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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1986

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AMERICAN

# HANDGUNNER

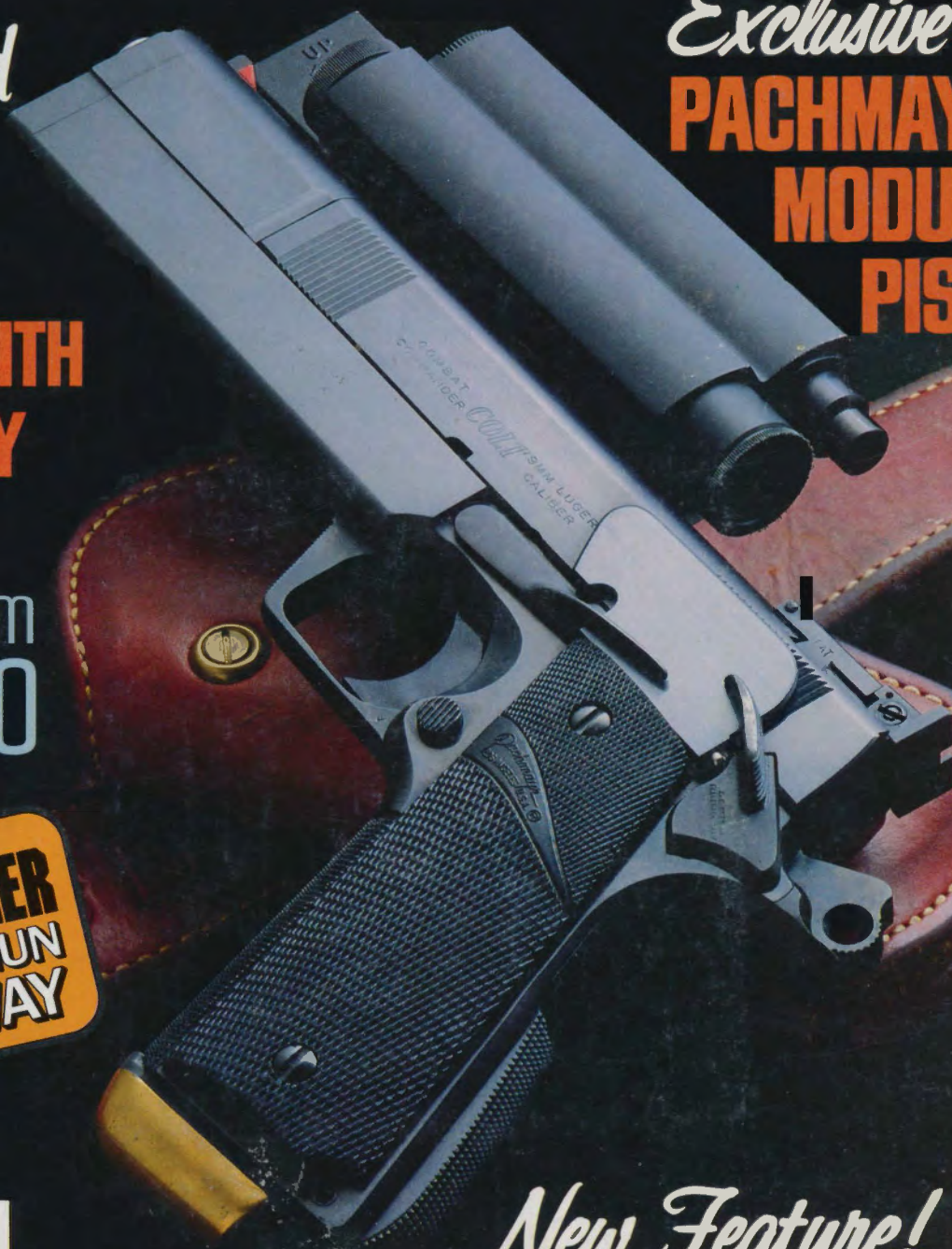
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### Hard To Buy For?

The American male has been accused of being very hard to shop for at Christmas. Most shooters are individualists who can take care of themselves and are in fact guilty of being "hard to buy for." It's no wonder that our wives, sweethearts and Santas have a hard time figuring out what we want or need. Often as not, we wind up with a new pair of socks, a necktie and some other gizmo.

This year make it easy for them and tell them what you want. Tear out this ad and leave it somewhere your Santa will find it. Be inventive — try the refrigerator, the front seat of her car, her lingerie drawer. Let her see what you *really* want for Christmas. A new RL550 Dillon Reloader would be really nice but there are many other quality Dillon reloading accessories that are priced about the same as that necktie she was going to buy. Don't be bashful. Just check the boxes in the ad, and don't worry, we'll help her with the ordering to make sure you get the right caliber. Try it, if you don't you will wind up with another damn pair of socks!

#### ☐ The New Dillon RL 550

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# \$234.<sup>95</sup>

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#### ☐ You Can't Do Without Em

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Precision Primer Pick Up Tubes 4 for \$10.00.

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RL 550 Interchangeable Die Holders 3 for \$25.00.



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All Dillon products are sold factory direct and backed by a simple sales policy. Try our products for 30 days; if you are not completely satisfied, simply return for a full refund. Ordering from Dillon Precision is simple. Call us TOLL FREE. A member of our staff will be glad to take your order. Please have your Visa or Master Card ready when you call. If you prefer, we will ship C.O.D. cash with no extra C.O.D. charge. All RL 550 presses are shipped freight paid, all other orders are subject to a \$4.00 shipping/handling fee. Call toll free 1-800-421-7632. In Arizona 602-948-8009.



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# THE VIETNAM WAR BAYONETS OF HONOR

Announcing the world's first limited edition Bayonets. Plated with 24-karat gold and made to full G.I. specifications using original wartime tooling.



*"Our destinies are sometimes focused on the sharp point of a bayonet."*

President John F. Kennedy

**T**hey lost no major battle, though they fought in a strange land, against a ruthless, often unseen enemy in America's longest war.

Now, in this, the 10th anniversary year of the close of the Vietnam War, The American Historical Foundation is proud to help draw national attention to these unheralded Americans and provide a truly individual memorial to them, through the world's first limited edition Bayonets, "The Vietnam War Bayonets of Honor."

A special Vietnam War Bayonet of Honor has been created to honor each of the four service branches—the Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force. The first Bayonet in the series—now available—honors the U.S. Army.

Whether or not you or a member of your family served in Vietnam, each of these specially made bayonets will give you a renewed sense of pride in the Americans who answered the call to duty.

## A Bayonet Cannot Be Ignored

The bayonet is the symbol of combat—the willingness to close with the enemy and fight eyeball to eyeball. It is representative of the courage of the individual trooper who fought the many small actions that characterized the warfare in Southeast Asia.

For this tribute we selected the identical bayonet issued to combat troops for use on the M16 Rifle.

Each is first and foremost a combat-worthy Bayonet, made of the identical original materials to full G.I. specifications. With a total of 16 parts, including two working spring loaded releases, each Bayonet is tested to fit the M16.

Each re-issue Bayonet for this Collection is made in the U.S.A. by the Imperial Knife Company using the same original tooling that they used during the Vietnam War.

However, that's where all similarity ends...

- The 6½" blade is heat treated, high carbon steel, polished to a mirror finish and deeply acid etched with a tribute inscription and a jungle scene designed by Vietnam combat veteran B. J. Weber. The blade is hard flash chromed to assure lasting beauty and gold-gilt and black enamel inlaid for contrast.

- The grips are specially made of highly polished black phenolic, checkered to the authentic G.I. pattern and inset with a full color cloisonne medallion of the service branch insignia.

- 24-karat gold is thickly plated on the crossguard, two releases, butt, two grip screws and two grip nuts—after they are polished to a mirror finish.
- After the craftsman carefully files, fits and peens together the 16 components that make up this bayonet, he inspects it in all particulars and tests it for fit on the M16. Then the individual limited edition serial number is engraved on the blade reverse.
- Finally, the numbered Certificate of Authenticity is matched with the bayonet, ready to deliver to you.

## Limited Edition Of 2500

Although more than 2,500,000 Americans served in Vietnam, only 2500 of each Vietnam War Bayonet of Honor will ever be made, to further assure each Bayonet of Honor rarity, respect and value as a collectible. Serial No. 1 of each Bayonet will be presented to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund for the recognition they have given to all Vietnam veterans.

Contributions will also be made by the Foundation to Vietnam veterans organizations, to help them perpetuate the memory of those who served and to help establish a Vietnam War Exhibit in The American Historical Foundation Museum.

## First Option, Without Obligation

As an added advantage, you will be guaranteed the opportunity, without obligation, to reserve subsequent Bayonets of Honor in this series with the same serial number—so you can systematically acquire a complete matched set. These tributes—one to the Marine Corps, one to the Air Force and one to the Navy—can be reserved by you, one bayonet at a time, in the months ahead. Each will have different blade etchings and grip medallions bearing the symbol of the service branch.

You may also reserve the optional display case, which is covered and lined with velvet, with actual ribbon from the Vietnam Service Medal mounted across the inner lid. It is fitted with two closure clasps to store and display your bayonet. The cases are color coordinated for each service branch.

## How To Reserve: Satisfaction Guaranteed.

You may easily place your reservation with a small deposit, and credit cards are accepted. You may call toll free (800-368-8080), use the reservation on this page or personally visit. Satisfaction is guaranteed, or return within 30 days for a full refund. There are no shipping charges. For an additional \$15 we will personalize your bayonet by engraving your name, rank and serial number on the



blade reverse. When you place your reservation, you will also be made a Member of The American Historical Foundation, joining men such as yourself in 29 countries around the world who share an interest in—and who helped make—America's great military history. You will also receive special information concerning the care and collecting of military arms and advance notice of all Foundation military projects.

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1142 West Grace Street, Dept. A129  
Richmond, Virginia 23220  
Telephone: (804) 353-1812  
24-hour toll free reservations: (800) 368-8080

Yes, I wish to reserve each of the following limited edition Vietnam War Bayonets of Honor with 24-karat gold plating. No shipping charges. Satisfaction guaranteed.

\_\_\_\_\_ Entire Series \_\_\_\_\_ Army \_\_\_\_\_ Navy  
\_\_\_\_\_ Marine Corps \_\_\_\_\_ Air Force

☐ Please also send the velvet display case, at \$24 each, for each Bayonet reserved.

☐ My deposit (or credit card authorization) of \$39 is enclosed. Please ☐ charge or ☐ invoice the balance due per Bayonet...

☐ in two equal monthly payments.  
☐ in full.

☐ My payment in full is enclosed (\$189 per Bayonet; display case, add \$24).

Name .....

Address .....

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



## HANDGUNNER

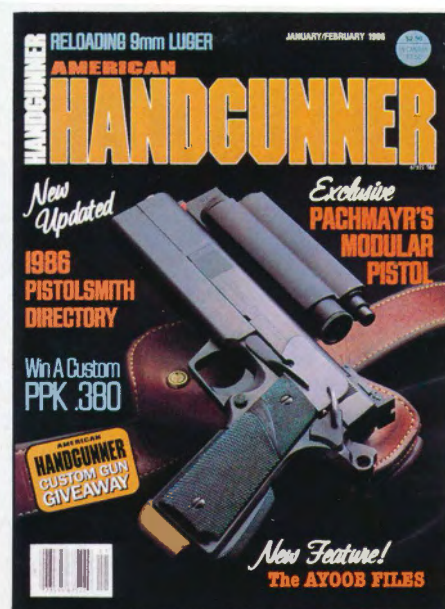
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Cover: Pachmayr's Modular Pistol for professional handgunners.  
Photo by Ichiro Nagata.



**GEORGE E. von ROSEN**, Publisher  
**JEROME RAKUSAN**, Editorial Director  
**CAMERON HOPKINS**, Editor  
**SYD BARKER**, Art Director  
**TOM BUGZAVICH**, Graphic Design  
**TOM HOLLANDER**, Circulation Director  
**NICK SOULELES**, Advertising Sales Manager

**NATIONAL ADV. OFFICE:** 591 Camino de la Reina, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92108 (619) 297-8520

**WEST COAST REPS.:** Media Sales Associates, 23232 Peralta Drive (Suite 218), Laguna Hills, CA 92653 (714) 859-4448

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# Holsters with a Memory

■ One of the virtues of a fine leather holster is the way it fits every contour of the specific handgun it was designed to hold.

■ When Michaels of Oregon pioneered the nylon holster a couple years back, we wanted each holster to fit every gun precisely and securely. But at the same time, a relatively few sizes of holsters had to fit a great number of guns.

■ The SIDEKICK series of hip holsters was born with a new, sandwich-type laminate with a memory that would deliver the best of both worlds... a snug fit for individual guns and the ability to fit many different guns in a size range.

■ Now patented by Michaels, this laminate of Cordura nylon, closed-cell foam padding and nylon lining has the ability to

form around the gun when you holster it. It will keep that shape during normal use, but the laminate's memory will gradually return the holster to its original profile to accept other guns equally well.

■ Since the first SIDEKICK hip holsters were introduced, "Uncle Mike's" has continually improved and refined the design, and has added many other styles. Today, SIDEKICK holsters are the most innovative and highest quality nylon holsters on the market. Look for them and the new line of SIDEKICK belts and accessories at your gun dealer or sporting goods store.

## CORDURA® NYLON OUTER SHELL

Michaels chose the practically indestructible Cordura nylon material for the outer shell of SIDEKICK holsters because of its incredible toughness and resistance to wear. Totally unaffected by heat, cold, moisture or mildew, Cordura has been shown in laboratory tests to have twice the abrasion resistance as ballistic nylon, and ten times the scuff resistance of leather.

## LINING

Sturdy, yet non-abrasive nylon prevents damage to the gun's finish and blueing, but offers little resistance while drawing or holstering.

## PADDING

Closed-cell waterproof foam, now tougher than before, is laminated permanently between the outer shell and lining to form a 100% moisture barrier between your handgun and the elements.

## CONSTRUCTION

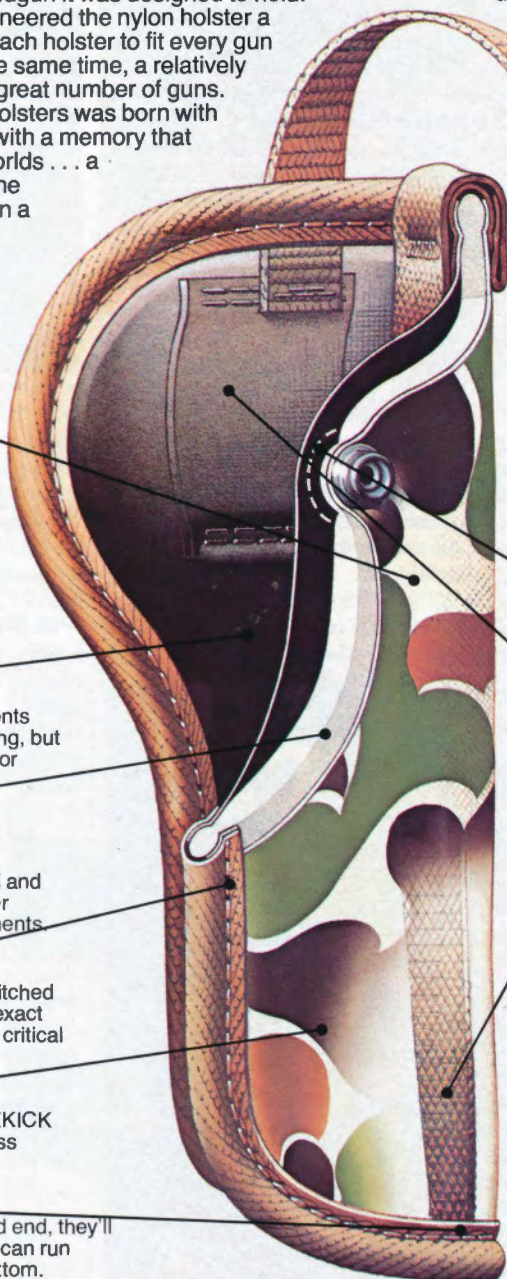
Each holster is precision cut, then stitched accurately to form the holster in the exact shape every time, with reinforcing at critical areas.

## LIGHTWEIGHT

The lightweight construction of SIDEKICK holsters means more comfort and less fatigue in the field.

## WATER DRAINAGE

Even though most models are closed end, they'll never fill up with rain since the water can run easily through the stitching at the bottom.



## NEW BUCKLE

All SIDEKICK hip and vertical shoulder holsters now employ a new combination safety strap buckle and snap that puts the adjustment on the front of the holster. The strap is sewn permanently to the back of the holster.

## COVERED SNAPS

No metal is exposed inside the holster that might scratch a handgun. All snaps are covered on the inside.

## BELT LOOPS

Models that are suspended from a belt, or those that are secured by a belt, have heavy nylon web belt loops sewn to the holster.

## PATENTED SIGHT CHANNEL

A special, heavy-duty strap of polymer-coated nylon web forms a channel inside the holster to prevent handgun sights from catching on the inside of the holster.

## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Send \$1.00 for "Uncle Mike's" 1985 full-color catalog to Michaels of Oregon, Dept. AHG-9, Box 13010, Portland, OR 97213.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

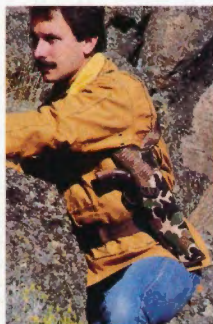
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SIDEKICK holsters are protected by U.S. Patents Nos. 4,485,947 and 4,485,948.



Hip



Vertical Shoulder



Horizontal Shoulder



NEW Super Belt Slide



Ankle



Inside-the-Pant



# HANDGUN LEATHER

BOB ARGANBRIGHT

## COLORFUL COWBOY TOM THREEPERSONS HOLSTER OFFERED BY SEVERAL MAKERS

Tom Threepersons, a full-blooded Cherokee Indian, was a legendary gunfighter and lawman throughout the Southwest during the early part of this century. A natural athlete, Tom won the title of World's Best All-Round Cowboy at the Pendleton Roundup in 1912. In 1916, Tom was selected as a civilian scout to accompany General "Black Jack" Pershing's Punitive Expedition into Mexico chasing Pancho Villa and his men.

A few years later, after hunting down and killing his father's murderers, Threepersons joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police where he was involved in a number of gunfights. Returning to the sunny Southwest, Threepersons served on the El Paso Police Department off and on from 1920 until he resigned in 1927. Newspaper articles in 1922 and 1925 identified him as a Federal Prohibition Agent and a U.S. Customs officer, respectively.

It was only natural that such a well known gunfighter would go to "Tio" (Uncle) Sam Myres, of S. D. Myres Saddlery in El Paso, for his holster needs. Sam Myres made a

holster to Threepersons specifications for his 4 $\frac{3}{4}$  inch Colt Single Action .44, and the classic *Threepersons holster* was born. The original holster and Colt sixgun are a part of the Bianchi Frontier Museum.

The Threepersons holster set the pattern for the high-ride, strong-side hip holster for some 30 years and is still available from a number of makers. Made to Threepersons specs, Myres trimmed the holster of all unnecessary leather, setting the holster high on the belt with hammer and trigger guard clear of leather and above the belt. The gun butt was tipped slightly forward for a faster draw (the FBI cant). Myres cataloged the Threepersons holster for many years in its original form and with an optional retaining strap.

El Paso Saddlery (P.O. Box 27194, Dept. AH, El Paso, Texas 79926) produces what may be the most authentic Threepersons holster. Available for Single Action (SA) or Double Action (DA) revolvers, the El Paso Saddlery version is available unlined or lined, in plain, basket weave or full hand-

carved finish. It very closely duplicates the contours of the Myres Threepersons holster and is also available in a unique cross draw version.

Don Hume Leathergoods (P.O. Box 351, Dept. AH, Miami, Oklahoma 74355) well known for their extensive line of police leather such as the classic Jordan holster and gunbelt, offers their version of the Threepersons holster for DA revolvers only. Cataloged as the "Tom Threepersons," it is available in plain or basket weave black or brown finish and differs from Tom's personal Myres holster only in the addition of a safety strap. Hume also makes an updated version which includes a thumbbreak safety strap.

The George Lawrence Company (306 S.W. 1st Avenue, Dept. AH, Portland, Oregon 97204) has been producing top quality holsters since before the turn of the century. The Lawrence version of the Threepersons holster is cataloged as the "Keith" model, named for handgunning legend Elmer Keith. When asked to design the perfect revolver holster for Lawrence, Elmer took the state-of-the-art Threepersons and added a long tab safety strap. Keith felt that this long tab safety strap was quicker and easier to release than the usual short tab strap. The longer strap could also be tucked behind the gunbelt, where it was out of the way when not needed. I have had a number of Keith holsters over the years and they have proven to be excellent. Lawrence is the only major holster manufacturer who still offers full handcarving as an option. Now that I have added a four inch S&W Model 29 to my collection of shooters, I plan on carrying it in a full carved George Lawrence Co. "Keith" holster.

Considered by many to be the leading holster maker in the world, Bianchi International (100 Calle Cortez, Dept. AH, Temecula, California 92390) also offers a version of the Threepersons holster. Cataloged as the #1 "Lawman," it was one of John Bianchi's first commercial holsters and he has produced well over one million #1's. Available for SA revolvers only, early samples had a hammer spur thong retainer, while current #1's have a snap fastener safety strap and are available with or without silicone suede lining. The same basic holster is available for DA revolvers as the #10 "Outdoorsman" and for the Colt .45 as the #2 ".45 Speed Scabbard."

Roy's Custom Leather Goods (P.O. Box G, Dept. AH, Rawhide Road, Magnolia, Arkansas 71753) offers Threepersons style holsters for SA and DA revolvers and large frame autos. With optional suede lining, these are the models #030/031/032 for small, medium and large frame DA revolvers; #040/041/042/049 for small, medium, large frame and .22 autos; #081/082 for SA revolvers. All models include a safety strap and the auto versions cover the trigger guard for safety.

Regardless of which of these holsters you choose, the classic Threepersons pattern remains a winner.



a tradition of

# EXCELLENCE

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LEATHERGOODS**

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best in design, crafts-  
manship and service

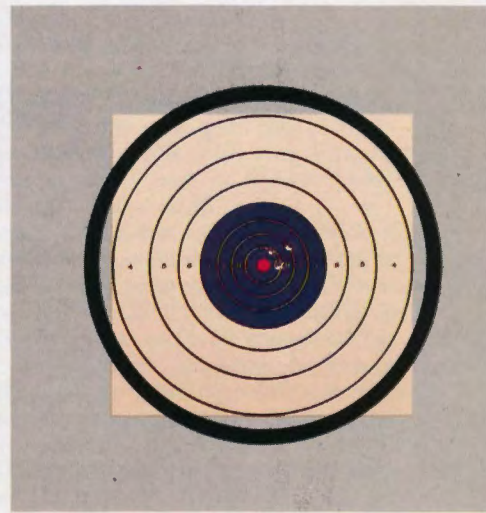
Nearly thirty years ago Don Hume started producing excellent holsters, and today it has become a tradition. We are entering into our third generation of gun handlers with new concepts that appeal to Sportsmen and Law Enforcement Officers. Only our image is changing, not our quality.



