

COVER STORY HEINIE CUSTOM COLT.45

AMMO TEST IS GLASER THE ULTIMATE MANSTOPPER?

GUN TEST HOLMES ASSAULT PISTOL

EXOTIC DUTCH POLI AMMG 6 211 . dI _ • **CANADIAN MOU** . 1 = • . 100







Taurus handguns give you the right balance of top craftsmanship and affordable price

Meet the finest value dollar for dollar in firearms today—Taurus handguns. They've earned an enviable international reputation for superb quality at an affordable price since their introduction in 1939, meeting the highest standards of accuracy, dependability and safety.

A Taurus is an *ideal* choice if you're a first-time handgun buyer and perfect for the experienced shooter.

Shooting a Taurus handgun gives you the opportunity to use a product that has been built from high-quality materials to the latest design specifications. Note the beautiful finish in blue, satin nickel, or stainless steel and the handsome Brazilian walnut grip that fits snugly in your hand.

Taurus offers a comprehensive selection of styles and calibers— .22 L.R., .32 Long, .38 Special, .357 Magnum, 9 MM and 380. Look at the three popular models below:

Taurus Model 66 Six rounds of .357 stopping power

Easy to control and keep on target. Available in 3", 4" or 6" barrel lengths in traditional deep royal blue or corrosion-resistant nickel steel finish. Completely adjustable rear sight for windage with serrated ramp. Also available in a fixed sight version, Taurus Model 65. 85 MODEL

92 MODEL

Taurus Model 85, The Protector Lightweight, powerful, reliable

Rugged construction and ease of operation distinguish the 5-shot Protector. 2" or 3" barrel lengths. Notch rear and serrated ramp front sights. Chambered for .38 Special. In blue, stainless steel and satin nickel.

Taurus Model PT 92 Rapid fire, light recoil semi-automatic

Double and single-action capabilities. Quick recovery and superb accuracy. Chambered for 9 MM Parabellum. Slide remains open after last round for fast reloading...15 shot capacity. Hand-fitted slide and frame assembly. This model has worldwide military approval and acceptance.

EXCLUSIVE LIFETIME

Taurus will repair your Taurus handgun *free of charge* for the lifetime of the weapon. No other handgun manufacturer makes this offer! See your dealer and ask to see the topvalue Taurus line.



International standards of craftsmanship and reliability

TAURUS INTERNATIONAL 4563 S.W. 71st. Avenue Miami, Fl. 33155

66 MODEL

Who's on First

There are many claims from manufacturers of progressive reloaders today telling you that their presses are the fastest, the most accurate, etc.

We can't speak for the other guys, but on Nov. 15, 1985 at Dillon's plant in Scottsdale, Arizona, World IPSC Pistol Champion Rob Leatham sat down in front of a new Dillon RL550 progressive press. We know how fast Rob can shoot, now we wanted to see what he could do with a Dillon RL550. One hour and 964 rounds later Rob stopped, put his ammo in a box and headed for the range. He scored an impressive 2032 out of a possible 2040 on Bianchi type targets.

Not Unusual

Rob's performance is not unusual. The Winning Ammunition used at the world's most prestigious shooting contests is well documented. Dillon loaded ammunition won the 1983 Bianchi Cup/Brian Enos shooting; '83 U.S. Nationals/Rob Leatham; '83 World Championship/Leatham; '84 U.S. Nationals/ Leatham; '84 Bianchi Cup/Enos; '84 Steel Challenge/Pruitt; '84 Soldier of Fortune/Shaw; '84 Second Chance/Plaxco; '85 Steel Challenge/Leatham; '85 Bianchi Cup/Leatham; '85 Soldier of Fortune/Plaxco; '85 U.S. Nationals/ Leatham. History not hype, performance not promises, these champion shooters and thousands more around the world know that one good bullet can make the difference between winning or being dead last.

The Winners Choose

The new Dillon RL550 meets the demands of the world's champion shooters. The automatic powder and primer systems, combined with interchangeable die holding tool heads, make the Dillon RL550 incredibly simple for a beginner, as well as quickly producing match grade ammo for the professional. The Dillon RL550 is available in over 115 different rifle and pistol calibers. Priced at \$234.95, the Dillon RL550 is complete to load one caliber, less dies.

You Can't Lose

If our RL550 doesn't live up to our claims or your expectations, return it within 30 days and we'll refund your money including postage. Our warranty is simple, no fine print, no time limit, commercial reloader or hobbyist, 500 rounds or 500,000 — if it breaks, we'll fix it *free*!



Dillon Progressive Reloading Die Sets

Dillon's tapered carbide sizing die guarantees that your bullets will always be tight. Our super seating dies have a large "open radius" entrance. Starting bullets has never been easier. Accu-crimping takes the mystery out of how much crimp is enough. \$39.95 in 38/357, 45 ACP, 9MM and 44 Mag.

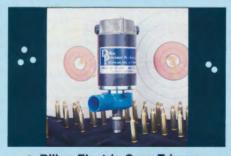




(Less Dies)

Dillon Super Swage 600

Until now, re-using military brass with its crimped in primers has been a slow and uncertain task. The Dillon solution is a remarkably simple device that allows you to swage the primer pocket with speed and ease. \$39.95 complete for large and small primers.



• Dillon Electric Case Trimmer Case trimming has always been the most unpleasant part of reloading. The RT1200 takes the work out by simultaneously sizing and trimming cases. Available in 223, 308 or 30/06. \$98.50.



Dillon Caliber Conversion Kits — \$23.00 RL550 Interchangeable Die Holders — 3 for \$25.00



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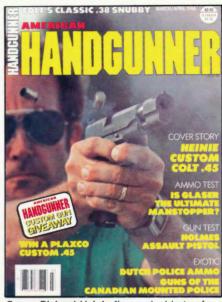


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Cover: Richard Heinie fires a double-tap from one of his creations. Photo by Tom Stewart.



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

AMERICAN HANDGUNNER (ISSN 0145-4250) is published bi-monthly by Publishers Development Corp., 591 Camino de la Reina, San Diego, CA 92108. Second class postage paid at San Diego, CA 92108, and at additional mailing offices. Subscriptions: One year (6 issues) \$14.75. Single monthly copies \$2.50 (in Canada \$3.50). Change of Address: Four weeks' notice required on all changes. Send old address as well as new. Contributors submitting manuscripts, photographs or drawings do so at their own risk. Material cannot be returned unless accompanied by sufficient postage. Payment will be made at rates current at time of publication and will cover reproduction in any or all AMERICAN HANDGUNNER Magazine editions. Advertising rates furnished on request. Reproduction or use of any portion of this magazine in any manner, without written prmission, is prohibited. All right reserved. Title to this publication passes to subscriber only on delivery to his address. SUBSCRIPTION PROBLEMS: For immediate action write to Kellie Ray. 591 Camino de la Reina, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92108 or call (619) 297-8524. Ask for Kellie Ray.



EVOLUTION IN ACTION '85 IPSC NATIONALS

Here's what a few of the competitors have to say about their PACT Timers;

1st Place: R. Leatham "I never go to the range without it and neither should you."

2nd Place: B. Enos "...measurably improved my basic shooting skills."

3rd Place: D. Evancic "I've trained with my PACT Timer for 21/2 years, its the best timer on the market."

NEW PACT MKII

The NEW PACT MKII Championship Timer and Chronograph represents our commitment to design and production of the finest possible training equipment. To create it we combined the original Timer and Chrono-mod into a single unit. Then we dramatically cut the size and weight of the new package. Did we loose any features in the process? Not a one, in fact we added a few new ones - like a longer time limit for you PPC shooters, and automatic power factoring for all you IPSC shooters. The result is the smallest, lightest, most dependable, most cost effective and we believe, finest shooting timer and chronograph in the world.

WHY DO I NEED A SHOOTING TIMER?

Whether you are practicing for competition or to save your life; if you are going to improve, you must keep track of the two elements of markmanship that you are striving to master: accuracy and speed.

Would you consider practicing without a target? Of course not, because without a target you have no measure of your accuracy. By the same token, if you practice without a timer, you have no accurate measurement of your speed.

"The PACT Championship Timer adds a whole new dimension to practice sessions. It's like having your own shooting coach. I recommend it without hesitation." ...Mickey Fowler

WHAT DOES THE CHAMPIONSHIP TIMER DO?

In addition to providing you with an instant or delayed start signal [the length of delay is adjustable], the MKII Championship Timer records the time of each shot fired, "par times" and up to two "stop" plates. When you fire, the sound of your pistol triggers the unit which will simultaneously display the number of the last shot fired, the time since your previous shot or "par time", if you are using one, and your total time.

EASY TO USE

The MKII is about as easy to use as your pocket calculator. For example, to enter a stop beep or "par time" at 4 seconds, simply push "PAR". The timer will tell you "ENTER PAR TIME AND PUSH SET" so you push "4", "SET". Want to change it to 6 seconds? Just push "PAR", "6", "SET", it's that simple!

GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE:

Let's say you fire six shots, reload and fire six more shots. Here is an example of what the Timer will display:

MKII CHAMPIONSHIP TIMER

6.67

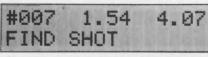
• You have fired 12 shots.

 Your tweifth shot came .27 seconds after your eleventh shot.

.27

· Your total time was 6.67 seconds.

#012

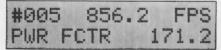


Now you are curious about how long your reload took, so you tell the Timer to "FIND SHOT #7" and you see that your reload took you 1.54 seconds. [The timer between your sixth and seventh shot.]

\$49.00 CHRONOGRAPH

"The finest chronograph I have ever used"Ross Seyfried

Whether you shoot reloads or factory ammunition, you need to know how fast the ammunition you use is going when it leaves your gun.



By having the \$49 CHRONO-MODTM installed in your Timer, you enable it to double as the best portable chronograph on the market. When you fire, your Timer will display the shot number and velocity of the last' shot fired, as well as your current average velocity. When you finish your string, push "review", the Timer will display high velocity, low velocity and their corresponding shot numbers. Push "review" again and the Timer will display the extreme variation and average deviation. In addition each shot may be reviewed individually. Enter the bullet weight at the beginning of a string and the Timer will compute the power factor for each shot.

The MKII uses remote mounted Oehler sky screens. Should you ever miss and shoot a screen [you never miss?] your replacement cost can be as low as \$2.50 for a new screen body.

"The PACT Championship Timer is the most versatile timer on the market. Not only is it an excellent training tool, it's also extremely useful for running matches. I think it's an excellent value for the money." ...Mike Plaxco *Patent Pending

30 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

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Try the MKII Championship Timer for 30 days and if you don't find that training with it improves your shooting skill, send it back undamaged [no fair driving over it] and we will refund your money.

DO IT TODAY

Ordering a PACT Championship Timer is simple!

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BY MAIL: We'll need to know your name, address, and daytime phone number. Please enclose a personal check, bank check, money order or card number and expiration date from your Visa or MasterCard. C.O.D. orders welcome.

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Shipping & Insurance - \$5 UPS Ground, \$10 UPS Air. 4% charge for Visa or MasterCard. Texas residents add 5% sales tax.

NOTE: This \$329 price includes the Timer with belt clip, battery charger and manual. The CHRONO-MOD can be purchased with your Timer or it can be installed at a later date.

BROCHURE AVAILABLE covering the PACT product line. \$1.00 refundable with first purchase.

One year limited warranty.



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HANDGUN LEATHER

AL PICKLES

SOUTH OF THE BORDER HOLSTERS OF VIKING OFFER QUALITY, LOW PRICE

If you are already familiar with handcrafted holsters from Old West, Inc., then you are equally familiar with the offerings from Viking Leathercraft, Inc. They are one and the same under the address of P.O. Box 2030, Dept. AH, Chula Vista, CA, 92012.

Viking sells good quality holsters and other leather products at very competitive prices. Their designs are, for the most part, similar to others that have withstood the longer test of time. While these designs satisfy the needs of sportsmen and para-military customers, their prime market target would seem to be law enforcement as, in addition to Viking's regular catalog, they put out a special series of "Cop Shopper" catalogs which often feature spectacular sale prices.

If you suspect that any leather company located almost right on top of the Mexican border must sell holsters and other leather sundry that are actually made "south of the border," then your assumption is correct with most of the work I have seen from Viking thus far. I do, however, want to make the point that this is not necessarily a negative proposition. Mexico is, and has been for many years, world famous for leather products. The quality runs the spectrum but I have seen more fine leather products from Mexico than I have seen poor ones. In any event, Viking is definitely not the only domestic leather sales outlet that utilizes the lower costs involved in Mexican production-not by a far cry!

Before going into an evaluation, however, I must poke a little fun at one of Viking's catalog statements which claims Viking products feature "top grain domestic-made saddle leather." This is a misleading game with words and is really unnecessary because Viking holsters are of good serviceable quality no matter where the cow is raised or the final stitching is performed.

My test pieces were the Models 3273 and 1-49, both of these being police duty holsters for autoloading pistols. While Viking offers many revolver designs for the majority of officers and sportsmen, I am convinced that

a tradition of **EXCELLENCE**

DON HUME LEATHERGOODS

always striving for the best in design, craftsmanship 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.

For your copy of our NEW catalog, send \$5.00 (refundable on \$25.00 retail order) to: Don Hume Leathergoods, P.O. Box 351, Dept. AH, Miami, OK 74355 autoloaders are the wave of the future and a long time in coming.

The Model 3273 features the more common butt forward rake of about 28 degrees and very closely resembles the Bill Jordan style design. It does, however, cover the trigger guard which is so important when autoloaders are properly carried for police service, that being Condition One-loaded, cocked, and locked. Another absolutely necessary feature is the thumb-break safety strap and snap that runs between the cocked hammer and the hammer well/firing pin.

The 3273 is fully lined and the metal safety snap base is covered with the lining leather so there is no metal to metal contact with your gun. There are still a few "really domestic" manufacturers who foolishly leave metal grommets, rivets, and whatever, uncoveredwhere they can noticeably scratch up a gun that is carried a great deal. This one point is getting to be the easy way for a tyro to separate the good from the poor in quality and care of manufacture.

The shank of the 3273 holster, that part which directs the 2- ¹/₄ inch belt loop away from the body of the holster, is steel reinforced to retain shape and gun presentation.

My version of the 3273 was hand molded to fit the Beretta 92 series pistols. It has an open bottom which is really the best way to go if you wear a side arm on a daily basis.

Stitching is heavy duty, apparently nylon, with double and even triple rows at major stress points. The dye job, mine being black, was deep, uniform, and complete. The basket weave tooling was absolutely excellent and reflected artistry in leather. Assuming the work was contracted to a number of craftsmen,whoever tooled my piece was a master.

The Model 1-49, which was also tested and evaluated, is almost exactly like the 3273 except the rake is butt to the rear and muzzle forward. While this presentation is unusual to the uninitiated, it also presents the gun in a fashion that is far more practical for a speedy draw. Admittedly, among professionals who practice, we are only talking about fractions of a second and the degree of practice is far more important than the angle and degree of rake.

I have tried, and over the years owned, about a half dozen holsters as offered by Viking and Old West. Some have been subjected to heavy usage and have held together just as well as any quality U.S. made holster. They are also, particularly when you shop their frequent sales, noticeably lower in price.

When shopping for leather, be it holsters, gun cases, wallets, or coats, you are best advised to examine those pieces carried by other police officers or sportsmen. Ask him how long he has carried the rig and see how well it stands up to use. Quality in leathercrafting is really a very obvious proposition after you have looked at a good sampling. On the other hand, buying mail order, sight unseen, is rather risky unless you know your manufacturer's reputation for quality.

AMERICAN HANDGUNNER • MARCH/APRIL 1986



THE AR-15/M16: A PRACTICAL GUIDE

by Duncan Long The AR-15/M16, the inspiration for so many modern assault rifles, is covered here in this definitive book. Should you wish to build your own or convert it to auto fire, Duncan Long supplies you with parts and tool lists and detailed step-by-step instructions. Virtually any accessory you may wish to buy for your AR-15 is listed. Invaluable to the M16 owner, this comprehensive book also covers assembly and assembly, conversion kits and modifications, troubleshooting, ammunition, combat use, lubrication and more. 81/2 x 11, softcover, photos, 168 pp. \$16.95



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by Duncan Long

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by Paul Elhanan Live on the edge-and live life to its fullest, says Elhanan of this challenging profession. The demands, the dangers, and the rewards are all yours if you enter this elite discipline. Elhanan describes the resources and skills you need to succeed in the trade; the clientele; the opposition to look out for; practical tips on driving, weapons, communication and cars; and much more. 51/2 x 81/2, softcover, 128 pp. \$10.00

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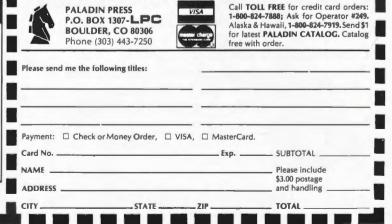
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COMBAT SHOOTING

JIM WELLER

WHEELGUNS FOR COMBAT SHOOTING REQUIRE MORE PRACTICE THAN AUTO

Back several years ago when I started our local IPSC club, there was one shooter who continually whined and complained that the matches weren't "fair" or "right." His reasoning? He shot a revolver, and didn't think that speed matches or those containing a reload or two should be allowed because he couldn't perform those things as fast as the auto man. In a certain sense he was right, yet it was a pity he never had the chance to see people like Bob Woodford of the Ohio Highway Patrol or Tom East from western New York state handle a wheelgun. You see, this shooter's only trouble was that he thought you should be able to walk right into a match without practicing and end up winning all the time. I never knew him to spend any time with reloading drills or anything like that, so he never became any better than he was, and eventually quit.

Today, one still sees wheelguns competing in IPSC matches, but you will seldom, if ever, see one in the winner's circle, at least in major matches. It takes an unholy amount of practice with a wheelgun just to work your way into class A, let alone win it, and many or most just don't want to devote that much time to it.

There are certain matches where a wheelgun can hold its own with the autos, matches where there are no more than six rounds required in any one stage. Some Comstock scored matches may possibly be all right, provided that the shooter doesn't come up with a miss and have to make up for it. Several of my club's matches have been won this year, and quite handily I may add, by a shooter using a stock S&W 6" model 66. However, when it comes right down to it, matches requiring more than six shots per stage, one or more reloads, or picking up a miss on that plate or popper just put the kaibosh to most wheelgunners. Even the ace revolver man in our home club trades in his "wheelie" for his worked-over S&W 459 when things get tough.

Even the staunchest advocate of the revolver, if he wants to win, will most likely make the move to an auto. Remember Tom East whom I mentioned earlier? I'd watched him shoot a four inch .357 in our sectional match in 1984, and I felt at that time that he was one of the best I'd seen. What I and many others didn't know was that while he was shooting with a revolver, he was also practicing with, you guessed it, a .45 auto. This year, 1985, he made his move complete and has just been eating everyone alive, including taking the Sectional Championship about four weeks ago.

If you're inordinately stubborn and are

determined to stay with your "circle cycler," you should have it modified accordingly. A good set of Hogue or Rogers stocks with the finger grooves should be obtained and used. If you're into the rubber end of things, the Pachmayr "Grippers" are quite good as well. Next, a good action job is a must. Remember, you're competing against singleaction autos with a slick three pound pull, and 15 pounds of gritty double-action just won't cut it. I also recommend having the trigger polished smooth and rounded for quick double-action work. Stay away from trigger shoes and those wide "target" style triggers. Have your chambers lightly chamfered to make things easier when reloading, and by all means check the gun for end shake in the cylinder and have it corrected if necessary. When shooting in a match, carry a toothbrush to clean under the extractor star between stages. This will remove those little flakes of unburned powder, only one of which is necessary to sometimes keep the revolver from operating smoothly.

Just because those nasty .45 shooters have compensators doesn't mean that you can't have something like it as well. Mag-na-port has been around for a long time and is used by many shooters. Les Baer offers custom barreled wheelguns using an expansion chamber much like those on many compensated .45's.

If you want a wheelgun that offers a major caliber without any of that sharp jabbing magnum recoil and reloads like lightning, then I strongly suggest you get around to a few gunshows and find yourself a S&W Model 25-2 in .45 ACP. If you're not adverse to a little work. I'd have the barrel cut and recrowned to either four or five inches instead of the standard six incher, then go with the rest of the modifications I listed. As for reloading, the 25 can be reloaded using the full moon clips that hold six rounds ready to just drop in place with no knobs to turn, push, or pull, and no speedloaders to fumble with. A practiced man using the full-moon system can reload in times that will astonish many a .45 auto shooter. Using round-nosed bullets, this thing is fast, partner, and a real plus in matches where reloading is required.

To be a winning wheelgunner in IPSC/ USPSA competition requires complete dedication to the gun and many many hours of hard practice. If you're willing to stick with it, you'll startle many an auto shooter. But, if you're bent on winning the overall club championship, I feel your chances are very slim at best.





