers them, it's the noise, even with ear muffs on. Shooting standing, I've lost many targets to "sympathy shots" from the noise of the gun next to me. You're on your final stage of the trigger squeeze and somebody's loudenboomer goes off next to you and the ground jumps. That'll

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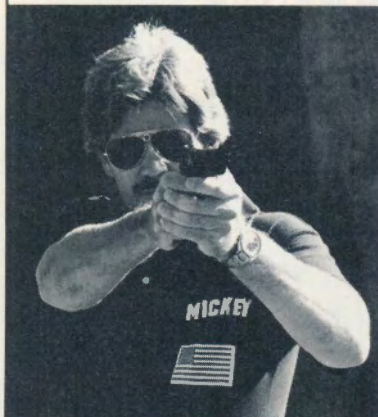
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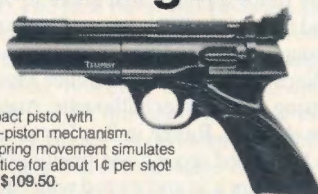
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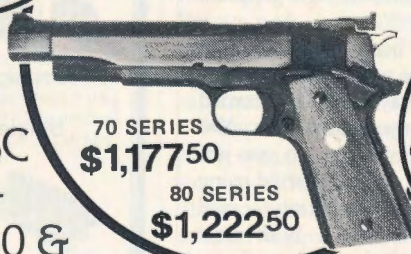
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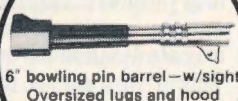
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set you off.

AH: Do you think many standing shooters are afraid of the gun?

DW: You've got that little man in the back of your head who truly believes that the gun's going to hurt you. It's a subconscious reflex.

AH: How about gun movement? So many standing shooters say it throws them off.

DW: That's a matter of training. Exercises will help with the wobble. To me, there are two kinds of movement when you're holding a gun out there. Gross movements come from your shoulders and arms, and a very fine tremor comes through your wrists and hands. The gross movement you can control with exercises. The other, to me anyway, depends on what you ate that morning, how you felt the night before. If you're hung over, forget it—you're not going to hold steady. I avoid any form of caffeine or smoking before I shoot standing. I'll have a small, low-sugar, high-protein breakfast. Of course, it depends on the individual. I know people who can't even hit the berm until they've had three cigarettes and four cups of coffee.

AH: How about match nerves?

DW: Match nerves are a big thing, especially when you're in the top classes, or when you find yourself shooting next to the person who's in direct competition with you for a championship or a trophy. The worst thing you can do on the line is count your targets. That'll cost you four or five. I try to take them one at a time. There's only one target: the one I'm on right now.

I have developed a technique to shut the world out. When I'm really stroking, I don't even hear guns go off next to me. The best standing score I ever shot was at a little, relaxed match up at Fresno. Things were going slow and I actually dozed off between relays. I got a 35 standing—couldn't miss.

AH: How do you stay in top form while working full time? This is not a game where we've got professionals.

DW: You can practice too much and burn out. I may practice once between matches. Once you've got your sight settings for your guns and are fairly confident in them, it's just a matter of keeping your eye in practice. That's what works for me, though it probably doesn't for everybody, if you look at the way the Olympic shooters and the combat shooters practice.

AH: What do you mean, "Keep your eye in practice?"

DW: Keeping the sight pictures fresh in your mind. If you shoot three or four guns, you may have different sight pictures. For instance, in Production, Unlimited and Revolver, I shoot belly line or leg/body joint. Standing, I use a center hold. I'm basically up into the target. Those sight pictures impress themselves on my mind.

AH: What trigger control method do you use when shooting standing?

DW: Once I start the squeeze, I squeeze all the way through unless something goes grossly wrong with my sight picture. The other method—align sights, then relax pressure whenever the sights drift off, then realign . . . the only time I use that is if I'm

standing in the wind where I drift all over. In calm weather, once I start the squeeze, that's it; it's going to go. Once I get the sights up there and settled, it's advantageous to get it off in about three to five seconds. Any longer and your sight picture begins to go bad and your movements get larger and larger.

AH: What gun and load do you use standing?

DW: A TC Contender in 7mm T/CU. The powder charge for all distances is 24 grains of H-4895. I use 140 Noslers for chickens, pigs and turkeys and a 160 Speer Flatbase for the rams. The brass is .222 Magnum—it makes the best TT/CU cartridges in the world.

AH: What gun and loads for Production?

DW: Same loads, same gun, all the way through.

AH: How about some of the other Production guns? You own a Merrill, I know.

DW: I've shot a Merrill for a number of years. Other than problems with the trigger and extractor, I've always been satisfied with its accuracy and durability. I may go back to one because Jim Rock (head of Rock Pistol Mfg. Co., makers of the Merrill) has come up with a new trigger mechanism that does away with the problems.

AH: How about the Wichita International?

DW: I have a Wichita, but I haven't fired it. I got it basically because I could get my choice of serial numbers on it. So I got my IHMSA card number, which is 19. I have several guns that have the serial number on them.

Continued



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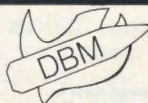


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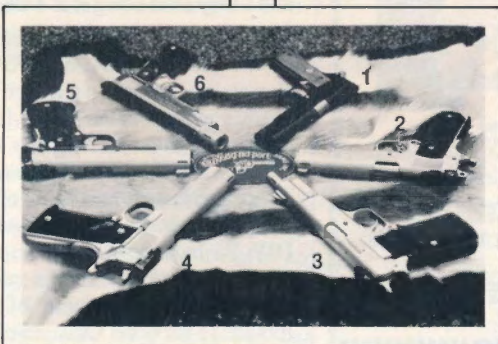
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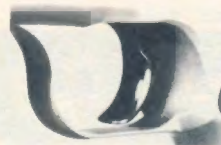
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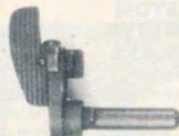


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AH: But you're happy with the Contender in 7mm T/CU?

DW: Very happy. The T/CU is an extremely efficient cartridge. It's accurate, easy to make, and it puts all the weight in the world downrange. And my T/C works so well. It's consistent from match to match, regardless of weather conditions and lighting. The thing to remember about the TC is that you can't make the loads too hot, due to the lockup system. If you get too hot, the gun may shoot well for awhile, but the wear will be accelerated. The next thing you know, you're stringing—that's the first sign of a T/C wearing out. A lot of people shoot a heavier load than I do. For awhile, I used 26 grains of H-4895, and it was a hard-hitting, accurate load. But about halfway through the season I'd find it stringing. It causes excessive wear to the locking table and the bolt, and it starts vertical stringing and pretty soon your gun's wiped out. You keep it in the range the gun's designed for and it'll shoot practically forever. Recently I've been getting more small targets in shoot-offs with the T/C/ Production gun than I have with my Unlimited gun.

AH: I've only seen you use one Unlimited gun.

DW: It's a Sako small action, Douglas Premium air-gauged barrel, in .30 Jirsa—which is the .223 military case blown out to .30 caliber with the shoulder blown forward to about 52mm. It's a very efficient cartridge. It doesn't have the horsepower of larger-cased cartridges, but it's very accurate and the cases last forever. For Christmas, my wife, Patty, gave me a Remington XP-100 in 7mm-Laser, which is Jerry Barlett's Unlimited cartridge that he based on Remington 7 Benchrest brass. I took it out and sighted it in awhile ago and I may start using it in Unlimited.