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# CUSTER DIDN'T HAVE A SUBSCRIPTION TO GUNS MAGAZINE.

If General Custer had subscribed to GUNS Magazine, he would have known more about custom guns and benchresting—information which could have been useful at Little Big Horn.

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- Handguns
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- Competitive shooting
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# THE GUILD SPEAKS

GEORGE WESSINGER

## NRA SUMMER GUNSMITHING PROGRAM OFFERS YOU TOP QUALITY INSTRUCTION

Approximately eight years ago, Wayne Sheets, Director of the Education and Training Division of the National Rifle Association, had the idea of holding a series of summer courses for NRA members covering gunsmithing and related crafts. He contacted Warren Key at Trinidad State Junior College in Trinidad, Colo. Warren was conducting one of the finest full-time gunsmithing programs in the country. That meeting really got things started and the NEA Summer Gunsmithing Program began.

The first couple of years there were a few courses held in basic machine tool operation, stockmaking and engraving. Each course ran two weeks. There was little publicity for the courses but the word got around and enrollment grew each year. Many students returned for different courses each year.

In 1980, I was asked by the NRA to conduct a two-week Police Armorer's Course at Trinidad. I was somewhat skeptical about how much I could really teach in just two

weeks, but I agreed. After all, a trip to Colorado would be a welcome experience. When I began my class the first day I was pleased to find a well-equipped facility with a large supply of hand-out material on the guns we would study and a reasonable supply of parts. Most importantly, I found a very friendly and knowledgeable staff and a group of students whose enthusiasm knew no bounds.

As the class progressed, I was amazed at how much knowledge these students could absorb and how hard they were willing to work. It was a pleasant situation for someone with as much teaching experience as I've had, generally under less than ideal conditions. I also found a little time to look around the other classes and was amazed at what was being accomplished. The students ranged from beginners to full-time gunsmiths. Each was instructed at his own pace and all were most vocal in the praise they heaped upon the program and staff.

One of the most amazing classes I saw was

the beginning engravers. The instructor was Master Engraver Neil Hartliep from Arizona. He took people who had never touched an engraver's hammer and chisel and in only a few days had them cutting some very nice scrolls and animals in steel. At the end of the two-week course, many students had produced some fine art work.

I was so pleased with what I was able to accomplish with my Police Armorer's Class and with what I observed in the other classes that I have continued to teach each year. My wife, Sam, has completed four years of engraving. I continue to be amazed at what these students accomplish.

When Wayne first conceived the idea of the NRA Summer Gunsmithing Program, he hoped it would grow to include schools on each coast as well as a central location. In 1983, the growth was large enough for this expansion to begin. Rochester Institute of Technology in Western New York was selected as the eastern facility. RIT's College of Fine and Applied Arts, under the direction of Dr. Robert Johnston, Dean, is one of the finest in the country. In 1983, four summer gunsmithing courses were held at RIT. In 1985, the courses have grown tremendously and now number twelve. In 1984, the growth was again large enough to add Lassen College in Susanville, Calif., as the western school. Lassen is a fine school with a full-time winter gunsmithing course. In the two years of the NRA Summer Gunsmithing Program, the growth has been very good.

*Continued on page 72*

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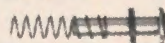
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# INSIGHTS INTO IPSC

CAMERON HOPKINS

## MURRAY GARDNER WINS CANADIAN IPSC CROWN FOR EIGHTH TIME IN A ROW

Americans topped the field in the 1985 AIPSC Canadian National Championships finishing One-Two. J. Michael Plaxco, the affable pistolsmith from Arkansas, dominated the tournament and took top honors followed by runner-up Californian J. Bartell. Both Americans were ineligible for the honor of Canadian National Champion, a title earned for the eighth time in a row by Murray Gardner of British Columbia. Murray placed third overall making him top Canadian, thus National Champ.

J (his first name is simply the initial "J") fired the most unique pistol of the Canadian Championship, a modified Colt Gov't Model from Jim Boland in 9mm Parabellum. Nothing unusual about a 9mm, eh? No, but J's nine was handloaded to make "major" caliber in IPSC—160 grain lead bullet at a sizzling velocity of 1,100 fps! For obvious safety reasons, J refused to reveal his powder charge other than to say it is a duplex (two different powders) load. Months and months of research, not to mention four dangerous blown cases, led J and gunsmith Boland to the load. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DUPLICATE THIS LOAD!

Amid the field of 107 shooters, only Americans fired guns in .38 Super, the current rage among top IPSC shooters. Texans Tommy Weston and Phil Davis found that precious

"Super edge" with their Wilson Accu-Comps as did Californian Don Hamilton. Arizonian Jake Kempton shot his Hammond modified Super into a respectable ninth place. All had no problem making the increased International power factor of 175.

Mike also shot a .38 Super Colt Gov't Model that he customized featuring his excellent Plaxco Compensator System. Murray, the undisputed King of IPSC in Canada, also fired a Plaxco compensated Colt in .45 ACP. They had more in common than pistols—both approached the 16 stage match with similar strategies.

The 16 stages of the match (actually 15 as one was simply for the chronograph test of ammunition) forced leading contenders to shoot conservatively. With that much shooting, the "disaster factor" was high because of the increased chances for mistakes. Those who shot with reckless abandon did indeed win some stages, but their "blow outs" on other stages dropped them from contention. Solid shooting, but nothing to write home about, proved to be the winning approach.

Held in beautiful Regina, Saskatchewan, home of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the match featured the course design of Section Coordinator Dave Anderson. Dave understands well the roots of IPSC shooting and the current feud between "mar-



tial artists" and "gamesmen." His courses pleased both factions by drawing on real life scenarios, actual shoot-out situations, while allowing freestyle approaches.

One such course of fire was based on an event that took place in the neighboring town of Saskatoon. The shooter began the stage astride a parked motorcycle and then engaged four partial targets, cut to present the view of people riding in a car. Apparently a motorcyclist was shot while stopped at a traffic light when a car full of hoodlums pulled along side and opened fire without provocation. In keeping with the actual event, the course set the targets at ranges of from two to five meters.

Another course came from the famous shoot-out of New York City stake-out cop Jim Cirillo. Known as the "Cirillo Drill," the course featured two targets at five yards obscured by a "no-shoot" (hostage) and a 6x6-inch steel plate off to the right slightly at eight yards. The small steel plate represented the head shot Cirillo made when he interrupted an armed robbery in progress. Unlike some of the shooters in the match, Cirillo dispatched all three "bad guys" and left the hostage unscathed.

Perhaps my favorite of the "realist's" courses was an assault course. But it wasn't an "assault," it was an "evasion" course. Realizing that only a moron would assault multiple assailants armed only with a handgun, Anderson designed an "evasion" scenario in which the competitor sought to gain higher ground, better cover and (in the imagination) a better weapon like a shotgun. The course scenario postulated that you are quietly relaxing in your living room with a good book when you suddenly notice you are the target of a home invasion. You see two attackers outside your front window, thus beginning the "evasion." From seated in a chair with a book, the shooter engaged the two partial targets in a window at three meters. Heading upstairs to the sanctuary of higher ground (and perhaps your assault rifle), the shooter then dashed down a facsimile of a hallway engaging targets along the way through other windows (shooting ports). Finally, the shooter charged up a flight of stairs and engaged three Pepper Poppers, a partial target and a stop plate from an upstairs window.

The Canadian National Championship, thanks in no small part to the excellent course of fire, stands as one of the best, most enjoyable IPSC matches I've ever shot. But next

**Don Hamilton engages targets in stage simulating actual shoot-out.**







**Murray Gardner point-shoots from two yards. Stage rules mandated that bundle be carried under weak-arm.**

year promises to be even better because the match will be held in conjunction with the World's Fair in Vancouver, B.C. The match will consist of at least 12 stages shot in three days with a two day break to allow shooters and their wives/hubbies to attend the Fair. The dates are Aug. 2-9 and further information can be obtained from 1986 Canadian IPSC Championships, P.O. Box 1126, Fort Langley, B.C. V0X 1J0. Or call Randy Fisher at (604) 521-4474.

See ya there, eh?

#### READERS QUESTION RESPONSES

The Readers Question posed in the Sept/Oct 85 issue was: "What is your reaction to the Crossfire debate devoted to martial artist vs. gamesmen." Here are a few representative responses.

Concerning the Pro-Con article, Mickey Fowler said it all: "Does anyone seriously doubt Rob Leatham or Brian Enos' ability to defend themselves?"

Amen!

Billy Bruton  
Myrtle Beach, SC

I think Mickey Fowler won this debate hands-down.

Mickey related IPSC to auto racing. In NASCAR Smokey Yunick and Andy Granatelli in USAC spent a lot of time and money trying to "bend" the system to fit their concept of racing. Has anyone heard from them lately?

*If a minority can't or won't adapt to make themselves competitive, they should go elsewhere and do it their way rather than make themselves an unpopular nuisance. Who knows, maybe with enough hard work and innovation, a "new rear-view mirror" will come out of IPSC competition.*

Ralph Zimmerman  
Tonopah, Nev.

*I agree with Mr. Hipes' views. I view IPSC as both a sport and training, but, more importantly, as a research tool. I welcome the gamesmen, for they usually come up with advances in equipment and technique (but) I do not welcome their influence on the rules and course design.*

*I disagree with the following:*

1. A .35 caliber 160 gr. bullet at 1063 fps (power factor - 170) is not a fight stopper. What we have here is DvC, not DVC.

2. You may find a locale where you could carry a weapon sticking out in front of your abdomen with spare magazines bristling out from all over, but I have yet to see this in the real world.

3. Any string of fire that requires more than three or four seconds while the shooter is exposed is academic—even an amateur will take you out in that time.

For a brief time, under the guidance of Jeff Cooper, it looked like we were going to have a prominent sport we could take seriously.

Messrs. Fowler, Dalton, Shaw, Enos et al may very well be able to defend themselves,

but their performance in IPSC matches does not prove it for the loads, the equipment and the tactics have very little to do with real life.

Jim Higginbotham  
Falls of Rough, Ky.

*I personally side with Mickey Fowler. Our "sport" is just that, and it cannot survive on the basis of a few realists running around in camo T-shirts pretending to be in Condition Orange.*

*If the self-defense/realist group feels that they are somehow being cheated out of fame and fortune, let them organize a series of competitions tailored to their ideals. Maybe Mark Hipes and his friends can get Uncle Jeff to lay out a set of rules for "Real World Urban Survival Olympics."*

*I must add that I have no axe to grind with Jeff Cooper or the "realist" types. They have a place in things, but they should not keep trying to uncouple a train that is passing them.*

Ted Carder  
Montrose, Colo.

#### READERS QUESTION

Should there be a "stock" gun category in IPSC, and, if so, how would you define "stock?"

Send your answers to 'Insights Into IPSC', Suite 200, 591 Camino de la Reina, San Diego, CA 92106. Limit your response to 250 words. Answers must be either typewritten or clearly handwritten. The editor reserves the right to edit published answers for clarity or length.



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# COP TALK

**MASSAD AYOOB**

## AYOOB FIELDS QUESTIONS: COPS AND .44 MAGNUMS; LIFE SAVING BACKUPS

**M**assad Ayoob receives hundreds of letters from across country both in the form of "fan mail" praising his witty and informative writing and also in the form of intelligent questions from law enforcement personnel. Ayoob cannot possibly send a personal response to all these letters, but he's compiled several of the more provocative questions to share with you in *Cop Talk*.

### .44 MAGNUMS FOR COPS

*I'm toying with the idea of buying one of those cut down versions of the S&W model 29 as an off duty revolver. What do you think of them, and who makes the best conversion? Also, do you know of any seasoned police officers who carry the .44 Magnum on or off duty?*

*Under Gunned In Norwalk*

Many good gunsmiths make "chopped and channelled" 29s with shortened barrel and K-frame-size round butts with Pachmayr Compac grips. As good as any and better than most is the one I use, a Second Chance Commemorative beautifully worked by MagNaPort Custom.

Jim Baynes, an upstate New York career cop and one of the finest shots on the professional circuit, carries a similar gun superbly built by Dick Crawford of Florida, off duty. A handful of extremely competent officers carry .44 Magnums when allowed; the most famous is Addison Clark of the Kalispell, MT, Police, the first of the great professional shooting champions. His service revolver is a MagNaPorted 4-inch 29, carried in a Bianchi #27 breakfront and equipped with a Magna-Trigger conversion so it can only be fired by someone wearing a special, magnetic ring.

### BACKUP GUN INCIDENTS?

*After an incident where an officer's backup S&W model 39 went off in a public place when dropped, the city council wants to ban our officers from carrying second weapons. Can you furnish us, for the hearing, with any actual cases in which policemen's lives were saved by their backup guns? Also, do any major departments actually have anything in writing advocating their use?*

*Under Fire In Michigan*

A few classic incidents are as follows.

Two Indiana State Troopers were disarmed by a pair of prison escapees. A third trooper pulled in to the scene and was told at gunpoint not to touch his service revolver or radio, or the hostage brother officers would be killed. The third trooper surrendered his Combat Magnum, and when the suspects dropped their guard, the officer drew his backup snubby .38 from his right hip pocket. The first suspect surrendered instantly, and

when the second attempted to murder the hostage officers, wounding one, the trooper with the backup gun shot him. Both hostage officers credit their survival to the brother with the second gun.

In Atlanta, not long ago, a young officer was involved in a struggle for his service weapon with an extremely powerful homicidal opponent. As he felt the gun being torn from his hands, the patrolman drew a 2-inch .38 from his ankle holster and shot the assailant, killing him instantly.

In Miami some years ago, a Metro-Dade officer was surprised and disarmed at gunpoint by two armed robbers. He was ordered to kneel, and one perpetrator put a gun to his head. "Please," said the officer, "let me pray first."

The man with the gun turned to his partner to laugh, and the officer drew a .38 snubby from his ankle holster and shot both suspects in the head, neutralizing the situation instantly.

As far as policies, NYPD's formal outline of their summer, 1984, Firearms and Tactics Training Cycle discusses appropriate post-shooting tactics for an officer involved in a gun battle and notes, "Police Officer's backup revolver . . . consider its use instead of reloading." (Page 12, item d., available through NYPD Firearms & Tactics Section, City Island Post Office, Bronx, NY 10464.)

### GUNS OF THE PROS

*I enjoy the work of people like yourself and Evan Marshall. I notice that several of you work full or part time as sworn officers as well as writing and lecturing. I'm curious as to what you guys actually carry on duty.*

*Framingham Cop*

What we carry depends largely on departmental regulation. John Farnam works part-time with the Juneau County, Wisc., Sheriff's Office, and has special permission to carry a cocked and locked .45 auto on duty, usually a Devel Custom. Evan Marshall is a full-time sergeant on Detroit PD, where officers are allowed to carry about anything that's .38 caliber or larger and double action; this cuts out his favorite Colt .45 auto, so he presently wears an S&W model 459 9mm.

I work part-time with the Deerfield, NH, police department as lieutenant in charge of training. Our regs allow carrying an auto-loader only if one qualifies as master, so when working alone I carry a Colt .45 auto. When in field training with young, revolver-armed officers, however, I carry an S&W 4" Combat Magnum service-tuned  
by Andy Cannon.







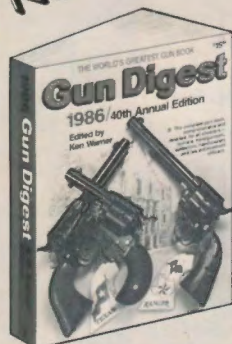
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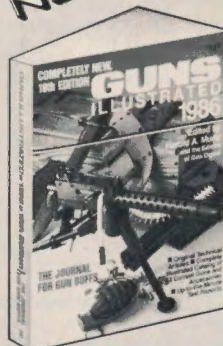
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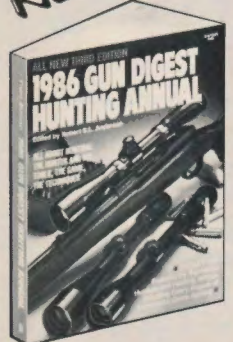
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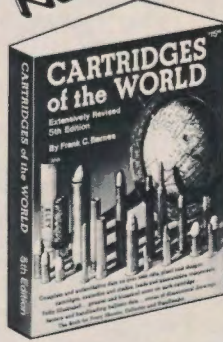
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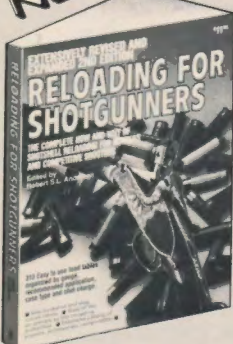
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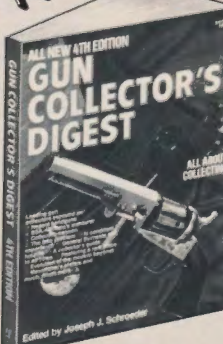
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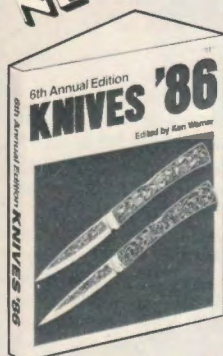
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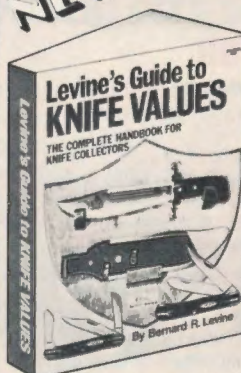
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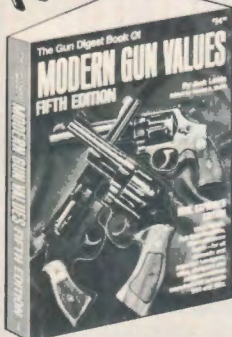
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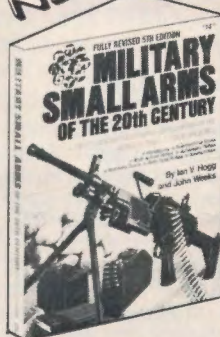
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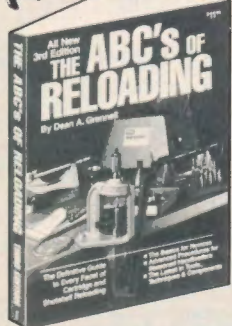
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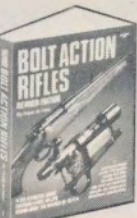
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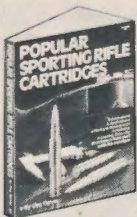
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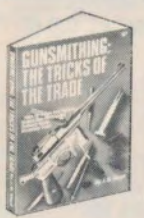
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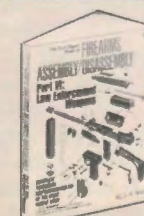
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```
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```

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```
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# PISTOLSMITHING

JOHN G. LAWSON

## HIGH VISIBILITY SIGHTS OFFER QUICK SIGHT ALIGNMENT, BUT AT WHAT PRICE?

A common, almost universal, pistol alteration is the addition of high visibility aftermarket open sights.

While the wider, better defined sight picture is faster to align under almost any range condition, a growing number of shooters have found that apparent accuracy drops off steeply, as evidenced by much larger shothole groups on 50 yard targets, compared to groups they had fired with the original narrow sights.

Too many repetitions of this effect by competent shooters who use superbly accurate weapons have been noted to shrug off the group deterioration effect after new sight installation. I wanted some answers, so I spent a day, recently, trying to determine the exact problem and a solution that might benefit shooters who prefer the high visibility sights.

The original 1911 pistol was issued by the factory with an extremely narrow front sight blade, set low on the slide, and having a slight taper from base to tip. The rear sight was a 'U' shaped notch of particularly shallow nature. Shooters complained bitterly about this combination, classifying it as slow to align, hard to define and nearly impossible to use after a moderate amount of holster wear rubbed the blue to bare, bright metal. So, after WW I, the A1 version of the 1911 was tendered with a slightly wider front blade, a deeper rear notch that had a square bottom and perpendicular sides.

While this new combination mated up for a better sight picture, shooters remained unhappy with the still too slow and too low combination. This growing groundswell of unhappiness with an otherwise desirable pistol gave birth to the first aftermarket target sights, both fixed and adjustable. Some offered were too delicate for a match shooter, but others were robust and well engineered by experienced match shooters. At least two of the adjustable types are still with us and as popular with shooters today as a couple of decades ago. There have been several additions to the availability list that are robust and well designed for specific types of use.

Nobody will argue that the .135" wide blade set into a deep rear notch with adequate light bars at each side doesn't align faster and more uniformly than factory sights, and after a few hours of use, the average shooter has no desire to return to the smaller, more slowly aligned variety. But, do the high visibility sights align *on the point of impact* (or more precisely, on the point of aim) less uniformly, resulting in a wider dispersion of shotholes?

I spent my day walking back and forth between the firing point and targets set

against the 50 yard berm, an actual measured distance of 56 yards between target and the pistol's muzzle. I used a Ransom Rest to immobilize the pistol in a fixed position of reference, relative to my position behind the weapon at the precise eye relief measurement I normally assume with a two hand Turret Stance position. I placed two sheets of colored paper on the berm exactly parallel with the sides of the rear sight notch and precisely in line with the extreme edges of the notch when I had assumed the proper normal eye relief for my style of shooting. This width, at the target, was 12.63" measured with an electronic caliper. Assuming use of bullets sized .451", this amounted to 28 shotholes across the rear sight notch, with 17 across the top of the blade and 5½ more in each light bar at the sides of the blade. This, remember, was the precise measurement at 56 yards from the vantage point of my normal eye relief, and it will vary slightly with each shooter, due to arm length. I cut some .451" diameter aiming circles with the mouth of a cartridge case that I had sized and filed sharp. Right at the front sight blade, the .451" circle looks as large as life size, from my eye relief vantage point, but as it moves farther and farther down range, the apparent size of the colored disc reduces in size. This is called "apparent foreshortening perspective" by artists. Finally, at the 56 yard distance, the full sized shothole disappears into a tiny dot that is not normally visible to the average eye. The orange color I chose for the tiny spotter disc was only visible as a point of color. When the front blade was placed in the 6 o'clock position under it, the most obvious thought was that it would be virtually impossible to attain a uniform point of aim on such a tiny object, and the reason for the larger groups at this distance was explained.