INSIGHTS INTO IPSC

CAMERON HOPKINS

DON'T BE MISLED-YOU DON'T NEED A FANCY CUSTOM GUN TO SHOOT IPSC

Attracting new shooters to IPSC matches is a lot like fishing. Before you can savor a fried filet of bass, you must first catch the fish, and before you catch the fish you must get a nibble, then set the hook, then reel him in. We don't have much trouble getting new shooters to nibble, and sometimes it's not too tough to set the hook, but we snap lines and lose shooters by not reeling them in properly.

The biggest single factor that tangles the line and lets new shooters swim away is the perception that IPSC requires a huge investment in gear, a \$2,000 pistol, enough leather to wrap around the Fat Man at the circus and tons of reloading stuff. Beginners take heart-you don't need all the bells and whistles to enjoy IPSC shooting.

So let's talk about what a beginning shooter needs as opposed to what he might want. Sure it's nice to have a Wilson Accu-Comp, a Brown Maxi-Comp or a Nastoff Super Comp, but you don't need such high dollar guns to have fun and learn about IPSC. That progression comes once you're hooked and headed to the boat.

Beginners need only basic equipment-a stock pistol, an inexpensive holster like one of the popular new nylon types, and a couple of spare magazines or speedloaders. Reloading equipment cuts costs, but there are affordable factory loadings available like the CCI Blazer.

The best choice for a beginning pistol is

one that offers room for advancement as your interest grows-a Colt .45 ACP auto, preferably a Gov't Model, but a Commander is also suitable. There are now several copies of the Colt available at considerable savings off the brand name version. Springfield Armory's Gov't Model is a fine quality forged .45 that retails for well under \$300. Caspian Arms offers an excellent .45 auto at substantial savings.

A Colt or Colt look-alike can later be customized if you become hooked on IPSC. Even then you don't have to dump your entire savings into the project. Make minor modifications as the need arises: start with sights, then a trigger job, then add the fancy gadgets like beavertails and extended safeties.

But suppose you don't have a Gov't Model? Not to worry, just bring your favorite handgun to your local club, and join the fun. Any auto is preferable over any wheelgun as BRTs (Big Round Things) suffer a serious disadvantage due to their six round capacity and slowness to reload. Understand you are handicapped with a revolver.

There is a proliferation of fine 9mm autos out there, and they can all perform well for a beginner to get a feeling for what IPSC is all about. Most are double-action requiring an awkward transition from DA on the first shot to SA on subsequent shots, but a beginner will be less handicapped with a DA 9mm than a BRT.



So now you arrive at your first local match with your pal who's been "into IPSC" for awhile. He's explained how the match is run, and you're ready to try your hand with your S&W 469 out of an Uncle Mike's nylon holster. You have two spare mags tucked in a GI pouch you picked up for two bucks. But wait-look at all those Space Guns and fancy fast draw rigs! You begin to feel uneasy and out of place.

Don't. You are there for your first match, and all those guys with custom guns also attended their first match once. They too began with a stock pistol. I shot my first IPSC match with a two-inch Model 19, .357 Magnum. Don't be intimidated and feel you're in over your head because the folks with the "game guns" have graduated to "serious shooter" like, hopefully, you will too.

In the meantime, dance with who brung ya. Try IPSC with whatever handgun you have available. If you begin to feel the hook set, and think you'd like to be reeled "into IPSC," then you can begin slowly to make modifications or acquire a custom pistol. Until then, just have fun and enjoy the sport.

IPSC INDOOR MATCH

The 1986 IPSC Indoor Championship will be March 15 and 16 at the Bullet Hole range in Lenexa, Kan. This is the match you read about in American Handgunner. The course of fire is published and available when you send your entry fee. There are three stages all involving short movement and lots of reaction targets. For more information, write IPSC Indoor Championship, P.O. Box 14712, Lenexa, KS, 66215.

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES, 1986

For further information about any of these matches, write Jean-Pierre Denis, IPSC World President, Dept. AH, Rue Philippe de Champagne, 3bis/Bte2, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium.

March 29-31: FRANCE, Paris International Open

May 2-4: FRANCE, Internationaux de Lyon

May 10-11: SWITZERLAND, International Open

May 17-19: SPAIN, International Open

June 7-8: BELGIUM, International Open June 28-29: GERMANY, International Open

June 21-22: NORWAY, Viking International Open

August 5-9: CANADA, National Championship

August 15-17: BRITAIN,



READER'S OUESTION RESPONSES

The Reader's Question in the Nov/Dec '85 issue was: "Should we make an effort to make the sport of IPSC more spectator oriented and, if so, how?" Here are a few responses.

If shooting has been non-spectator, it is not through lack of public interest. Over half the crowd at the Olympic shoot (1984, Los Angeles) were non-shooters. Attendance doubled for trap and skeet; reactive target shooting is a crowd pleaser.

Because non-shooters lack an expert's appreciation of the fine points, logistics (of accommodating spectators) can include pamphlets explaining the course of fire, guides to take the "tourists" in tow, displays and exhibits. Or even find a place for nonshooters to try their hand.

Such mundane details as printing costs, press releases, finding volunteers to act as guides—well, I can already hear the selfsanctified purists howling, "Is this a match or Disneyland?"

Be that as it may, in the War against the Control Fetishists, we MUST court the press and general public whether anyone likes it or not.

Jim Glackin

Pasadena, Calif. 1 What do you mean by spectator oriented?

I'm happy with the way the sport is. If you mean should we attract more spectators, my answer is YES! And I have a suggestion.

The major matches, including state matches, should sponsor a charity (Red Cross, Cerebral Palsy, Diabetes Foundation, etc.). The entry fee should be increased for this purpose: 50% goes to the sponsored charity and 50% goes to the match winner's favorite charity. Thus the charity representatives and community members will come to the match and meet us, come to know us, and watch us perform our sport. The media just naturally gravitate to such an event.

Imagine the exposure and positive feedback we will reap.

Edwin A. Aquino, M.D. Harrisburg, Pa.

One of the most popular events at the Bianchi Cup is the Falling Plates. So I think reaction targets rather than cardboard allow spectators to see the shooter's success. With the availability of an all-sports TV station, ESPN, that covers what many people consider "fringe" sports, we need to express our interest in seeing IPSC covered on TV. With other shooters acting as "color" commentators, people would come to understand what IPSC involves.

So, yes, IPSC should become more spectator oriented. It is an interesting and exciting sport and deserves broader attention. The way to gain that attention is through better media attention and reactive targets. Stephen Odum

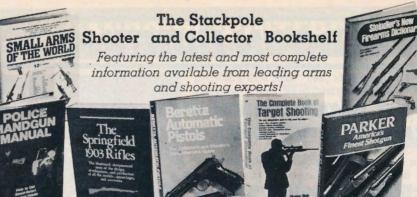
De Soto, Ill.

(Editor's Note: The ESPN coverage of the Bianchi Cup is airtime purchased by the NRA. I believe the figure is \$25,000 for three showings, one prime-time, two during offhours. ESPN does not seem inclined to cover shooting simply for its value as a newsworthy event. ESPN must be paid.)

READER'S QUESTION

If Jon Winokur were to call you for a Master Tip on how to do well in IPSC, what tip would you offer?

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



NEW! Police Handgun Manual How to Get Street Smart Survival Habits by Bill Clede

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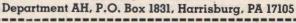
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HANDGUN HUNTING

J. D. JONES

PICK AMMO/HANDGUN WITH WORST CASE IN MIND-MEXICAN HEART SHOT

In selecting a caliber and ammunition for hunting a specific animal or animals it makes good sense to choose a gun and ammo combination that will do the best job under the worst of conditions.

Most hunters wouldn't select the same caliber for an antelope hunt as they would for elk. The antelope hunter would probably be satisfied with a hot 6mm such as the 6/223 or the 6 JDJ (which I consider marginal for even antelope) but wouldn't think of using the 6mm on an elk. The elk hunter might opt for a 375 JDJ or 375 JRS which will do very well on elk but will also do very well on antelope.

Simple decisions such as the above are very basic and few individuals will make mistakes on basic problems.

More complex are decisions as to what bullet or load to use in a specific gun. There are a fairly large number of guys around who feel they have to use a 357 Magnum for deer. There is no doubt the 357 will kill deer effectively under optimum conditions. A deer is a relatively small animal with very, very few weighing more than a small man. In many areas an average whitetail buck won't weigh over 100 pounds. Hunting and shooting only broadside lung and heart shots from a tree stand at 25 yards, a hunter with a hot 125 gr. HP will take deer very effectively.

Now let's take the worst case possibility for that hunter. Just before the trigger breaks the deer bolts. That hot little 125 HP strikes the stomach and blows up in semi-digested browse. Since the stomach lies just under the skin at mid body there isn't even any bleeding. The fact the animal is hit is obvious. He hunched and kicked at his side at the shot. Now he is going away and you have the remains of a cylinder full of 125 grain HPs to do what you will with. I can assure you that unless you can pull off a spine-tail shot your 125s aren't going to have enough penetration to get into the chest cavity shot from the rear. You may be able to hit him a few times and eventually bring him to bag but you're going to have a sorry mess even if you do. Worse yet, you inflicted needless suffering on the crippled deer.

Even though I'm really not much of a 357



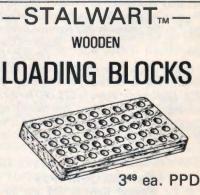
fan for deer hunting, let's take the same shot and substitute a heavy soft point or flat nosed cast bullet instead of the highly frangible 125 HP. The heavy bullet of strong construction strikes the stomach and punches all the way through. Since we shot from a tree the exit wound is low on the body. If we were lucky enough to hit a vein or small artery there may be a fairly good blood trail. If not, there is a good possibility stomach contents will fall out of the exit wound giving you something to trail. Exit wounds always bleed more than entrance wounds.

The deer's reaction to the hit is identical with the first case. This time, however, in addition to a spine-tail shot any solid hit on the pelvis should take the deer down as the pelvis has a great number of large nerves extending into it from the spinal column. The shock of a solid pelvis hit is transmitted directly to the spine with instant incapacitation of the rear legs normally occurring. In addition, a strong heavy bullet may have enough penetration to get into the chest cavity from behind.

Assuming all follow up shots are misses and a trailing job is necessary, your chance of recovering the animal with the 125 gr. hit would maybe be on the order of one in ten. I would guess with the heavy bullet hit, maybe one in five.

Assuming a going away solid body hit with the 125 gr. I would not increase the recovery rate to greater than one in five. The solid body hit with the heavy bullet with chest cavity penetration could well have him down very quickly. It could possibly have little effect. It all depends on just exactly what is hit. Remember, a hit that may sever a major artery causing a very quick death may have little effect if the artery was missed by an inch.

Obviously, a bigger gun would increase your chances of recovery of the animal. The old fairy tale of "a gut shot deer will run as far hit with a 460 Weatherby as with a 22" is pure fantasy. The larger more powerful cartridge does much more damage, and the more damage the quicker the animal dies. There are



Sizes available for 25ACP through 577 Nitro 4 or more for \$3.25 each. We pay shipping Order by cartridge or write for size chart Satisfaction Guaranteed -STALWART CORPORATION-Box 357 • Pocatello, ID 83204 cartridge-bullet combinations that will just about completely disembowel a deer with a single shot and no animal in that condition is going far.

Essentially, the proper way to prepare for a hunt is to select a gun-cartridge-bullet combination that will do the job from the *worst of conditions*; not the optimum.

Basics to remember are to select a heavy enough bullet for the caliber to assure complete penetration of the animal on broadside shots and the ability to penetrate through the shoulder bones and the body cavity. These bullets will give you a fighting chance if you have to take rear end shots.

I get quite a few letters from shooters who seem to think that I am recommending full metal jacketed silhouette bullets for hunting. 'Taint so. The FMJ silhouette bullets driven at their intended velocities generally penetrate without doing very much damage. You might consider them "slick," in general, passing through flesh very easily. A semi-wadcutter cast bullet in comparison penetrates well but usually punches a fairly good hole. The. FMJ's we shot into large animals striking large bones in many cases failed to penetrate and resembled large misshapen marbles when recovered. Apparently at this point the 320 grain JDJ 44 cast bullet is the best penetrator. The 340 JDJ design in 45 caliber in the 454 Casull loaded to maximum penetrates about one inch more in fairly dense wood.

In terms of sheer power-penetration no revolver will equal the single shots chambered for the more powerful cartridges. The best revolvers will seldom group in less than five inches at 100 yards while most of the single shots will easily do that well at 200. I recently shot a seven shot 200 meter group with a Dominator in 308 using Federal 180 grain ammo that went into about 2.2 inches. I don't consider that a bit unusual for a T/C, XP or Dominator. To my way of thinking the revolvers are really about 100 yard hunting guns most of the time and it would be foolish to choose one for game you might expect to shoot at 200 yards. One thing to keep in mind is that adequate long range calibers are also effective at short ranges-the reverse is not true.

Perhaps the most important thing of all is to remember to shoot at a particular part of the animal. Learn the anatomy of the animal you are pursuing. Try to place the bullet so it will pass through the chest cavity at a point ¹/₃ of the way up from the brisket and directly between the legs from any angle. This should take out the heart or major veins and/or arteries at the top of the heart and possibly one or both lungs. Slightly low will take the heart, high can take the shoulder or spine, back will hit the lungs. Forward and, if you are lucky, you will miss.

In any event the placement of the shot is of paramount importance in achieving a clean kill. Use of a cartridge-bullet combination that will be useful in the worst case possibility of a wounded animal going away from the hunter is the only sensible choice to make.

HANDGUN HUNTERS



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COP TALK

MASSAD AYOOB

SPARE AMMO FOR OFF DUTY CAN BE A LIFE SAVER, SO WHY NEGLECT IT?

I was hanging out after shift in the 44th Precinct (South Bronx) after a guest tour with two radio car cops, and we'd retired to the locker. My two hosts, partners on patrol, were changing so we could have an aftershift brew or two.

Off came the garrison belts, on which each man carried a 12-round loop cartridge carrier and a 12-round double dump pouch. Into the locker went the four-inch model 10 S&W .38 Specials. The 5-shot S&W Chief Specials came out from under the patrol jackets and went under sweaters in suede-out belt clip holsters. There was no spare ammo.

"Let's go," they said.

I cringed.

I had just finished being briefed the day before, by the Firearms and Tactics Unit on City Island, about three cops killed in shootouts off duty by multiple offenders with more firepower. Bobby Walsh, who pitted his 5shot Chief and no spare ammo against three holdup men, died. I had been to his funeral on my last trip to New York. Abe Walton, who pitted his 5-shot Chief and no spare ammo against multiple armed robbers, died in a triangulated hail of gunfire. Jan Brinker, who drew his 2" Colt .38 with no spare ammo against armed robbers, was killed by bullets from multiple guns.

Yet I remembered a guy named Trent, a wise black cop my own age who recently survived an off duty shooting because, when his 3" Chief Special ran dry, he had a Colt .25 auto in his pocket to continue fighting until he won. Same department, different mindset.

And the officer in Texas who, just recently, had had to reload twice while up against two .45 autos by himself in a parking lot. He ended the fight, fatally, with his l6th shot. At that point, there were two live rounds and four empties in his gun, and a dozen empty .38 hulls and two empty speedloaders rolling around on the bloody pavement. But he was alive.

I will never understand why cops who arm

themselves to the teeth while on duty will carry a 5-shot .38 snubby with no spare ammo off duty, and feel safe. If you ever need spare ammo, it's going to be in an off duty shootout more likely than an on duty one!

On duty, you have communications for quick backup. If you're smart, you carry a second handgun. If your department cares about you, there's a shotgun or maybe a Mini-14 in your patrol car, and if you're lucky, you've got a partner with the same armament you have. Off duty, there's none of that. Off duty it's you, alone, against the armed robbery scum until somebody calls the station and the cavalry arrives.

Some cops in areas with high volumes of off duty encounters have long since realized that. Captain Lew Thomason, a friend of mine on the Metro Dade Police Department, packs a 4" Python and 18 rounds of + P hollowpoint .38s on the job. As required. But off duty, he packs the Colt .45 auto with which Jeff Cooper and Ray Chapman taught him to dominate his local matches, and two spare magazines. A growing number of cops in his Miami area are following his example.

With an auto, you not only have a higher cartridge capacity to start with, but also more power per shot in a concealable package. Pit a 9mm against a .38 with six + Ps, a 10-shot .38 Super Colt against a 6-shot .357, or a .45 auto against a largebore pistol, and you'll find that the auto gives you more ballistic output



AUTOPORTING?

So what's new!

Mag-Na-Port® International has been Mag-Na-Porting auto's for 13 years! There have been some new so-called "High Tech-Engineering Porting Systems" which claim 40% less in recoil reduction. These claims are **impossible** unless you attach or hang a cement block on the end of the muzzle or barrel. The new so-called "Porting Systems" don't even know what a Metering Port is. Thirteen years ago, Larry Kelly started putting Metering Ports on handguns, rifles and shotguns! Now, nearly everyone who drills or mills a hole in a gun barrel refers to it as a "Port" and they don't even know what a Metering Port is.

Don't be misled!

Don't be misled by claims and promises from companies here today and gone tomorrow. Mag-Na-Port® International is now 'located in five countries. We've been Porting for 13 years, that speaks for itself.

Write the "Originator"

Anyone Interested in further information on Porting handguns, rifles and shotguns, write the originator:

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41302 Executive Drive Mt. Clemens, Michigan 48045-3448 (313) 469-6727 "Imitation is the sincerest form of plagiarism" in a smaller package per fully loaded gun every time.

Before you even look at the speed of the reloads, consider that it's a piece of cake to carry two fully loaded spare magazines behind your hip, since they're so nice and flat. You 9mm shooters will find that you can carry a slim-gripped m/39 or HK p7 and two spare magazines with less bulge than just the fat grip of your model 59, never mind its thick spare magazines. That gives you a total of 21 rounds versus the 15 in the 59 by itself.

Revolver ammo is harder to pack concealably for fast access. The Bianchi Speed Strip is a staple for the off duty wheelgunner, but I frankly prefer the same company's 6round snap-on belt loop carriers. I can wear one each, left front and right front, on my belt with complete concealment under a jacket or sportcoat, without the annoying weight of the six-round Speed Strip in a pocket lining. Speed is roughly equal.

You can even carry speedloaders off duty, with the new carriers on the market. Safariland's old metal clip was extraordinarily fast, but their new one, which holds three rounds inside the belt and three out, is just as fast and much less bulky. It was inspired by the Rogers Sixpack, which I find extremely fast, more secure, and totally concealable. Safariland now also has a concealment version of this pouch on the market.

With three rounds inside the belt and three rounds outside, the Rogers unit is amazingly compact. It has found great favor among FBI agents, who take pride in dressing well and are not about to wear anything that will cause unsightly bulges in their suits. I find that individual FBI agents are also very performance oriented; that, and not the fact that designer Bill Rogers is an ex-FBI agent, is what makes Bill's carrier so popular with them.

Since I work primarily as a police researcher and instructor and only part time as a street cop, more of my own armed encounters have been in plainclothes and/or off duty status, than in uniform. Research indicates that among career policemen, as many as 40% of armed encounters involve plainclothes or off duty officers in some cities. Clearly, it is a side of police firearms training that has been neglected.

I am seeing a growing trend among police gunfight veterans toward carrying two handguns even when off duty. A friend of mine who studies these things says, "If you need a gun, you probably need two of them." I normally carry only one weapon on my own time-the more fool I, perhaps-but it's either a .45 auto with two spare magazines, or a 4" .357 with six to 12 spare rounds of ammo.

That's 'cause I've seen enough in my life and my work to know that I could need that sort of firepower if I'm caught without my police radio and partner and shotgun and assault rifle, and I want to stay alive long enough to see my brother officers come in, who do have all that good stuff.



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125 gr. JHP

125 gr. JFP

* 158 gr. JHP

* 158 gr. JFP

L * 158 gr. SWC

* 140 gr. JHP NEW

* 158 gr. SWC/HP NEW

L 240 gr. SWC L 240 gr. SWC/HP NEW

L 200 gr. SWC 200 gr. FMJ-C/T (Match) 230 gr. FMJ-RN 230 gr. FMJ-FP

"L" denotes swaged lead builet

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200 gr. JHP

240 gr. JHP

185 gr. JHP

45 ACP

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"I" denotes InterLock bullet *Packed 50 per box.

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HANDLOADING

DAN COTTERMAN

LOADS FOR .45 ACP REVOLVERS AND THOUGHTS ON .45 AUTO HEADSPACING

Noting the many comments from readers on loading the .45 ACP, Bill Nesbitt, of Barnesville, Ohio, writes, "I purchased a new S&W Model 25-2 to use with full-moon clips in IPSC and Second Chance. I regularly shoot IPSC, so I just loaded some of my regular match loads (6.0 grains of 231 and 200-grain H&G #68 cast from Denver Bullets), some of my practice loads (5.4 grains of 231 and same bullet), in the shooting bag, went to the range and started bustin' caps. Imagine my disappointment when I started watching about 20 percent of the bullets keyholing and groups of about six inches.

"The forcing cone looked a little tight, so I gave the gun to my gunsmith, Steve Nastoff, to work over the forcing cone. When he returned the gun to me he said that the forcing cone was .452" from the factory, so he opened it up and gave it the proper taper.