AH: How about Revolver category?

DW: Right now I'm using two Dan Wessons, alternating between a ten-inch stainless-steel .44 Magnum and the .357 Maximum in the eight inch. To me, Revolver is the most fun to shoot in the free-style Creedmoor position. There's no forgiveness in revolver at all.

AH: What makes a good silhouette revolver?

DW: We have done a little bit of experimenting here, and one of the most important things is the alignment of the chamber mouths to the bore. Occasionally, we'll find a Dan Wesson that has alignment within .0025" or less. Sevvilles are excellent. Most will run from zero to 2 to 3 thousandths out, which is great. Chamber mouth is another thing. The closer that chamber mouth measurement is to the actual diameter of the bullet and the barrel, the better off you are because there's less distortion of the bullet, and less gas leakage. Barrel/cylinder gap plays a large part too. You can make it too close. I was told by a Ruger representative that once you get below 2 to 3 thousandths, accuracy begins to go bad. I don't know the explanation for that, but that's what they told me. Other things can affect revolver accuracy, like how much fore and aft movement your cylinder has under recoil.

AH: So you're shooting a Dan Wesson right now, but you shot your best score ever with a

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Ruger, and you seem to have high praise for the Seville.

DW: I praise the Seville simply because of what I've seen. The big problem with all single actions is their long hammer fall and a very slow lock time compared with double actions. That hammer coming down is like slamming a barn door. It's very hard to control. Of course, the advantage of a single action is its strength and simplicity. You don't have to worry about cylinder cranes wearing out.

AH: So are you going over to the Dan Wesson for the fast hammer fall, or for the .357 Max cartridge?

DW: It's an excellent cartridge, with the potential for great accuracy. And of course, you have the fast lock time, and pretty fair sights too. The Rugers need a new rear sight. They need it desperately.

AH: What about the Smith and Wesson model 29 with the new ten-inch silhouette barrel and sights?

DW: I've had no direct experience with it, but to the best of my knowledge, it's simply a model 29 with a long barrel and an adjustable front sight. The big problem with S&W as silhouette guns has always been the fact that the lockwork starts to go. I campaigned one for 2 or 3 years. They simply do not stand the pounding. It's an excellent hunting gun—don't get me wrong, they make a marvelously precise revolver. But in my experience, it won't take a diet of full-power loads, not the kind we give it for silhouette matches.

AH: Do you see any improvements in silhouette revolvers that might filter down to wheelguns used for other purposes?

DW: Possibly, holding closer tolerances in barrel/cylinder alignment and barrel/cylinder gap. I know most of the companies have begun to take a closer look at this. More precisely adjustable sights are coming along too.

AH: What's your inclination when a new gun comes out—get one and try it, or wait for a consensus on it from other shooters?

DW: Right now, financially, I can't do a whole lot more than wait for a consensus. But you try to look at what it is and see if there's any real advantage to it on the basis of your past experience. When Ruger brought out the Hornpipe (nickname for Ruger's bull-barreled 10½-inch Super Blackhawk .44 Magnum), I jumped on that because I've always been a believer in the heavier the barrel the better. I hung back on the Dan Wessons, until they got their act straightened out. And I'd have a Seville, but they're so damned expensive.

AH: How about .22? A lot of top silhouetters sneer at .22 rimfire silhouette, but every time a .22 match rolls around here at Inland, you're here.

DW: I've never sneered at .22. I've found that .22s are perhaps the best way to develop sight picture and trigger control because the targets are so much smaller and the sight picture is that much more difficult. And I love .22s because you don't have to reload. Find the ammunition your gun likes and just go down and buy it and that's it. You've got a tremen-



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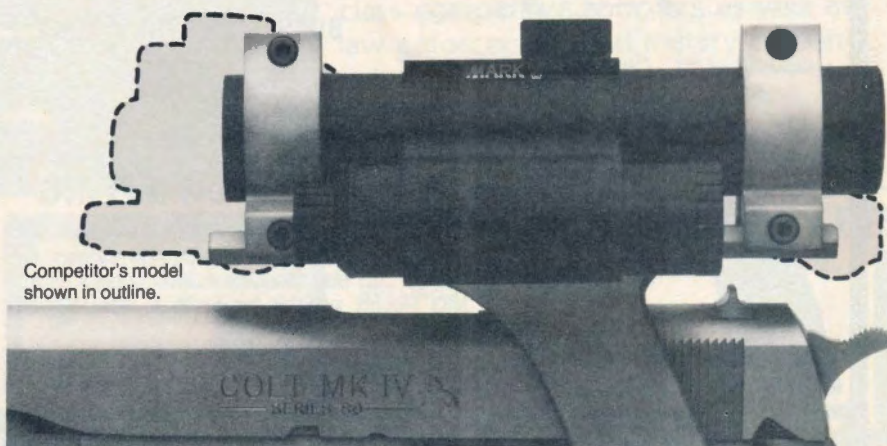
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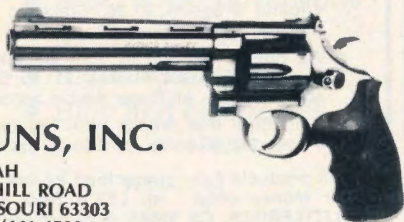


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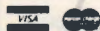
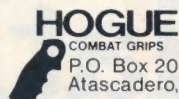
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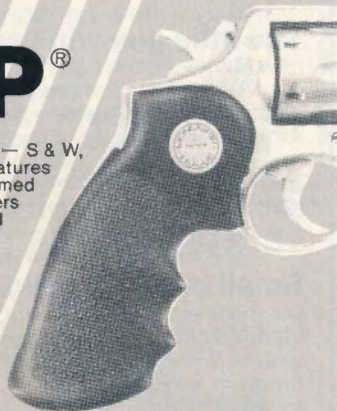
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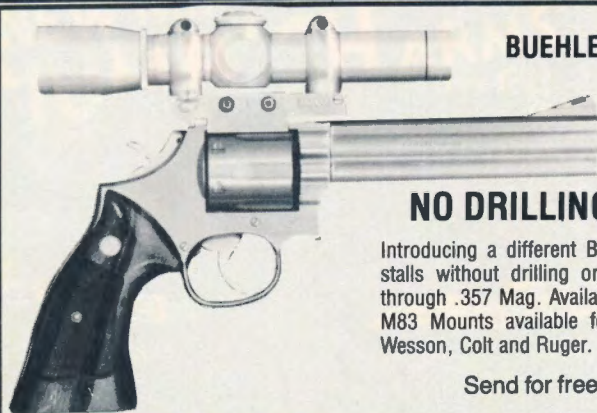


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dous variety of ammunition to choose from, and the price is reasonable. It's just a whole lot of fun. You have a lot of excellent .22s to use. Almost everybody at one time or another has picked up a fairly decent .22 revolver or auto. There are some marvelously competitive rimfire guns out there. AH: You've broken some barriers in silhouette. What frontiers are left?

DW: The perfect Grand Slam, which would include a 40 Standing, followed by 40s in Revolver, Production and Unlimited in the same match, for a perfect 160 Aggregate—that to me is about the only frontier left.

AH: Does that mean we need to make the game tougher?