I tried an off-the-wall idea that came to

mind next. I set out a square aiming point with one corner down, in a sort of stubby diamond configuration. I was able to get good definition as the point just touched the blade top, and the point was easy to center on the blade top. The group would have tightened to something much better. The amazing thing, to me, is that the point of the diamond "bull" aiming point is virtually zero dimension, coming to a sharp point, yet it is visible and can be clearly defined. Here was the answer!

Front sight blades with a vertical colored line proved to be more uniformly aligned, because the small line covered only three shot holes, yet the base dimensions of the sights themselves were not changed, allowing very rapid sight alignment, virtually a sight picture within a sight picture. A further refinement came to mind later as I thought over the results of this day's experiments.

I ground a small woodruff keyway cutter to a 60° point with a lathe toolpost grinder, mounted it in the milling machine collet and cut a groove, centered in a front sight blade's rear ramp face, leaving the sharp point at the extreme top of the blade. Filled with white epoxy material, the pointed line gave a very uniform and a very tiny aiming reference. In practical use, the standard vertical lines supplied on MMC and Millett front blades have virtually the same effect.

This makes the best group shrinker possible over the longer combat and target ranges. There is nothing new about this principle. My shooting coach in the 1950's told me to aim at the smallest point I could define to obtain the smallest group. And, the tactic worked.

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# COMBAT SHOOTING

MIKE DALTON

## PIN BUSTER LOOKS AT BOWLING PINS: GUNS, LOADS, TIPS FOR PRACTICING

Some years ago Richard Davis, President of Second Chance Body Armor, began conducting a shooting contest using bowling pins as targets. It was quite a novel idea and the competitors loved it.

Second Chance has set the standards for bowling pin shooting and most pin matches throughout the United States and the world use their structure. Basically, five pins are set at 25 feet from the shooter on a 4 x 8 foot table, one foot from the front edge. This requires the shooter to not only hit them, but also to move them three feet to leave the table. At Second Chance your time stops when the last pin hits the ground, so powerful loads are the order of the day.

A regulation bowling pin weighs about 2½ pounds. Thus a serious amount of energy must be transmitted to the pin to make it move briskly. In general, large caliber guns using heavy bullets do the best job on the pins. The .45 automatics reign king at pin matches and .44 Mag revolvers are another popular choice.

When making handloads for pin shooting, one must take care to produce a load that will almost fully penetrate but not exit the pin. The pin must absorb all of the energy and with a proper load it will fly cleanly off the table.

But no matter how good your load is, it must be centered on the pin to achieve the proper effect. A bowling pin has about a 4 x 4 inch area in the body of the pin that is the main target zone. A shot placed in this area will send it off the table but a 4 x 4 inch area becomes hard to hit when you start shooting fast. It takes a disciplined and skilled shooter to shoot bowling pins fast and accurately while controlling very powerful loads.

Bowling pin shooting is DVC (accuracy, power and speed) at its best. The loads most competitors shoot are well over a 200 power factor (bullet weight times velocity divided by 1,000). Compare that to even the staunchest IPSC group that might require 185. The pins themselves control the shooters' loads. If someone wants to shoot light loads, the pins simply don't go off the table. The competitor penalizes himself so no "policing" of loads is necessary. This eliminates one of the biggest administration problems which most other matches have to control.

The structure of the match is so simple yet

very entertaining and never boring. The pins do all sorts of things when not hit squarely. They spin, they bounce, they roll and sometimes they just fall over. Often the shooter is faced with a difficult shot on one of the stubborn pins. Imagine just the top of a bowling pin facing you as a target. It's tough to hit fast.

Pin shooting is a real crowd pleaser because the targets react in a manner unlike paper target shooting, and they react in a variety of ways to keep the audience's attention. The pins also have the added advantage of being just a target and not having the stigma of a humanoid silhouette. Bowling pin shooting is a good vehicle to show many people handgunning at its best. We simply must get more of mainstream Americans interested in the shooting sports to preserve our right to keep and bear arms.

In order to test loads and practice bowling pin shooting one must obtain some pins. If you check around at your local bowling alleys, you'll likely be able to get pins for 25¢ or less. Many times I've gotten them free just because they're a nuisance to the alleys. Used bowling pins have a very slim market so don't overpay for your practice pins.

Once you have the pins, all you need is a 2 x 6 board eight feet long and a couple of saw horses to support it. Sure it's not as good as a regulation table, but this stuff is a lot easier to carry out to the boonies to shoot. If you have a regular club environment, then investing in a full size table would be a good idea. You're going to find out they're harder to hit than they look but that's what practice is designed to cure.

Many indoor ranges have begun putting on pin matches because of their simplicity and the distance is only 25 feet. Most indoor ranges simply can't handle other types of matches because of size restrictions. Chances are good you'll find some matches in your local area.

The greatest thing about pin shooting is it's just plain fun. The pins have a way of creating an enjoyable atmosphere that simply is not present at other types of matches. The pins are just too unpredictable to take too seriously. Of all the tournament shooting I've done, bowling pins are the most fun, even though they are sometimes frustrating targets to hit. If you haven't shot any pins, why not give it a try?





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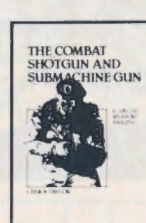
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# HANDLOADING

DAN COTTERMAN

## RELOADING YIELDS 18-SHOT REVOLVER AND CREATES DOUBLE-BARRELED SIXGUN

The shotgun is often referred to as the most devastating of close-range weapons, primarily because it is capable of discharging a deadly flight of projectiles with each shot. Nor is marksmanship demanded, for, indeed, the man or woman behind a shotgun need only point and blast in order to survive almost any life-threatening confrontation that involves a human adversary.

Equal if not superior performance can be achieved in a somewhat handier weapon, the revolver. I'm not referring to the use of ratshot loads, but to those that will unleash three or more fairly hefty slugs with each shot. My experiments with such loads on short-range targets have revealed tremendous shock potential, but this is only the beginning of what might be called a revival.

The multi-slug idea is not new. More than 20 years ago, Colonel Charles Askins devoted his efforts to loading and shooting stacks of three in the .38 Special. He prefaced his report with a nod to informal field-load-

ing of rifle balls and buckshot during the Civil War, then acknowledged more recent experiments involving three-slug loads in modified .30-06 cases, the latter having been conducted by the U.S. Army following WWII.

But Colonel Charlie's trisected wadcutters tended to stick together, so, at length, he sought the advice and assistance of one George Turner, a hunting buddy, who also happened to be an engineer. The upshot of the Colonel's quest was a redesigning of the noses and bases of the slugs, so they would interlock. The Turner slugs, each weighing 60 to 62 grains, did not stick together, but separated more or less satisfactorily.

Duke Roberts, then a member of the Pasadena (Calif.) P.D., took over. He used swaged lead slugs, as designed by Turner, and learned that soft lead would not tolerate the heat and pressure generated by combat-effective powder charge; he was limited to a maximum charge of 3.5 grains of Bullseye if he was to expect the segments to separate.

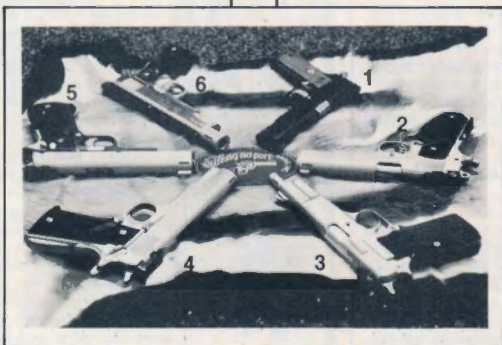
And, at best, separation wasn't ideal, at least not for close-range shooting: one-inch at seven yards, five-inches at double that distance, and so on.

I was in touch with Roberts during the time he was working with the Turner slugs, and I was aware of the difficulties he was encountering. I did not, however, happen upon a solution until I began working with Corbin bullet-swaging tools for reloading the .45 Colt/.410 American Derringer. Using copper jackets, lead-to-lead contact; hence, the problem of slug-fusing, has been abolished. The close-range patterning of triple-slug .45 Colt loads, at substantial velocities, has been good: more than an inch at five feet, and more than four-inches at ten feet.

We have at last the potential to create, for all practical purposes, the 18-shot sixgun Askins was seeking many years ago, and the world's first double-barreled sixshooter. Further details—powder charges, velocities, and so on—appear in my report on the American Derringer.

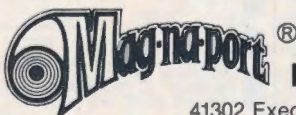
Fellow gunscribe Jim Weller has sent a letter to promote the advantages of using W-W 452AA, a shotshell grind, for slight-recoil handgun reloading. "Why not take a look at Winchester's 452AA powder for major loads in IPSC competition?" Weller wrote. "I got put on to it by Steve Nastoff, who got it from Dick Heinie. This stuff is great! You use less powder (compared to the popular 231), and get better results with, supposedly, less chamber pressure. 5.2

*Continued on page 71*



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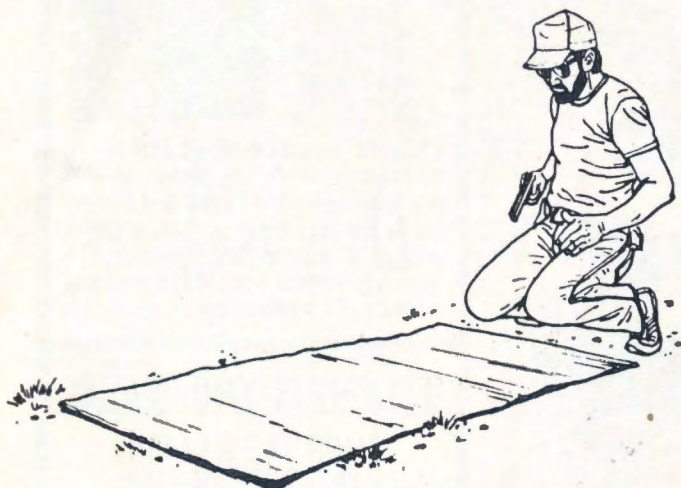


# MASTER TIPS

Collected by Jon Winokur

## Going Prone

1. Position your mat at about a 30 degree angle to the target. This automatically places you diagonally to the line of fire, which in turn forces you to lie on your side rather than on your chest.



2. Drop to your knees as soon as the gun has cleared leather.



3. As the knees hit the ground, reach out with the left hand as far as possible and plant it on the mat.



4. Extend the gun arm fully, keeping it parallel to the ground. That way you'll already have full extension when you hit the ground.



5. Let the right side of your body collapse onto the mat, then bring in the weak hand and you're ready to shoot.



MIKE PLAXCO, Combat Master;  
1982 World Speed Shooting  
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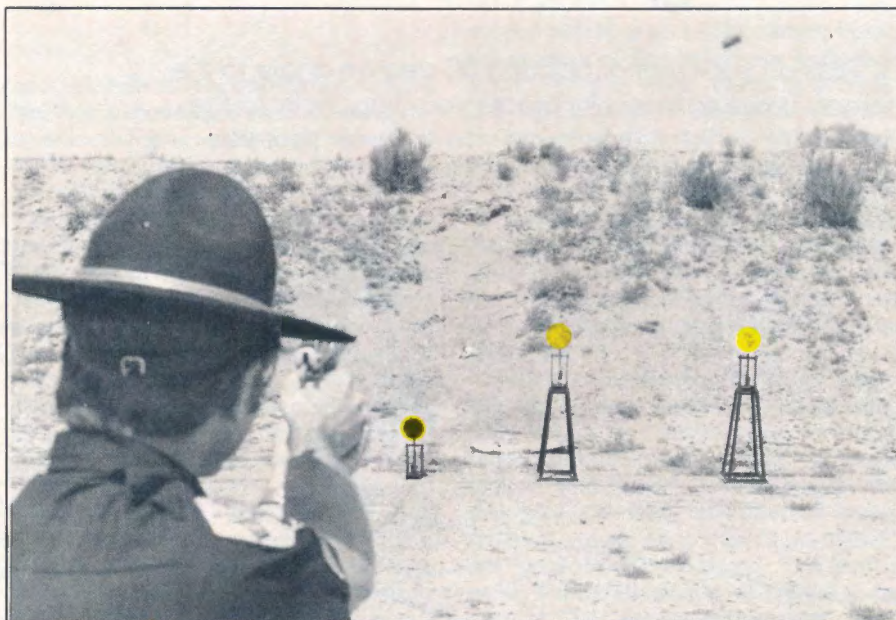
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# GET READY FOR REDI-SET



by Tony Lesce

*Tired of shooting at boring paper targets?  
Try these exciting steel plates, for more  
plinking fun.*

A target that gives immediate feedback when hit has additional value over the ones that only permit scoring when the firing is over. Steel plates give a load "clang" when hit, and "pepper-poppers" fall over as well, giving visual feedback. Many shooters have a local welding shop make up steel targets to their designs, with varying degrees of success and satisfaction.

The Redi-Set reactive targets clang, tip over, and then right themselves, eliminating the need to go forward to reset them. This saves a lot of time during a match, and offers the casual shooter or the competitor faster-paced shooting.

The original Redi-Set was a nine-inch steel disc with a counterweight, which righted itself with a loud "clang" after being hit. Two new models are in the shape of combat silhouettes. Both have a hinged head that tips over when hit. A central plate has a lever that tips the head upright again when the shooter scores a hit on the plate.

Both silhouette targets are portable, weighing 35 pounds each. The main silhouette plates measure 13 1/4" wide x 17 1/2" high, and overall height is 24 1/2". A carrying handle on the back of the head plate is con-

venient, and two silhouette targets fit easily into as small a space as the trunk of a Volkswagen Rabbit.

The IPSC model has an eight-inch round disc in the center, while the PPC model offers a choice of two rectangular plates, one measuring four by six inches, and the other three by four inches. The heads measure six inches square on both models. The targets are made of one-quarter inch T-1, a hardened steel plate that resists dimpling and penetration by bullets.

The Redi-Sets come with the frames and face plates painted in black spray enamel, and the target discs and heads in yellow. Two cans of spray paint are the only accessories required.

The targets are angled forward to reduce ricochets, the exact angle depending on the size of the central target plate. Redi-Set advises wearing eye protection during firing, but during the testing session, using calibers from 9mm through hot .357 Magnums, there were no ricochets from the silhouettes at 15 yards. Earlier tests with the disc target, with its vertical plate, produced several low-power ricochets which pointed to the wisdom

*Continued on page 60*





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# CONVERSATION WITH A CHAMPION

By Jon Winokur

It's becoming a cliché in women's IPSC [International Practical Shooting Confederation] competition: *Unknown Comes Out of Nowhere to Win Major Title.* Lee Cole had been shooting only a year before winning her first of two national championships, and this year's IPSC Women's Champ Jo Anne Hall had only about a year of competition under her belt before capturing the title at the '84 Nationals in Phoenix.

To learn more about the talented newcomer and former Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader, I talked to Jo Anne recently during a lull in the action at the '85 Steel Challenge.



**JW:** Jo Anne, what attracted you to competitive shooting?

**JAH:** It's the only sport I know of where a woman can become nationally known without having done it since she was eight years old. I'm probably a frustrated jock; I've always enjoyed sports but never had anything that allowed me to compete on a national level. I'm really enjoying it now.

I feel I owe a lot to women like Lee Cole, Linda Zubiena and Joanna Fichman who pioneered women in the sport so that by the time I came along, there was a women's Gold Team and better prize money.

**JW:** Did you have much shooting experience before you started competing?

**JAH:** I can remember plinking with a .22 rifle as a girl. And I shot a duck one Thanksgiving when I was about 12, but I didn't really grow up with guns.

**JW:** Was the victory at the Nationals your first success in competition?

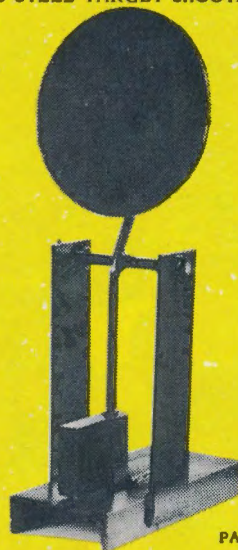
**JAH:** I won the ladies' title at the Texas Challenge in Austin about two months after I started shooting. That encouraged me to enter the Steel Challenge and I finished third there.

**JW:** When did you first shoot a pistol?

**JAH:** Not until after I was married. We'd go

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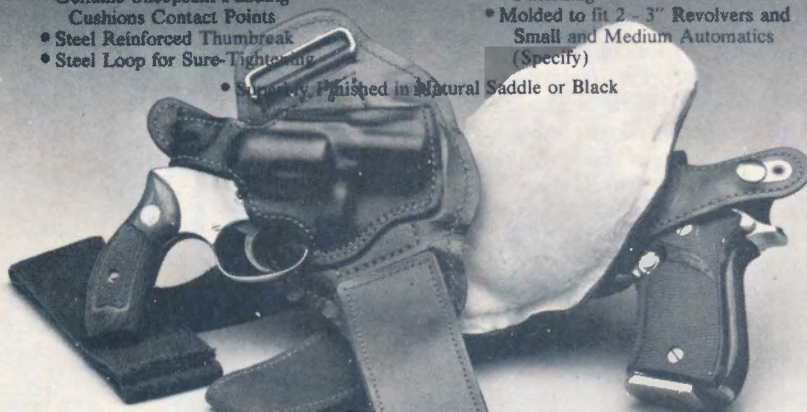


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hunting with Carl's dad and he'd bring his GI .45 along for plinking. The first time I ever shot it—seven or eight years ago—it was the biggest shock of my life. The gun ended up way over my head.

**JW:** How have you been able to go from novice to National Champ in less than a year?

**JAH:** My husband has been very encouraging and tries to help me as much as he can. He's improved very rapidly too. He shoots in "A" class and came in 64th at the Nationals—it was his first Nationals too.

Carl knows how I shoot and can zero-in on minute things. For example, I had a lot of trouble with double-taps. The first shot wouldn't be in the "A" ring and the second would be pulled down every time. People told me I was flinching but I knew I wasn't. Carl finally discovered what I was doing wrong: I wasn't holding onto the gun for the first shot, and then I was tightening my grip for the second shot and pulling the muzzle down. There are a number of things like that we work on together.

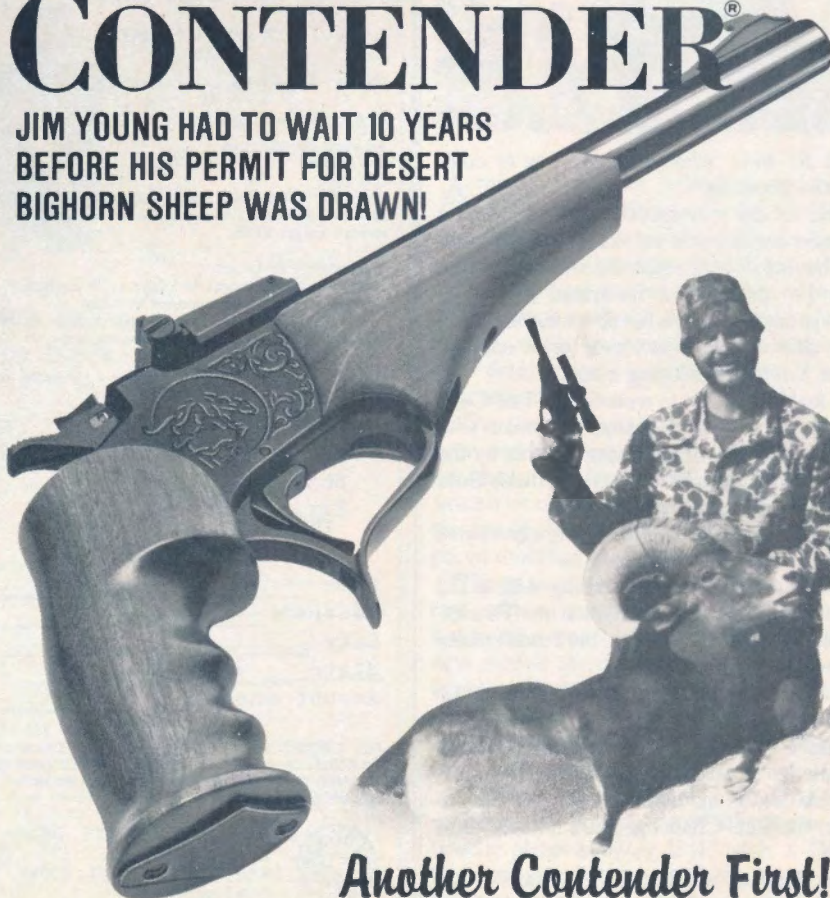
We try to help each other as much as possible. I've helped him with little nitpicky things like traversing targets. We know each other's game so well we can notice bad habits creeping in.

Competition shooting is such a mental game that if you know somebody well, you can point out to them that they shot lousy because they were in a lousy mood.

**JW:** Even if you're the one responsible for the lousy mood?

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**JAH:** Yes. [Laughs]. I tell Carl, "Just 'cause you're mad at me you don't have to blow it out on the range."

It really helps to have the other person ask, "Were you really concentrating?" Especially when you're beating yourself to death because you shot so poorly. Even when you're shooting well, it's nice to have somebody help you analyze what you did right.

**JW:** Are you developing a mental approach to competitive shooting?

**JAH:** I've read articles on the mental aspects of shooting, but frankly, I don't have the time to go through all those self-hypnosis exercises. I just try to concentrate on sight picture and trigger control and try to calm my nerves as much as possible.

**JW:** How did you prepare for the Nationals?

**JAH:** We normally try to practice outdoors three or four times a week after work, but with the Nationals in November, the days are shorter and practice was pretty much limited to weekends. We tried to get in an hour here and there during the week, but the weather was so terrible we didn't do nearly as much as we wanted to.

**JW:** What kind of ammo did you use in the Nationals?

**JAH:** I use the same load for everything except the Bianchi Cup: 5.25 grains of Bulls-eye behind the H&G #68. I think. That's my husband's department. I help him chronograph, but he weighs and measures everything.

**JW:** Who cleans the guns?

**JAH:** I clean my own guns—in fact I'll clean Carl's too when I have the time.

**JW:** What kind of gun do you shoot?

**JAH:** I shot a .38 Super here at the Steel Challenge as a kind of experiment. It's really a minor load gun and it's just too heavy for me.

I haven't shot a Super in major caliber enough to know whether it gives you much recoil reduction. A lot of the big boys like Rob Leatham and Bill Wilson say it does, but they're incredibly fast anyway. Most people can't shoot as fast as the gun can cycle. And I've come to the conclusion that I really can't afford it. Even though used .38 Super brass is becoming more available, you still can't safely reload them to major pressures like you can with .45s. So you have to use new brass every time and that gets a little too expensive.