"Back to the range. Now I wasn't quite as disappointed. Groups tightened to about four inches and only about ten percent keyholed. I had also dumped a few social loads in the shooting bag, 230-grain jacketed Hornady flat points with 6.5 grains of Unique shot a two-inch group with no keyholing. Then I tried some 200-grain Speer jacketed hollowpoints with 7.0 Unique. They shot two-inch groups with no keyholing. . . .

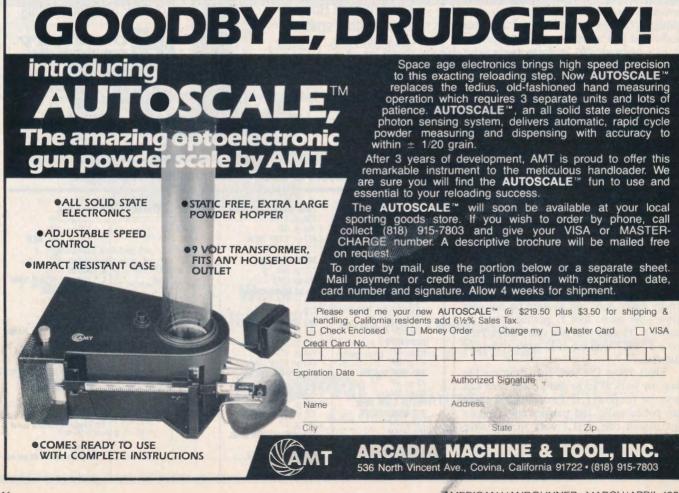
"About this time I bought a supply of cast 200-grain H&G #68s from Nastoff, a distributor for S&S bullets. I then loaded 5.4 grains of 231 and proceeded to shoot a group that had five shots in ³/₄-inch, center-to-center, and the sixth shot opened the group to 1¹/₂inch or less. My Colt Government Model, which has been modified for IPSC, will shoot the S&S bullets into a group about an inch tighter than the Denvers. The auto is evidently more forgiving because there is no jump from cylinder to barrel.

"I hadn't noticed the loss of accuracy in my IPSC auto, because I don't usually shoot slow-fire groups. I weighed the Denver 200 H&Gs, and they ranged from 198 grains to 202 grains. The S&S bullets had a light weight of 196 grains, and a heavy weight of 200 grains. The 'Hornadys only had a spread of .4 grains. The weight variation from bullet to bullet of each brand of cast examples was about the same, although the S&S were more uniform. I then measured the bullets. The S&S were a uniform .451-inch, but some of the Denvers measured from .450 to .453, checking at several points around the bullet. I think that the Denver bullets were my problem. ... I called Denver Bullets and they assured me that they would look into the problem right away."

Nesbitt said he used a taper crimp, and that the 200-grain H&Gs had their shoulders seated out 1/6th of an inch. It works for him, but fellow gunscribe Jim Weller said he tried a slight roll crimp and that, using a Ransom rest at 30 yards, group sizes tightened by 50 percent. Then, somewhat puzzlingly, he went on to say he'd gone back to taper crimping "just for the sake of expediency," and that his loads continued to shoot with good accuracy.

Then an associate of mine, who prefers anonymity, wrote to say, "It has been my experience that headspace is largely a moot point in the .45 ACP. Having played around with various case lengths, some of which were as much as .1-inch less than minimum, I have come to the conclusion that the .45 ACP headspaces on the extractor. The extractor prevents a short case from chambering fully to headspace on its shorter length. I have no experience with longer-than-spec cases, because cases *do not* stretch after repeated firings."

Next, Leonard Burnett, who says he's been reloading the hoary one for half a cen-



tury, tells us that the way to better accuracy is to headspace on the bullet, and adds, "In my 72-year lifetime I've seen precisely *one* 1911, of many hundreds I've fired, that headspaced on the case, and that was merely because my friend, Ed, instructed Michigan gunsmith Marshall Lee to cut the chamber in his new barrel to do just that. And, of course, since case lengths vary so much, there were a lot of cases that either wouldn't let the slide close, or would refuse to headspace, because they were too short."

Got it? You can figure that, because of consistently shorter-than-spec hulls, the .45 ACP cartridge is held in check by the extractor, and that, following action by the firing pin, the round will establish a somewhat random dependence on the chamber, after which



the bullet will more or less bounce into engagement with the helical grooves in the barrel. Or, as some suggest, you can extend the overall load length so the bullet will just touch the yonder end of the chamber, to avoid the "wallbanger" effect. This, however, should only be practiced with light-tomedium-pressure loads.

Just when you believe you've got it right, though, you can turn to page 387 of Speer's latest reloading manual and read, "Since the .45 ACP headspaces on the case mouth, only a slight taper crimp can be used."

Del Ramsay, of MMP, R.R. 6, Dept. AH, Harrison, AR 72601, is selling a reloading device for which, at first, I could see no use. It's an adjustable, electrically-vibrated powder trickler that is operated by means of a footpedal. I'd been twirling an old-fashioned trickler for many years, and thought of the addition of a vibrator and switch as wholly unnecessary. Moreover, I was not urged to harmonic frequency by the MMP Power Trickler's price: \$59.95, delivered (in the 48 states). But my tree was being shaken by a couple of gundom's heavyweights, Gene Crum and Rick Jamison, who had recommended that I give the Power Trickler a try.

Crum (509 Harvey Drive, Bloomington, IN, 47401), who sells packages of anti-leading wax sheets to handloaders, testified, "This device fits in perfectly with my method of weighing charges. Using an appropriate Lee dipper, I throw an approximate charge on the scale. I formerly used the same dipper to tap in granules to bring the weight up to what I wanted. Now, however, just a few taps of the Power Trickler's foot-switch brings the weight up to what I want, while vibrating the scale just enough to keep the beam moving slightly. I feel that I am getting more accurate weights with this beam movement, and I know I am weighing charges much faster, because I get this phase done in some 40 percent of the time I used to spend tapping granules in manually."

I have discovered that what Crum says is true. It also is true that a manual trickler is helpful in tweedling the last few tenths of a grain-weight into the pan of a powder scale. Manual tricklers, however, offer no service in the matter of scale beam vibration, which can be a factor in achieving accurate charge weights, especially when one is expecting a simple balance tool to indicate differences as small as 40000th of a pound.

George Culp, of Silver City, N.M., is among several handloaders who do not share my irreverent attitude toward low standard deviation of bullet velocities as an indicator of quality handloads. Does he really disagree, though, when he writes, "Tests conducted at the Frankford Arsenal showed that velocity variations did *not* rank among the top ten factors that caused groups to spread...."

Comments on anything that appears in this column, as well as tips for better handloading and shooting, can be addressed to Handloading, Rt. 1, Box 7, Llano, CA 93544. Include SASE if a reply is desired.



THE GUILD SPEAKS

GEORGE WESSINGER

PPC INTERCHANGEABLE BARRELS FROM GUILD PRESIDENT OFFER ADVANTAGES

On my recent return trip from teaching in the NRA Gunsmithing schools in Rochester, NY, I stopped by Maryland Gun Works which is operated by my good friend and Guild President Lou Ciamillo. Lou has always been one of the sharpest pistolsmiths I know and can always be counted on to be doing something new and different. As usual I was not to be disappointed.

New from Lou Ciamillo and Maryland Gun Works is a PPC barrel system that is destined to become state-of-the-art in the very near future. The system consists of a fully machined barrel shroud with a barrel insert, and looks similar to a Smith & Wesson "L" frame barrel. The ones I saw were fitted to Ruger Security Six style revolvers and Smith & Wesson K frame revolvers, and looked excellent. The Rugers were most impressive looking. The complete system weighs 18 ounces, the same as a one and one-tenth inch diameter, six inch, PPC barrel.

The obvious advantages to this system, for the pistolsmith and the shooter, are a quick turn around on PPC conversions and simplified repairs. Barrel insert replacement is quick in the event a shooter damages a barrel due to a squib or an excessive load. In many cases I have observed a masterfully executed PPC conversion ruined by a bulged barrel or a split forcing cone.

The ability to adjust the barrel to cylinder gap is another advantage of this system, as well as the ability to change from one rate of twist to another. Changing the barrel insert is accomplished in less than two minutes and price of a new insert is only \$45.

The only modification that must be performed on the revolver is the location and drilling of a hole in the front of the frame for the shroud locating pin. The entire unit is



secured to the frame by a retention nut similar to the Dan Wesson. All of the other adjustments and modifications that are normally made can still be done in the usual way. On a revolver that already has these other adjustments, the fitting of the barrel and shroud can be accomplished in a very short time.

The most significant advantage gained with the utilization of this system is the improvement in accuracy over the present barrel systems being used on conventional PPC conversions. Tests show this improvement in accuracy can be attributed to the fact that a barrel under tension at both ends is more accurate than a barrel screwed into the receiver and shouldered against the face of the receiver.

At the 1985 National Police Revolver Championships in Des Moines, IA, Elizabeth Callahan of the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington D.C. shot a Maryland Gun Works custom Ruger revolver with this new barrel system. She placed as the number two female in the National Police Championships and along with her teammate, Gary Nelson, won the World and National Two Man Team Championships. Nelson was also shooting a Custom PPC Revolver built by Maryland Gun Works.

The new PPC conversion is presently being offered in the "L" style configuration and is drilled and tapped for most of the popular sight ribs for PPC shooting, and for Aimpoint and scope mounts for NRA Action Shooting. Maryland Gun Works is presently performing the conversion on Ruger and Smith and Wesson revolvers with a turn around time of only two weeks. In the near future the barrel and shroud assembly will be offered to gunsmiths in kit form through a network of distributors.

It should be mentioned that once installed, the barrel and shroud should not be removed unless some adjustments are to be made. For this reason, spanner wrenches for the barrel nuts will not be included with each barrel and shroud assembly, but will be sold separately for those who wish to purchase them. The current price for the barrel and shroud installed on a customer's revolver is \$295. Extra barrel inserts are \$45, extra barrel nuts are \$2.50 and each spanner wrench is \$15.

I was most impressed with this new product. Not only is the accuracy potentially better, but also the gun looks outstanding and the feel is excellent. The heft and balance is as near ideal as any I have seen in a long time. The weight seems to be out front, where it belongs, without being excessive.

Maryland Gun Works is one of the largest, well equipped custom gun shops in the country. They not only build fine custom pistols for all forms of competition and hunting, but they also manufacture high quality pistol sights, scope mounts, match barrels and bushings, and gunsmithing tools and fixtures.

For additional information contact Lou Ciamillo, Maryland Gun Works, Ltd., Dept. AH, 26200 Frederick Road, Clarksburg P.O. Box 130, Hyattstown, MD, 20871.

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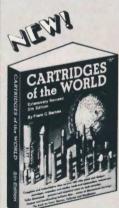
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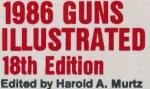
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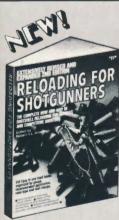
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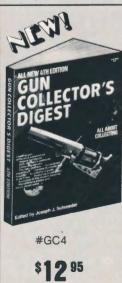
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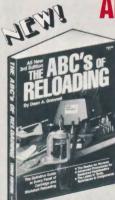
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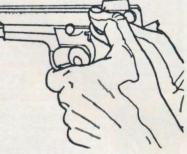
The Double Tap

The double tap is simply two fast, successive shots fired at the same target. Some shooters have trouble with the technique because they think of it as a sort of two shot "string," and as a result they fail to see the sights for the second shot. I approach it as two **individual** shots and make sure I see the sights for each one.



1. Starting with a solid grip, come up on the target, get a good sight picture, and press the trigger for the first shot.

2. When the gun recoils, pull it back down to the line of sight as quickly as possible...



3. ... get a good sight picture, and press the trigger for the second shot. The finger should never lose contact with the trigger.

The double tap is an advanced technique that requires a good deal of practice. Start out shooting slow single shots, then slow doubles and let the speed come by itself. If you can't shoot **one** five slowly, you'll never be able to shoot two fast ones.

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XS 81-3



By P.G. Proctor

All too often we hear horrifying stories of senseless deaths or injuries when children come into unsupervised contact with loaded firearms. The forgotten pistol buried in a drawer or the shotgun in the hall closet, can be items of intrigue for a child, with deadly consequences.

Statistically, accidental deaths from firearms account for only 2% of all accidental deaths nationwide, but jumps to 5% of all accidental fatalities in the home. The highest rate is among youngsters (according to a 1983 study). The sad part is that a few simple precautions on the part of the gun owner could significantly lower the rate.

There is no way to render a gun absolutely child proof. However, by removing the aura of mystery surrounding a gun the chances of a curious youngster injuring himself or someone else are greatly reduced.

No one ever seems to get hurt in the cartoon violence children watch on television, which contributes to making them feel invincible to the danger of a gun. They are oblivious to the damage a gun can inflict. It becomes little more than a forbidden toy to them. Familiarity and education is the best means of quelling this curiosity.

When my sister and I were growing up our father kept loaded guns in the house at all times. We were shown how to use them and where they were kept. We were also warned of the direst consequences should we disturb them without his supervision. His guns were for protection and sport. By impressing upon us their destructive power and familiarizing us with their operation he removed the mystery and reared us with a healthy respect for firearms.

Even the most conscientious parent or gun owner may feel that this form of firearms education may be insufficient for their particular case. This may be true with toddlers, children who are emotionally immature, or who are discipline problems. If so there are a variety of safeguards that may be taken in the home.

Some of these safeguards are quite simple.

Store the ammunition separately from the gun, preferably under lock and key. An autoloader could be stored empty with the magazine nearby. Storing a gun in a high place would make it inaccessible to most small children. In the event of an emergency a gun stored on a closet shelf could be just as easily reached by an adult as it would in a night stand drawer.

The bolts may be removed from bolt action rifles and stored separately rendering the rifle useless. If you have more than one rifle it would be wise to tag the bolt with the gun's serial number.

There are a number of devices being marketed specifically to safeguard guns. Penguin Industries (Hoppes), markets a product called the Gun Guardian. This device blocks the chamber and renders the gun inoperative by use of a strap similar to a wire tie. The only drawback is that this strap can be easily cut with a pair of scissors. Master Lock Company manufactures a trigger guard lock which is key operated and prevents the gun from discharging. Ammunition can still be inserted in the gun with the use of the master gun lock. Tread Corporation markets an alarm box. It is large enough to hold one handgun. If the box is moved it emits a loud sound.

Cannon Safe manufactures perhaps the finest security chests and full size safes in the industry. These range from a fireproof to a simple steel cabinet. Combination locks on Cannon Safes are the most advisable, for, with a simple key lock, if a child were to find the key he may be tempted to unlock the chest.

Despite these physical precautions, the most effective deterrent to a gun accident is thorough training in gun safety. Guns are extremely unforgiving of carelessness, abuse, or neglect. The spectre of an accident because of a gun in the hands of a youth is especially disconcerting. Foresight and precaution on the part of the responsible gun owner can forestall a lifetime of guilt and grief over the death or injury of a child.

Accuracy, with minimum charge weight. Hercules Bullseye®: the #1

powder in the world for pistol and revolver target shooting. Because it delivers what the name promises: accuracy. Every time.

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For all-round versatility in handguns, don't forget Hercules Unique® For consistent accuracy and top performance all the way from light to heavy

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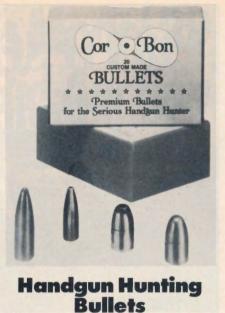
ERCULES

New .45 Auto Carry Rig

WHAT'S

NEW

Milt Sparks holsters, renowned for their concealment rigs, announces the Roadrunner for Colt auto pistols. The dramatic lines of this holster underscore its effectiveness as a concealed carry holster. Designed to carry a large semi-auto pistol, the body hugging comfort combines with fast access. The Roadrunner features a front sight track and metal reinforced top for stability. Hand molding reduces bulk and insures a long lasting fit. For more information, write Milt Sparks, Dept. AH, Box 187, Idaho City, Idaho, 83631 (208) 392-6695.



Cor Bon Bullets makes the finest handgun hunting bullets on the market, according to knowledgeable hunters. Only Cor Bon makes bullets specifically for handgun velocities designed to expand yet retain penetration characteristics. The secret is a chemical bonding of jacket to core to insure bullet solidity in penetration while allowing for spectacular mushrooming. The bullets are available in the three most popular handgun hunting calibers: .30, .375 and .44. The bullets retail for between \$24.95 for 40 to \$19.95 for 20, depending on caliber and bullet weight. For further information, write Cor Bon Bullets, Dept. AH, Box 10126, Detroit, MI 10126 (313) 894-2373.



New .45 Auto Barrel System

Centaur Systems now offers an exciting new concept in barrels for the .45 auto pistol of Colt design. The Quadra-Lock drop-in barrel kit dispenses with the barrel bushing and uses a new design to insure lock-up and offer target accuracy. The kit comes with a full length recoil spring guide rod, a newly designed slide stop, and the barrel. Being a "bull barrel," the extra weight of the Quadra-Lock reduces felt recoil as well as offering improved accuracy. For more information write, Centaur Systems, Dept. AH, Suite 114, 15127 NE 24th-C-3, Redmond, WA, 98052.

Mag-Na-Port Snubby

Mag-Na-Port Arms' Mag-Num Sales offers a custom Smith and Wesson Model 29 featuring a 21/2 inch barrel, Mag-Na-Porting, action job, grip frame to K round butt, Pachmayr grips and many other custom touches to make this limited edition snubby a highly desirable edition to any gun collection. Limited to 200, the "Professional" will be an instant hit with police and civilians in need of a powerful package of persuasion. Each "Professional" comes in an attractive walnut presentation case. The cost is \$995 plus \$5 shipping (FFL required). For more information, write Mag-Num Sales, Dept. AH, 41302 Executive Dr., Mt. Clemons, MI, 48045.



World champion handgun shooters Mickey Fowler and Mike Dalton teach you how and when to shoot. Enhance your ability to survive. Areas covered: safety • marksmanship • tactics • legal • women • technique • crime • guns and equipment • ammunition • 150 photos.

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Add \$2.00 per book or \$1.00 per logo item for postage and handling on all ISI logo products. Money order, Visa, and Master Card, (send number and expiration date) shipped immediately. Personal checks allow 3 weeks for delivery. Ca. residents add 61/2% sales tax.

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IPSC 8" anisms. This unique concept center plate allows you to shoot the head and the head falls Shoot the center back. plate and the head resets automatically. Made of rugged T-l armor plate. The head and



PPC 10X

body are painted in black with a center of yellow. This target is 26" tall. Available only at Redi-Set . Virtually no one is faster than our targets! ring plate **Introductory Price** PPC \$125.00 IPSC \$145.00 Shipping Information

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1985 IPSC European Championships

Tommy Campbell carried the **Stars and Stripes** into the winner's circle!

By Jan van Driel

The 1985 IPSC European Championships held in Vienna, Austria were an American affair with Tommy Campbell of Massachusetts winning and John Shaw of Tennessee finishing second. Both Americans were ineligible for the title of European Champion which went to third place finisher Peter Ploner of Austria. The match attracted 129 shooters from as far away as the USA, Canada, Israel and Zimbabwe (Rhodesia). Tommy fired his now famous "Super Gun II," a prototype of the S&W 645 semiauto .45 ACP out of Rogers leather. John shot a Wilson Accu-Comp built on an Essex frame in .38 Super. He wore Blocker leather and fired Atlanta Arms' ammunition.

The top 24 shooters were all using .45 ACP Colts, modified by various gunsmiths

like Ludwig of Germany, Gunner and Majex of England and Baeyens of Belgium. Remarkable is that the whole Norwegian team and many Austrian shooters were using compensator guns modified by Heribert Seidler of Vienna. His guns represent the state-of-the-art in European pistolsmithing. Not only does he tune the gun and install a compensator, but he also changes the magazine button so that it can be reached without having to change the position of the hand. He also makes excellent combat modifications of the SIG 210, a high quality gun that is probably the most popular minor caliber combat gun in Europe.

Further down the scoring list one could find guns that are hardly used in American competition. There were quite a few FN Hi-Powers, SIG 210s and 226s, Brno CZ 75s (real Czechoslovakian guns!), HK P9s and P7M13s. The weapons showed various degrees of modification. One SIG 226 shooter got around the DA first shot problem by fitting the gun with a safety catch built into the trigger, the same as the Glock 17. This way the 226 can safely be carried cocked and locked.

As for holsters, the shooters showed a remarkable preference for the California Challenger made by Gordon Davis. The winner of the shoot-off was the exception to the rule for he carried his Colt in a Davis inside-the-pants holster behind his right hip (who said this kind of holster is too slow?). Other holsters used were the Rogers Plaxco Model, several types from Price in England and Sickingers from Austria.

IPSC shooting in Europe is relatively young. It is very much hindered by all kinds of strict gun laws and range limitations. In spite of this, every year the European Championships are very worth participating in. To the ones who never competed in European contests, I can only advise to come to one of the big European matches like the Paris Internationals. You will be in for a very nice surprise.