DW: No, I don't think so, because for the great majority of silhouette shooters, they have their own goals. Most haven't got their first Production 40 yet, and 99% haven't got a Revolver 40. I've been in this game since the beginning, and while I've crossed a few barriers, I've still got one or two left. I still enjoy it all. It's almost a whole new ball game every time I go to the line. Don't try to make it a challenging game just for the few shooters who are on top. Never forget we've got a constant influx of new shooters to whom this is a whole new thing.

AH: So what's the future of handgun silhouette?

DW: I see steady growth—as long as we can keep the politicians away from our guns. We should keep it a game where a guy can get in cheaply. Don't make it too expensive to start—which is what's happened to many of the NRA sports. The Production class—I'll defend that to the death. Because if a guy has to shell out six, eight hundred or a thousand dollars just to go up to the firing line the first time, it's not worth it. He'll find something else to do, unless he's heavy with bucks. We've got to keep it easy for him to get started. If you want to play heavy bucks, we've got Unlimited class. The sky's the limit there. But keep it so a guy can get in with a minimal investment and know that his equipment is just as good as the guy's next to him. Let's never make it an equipment game.



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Continued from page 44

file. The fitting should not alter the shape of the barrel lugs, only the height. When the lugs are properly fitted the slide stop pin should be a slip fit along the lugs, and mate with the radius on the back.

When the lugs feel about right, install the barrel link and check to see that the slide stop isn't bound by the link. As long as the slide stop pin can move freely through the arc of the link travel it will be fine. If there is any interference, the link may need to be opened up a little. If the link is too short, the slide stop pin will strike the barrel lugs just in front of the flat surface and raise a big burr; if it is too long the barrel cannot come down far enough to unlock. The standard barrel link will almost always work, but this is an area that requires thoughtful study during the assembly operation. A link that is too long will put spring tension on the barrel when it is in battery and defeat the purpose of all that careful lug fitting.

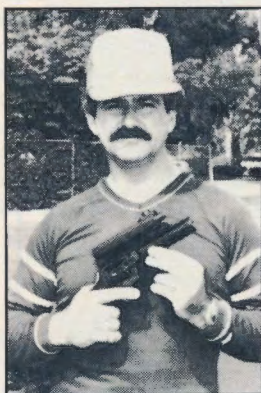
Now assemble the barrel, frame and slide and see how things go together. Even if it's a little stiff, manual cycling a few times will leave bright spots showing where more polishing is needed. If everything feels pretty smooth, put in the recoil spring and guide and try again. If anything is too tight it will show up now and can be corrected. One area that is often a problem is on the back of the barrel lugs. Sometimes these will actually hit the frame and cause a distinct snap as the slide and barrel unlock. If the lugs are hitting the frame the red marker will show where, and the back of the lugs can be cautiously filed down until there is no interference.

Another factor in reliable functioning is the recoil spring. I am not a believer in extra strength recoil springs, especially in accurized guns. A standard spring will do just fine. The recoil spring guide should be polished gently, and the sharp corners broken to be sure nothing binds. The inside of the recoil spring plug should be checked for burrs or anything that will interfere with the smooth movement of the spring. I don't particularly like long recoil spring guides for this type gun, but I do favor Wilson's *Shok-Buff* system.

Guns with well fitted lugs seem to have a distinctive feel that is hard to describe, but easy to recognize. The way to tell, is to let the slide go forward into battery very slowly and watch to see when the barrel locks up in the slide. This should be before the slide goes all the way forward, and from the point where the barrel locks up to where the slide stops moving is all lug fit. If the lugs and slide stop pin feel smooth and are in light, even contact with one another the gun is going to shoot well. There shouldn't be a jerk or snap when the gun goes into battery, and if there is, it is usually a sign of an improperly fitted barrel link. Fitting the barrel lugs and link are

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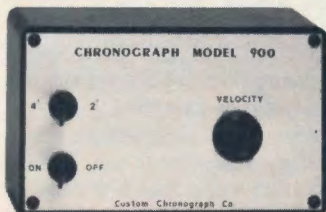
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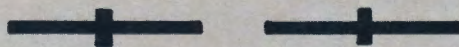
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undoubtedly the most critical operations of the accuracy job for they provide the connection between barrel, frame and slide. A mistake here is fatal. It is hard to explain in words, but anyone who goes through the fitting process a time or two will develop a feel for what will work. Smoothness is the key and any roughness or binding is an indication that something isn't right.

You will notice that I haven't mentioned the comp yet. All work up to this point has been done without it, and the temptation to play with the comp should be avoided. The threads used are quite fine and nothing should be done to damage them. Installation of the comp is not difficult but there are two points for caution. First is the mating of the comp and slide. The slide must not strike it, but the fit should be as close as possible for a good cosmetic result. It may be necessary to cut a little off the back of the comp to get a nice match. The second consideration is to make sure the front sight is absolutely vertical. There is nothing more annoying than a front sight that leans one way or another. When the Lock-Tite is applied, align the front sight and tighten the set screw. Then set it aside for the Lock-Tite to set up. Follow the directions on the tube, but remember this is a permanent type so everything needs to be right *before* it is applied.

Now, with the comp installed, cycle repeatedly by hand and then disassemble and look for bright spots. When no more are found, and there is no stiffness anywhere in the operation, the hard part is over, and the remainder of the frame can be assembled. This is where a trigger job is done and one place where do-it-yourself gunsmithing does not apply. If you don't already know how, it can't be learned in an article. Take it to a pro. His work should also include the fitting of the safeties so leave them alone.

One of the final steps in building a gun is the installation of the sights. This shouldn't be done early in the process because there is a chance they will be damaged. Most comps have the front sight built in and only the rear sight need be chosen and installed. One of the things that runs the cost up are those nice low mounted Bo-Mar and Wichita sights. It takes a machinist quite a bit of time to do all that milling and increases the cost by around \$100. Fixed sights lack the sex appeal, but have two significant things going for them; they cost a lot less and are not as fragile. There are a number of good fixed sights on the market and many authorities recommend them. There is one point that the home gunsmith must consider though: different rear sights require various front sight heights and a front sight that is too low is trouble. Check to make sure that the rear sight you want will work, and, if you err, do it on the high side. A front sight that is too high can be cut down. Wilson's fixed rear sights are compatible and those are what I chose. When I got to the range I only seemed to make a small windage adjustment: elevation was right on.

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frame, trigger guard and mainspring housing. A great deal of talent and sweat goes into this work, and we pay for it accordingly. Most gunsmiths charge separately for each area, but the total job can run from \$150-250. Unfortunately this isn't a job for amateurs and a frame can be ruined so there are alternatives. Perhaps the best is Pachmayr grips. These have proven to be popular and some shooters prefer them over checkering anyhow for their non-slip properties. Another alternative is a gadget offered by Bill Wilson. It is a stamped piece of metal that looks like checkering, but is a thin piece that is shaped to fit around the front strap and is held on by the grips. It looks and feels almost as good as the expensive cut checkering, but for \$14.95 it's attractive for the economy minded shooter.