I think the Supers are faddish. The fact that Rob Leatham shoots one probably has a lot to do with their popularity, but you can put anything in his hands and he's going to win. If you believe all the hype you can convince yourself that your gun is inferior. But when you get down to it, as long as the gun is reasonably accurate and reliable, it's your mental state and your talent that counts. So, I've gone back to my Clark Pin gun. It's ported and has an add-on magazine well funnel and an ambidextrous magazine release button.

**JW:** Why an ambi mag button—you're not a lefty?

**JAH:** I've always had a bit of a problem reaching the stock button with my shooting-

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## A Debate Forum Featuring Experts

*Anyone who tells you the DA auto is an ingenious solution to a non-existent problem either doesn't know the problem exists or doesn't plan on taking any prisoners.*

### Double-Action

By Massad Ayoob

I am fed up with hearing that the double action auto is "an ingenious solution to a non-existent problem." That old catch phrase of engineering and ergonomics



does not apply to the double-action selfloader, which is a very functional solution to a very real problem: the fact that under stress, a cocked single-action pistol can have a nasty tendency to go off when you don't want it to.

Don't get me wrong—I love single action autos. I've been shooting them since I was a kid, and my favorite carry gun, on duty and off, is a cocked and locked .45 auto. In my book, *In the Gravest Extreme*, I called that pistol the ultimate gun-fighting tool, and still feel that to be true. The question is: Is the SA auto the ideal *threat management* pistol?

We assume our readers are cops and law-abiding armed citizens, not vigilantes. We use defense guns for capturing criminal suspects at gunpoint, and only rarely do we have to shoot them. When you're holding a man at gunpoint, you're going to be shaky with fear and excitement. In our man-on-man role plays at Lethal Force Institute, we've taken normal blood pressures up to 220/110, and resting pulses of 72 often shoot up to near 150 with no physical exertion. Hand strength, as measured on a dynamometer, increases by up to 15 pounds of pressure. And that's when the danger isn't even real.

In an actual street situation, are you sure you want that tense, trembling hand to be holding a cocked auto pistol with a crisp 3½ pound pull? If someone grabs you, bumps you, or even startles you, there's an excellent chance that the pistol will AD (accidentally discharge), and that chasm you see suddenly opening beneath your feet is the hell of criminal and civil court trials for a wrongful shooting.

In Vancouver, WA, an officer with a cocked .45 auto was attempting to make an arrest when the suspect turned on him and began a wrasslin' match. The cop yelled to a nearby officer to help him. As the latter ran forward, the .45 discharged accidentally. The bullet struck the assisting officer in the face, killing him.

In El Monte, CA, officers who had arrested multiple suspects were herding them into patrol cars when one jumped an officer. The cop's drawn, department-standard .45 auto AD'd, sending a 230-grain bullet into the leg of a non-resisting suspect who was handcuffed and sitting harmlessly in the back of a patrol unit. Welcome to lawsuit city.

In Hampton, NH, an officer arresting a suspect for DUI (drunk

*Continued on page 66*

# Single VS. Double Action Auto for Self- Defense

*When it comes to professionals and their choice in sidearms, the single-action pistol carried cocked and locked remains the favorite.*

### Single-Action

By Ken Hackathorn



Despite the rumor that the single-action auto pistol is dead and soon to be replaced with the new generation of double-action auto pistols, I am sure that the

M1911 .45 auto and Browning P-35 9mm pistols will remain popular with those individuals who require top performance. The key point of the DA auto is the concept of improved safety over the older SA pistols. While the perception is common, in truth the facts show that the DA pistol offers only one distinct area of improved safety over the SA cocked and locked auto.

Since the first shot fired from the DA auto requires the long and heavy trigger pull (12 to 18 pounds), few would argue that accidental discharges would be common with the DA. However, once the DA pistol has been fired once, the trigger action switches to the short stroke and lighter SA sear release. Besides the problem of DA/SA transition, once the DA pistol goes to the single-action trigger position it suffers from all the safety problems common to the 1911/P-35 single-action pistol. Numerous cases of accidental discharges reflect the fact that there is no substitute for proper training. Most agencies now using the DA auto pistol state that training time for proper familiarization of the DA auto pistol to be three times as great as that of the DA revolver.

While good shooting results can be achieved with a DA auto by a skilled pistol shooter, none can compare to the cocked and locked SA pistol when fast, accurate shooting is required. Regardless of your ideas about the practicality of IPSC competition, IPSC competition demands the absolute best in pistol performance. Double-action pistols have yet to make a dent in practical pistol competition. The only world class IPSC shooter who fires a DA auto is Smith and Wesson's Tom Campbell—it's converted to single-action!

The major advantage for the cocked and locked carry mode is the same short and light trigger release for each shot. Only one trigger action must be learned. Under stress a SA pistol, with constant and more sensitive sear release, will provide much better accuracy. Even more critical for safety is the fact that a Condition One auto can be made safe with just a flick of the thumb to re-engage the manual safety. For active movement or quick reholstering, this feature is most critical. With proper gunhandling techniques, the SA pistol is extremely safe.

Training a new shooter to use the cocked and locked SA pistol is extremely simple, if proper training techniques are used. Only one trigger action must be learned, and excellent results can be

*Continued on page 64*



## TEST REPORT

# RCBS 4x4

By Dan Cotterman

Ammo presses that carousel empties through the entire reloading process will cap 'em, charge 'em, and cork 'em with remarkable alacrity. It's future-shock with a handle. All modern man has to do is pump. The machine does just about everything. One reloader will be happy as a hound in clabber with such a set-up, while another is likely to figure he's having to swap hands-on control of certain critical operations for speedy production.

This is the second in what will exist as a continuing series of test reports (number one was in last issue on Lee's 1000) on tools that are and will be offered to reloaders. If you read what is yet to be published, you'll find me somewhat reserved when it comes to praising anything unless praise is warranted, honestly. I'll make a big deal of inconveniences that are liable to plague those who elect to buy these tools, and I'll make suggestions for improvements whenever improvements are possible within reasonable limits of pricing. If, after I've examined and used a tool, I like it, you'll see me say so. If it's not worth the asking price, I'll describe the problem and let you be the judge.

Numerous test sessions during the past couple of months have convinced me that it's possible to have it either way with the recently introduced RCBS 4x4. Its design offers the potential for quickness if that's what's needed for a particular run, but if step-by-step treatment of each cartridge is desired it'll work as a single-stage press. The convenience in the latter mode is that each unit of a two or three-die set, as well as the powder measure, can be adjusted and in place. This makes it possible to rotate cases, one at a time, to the various stations, and renders the 4x4 equally useful to both advanced and novice reloaders.

But even old hands are advised to approach the operation of this press with an awareness of their need to become adapted to new methods. In other words if, like me, you are not blessed with masterful coordination and great powers of concentration, you are likely to find yourself at odds with the 4x4's several full-speed functions.

A look at the 4x4 and how it works follows. You'll note that a number of things happen with each stroke of the operating handle, and perhaps see why I recommend an easy-does-it beginning.

The 4x4 has four shell-holder stations machined at 90-degree intervals around a manually-rotated shell plate. The plate is held by an adjustable center-bolt to a base casting that rides on top of an 1½-inch-diameter ram.



Above the shell plate, in the platform of the press's O-frame casting, are four 7/8ths-14 threaded holes into which (left-to-right, counterclockwise), you've positioned and adjusted a two or three-die set (depending on whether handgun or rifle cartridges are to be produced), plus either of two powder measures: the Little Dandy or the Uniflow. The first hole holds the resize-decap die; the second, the neck-expander die; the third, the powder measure; the fourth, the bullet-seating die.

All four will be brought into use as you lower the 4x4's handle. You'll resize and decap at One (the spent primer will slide down a metal tube into a small jar). At Two, the neck of another case will be belled. At Four, a bullet (which you will have placed over the mouth of yet another case), will be seated.

So, what happened at Three? That's where it's necessary to remove your hand from the grip so you can reach up and work the powder measure. The charge will drop through a tube that has at its lower end one of three interchangeable cones that are shaped to fit the mouths of various cases.

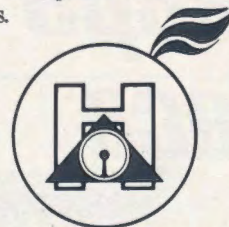
Before you grasp the handle again you'll have to thumb the primer arm so as to release a fresh primer from its feed tube. Keep a little pressure on the arm as it returns, because it's spring-powered. If you let it snap back it'll toss out the primer.

*Continued on page 68*

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By Dave Arnold

Colt Firearms has recently added a new .357 Magnum to their revolver line called the *Peacekeeper*. The new gun is actually an economy version of the Trooper Mark V double-action revolver and, like Colt's two other budget revolvers, it differs only in its outside appearance. Instead of the usual high polished blue or nickel, the exterior surfaces of the *Peacekeeper* have been sand blasted, resulting in a dull matte black finish.

This has allowed Colt to dispense with the usual final polishing operation enabling them to roll back the price of the *Peacekeeper*. The suggested retail price of this new revolver, regardless of barrel length, is \$282.95. This is \$36 less than a blue Trooper Mk V and some \$67 cheaper than the nickel version.

Ironically, the first Troopers, introduced way back in the Fifties, were marketed as budget versions of Colt's more expensive target revolvers. These early models employed exactly the same lockwork as the Python and were equipped with fully adjustable sights. However, they lacked such features like the bright blue finish, target stocks and wide spur hammer although the latter two could be had as optional features.

Then, in 1969, the Trooper was redesigned with a view to simplifying its manufacture to keep the price down. Major changes were made to the lock work which included replac-

ing the V-style main spring with a coil one and the employment of a new cylinder lock-up mechanism somewhat similar to that of Smith & Wesson. The result was the Trooper Mark III which proved to be one of the most rugged double-action revolvers Colt has ever made.

A few years ago, the Mark III was upgraded to the Mark V with a reduced size grip for smaller hands and an improved double-action trigger that had a lighter pull and a shorter throw. However, even though the Mark V is almost half the price of Colt's top of the line Python, production costs have risen and the *Peacekeeper* is obviously an attempt to offer a revolver with the same performance as the Trooper Mark V but at less cost.

While the Trooper Mark V can be had with 4, 6 and 8 inch barrels, the *Peacekeeper* is only made in the first two lengths. The revolver received for evaluation was the six-inch version and, apart from its dull black matte finish, it matched the exterior dimensions of the Trooper Mark V in virtually every respect. It has the same ventilated ribbed barrel with an underlug that protects the cylinder ejector rod.

The sights are exactly the same, incorporating a ramped front blade and a rear sight that is adjustable for both windage and eleva-

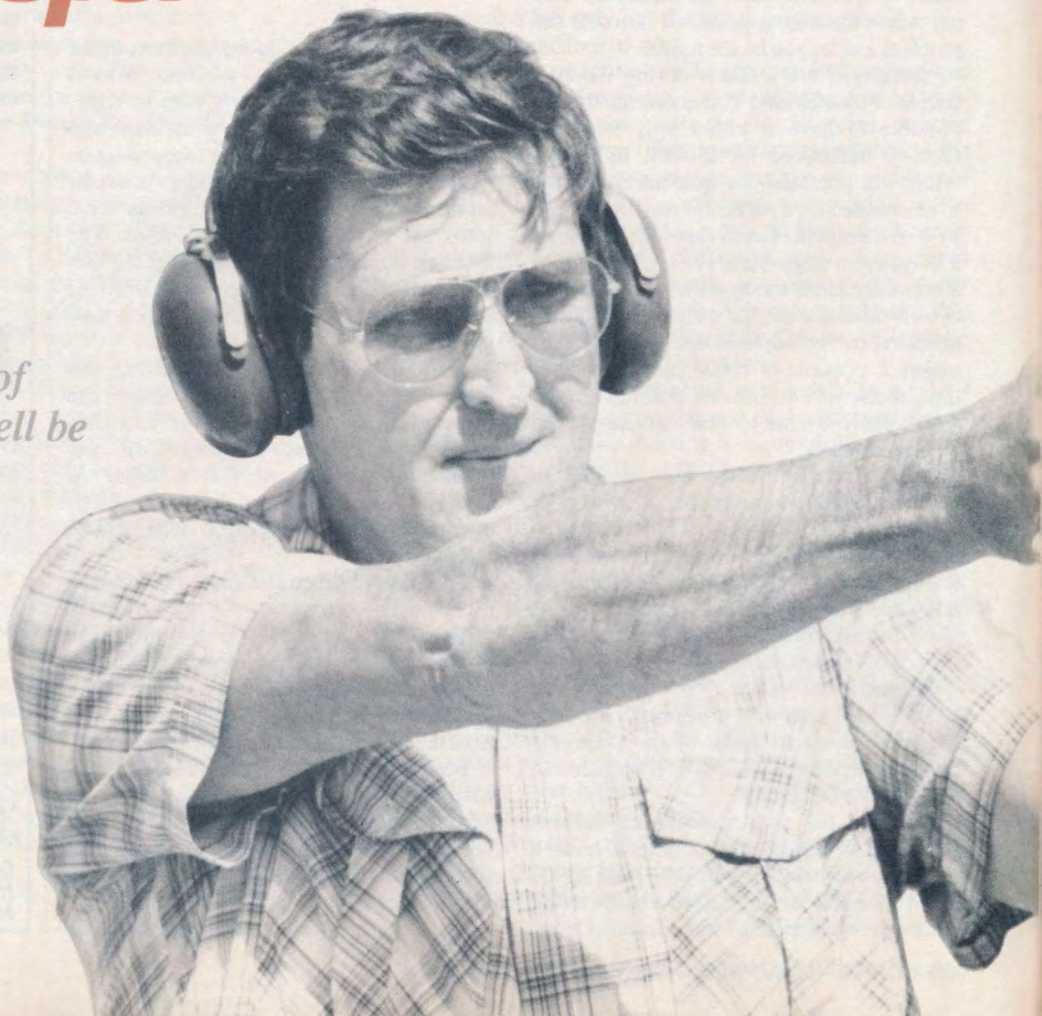
tion. The rear sight has the square notch outlined in white while the front has a red plastic insert. The stocks are, however, completely different. While those of the Trooper are checkered wood, the *Peacekeeper* has a set of Pachmayr "Presentation" combat style rubber grips. These completely encase the metal of the backstrap with finger grooves in the front for a more positive grip. Bearing in mind that such grips are considered a custom feature by many shooters, it could be argued that the *Peacekeeper* is actually superior to the Trooper in this area.

Colt claims that while they may have skimped on the outside finish of the *Peacekeeper*, the internal mechanism has exactly the same quality as that of its more expensive brother. This certainly was the case with the test revolver. When I removed the sideplate to view the mechanism it was obvious that it was no different to that of my Trooper Mark III, other than having the shorter action of the Mark V.

Cycling the action also showed that here quality was also the same. On single-action, the trigger was crisp with no evidence of creep, breaking at around 4<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> lbs. The double-action pull was smooth and around 10 lbs. with just a slight hitch midway in the stroke. Quality was also evidenced in other areas like the barrel/cylinder gap which measured .006

# *Peacekeeper Keeps Pace*

*This no-frills version of  
Colt's Trooper may well be  
the best buy in the  
.357 Magnum market.*



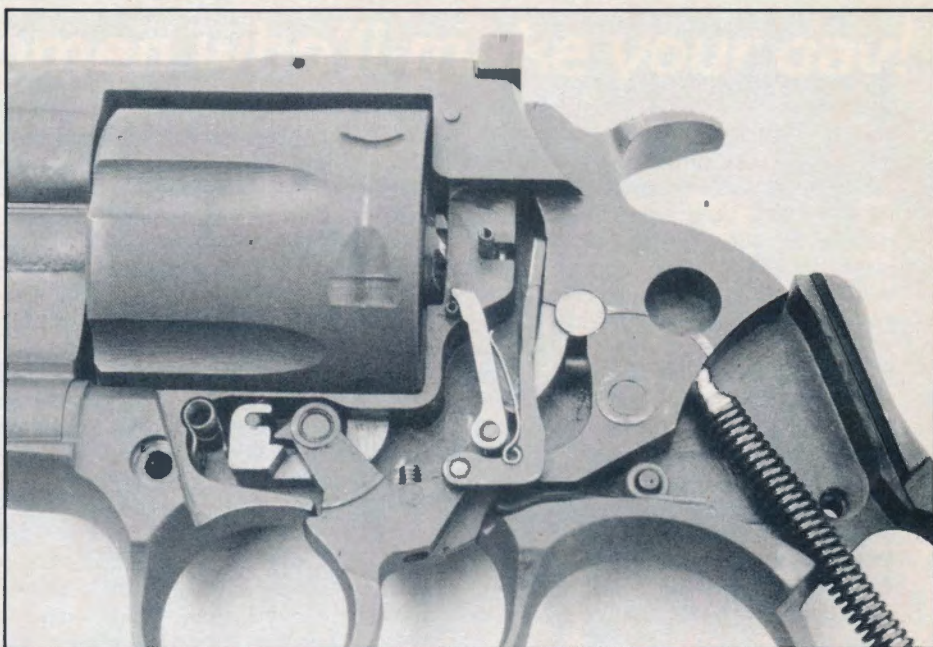


inches. When rounds were loaded in the cylinder the headspace measurement was also .006 inches which is also well within acceptable tolerances.

On the range, the gun proved to be a very good shooter. A variety of different .38 Special and .357 Magnum types and makes of ammunition were put through the *Peacekeeper* and my own Trooper Mk III, which was used as a control. This included the complete range offered by Federal including their new *Nyclad* ammunition, some Watson Precision 148 grain .38 Special wadcutters prepared for the Bianchi Cup competition and a batch of PMC .38 Special + P 125 grain JSPs.

The *Peacekeeper* gave good accuracy with all of the ammunition used in the test. When fired from a bench rest, the average group size of most of the ammunition at 25 yards was two-inches or less. The largest group was shot with PMC ammunition, which printed 3½ inches while the tightest was achieved with Watson Precision and Federal 148 grain .38 Special wadcutters which measured just on one-inch. Federal 158 grain *Nyclad* SW produced the best magnum accuracy, shooting a six shot group just on 1½ inches, with 5 shots together in a ⅞ inch cluster. Generally speaking, the *Peacekeeper* printed tighter groups than did my own Trooper Mk III.

The revolver also handled well in the double-action mode. The smooth trigger action permitted me to keep all my shots grouped together in the A zone of a Milpark IPSC target all the way back to 25 yards. The gun handled recoil well, even with magnum ammunition. Much of the credit for this must go to the rubber Pachmayr combat grips



**Internal lockwork of *Peacekeeper* is same as costlier Trooper.**

which provided a very comfortable hold and helped point the gun naturally at the target. They also helped soak up recoil to the extent that even the hotter magnum ammunition was quite pleasant to shoot even when a one handed hold was used.

Taking everything into consideration, the *Peacekeeper* that I tested proved to be a well made, good shooting revolver achieving accuracy that was more than acceptable for a gun designed primarily for defense. Other than its exterior looks, it displayed the same internal quality of workmanship as the more expensive Trooper. While its dull finish may not be as cosmetically appealing as the bright

blue or nickel normally associated with quality revolvers, it is practical for service use or, for that matter, hunting small game.

Actually even this austere finish is not that unattractive and it does help mask the evidence of machining on parts of the frame, cylinder and barrel. For those who are looking for a quality revolver and are not overly concerned about its outside finish, the *Peacekeeper*, with its recommended retail price of \$282.95, is certainly worth considering. Further information can be obtained from Colt Firearms, Dept. AH, 150 Huyshope Ave., Hartford, CT 06102.



***Peacekeeper* lacks pretty finish of Trooper (top) but shoots well.**



For many years, the most accurate out-of-the-box wheelgun that could be bought was the Colt Python. The big 'I' frame revolver was the hallmark of accuracy in the .38/.357 class, and was the revolver of choice for many PPC competitors when it came time for the NRA Distinguished Match. I picked up my share of trophies in PPC matches firing a Python with only an action job and a set of Colt Elliason sights.

The secret to its accuracy, so I've been told, is in the barrel. It is supposedly tapered slightly from rear to front and is the basis for the ability of the gun to shoot wonderfully tight groups right from the box. Further testimony to the accuracy of the Colt barrel came several years ago when it became the rage to fit the Python barrel to just about any other handgun possible. The S&W 19 and the Ruger Security-Six were the two most popular, and this conversion is still a good seller today.

Now, thanks to Colt and Lew Horton Distributing, the Python barrel has been added to yet another gun, this time a Colt product. It's called the *BOA*, and is the result of the mating of a Python ribbed barrel to the Colt MK V action. Colt had originally intended to produce the gun as an addition to its own line as a product to fall between the standard MK V Trooper and the top-of-the-line Python. However, the idea was scrapped in favor of a production of only 1200 units. There will be 600 six-inch, and 600 four-inch guns built with consecutive serial numbers from BOA1 to BOA1200, and all sales are handled through Horton's.

Each *BOA* carries a finish of the Colt 'Royal Blue' and, as usual, the blue is some of the best to be found anywhere. The stocks are rosewood and the overall size and shape is changed somewhat from what is usually found on the big Colts. Their height is reduced slightly as is the distance from front to rear of the butt. They are rather handsome and feature a checkered panel on both sides with the Colt medallion. The checkering is

rather sharp and provides good holding power. The stocks are also wraparound with a smooth backstrap.

The sights are the same as found on a standard Python, meaning the 'Accro' rear with a ramp front. Featured on the *BOA* is a red insert on the front and a white outline rear. The barrel is from the Python with one exception. On the Python, there is a small extension right at the muzzle, while the *BOA* is machined perfectly flat. The trigger is 3/8" wide with three grooves running the length down the center. Pull weight on single-action was 5½ lb. with just a slight hint of creep. I was rather surprised at that, as the pull weight seemed much lighter. That is due, I'm sure, to the wide target style trigger. The double-action pull is nice and smooth but rather heavy, but no more so than any other DA wheelgun. There is a fair amount of over-travel after the shot breaks in DA firing, but it is not found in the SA mode. This contributes to the accuracy of any firearm.

A trip to the range was naturally in order, so I loaded up a supply of .357 ammo from Federal, along with a box of reloads from Precision Ammo. These last are 148 gr. HBWC rounds, and are the same ones I used to win a few PPC matches here and there. The *BOA* weighs in at a healthy 44 ozs.

*Continued on page 66*

Colt's  
newest snake  
is a Python barrel  
on a Trooper frame.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN JACKSON



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# Pachmayr's Modular Pistol





In recent years big money matches like the Bianchi Cup have spawned a number of highly customized handguns specially modified for those who are serious about this type of shooting. One of the latest and most sophisticated handguns to appear is a highly modified Colt Government Model of modular design customized by Paul Liebenberg, master gunsmith managing the handgun division of Pachmayr Gun Works.

For nearly a decade, Pachmayr has offered a line of Colt 1911s specially customized for IPSC shooters. Many top shooters like Ray Chapman and Ross Seyfried, both of whom captured World IPSC titles (in 1975 and 1981 respectively), have used Pachmayr .45s.