Elmer Keith's Model 29 for Sealed Bid Auction



ow much would H someone pay to own one of Elmer Keith's personal Smith and Wesson Model 29s? How much would you pay to own a piece of handgun history, a handgun owned and shot by the late, great Elmer Keith?

You can send your sealed bid for the pictured Model 29 to benefit the **Outstanding American** Handgunner Awards Foundation and also the Elmer Keith Museum Foundation. The proceeds will be divided equally, and the half going to the Keith Museum is fully tax deductible.

The gun is a S&W Model 29.44 Magnum with a five-inch barrel. The stocks are carved ivory with a steer's head on the right stock and the initials EMK on the other side. The right side of the frame bears the signature, "Elmer Keith." This gun was used by Elmer Keith personally and is the only one of Keith's 29s that will be available for sale, according to the Keith family.

Minimum bid is \$1,000 and bids must be received by April 20, 1986. The bids must be in writing and include the bidder's name, address and phone number. The bid should read: "My bid for the Elmer Keith Model 29



Smith and Wesson revolver is If my bid wins the auction, I agree to pay one half to the Outstanding American Handgunner Awards Foundation Inc. and one half to the Elmer Keith Museum Foundation Inc." Bids should be mailed to OAHAF, P.O. Box 153, Station C, Buffalo, NY, 14209.

The winning bid will be announced at the NRA Show in New Orleans at the OAHAF Awards Banquet April 26, 1986. Tickets to the OAHAF are \$35 per person and are available at the above address.

American Handgunner readers need no introduction to Elmer Keith, the inventor of the .44 Magnum and .41 Magnum. His penchant for big bore magnums is legendary and his prolific pen spread the Gospel According to Elmer.

From his pet load of 22 grains of 2400 behind a 240 Keith bullet in .44 Magnum to his thrilling accounts of African hunting, we are all indebted to Elmer Keith for the great advances he made in the field of handguns. The American Handgunner salutes the late Elmer Keith.

KEITH'S PSALM Anonymous

Elmer Keith is my master, I shall not flinch. He leadeth me to larger calibers, He suggesteth hotter handloads. Yea, though I load with 2400, I fear not failure, For my Smith and Wesson is with me.

Recessed chambers comfort me. I hunt chipmunks with my .458, Verily, I slay cans with my .44 Magnum.

Yea, though I load maximum, With a pinch for good luck, Yea, though I implore Lyman To design a heavier bullet, I shall not be satisfied. Surely someone will bring forth A hotter magnum;

Then shall my heart be +

gladdened,

And powder smoke shall surround me

All the days of my life.

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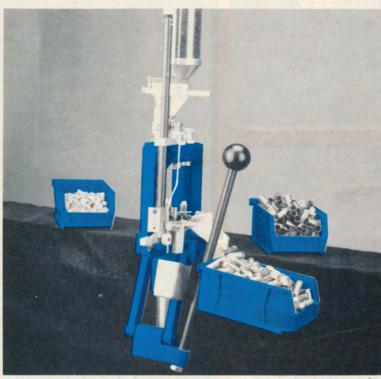
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Dillon RL-550 Reloading Press By Dan Cotterman



Dillon loaded ammo won '85 Bianchi Cup, IPSC Nationals.

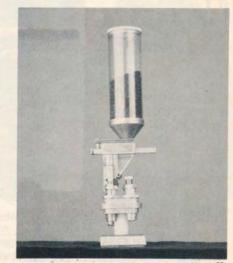
Although the trend toward low-cost sophistication in reloading presses didn't begin with Mike Dillon, the manufacturing techniques he applies, and especially his marketing methods, have resulted in bringing affordability to progressive reloading. The Dillon RL-550, which sells for \$234.95, without a set of carbide dies, is not the least expensive of the so-called progressive rigs, but it is as distinguished for its popularity as it is for having nettled much of handloading's boutique mercantilia to open hostility. Also, the RL-550, like any reloading tool that does things more or less automatically, challenges anyone who delights in finding fault.

Throughout my experience with the RL-550, it has functioned satisfactorily, and has measured up to the claims Dillon has made for it by way of advertising. It has been used extensively to reload .45 ACP, and has been found quite capable of reloading rifle cartridges, such as the .30-06.

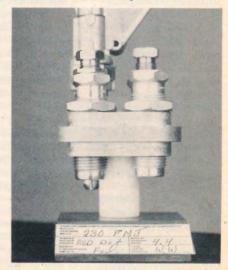
The RL-550 has interchangeable tool heads. It's a good idea, because you can adjust the dies for each caliber you reload and simply swap heads. All you have to do is lift out two small pins and slide in a different set of dies. There is, however, some inconvenience in adjusting the dies in the first place, because of the need to tighten large (1¹/sthinch) hex-type locking rings, which, when the dies are in place, are almost too close together to allow working room. There is, of course, the obvious option of installing and adjusting the dies one at a time, but crowding will occur before you've finished.

The power die, a 7/sths-14 tube, also threads into the tool head. Inside the powder die will be either of two funnel-expanders; one for pistol, or one for rifle. The funnelexpander slides upward on the downstroke of the RL-550's operating handle and performs two jobs: it flares the mouth of the case, and, as it reaches the top of its travel, it activates the powder measure metering mechanism so that a charge is dispensed. The powder die must be adjusted for correct mouth flaring, and so that a full charge of powder is dropped. This is not possible unless the powder measure and its metering assembly are clamped, by means of tightening two sockethead screws, to the top of the powder die. At last, with the dies in place and the powder measure loosely (so you can turn the Continued on page 68

Affordable quality is the Holy Grail of reloading many have searched, but few have found it. That's because Dillon has it!



Powder measure is exceptionally accurate with ball powders, but like all measures it doesn't meter extruded powders well.



Dillon size die in .45 ACP is only one to allow for tapered .45 ACP case (bet you didn't know it's a tapered case!).

the Ayoob Files

An Old and Steady Hand: The Emmett Gholson Incident

Situation: An armed robber orders a civilian to close his eyes and sit still as he prepares to kill. **Lesson:** Proper lethal threat response saves this civilian's life from a seemingly unsurvivable situation.

I ve lost count of the Senior Citizens who've been through my LFI-I civilian class, a program the public seems to think is the province of young athletes with guns in their hands. Each time the course concludes with a man-on-man scenario the student has to live-act with trained role players (often black belts and master shooters who are using dummy guns), I find that the older players show less physiological response to the threat and, as a general rule, handle it better than the young puppy athletes.

At moments like that, I remember Emmett Gholson.

A lot of people remember Emmett, and a few people remember one particular night with him. One of those with the memories must still wake up screaming with recurring nightmares about older black men with guns. And one shares his memories with the devil.

The incident went down in November of 1978. The barber shop on Throop Street in New York City must have looked like a safe place for the psycho criminal and his punk friends to knock off. Hey, here was this old guy and his old friends and customers, just sitting there ripe for the plucking. There couldn't be much money in a barber shop, but what there was would be easy for cowards with cheap, stolen guns to steal, wouldn't it?

The suspect was feeling deadly, unbeatable. Earlier tonight, he and his friends were perpetrating the strong-arm robbery of a Hassidic Jew on Lafayette Avenue. A 32-year-old truck driver from Brooklyn had driven by and seen it happening, stopped, and tried to come to the victim's rescue. The attacker coldly raised his gun and shot the truck driver in the head. He had seen him fall, and just knew he was dead before he ran away. He must have been savoring his obscene power as he stood now, in the doorway of the barber shop, as his accomplice entered and enacted the robbery.

The accomplice had learned well. At least, it seemed so at first. He walked past the greying black man who was seated in the "waiting chair," flashed the gun to the barber so he could see it but no one else could, and ordered him into the back office where the money was supposed to be.

The old-looking black guy in the waiting chair seemed oblivious, just sitting there reading his paper. But, behind his impassive eyes, his mind was racing. Emmett Gholson, 61, had earned his near-entry to senior citizenship by surviving 20 years as a street cop in New York. In his head was a cop's mind, in his wallet was a police ID card punched "retired." And, in a suede holster clipped inside his belt at the small of his back, was the two-inch Smith & Wesson Chief's Special he had carried off-duty for a score of years, and was now the weapon of an official Armed Citizen.

Gholson was a pro, and his first thought was, "This SOB has probably got some backup." It was a second's work for Gholson's eyes to surreptitiously find the first suspect, standing inside the door and pretending to be a customer, but his position and his eyes gave him away. A glance through the window showed Gholson that a third armed robber was stationed outside the barber shop.

Gholson's eyes came back to the man inside the door, and he saw a gun in his hand. He didn't recognize it—all his life the only guns he was into were his duty four-inch and his off-duty two-inch .38 but he knew what it was, and then his eyes locked on the narrow,' wolf-like face of the punk who was holding it.

The badge had been gone for a long time, replaced by a CCW-a permit to Carry a Concealed Weapon-for which so many cops routinely apply when they finish a career of pistol-packing. But the street smarts weren't gone, not at all, nor was "the look." In that instant, presciently, Gholson remembered that just as he could still smell "punk," punks could still smell "cop."

Sure enough, the first robber turned toward Emmett Gholson. Fear showed in his eyes. He had caught a scent he hadn't analyzed yet, but what he sensed somehow terrified him.

"What are you moving around like that for?" the first punk screamed to Gholson, who wasn't moving around at all. Before Emmett could answer, the thug pointed his gun and babbled, "Sit down! Lie down!" Gholson was *already* sitting. He knew that while the robber didn't know what it was that scared him, the robber was about to "lose it," and he had a piece in his hand.

Gholson had to buy time. He froze, motionless, forcing a dumb "Who, me?" look onto his face. But behind that mask, his mind was in high gear. He knew that if he was searched, they'd find his retired cop ID and his Chief .38. And something he caught with his own senses, mixed in the fear-smell the punks were giving off, was the dangerous odor of cornered rats who would kill a man who might be able to identify them.

And, in that instant, Emmett Gholson decided that if he had to die, he'd die fighting.

The man in the doorway, who had already shot one man in the Continued on page 53

This .44 Magnum pulverizes pigs and demolishes rams in the demanding silhouette game. The Llama would make a good choice on the real thing when hunting.

As I lie there in the brilliant Southern California sun, the front sight disappeared. I had always thought those little cuts, from side to side, on the front sight blade were for looks. They are for looking, as the plain blade on the Commanche blended in with all the targets I tried, including black bullseyes, white paper, and dirt colored dirt. Try as I might, I could not get a sight picture worth shooting. On my next trip, I had dug a Gun Smoke smoker out of my PPC kit. A little carbide and water, a flick of the wheel, and the front sight was a velvet black.

I then discovered the only drawback to this revolver – the front sight is too narrow. Even with the glare problem solved, I still could not get a sight picture tight enough for the 150 meter turkeys and 200 meter rams.

I found the right load (13.9g/2400 & 158g JHP) which worked 100% on chickens and pigs, and that heavy barrel soaked up the recoil, so 200 shot sessions were still fun. Even the factory stock fits me, a first on a production revolver. While I never did get a cast bullet load worked out for this piece, I feel that from a steady rest, any target within 100 yards will be hit. With a better front sight, make that 200 yards.

After 1,000 rounds I feel I can offer a valid opinion about the big gun from Llama. It is heavy, although not uncomfortable for all day carry in a proper holster. Its weight absorbs recoil to a remarkable extent, and the muzzle heavy balance aids steady holding. Other than the problems with the front sight, it is capable of placing your shot where you want. After 1,000 rounds of full power (and a few over-power) handloads, I cannot detect any noticeable wear. A quick pass with a silicon cloth brings out the bright blue.

While I have yet to get that 40 straight, this Llama is not a 'woolly-haired South American,' but a suave, capable Spaniard.

LLAMA'S SUPER COMANCHE PIG PUNCHER

By Seth R. Nadel

The Llama is a woolly-haired South American ruminant; also a high quality line of handguns produced in Spain. For some years, the Spanish firm of Llama has been manufacturing handguns, imported under the Stoeger banner. The gunmakers of Vitoria are now offering their .357 Magnum Mark V, with an 8¹/₂-inch barrel. Similar in external appearance to the N frame S&W's, the revolver employs some unique features, including a camming hammer, crane lock, and ventilated rib.

The first thing I noticed about the Llama Mark V is its massive barrel; while not out of place on the large frame, the wall thickness is about twice that of a Smith or Colt. Topped with a vent rib, it creates a smooth, almost elegant line to the gun. The slight sweep to the rear of the bottom of the grip continues the lines.

The second thing I noticed is the weight. I lean toward heavy guns (I use a 5 lb. PPC

gun), and the muzzle heavy feel of the Llama made me think "Silhouette." I could just see those big rams falling at 200 meters.

On my first trip to the range, all I did was gather up all the handloads strewn about my reloading bench. I had checked the bore, tried the timing, and examined the falling hammer, noting that it can strike the primer only after the trigger is pulled. As the trigger is released, the hammer rises off the firing pin to rest against the frame, a variation of the Iver Johnson "Hammer the Hammer" safety. The twin cams on the hand rotated the chambers into perfect, tight alignment with the bore, both at the start of my test and 1,000 rounds later. The crane was, and is, firmly locked by a bolt pressing up into the frame, just ahead of the cylinder. The big gun had a good-to-excellent trigger, so I was ready, or so I thought. I stretched out in a comfortable prone, and received my only major surprise with the Llama.

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McKenna

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AH-3

The search for the elusive "ultimate" handgun bullet is eagerly being sought by shooters and manufacturers alike. Like rifle enthusiasts, there appear to be two factions of pistol shooters who both believe they have the answer. One group holds that a light weight, high velocity, fragile projectile is the answer. They believe that an instantaneous explosive transfer of energy to the target is the most effective form of terminal ballistics. The second group places their faith in a heavier projectile at a moderate velocity (relative to high velocity), combined with a proper bullet shape for deep or complete penetration. The manufacturer of the Glaser Safety Slug produces a product for the followers of the former theory.

Mr. Kurt Canon of Glaser Safety Slug generously provided the American Handgunner with 180 rounds of .45 ACP Glaser ammunition for testing. With this enviable quantity of ammunition on hand it was decided to do as wide a variety of testing as the stock would allow. These tests could then be compared with the results from other evaluations of commercially available ammunition.

Three pistols were selected for a test base. One was a Colt Gov't Model modified for combat competition; i.e. accuracy tuned to $2\frac{1}{2}$ " at 50 yards, trigger job, throating, Bomar sights, etc. The other two pistols were unmodified Colt's: one a Series 70 Gov't Model and the other a Series 80 Officer's Model. Both of the latter pistols had been fired less than 50 rounds before this test. Prior to shooting the Glasers, three rounds were broken down and examined. The average weight of the three projectiles was 142 grains. One bullet was broken down for examination. It was composed of a copper jacket which was filled with lead shot of approximate #12 size. The shot was capped into the jacket with a blue synthetic wad which was crimped into place. The resulting combination had a blunt nose profile.

The bullet was seated in a new, primed Winchester-Western case containing an average of 10.7 grs. of a powder resembling Hercules Unique. The overall length of the loaded round was 1.150 inches.

A note from Mr. Canon, president of *Glaser Safety Slug*, indicates the introduction of a new profile for the .45 ACP Glaser. Mr. Canon states:

"The new round will use a round-nose projectile with a profile identical to the .45 ACP hardball. The objective is to produce a high performance round that will feed better than hardball. I say better because the .45 Glaser produces slightly more recoil moment than the standard hardball. This cartridge will be available in early 1986 and will replace the current 45 ACP Glaser, with no change in price."

Chronographing was conducted using an





Wound shape in ballistic gelatin.

Glaser slug contains pellets.

Searching for the ultimate manstopper? Look no further than the

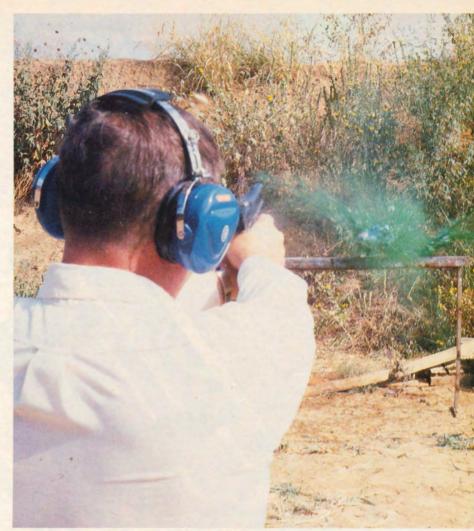


Ochler Model 33 Chronotach with the screens placed 15 feet from the muzzles of the test pistols. The temperature at testing was 75° F. The two Colt Gov't Models with fiveinch barrels produced an average muzzle velocity of 1,357 fps for a calculated energy of 580 foot-pounds. The Glaser ammunition produced an average muzzle velocity of 1,246 fps from the Colt Officer's Model, which yields a calculated energy of 489 foot-pounds.

It was noted that during this phase of the testing that the Glaser ammunition generated *less* felt recoil than the commercial ball ammunition that was used as a control. The muzzle flash and the muzzle blast of the Glaser rounds was noticeably more pronounced than any of the other loads tested.

Limited accuracy testing was performed at 25 yards. Since it appeared unlikely that this ammunition would be used for target shooting, machine-rest testing at 50 yards did not seem appropriate. Rest supported, hand held, five shot groups ranged from $1\frac{1}{2}$ " to $3\frac{1}{4}$ " among the test pistols. The $1\frac{1}{2}$ " group was fired using the competition modified Colt. The largest group fired was with the stock Colt Gov't Model, which had a very poor trigger pull. Winchester Silvertip, PMC hardball, and Nevins 185 gr. JHP ammunition produced comparable results at that range from the test pistols.

Ordnance gelatin was used to test the wounding characteristics and energy transfer of the Glaser bullet. The reason for using *Continued on page 64*



Tests show Glaser devastates water-laden tissue. Just ask milk jug!



Make/Description/Code	Lot				Striking Energy (ft-lbs)	Exit Velocity (ft/sec)	Exit Energy (ft-lbs)	Energy Transfer (ft-lbs)		Eff.
GLASER 142 grain SAFETY SLUG [no code]	31-405	1350	-	-	574	-0-	-0-	574	-	1.0
Federal 230 grain full jacket round nose (45A)	CD31HH	837	6	17	358	691	244	114	8	.31
Hornady-Frontier 200 grain full jacket semi- wadcutter C/T (9111)	23-84-15	912	8	27	369	754	253	117	19	.31
Remington 230 grain full jacket round nose (6645)	LY220	812	8	22	337	655	219	118	16	.34
Federal 185 grain full jacket semi-wadcutter (45B)	2A-4156	758	22	74	236	513	109	128	5	.17
Norma 230 grain jacketed hollowpoint (264)	02919	812	21	70	337	571	166	170	18	.50
Amron 180 grain soft point [no code]	RL6-3	979	24	66	383	699	195	188	12	.49
Remington 185 grain jacketed hollowpoint (R45AP2)	LA03G	914	11	38	343	403	71	272	44	.79
CCI-Speer 200 grain jacketed hollowpoint (3965)	502017	931	10	35	385	314	44	341	16	88
Jurras Super Vel 190 grain jacketed hollow- eint [long nese-no code]	MI12317	1053	17	53	468	518	119	349	55	.74
Winchester 185 grain 'Silvertip' hollowpoint (X45ASHP)	69SN20	941	12	35	364	152	10	353	12	.97

One drawback to Glasers is blinding muzzle hasi

AMERICAN HANDGUNNER • MARCH/APRIL 1986

COLT'S DETECTIVE SPECIAL

A CONTRACT



By Stanley W. Trzoniec

For any gun to have a *raison detre* (reason for being) it must serve a specific purpose. Hunting, defense or numerous other categories fill the needs for different barrel lengths, calibers and related design features. While general sporting duties rely on guns that are pretty common as far as production arms go (4 to 6 inch barrels, target sights, grips, etc.) defensive handguns turn to short tubes, lightweight frames for weight reduction and even go as far as to drop a round in the cylinder (6 to 5) in an effort to make the pistol more concealable for day to day use.

In years past, the town sheriff carried a long barreled Peacemaker on his hip. Times have changed and we find present day detectives, off-duty police and properly licensed civilians now turning towards the popular two-inch weapon. Advances in both physical dimensions and ammunition performance have brought these guns to a comfortable state of well being among knowledgeable law enforcement personnel. Not a cure-all mind you, but a viable weapon that can be the deciding factor in many close encounters, whether they be on the street, a dark alley or even your own home.

Colt, like many others in the field, has tried to fill this void with a series of handguns they aptly call the Detective Special. Speaking for myself, I have carried one for years, a fine specimen of a DS purchased nearly a decade ago. Although most of the time finds this author quite biased to a semi-automatic for personal protection, wheelguns have never lost their edge in some situations, especially with the newer snubbles being turned out by this progressive Hartford, Connecticut firm. home protection plan, let's stick with the higher priced Specials for this report as all guns are physically the same except for finish, weight and price.

Going as far back as 1862, we find the forerunner to the present day DS was a police variation called the Trapper's Model. Equipped with a $3\frac{1}{2}$ inch barrel, the entire run was only fifty units. Sam Colt obviously had concealment and fast draw in mind because this model had no loading lever under the barrel. Instead a brass ramrod was fitted into a hole where this lever would normally be. With only 50 made, collectors are having a field day with this percussion pistol.