Test firing is the final process. Most shooters will have a favorite load and this should be used for initial function firing. *Do not expect flawless function at first*, for it is the rare gun that doesn't need a trip or two back to the workbench. The most likely malfunctions will be either stovepipe jams or failures to feed. Tight guns often stovepipe, and shooting is the best cure. If, after 50 rounds or so, it still does it, clip a coil or two off the recoil spring and try again. If that doesn't cure things the gun is simply too tight. If feeding failures are the problem, the first place to look is the magazine. Try all the available magazines. If only one is causing the problem it should be replaced, but if all of them are doing it the problem may be roughness on the frame or barrel throat. Wilson's barrels are already throated, but a final polish may be in order. Be careful though not to change the angles, just polish. A Dremel tool with a fine emery cloth band is good for this, but it can be done by hand with crocus cloth wrapped around a dowel or finger. The same should be done to the frame ramp and again, make sure not to change the angle.

Now, let's talk a little about money. If every single part used in this gun were bought, the total would be almost \$800 which isn't all that bad when compared to buying a complete gun. But, if you already have a gun to start on, you can get by for a lot less. Wilson's barrel/comp kit retails for \$250, and many of the parts I've used are replacements for standard pieces. They are nice, but not mandatory. A frugal shooter can start with just the basic comp kit, and add the amenities later. I happened to use Bill Wilson's parts, but there are many other sources as can be seen from the accompanying list. Only a few offer compensators in kit form and there is quite a bit of difference in price so it might pay to shop around. If the fitting of the barrel sounds like too much of a job there is still another alternative. J. Michael Plaxco recently announced a drop-in version of his popular compensator. I haven't had a chance to test it yet, but reviews have been very favorable.

Anyone with a lot of patience, and commonly available tools can do most of the work himself, and thereby save a bundle. Most shooters will have a few parts lying around that may be useable, so cost will vary for each



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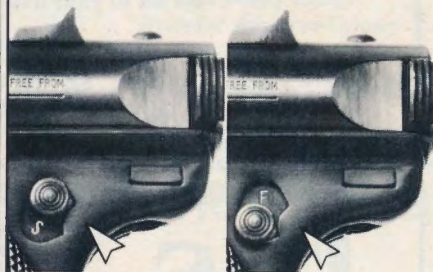
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3. Then place the safety in the "F" position.
4. Pull the trigger. You should hear a click as the hammer falls in a properly functioning pistol.

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job, but the savings can be substantial. There is a word of caution needed though. It is easy to overestimate one's ability and it is even easier to get impatient. Since all of the parts require fitting, the manufacturer will not, nor should he be, responsible for disasters. If the part has been altered, or ruined through whatever reason, it is not returnable.

So, to answer our original question, "Can this be done by the average shooter?" Yes, as long as your definition of "average" includes a substantial quantity of patience. If it does, and the cost savings are appealing, then there is an opportunity to save money. There's also a good deal of satisfaction in building your own gun, but remember; every shooter doesn't need a comp gun and every shooter isn't a gunsmith.



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LEE 1000

Continued from page 29

The Pro 1000 permits easy die changing, and eliminates the need to re-adjust dies when a caliber change is made. The hand-loader has but to purchase a turret ring for each set of dies and snap it into the Pro 1000 when he decides to load for another gun.

If, however, changing calibers calls for a different shell plate, Lee recommends changing the entire carrier assembly. This is a quick, easy operation; however, the difficulty for those who reload a wide variety of cartridges is that each carrier assembly costs about \$50.

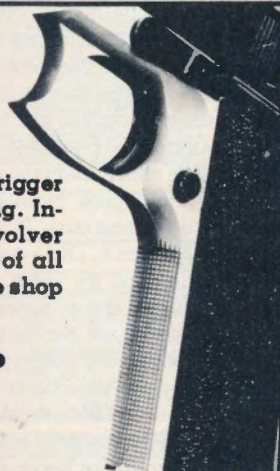
The alternative is to disassemble the carrier and install the needed shell plate, which costs \$20. The motivation (roughly \$30 worth), is there, and, although changing only the shell plate may exist as a minor chore the



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first time, it becomes easier with practice.

Finally, there's the matter of what might be called the "cyclic rate" of this or any other high-speed reloader. The rate at which any such contrivance is capable of turning out good ammo is dependent upon operator skill. And, speaking of production rate, it's important to remember that the faster a machine produces, the more often it must be fed. You'll be stopping now and then to refill component carriers.

So, although the Lee Progressive 1000 is being billed as "The World's Fastest Hand-loading Press" (and it well may be just that), I believe it should be evaluated on the basis of more fundamental considerations. For example, its functioning is smooth, and, as noted, it is potentially trouble-free. On the other hand, although it doesn't provide the option of an infinitely-adjustable powder measure, it comes closer to realizing the concept of automatic reloading than anything one man can lift. The Pro 1000 retails for less than the Dillon RL 450, or the newer RL 550, and therefore may be just what you've been wanting.



COLT'S BISLEY

Continued from page 59

monly known as the Flat Top Target, were made before the Bisley came on the scene.

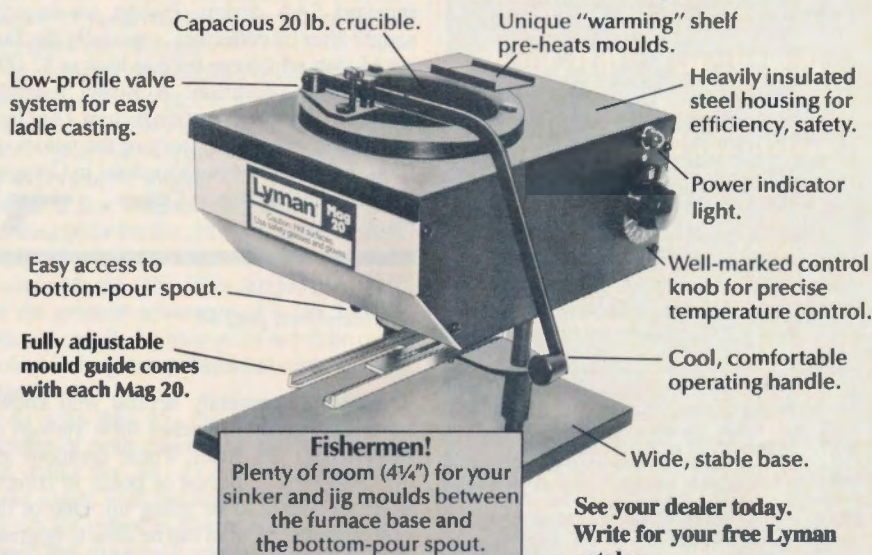
The major difference between the Bisley and the standard production Single Action Army was in the shape of the grip and the design of the hammer. The stocks were longer with a more curved backstrap and were designed to provide a better grip for the hand. One of the complaints about the grip of the standard SAA was that it was too short and left the little finger unsupported. The hammer was smaller with a straighter fall that resulted in less disturbance to the gun when fired. Its spur was less pronounced and lower but wider to facilitate easy cocking. Apart from the back of the frame, which was deeper to accommodate the altered backstrap, the rest of the gun was the same as the standard Single Action Army.

The first Bisleys had fixed sights and could be had in three standard barrel lengths of 7½, 5½ and 4¾ inches as well as a storekeeper's or pocket model that had a shorter barrel without the usual ejector housing. Later, a target Flat Top Model appeared. This had the same flat top frame as the earlier target single action with an adjustable sight set in a dovetail. The standard Bisleys had the usual finish of a color-case-hardened frame and hammer with blued barrel, cylinder, backstrap and trigger guard while the target models were all blue. Stocks were two piece and made either of wood or hard rubber. Bisleys were chambered for .32, .32/20, .38, .38/40, .41, .44/40, .45 as well as .45 Eley. Both the standard and target versions were marked BISLEY MODEL in parenthesis followed by the caliber on the left side of the barrel.