Paul himself is a top IPSC shooter, having shot for his native country of South Africa before emigrating to this country in 1983. He is still a top class shooter who continues to compete and has placed high in the professional money matches like Steel Challenge and Bianchi Cup.

Under Paul's direction, Pachmayr continues to produce handguns for both duty and competition as well as some very sophisticated designs like this exotic 9mm the *Handgunner* received for evaluation. This pistol is a modular design, built around the Colt 1911, that can be had with accessories that will convert it to chamber both the .45 ACP and the .38 Super as well as 9mm. It is designed specifically for professional matches like the Bianchi Cup and the Steel Challenge.

The modular design allows the serious competitor the chance to shoot the same pistol in a number of match formats. Slap on the .45 ACP top end (slide) and you're ready for bowling pin matches. Swap to the .38 Super slide and you've got a ticket to the winner's circle in any IPSC match. Install the 9mm slide and you're ready for the Steel Challenge; add the mount for an optical sight and you're set for the Bianchi Cup.

The modular design is an important concept in this pistol. "You have this one gun," Paul explained, "and all the calibers are interchangeable within the system. You're getting four guns in one when you consider the three calibers as well as the chance to put on an optical sight. And you get this on the same frame with the same ergonomic grip and same trigger." Because of the number of combinations available with the modular design, Pachmayr cannot quote a fixed price, but Paul said the modular pistol retails for between \$2,500 and \$3,750 depending on options.

To be suitable for a precision match like the Bianchi Cup, a handgun must be capable of delivering target accuracy, be completely reliable and handle ammunition that meets the power factor with a minimum of recoil. In addition, the gun must be able to mount scoped aiming devices like the Aimpoint. Of course it goes without saying that a superb, crisp trigger action is part of the package.

In the accuracy department, many of the .38 Special PPC revolvers and customized .45 autos currently used in the Bianchi Cup are capable of shooting 2½ inch groups at 50 yards. Various methods are used to accurize the 1911 like tight barrel bushings, oversize barrel links and close mating of the slide and frame rails. More recently, dispensing with the barrel bushing entirely and having a barrel tapered at the muzzle, often with a heavy

compensator attached that mates directly with the slide, has been the way to go.

This Pachmayr pistol uses an entirely different locking system. The front of the barrel fits into a ball-swivel joint contained in a large housing that is an integral part of the front of the frame. Upon firing, the barrel moves backwards to unlock within extremely tight tolerances made possible by the unique ball-swivel joint. The barrel moves back two-

***Professional handgunning is a reality!  
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equipment like this 9mm  
Pachmayr Modular Pistol.***



**Modular components comprise Pachmayr professional pistol.**









hundredths of an inch (.02") and drops downwards within the ball-swivel only one-thousandth (.001"). This permits the barrel to unlock while at the same time insuring consistent barrel alignment.

The rear of the barrel locks up with another unique system employing a redesigned rear link that ensures the barrel will return to battery in the same exact position for every shot. The link is designed to keep the barrel cammed into position as the barrel hood wears so that accuracy is not lost. Paul explained that slight wear occurs on every 1911 in the area of the barrel hood and the edges of the lugs as a normal result of shooting. But he added that the Pachmayr cam-link system prevents loss of accuracy due to normal wear.

"It will shoot two-inches at 50 yards when you first get the gun. After 300 to 500 break-in rounds it'll shoot two and a half inches at 50 yards, but it will continue to shoot two and a half inches forever with the cam lug we use to allow for slight wear," Paul explained.

To support the additional mass of the front barrel housing, the area of the recoil spring dust cover has been strengthened by adding metal to it. This, together with the housing, also adds weight to the front of the gun which helps dampen recoil keeping muzzle lift to a minimum. It also supports the mounting for the Aimpoint, placing it low and forward of the ejection port and in line with the barrel much like the manner this device is attached to revolvers. Most auto mountings usually consist of a special left hand grip panel that places the electronic sight higher and further to the rear. There are claims that this method is inferior to revolver mounts because it is less secure, places the weight further back and can cause functioning problems if it interferes with the ejection of spent cases.

The modular pistol without the mount and Aimpoint sight weighs 64 ounces and goes up to 72 ounces with the sight. But these weights were taken from Paul's personal pistol. Paul pointed out that the weight of each modular pistol varies to suit the requirements of the buyer. For instance, Paul said Mickey Fowler's modular pistol is slightly lighter than his while another one he built for Jim Zubiena is slightly heavier. "The gun is designed ergonomically and weight-wise for the individual. The modular system will stay constant, but the individual guns will be slightly different," Paul said.

Apart from these unique refinements, the rest of the pistol is basically unaltered. Of course, the trigger has been worked on to give it a light, crisp pull, but there is a noticeable absence of other frills normally considered standard on IPSC pistols such as flared magazine wells, extended slide catches and magazine release buttons. Most of such features are intended to facilitate fast magazine changes and, as this is not a critical requirement in either the Bianchi Cup or Steel Challenge, they have been dispensed with. The only other feature of note is a shroud that is located just forward of the manual safety catch that keeps the thumb from rubbing against the slide during firing, something that

could result in a malfunction. Taking everything into consideration, virtually all the modifications are intended to give the pistol the advantages that many claim the revolver has over the auto in the Bianchi Cup.

In the Steel Challenge, where target accuracy at long range is not a requirement, the auto reigns supreme, thanks to its greater ammunition capacity. Speed is of the essence in this match and, while a few competitors use Aimpoints, most go for iron sights claiming these help them get on target much faster. As there is no ammunition power factor to worry about, most of the pistols used are pin guns that often have compensators to reduce recoil to a minimum.

And the Pachmayr pistol is ideal for this speed shooting match. Being a modular design, one simply has to remove the Aimpoint and mounting, and the pistol is ready for the Steel Challenge. Alternatively, if the pistol is to be used solely for this match, the basic gun without the Aimpoint and mounting can be ordered. This version has the low profile Bo-Mar fully adjustable rear sight but can have the electronic sight mounting added later, if desired. Pistols so fitted will also accept a mount for a scope.

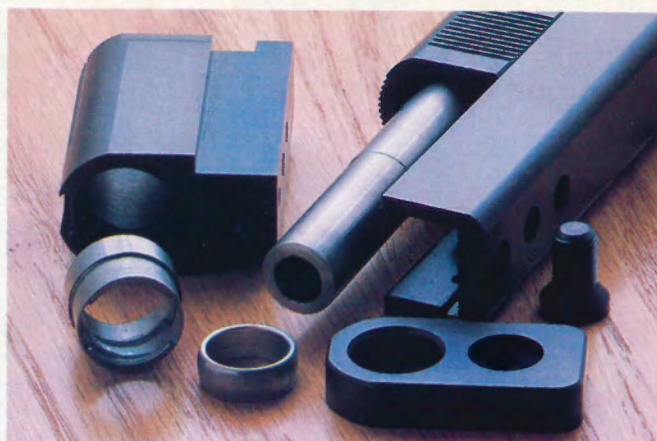
Although the pistol does not have a compensator, the mass of the barrel housing is enough to dampen muzzle lift considerably, even with the Aimpoint removed. When chambered for either 9mm or .38 Super with reduced loads, recoil is miniscule. Reports have already appeared in previous issues of the *Handgunner* about the possibility of the .38 Super replacing the .45 in IPSC because of its reduced recoil. The trouble with this ammunition is that it is not always easy to obtain and, because of the pressures involved, case life of reloads is reduced. The latter can be a real problem because of the amount of rounds top shooters go through in practice. It is because of this that the gun is being offered in 9mm Luger. Ammunition in this caliber is much more readily available and the cases can be reused many more times than the .38 Super. The only problem is the fact that, in my experience, 9mm does not have the same accuracy potential of either the .38 Special or the larger .45 ACP. While either of these rounds can be loaded to print tiny groups all the way back to 50 yards, getting the same results with 9mm without sacrificing reliability is much more difficult.

Paul claims that, in his gun, the 9mm can be made to perform as accurately as any .38 Special and can print groups under 1/2 inch at 25 yards with properly loaded ammunition. With this in mind, I was interested to see how the gun would perform on the range. Accuracy testing was done at 25 yards from a sand bagged bench rest using one of the Aimpoint models. Ammunition consisted of some special reloads prepared by Watson Precision together with some Federal and PMC factory rounds. Paul's auto grouped just under 3/4 inch, using Federal 95 grain JHPs. Even better results were achieved with the match reloads supplied by Watson Precision. This ammunition is loaded specifically for matches like the Bianchi Cup by Bud Watson





**Slide shield prevents thumb from rubbing slide.**



**Ball and socket replaces usual barrel bushing.**



**Pachmayr's Paul Liebenberg (above) test fires a modular pistol. Note elevation adjustment (above and left) for Aimpoint sight.**

(2650 S. Myrtle Ave. #1, Dept. AH, Monrovia, California 91016). It is not as hot as factory loads, yet meets the power factor specified for this competition. The best group measured under 1/2 inch which is excellent and shows just what the pistol is capable of.

Certainly these loads together with the combined weight of the heavy muzzle and the Aimpoint reduce recoil to almost negligible proportions. This was evident when I tried the gun out on the six metal plates that are used in the Falling Plate stage of the Bianchi Cup. Apart from a slight hiccup, there was hardly any muzzle lift and it was almost like shooting a .22 Short Rapid Fire pistol.

To see what the pistol would be like for the Steel Challenge, I tried one of the basic models with iron sights. Even without the addi-

tional weight of the Aimpoint, the recoil was hardly noticeable, thanks to all the extra weight in the front. This certainly indicated that the gun is just as suitable for this match as it is for the Bianchi Cup.

As far as reliability is concerned, no problems were experienced with either model when factory ammunition or the Watson Precision match reloads were used. However, there were a few cases of the slide not returning completely into battery with some practice reloads. In all other respects, the gun gave a very impressive performance and lived up to all the claims made by Paul Liebenberg and Pachmayr.

The sophistication of these modular autos is such that they can be likened to Formula One racing cars. Because of the work

involved, these guns can be very expensive, especially if they are ordered with all the accessories necessary to convert them to the other calibers. Consequently, they are not the kind of handguns that the average shooter is going to rush out and buy. Most sales will be to competitors who are in contention for top honors in the big money competitions. However, what is interesting is the fact that in developing these guns some of the features like the rear barrel link system and the safety shroud will now be included in Pachmayr's IPSC and pin gun custom autos which will be to the benefit of all shooters. Further information on Pachmayr's Modular Pistol and other models can be obtained by writing to them at 1220 S. Grand Ave., Dept





# The AYOOB Files

By Massad Ayoob

## Pistol vs. Shotgun: The Ken Kaas Incident

**Situation:** Out-gunned and low on ammunition, a State Trooper faces a frantic assault from a shotgun wielding felon.

**Lessons:** Weak-hand barricade technique, proper use of cover and intelligent re-loading save this Trooper's life.

*You asked for it, you got it. Massad Ayoob's experimental columns on "the mind and the gun" set the all-time American Handgunner record for the amount of positive mail generated. Readers were unanimous in asking the magazine and Ayoob to make a regular series based on what actually happens in gunfights from documented reports and interviews instead of "war stories."*

*Ayoob's files contain literally hundreds of such incidents. His new series will touch heavily on what went through the minds of the surviving participants while the firefight was in progress. In the inaugural report this issue, you'll notice that the trooper experienced tunnel vision, reverted instinctively to his training, and was unable to count his rounds—physio-psychological effects that are almost universal among gunfight participants.*

*Each account will also include a list of "lessons" that can be learned from an actual street encounter. Ayoob and the editors agree that reality, not theory, is where the keys to survival are found. A seasoned street cop, one of the so-called "Big Four" firearms instructors in the US, and an expert who testifies at an average of one murder trial every two months, Ayoob is well qualified to analyze the incidents from his files in light of the intertwined worlds of the street, the courtroom, and the training range.*

*Here is the first excerpt from The Ayoob Files. Read, and learn.*

It seemed like another routine day shift for Ken Kaas, an Illinois State Trooper assigned to the 15th District, which patrols the tollroads around Chicago. Thirty minutes after noon, he was advised that repairs on the radio towers would be shutting down his primary communications indefinitely. That made him uneasy.

It would turn out to be the least of his problems that day, March 26, 1980.

At IPM, he turned onto Genoa Road in Belvedere and observed a blue Ford Maverick parked on the roadside. "Motorist assist," thought the 11-year-veteran trooper, pulling over and turning on his flashers. He walked to the car and found a young man slumped over the wheel, surrounded by empty cans of beer. Kaas asked the driver if he could move the Maverick off the road and onto the shoulder.

The young man's head snapped up. He gave Kaas a stunned look then threw the car into gear and sprayed the trooper with dirt as he roared away. Kaas ran back to his unit and gave chase.

The pursuit soon reached speeds of 80 mph. They had covered more than two miles before the Maverick slowed as it approached an intersection, went through the stop sign, and then pulled to a stop on the shoulder. "He's giving up," thought Kaas. The trooper pulled his squad car 30 feet behind the small sedan, threw his shift into park, and started to open the door.

It was then that he saw the shotgun barrel emerge from the driver's window.

He threw himself back into the car, across the front seat, at the moment the scattergun roared. A 5/8 ounce 20-gauge rifled slug slammed through the grill of the Dodge Monaco patrol unit and smashed against the battery, sending lead fragments deep into the fire wall. Kaas' head went instinctively to his body to see if he was hit. Then he heard the Maverick's tires squeal.

Anger replaced shock. He threw the car into gear and stood on the accelerator. As he raced after the Maverick, his right hand groped for the red microphone of ISPERN, the Illinois State Police Emergency Radio Network. Until now, it had been the sort of routine thing he would have used the regular radio system for if it wasn't down, but shooting at a cop most definitely qualified as an emergency. But the red mike was gone: the bouncing of the high speed pursuit had knocked it to the floor somewhere.

He reached to his right hip and popped the thumb-break on his Safariland Border Patrol style holster. The Smith & Wesson Model 39 autoloader came out in his hand, and he held the steering wheel between his knees as he shifted the 9mm to his left hand so he could fire out the window.

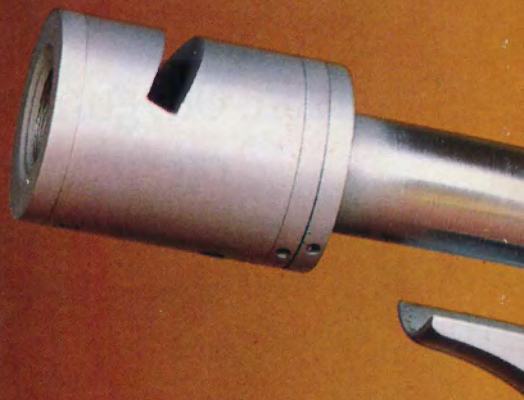
They were racing up a hill, with no oncoming traffic and no cars in front of the Maverick. Kaas opened fire, unsighted. It is believed that his first shot, double action, passed harmlessly over the fugitive vehicle. The trooper saw his next two bullets strike near each other in the middle of the Maverick's trunk. Then they crested the hill, and oncoming traffic made Kaas lower the Model 39.

As they hit the bottom of the hill, the Maverick swerved onto the shoulder, spraying dirt that blocked the windshield of his car so badly Kaas had to turn on his windshield washer. Moments later, the fleeing vehicle fishtailed sideways and came to a bouncing halt in a sideways position. Kaas braked to a quick stop in the opposite lane, 50 feet away, consciously positioning the squad car to keep the

*Continued on page 62*



# Win This Custom



**M**atra Manurhin International Inc. and Accurate Plating & Weaponry Inc. are pleased to present to a lucky reader of *American Handgunner* this custom Manurhin PPK/S .380. Manurhin (Manufacture de Machines du Haut-Rhin) located in the historic region of France known as Alsace-Lorraine, has been manufacturing PP-Series pistols under license of Carl Walther for 33 years. Since 1952, Manurhin has produced over one million PP-Series pistols using quality-control standards and procedures which exceed those of PP and PPK pistols manufactured in pre-war Germany.

Since June of 1984, Accurate Plating & Weaponry Inc. has been associated with Matra Manurhin as their source in the

United States for the Duraguard hard chrome finish they use on the PPK/S series. Accurate Plating & Weaponry Inc. is known throughout the weapons industry for their high quality hard chrome stainless finishes. In late 1984 Matra Manurhin, in an effort to satisfy consumer requests, instituted custom pistolsmithing services and appointed Accurate Plating and Weaponry Inc. as their sole United States Custom Shop offering a full line of custom modifications to their fine Manurhin line of pistols.

The following list of features on the Manurhin Giveaway Gun are available on all Manurhin PP and PPK/S series pistols through Matra Manurhin or Accurate Plating and Weaponry Inc.

Duraguard hard chrome finish  
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Total retail value of this pistol: \$1,050



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1640 W. Oakland Park Blvd.  
Suite 402  
Dept. AH  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33311  
(305) 486-8800

PHOTO BY WALTER LEONARD

**TO ENTER CONTEST:** Use a postcard, follow sample; include name, address, HOM-J/F, local dealer name and address. Mail before February 1, 1986. Send to AMERICAN HANDGUNNER, Box 16025, San Diego, CA 92116.

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# LET'S GET PRA

*When a group of cops got together in Montana for a practical pistol match, the emphasis was on street survival tactics.*

**By Mason Williams**

Twenty-five years ago we did not have four wheel drive passenger cars nor did we have IPSC or Bianchi Plates or the Steel Challenge or \$1,300 handguns. We did have Chic Gaylord holsters, Seventrees holsters, Doyle Cain holsters, street handguns, matches that lasted less than five seconds and a factual approach to targets based upon "Kill and Survive!"

Matches were based upon street experience. We discussed and evaluated, tried new concepts. We used street gear, leather and handguns. Out of abrupt, blasting, white heat street confrontations came counter measures, alterations in training procedures, discussions and then the final evaluation—back on the ranges to prove and to test. These were the matches that we fired. Competitors knew that street encounters lasted less than six seconds and that less than six shots were fired. Competitors were Federal and State professionals plus a few characters like me.

They were the men who roamed the streets, bought the narcotics and counterfeit money, made the arrests, infiltrated the radical left wing organizations. These were the tough, hard working professionals. They shot to stay alive. Their handguns were carrying guns—simple, practical, reliable.



In recent years all this has been swept under the rug and handgun matches have come to cater to spectators. Some matches force the shooter to fire perhaps 100 rounds thus turning the shooting game into a spectator sport covered by radio, TV and the newspapers. It has

been years since I have run into anyone who showed any interest in the old time realistic matches so that when I read Andy Cannon's flyer covering his practical match, I went for it!

*"This match is an old time down and dirty combat match like the ones we used to shoot in the 60's. It is something different and has little to do with the type of match you are accustomed to shooting. These matches will be based on actual case happenings taken from some of my old files that I picked up from the NYCPD and the FBI. Anything that would not be carried on the street will not be allowed. No long slides, no pin guns, no extended barrels, no compensators. Bring a jacket or sport coat."*

By the time I read this far I was hooked. This meant that I would use a carry holster and a carry pistol. None of the courses of fire were known to the competitors ahead of time. All of the courses of fire were taken directly from either the records of fire fights of the New York City Police Department or the FBI. The background of each course of fire will be explained later on.

As a matter of interest I fired an ODI .45 ACP, all stainless steel, Commander size, single-action pistol completely accurized by Don Cassavant. Alessi made my between the belt and pants holster for this handgun.

One of the stages was based on a shooting in New York. A few years back, Jim Cirillo of the NYCPD Stakeout Squad sat in a chair. He and two partners had just arrived to stake out a store. His two partners had gone across the street for sand-



# CTICAL!



wiches. Cirillo remained alone in the store. Three armed men walked in. He was not ready. Shotguns and other weapons and ammunition lay on a table behind him too far away for him to reach them. All he had at hand was his four-inch service revolver. Within three seconds he drew, fired three shots, one into each of the robbers. One dropped dead on the floor. The other two were caught within minutes.

Evaluation of the fire fight proved that if Cirillo had taken two seconds longer to hit the men, they would have had time to shoot him. And so "Cirillo's Nightmare" was born. Andy Cannon set up the match using the same distances that Cirillo fired at—55 feet, 60 feet and 70 feet.

Competitors stood inside a box marked out on the ground facing three targets. This time shooters did not wear jackets or sport coats. On signal they drew their handguns and fired one shot on each felon target then holstered. This is repeated twice for a total of 9 shots.

Scoring is limited Comstock count since the number of shots to be fired was prescribed ahead of time. No competitor matched Cirillo's three second time but then no competitor had Cirillo's need to kill fast!

The combination of time and picture targets turn this match into an extremely realistic confrontation. Another stage does not need any background briefing if the reader has been listening to TV or reading the news. Andy Cannon named this match "The Subway Savings and Loan." The shooter stands five feet—that's right, five feet—in front of

three felon targets. The center felon wields a wrecking bar and must be considered more dangerous than the other two. Because of this the shooter fires one shot on the left target, two shots on the center target and one shot on the right target.

The shooter wears his jacket or sport coat and stands with handgun holstered holding a one dollar bill in his right hand.

The Range Officer asks, "Are you ready?"

The shooter says, "Yes."

Some time within the next five seconds the Range Officer pushes the buzzer upon which the shooter drops the money and goes for his handgun. Once again this match is scored using the limited Comstock count. This is a very tough match due to the time limit plus the close distance that forces the shooter to "rush it." Some shooters fired two handed while others used one hand, but the basic problem was over travel or under travel on the right target. This match is fired twice for a total of 8 shots.

One match was a classic. Andy Cannon named it "Coming Home." This match uses his Fun House. The family has been taken hostage and the entire house turned into a defensive unit. The shooter must come out of his "car," check the living room window and then go in. He must fire a minimum of two shots on each felon target. There will be a minimum of three Bad Guys and they must be disposed of without hitting any innocent people. The shooter can fire as many shots as he wishes. Scoring is straight Comstock count.

Andy and I set up the Good and the Bad Guys using the same targets that the shooters had been firing at all day. Thanks to ATS's quick change set up, Andy could switch a target from a Bad Guy to a Good Guy in a matter of seconds. He also worked in several female targets—some Good Gals and some Very Bad Gals. The shooter started facing the wall in front of the Fun House. On command he turned to his left and came around the left end of the wall. Facing him was the living room window containing a target. He reacts accordingly. He then turned to his right and ran through the front door. Directly in front of him was a target. Half left were three more targets. Full left was another target. Andy and the Range Officer, John Barnes, both followed the shooter through the course. About every third time into the Fun House, Andy would change some of the targets.

It is interesting to note that over 60% of the shooters shot the wrong targets because we had deliberately selected the ones that they had become accustomed to seeing as Bad Guys during the day. This has long been one of the problems facing training officers. This fall Andy will double the size of the Fun House to provide more room, real doors, falling targets, plus an additional room.