In 1927 Colt introduced the Colt Detective Special. Since that time the DS has proved to be one of the most popular hideaway guns in modern times. Catalogued with the standard two-inch barrel, a three-inch tube has been available from time to time. I had one in my hands a few years back and its balance was superb. It seemed the longer barrel started to equal the weight in the cylinder and grip end. Checking current stats, Colt only lists the two-inch barrel, blued or nickel, at \$399.95 and \$449.95 respectively.

Compared to my Special, aged by use, the newer models are very close in most respects. The polishing is the same high quality Colt is known for. The bluing is rich, almost satin in hue. Colt's nickel is beyond reproach; it is buff free, deep and clean looking. In fact, scrutinizing all weapons extremely close, I find the only part I could find fault with was some minor polishing marks on the cylinder crane. Other than this discrepancy, I give high marks on appearance.

This thoroughbred from the Colt Stables is perhaps the finest snubnose .38 Special!

Colt, like many others in the field has tried to fill this void with a series of handguns they aptly call the Detective Special. Speaking for myself, I have carried one for years, a fine specimen of a DS purchased nearly a decade ago. Although most of the time finds this author quite biased to a semi-automatic for personal protection, wheelguns have never lost their edge in some situations, especially with the newer snubbles being turned out by this progressive Hartford, Connecticut firm.

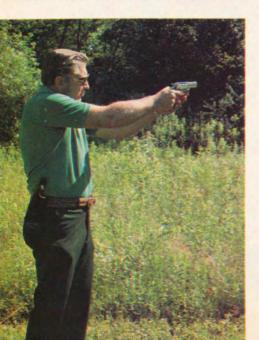
At the present time Colt lists four models in the "D" frame series all conforming to Detective Special specs. Two are true Detective Specials (#D1425 & D1426) available in polished blue or nickel. The other half of the total relates to models called the "Agent Lightweight" and the "Commando Special." Not as finely tuned or finished as the Specials (they are parkerized or matte finished) nevertheless these guns can fill the bill if budget restrictions face you. Assuming pride is paramount in any spit and polish operation or

For a gun that is to be used for what Handgunner's Massad Ayoob calls the "gravest extreme," the grips are sure to raise some hackles. But only to a point. Guns of this type tend to lose their raison detre when the owner starts to guzzy them up with oversize combat or target grips. The grips on the DS reflect an ideal compromise in reasonable handfilling qualities. They do extend below the grip frame by a modest 3/4 of an inch and carry a slight filler forward of the frame. Checkered to a pleasing point pattern, they help to control the piece during rapid fire. Finished with a satin oil, they represent an improvement over the previously glossy finished handles. Thumb rests on either side make the gun handy.

Colt's ignition system consists of the traditional leaf or "V" spring. As the hammer is drawn back, the spring is compressed horizontally. Upon release, the spring under tension pushes upwards, thrusting the hammer against the cartridge primer. It is also inter-







esting to note that while the hammer is back there is some rotational play in the cylinder. When the hammer firing pin strikes the case, and typical of all Colt wheelguns, all play is then taken out of the cylinder locking it up tight. This not only helps to prevent lead shaving because of off center charge holes, but also adds to accuracy by getting the bullet on a direct line of flight down the bore.

This gun is all steel for added heft checking in around 22 ounces empty. Barrel twist is left hand, 6 groove, one turn in 14 inches. The barrel incorporates a shrouded ejector rod something I am in favor of particularly in a defensive weapon. In concert with the gun's nicely rounded off muzzle, this feature not only aids in the insertion into one's pocket, belt or holster, but also protects the piece from abuse.

Six-shot defensive guns always have a place in my heart and considering the slight extra bulk involved in such a configuration, the effort is well worth it. Most people are weaned on six shooters and are used to it, so the transition is easy. Believe it or not, there are people who count shots as they fire their weapon, so familiarity with your carry gun is a big plus in surviving any firefight.

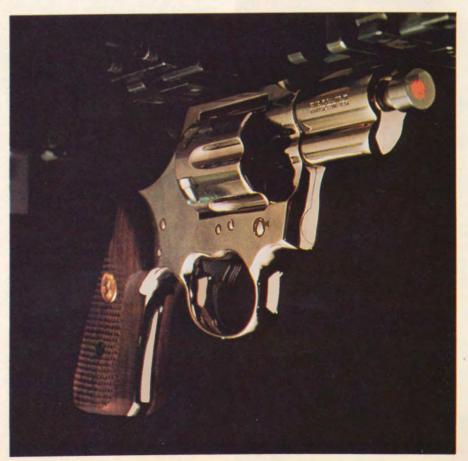
A ramp front sight is standard fare and the top frame is grooved along its entire length for ease of sight acquisition. As this particular handgun is used at close distances, sighting error is irrelevant. At five yards or less, we are strictly talking about a point and shoot proposition. To complete the picture, the hammer is serrated and the trigger is smooth for a good double action let off.

When discussing an ultra-short barreled gun, the topic always surfaces relating to firepower especially in those arms chambered for the .38 Special. Defensively, the .38 does not rank up there in relative knockdown power but recent innovations in ammunition have improved matters somewhat. Before the advent of the newer +Ploads, .38 Special factory round nosed ammunition blasted its way out of two-inch barrels at roughly 720 fps. Plus-P loads now hit the low end of 770 fps, about a 7% increase. Granted it is not much, but then again, when you start at bare minimums anything that can make it better, is better for all concerned.

But watch out for wear on your Colt D framed revolver. Colt states, among other things, and I quote, "EXTENSIVE USE OF + P .38 SPECIAL AMMUNITION WILL ACCELERATE WEAR IN YOUR REVOLVER." They (Colt) also state that you should have your revolver checked periodically by a Colt repair station after 2000 to 3000 rounds in a STEEL FRAMED GUN. There is obviously a large safety margin incorporated here as I personally know of no one who has run that many + P rounds through their Detective Special.

Sandbag testing of this type of a firearm is Continued on page 68

The author (left) performs a draw with Detective Special from concealment holster. Detective Special (below) at Colt factory undergoing bore sighting of fixed sights with unique Colt laser sighting device.



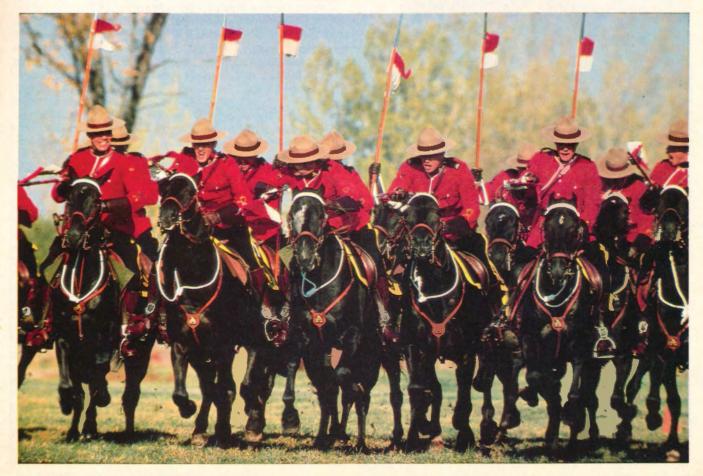
The Royal Canadian Mounted Police is one of the most elite police forces in the world, rubbing elbows with other spit and polish outfits like Britain's Scotland Yard, West Germany's GS-G9 and Italy's Carabinieri. Adorned in full-dress regalia of red tunic and black riding jodhpurs, a Mounted Policeman strikes an imposing profile augmented by an intense esprit de corps. But the well-deserved reputation of the RCMP goes beyond pretty parade uniforms and prancing black stallions. Solid training in police investigation techniques, arrest procedures, the law and, of course, the use of their handguns is the real basis of their renowned tradition.

A Mounted Policeman (please, don't call

them "mounties," a misnomer invented by Hollywood) carries many badges. The RCMP is responsible for the law enforcement activities handled by a hodge-podge of American agencies including the FBI, Secret Service, BATF, DEA, state highway patrol, county sheriff, rural city police and provincial police. They do, and do well, such diverse jobs as executive protection, murder investigation, narcotics, bank robbery, treason, organized crime, and a wide variety of other police tasks on a national level. Essentially, the RCMP handles anything local city police departments can't solve.

Before going any further, let's dispel a few myths about the RCMP. Their motto is not.

The Guns of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police By Cameron Hopkins



"We Always Get Our Man," another Hollywood fabrication, but "Maintein le Driot" or Maintain (Uphold) The Right. The Mounted Police are not, in fact, mounted. The force disbanded the last of their mounted units in 1976-77 primarily due to cost. Horses are still used in some remote areas of their jurisdiction, as are dog sleds for that matter, but the majority of the troopers ride patrol in squad cars. The RCMP maintains a mounted troop for show purposes only and they perform an extraordinary show. The show's finale, a lancer charge, harkens back to the grand days of cavalry regiments as the troopers dip their lances and gallop their mounts in mock charge.

But today the horse and lance are replaced by a Smith and Wesson Model 10, M&P model, and handcuffs. Their duty .38 Special revolver is the latest in a handgun evolution that dates back to the founding of the RCMP in 1873 (then known as the North-West Canadian Mounted Police.) Before delving into their current handgun and their training regimen, let's skim back in history and look at the handguns of the Mounted Police.

Many of the original NWMP officers had

An evolution of RCMP handguns from top to bottom: Adams First Model, .450 Adams Adams Second Model, .450 Adams Colt New Service, .45 Long Colt S&W Model 10, .38 Special (current issue)



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served in the British Imperial Army and were naturally partial to British revolvers. The first service revolver was, naturally, British, the Adams Side-Rod Ejector, or First Model, in caliber .450 Adams. This was standard issue of the Imperial Army at the time. Firing the .450 Adams cartridge, the Adams First Model was a six- shooter, double-action, with a six-inch barrel. This handgun, which RCMP for 49 years as their duty weapon. During firearms qualification in 1907, a New Service became the first handgun in RCMP history to shoot a perfect score of 100. For you trivia buffs, the RCMP paid \$15 each for their Colts in 1904.

And then in 1954 the RCMP adopted their current duty sidearm, the Smith and Wesson .38 Special Military and Police Model. The Despite Sgt. Robertson's efforts at bringing the latest training techniques to the RCMP, the force is still saddled with hard-tobuck traditions. Traditions like a departmental policy which prohibits carrying a handgun off-duty. Traditions like the flap-holster.

"As a matter of fact," Sgt. Robertson lamented, "we've been pushing real hard (to do away with the flap holster). Our represent-



Sgt. Bill Robertson, RCMP Firearms Training Officer, demonstrates draw from flap holster. He concedes it is not the best police holster.

fired a 225 grain bullet at 675 fps, was short lived due to the side-rod ejector which damaged easily making the gun unreliable.

The Adams First Model was therefore replaced with—what else?—the Second Model which solved the problem of the siderod ejector. The Second Model, like the First, was loaded by means of a loading gate like on a Colt SAA, but it featured a slimmed down ejector rod housed in the cylinder pin drilled out to accommodate it. With the loading gate open, a shove on the rod ejected each spent case in turn. The Second Model also fired the .450 Adams cartridge.

Then in 1883 the NWMP switched to Enfield Revolvers, Models of 1882 and 1884. Both fired the .476 Enfield cartridge using a 265 grain bullet at 750 fps. The Enfield boasted considerably more stopping power with its .476-inch bore diameter and 265 grain bullet. Like the Adams, it was doubleaction but could be fired single-action. The Enfield's ejection action was a vast improvement. It was a top break design which allowed the barrel to come forward and down, pivoting on a transverse pin at the forward end of the frame. The cylinder was drawn ahead while the ejector spindle remained stationary. This breaking action drew the fired rounds from the cylinder and they then could be shaken free. To load, the cylinder was closed and rounds loaded through a loading gate on the right side of the frame.

The next handgun in the history of the RCMP was the Colt New Service in .45 Long Colt firing a 265 grain bullet at 750 fps. The rugged and reliable Colt stayed with the

present day issue is identical to a stock Model 10 except for the addition of a lanyard loop at the bottom of the grip frame and a five-inch barrel.

Sergeant Bill Robertson, firearms training officer at the RCMP training center in Regina, Saskatchewan, explained to the *Handgunner* why the RCMP opted for such an odd-ball barrel length. "We don't like doing things like everyone else—we like to be a little different. Actually, I suppose it's because someone said four-inches was too short and six-inches was too long."

Recruits enjoy a total of 58 hours of firearms training under Sgt. Robertson's expert tutelage. "Survival training-this is what we're teaching. The recruits are not here to just have fun shooting," he said. The PPC method of training is very much in vogue with the "administration," but Sgt. Robertson said he's slowly being able to incorporate more modern training practices. Sgt. Robertson teaches the proper use of cover with inventive props . He teaches them such street-wise practices like using the engine block of a patrol car for cover or a fire hydrant, if nothing else is nearby. The recruits watch "shoot-don't shoot" training films on white bed sheets on the range and they respond, with their sidearms, to the film's scenarios. Sgt. Robertson encourages his recruits to participate in PPC shooting, but admonishes them not to take any bad habits onto the streets. He knows the horror stories of PPC trained cops dying as they reach down to pick up their brass. As he said, "The sitting position at 50 yards is not very useful (on the street)."

ative is promoting a break-front holster with retaining capabilities. Even if we go away from it (flap-holster) we'll still use it for dress uniform. The dress uniform just wouldn't be the same without it."

The RCMP has an excellent lethal force policy, well written and carefully worded. It says:

The only thing that justifies a Peace Officer to shoot another Human Being is the Overwhelming need to cause that person to immediately cease what he is doing. The need must be so great that it does not matter if the person dies as a result of being stopped.

(Capital letters are as they appeared on a sign in the RCMP firearms training building.)

Having had the opportunity to tour the RCMP firearms training center and chat with its Training Officer, I am impressed with an aspect of the RCMP I have rarely seen before. That is *esprit de corps*. If you don't speak French, call it morale, call it team spirit, call it loyalty. It means that the RCMP is composed of dedicated and devoted men and women. It means that the recruits I saw there had a sparkle in their eyes, the same sparkle you see in the eyes of West Point men, Navy SEALS or any other elite group who are the best, and know they are the best. Most RCMP officers serve for life.

If you ever make it up to the Great White North, do yourself a favor. Go see the RCMP facility in Regina, Saskatchewan. You'll come away impressed and astonished at one of the most elite police forces in the world, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. J Michael Plaxco combines artistry in pistolsmithing with experience in competition to create one of the finest conversions of a Colt Government Model .45 ACP auto pistol featuring his excellent Plaxco Compensator System. Many pistolsmiths claim their products are "championship proven," but only one man in America can rightfully state his pistols are *really* championship proven. That man is Mike Plaxco.

Of all the pistolsmiths in America, only Mike Plaxco is a proven *champion* of IPSC. Mike is the 1982 IPSC United States National Champion. He is the 1982 World Speed Shooting Champion, and the 1985 Soldier of Fortune Champion. He was a member of the United States Gold Team that won the 1983 IPSC World Championship. Indeed, when you become a client of Mike Plaxco you get a championship proven pistol built by a champion.

And what a custom pistol the Plaxco Colt conversion is! Creative artistic touches lend an aesthetic appeal to a practical, functional design. The Plaxco compensator, now in its third evolution, is a refinement based on years of experience in the crucible of competition, the only reliable proving ground for IPSC pistols.

Starting with a new Colt Series 80 Government Model in .45 ACP, Mike began to work his magic by fitting a custom six-inch barrel. The barrel is fitted precisely with the

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locking lugs camming into the locking recesses securely. One gets the impression of a bank vault door sealing shut when inspecting the barrel lock-up. Superb! The barrel is properly throated for reliable feeding of all types of bullets.

Threaded and locked onto the end of the match-grade barrel is a Plaxco compensator. Few people realize that Mike Plaxco invented one of the first expansion chamber compensators, and he is still credited with pioneering that technology. Of course his expansion chamber has improved since he won the IPSC National Championship with the first version in 1982. The 1986 compensator reduces muzzle rise and felt recoil by channeling powder gases upwards to thwart

1982 IPSC United States National Champion Mike Plaxco is the only IPSC champion pistolsmith in America combining his champion's experience in every pistol he creates!

COLTS PT. F.A. MEG. CO. HARTFORD, CONN. U.S.A.



recoil. One of the significant advantages of the Plaxco compensator over other types is the light weight of the Plaxco comp allowing for greater control when engaging multiple targets at maximum speed. Most comps are quite heavy making a pistol difficult to track multiple targets without "over-swing."

Bo-Mar adjustable combat sights are dovetailed into the slide along with a custom made front sight securely mated to the front of the slide. The ejection port is lowered tastefully for reliable ejection of spent cases.

The front strap features exquisite metal checkering to provide purchase to the weapon. The checkering is flawless at 20 lpi (lines per inch). The front of the trigger guard is checkered at 30 lpi, and the mainspring housing also boasts Plaxco's special checkering at 20 lpi.

Other attractions include a Safari Arms beavertail grip safety and extended thumb safety. The magazine well is bevelled for facilitating rapid magazine changes. A gorgeous pair of Hogue stocks adorn the weapon. There is a skeletonized aluminum trigger.

At the heart of the Plaxco Custom Colt is a superb trigger job, crisp, light and authoritative. Despite the problems of the Series 80 Colt to good triggers, Mike mastered a fantastic trigger pull for the lucky winner of this Custom Gun Giveaway. A Colt magazine with a Plaxco bumper pad comes with the prize. Mike also offers his custom conversions on Colt .38 Supers as well as the popular .45 ACP. Turn-around time for a full-house Plaxco Custom Pistol varies with seasonal demand, but three months is average.

Mike is the sole craftsman in Plaxco Custom Shop. When you order a custom Colt from Mike, you will get a beautiful custom pistol built by Mike Plaxco himself, personally. No "production custom" from this Arkansas pistolsmith—only the real thing made painstakingly by the man himself.

A championship proven pistol built by a National Champion. Only J. Michael Plaxco can make that statement, and you will agree that his pistolsmithing genius matches his champion's performance.

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

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Address			
City & State		\$,	
HOM MAR/A	PR 1986 Phone	×	
f I win, please	ship my gun hroug	h the followin	g dealer:
f I win, please	ship my gun hroug	h the followin	g dealer:
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if I win, please Dealer	e ship my sun hroug	h the followin	g dealer:

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



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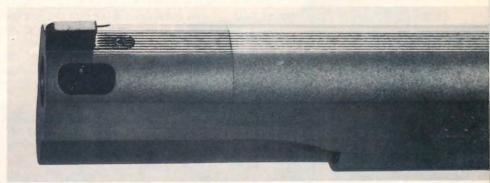


If you own a gorgeous Richard Heinie custom Colt .45, it won't take you long to say. . . .

Ask Me About My Heinie!



Mike Schaefer triggers double-tap. Note lack of muzzle rise.



Heinie comp assembly blends gracefully with slide. Note serrations.



By Jim Weller

Favorites! Everyone has them in any fendeavor. I've been active in IPSC now for almost eight years, and I don't think there's a match goes by that someone doesn't come up to me and asks who they can contact to get this or that done to their .45. When asked my favorite, one of the first names out of my mouth is Dick Heinie.

Dick is one of those rare individuals who, after developing a reputation that has him backlogged in work, still runs a one-man shop, refusing to hire more help for the sake of mass production. Instead, he prides himself in his work, done individually on each gun. The result is a lengthy wait for fullhouse IPSC specials, but a wait that is more than worth it.

At one time employed as a tool designer, Dick was doing gunsmithing part-time in his basement. A lay-off from his regular job made the decision for him to go into gunsmithing full time. A decision that neither he nor his customers regret one bit. I've fired several examples of his work, and I currently own one of his five-inch street guns that has had over 3,500 rounds through it without one single malfunction. That includes everything from JHP rounds to lead reloads. I've never seen a Heinie .45 malfunction, and I've probably fired more rounds through his creations than any other. I won't claim that it's never happened - just that I've never seen it and that includes over 5,000 rounds of my own ammunition. Every one of his guns I've ever fired would always feed every bullet shape from any magazine I used. That isn't some-



Squared trigger guard and flawless checkering are Heinie hallmarks.

Swaged and bevelled mag well allows for rapid mag changes.

Hoag grip safety, Hogue stocks and Swenson thumb safety add to appeal. thing I can say for a few other custom .45s I've tried.

For some time Dick had been offering compensated .45s which were built with a comp blank purchased from Steve Nastoff. He machined his own ports in the blank so that the sights could be mounted on the end of the compensator itself, rather than at the rear. When he mentioned that he had developed his own unit and that it seemed to be working quite well, I didn't waste any time in asking to try one out. He allowed that I could try not one, but both of them. "Both of them?" Yessirree, there are two different packages to choose from. The only catch was that I couldn't have both of them at the same time. There were a bunch of them under construction, but the only two available were his own personal guns and he needed to keep one for his own use.