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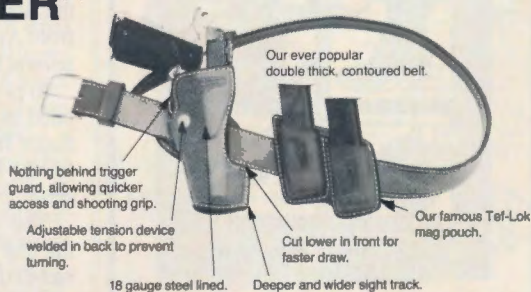
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pared with the standard SAA. The first models appeared in 1894 and production ceased by 1912. Even so, they proved very popular with the target shooters of their day and took many prizes, especially in Britain. They were made in 154000-325000 SAA serial number range. It is estimated that around 45,000 Bisleys were eventually produced of which only some 1,000 were the Flat Top Target Model.

Because they are a departure from the standard SAA design, Bisleys are eagerly sought after by collectors, especially the Target Models which can fetch as high as \$2,000 in excellent condition. A Bisley recently starred in the recent motion picture *The Grey Fox* which related the story of the notorious train robber Bill Miner's exploits in Oregon, Washington and British Columbia, Canada.



.38 SUPER

Continued from page 56

There are presently several well known gunsmiths putting together their version of the ultimate .38 Super. These creations are not cheap and the price of poker in combat shooting seems to be going up. One of the best examples of what can be done to upgrade this old caliber comes from Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Richard Watson (2057 Cline Ave., Fayetteville, AR, 72701) is probably best known for his excellent work with the .45 auto. Paying attention to every detail, Watson has perfected his technique to the point where he is considered one of the best practitioners of the art. Lee Cole, the pretty lady shooter from Arkansas, has used a Watson gun to win several national combat titles.

In preparation for this article, Watson supplied us with a customized Colt .45 and .38 Super from his shop. The guns we received for the test were absolutely flawless in their detail, craftsmanship and performance.

The .45 was brought out, loaded and put to the test first. As expected, it performed and handled like a dream. Hot loads, light loads, speed shooting and slow shooting; nothing seemed to bother the gun and nothing stopped it. Being a devotee of accuracy, I camped out at 25 yards and drilled numerous target centers (bullseyes, tin-cans, etc.) with amazing regularity. In all honesty, the gun shot as well as it looked, and the feeling expressed by everyone present was that the .38 Super was going to have to "hump" to keep up.

All good things must come to an end, so when the supply of .45 ammo (donated for the test by Bud Watson of Watson Precision Custom Reloads, 2650 S. Myrtle #1, Monrovia, CA 91016) was all used up, out came the .38 Super. Both the .45 and the .38 Super guns looked identical. The same components and the same additions were used on each gun, so, except for the smaller hole at the business end of the Super, there was no noticeable difference—that is, until the first shot was fired.

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
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If the truth be known, there really isn't too much that is new in shooting. Most of what we have available today is an intelligent update of an old theme or idea. The .38 Super has been around for awhile living in relative obscurity. Now, it seems to be enjoying a rebirth thanks to the efforts of innovative gunsmiths like Richard Watson. Whether or not the .38 Super is an advantage remains to be seen. Even though a few highly regarded shooters have started to campaign the Super, the test of any product is time. But no matter, combat shooters are an aggressive breed, and if they think there's something new out there that will improve their score just one small bit, then they will damn sure check it out. Right now the .38 Super fits that category.



Continued from page 51

bellum and 100 Winchester 115 gr. round nosed ball went downrange without mishap. No failures to feed, eject, or go bang. And no brass in the face. Some prominent American autos are expected to be cranky for the first 200 shots or so, requiring what's called a 'breaking in period'. Apparently the Hungarians don't know about this and plan to make pistols that work from the start. Such quality control is commendable, and it's odd they'd miss the trigger unless by some quirk it does meet their requirements.

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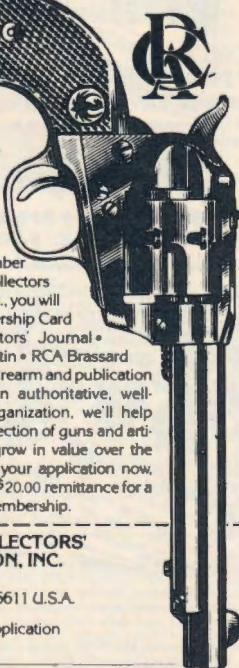
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Hand held accuracy was surprisingly good. At 25 meters I had no trouble shooting five inch groups from a Weaver stance. This may not impress some, but remember that horrendous trigger pull.

Double-action pistols were expected in many of the markets these communist makers coveted. If they could add this option to the Hi-Power, they'd have a real winner, or so it was speculated.

Rather than go to a time consuming and expensive task of working up something new, they looked for a dependable, proven design they could copy. That turned out to be Smith & Wesson's Model 59. So the Model P9R was born—a Browning/Smith & Wesson Hybrid which incorporated the best features from both.

Again Erwin Daigger provided a sample. Possibly it was the first to reach our shores as it sported serial number OR-0019 with a proof certificate dated 5, June, 1984. It looked much like the earlier FP, with the safety moved up on the slide and a larger S&W style trigger and trigger guard added to its profile. The vent rib was gone, as were the superior sights noted on the FP. The P9R reverted to a fixed rear with small 'U' notch and a minuscule front blade—almost identical to standard Browning's. Obviously engineers in Budapest don't understand the finer points of modern combat techniques, but their customers may not either, and the intention here was to create a commercially accepted product. Those who know better can change to better sights with little trouble.

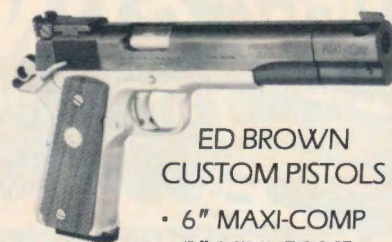
The thumb safety, as previously noted, is a rotating lever on the slide's left side. There's no provision for ambidextrous operation, although this may be forthcoming. Turning it down puts the safety on thereby locking and blocking the firing pin, and dropping the hammer if it's cocked. It works exactly like a Smith & Wesson or Walther P-1 (P-38).

The backstrap is made from what appears to be black anodized aluminum. Literature with the gun indicates a light frame version paralleling Smith's 59/459 will be offered as the Model P9RA.

Its grips are similar to, but not interchangeable with, the FP. In an age of black synthetics (read that plastic) it's nice to see neatly checkered, piano finished walnut once and awhile.

The breech locking system is an ingenious adaptation of Browning's original design, but where the barrel is cammed by action of a shoulder against a transversely mounted pin in the FN P-35, the Hungarians have used a trapezoidal block or shelf secured by the slide stop to affect the same thing. By changing the shape, length, and height of this block one could adjust dwell time and depth of barrel/slide locking lug engagement, thereby fine tuning the pistol.