Now for some comments on these courses of fire. At the start there was some confusion and much questioning but once the competitors realized the seriousness of the shooting and the fact that they were duplicating actual fire fights they settled down to turn in some excellent handgun shooting. In view of the fact that this match had been put together at the last minute and flyers sent out only a week ahead of time, attendance indicated that with normal publicity Andy could have had 50 to 60 shooters.

I wish to stress the fact that this type of match should not be attempted by the novice or ordinary fun shooter. The times, the problems and the pressures make it dangerous for the tyro. Only well trained, competent handgunners should attempt to fire in this type of match.

In closing I would like to repeat that this match is not a spectator match. These matches are for the serious, professional shooter. In my opinion, attendance should be by invitation only.





# MYSTERY RELOADING BENCH CONTEST WINNERS

And the winners are...



First Place: Richard H. Riley, Punxsutawney, PA.  
HORNADY PRO-7 PRESS, courtesy of Hornady.



By AH Staff

How about a contest with no announced criteria for selecting a winner and no announced prize? "OK, I'll bite." So wrote John Gable of Montgomery, Ala., when he sent in his entry for the *Handgunner's Mystery Reloading Bench Contest*. Bite he did along with many other readers whose curiosities were sparked by our unique contest.

The contest was announced in the Sept./Oct. 1985 issue with the cryptic message: "You can win a mystery prize by sending a snapshot of your reloading bench to the American Handgunner. The prize is a mystery, and so is the contest criteria. No hints!"

We learned a lot about America's handgun reloaders from the 300-odd entries. We learned that there are some very innovative and clever reloaders out there like Martin Boxer of Monsey, NY, whose Dillon press runs on air, controlled by a foot pedal. Perhaps laziness, not necessity, is the mother of invention!

We learned from John Perry of Phoenix, Ariz., that one can home brew ammo with remarkably spartan facilities. John's bench is a Black and Decker Workmate! Then again, we discovered from Ronnie Fry of Lubbock, Texas, that reloading benches can reach luxurious proportions filling an entire room.

Your entries revealed that you have tidy



Second Place: John H. Fox, Colonia, NJ.  
OLSENS VIBRATORY CASE TUMBLER, courtesy of Olsens.



Third Place: Robert H. Moore, Navasota, TX.  
RELOADING BOOK LIBRARY, courtesy of American Handgunner.



## Honorable Mention:



**BENCH ORGANIZATION** Joseph S. Rychetnik, Pacific Grove, CA.



**COMPONENT ORGANIZATION** Terry Murbach, Maumee, OH.



**BUSIEST BENCH** Jim Buchmann, Tinley Park, IL.

*Here is the snapshot of my loading bench. As you can see it is relatively uncluttered. I only shoot factory Winchester ammo!*

**MOST CREATIVE ENTRY** Tim Vaitkunas, Edwardsville, IL.

benches and messy benches, organized benches and disarrayed benches, elaborate benches and no frills benches. We discovered that all of the major manufacturers of reloading presses are well distributed across the benches of America, but the RCBS Rock Chucker and the Dillon RL 450/550 were the most common.

And now, may I have the envelope, please? There are three Grand Prize winners, First, Second and Third. The "mystery" criteria of the contest is based on what veteran reloading expert Jerry Rakusan, Editorial Director of *American Handgunner*, feels is a "good" bench.

"Cleanliness," Jerry says, "equates with safety. And safety in reloading is paramount." Thus, *Criteria Number One*: a clean, well organized bench.

*Criteria Number Two*: construction of the bench. The prize winning benches must be sturdy and solid and constructed with a view to facilitating reloading with easy access to components.

*Criteria Number Three*: creativity. Creativity is a subjective matter, but we sought benches that indicated good planning and clever execution of construction.



## RELOADING BENCH PLANS

The National Reloading Manufacturers Association offers complete plans for a do-it-yourself reloading bench for \$3 available from NRMA, 4905 S.W. Griffith Dr., Dept. AH, Suite 101, Beaverton, OR 97005.

The bench features a fold-out drawer for your powder scale conveniently positioned at eye level. There is a section of compartments for "depriming-priming" apparatus and an area of shelves for bullet-shot-wad compo-

nents. Adequate storage area for miscellaneous reloading tools and components is also provided.

The bench plans come with precise drawings illustrating the cuts to be made for shelves, drawers, etc. on 4x8x3/4 sheets of plywood. The plans lead you through the construction step-by-step.









# Reloading the 9mm Luger

By Stanley W. Trzoniec

The 9mm Luger is an interesting cartridge to load especially with all of the modern equipment and components. Just about gone are the days when cases of different dimensions were a frightful event for handloaders. Unknown origins, thick walls or Berdan primers all added to the misery of reloaders.

Today, all factors considered, the nine is easy to load to very satisfactory levels often demanded in autopistol applications. Perfect feeding, ejection and functioning are all part of the picture and can, by the average shooter, be accomplished with a minimum of effort. A conscientious approach and the right material are all that is needed for perfect home-brewed ammunition.

Propellants should border on the fast burning side of the charts. In my experience, Olin's WW231, Unique or Bullseye rate good marks as they offer plenty of impulse to cycle the autopistol's action. Other favorites might include Herco or 700X and for this reason I have included them in the testing program. Most of these powders are very small in granular structure making them very easy to feed through powder measures. For progressive loaders, this insures consistent results. Powder is an interesting subject, at times very involved, and I thought seriously enough about it to write a complete chapter on current propellants in my latest book just out by Stoeger Publishing titled, *Handloaders' Guide*.

Regular or standard (not magnum) primers get the go ahead in small 9mm cases. In these cases, the hotter primers are not needed or desired as they tend to raise pressures. Caps by all major makers fill the bill; I've had good luck with all.

With the preliminaries out of the way, we can start in earnest to reload. With either new or once fired brass, regardless of type, inspection is mandatory before you send any case up into your slick new carbide sizing die. Remember, we are striving for absolutely 100% reliability. Small defects like case creases, longitudinal scratches, bad primer pockets, torn rims or obvious marks must be discarded (if really of a serious nature) or used solely for practice loads.

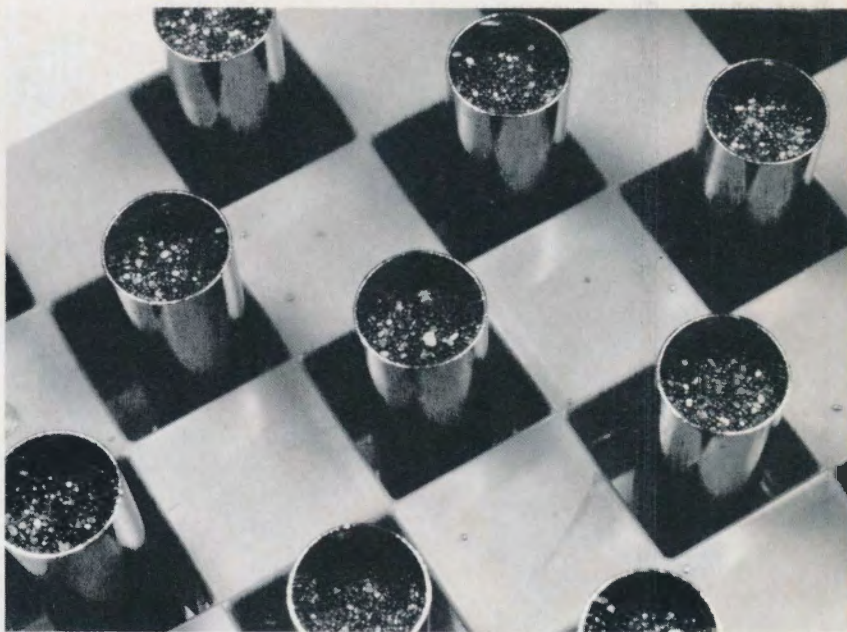
Sizing and decapping are next. Here it makes no difference if the cases are brand new or not, for we are looking for uniformity in both case size and length to carry us through the rest of the loading sequence. With a micrometer, check a random sampling especially with a new set of dies making sure all are within the specs listed in recent loading manuals. When all is set, size all cases.

Before moving on, all cases should be cleaned and sorted by headstamp. Not that one brand is better or worse than another, it's the case capacity we're concerned with. Cleaning can be accomplished in either a wet or dry media. I prefer the latter in concert with a modern case tumbler.

Following this we are ready to expand the case mouth to receive the bullet and reprime. Expanding the mouth is a very critical part of the operation and should never be done without thinking in very small tolerances. For here the tightness of the bullet/case relationship is extremely important as it is subject to all the forces of recoil, plus feeding from the magazine, up the ramp and into the chamber. Any sloppiness on your part in the form of over generous tolerances will merely

hamper the cycling of the piece. Bullets that get pushed back into the case are not only candidates for a misfire, but also raise pressures as your internal volume has now been compressed to totally unacceptable levels.

The expander plug should be about 0.003" to 0.004" smaller than the base or diameter of the bullet as it enters the case proper. We are talking jacketed bullets now; lead projectiles obviously can tolerate a little more as too



After charging cases, inspect to make sure powder level is equal.







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tight a fit will result in the shaving of the projectile as it enters the cartridge case mouth. Mine measures .352" for the 9mm (.355) bullet suiting me fine.

Combined with this is flaring, or bellling, of the case mouth. Keep thinking minimum tolerances. For an example: cases out of my die measure .370" at the mouth. After flaring I mike .372", just enough to seat the bullet squarely on the mouth. The depth of the flare is small, roughly 0.50" into the mouth. In reality, the case from here on down is supporting the bullet with the later taper crimp wrapping it all up into one pretty package.

One other point. Lightweight bullets, such as those in the 88 to 95 grain class have less of a bearing surface than heavier ones, so here proper judgment is employed to make sure they have enough 'bite' on the sides of the case for a secure hold during all that violent action we talked about before. Sometimes you will only have about a half of a bullet diameter to play with, so watch with care when you flare.

As the case comes out of the expanding die on the downward stroke, it is primed. This is how I do it on my press, however you can elect to do it via a Lee Auto Prime or some other independent manner. Regardless of the method used, again visually check all cases making sure the primer is flush with the case head. This is most important for consistent results both in accuracy and velocity as these two factors depend on a good, square firing pin hit.

Powder dispensing can be done in a number of ways, again depending on your equipment. Modern micrometer measures can be set up for small charges but here I prefer the fixed bushing kind. Before using a fixed measure, however, please check all weights on a scale by dropping 10 (that's TEN) charges, dividing by 10 for an average. After charging a tray full (50) of cases, inspect all for double charges as his kind of error can be disastrous to both you and the gun.

Bullet seating followed by a taper crimp will finish us off in grand fashion. All bullets should be seated on the cases as straight as possible and should not be done while the case is in the press. Because some presses have a slight tip backwards, there is the chance the bullet (or case) can shift in the shell holder causing the bullet to cant, ultimately ripping the case down the side as you progress into seating.

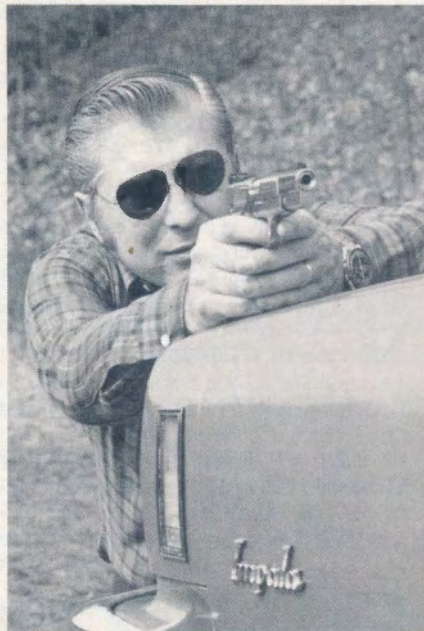
Final duties consist of setting up the taper crimper to push gently inward on the expanded case mouth. This combined with a nice tight bullet seat goes a long way towards the uniformity of ignition, resulting in not only a consistent velocity curve, but also perfect feeding of the weapon.

With the final testing of the Beretta complete (see accompanying story) using an assortment of factory loads, it becomes pretty obvious that the perfect sequel to this would be handloads. But I'll make it more interesting. Since I will be going through about 15 different loadings, why not include a few other guns checking for not only func-

*Continued on page 58*

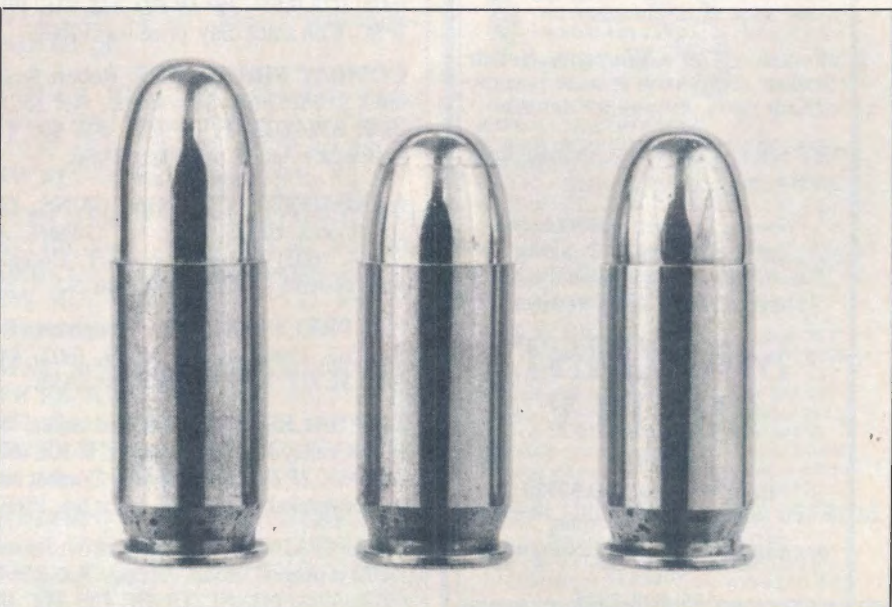


**Left to right: primed case; flared case; flared case with bullet.**



SELECTED 9mm HANDLOADS						
Bullet	WT.	Powder	Charge	VELOCITY		AVERAGE ACCURACY
				Beretta 92F	S&W 489	
Speer	88	Bullseye	5.5	1425	1358	2.75
Sierra	90	Unique	7.2 *	1541	1464	2.50
Homady	90	# 231	6.2	1509	1435	3.00
Sierra	95	Unique	6.6	1428	1358	2.50
Speer	100	#231	5.6	1354	1280	2.25
Homady	100	Henco	6.8 *	1305	1219	3.50
Homady	115	Unique	5.7	1249	1188	3.00
Speer	115	# 231	5.0	1205	1154	3.00
Sierra	115	Unique	6.4 *	1391	1339	2.75
Homady	124	# 231	5.0	1183	1157	2.50
Speer	124	Bullseye	4.5	1096	1064	3.75
Sierra	125	Unique	5.7	1206	1171	2.75
Sierra	130	# 231	5.4	1225	1167	2.00
Sierra	130	700X	4.8	1186	1147	2.00
Sierra	130	Unique	5.7	1175	1154	2.25

NOTE: All Remington Brass, Federal #100 Primers  
\*Compressed Charge Weight



**Left to right: flared case with bullet; seated bullet; crimped bullet.**



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Members of the American Pistolsmiths Guild are highlighted with the initials APG in their listing. Further information about the Guild may be obtained from: George Wessinger, Secretary APG, Dept. CPD, Rt. 1, Box 40, Chapin, SC 29036.

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These codes identify the handgun specialties:

CT = Colt

SW = Smith and Wesson

RU = Ruger

TC = Thompson/Center Contender

XP = Remington XP-100

These codes identify the area(s) of specialization:

PP = PPC

IP = IPSC

SL = Silhouette

HT = Hunting

PO = Police

BS = Bullseye

For best results in obtaining custom pistolsmithing services, the Handgunner recommends that you contact several pistolsmiths to compare services and prices.

This listing is for information only, and the Handgunner assumes no responsibility, stated or implied, for the work of any firm/individual listed.

## Alabama

**WALKER ARMS CO.**, Jim McCullough, Rt. 2, Box 73, Selma, AL 36701, (205) 872-6231. **PP PO HT. CT SW XP TC** Manurhin **PP/PPKs**. price list: \$15.

**TRICKS AND TRIGGERS**, Fred Wardell, Box 4132 New River St. I, New River, AZ 85029, (602) 465-7640. **PP IP HT PO** *Certain machineguns*. **CT SW RU**. Colt .45 auto. price list: SASE.

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**ACCURACY UNLIMITED** Frank Glenn, 16036 N. 49th Ave., Glendale, AZ 85306, (602) 978-9089. **PP IP PO. CT SW. PPC;** IPSC, Colt autos only. price list: FREE.

**COMBAT FIREWORKS**, Robert Smith, 6617 S. McKemy St., Tempe, AZ 85283, (602) 839-0033. **PP IP PO. SW RU CT.** Police carry guns. price list: SASE.

**HAMMOND'S CUSTOM GUNS**, Guy Hammond, 619 S. Pandora, Gilbert, AZ 85234, (602) 892-3437 **IP. CT** Compensator systems for Colts. price list: \$2.

**H-S PRECISION**, Tom Houghton, P.O. Box 512, Prescott, AZ 86309, (602) 445-0607 **SL HT. XP TC**. price list: SASE.

**J&G SALES, INC.**, Richard Aldis, 442 Miller Valley Rd., Prescott, AZ 86301, (602) 445-9650 **IP PO. CT SW RU**. Combat master conversion of .45 auto. price list: FREE.

**MOUNTAIN METAL**, Wayne Brown, Kenyon Ranch Road, Tubac, AZ 85646, (602) 398-2741. **SL IP PP PO HT BS.** Combat autos.

## Arkansas

**J. MICHAEL PLAXCO**, Rt. 1, Box 203, Roland, AR 72135, (501) 868-9787. **IP OP. CT**. Custom work on IPSC competition guns. price list: \$1.

**WATSON'S .45 SHOP**, Richard Watson, 2057 Cline Ave., Fayetteville, AR 72701, (501) 442-2967. **PP IP HT PO BS. CT SW RU**. price list: \$1.

**WILSON'S GUN SHOP INC.** Bill Wilson, Rt. 3, Box 211-D, Berryville, AR 72616, (501) 545-3618. **PP IP PO BS. CT SW**. Combat competition autos for IPSC. price list: \$2.50. **APG.**

## California

**AUTO SHOP**, Craig Wetstein, 8545 Washington Blvd., Culver City, CA 90230, (213) 836-0179. **IP PO. CT.** .45 accuracy, reliability. price list: SASE.

**BAIN AND DAVIS**, John Harting, 307 E. Valley Blvd., San Gabriel, CA 91776, (818) 573-4241. **PP IP HT PO. CT SW RU XP TC.** 357/44 Bain and Davis conversions.



**BAR STO PRECISION MACHINE**, Irv Stone, 73377 Sullivan Rd., Twentynine Palms, CA 92277, (619) 367-2747. Makers of Bar-Sto barrels. price list: FREE.

**BOB'S COP SHOP**, Robert Perkins, 1586 North E Street, San Bernardino, CA 92405, (714) 882-6548. *SL PP IP PO HT BS. CO SW RU XP TC.* Colt 45. price list: FREE.

**CHESIRE AND PEREZ DIST.**, Steve Deladio, 136E Walnut Ave., Monrovia, CA 92016, (818) 359-5345. *SL IP PPP PO HT BS. SW.* S&W warranty service.

**DAVIS CUSTOM GUNS**, Gil Davis, 3942 Trust Way, Hayward, CA 94545, (415) 887-4400. *PP IP PO HT BS. CT SW RU TC.* Windmaster PPC revolver. price list: SASE.

**DAVIS CUSTOM GUNS**, Bill Davis, 2793 Del Monte St., W. Sacramento, CA 95691, (916) 372-6789. *PP IP PO HT BS. CT SW RU TC.* Windmaster PPC revolver. price list: SASE.

**DAVIS CUSTOM GUNS**, Jeff Davis, 1176 N. Knollwood Circle, Anaheim, CA 92801, (714) 952-2191. *PP IP PO HT BS. CT SW RU TC.* Windmaster PPC revolver. price list: SASE.

**DOC JONES HANDGUN SPECIALTIES**, Charles S. Jones, 37908 29th St. East, Palmdale, CA 93550, (805) 947-3526. *SL HT PP. CT SW RU.* Custom barrels. price list: FREE.

**DUNCAN'S GUN WORKS**, Bud Duncan, 1619 Grand Ave., San Marcos, CA 92069, (619) 727-0515. *SL PP IP HT PO BS. CT SW RU TC XP.* Restoration of Colt Single Actions.

**F. BOB CHOW'S GUN SHOP**, Bob Chow, 3185 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94110, (415) 282-8358. *PP PO BS. CT SW RU* Browning.

**KEITH HAMILTON, PISTOLSMITH**, Keith Hamilton, Box 871, Gridley, CA 92948, (916) 846-2361. *IP PO PP HT BS. CT SW RU.* Colt 45s. price list: SASE.

**HOAG GUN WORKS**, James W. Hoag, 8523 Canoga Ave., Ste. C, Canoga Park, CA 91304, (818) 998-1510. *PP IP HT PO BS. CT SW RU.* IPSC competition modifications. price list: FREE.

**JARVIS GUNSMITHING**, Bill Jarvis, 4418 Larkstone Cr., Orange, CA 92669, (714) 771-1412. *PP IP. CT SW. PPC* and Bianchi revolvers. price list: \$1.

**JONES' FORT**, Marshall Jones, 1600 E. Cypress Ave., #2, Redding, CA 96002, (916) 222-3223. *SL PP IP PO HT BS. CT SW RU XP.* Dan Wesson "Dan Smith" (S&W frame, DW barrel). price list: FREE.

**KING'S GUN WORKS INC.**, Arnold Capone, 1837 W. Glenoaks Blvd., Glendale, CA 91201, (213) 956-6010. *SL IP PP PO HT BS. CT SW RU TC XP* Manufacturer of parts for .45 auto. price list: \$2.

**LA FRANCE SPECIALTIES**, Tim La France, P.O. Box 178211, San Diego, CA 92117, (619) 293-3373. *PO. CT SW RU.* SWAT team weapons manufacture; combat weapons. price list: SASE.

**LEE'S RED RAMP INC.**, Lee Baker, 7252 East Ave., Littlerock, CA 93543, (805) 944-4487. *SL PP IP HT PO BS. CT SW RU.* Ruger target, re-bore, re-barrel.

**MAC'S .45 SHOP**, Jim McDonnell, Box 2028, Seal Beach, CA 90740, (213) 438-5056. *SL PP IP HT PO BS custom prototype. CT SW RU.* Colt 45s; S&W PPC revolvers. price list: SASE.