Two weeks later, the first gun arrived. This one was the original prototype he had developed and was an "A" model. It shares most features with, you guessed it, the "B" model. Since both guns were his own personal pieces, they naturally were built with everything you can order from him and are real showcases from a true master of the art.

The "A" gun was built from a Series 70 MKIV and finished in blue, while the "B" gun was made from a brand new Series 80 in stainless steel. Both guns feature the following work in addition to the compensators:

- ★ Top of slides milled flat and serrated
- * Hoag grip safeties
- * Swenson Ambidextrous Safeties
- ★ Rear of slide serrated/checkered
- Skeletonized and checkered Commander hammers
- ★ Trigger guards squared and checkered
- ★ Front strap checkered
- ★ Long ejectors
- ★ Ejection ports flared and lowered

All of these features are time consuming and require great attention to detail. In-that respect I tell you in absolute sincerity that Dick Heinie's metalwork may be equalled by some, but it will never be surpassed. His metal checkering is totally devoid of any overruns or dull points, and his matching of parts is totally flawless. A 100% Heinie prepared gun is a thing of beauty.

Found on both guns was a rather unique item in the mainspring housing. In just looking at it, there was something that was, well, different. It looked like a flat housing, but something wasn't right. I called him and mentioned it, and he said, "You're absolutely right. It isn't a flat housing at all, but an arched one that I mill down to match the exact contour of the rear of the frame, then checker it. The result is checkering that, rather than extending outward a sixteenth of an inch, is actually slightly recessed, giving a good non-slip grip without digging into the palm of the hand and becoming uncomfortable over periods of extended firing." I'll vouch for that. I wouldn't have thought that something like that would make a difference, but it may possibly be the most comfortable .45 you'll ever hold.

Another nice touch was his flared magazine well. I've seen some done so far that there were hairline cracks seen in the frame. Dick's aren't nearly that radical, but are done just enough so that my reloading time was cut considerably over a standard beveled well.

Topping off the gun is a set of Heinie's own excellent fixed sights. What, no buried Bo-Mars? Nope, and I for one absolutely applaud this move. He uses an undercut post front that is dovetailed into the front of the compensator and serrated on the rear. It's one fine sight picture at just over half the price of the Bo-Mars, and these sights don't have any screws to come loose or blades to damage. I really believe that if more shooters would try this combination they would be extremely happy with it.

Now let's get down to the meat of the things-the compensators themselves. Both the A and B comps feature a slide that is cut back one-half inch. The A gun utilizes a five-inch barrel (presently Bar-Stos) which, with the addition of the compensator body, gives the shooter a .45 that is only one-half inch longer than a standard five-inch gun. On the other hand, the B model uses a five and one-half-inch barrel with enough compensator to give you a gun which is equal in size to a full six-inch long slide. He is presently using six-inch Bar-Sto barrels which he cuts back and re-crowns to get the desired length, but he is negotiating with other barrel makers to get units custom made for this application. The A gun tested here was the prototype and used a Douglas blank custom turned for Heinie by NAPCO. The barrels are fitted to the slide using the cone principle rather than a bushing. His cones are presently being made and then sleeved onto the barrel, but he is hoping to find a barrel maker that will machine the cone directly onto the barrel, making the whole thing one-piece construction.

There are two ports on the comp which Dick machines into the body and then finishes up with the expansion chamber. Some gunsmiths talk about an exit hole of sixteen thousandths over bullet diameter. The one in the Heinie compensator is only *eight* thousandths oversize. That, friends, is tight.

Also installed is a full-length recoil rod that extends forward into the bottom of the comp body. Removal is accomplished by locking the slide to the rear and using a short piece of nail dropped into a hole in the side of the rod. Releasing the slide allows the entire unit to be removed for cleaning without springs and plungers taking off for parts unknown.

The Series A was tested first, and the initial shooting consisted of over 400 rounds of my IPSC load. Incidentally, both Dick and I use the same load for IPSC, which is the H&G 68 ahead of 5.2 grains of Winchester 452AA. He sights in every gun that leaves his shop with this load and it is extremely accurate. It also clocked an average of 880 fps from the five-inch Douglas tube on the test gun. Through 400 rounds in one shooting session, there wasn't any type of failure, even though the interior of the gun became abso-

lutely grimy. So much for tightened, accurized guns not being reliable when dirty. This particular gun had over 3,500 rounds through it before it got to me, and was so tight that I couldn't discern any play in either barrel or slide. Shooting rollover prone groups at 50 yards produced some nice four-inch groups which for me isn't bad. I'm certain that some Ransom rested groups would be under that by quite a bit. This gun was lightning fast from the holster. After all, another half-inch is nothing sizewise. The gun was a dream to shoot, and the muzzle jump was not enough to bother mentioning.

I have to admit that sending that gun back hurt some, but soon after, the B series gun arrived. Due to bad weather, it was impossible to get to the range right away, so the first opportunity I had to fire it was at a match. Right out of the box and into the holster it went. Like its shorter brother, the B performed without a hitch. Its appearance is rather awesome because of its length. Oddly enough, the muzzle jump on the longer gun felt just a hair more than the shorter one, but just barely. Heinie theorized over the phone that it was due to the longer barrel. However, I opined that a half inch more shouldn't make that much difference, especially with the extra weight of the larger compensator. We both feel it is a strange phenomenon, yet Dick has captured it on film. Using a 35mm camera with motor drive, photos were taken of both guns being fired side by side, and the Continued on page 67





By Jan van Driel

To say that in America the general attitude towards the carrying of arms by the police is different from the attitude in Europe could qualify for the title "Understatement of the Year." In the USA, the general acceptance of firearms (in spite of anti-gun lobbies) is much bigger than here and therefore the fact that policemen have to carry (and sometimes use) a firearm will more easily be accepted as one of the inevitabilities of life.

In Europe the situation is quite different. First, there are the gun laws that make it impossible for most private persons to own guns. Possession of guns is restricted to members of gun clubs and licensed hunters who, both, every year have to justify their license by proving that they used their guns while participating in contests, hunting, etc. In some countries the laws are less restrictive (Belgium, France) allowing people to possess shotguns or rimfire rifles. Some countries have even more strict rules: in Germany hollowpoint handgun ammunition is forbidden. In Holland you cannot possess nonshooting replicas. Even toy guns have to be of bright red or blue plastic so that they cannot be used for threatening people.



Officer Ron van Haarlem demonstrates outmoded FBI crouch (above) and street-wise use of cover behind patrol car.

oction

Our European correspondent reports on the handguns and duty ammo of Dutch police. They face a few problems that make our "pro-criminal" laws seem mild.

Secondly, there is public opinion and the press. Because of restrictive laws the only experience that most people have with guns comes either from the army or from watching TV. Besides that, occurrences that involve guns are always extensively covered in the press. The resulting one-sided information, combined with memories from two World Wars that raged on this continent, causes a blind fear for anything that shoots, making manipulation by anti-gun politicians very easy. This, of course, influences any decision that concerns the acquisition or use of firearms by the police. In the case I will be reviewing now this had disastrous results.

Since the beginning of this century the public attitude has influenced the choice of police handguns. I say handguns because long guns for police are a different, even more complicated story. In England the police do not carry guns at all. In many other countries the weapon was more considered a part of the uniform rather than a means of defense. A gun was chosen either for being small and unobtrusive or for being cheap (army surplus). Remember that the guns are always bought by the department, never by the individual officer.

The choice of ammunition used to go along the same general lines. Calibers were chosen either because of availability through military surplus (9mm Luger and .380 ACP) or because the guns for it were small (.32 ACP). Weapons like the Walther PP and PPK, the MAB D and the Browning 10/22 were in very widespread use. The latter type was also the standard sidearm of the Dutch police.

In the Seventies the world was rocked by the activities of several terroristic groups like Brigatte Rosse and Rote Armee Fraktion. These people were not limited by any rules so they were found with 13 shot High Powers, Colt Governments, .357 Magnum revolvers, and hand grenades. Several shoot-outs and a number of dead policemen and politicians later, the Dutch government, just like all the governments in Europe, realized that, in the present time, the armament they were using



Dutch police must make do with inferior duty ammo. How? Tactics!

was grossly inadequate. An unusually thorough search for a new standard police sidearm and proper ammunition was started.

The Dutch government drew up a list of demands and gave it to several companies. Things like size, weight, reliability, accuracy, safety, ambidexterity, simplicity and sighting system were to be considered. Quite a number of guns entered the contest: The SIG-Sauer 220 and 225, the Heckler & Koch P7, the Walther P5, the Browning DA High Power and the Manurhin MR 73 revolver (!) in 9mm Luger. The SIG-Sauer 230 and the Beretta 84P in 9mm. The Ruger Service Six in .38 Spl. and the Browning 125 in .32 ACP. After long disputes and tests the Walther P5 (9mm Luger) was chosen. In the report, however, one condition was made for the acceptance of the P5: a new type of ammunition had to be found.

The standard ball ammunition, as used by the military, would be only a marginal improvement over the .32 ACP. Apart from that, it possesses the extra disadvantages of overpenetration and ricochet danger. To find a more suitable round, another list of specifications was produced, demanding things like high incapacitating ability (defined as RII), good accuracy, little penetration of the body, deep penetration of hard objects, little ricochet danger and, as much as possible, limited maximum range.

Though these demands are almost contradictory to each other, several German companies managed to produce ammunition that very well conforms to most of them. One round is known in the USA: it is the GECO "action geschoss," sold in the USA as the BAT. Another was produced by MEN and was called "quick defense" or QD. Both are excellent stoppers. They transfer all their energy to a 6" block of gelatin without exiting. They defeat car doors and wood almost as well as FMJ bullets but their maximum range is about half that of the standard ball. A *Continued on page 70*

Holmes MP-83 Assault Pistol

The assault pistol —is it a handgun or a novelty? You decide!

By J.B. Wood

The new breed of handguns called assault pistols has several advantages for home defense and law enforcement use. The two most obvious ones are large magazine capacity and a submachinegun look. Most of the guns in this category have a utilitarian appearance, with squarish lines and a military-style finish. There's one, though, that has sleek contours and an elegance reminiscent of the C96 Mauser. It's the Holmes MP-83, and its good lines are complemented by blued steel and nicely-figured walnut.

It's an odd thing that this fine-looking piece had its beginning as a design project on a lightweight submachinegun for military test purposes. Bill Holmes, designer of the gun, has more than 30 years of gunsmithing experience, and this is evident when you study the design of his pistol. While the full-auto versions were not adopted by the military, they are still being made for law enforcement use and for licensed civilian shooters. For the rest of us, I'm glad to report that there is also a semi-auto, closed-bolt model available in 9mm Parabellum and .45 Auto. My own gun is the 9mm, and it's an early-production piece, made before Bill reshaped the trigger slightly to hide the trigger bar mechanism. Otherwise, the gun shown here is practically the same as those in current production. Aside from its slim, clean lines, one of the most striking external features of the MP-83 is the ringed walnut sleeve that surrounds the barrel. A solid block of walnut is also used

for the pistol grip, and this is secured to the lower receiver by a single through-bolt.

A nicely-knurled ring retains the front sight and barrel sleeve, and studs and keyways keep them from rotation. Another knurled ring retains the barrel, and a knurled endcap closes the rear of the receiver. The entire top portion of the gun can be disassembled without tools, for easy cleaning of the barrel and bolt assembly. The square post/square notch sights are large and easily seen, and the rear sight can be drifted horizontally in the dovetail of its heavy base. The bolt cocking handle is angled upward on the left side of the receiver, and its knurled and ringed surface makes retraction easy.

The safety is located at the top of the grip on the left side, set into a recess, and the offsafe movement is downward. Internally, the safety mechanism directly blocks the sear. If the hammer is in fired position and the safety is engaged, the bolt can't be retracted. The MP-83 has a true pivoting hammer, and this gives fast lock-time and contributes to a nice trigger pull. Another reason for the good pull is that the sear is mounted behind the hammer, giving excellent mechanical advantage.

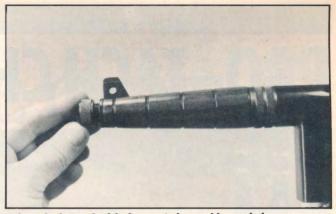
The materials used in this pistol are the very best, and the workmanship is outstanding. The bolt, hammer, and sear are made of 4340 stainless steel, and all of the parts in the gun are machined, not stamped. The extractor is large and well-shaped for strength and good case grip, and the bolt face is fully recessed to enclose the rim of the cartridge. During bolt recoil, the front tip of the bolt spring guide emerges from the bolt face to serve as a strong and efficient ejector. At the rear, a large nylon buffer cushions the impact of the bolt.

The magazine catch is conveniently located at the lower front of the trigger housing, and the thumb will naturally fall on this lever as the magazine is grasped for removal. The lever is pushed toward the magazine for release. For rapid changes, a finger of the hand on the grip can tap the latch, and the empty magazine will drop. Slightly-modified Sten magazines are used, and in full length these hold 32 rounds. Offered as an option is a half-length 16-round magazine. The magazines are good, solid military surplus, and though they are refinished after alteration, they still show their ancestry of wartime construction at Enfield. All of the other parts, however, show meticulous hand-fitting.

At the range, I tried the MP-83 with fulljacket 9mm loads by CCI (Blazers) and Federal (123-grain FMJ), and with the Super Vel 112-grain JSP load. Winchester 115-grain Silvertip hollowpoints were also fired. The Holmes handled all of them without a single malfunction. On standard targets at 25 yards, fired from a casual rest, many of the groups were a single ragged hole, and most of them measured under one inch. The best group with the Federal full-jacket load measured ³/₄ of an inch vertically, ⁵/₈ of an inch horizon-



Magazine catch is pushed forward to release mag.



A knurled ring holds front sight and barrel sleeve.

tally. All were in the 10-ring, just to left of center.

I drifted the rear sight a little to the right, and the next group, with the Super Vel rounds, was all in the X-ring, measuring one inch both ways. As a general rule, assault pistols just don't shoot this well. The MP-83 does. The trigger has a smooth surface and is curved to fit the finger well. The pull is crisp and light, with a very small amount of slack and absolutely no overtravel.

I was temporarily out of combat silhouette

targets, so I set up a small 7 x 81/2 inch sighting-in target at 15 feet, and fired the pistol from belt level, using the walnut barrel sleeve as a hand-hold. All five rounds were on the paper, so it would be easy to keep the hits in vital areas if the gun were being used for serious work. The felt recoil was relatively light, with the massive bolt and nylon buffer soaking up a lot of it. The one hold that should not be used is to grasp the magazine below its housing, as a hasty grip in that area might depress the magazine release.

Continued on page 66

Specifications

Weight: Length: Barrel length: Sight radius: Magazine capacity: 16 and 32 rounds \$450 Retail price: Manufacturer: Holmes Firearms P.O. Box 2127 Wheeler, Arkansas 72775 **Distributor:** D. B. Distributing Rt. 2-Box 189-D Fayetteville, Ark. 72701

31/2 pounds 141/2 inches 6 inches 12 inches



Holmes MP-83 field strips easily for maintenance and cleaning.



PRO-TACH CHRONOGRAPH

This self-contained unit from Competition Electronics, makers of the Pro-Shot timer, offers you convenience, quality and low price.

By Jim Weller

There isn't a shooter/reloader anywhere that at one time or another hasn't wished for a chance to check the velocity of his reloads. For those of you who compete in IPSC on a regular basis, this could be important in fine tuning your powder charge to make the major scoring while holding recoil to as little as possible. This certainly requires the use of a chronograph.

There are several good quality brands on the market. Probably the most famous is the Oehler. While it is indeed a fine instrument, the initial cost of almost \$400 can be prohibitive to some. All of them require batteries for power, with some using several flashlight batteries, and others using the large lantern type units. They usually require an armful of equipment to carry around, i.e., skyscreens, stands, wires, and the chronograph.

Now what would you say if I told you that there's a chronograph available that's so



Pro-Tach display is easy to read.

unique and compact that you can pick it up in one hand and carry if around complete? One that reads out average velocity for shot strings as well as the number of rounds fired, and has a low battery indicator to let you know when replacement time is near. Or, how about an LCD readout screen that automatically reads out your velocity from shot to shot without resetting? The entire unit is powered by one small nine-volt transistor battery that's good for up to 20 hours of continuous use. It's called the Pro-Tach and it's made by Competition Electronics. These are the same people who brought you the Pro-Shot and the Pro-Timer II electronic timers that are being so widely used in IPSC competition today.

The entire unit is one piece, molded ABFtype plastic, measuring a compact 25" x $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x 3". In the top of the case are two slots, beneath which the skyscreen sensors are located. Included with each unit are four heavy cardboard aiming plaques. These have tabs on one end that fit into slots cut on top of the case. With two of these in place, simply fire through the oblong holes cut into each card, and the bullet is placed properly to be picked up by the sensors. Each card also has two aiming points marked on them, one for iron sights and one for scopes. That's a nice touch, and it gives the shooter using a scope some clearance so that the unit doesn't get shot when using a scope sighted weapon.

Another included accessory is a set of light diffusers. A chronograph using skyscreens does its best work on a cloudy, overcast day. Bright overhead sunlight can cause erroneous readings due to the harsh light glaring off the bullet. The diffusers snap onto the plaques and act like opaque umbrellas on a bright day, or "portable clouds" as it were. Once the battery is in place and the unit set up, it's turned on with a small slider switch located on the left side of the case as you face it. The screen will then show "8888", then "00", then the word "Err" in that order. When "Err" appears, then you're ready to start shooting. On the sample unit, it doesn't always make the change and sometimes stays on "8888." In that event, I simply pass my hand over the front sensor and the screen completes the cycle so I can begin shooting.

Let's say you want to check out five rounds of a particular load. At the first shot, the LCD display will immediately read out bullet speed. This stays on the screen until the next round is fired and so on. After the final round, walk to the unit and run your hand over the front sensor slot. The screen will read out the number of rounds fired, followed by the average velocity for that number of rounds. For each string or load variation that you want to average, the set must be turned off for three seconds, then back on before you can get any new averages. Otherwise, it will keep right on averaging all shots fired. Should you get a reading where the previous velocity is duplicated, a dot will appear above the words "DUP VEL" located at the bottom of the screen. If the battery becomes weak, this too is shown by a dot which lights up above the words, "LOW BAT."

You can have one of these delivered to your front door via UPS for \$174.94. C.E.I. has an unconditional return policy that allows you to return it for a full refund any time within 30 days of original purchase if you're unsatisfied for any reason. It's also warranteed for one year against any electronic failures, and C.E.I. will recondition any Pro-Tach, regardless of condition, if returned to the factory with payment equal to one-half the current retail price. They can be ordered directly from: Competition Electronics Inc., 753 Candy Lane, Dept. AH, Rockford, IL 6111.

PISTOLSMITH PROFILE

THE GUNS OF LEONARD BAITY

By Charles E. Petty

In a little North Carolina town, better known for moonshine, and stock car racing than shooting, there lives a pistolsmith who freely admits that he doesn't know everything. That candor, coupled with genuine ability, separates Leonard Baity from more than a few of his competitors in the highly specialized field of competitive pistol building.

The 33-year-old Baity began shooting at age 16, and the acquisition of a 22-250 varmint rifle opened the door to reloading and gunsmithing as he sought to improve his groundhog accuracy. Soon he was doing simple jobs for friends and began to acquire a local reputation, but it wasn't until he turned 21 and joined the North Wilkesboro Police Department that he got into target pistols. He and shooting buddy Mark Duncan wanted to do some serious PPC shooting and ordered a pair of guns from a well known gunsmith. Delivery was promised in 6-8 weeks, but when four months had passed, months filled with promises of imminent delivery, Baity said, "I can do that!" And he did. Duncan still shoots that gun and has used it in the last 5 or 6 Bianchi Cup matches.

workshop soon became a second job. He and Duncan bought a lathe and then a milling machine and Baity began to do more and more involved work. He recalls that it wasn't unusual for him to get home from work at 5:30, go straight to the shop and not emerge till 2 or 3 in the morning. A couple of years ago the long hours began to take their toll. "My wife almost left me," he explains, so he took the plunge into full time gunsmithing. His shop, located in the basement of Mark Duncan's gun shop in North Wilkesboro, has become a mecca for local practical shooters.

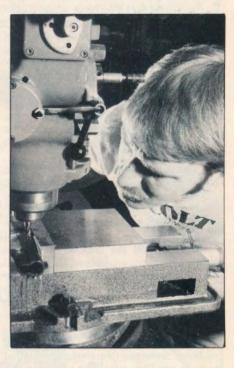
During this period he was constantly studying the work of other gunsmiths to see how they solved problems and reports that many of them were willing to help a beginner learn. He devoured gun magazines and, through them, saw how other gunsmiths were thinking. When bowling pin guns burst onto the scene in the late '70s he was drawn to them and began to do serious accuracy work.

Much of the work on IPSC guns is meticulous handwork, and this is where the talent work on that gun as they brought their problems to him. Baity reports that many evenings were spent in contemplation, "trying to



From there it was a gradual progression from a hobby to a full time career. The way was paved with fits and starts as he learned by doing and, as he freely admits, making mistakes. The popularity of the .45 Government Model among police officers led to his first figure out how it worked." When IPSC shooting began to grow in popularity Baity's attention turned even more to the .45 and it is there that his work now centers.