Like its predecessor it performed well, although there were two failures to feed, (using lead bullet reloads) and once it didn't eject a fired case during some 150 total rounds fired. Commercial ball of mixed brands went through like greased lightning. All of the four testers noted with disfavor the



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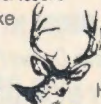
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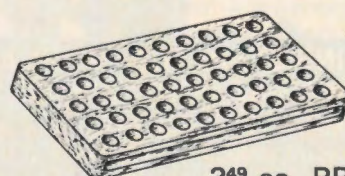


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return to smaller sights, and while we found the single action trigger to be light enough at around four pounds, it had a disturbing mushy feel which no one liked. I thought it was about the same as an average Smith & Wesson. Apparently if Baltic makers have an Achilles' Heel it's in the lack of ability to produce satisfactory trigger pulls.

We won't be seeing many of these guns. Government policy toward trade relations with the Reds and BATF regulations seem to insure that. But indirectly they may affect American manufactures and their ability to do business in an increasingly competitive world market. Any loss of sales affects their profits and ability to provide jobs for U.S. workers.

While these Hungarian guns are a little rough around the edges, they are good—very good—and we can expect them to get better.



KEEPING YOUR COOL

Continued from page 65

Play the Lucky Game. "The only real luck involved in competitive shooting is in not having a heart attack on the line, not getting hit by lightning, and not having a gun malfunction. Beyond that, it's your shooting, not your luck, that wins or loses the match for you." Cathy reports that many European competitors bring stuffed animals to the firing line as lucky charms and companions to fend off the "awful, lonely feeling of vulnerability." Like other Americans, Cathy is more likely to have a single piece of equipment as a lucky token. Currently it's a towel, but she doesn't rely on it for success—just solace.

It's Only a Match. From Scott Hamilton, Cathy learned to keep each match in perspective by asking exactly what will happen if you lose. They will not strip previous titles from you or bar you from further competition. Your skills will not disappear. Most likely, only you will remember your disappointing score, and facing your own frustration is all you really have to fear from a loss. Keep always in mind that "you can't lose what you've already won, although you may not add to your wins at this one match." Bottom line? Relax.

Simplify. Boil your event down to its bare essentials and don't let yourself worry about anything else. Cathy concentrates on only three things: being as still as possible as she shoots, seeing the sights clearly, and shooting as well as she can. "If I keep these clearly in mind, everything else takes care of itself." Don't worry about remembering all the fine points of stance and technique—you've practiced them thoroughly. Don't worry about the competition or the judges—they're beyond your control. Don't worry about your score or your placement—all you can do is your best. Minimize your distractions and you'll maximize your performance.

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feel an anxiety attack coming on? Or a rush of adrenalin ruptures the emotional calm you've been struggling for? Stop. Try your breathing routine. Close your eyes and do a mini-meditation on a single word repeated over and over. Or picture a color and drive everything else from your mind for a moment. Cathy visualizes herself floating in the ocean under a hot, summer sun. Other shooters may picture a hunting scene or reading in a favorite chair.

Snack Savvy. Don't reach for a candy bar to give yourself an energy boost during a match. The jolt of sugar will cause the 'sugar shakes' for a few moments as your body struggles to compensate for the abrupt change in blood sugar levels. That's likely to be followed by a 'blah' worse than your original energy droop. Caffein produces shakes, too, and alcohol depresses your reactions. So what do you reach for to tide yourself over?

Members of the U.S. Shooting team are advised to take a single bite of protein and carbohydrate. The Russian team is provided with an exotic juice mixture to sip which includes that precise combination, but a bite of ham sandwich will do about the same thing. And don't forget to drink plenty of water, especially at hot matches. As you concentrate on the competition, you can become dehydrated without realizing anything is wrong.

Let Each Shot Stand Alone. Don't let a single shot—or bad series—demoralize you and affect the rest of your performance. Concentrate on learning from each bad shot so

the next one will be better. This shifts you back into a more relaxed practice-session frame of mind. Cathy says she "treats each shot as if it is the most important shot in my life." Not each match—each shot.



HEGE-SIBER

Continued from page 54

developed the least amount of friction were also designed. This is the area where Siber's watch making experience paid off the most. There was no tolerance within the moving parts and all bearing holes were honed and polished. The same attention was given to the bearing surfaces of the screws that assembled the lock. When this no-tolerance degree of craftsmanship was applied to the set trigger it allowed the touch of a finger to cause the sear to override the fly in the tumbler. To repeat an over-used cliché, the lock and trigger functioned like a Swiss watch.

The barrel also received considerable attention. After a great deal of experimenting, Siber came up with his own special formula for accuracy. The consisted of '33-3-333' which is deserving of a brief explanation. The 33 relates to the caliber, the 3 stands for the groove depth in millimeters (3/10mm), and 333 means the rate of twist, a full turn in 333 millimeters. With our system of measuring, we can recognize .33 caliber. Millimeters need converting to be easily

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If you're into 9mm, or expect to be, we've got a hunch you're going to really like this gun.

For one thing, the Model 9's 16½" modified Micro-Groove® barrel delivers more than a 22% increase in muzzle velocity and a 50% boost in energy over a 4" barreled 9mm handgun.

understood and 3/10mm equals .018" for the groove depth while 333mm gives the bullet one turn every 13.11 inches. That's a very fast rate of twist for a gun designed to fire a round ball. But the velocity is rather low. The best powder charge to use with this bullet and barrel combination is only eight grains.

When the Hege Company of West Germany focused on the idea of recreating a muzzleloading target pistol for the black powder marksmen of today, they found that the very same criteria—small caliber, low recoil, fast ignition—were just as prominent as in the previous century. After researching many original target pistols in museums, historic arsenals and collections, the people from Hege found they could not improve on the pistol made by Siber.

The Hege re-designers went to work. They didn't intend to re-design the Siber pistol, instead they re-designed the tooling and gauges plus jigs and machinery to follow the intricate methods of Siber's gunmaking. Every effort was taken to make the Hege-Siber an exacting replica of the original.

Exacting it is. The barrel was copied right down to the unique trapezoidal rifling and the stock has the same grip angle of 70 degrees. The lock and trigger mechanisms were copied with the same watch making accuracy and when the lock time was tested, measured from the beginning of the hammer fall to the exit of the bullet from the muzzle, it was found to be 5 milliseconds, exactly the same as the original.

The finished gun by Hege is a sight to

behold. Its deeply blued barrel shows the hours of work required to produce such a pistol and the oiled stock has the comfortable grip of a natural pointer. The hook breech, lock, and trigger are satin finished with a touch of artistic engraving. Sights are the same as the original, being adjustable for elevation at the rear and a gold barleycorn on the front. It is as beautiful in finish as it is in design and it shoots just as beautifully too.

Pouring only 8 grains of FFFg down its 10-inch barrel doesn't seem like enough powder, but that's all it takes. Then patch a .330" round ball in a .010" cotton patch and ram it down. After placing a cap on the nipple and setting the trigger, the pistol is ready for good shooting. The Siber is not intended to be cleaned between shots and three fouling shots are recommended before firing a target for score. When I fired this pistol, I was amazed by its performance and it's easy to see how the Hege-Siber would be a member of any winning team.

In black powder conversations where accuracy is the subject, the Hege-Siber target pistol is becoming very well known. These fine pistols are available singularly or in pairs, in standard grade or deluxe. The standard model, which I fired, came in a mahogany case complete with all accessories priced at \$795. They are available through various outlets including the "Old Western Scrounger," 12924 Hwy. A-12, Montague, California 96064. The Hege-Siber target pistol reopens an early page in precision shooting.