**CUSTOM GERMAN LUGERS AND P-38S**, John V. Martz, 8060 Lakeview Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648, (916) 645-2250. Customizing Lugers and P-38s to various calibers; repair of Lugers/P-38s. price list: \$4.50.

**NORTH VALLEY GUN SHOP**, Charles Clemons, 3415 Silverball Rd. #4, Chico, CA 95926, (916) 345-2928. *PP IP HT PO BS. SW RU.* Dan Wesson 357 Mag to 44 Super Mag.

**NYGORD PRECISION PRODUCTS**, Don Nygord, Box 8394, La Crescenta, CA 91214, (818) 352-3027. *BS. CT RU TOZ, Walther, Fas.* Olympic bullseye. price list: SASE.

**PACHMAYR GUN WORKS**, Paul S. Liebenberg, Manager, 1220 S. Grand Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90015, (213) 748-7271. *SL PP IP HT PO BS. SW CT RU.* Specialized competition pistols for all disciplines. price list: FREE.

**POWAY GUN WORKS**, Ken Johnson, 13168 Poway Rd., Poway, CA 92064, (619) 486-0680. *SL IP PP PO HT BS. CT SW RU TC.* Colt 45 accurizing and S&W action work. price list: FREE.

**ROBERT RICHTER**, 5792 Vista de Oro, Riverside, CA 92509, (714) 788-0919. *IP PO HT BS. CT SW RU.* Mini-45 conversions. price list: \$1.

**CHUCK RIES, GUNSMITH**, Chuck Ries, 4234 Madison Ave., Culver City, CA 90232, (213) 837-6858. *PP IP PO BS. CT SW RU.* Combat handguns. price list: \$1.

**SCHLUTER'S GUNSMITHING AND SALES**, Don Schluter, 568 6th Ave., San Diego, CA 92101, (619) 239-1386. *PO. CT SW RU.* Emergency service on duty weapons.

**MAC SCOTT'S GUNSMITH SERVICES**, A.M. "Mac" Scott, 880 Piner Rd. #50, Santa Rosa, CA 95401, (707) 546-BANG. *IP PO. CT SW RU.* 45 autos and pin guns. price list: SASE.

**JOHN SPILBORGH'S CUSTOM GUNS**, John Spilborgh, 1110 E de la Guerra, Santa Barbara, CA 93103, (805) 965-0702. *PP IP PO BS. CT.* Colt 45 customizing/accurizing. price list: \$2. APG.

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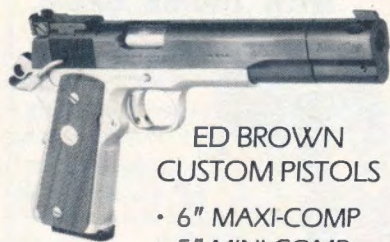




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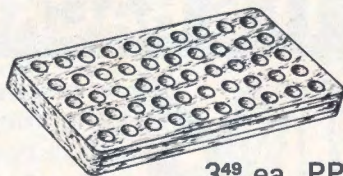
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**JAWBONES LTD.,** William C. Bidwell, 1555 Abilene Drive, Broomfield, CO 80020, (303) 465-4820. **IP PO. CT CZ-75, P35.** price list: SASE.

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**ACCURATE PLATING,** Bob Cogan, 1937 Calumet St. #22, Clearwater, FL 33575, (813) 733-0923. **PP IP PO HT SL HT. CT SW RU XP TC.** price list: SASE.

**BOZ CUSTOM GUNS,** Jim Boz, 2933 East Bay Drive, Largo, FL 33541, (813) 531-7443. **PP IP HT PO BS. CT SW RU.** Custom 45s. price list: FREE.

**JACK'S GUNS & RELOADING,** Jack Abene, 3911 W. Waters Ave., Ste. 3, Tampa, FL 33614, (813) 932-8824. **SL PO BS IP PP HT. CT SW RU XP TC.** Custom 45 work; PPC. price list: SASE.

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**ED BANKS,** Ed Banks, 2762 Highway 41 North, Fort Valley, GA 31033, (912) 987-4665. **IP PO BS. CT SW.** Scaled down .45s for police. price list: SASE.

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**PETERSON GUNSMITHING**, Harry L. Peterson, 1120 Sanger St., Ottawa, IL 61350, (815) 434-0178. **HT PO BS. CT SW RU.**

**HAROLD SHOCKLEY**, Harold Shockley, 204 East Farmington Rd., Hanna City, IL 61536, (390) 565-4524. **HT PO. CT SW.**

**STEARNS GUN SALES**, D.A. Stearns, 202 N. Pershing, Box 411, Energy, IL 62933, (618) 988-8781. **HT PO. CT SW. S&W** revolvers. price list: SASE.

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**VILLAGE GUNSMITH**, Wayne N. Hill, Sr., 403 15th Ave., East Moline, IL 61244, (309) 755-0551. **PP PO BS. SW.**

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**GUTRIDGE, INC.**, Jack Gutridge, 2143 Gettler St., Dyer, IN 46311, (219) 865-8617. **SL IP PP PO HT BS. CT SW RU.** price list: \$1. APG.

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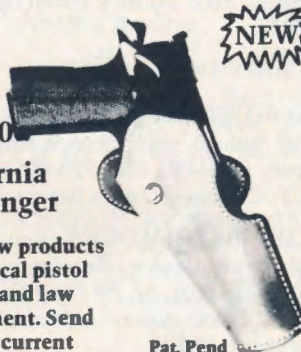
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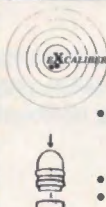


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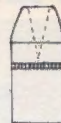
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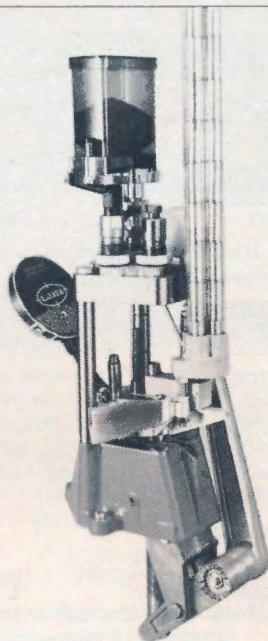
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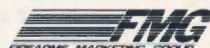
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## RELOADING 9mm

Continued from page 49

tioning, but also velocity and accuracy as well. Aside from the now tired Beretta, I called on my Smith and Wesson Model 469 and a trusted friend, my target tuned Browning P-35. The 92F and 469 would be used for velocity readouts (long and short barrels), and Browning with its crisp trigger and B&W sights for accuracy potentials.

Testing started from the lightest to heaviest bullet weights. With a morning as clear as glass, the chronograph was set up, targets were positioned at the normal 25 yards and guns adjusted on a solid pistol rest. Recoil was noticeably stiffer in the short barreled Smith and Wesson 469 than in the 92F, as was muzzle blast especially with compressed loads.

For velocity readings, a glance at the graph will reveal a number of different things of value to the handloader. For one, the lighter bullets had more of a velocity spread than their counterparts. This leads me to believe bullets in the 88 to 95 grain range could be more sensitive to small variations in

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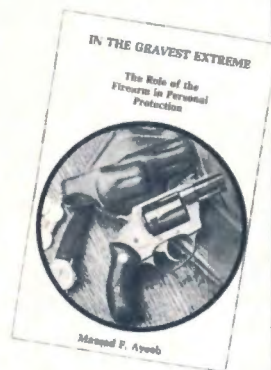
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powder charging. Accuracy did not seem to suffer, which to me has been somewhat of a problem with these bullets traveling at a much higher velocity. Usually lighter bullets—either rimfire or centerfire, pistol or rifle—never seem to group as tight as slower moving, heavy bullets. But here, as you can see, we were pretty much on par with the 124 to 130 grain samplings.

Still referring to the chart we can learn how one gun shoots with all bullet weights. By tracking the accuracy potentials and velocity with the Browning we can see while it likes bullets in the 88 to 95 grain size, groups started to increase as we approached 100, then 115 grains. While it did not favor the 115 grain projectile to any particular degree, it did approve of them as the velocity increased to over 1300 fps. As noted, the charge weight was compressed, yet the gun handled well with no pressure signs in evidence. Except as noted below with load number 11, groups sizes decreased as bullet weight increased. Charting a gun in this matter soon brings out the best in both firearm and handloader. And while my loads do show a good cross section of loading the 9mm Luger, PLEASE START AT LEAST 5% LOWER IN CHARGE WEIGHTS, WORKING UP FROM THERE.

Handload number 11 with the Speer 124 grain bullet functioned poorly to the point of sluggish operation in the Beretta. The slide did not come back with the usual snap associated with other loads indicating to me that Bullseye is starting to run out of steam and should turn over the reins to either Olin's WW231 or Unique. This can be proven by looking at numbers 12 and 13 where accuracy and velocity has been boosted up significantly. So, in light of this, for my personal usage, I would use Bullseye, WW231 and Unique in light, medium to heavy and heavy bullets in that order.

Even though my editor said to "stay away from revolvers and sub-machine guns," the temptation was too great and out came the Smith and Wesson Model 547. The record clearly shows that revolver velocities very closely matched or even exceed autopistol velocities despite a cylinder gap. In fact only 15 fps separated the two which is remarkable because (1) the revolver does have a .004" gap and (2) a four inch barrel.

At the 259th round I had a failure to feed in the Model 469. Checking the piece I noticed the slide did not quite make it home suggesting it was the fault of the gun, *not the ammunition*. With the gun on safe, closer inspection revealed there was a buildup of debris sufficient enough to cause a slow return into battery. A quick squirt of oil made the slide close with authority. For the statistician out there I came up with a less than a 0.33% probability of a failure to feed (in 300 rounds) with a well-used gun. A properly maintained piece, from my experience, rates 0.00% if strict reloading practices are adhered to.

If you want to get to the nitty-gritty, yes we did gleam a large fraction of accuracy from the handload vs. factory loads debate. As I recall, factory fodder gave us (in the Beretta

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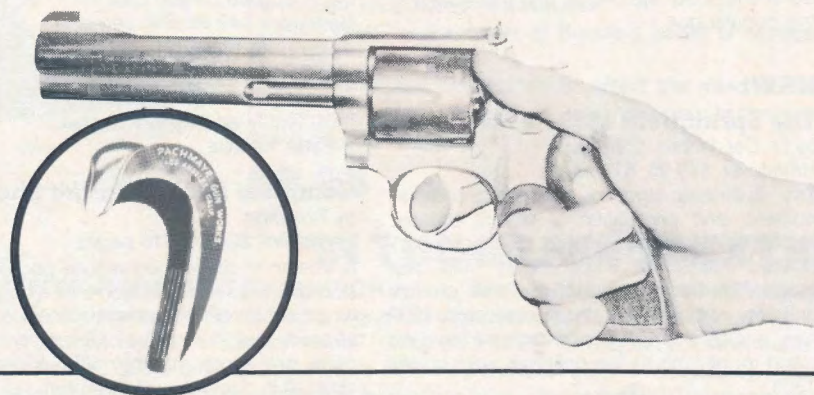
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article) an average of 2.82". Handloads tallied up 2.70", which you may say is not a heck of a big gain, but remember the distance at which I fired was more than doubled and falls right into my personal criteria of 3 1/2- to 4-inch groups for defensive purposes.

The guns performed like champs. The Beretta was never cleaned from the initial test report, and using the same magazine from the onset we see a total of close to 700+ rounds without a bobble. The 469, aside from that one problem and a louder bark did me proud as I carry this piece into the big city off and on, instilling still greater confidence in me with this weapon. Finally, the Browning came through with flying colors delivering accuracy befitting an autopistol.

In perusing a copy of *Handloading Ammunition*, a 1926 edition by J.R. Mattern, I came upon a table that shows the 9mm Luger being loaded to a velocity of 1039 fps with a 124 grain bullet. Today, factory ammunition is still only loaded to around 1110 fps. Handloading, on the other hand, can see the benefits of a net gain of about 17% in muzzle velocity with an appropriate rise in energy with the same bullet in an autopistol. And we can do it safely.

And to me, this is what reloading is all about.



## READY FOR REDI-SET

*Continued from page 22*

of using eye protection. Firing several hundred rounds at the targets resulted in only blemishes on the paint, which shows the impact point of each round. The bullets included hard-cast, jacketed hollowpoints, and full-metal jacketed types.

A test with the original Redi-Set, with target disc made of the same quarter-inch T-1 plate, showed that it would take very heavy impacts. The T-1 is recommended for pistols at normal pistol shooting ranges, and .223 rifle at 100 yards or more. This checked out in practice, and a comparison target of boiler plate showed penetration from the .223 rounds at 100 yards, but the Redi-Set showed only marring of the paint. At 10 yards, impacts with a Grizzly pistol, using Winchester hardball at over 1400 fps, produced very slight dimples. Lesser calibers only marred the paint.

The targets are designed for calibers 9mm, .38 Special, and up. The momentum of a .22 LR, for example, is too small to cause more than a slight rocking motion, even when fired from a rifle, with higher velocity. A hit on the head causes it to fall backward with a loud "clang", giving both a visual and auditory cue. Dropping the sights to the central plate causes a lever to set the head upright again.

The best technique for activating the targets with rounds of marginal power is to aim for what Steve Doughty, President of Redi-Set, calls the "sweet zone." This is the upper half of the target plate, where the impact has more leverage to move the plate. Mid-range .38 Special wadcutters are marginal, and the shooter has to work harder to get a reaction from the target.



There are no springs, buffers, chains, ropes, or hydraulic components to fail. A simple hinge holds the head, and a pivot arm and lever assembly on the back of the central plate controls the swing and re-sets the head.

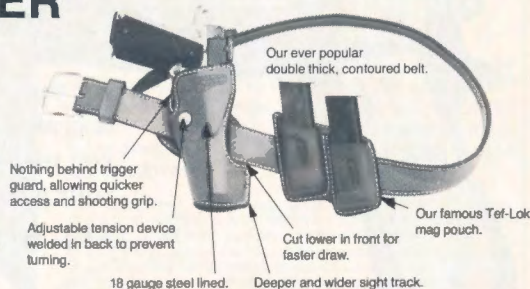
There are two ways to use the targets: set directly on the ground, or on top of a DEA stand, named because it was designed according to the requirements of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, which specified a chest-level target. The DEA stand is 32 inches high, made of angle iron which will stand repeated impacts although it's not hardened as are the target plates of the Redi-Set. The DEA stands weigh 40 pounds, and several of them will nest together, to fit in the trunk of a full-size car or in the back of a small pick-up or station wagon.

The Redi-Sets are simply designed, practical targets that are useful for both competitive and casual shooters, and which give visual and audible cues when hit. They're rugged, maintenance free, and the only attention they require is repainting to show fresh impacts. Their lightness and small dimensions make them very conveniently portable, a plus value for the shooter without a permanent range facility. Further information about Redi-Set can be obtained by writing Redi-Set Targets Inc., Dept. AH, P.O. Box 23084, Jacksonville, FL, 32241. Or call to place your order at (904) 262-0638. The DEA stand retails for \$65 (plus \$20 shipping); Redi-Set original is \$59.95 (plus \$20 shipping) PPC model is \$125 (plus \$15 shipping) and IPSC model is \$145.



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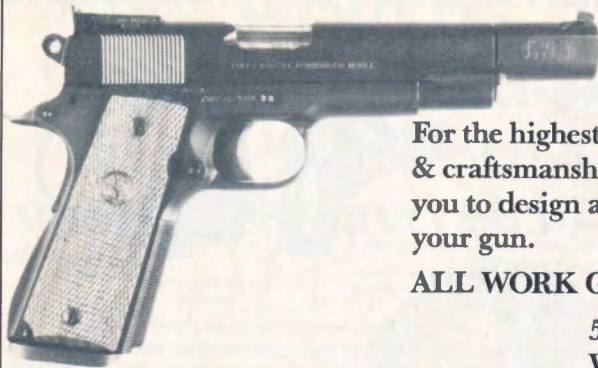
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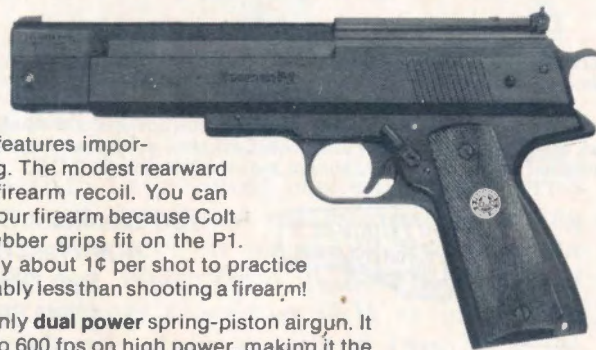
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## AYOOB FILES

*Continued from page 39*

engine block between his body and incoming fire.

Another shotgun blast erupts from near the Maverick, and Kaas hears a second 20-gauge rifled slug whistle past him. Life and mind go into slow motion for the trooper. He sees his wife and son in his mind, and visualizes the bulletin on the board back at District 15 headquarters, the one from the Troopers' Lodge soliciting contributions for the widow and child of slain Trooper Kenny Kaas.

And then, his mind turns to survival. He leans out the open left door, using the hood as a shield, his feet braced inside the car so his legs won't be targets outside. He leaves the gun in his left hand, even though he's not a southpaw, because this is the way he was taught to shoot around a left side barricade, and he has reverted to being a creature of his training.

He knows he's outgunned, but his own shotgun, a Winchester Model 12 with a 20" barrel, is locked in the trunk of his car. To get to it, he'll have to crawl over the radios and out the right front door, then run around the back, under fire. He doesn't think his 6'2", 255 pound frame can make it in time. His grip tightens on the 9mm pistol.

Kaas pops his head up, looking for a shot, and sees the suspect running down the opposite side of the Maverick for cover. Kaas fires twice. One of his bullets strikes the left rear door and ricochets up inside the door channel. The other strikes the fender just behind that door, but lodges in the car upholstery. Kaas is firing the special Illinois State Police load made by Federal, a dish-nosed 95-grain soft point at 1400 fps from his four-inch barrel. It was never made for shooting through cars.

The trooper begins to wonder how many shots he has left; he has lost count of the number of rounds fired. One hand reaches to his belt, but there is no magazine. For 10 of his years on the job, all troopers carried a spare 9 mag on a pouch sewn to their crossdraw flap holsters, but when they'd gone to straight draw a year before, no provision had been made for spare ammo. Kaas had bought his own mag pouch and carried it until recently, when a Major at inspection had ordered him not to wear anything he wasn't issued. He now kept the pouch in the front seat, and like the radio mike, it had disappeared during the violent jouncing of the high speed pursuit. A box of 50 Federal 9mm rounds is in the trunk with the shotgun. He knows what's left in his gun is all he has to fight for his life.

And now, there's no more time to think about it, because the assailant has crawled to the front of the car where the cover is even heavier, and pops up, firing. Kaas ducks as the slug whistles overhead, and now he tries to jump up and return fire before the assailant can pump his shotgun.

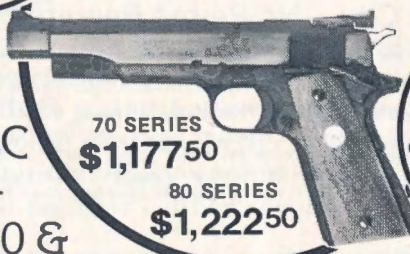
**BAM!** The shotgun spits another slug, and Kaas ducks again, thinking, "How can the

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guy pump a shotgun that quick?" Like many officers, Kaas' training is limited to his own issue service handgun and 12-gauge pump shotgun. He is not familiar with autoloading shotguns, and doesn't know his opponent is armed with one, a Winchester Model 50, nor does he know that the weapon he faces is a 20-gauge, from which recoil recovery is almost instantaneous.

Kaas returns a shot, just pointing, looking over the slide as he fires. The bullet has no effect.

And now the opponent is on the offensive, rounding the back of the Maverick and moving toward Kaas with a terrifying expression on his face, the shotgun held belly high. A few fast steps, and that gun muzzle will be at the trooper's head.

Kaas is consciously aware that since the slide hasn't locked back, he has at least one shot left. It has to count. For the first time in the shootout he aims carefully, watching the front sight, and squeezes the trigger.

**CRACK!** The crazed look of menace on the attacker's face is replaced with an expression of acute surprise. And he pitches face-forward to the asphalt.

Kaas' eyes flash to his own pistol. The slide is still forward, so he knows he has at least one shot left. The gunman lies motionless, but his finger is still inside the trigger guard, and the muzzle of his weapon still points in the direction of the squad car.

The big trooper carefully exits the vehicle and makes a circle around behind the fallen criminal. With the 9mm in his hand and pointed at the suspect's head, he pulls the weapon away from him, backpedals toward the squad car, and secures the gun there.

Only now does Kaas become aware of the many witnesses, Belvedere townspeople who have pulled over to see the shootout in progress. Tunnel vision had blocked his view of them before. He can find no pulse on the downed man, and thinks, "He's dead."

Ken Kaas has, against all odds, won the shootout. Now, the part he's never been prepared for begins. As he at last finds the red ISPERN microphone and radios for help, he hears bystanders saying, "All right! The trooper shot Olaf!" Kaas has no way of knowing that the fallen gunman, Olaf Olson, 21, is a violent criminal who has terrorized many of the local citizens, since Kaas had only recently been reassigned to this area of the district. He only thinks, "They're congratulating me for killing a human being. What's wrong with these people?" The same emotion will recur later when innumerable police officers ask him, "Why didn't you shoot him again in the head when you got up to him?" Kaas will reply indignantly, "Look dammit, I'm an Illinois State Trooper! We aren't murderers, and we don't give a guy a *coup de grace* in the head because we're mad at him. The thing was over, and he wasn't able to shoot at me anymore. I wasn't there to exact vengeance. That's not our job."

Backup troopers and paramedics arrive. A spark of life is found in the would-be copkiller. He will survive the instantly-stopping high velocity pistol wound that has all but disintegrated his liver. As surgeons fight

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for Olson's life, Kaas will remain at the scene and in interrogation rooms for six hours after his shift ends, explaining and re-enacting the shooting again and again. Nothing in his training has prepared him for other cops reading him his Miranda rights, as if he was the criminal. When he finally does get home, no one calls. "It's sort of eerie," he will say later, bitterly. "You find out you're really sort of by yourself. . . . A trooper in that situation has no rights. You ask yourself over and over, 'Did I do everything right? Was there anything I could have done better?' As it happened, I hadn't done anything wrong—I got a valor award out of it, and was completely exonerated of any wrongdoing—but a lot of things go through your mind when you find yourself being investigated like that."

Upon his recovery, Olaf "Butch" Olson was tried and convicted of aggravated assault and attempted murder, and sentenced to 27 years in prison. Trooper Kaas returned to patrol in District 15.