Baity left the police department for more money and better hours, but his basement



shines through. His checkering is flawless and his guns are cosmetically excellent. The showpiece of Baity's line is his "Pro-Comp" Gov't Model for IPSC shooting. It begins with a Clark 6" barrel to which he attaches a compensator of his own design. He has experimented with ports and expansion chambers and has a system that is one of the most effective I've tried. Baity doesn't believe in altering the Gov't Model slide, so his system uses a match bushing which, coupled with a two piece recoil spring guide, serves to support the compensator's 4 ounce weight. His accuracy job involves fitting the bushing, barrel and slide. In logical order he did one task at a time and didn't go on to the next until he was completely satisfied. When it came time to thread the barrel for the comp he didn't simply chuck it up in the lathe as I would have done, he got out the dial indicator and fiddled with the chuck until there was less than 0.001" runout. The threads on the compare machine cut to similar tolerances so there will be no chance of misalignment that could ruin accuracy.

With the threading done he began the painstaking process of fitting the comp. His goal was to have as close a fit as possible *Continued on page 56*

SO YOU CARRY A SNUBBY-BUT CAN YOU USE IT?

By Claud S. Hamilton

Some weeks ago a friend, Detective Dick Peters, and I, watched a made-for-TV movie one night at my place. It was called "A Small Killing" and starred Edward Asner as an undercover police sergeant on the trail of some big time narcotic distributors.

It was a fair movie, and the upshot was that he falls for a high society lady who for moral reasons insists upon becoming a 'bag lady' and carrier for the mob. She wants to avenge the death of a friend.

She is discovered and pursued by a would be killer, and at the climax Asner shoots the killer in the top of a church steeple from the street in front of the church – with a two-inch snubby revolver!

I looked at Dick and said, "No Way! He couldn't make that shot with a six-inch target gun and a rest!" Dick agreed, and added that now I could see how he felt about having to carry a snubby on duty now that he was in plain clothes.

We discussed the reasons why plain clothes police carry snubbles. Dick pointed out it's mostly to hide the fact that they are armed. It seems, too, that non-uniformed men carrying guns openly are unsettling to the public in general, specially when they have to dress in pretty raunchy outfits.

I know some others who have to carry snubbles. Some gun shop clerks are required to do so, and I know two men who work in a currency exchange. Their boss requires that they be armed, but also that the customer never see their gun.

Snubbies certainly are not new. Short, belly guns can be traced all the way back to flintlock times but few if any of them approached the degree of compactness achieved today. Probably the earliest modern snubbies were the 1st Model Smith & Wessons in .22 rimfire caliber. These were also among the first of the cartridge revolvers, and came on to the market in about 1859 just in time to win great popularity during the Civil War.

Colt followed soon after with their 'House Pistols' in .41 rimfire which date about 1871. A well known foreign snubby was the Royal Irish Constabulary Revolver, by Webley & Scott, which was made expressly for the Black & Tans during the trouble early in the 1900s. This was a small solid frame revolver of five shot capacity in .455 British and loaded through a swing out gate on the right side of the frame in much the same manner as the Single Action Army.

My lawman friend, Dick Peters, told me, frankly, that he did not feel good about carrying his two-inch Model 36 Smith & Wesson Cheifs Special. He doubted his ability to han-



Charter Bulldog in .44 Special packs a lot of punch.

dle it well much past 10 yards. Since his switch to plain clothes, he had never had the opportunity to spend time on the range and work with it. I had to admit that I knew no more about snubbles than he, and so we agreed on this plan: we would take each of the derogatory things people say about snubbles and see for ourselves if they were true. What do "they" say?

 Snubbies are inherently inaccurate; no matter how good you are you still cannot hit with them.

2) Snubbies, with their short barrels, lose all the effectiveness of their cartridges.

 There's no point in trying to learn to shoot snubbies; their short sighting radius makes any improvement very unlikely.

I admit to a certain ambivalence where the first comment is concerned. Personally, I

didn't have enough experience shooting the shorties to form an opinion. I have a good friend, however, who once owned a Smith & Wesson Chiefs Special which would shoot right along with a K-38 off the sand bags. He says so, and I believe him.

Let's leave it this way: I accept the fact that there can be some mighty accurate snubbles.

Since I am admittedly no expert on snubbies, I went to see Steve Richards at Hunters' Haven in Alexandria, Va., for advice. Together, we set up the following list of representative guns that we figured would pretty well cover the field:

Smith & Wesson Chiefs Special, .38 Special, 2 and 3 inch.

Colt Detective Special, .38 special, 2 and 3 inch.

Continued on page 71



THE AYOOB FILES

Continued from page 29

head that night, was now nervous. He, too, had sensed something in Gholson that hit him the way Holy Water is supposed to hit vampires. "Don't move," the punk yelled, levelling his chrome-plated handgun at Gholson.

Gholson couldn't help it. He looked the man in the eye. Mentally, Emmett was computing how long it would take him to go for the .38, clear it, and shoot before this scumbag could make his junk gun speak.

The suspect reacted to that straight-eyed look. Perhaps what the punk saw there froze him with fear and kept him from murdering Emmett with a fast trigger stroke, or perhaps it enraged him. We'll never know.

We do know that the robber tightened his hand on his gun and screamed to Gholson, "Put your hands straight out in front of you and close your eyes!"

And at that moment, for Emmett Gholson, time stood still. He remembers thinking, "Oh, God, he wants me to close my eyes. Well, if I'm going to die, I'd like to die with my eyes open."

Gholson's hand ached to close on the checkered walnut stocks of his Smith & Wesson and finish it, but his mind overruled his hand. Twenty years on hard and dangerous streets had taught him to take the deadly edge before he went for his gun. Those years had served him well: in all the danger he had faced, Emmett had never been forced to kill another man.

Emmett put his hands out and dropped his eyelids to slits he could still, barely, see through. Through those slits, he saw the gunman move forward from the door, and say once more, "Don't move," and he saw the man raise his gun.

And Emmett Gholson knew he had run out of time.

His movement was swift, sudden and sure, like a big cat pouncing on his prey. As he threw himself out of the line of fire, Emmett went for his snubbie. His hand was closing on it when he saw the first orange flash leap from the muzzle of the gunman's weapon.

The gunman missed. Emmett Gholson didn't.

They stood almost toe to toe. Emmett had gotten his seminal training in the early years, when NYPD still taught hip-shooting, and under stress he reverted to that. The gunman just stuck his arm straight out and fired.

Emmett does not really remember the sounds of the gunfire. He remembers the flashes. He remembers that the man he shot at showed absolutely no reaction to the gunfire.

And he remembers the bullet that slammed into his shoulder.

It hit him, he recalls, with more force than he ever would have believed possible, and now Emmett Gholson, 61, was spinning and going down. The first shot was impact, but the second one that creased his right shoulder triggered an instant, memorable, and searing pain.

And then Gholson was down, his face on

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18 gauge steel lined. Deeper and wider sight track

ster from the back and placing the tension device just under the trigger guard making it much more effective. Stitching the welt in front creates a much deeper and wider sight track. We have also used our four screw belt slot system which secures the holster to the belt. This holster can be used either cross draw or strong side. It can also be ordered with no angle or butt forward on special request at no additional charge. Rigs are available for the following guns: Colt Commander, Government model, Gold Cup, Brng. H.P., Guns with Compensators, 6", 61/2" and 7" guns.

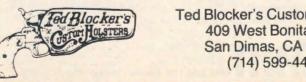
MATCHMASTER PRICE LIST

Complete Rig as pictured \$126.95 Holster \$69.95

ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS

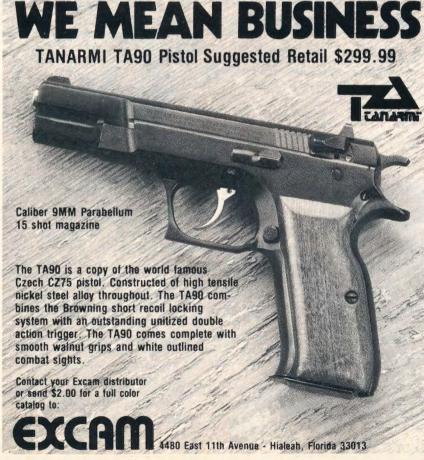
Please include exact waist size, gun make and model, barrel length and all other modifications. State whether magazine pouches are to be worn on right or left side.

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the floor. He could no longer see the gunman he'd shot it out with, but he did see the robber who had come in and started the whole thing, run, with a terrified expression on his face, back out of the office. He saw the man pause to scoop up the Chief Special that had fallen from his own nerveless hand.

And then, it was over.

No one spoke. Emmett Gholson remembers the deathly silence. All he could hear was his own ears ringing from the gunfire. Somehow, he forced himself to his feet.

The next sound was sirens. Emmett Gholson was swiftly transported to St. John's Hospital in the 79th precinct while responding police officers searched the area with guns drawn. Emmett was in surgery when they found the man he'd shot it out with. By the time Emmett Gholson had been wheeled to the recovery room, the doctors had ruled the man who shot him DOA. Dead On Arrival. One of Emmett's bullets had hit him in the leg and severed the femoral artery. Though the man had shown no reaction to the hit from the 158-grain round nose lead .38 slug, and had kept firing back until hed shot Emmett down, the wound had proven mortal; he had bled to death.

The two other suspects—the first robber into the barber shop, and the one who stood guard outside—were never found. Neither was Emmett Gholson's Smith & Wesson Chief's Special.

Emmett did not fully recover from his wounds; his shoulder would hurt for the rest of his life. He found it bitterly ironic that, after 20 years of responding to the toughest calls the 81st precinct had to offer, he had been forced to kill a man in self-defense while waiting in a barbershop after playing a round of retirement golf.

What lessons can be learned from the Gholson shooting? Although police departments recommend submission in the face of armed robbery, there are times when a private citizen (like Emmett was at the time of the shooting) will realize that they are about to be murdered. Something inside Gholson told him that he was going to be killed if he didn't go for his .38, and that is almost certainly correct: the night of the shooting, the corpse of the man Emmett had killed was identified as "the one" by a man with a big bandage on his head: this was the trucker who had stopped to aid the Hassidim during the previous robbery, and been shot in the head. The same man who had shot to kill Emmett and only hit him in the shoulder, had shot to kill the trucker and instead ricocheted a bullet off his skull, causing only a flesh wound and temporary unconsciousness. The would-be murderer had died thinking he'd killed two innocent victims, not knowing that both would survive and one would punch his ticket to Hell, one way.

Note the impotent stopping power of the 158-grain .38 Special roundnose. The gunman showed no reaction to a mortal wound of an extremity.

Note that the officer reverted to his early training, that is, hip-shooting. A year before Emmett's retirement, NYPD had switched to two-handed, eye-level shooting. Had this technique been instilled in him, it is quite likely that his shots would have taken more decisive, rapid effect with center mass hits, and might well have prevented him from taking the return fire that left him in lifelong pain.

Note the tactical awareness that kept Emmett Gholson alive. An untrained armed citizen would have noted only the first armed robber who was shepherding the barber into the back office, and not seen the backup man stationed at the door. Such a citizen would almost certainly have been killed by that backup man as he stood to challenge the first robber.

It is also noteworthy that when the shootout took place, the first robber panicked and ran, having presence of mind enough to pick up a dropped gun but, thankfully, not enough awareness to realize that Emmett Gholson was the one he had to be afraid of. Bad guys make mistakes, too. The third robber, outside, apparently panicked and fled as soon as the shooting broke out.

The up-side of Gholson's awareness was his survival. The down-side was that the bad guys were able to see or sense that Gholson was not just another victim but, in fact, a potential threat. An armed citizen in such a situation should (a) not intrude at all, and let the robbery go down and finish, or (b) in a worst-case scenario like Gholson's, be

He killed his primary antagonist and sent the other two fleeing . . .

extremely "low profile" and "non-threatening" until the time comes to make the final, decisive move.

One wonders what the outcome would have been had Emmett Gholson been carrying Glaser Safety Slugs in his .38 snub instead of round-nose lead bullets, or if he had been packing the blue-steel Smith & Wesson model 13 .357 Magnum loaded with 125-grain hollowpoint Mag loads that this writer acquired specifically for legal, concealed carry in New York City. That weaponlevel, coupled with two-handed fire directed with eye level "flash sight picture" or "Stress-Point Index," would have been far more likely to have neutralized the suspect with Gholson's first couple of shots, leaving him free to then neutralize the second and perhaps the third robber, without being shot himself.

The ultimate lesson is that street smarts beat marksmanship. A master target shooter who did not have Emmett Gholson's awareness would probably have been murdered after seeing the barber slain as well. The four priorities of street violence survival are, in order, 1) Awareness and Preparedness. 2) Tactics. 3) Skill with the safety equipment (in this case, a gun). 4) Properly selected safety equipment.

Emmett Gholson courageously saved his

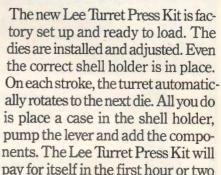
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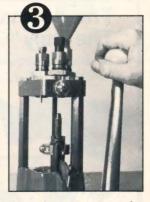
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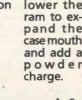
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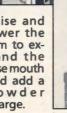
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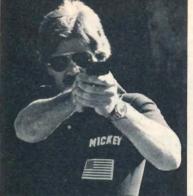








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life and, undoubtedly, that of others with his awareness and preparedness, and with his tactical response to what many would consider an unsurvivable situation. He killed his primary antagonist and sent the other two fleeing with their tails between their legs. Yet, had time-frames allowed him to take the newer NYPD training course that emphasizes eye-level, accurate shooting under stress, or its civilian equivalent, and if he had been armed with a more effective gun/ammo combination, it is entirely possible he would have come out of his gun battle even better than he did.

The author wishes to thank Mr. Emmett Gholson for his candid explanation of the shooting incident he was involved in, and the New York Patrolmen's Benevolent Association for making the NYPD report of the shooting incident available for research.

GUNS OF BAITY Continued from page 51

between the comp and slide without the slide striking it. This involved a number of trials and trips, first to the milling machine and then the buffing wheel. With the fit right he dressed the two as a unit so there would be an even match between the comp and slide. Then came the meticulous process of grooving the top, so there would be a flat, nonreflective surface. The slide was milled to accept low mounted Wichita sights.

With the top half nearly finished Baity began to work on the frame. One of the hallmarks of his guns is the modification to the bottom of the frame to make it resemble a bushel basket. No, seriously, he carefully heliarc welds a funnel of his own making to the bottom of the frame. In the completed gun the magazine well is so large and smooth, that magazines seem to jump in. Checkering to the customer's specifications rounds out the bottom half.

The next step is the trigger job. Again Baity doesn't seem to do anything different, just well. I've tried the triggers on half a dozen of his guns including one two-pounder he did for Mark Duncan, and all of them felt good to me. The normal trigger runs in the 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ pound range, with takeup and overtravel adjusted to give a crisp pull that feels lighter than it is.

When the gun is in shooting condition, but before finishing, it's off to the range for test firing. This way he can check everything out and if there should be a problem, fix it without having to worry about damaging the finish. When functioning is perfect the cosmetics are applied. Baity does his own bluing and black parkerizing, but if a plated finish is desired Baity will send it wherever the customer wishes. If the choice is left to him, it will be Metalloy for he feels they do a good job, and the shop time isn't as long as some others. After finishing there's another trip to the range to be sure nothing's changed and usually a touchup of the trigger.

Baity's work is not limited to IPSC guns. He offers a full range of general gunsmithing. His revolver action jobs are as good as any I've tried, and he is a graduate of Smith & Wesson's armorers school. He is also becoming well known for his shotgun work, particularly chokes and throating for combat shotguns.

Over several visits to his shop I have become more and more impressed with his knowledge of guns, and with his hands. I've been fortunate to know some fine gunsmiths in my time and it seems as if they all have one thing in common, great hands. Baity's move from tasks requiring strength to the delicate chore of rescuing an errant ladybug with equal ease. I am also impressed with his craftsmanship, so much so in fact, that I'm now the owner of one of his Pro-Comps.

Leonard is one of those nice, unassuming guys who believes that the customer should get what he pays for, but shouldn't spend more than he needs to. Many of the jobs that run the cost up so much are modifications that will really benefit only the most advanced shooters. Take, for example, the funneled magazine well he installs. Baity charges \$100 for the job and spends a lot of time getting everything smooth and just right. While there is no doubt it makes reloading faster, the fraction of a second gained may not be worth the cost for everyone. Grooving the top of the slide and comp is another feature that looks great, costs \$50, and adds little to the utility of the gun. "In a way," says Baity, "buying a custom gun is a lot like buying a car. The base price isn't too bad, it's the options that kill you."

He does all the work himself and does it surprisingly quickly, although the increase in business that word-of-mouth has brought in has forced him to raise his delivery time promise 90 days for a comp gun. His prices are middle of the road, but appear to be reasonable compared to some, particularly considering the quality of his work. He can be contacted at: 414 2nd St., Dept. AH, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659, (919) 667-8785.

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overall length providing less recoil, added muzzle velocity, longer sighting plane and better balance.

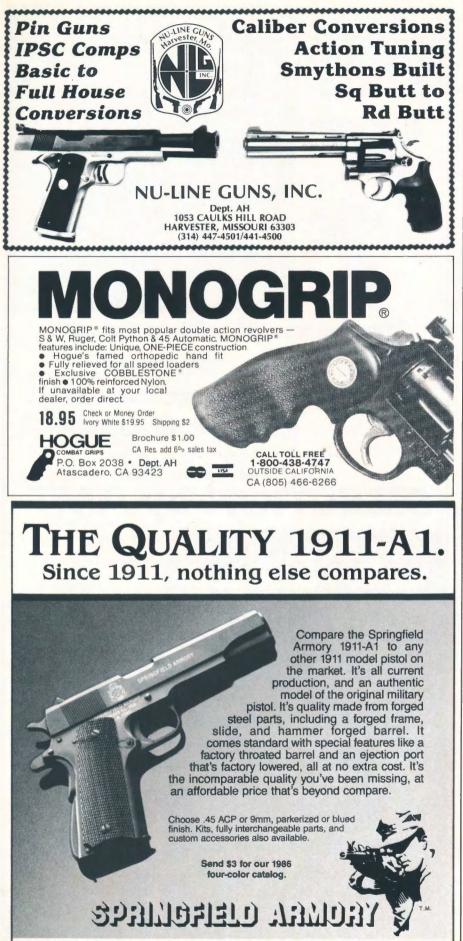
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The Quest For Reduced Recoil

Here's how to tame the hottest magnum to nonexistent recoil levels. Well, sort of.

By Bill Pole

In heady anticipation of the most prestigious match of them all, the "Cup," I began to reconsider my basic match arsenal. Few shooters are fortunate enough to compete in a match like the "Cup" in this part of the country. In fact, few shooters are even aware of the famous "South Georgia Coffee Cup Invitational Match," the social event of the season for the shooting crowd hereabouts. This sometimes-scheduled event usually takes place at our local range and involves any fool who is careless enough to show up.



Anyway, the other afternoon I was in the local gunshop partaking of a cup of fairly recently-brewed coffee when the subject of competition pistols came up in the conversation. While I try to keep an open mind on the subject, the argument between the "small bullet, high velocity" crowd and the "big bullet, low velocity" crowd was becoming a bit boring (no pun intended).

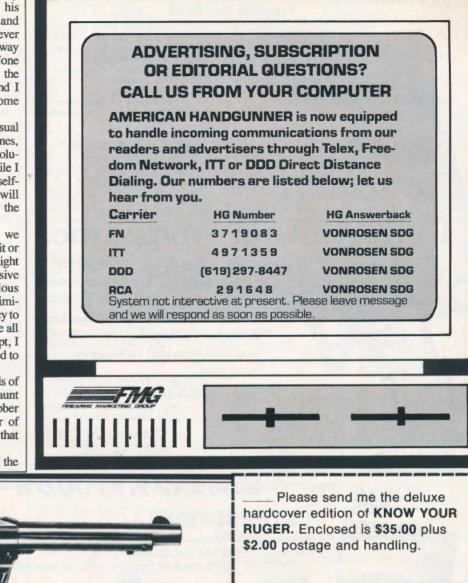
As the controversy raged on, I began to consider ways in which I might improve on the reigning champion pistol, my custom ELK. This name came from one old-timer who had explained that this was the only suitable name for a gun that was, in his words, "ear-splittin, loudenbooming, and kicken harder" than anything he had ever shot. Well, maybe I did get a bit carried away with that particular batch of handloads. None the less, old ELK had brought home the bacon (or venison) for several years and I wasn't about to put her out to pasture for some new upstart in the pistol world.

That night, reading through my usual selection of shooting and hunting magazines, I began to develop a plan that would revolutionize the handgun shooting world. While I must admit to a certain amount of crass selfinterest, I feel that my development will create a whole new area of interest for the innovative shooter.