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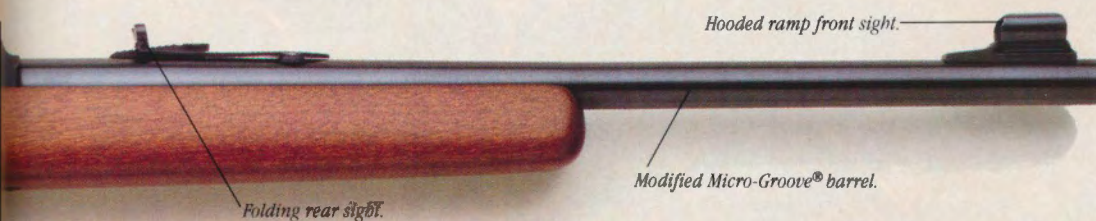
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BIANCHI CUP

Continued from page 48

mated at 250 strong. Imagine shooting with three—count em, three—TV cameras watching your every move for later broadcast on national television. Blow it and the whole country sees you jerk the trigger!

The 20 shooters shot one at a time to qualify for the final man-on-man shoot-off. They had six runs at the plates, and the best (lowest time) five runs counted.

Bill Wilson had four bad runs, and realized he couldn't qualify for the 'money bouts.' What the heck, might as well go for it. Go for it he did—Bill set a new national record for the Speed Event with a sizzling run of 1.44 seconds. The previous record was a lazy 2.17 seconds set by Rob Leatham last year. Think about it—a draw from surrender and five shots on five different targets in 1.44 seconds! I wouldn't have believed it possible if I hadn't witnessed it.

Bill Rogers missed the Top Six cut when his Wilson Accu-Comp in .38 Super went

full-auto triggering a four shot burst. He left two plates standing and incurred the appropriate penalty for such a mishap. Bill shoots his Accu-Comp with a pivoting trigger set at one-pound (!) and attributes the full-auto freak happening to sear engagement.

A camera man for ESPN alerted the control van: "Full-auto! Full-auto! Did ya get that?" I'm sure the director will include Bill's 'speed shooting' in the edited-for-TV version to be seen on ESPN.

The top six to qualify for 'shooting for dollars' were Tommy Campbell, Mike Dalton, John Shaw, Steve Nastoff, Rob Leatham and Brian Enos. Each shooter fired man-on-man, best of three bouts against each of the other shooters. The man with the most wins won.

It was exciting. Bill Jordan, ex-Border Patrolman and famous handgunner, said he had never seen more evenly matched shooters compete. Ray Chapman also was impressed with the amazingly close times posted by the competitors. Many bouts were decided by mere hundredths of seconds. Timing was electronic.

John Shaw stole the show. He methodically

eliminated his opponents with fast, precise shooting. John fired a Wilson Accu-Comp in .38 Super on an Essex frame. The top three finalists fired .38 Super Wilson Accu-Comps.

Upon realizing his victory, John embraced his last victim, Rob. Seeing two of the world's best shooters, who had moments before been giving their all to best each other, embrace in a bear hug sent a tingle up one's spine. Here was true sportsmanship. All the shooters congratulated John, and their hearty praise was sincere. I saw the sparkle of respect in the eyes of these world-class shooters as they extended their congrats to John.

Always a gentleman, John took a bow and thanked the audience for their support during his victorious bouts.

CLOSING CEREMONIES

On the last day of the match Tommy Campbell called a special shooters' meeting and invited movers and shakers from the NRA's Action Shooting Committee to attend. The shooters were treated with respect and consideration by the NRA as we expressed our several grievances with The



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Cup. The bouncing barricades were pointed to as flawed equipment, and the shooters cheered as the NRA officials promised turning targets for next year. It is absurd for a match like The Cup to be judged for late shots by the human ear—turning targets are essential, and the NRA agreed.

The turnout for The Cup was off by 25 percent from last year, and the NRA expressed interest in obtaining input from shooters on how to improve The Cup to attract more competitors. To that end the shooters elected Combat Master Mike Dalton to represent us on the NRA's Action Shooting Committee. One wonders why the NRA never thought to include a shooter on the Committee in the first place. That is akin to a committee to study the problems of handicapped persons without a handicapped individual involved.

The NRA reported that they lost \$24,000 on The Cup, but added that the Camp Perry bullseye match loses \$150,000 every year.

Despite minor flaws, The Cup was a great match. The Cup is still The Cup, and it's still the most prestigious professional pistol match in the world. Next year will be even better.

END ZONE SEATS

Continued from page 48

responded in the same way to the "honor" of being selected because attendance was down by a whopping 25%. Something is wrong somewhere, and if the match organizers want to see more than just a few prima donnas show up to strut their stuff, then they had better take a long, hard look at The Cup and realize it's time for a few changes.

Getting right to the point, there are some glaring faults with The Cup that seem to be repeated every year. What makes these drawbacks so painfully obvious is the fact that the shooters have been complaining about them religiously year after year, and nobody seems to care.

Love of the sport notwithstanding, money is the motivating factor behind the Bianchi Cup, and the sluggish entry gate from "the finest shooters in the world" will do more for getting the message across than anything I could ever say here. Due to the low turnout, the NRA lost \$24,000. But just for the record, let's go over a few of the problems that are plaguing this otherwise fine match.

Turning Targets: For whatever reason, the "powers that be" have stubbornly refused to concede to the fact that turning targets are an absolute necessity on certain course of fire. Time after time, shooters have protested this lack of professionalism only to see the match come up with all manner of exotic—and not so exotic—timing devices to skirt the issue. None of them work.

The Olympics is a world-class production in every sense, and turning targets are used in most of the shooting events there. It would be totally unacceptable to even consider trying to fire the IRF (Olympic version) without turning targets. The NRA has also estab-

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lished turning targets as a minimum requirement for many of the pistol matches that fall under their purview. That the Bianchi Cup still attempts to sidestep the inevitable is an insult to the shooters who pay good money to compete.

Award Schedule/Match Fees: No one will dispute the philosophy of money matches: "Ya pays ya money and ya takes ya chances." Shooting for cash means paying up front and then standing tall on the line—some win and some lose. In The Cup's case, you paid \$275 (not including the team fee) for the privilege of trying to place in the top-ten overall because that's where all the financial action was. First Place paid \$15,000. Second Place was \$6,000, and Third Place received \$4,000. It went downhill fast after that.

The first few years were fun; match fees weren't quite so high and the same names hadn't popped up in the winner's circle so often—yet. After awhile, though, it started to become clear that the masses were paying for the rewards of the few. Considering the costs involved in attending the Bianchi Cup (match fees, travel expenses, room & board, etc.), many shooters, including some of the big winners, feel that the purpose of the match might be better served if the award schedule was distributed around a little more; and that means *cash*, not just the token freebies that get handed out to the also-rans.

Range Conditions: Another sore spot with shooters who have fired in The Cup is the quality of the range. We're not just talking small, insignificant complaints here, but important things like: plates that don't fall even after a dead-center hit; flimsy barricades; uneven ground for shooters who like to go prone (i.e., Falling Plate Event); lack of suitable toilet facilities and inadequate parking, just to name a few. Understandably, one man's hamburger is another man's steak, but big bucks are being generated by The Cup and one would hope that these aggravating oversights would be taken care of.