### LESSONS

Good cover and good training saved Ken Kaas' life that day in Belvedere. His training in weak-hand barricade shooting had been minimal, but returned to him when he needed it. Kaas would tell me later, "What happened to me (is) not something you can really be mentally prepared for. It's the Illinois State Police training that carries you through."

Subsequent to the incident, Kaas immediately strapped his spare magazine pouch back on, and as a result of the shooting, ISP soon issued clip pouches to all 1700 of their troopers and made wearing of spare ammo mandatory once more. Kaas also made a point of riding with his shotgun in the front seat with him.

The 9mm ammo currently carried in the Model 439 service pistol that replaced Ken's Model 39 is a special copper-jacketed, 115-grain Winchester hollowpoint loaded to +P+ velocity per the ISP's specifications. It should have better penetrating capabilities in tactical barricade situations than the special Federal load. Kaas was the first to use that 95-grain softnose in a shooting, though the one-shot stop characteristics it exhibited on Olson would remain in evidence every subsequent time a trooper shot an offender with it.

There were failures on the part of both

men to recognize the capability of the opponents' weapons. Kaas came close to being shot because he did not recognize the 20-ga. autoloader his opponent was firing, and did not realize how rapidly an accurate second shot could be fired from it.

At the same time, Olson supposedly explained to his attorney while recovering from his wounds, that he did not understand how the trooper could have shot him. He is alleged to have made the statement, "I swear to God, he fired all six shots." Olson had apparently been unaware that Illinois troopers carried eight-shot automatics instead of six-shooters. The bullet that hit him in the midriff and neutralized him was Kaas' seventh shot. It is believed that Olson was counting the trooper's shots, and that after having taken cover so well earlier in the firefight, he emerged from cover only because he believed the officer he faced had only an empty revolver.

Kaas' Smith & Wesson 9mm auto gave a good account of itself in the firefight. While, typically, the first shot fired double-action with a heavy pull missed, five of the following six rounds fired single-action struck precisely where the trooper was aiming. Kaas described himself to this writer as a non-shooter and average marksman, whose only experience and training with guns was what he was given by the Illinois State Police. His hit potential probably would have been far lower with a conventional service revolver, and it is most doubtful that, even with speed-loaders, he could have reloaded between his sixth shot and his decisive seventh one as the would-be murderer loped toward him across a short 50-foot distance with an automatic shotgun in his hands. Incidentally, several boxes of 20-gauge rifled slugs and buckshot were found in the gunman's vehicle.

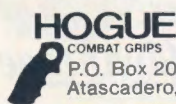
Kaas' suffering in the wake of the incident marks a classic case of post-shooting trauma. He felt himself abandoned and persecuted for having done his job. It was the late George Huizenga of FOP Troopers' Lodge 41 who was most helpful, getting him in touch with lawyer Ed Coleman who assured him that he and the Lodge would not allow him to be persecuted for what he'd had to do. Since that time, the ISP has included post-shooting trauma help for officers in the "police stress"



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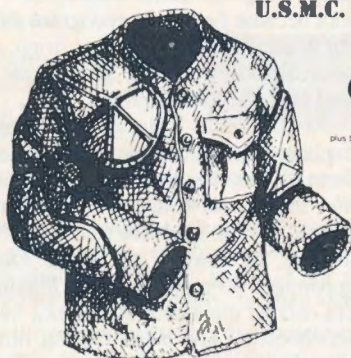
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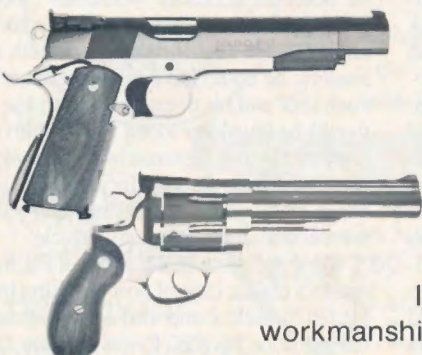
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The Kaas incident underscores a point of combat shooting technique, as well. Those who carry automatics should learn not to dump the magazine in the pistol *until* their other hand is on the fresh one. Kaas had reflexively reached to his hip for the spare clip he used to carry, and found it gone; had he ejected the magazine first, he would have been armed only with a single-shot pistol that even then could not have fired, due to the S&W magazine disconnecter safety. He almost certainly would have been murdered by Olson, who might then have gone on to slaughter the witnesses. Kaas' instinctively good gun handling saved his own life, and probably the lives of others.



*The author wishes to thank Trooper Ken Kaas, Illinois Troopers' Lodge #41 (FOP), the Illinois State Police, and former Superintendent R. J. Miller for their assistance in making this research possible.*

## CROSSFIRE: S.A.

*Continued from page 28*

achieved in short periods of time. For those individuals with only moderate small arms training, or those low in coordination, the choice of a double-action revolver may be the safest choice. Sadly, only the most progressive police agencies and gung-ho individuals search out proper training for carrying and using sidearms well. The notion that the DA pistol is somehow better for those with a limited desire to become proficient with sidearms is hardly the case. The DA pistol is much more complex to use, and I find in training that those shooters using the DA pistol have much more gun handling skills to master.

One of the most difficult areas to overcome is the visual concern for the appearance of the cocked and locked pistol in one's holster. The mere sight of the hammer back on one's blaster causes some people to panic. I note with interest some of those that are most vocal about the cocked hammer of my Condition One .45 auto go off to the woods during hunting season with the hammer cocked and the safety engaged on their favorite shotgun or deer rifle. Since the hammer is inside the shotgun or rifle receiver, and out of sight, they feel little concern for their safety. Out of sight, out of mind.

The proper technique for the cocked and locked pistol is to grasp the weapon with the firing grip, finger straight outside of the trigger guard, thumb on the safety with the manual safety engaged. Only as the pistol comes up on target does the safety become disengaged and the finger enters the trigger guard to press the trigger at the last phase of the firing stroke. If this technique is used, the cocked and locked SA pistol is extremely safe as well as efficient. This firing process must be instilled in training and followed each time the weapon is fired. What one does in training, one will do under stress. If proper training is not going to be part of the individ-

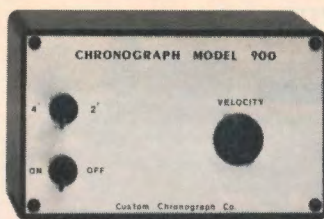


ual's firearms program, then the more complex DA pistol is even more concern. The old standby DA revolver will remain the basic American police sidearm for this reason.

I know of two police officers who due to a series of bad events found themselves disarmed of their sidearms. Both pistols were cocked and locked M1911 .45 autos. In both cases the malefactors of justice tried to shoot the lawmen with the officers' own .45 auto. Neither criminal knew how to engage or disengage the manual safety. As hard as they tried, they could not shoot the police officers. A comment made to me later by one of the officers was that had he been carrying a DA revolver or auto, the end result may have been much different. As popular as the M1911 or P-35 pistol may be, only the most skilled shooters utilize the cocked and locked mode of carry. Few street creeps are aware of this Condition One application.

If moderate firearms training programs are the norm, the cocked and locked SA pistol may not be the ideal choice. I will watch with interest the results of the U.S. military adoption of the Beretta M92F pistol and their attempts at making the U.S. soldier proficient with the DA auto pistol. Don't be surprised if the U.S. military continues to carry the DA auto with an empty chamber, and loaded magazine.

When it comes to top professionals and their choice in sidearms, the SA auto pistol carried cocked and locked remains the favorite. IPSC, LAPD Swat, FBI Hostage Rescue Teams, and the British SAS all carry pistols in their holsters that have the hammer cocked and locked. When the trained and skilled shooter demands performance, Condition One is the answer.



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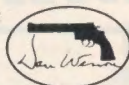
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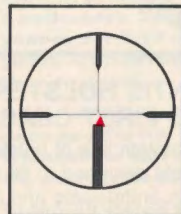
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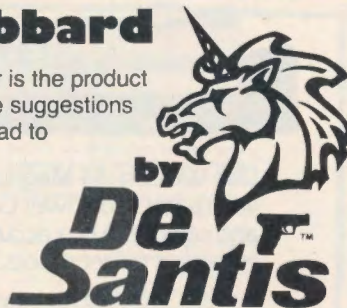


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## COLT'S BOA

*Continued from page 32*

empty, thus recoil never becomes a problem. This particular model, serial #BOA0690, was the six-inch version, and I was never disappointed with its accuracy from start to finish. My favorite load is the 125 JHP in the .357, and the Federal loading printed groups of two and a half inches at 25 yards with disgusting regularity. The Precision reloads did somewhat better, but then I expected them to. They fired the best group of just a hair under two inches from the rollover prone position firing SA.

The one thing I did notice about the MK V action is that the cylinder never completely locks tight. Take any Python or old model Official Police or Trooper using the Python action, and as the shot breaks, the cylinder locks tight. On the sample gun, if the hammer was cocked and the trigger pulled, there was still some small amount of play in the cylinder. Apparently this had no detrimental effect as the accuracy spoke for itself.

Overall, the BOA is a very handsome handgun. I don't know whether or not those who buy one will actually shoot it, but it does make a good showing on the range. The only real faults I could find with it are the hammer fall, which is long and slow, and the stocks. They are a vast improvement over what is delivered on the Python, but still not the optimum for DA work. If these stocks were offered in a tapered combat version with finger grooves, they would make a handsome gun even more so, as well as being more practical.

For more information, contact: Lew Horton Dist., 175 Boston Rd., Southborough, MA 01772.



## CROSSFIRE: D.A.

*Continued from page 28*

driving) and assault was holding his cocked and locked .45 by his hip when the seated suspect reached up and grabbed the slide. Instinctively, the sergeant's hand tightened. Simultaneously, his thumb wiped off the safety and his index finger hit the trigger as he tightened his hand, and the bullet blew away the lower part of the suspect's face. I was a consultant on the defense team for this officer, and while he won an acquittal on the criminal charge of 1st degree assault, and a very favorable settlement in the subsequent civil case, the incident ruined his police career. He and I both felt it might never have happened had he been carrying a pistol with a long, hard double action trigger pull.

Cocked guns held on criminal suspects tend to lead to problems. I was expert witness for the defense in the Alvarez case in Miami, where the prosecution alleged that the officer had cocked his gun on a suspect, against regulations, and it accidentally discharged and killed the suspect when he turned suddenly from his video arcade game. Alvarez was acquitted because we were able to prove



to the jury that he had never cocked the gun, and had fired deliberately because the suspect was attempting to draw a stolen gun the officer knew he had. Still, had the cop's gun been double action only—as all Miami service revolvers were subsequently altered—prosecution would not have had even that frail peg to hang their manslaughter charge on. Similarly, a DA auto as opposed to an SA reduces the chances of your being charged with negligence if you wind up shooting the alleged criminal you're holding at gunpoint.

A DA auto's long, heavy (10 to 24 lb.) first-shot trigger pull all but excludes the possibility of an unintentional shot. The downside of this is that it makes the first shot harder to control, especially when firing in two-shot bursts when the gun goes single-action after round one. Most departments issuing DA autos have not found this to be a major problem. The first shot usually goes high, while the second in a "DA/SA double tap" will usually fly true to center. In my own hands, this usually means at worst a high chest shot followed by a center chest shot. In short, no great sacrifice of ability to deliver rapid, accurate combat fire if it should be needed.

Most DA autos also have mechanical de-cocking levers. Letting the hammer down on a live round with nerveless mechanical engineering instead of trembling, sweaty hands appeals to me. An alarming number of .45 auto ADs occur when lowering or cocking the hammer to or from Condition Two, a practice that will always be with us because so many pistol-packers are leery of carrying cocked guns. A DA auto like the Smith Nine, the SIG-Sauer P220, the HK P9S, or similar designs, makes for safer hammer-down carry, and the long trigger stroke allows a fast, self-cocked first shot.

With the DA, the long-time revolver shooter (read "veteran police officer") has a gun he can instantly draw and fire without necessarily wiping off a thumb safety. His existing handgun training now translates to an auto that gives him greater firepower and overall better hit potential than his old six-gun, while he probably would have stayed with a six-shot weapon if his only other option had been a cocked and locked 9mm Browning or Colt .45. While I personally believe the locked thumb safety is desirable, many old-line cops disagree, and this option on the DA auto allows them to be better-equipped gunfighters than they would have been with their service revolvers.

I carry a cocked and locked .45, but I've been shooting the 1911 pistol since age 12 and have won many matches with it. The fact is that while you are probably the sort of aficionado who will quickly develop confidence in "cocked and locked," the majority of law-ful pistol packers are not at a high level of skill. The average cop is not an expert shooter, but knows he might well be in a shootout and often wants an auto's firepower; the average combat soldier has had abysmally poor training with sidearms, yet feels much more comfortable at the front with a service pistol slung on his webbing.

For all these reasons, I consider a good DA



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grasp the handle. You're ready to assemble another round.

It's simple enough when you proceed slowly and keep your mind on what you're doing. And it's nice to know that with the 4x4 even a laid-back operator can turn out several boxes of ammo in a relatively short period of time. Concerning the 350-per-hour rate, we should note that the 4x4's primer tubes hold roughly 55 to 58 primers each, depending on whether they're large or small. That means, unless you have an assistant, you'll be stopping a half-dozen times during that magical hour to refill a tube and once or twice to do the same with the powder hopper. Which leaves about 45 minutes for stroking and stoking. The upshot of it all is that, at 350, you'll be boxing a loaded round with the passing of each seven or eight seconds. (Or perhaps 350 per hour is a purely-theoretical "cyclic" rate.)

I talked about the shell plate without saying all I wanted to say about it. Its center-bolt has to be adjusted so it can be turned easily. At the same time, adjustment should be firm enough to prevent the plate from tipping. Once adjustment is made, the bolt is held in place by a brass-tipped Allen screw that is located, somewhat inconveniently, in the top-left side of the ram. It is in the shadows just under the casting on which the shell plate is mounted. I fought back by soldering the time-set extension shaft from an old alarm clock into the socket of the screw. The knurled disc on the outer end of the small shaft extends beyond the casting, does not interfere with the movement of the ram, and saves fumbling with an Allen wrench every time a shell plate is changed. But it doesn't have to be a clock part, for you might just as well solder the Allen wrench itself into the socket.

The dies that arrived for testing were RCBS "Carbo" models, in .357. Also received were Speer 158 grain .357 JHP bullets, Speer .357 Magnum nickel-plated empties, and CCI 500 (standard-flame) primers. The components went together well, charged with 7.2 grains of W-W 231. That's the charge-weight when the No. 12 rotor is used in the Little Dandy.

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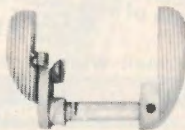


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A total of 32 shell plates extends the 4x4's capabilities to just about everything, except the tiny .25 Auto and a few antique and foreign oddities. Shell plate numbers, by the way, correspond with regular RCBS shell holder numbers, and each works with the same complement of cartridge cases.

I am using the 4x4 with die sets that require lubrication of cases. The "Carbo" dies, of course, permit resizing without lubrication, but you'll have no mucking up at the powder stop with lubed cases if you lube them lightly.

Finally, lest anyone become confused by statements to the effect that the 4x4 is strong enough to swage bullets, it should be noted that such a claim is simply a testimonial in behalf of the tool's potential strength. Bullet swaging with the 4x4 won't be at hand until someone makes a nose punch to fit it.

The strength is there, though, I'd bet on it. This press fairly glows with quality, from its hardwood handle to the smooth, click-stop operation of its shell plate, and the cushiony feel one senses as the ram settles at the bottom of its travel. At a suggested retail price of about \$280, and \$25 each for shell plates, the outfit is not, as the saying goes, competitively priced. It seems, therefore, that Oroville elected not to go toe-to-toe with the competition in that area, and has concentrated its efforts elsewhere.



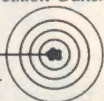
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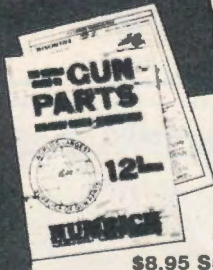
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## RELOADING

Continued from page 20

grains of 452AA behind a H&G #68 will chronograph 880 fps from a 5-inch Douglas barrel in a Dick Heinie comp gun that I recently completed testing for A.H. That is the load Dick recommends to all his customers. Nastoff uses 5.1 to 5.2 grains to make major in his 5½-inch Supercomp gun . . . I can almost guarantee that you'll see a noticeable difference in felt recoil with no loss of accuracy compared to 231, which is so popular with the IPSC crowd," Weller continued.

"It is interesting to note reloading data furnished to me by a friend using a gun with a Wilson five-inch barrel with various loads of 452AA and the H&G 68. He lists a charge of 5.3 grains as clocking an 825 fps average. This is far below what I obtained with a stock barrel. He had to go clear up to 5.7 grains to reach an average of 891 fps. My loads were fired on about an 84-degree day, while his were fired on a 70-degree day. He used W-W primers, I use Federal . . ."

Jim's enthusiasm in behalf of 452AA stands as confirmation of what was stated in this column for the July/August 1982 issue of *American Handgunner*. A few readers doubtless will recall a recommendation for a charge of 5.6 grains of 452AA with the H&G 68, linotype-cast to about 189 grains, for a velocity average of 992 fps. That column also contained a tip that favored 4.8 grains of 452AA with the H&G 275, sized to .358-inch, in the 9MM. Velocity average for that load was 1080 fps.

Comments on anything I've said, can be addressed to me at Handloading, Rt. 1, Box 7, Llano, CA 93544.



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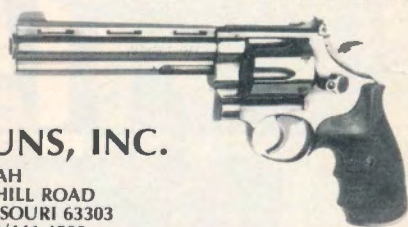
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## THE GUILD SPEAKS

*Continued from page 9*

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The instructors selected to teach are all well known in the custom firearms industry. Most have been active for many years and without exception are interested in promoting the craft. They freely pass along their knowledge to students. The list of instructors sounds like a Who's Who of custom gunsmiths and includes Joe Balickie, Jerry Fisher, Al Lind, Mark Lee and Dale Goens of the Custom Rifle and Gunstocking Trade. Most also belong to and represent the North American Gunmakers Guild. Engravers include Bob Swartley, Tommy Kaye, Neil Hartliep, Bob Evans and John Vest, all masters of their craft. Most belong to and represent the Firearms Engravers Guild of America. The custom handgun trade and the American Pistolsmithing Guild is well represented by Greg Roberts and myself. John Wooters, Jerry Hart, Bill Moran, Frank Glen and many other well-known members of the firearms fraternity round out the list of instructors who are deeply involved in this fine endeavor.

The cost of these gunsmithing courses is very reasonable and room and board is available on the grounds of each college at a reduced rate. Courses are open to anyone with a desire to further their knowledge of gunsmithing in a variety of areas. They are also open to anyone from the beginner to the accomplished gunsmith wishing to broaden and extend their firearms knowledge. These courses will again be offered next summer and I can't think of a better way to spend several weeks. Watch for schedule announcements in the NRA Official Journal of the *Rifleman*. The American Pistolsmith Guild has endorsed this fine program for the past few years and will continue to do so.



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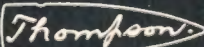
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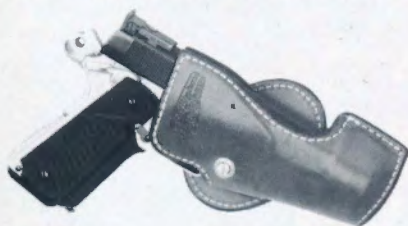


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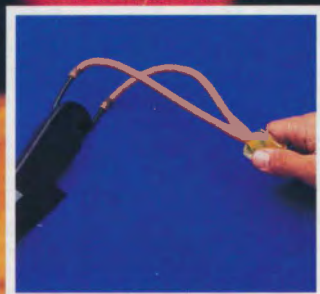


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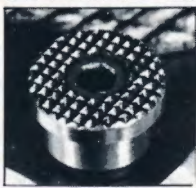
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## INDUSTRY INSIDER

JERRY RAKUSAN

### BIANCHI WINS MILITARY CONTRACT; SAFARILAND TEAMS UP WITH ROGERS

Let's start off with some news from the holster scene. (I'll report these alphabetically so that I'm not accused of playing favorites.)

**Bianchi International** has been officially awarded the U.S. government contract for the armed forces "M-12" standard hip holster. The contract award, providing for several hundred thousand holsters in the next three years, comes after four years of research and development funded entirely by John Bianchi. How sweet it must be. The selected holster is available to the civilian market as the UM-84 with accessories that permit the wearer to carry the gun 16 different ways.



Bill Rogers of Rogers Holsters.

**Ted Blocker** opened his new facility at 409 West Bonita Avenue, San Dimas, Calif. 91773 with a bang. At a grand opening celebration on August 24th, Ted had Grand Master Thell Reed, Rodeo celebrity Casey Tibbs, and a host of fast draw shooters put on a real wild west show. The new facilities will give Ted Blocker 3,500 square feet in which to expand his line of custom holsters and accessories. Watch for his new catalog.

Readers of *American Handgunner* have seen the recent ads from **Safariland** offering their new line of Safari-Laminate holsters. The process, which Neal Perkins of Safariland says will "form the cornerstone of an entire new era in leather manufacture," was pioneered by Bill Rogers. And now, with the acquisition of Rogers Holster Co. by Safariland, the manufacturing and marketing expertise of Neale Perkins will join forces with the research and development strength of Bill Rogers. This should make a most interesting combination.



Neal Perkins of Safariland.

There are rumors galore in the handgun field, running the gamut from a new big bore revolver (and perhaps auto) out of Hartford to a brand new—made for IPSC—caliber from a West Coast maker (take a number from 9 to 10 mm). There is also word from several custom pistolsmiths of interchangeable barrel mods for S&W and Ruger revolvers, ala the Dan Wesson system.

There was an interesting situation which came up in the mid-west recently. A gentleman contacted one of the well known pistolsmiths claiming that he owned the patent to the hooked trigger guard. He claimed that anyone manufacturing a gun with such a design, or altering an existing frame, would have to pay him a royalty. We'll have more on this later, but we heard most recently that our mid-west gunsmith's lawyer had this "inventor" running toward Canada with his tail between his legs. As I said, we'll have some of the details in a future issue.

There is a report from **Sturm Ruger** that the employees of the Southport plant have voted in the Teamsters Union, and that the P85, Ruger's double action 9mm auto pistol would be in production by the first of the year. In Bill Ruger's words, "It is unquestionably the finest double action auto pistol ever made."

Why are several New York investment firms so interested in the handgun market, and one big handgun maker in particular?





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