The match site itself is subject to some ongoing debate (weather being the biggest consideration), but assuming that it means a lot to a select few to keep the match where it is, it would appear that no expense or effort is too great to tidy things up a bit for those that make the match what it is, the shooters.

Which brings me to my last broadside—the underlying (and sometimes not so subtle) seeming disregard for honest protests, complaints and concerns of the shooters. Whether it comes from one controlling entity or several, the perceived response is one of unyielding arrogance—almost insulting.

The Bianchi Cup has set the stage for professional handgunning. No one will deny that in spite of some problems. The Cup has proven itself to be a fantastic vehicle to further the cause of shooting as a sport. But much can still be done to make it better. The fact that attendance was down by 25% should say something to the match organizers about how some shooters feel about what's been going on. Hopefully, the presence of the NRA is the breath of fresh air that is needed to get things back on track.

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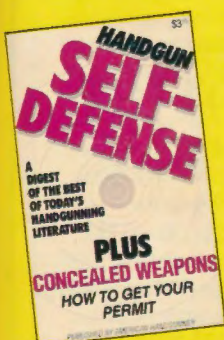
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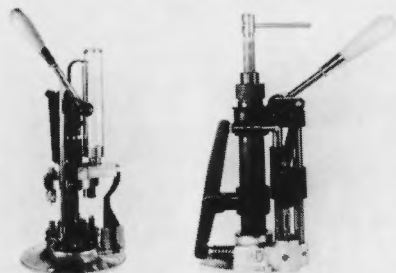
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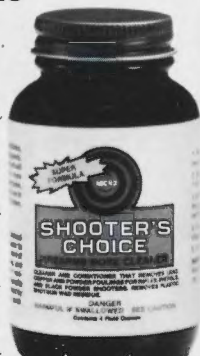
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EMF BISLEYS

Continued from page 59

shooting.

Of course, it must be remembered that even though many were carried for personal defense, the Bisley were intended for precision target shooting, not fast combat work. When shot slow and deliberately, there was time to concentrate on adjusting the grip for each shot.

As it is, most shooters will use a two handed hold and I found the guns much easier to shoot in this way. Here the thumb of the supporting hand is used to cock the hammer and surprisingly fast strings can be fired in this manner. In fact it is probably easier to shoot fast with a Bisley than a standard Single Action, thanks to the lower hammer spur which permits much quicker cocking when two hands are used.

The guns were tested for accuracy from a bench rest position at 25 yards using a two handed hold. In this part of the test a variety of commercial and handloaded .357 Magnum and .38 Special ammunition was used. Good accuracy was obtained from the 7½ inch barrel Bisley with fixed sights. My best group was obtained with Hornady Frontier 158 grain .357 Magnum ammunition. Of the five shots fired, four were clustered together in a three-quarter inch group in the X-ring of a 25 yard pistol target. The other shot was low in the ten ring.

However, I had to aim some six inches high and four inches to the left to get this group in the middle of the target. This is one of the problems with guns with fixed sights and the point of impact changes depending upon the particular load used. As an example, while the 158 grain Magnums printed low left, 148 gr. .38 Special wadcutters printed some four inches higher.

Thanks to its fully adjustable sights, this problem did not apply to the Dakota Target Bisley and I soon had all shots centered in the 10-ring. The sights also presented a much better sight picture and this, no doubt, helped in shooting a very tight ¾ inch five-shot group. Four of the shots were clustered together in a ⅜ inch group with all five shots in the X-ring. This was achieved with some .38 reloads using 3 grains of Bullseye behind a 148 grain HBWC.

The accuracy of the EMF Bisleys certainly matches the reputation of the originals.

The EMF Bisleys gave an impressive performance, both in accuracy and reliability. They are well-made, durable revolvers that are easy to shoot when a two handed hold is used. The fact that they are replicas of an unusual version of Colt's Single Action will always cause much interest and comment. The fixed sight model retails for around \$450 while the target version is priced at \$490. Further information and a catalog of all EMF products can be obtained from the EMF Co. Inc., Dept. AH, 1900 E. Warner Ave., Suite 1-D, Santa Ana, CA 92705, (714) 261-6611.



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HANDGUNNER TO CELEBRATE TENTH YEAR IN 1986 WITH CUSTOM GUNS

No matter what product you name, there seems to be someone who thinks that they can make it better or cheaper.

What comes to mind is, of course, the Colt .45 ACP Government Model. Over the course of the past years, we've seen several copies, "improvements," and adaptations of the Colt from such companies as AMT, Llama, Auto Ordnance, Arminex, the late Randall, MS Safari Arms, and possibly some others. And, it seems it's not over. Coming up is the 1911-A1 from Springfield Armory, and versions from Caspian Arms.

There is no doubt that some of these Colt clones are (or were) cheaper in price than the original, but whether any were better is best left to each individual's technical and subjective interpretation. Some were or are, to say the least, different.

Today, however, although the cloning of the Colt continues, we see the same thing happening to other guns, especially those which have attained reputations of quality and dependability. There are look-alikes of the Beretta 92, Walther pocket autos, CZ-75,

Ruger MkII, Colt Woodsman, and the list goes on.

Many of these copies are fine quality guns in their own right, however the one thing that they can't copy is the reputation built up over the years of the originals; that they will have to earn on their own.

The Pachmayr custom shop is hard at work developing their first custom PPC revolver, and we hear, too, that within the next six to eight months there should be a Pachmayr compensated IPSC-type .45 auto available with a six week turnaround on orders. If these two new offerings from Pachmayr reflect the quality and workmanship of the guns that have come out of their shop in the past, they should be winners.

Remember the Stoeger Luger®? This is the .22 version look-alike. Now it is being offered under the Navy Arms banner, with a retail price of \$155. More important, Val Forgett of Navy Arms says that there will soon be a Navy and an Artillery Model

available.

There is an old Arabian proverb that goes, "A horse of good breed is not dishonored by his saddle."

We hope that the Bren Ten is of a strong enough breed to withstand the distractions of delays and the discontent among many who are still waiting for their guns. That some of these people blame gun magazines for promoting the Bren Ten prematurely is patently ridiculous. I feel certain that readers of this magazine are sophisticated enough to realize that we are not going to run financial investigations before reporting on a new gun; nor will we institute personality profiles on the principals. If we did, I'm sure that there would be some very popular gun models which would never see print.

There is, however, one reality in the Bren Ten situation. With the experience of the Auto Mag of the 70s and the Bren Ten of the 80s, I doubt that we will see many more gun companies successful in their attempt to finance production with pre-production deposits from consumers.

As we leave the year 1985, I look forward especially to 1986, and the 10th anniversary of the **American Handgunner** magazine. We have some super surprises in store for our readers—in some extra special custom gun giveaway guns, and perhaps a special limited edition gun made just for this celebration. Watch for the exciting details.



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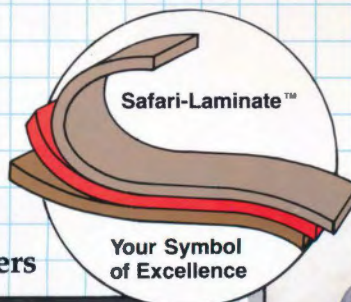
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