Face it, one of the biggest problems we hot-shot pistoleros face is recoil. Believe it or not, I even catch myself considering a slight flinch at times when launching a massive projectile down-range at the stupendous velocities I load to. Therefore, if we eliminate recoil, we can overcome any tendency to disturb the perfect sight picture which we all achieve. With a firm grasp on this concept, I brewed up a fresh pot of coffee and started to work.

As I considered the problem, the words of the clerk at the gunshop came back to haunt me. "Tell ya what, a set of these here rubber grips will cut the kick of that monster of yours by at least 20 percent." Hmmm, that seems like a good start on the problem.

Next, this ad for a set of holes cut in the



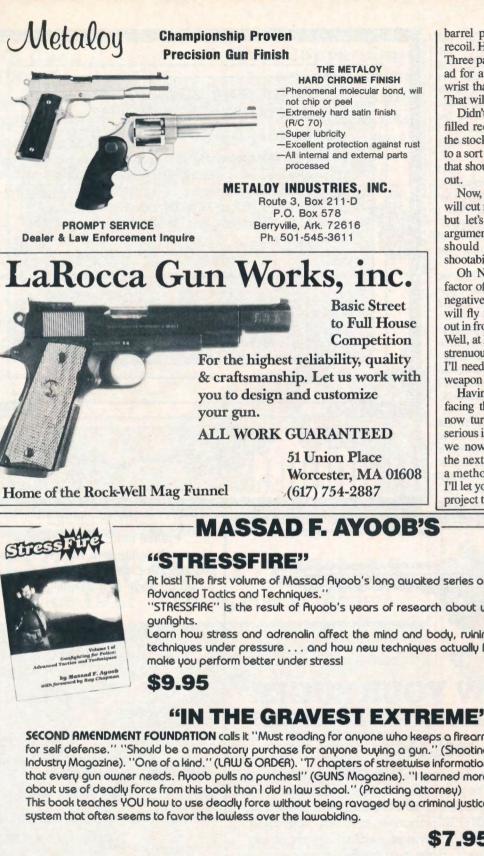
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barrel promises a 50 percent reduction in recoil. Hey, we're really starting to cook here. Three pages over in the same magazine is an ad for a little gizmo that you wear on your wrist that will reduce recoil by 25 percent. That will help out, too.

Didn't I read somewhere about a mercuryfilled recoil reducer that shotgunners put in the stock of their guns?? If we can adapt this to a sort of under-rib for the old handcannon, that should cut about 15 percent of the recoil

Now, here's an ad for a sort of glove that will cut recoil. They don't give a percentage, but let's figure 10 percent for the sake of argument. Now, if we add all of this up, we should see a vast improvement in the shootability of the big-bore blaster.

Oh No! Now the old ELK has a recoil factor of minus 20 percent! If I have to fight negative recoil, does this mean that the gun will fly forward with each shot, pulling me out in front of the firing line during rapid fire? Well, at least that is one good reason to avoid strenuous activity and diets. If this works out, I'll need all the weight I can get to hold the weapon back.

Having solved one of the major problems facing the shooting fraternity today, I will now turn my attention to another area of serious import to shooters everywhere. Since we now have a gun which "un-recoils", the next logical step will be to develop a method to "un-fire" once-fired brass. I'll let you know how this

project turns out.



How (Not) To Shoot Silhouette

A humorous look at the foibles of Numbthumb as he bumbles his way through a match.

By S.A. Numbthumb

For reasons of both brevity and the fact my typist gets paid by the page, we'll skip those interim years of how S.A. developed his unique shooting technique and go directly into his recounting his initial attempt at an IHMSA state championship.

About six weeks ago I received an entry form for the State Metallic Silhouette Championships that were to be held over the threeday Memorial Day weekend. In order to make the event orderly and convenient for both the competitors and the officials, it requested class, time preference, team or individual, second and third choices on each. My entry was relegated to the handy napkin holder under a stack of electric, water and credit card bills and promptly forgotten.

Expeditious handling of my finances caused the entry to be rediscovered two days prior to the match. Now, I probably could have called and reserved a spot, but I haven't a phone. Besides which, it did leave a handy avenue of face saving escape had I chosen not to attend.

Preparing for a long siege, I cleaned two barrels for my Contender, my Single Action Ruger and my Super Ultra Unlimited gun. After a fitful night sleep, I awoke to the cheerful strains of Mick Jagger screaming "I can't get no . . ." on the clock radio. Shave, shower, pack the car and off we go.

Fifteen minutes and ten miles later, I realized the ammo for the "Super Ultra" was still in the bedroom closet, so it's back we go! Upon arrival home, I fired up the coffee pot and put my half-full canteen cup on the other burner to warm. Got the ammo, grabbed the now steaming canteen cup and it's off we go-again.

Sixty-eight miles, two hours and three wrong turns later, I arrived at the access road to the club where the match was being held. Now, I've been down some rudimentary thoroughfares before, but this one was a real horse trail. Red clay, high crown, winding and definitely not the place for an ailing 73 Pinto low rider. After bottoming out every 15 feet for 3 miles at the outrageous speed of 5 miles per hour, I arrived at the range. The stat officer said that I was in luck. There was one opening – two hours later – so, I could shoot.



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Deciding to compete in unlimited over standing, or production, I got the .357 Whelen Super Ultra checked out. And then the wait began. Prior to my relay, I decided to take a couple of sighter shots, spotted by one of the country's premier lady shooters. At the call "Fire," I let my first sighter shot go. It was called "high." The second shot was also called "high" and "two inches to the right." Still, the 50M chicken stood. I cranked the rear sight down four clicks and over two, sighted and fired-called, "center but still two inches to the right" and the chicken still stood. I was totally confused-why didn't it fall? How did I miss? "You didn't miss," she informed me, "See the hits . . . three shots, the last two in the center breast area." With that the lady just shook her head and went off to officiate. It seems the sighter targets were, unbeknownst to me, of the "springer" variety. Knock 'em down and -- "boing" -- back they hop.

Three quarters of an hour later, my relay was due to shoot. The calls of "Shooters to the line," "Load" and "Fire" were given. Results on the first bank were—hit, miss, miss, hit, hit. This was due to a combination of nerves and the fact that it was such a nice bright day, I couldn't keep my eyes from looking at the targets. On the second bank, the score was—hit, miss, hit, hit, hit. God, I wondered will that second chicken ever fall and promptly missed the first chicken on the third bank. But, yes, the second chicken did fall in a—miss, hit, hit, hit, hit sequence. Final tally on the 50M chickens was 11 out of a possible 15.

Lest you think ole S.A., a non-shooter, I'm proud to report I cleaned the 100M pigs. Although, I must admit the 13th pig had the help of a "lucky bounce" having the bullet hit two feet short. So at 100M pigs the score was 15 out of 15.

Moving right along to the turkeys, my personal nemesis, and cranking up the rear sight, I prepared for my first shot by a little self-hypnosis. My trance was broken by the discovery that I only had 22 rounds of .357 Whelen left with which to hit the 30 remaining targets. Since I always did better on the rams at 200M than the turkeys at 150M, I decided to shoot at the turkeys until the first miss and stop, hoarding those precious cartridges for later.

The by now familiar calls of "Shooters to the line," "Load" and "Fire" were given. I lined the first turkey up in my sights, took a breath and started my trigger squeeze whilst exhaling, when—WHOP! A black fluttery object hit me right in the nose and totally blocked out my sight picture. One second later, my vision returned to see a "black bomber butterfly" hovering like a Huey as if deciding to make another pass. He didn't.

Again, the first turkey was lined up. "Bang"-"clink" and down it fell. Results on the first bank of turkeys were-hit, hit, hit, miss and quit, for three. When the line was called clear, I went over to the range officer and explained my lack of ammo problem. He announced over the P.A. system "Snicker... Does anyone-uh-here have any ... heh, heh357 Whelen ammo? We have a shooter here who is eight rounds short." For some reason, the crowd and the line fell into silence as I shrunk two inches in height.

"Shooters to the line," the range officer called. I returned to my position dragging my tail behind me. "Load," I quickly allocated three rounds and loaded in preparation to fire on the five turkeys. For some reason, I only hit three out of five. The results on the third bank were two hits and a miss for a turkey score (or scoring turkey?) of 8 out of a 15 possible. Well, at least I learned the turkeys could be hit and how to do so!

I now had 12 remaining rounds to fire at the 15 rams. To make a long story, longer, I totalled 8 rams out of 12 fired on, leaving 7 laughing. Many silhouette shooters have heard the rams laugh, or so I'm told.

Well, I packed it up to leave glancing at the score card on my way out. My total out of a 60-shot course (which I thought was going to be 40 – next time I'll read the entry form) was 42 (out of 52 shots fired) and the winning score in A was 49. Worse yet, the second place score was 46.

Now, I could take: the return trip (for ammo), the getting lost, the "springer target," the dive bomber butterfly, the snickers over my choice of calibers, and my daughter sticking her face in mine between banks asking in her mother's nagging voice "Are you done yet, Dad?" But, to come that close and to miss out on placing for lack of eight rounds of ammo was almost more than I could stand.

Worse yet, I shoot the big Ruger revolver better than the .357 Super Ultra and had 250 rounds of ammunition for it – with me!

So, I left my first state championship behind me and travelled back up that long and winding road. Over the sounds of the carbottoming out, a call echoed through the woods, "S.A. Numbthumb rides again!"

When at long last I arrived home to a rather odorous house with a somewhat badly burned coffee pot, I rationalized that all things considered it was another fine day of "shooting steel."

READ THIS STATEMENT OF POLICY

This issue of *American Handgunner*, like most issues, contains articles pertaining to carrying a concealed weapon ("So You Carry a Snubby"). Massad Ayoob often refers to concealed weapons as do many of our other writers in many contexts.

We offer you these articles because we are proud to claim nearly 50,000 law enforcement officers as readers as well as an indeterminable number of properly licensed civilians. The *American Handgunner* does not condone, endorse or encourage the carrying of a concealed weapon illegally.

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GLASER SAFETY SLUGS Continued from page 33

ordnance gelatin was because it provides a uniform media in which to test various projectiles for a comparative analysis. As a result of extensive government testing it was estimated that penetration of 15cm (6 inches) of ordnance gelatin translates into a potentially disabling wound in a human. The gelatin is made to a consistency resembling a firm thigh muscle. The gelatin blocks utilized in this testing were 6" deep and $4\frac{1}{2}$ " × 5" in cross section.

Three rounds of the Glaser ammunition were fired across the chronograph screens into the gelatin blocks. Energy of the three rounds entering the gelatin ranged from 565 foot-pounds to 580 foot-pounds. One-hundred percent of the energy was transferred inside the gelatin. No bullet completely penetrated the block. The accompanying photograph depicts the "wound" distribution within the gelatin. As can be noted from the photograph, the maximum energy transfer starts taking place approximately one inch after entering the block and continues for about three inches, then begins rapidly diminishing. This would tend to indicate maximum tissue disruption from one to four inches inside the target. The elasticity of the ballistic gelatin, while not giving quite the emphasis to an exaggerated temporary cavity that media such as Duxseal can, does tend not to exaggerate temporary cavity the way the more inelastic media will.

A comparison with previously tested factory ammunition is set forth in the accompanying table.

Based upon a comparison of the results derived from the gelatin testing and actual first-hand investigation of law enforcement shootings (post mortem as well as Officer debriefing), an Efficiency Rate (see chart) on the order of 85% for a projectile is indicated as the preferred efficiency range. Efficiency Rate refers to the amount of energy the bullet transfers into the target. Bullet performance in this range takes into consideration that often ideal bullet placement and angle of entry are not available in a violent personal encounter. Lack of effective penetration on a less than ideal shot, while producing a vicious wound, has been demonstrated as having some serious short-comings in terms of being able to stop an assailant. However, expending nearly 100% of a bullet's energy in even a marginal hit does substantially reduce the risk of injury to innocent bystanders (and liability to the shooter).

Glaser Safety Slug states on its box label that it is a "Pre-Fragmented Non-Ricocheting Projectile." Therefore it was decided to test the deflection or non-ricocheting characteristics of the cartridge. Low angle $(\pm 30^\circ)$ shots were fired into cinder-block walls, asphalt and concrete pavement, automobile bodies and plywood siding. A cardboard Milpark target was placed approximately 10 feet beyond the surface impacted, abutting that surface, with a 1/2" plywood sheet onefoot behind it to catch any bullets or fragments passing through the target.

When fired on the concrete and asphalt ground surfaces or on the automobile sheet metal, the Glaser bullet began breaking up on impact, shedding the synthetic nose plug. The Milpark target exhibited a small radius of shot as if the projectile was tumbling and slinging its shot charge outward. Enough weight was retained in the body of the projectile to completely penetrate the 1/2" plywood behind the target when fired against these surfaces.

When a similar test was performed on a vertical wall surface of cinder-block construction the same break-up and radius pattern of shot was evident on the Milpark target. However, there was not enough mass/ energy retained in the projectile fragments to completely penetrate the 1/2" plywood backer. Pieces of bullet/jacketing material and shot embedded in the plywood.

Shooting a sidewall of plywood paneling broke up the projectile to the extent that only deep dimpling of the plywood behind the target was noted.

While this test was admittedly limited in its scope (three rounds fired at each surface type), it would appear that the rougher the surface impacted at a low angle, the better the bullet break-up will be.

Next a test was conducted shooting at a Milpark target through soft cover. The soft cover was placed five feet in front of the target with a 5 gallon plastic container of water five feet behind the target to recover the bullet. All firing was done 10 feet in front of the soft cover. The types of soft cover tested were 1/2" sheetrock, 1/2" plywood siding, galvanized 30 gallon trash can (empty), and a sheetrock/plywood combination.

In all cases the cardboard target behind the soft cover showed evidence of slight bullet fragmenting after passing through the soft cover via the light spiraling effect of shot fragments and/or synthetic wad impact. In all instances the majority of the projectile completely broke apart in the water container after passing through the target. This would point to the Glaser being suitable for engaging targets behind soft cover if perpendicular or near perpendicular shot angles are available.

Based on the results of this testing I would say that the Glaser .45 ACP loading lives up to its claim as a "non-ricocheting projectile" as compared with other conventional .45 ACP loadings.

As can be seen in the photograph depicting the one gallon plastic water jug being shot, the violent energy transfer of the Glaser .45 ACP bullet parallels the performance associated typically with magnum loadings in popular revolver calibers. While this visual dramatization has no comparative relevance to a 150 lb. target, it does serve to illustrate the relative effect of high velocity compression in fluid laden tissue.

Comparing the results of the Glaser .45 ACP to previously tested .38 Special and .357 Magnum Glasers in gelatin, the .45



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ACP loading showed a marginally better distributed wound cavity. I would attribute this to the 84% greater mass of the .45 ACP projectile in conjunction with traveling at ± 200 fps less velocity (which may be a benefit with these fragile projectiles).

There were no stoppages or malfunctions of any type experienced in the pistols used for this test. Considering that two of the pistols were stock, unmodified specimens which we all hear are notoriously fickle when it comes to their diet, I feel the reliability factor of the Glaser Safety Slug for feeding and function to be the equal of hardball ammunition.

I have seen only two documented shootings involving the Glaser Safety Slug, both in .38 caliber loadings. Both shootings were terminal, but both were "freaky" in their performance. It would be exceedingly difficult to draw any reliable conclusions based on only these two shootings. I would like to see deeper penetration with the bullet. This is because results with expanding/explosive bullets *other than Glasers* have shown that more complete penetration than found in the gelatin with Glasers was required for consistent terminal results.

Without delving into the "which is better controversy" mentioned at the first of this article over the relative merits of "stopping power" vs. "wounding capacity" (Hatcher vs. RII), let it suffice to say that any contender on either side of the issue must possess enough energy to strike a decisive blow and be able to transmit that energy *effectively* to the vitals of an animate target.

Bullet placement is of paramount importance. Without reasonable bullet placement, energy transfer becomes secondary in being able to down the target. It is to be conceded that a marginally placed hit with a decisive round is generally more effective than a marginal hit with a less powerful round, but it is not good in either case. Glasers, like all other bullets, must be placed properly into the vital organs to insure a one-shot stop.

HOLMES PISTOL

Continued from page 49

The cases showed no bulges that would indicate early bolt opening, a thing that can sometimes happen in any gun that has an unlocked blow-back action. The chamber entry is coned all the way around, and the chamfering here is not excessively deep. Apparently, it's exactly right for both pressure safety and flawless feeding. The single-line delivery of the Sten magazine is also a help in this. As with all 9mm and .45 blow-back actions, the shooter should be sure that the rounds used do not have thin walls in the head area. If you see a bulge, better change to a different brand of ammo. There were no such problems with any of the cartridges I tried.

In addition to the full-sized 9mm and .45 versions of the pistol, Holmes also makes a lighter model in a .22 Long Rifle chambering, the MP-22. In this one, the lower receiver is made of aluminum alloy, making the gun a pound lighter than the MP-83. The

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SHOOTIST SUPPLY 622 5th Belle Fourche, SD 57717 C.O.D.'s Welcome or call your Visa and Mastercharge orders to (605) 892-2822 MP-22 does not have the lever-type safety of the centerfire pistols. Instead, there's an intermediate notch for the bolt handle. A curved single-line 32-round magazine is used, and on the MP-22 that I handled at the SHOT Show, it was the same magazine that's used in the Auto-Ordnance Thompson .22 carbine.

Speaking of carbines, Bill Holmes is currently working on one, based on a design very similar to the pistols, and I'm looking forward to trying it when it's ready. From experience with my 9mm MP-83, I know it will be made right. Other variations of the pistol are also being offered, including a version with a ventilated metal barrel sleeve and a grip made of Zytel. I haven't seen one of these yet, but perhaps it will also have a military-style finish. On the standard model, the superb blue and nice walnut tend to make you want to handle it carefully, and in law enforcement use this isn't always possible.

It's a pretty gun, but it also has a lean and rakish look that would impress any malefactors who were in front of it. Equally impressive are its reliability and accuracy. For a pistol of this quality, the price is reasonable. All things considered, anyone who is in the market for an assault pistol should take a long look at the Holmes MP-83

HEINIE CUSTOM GUNS

Continued from page 45

camera clearly shows the longer gun coming up a little more, albeit slight. I personally feel the difference is just barely negligible and is more than made up for by the longer sight radius that allows more leeway in sighting error. I fired a couple of nice three-inch groups at 50 yards with this gun, which is outstanding for me.

Both test pistols exhibited a beautiful two and a half pound trigger that broke like a glass rod. I took the opportunity to display the Series 80 SS gun at two IPSC matches, and gave shooters the opportunity to fire it. There wasn't a single negative comment from anyone, and to a man they all remarked about the flawless metalwork and lack of muzzle jump. But then, I didn't expect anything less.

Now comes that which you are almost certainly wondering about, price. The Series A will set you back \$500, while the longer B gun costs only \$30 more. If you want a Bar-Sto in the B model, add another \$100, and a stainless steel gun is an extra \$30 in either one. For that kind of money you get the new barrel fitted to your slide then throated and polished, slide tightened to the frame and shortened a half inch, compensator, and three recoil springs. Dick uses Walt Wolff's variable rate springs which he finds works extremely well in his guns. In fact, the 181/2 lb. spring that was in the A gun would feed, extract, and eject Federal target wadcutters reliably, right along with major IPSC loads. The longer gun wouldn't go quite that far with the target loads, but with major rounds was absolutely 100%. You also get reliability that is positively above reproach. If I were entering the IPSC Nationals tomorrow and Dick



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Current interest in his new compensator is just beginning to take off, and the shorter model is the present favorite. As this is being written (July 85), he has 17 guns awaiting compensators, with 14 of them the shorter version. Also at this time, delivery date is being quoted at one year for a full house gun. His current price sheet can be ordered from him for one dollar at: Richard Heinie, Dept. AH, 821 East Adams, Havana, IL 62644.

Look in the back of almost any shooting publication and you'll probably find a small ad with a picture of a compensated .45 that reads, simply, "RICHARD HEINIE-PISTOLSMITH." It doesn't have to say any more. His work does all the talking for him.

DETECTIVE SPECIAL Continued from page 36

useless at the usual 25 yards, so I set up some Outer's silhouette targets, paced off 10 to 15 yard markers and went to work. All ammunition was a mixture of .38 Special fodder I had in stock.

As expected, the guns performed without a hitch. Remington ammunition in the form of the 158 grain service round nose loading came up first. On double action shooting I noticed the gun starting to rise forming vertical groups. This is normal on small framed. short barreled handguns especially in stress type shooting. Single action proved the gun's ability to group in small circles. Federal's 125 grain Nyclads were also used in testing as well as some Winchester target wadcutters. For practice, you can't beat 'em! Granted they are not as accurate in the snubbies as they are in longer tubed guns but nevertheless at 10 yards I was able to print 2 1/2 to 3 inch groups in rapid fire sequences. Finishing off, I squared up with a small silhouette target and let off a CCI-Speer .38 Special shotshell.

In conclusion, the Colt Detective Special is an excellent weapon for its appointed task. The Specials are well built, fairly priced and will certainly outlive the owner if properly maintained. I only find one thing missing stainless steel. How about it, Colt?

DILLON RL-550

Continued from page 28

powder die) clamped on, you'll be ready to adjust the powder measure.

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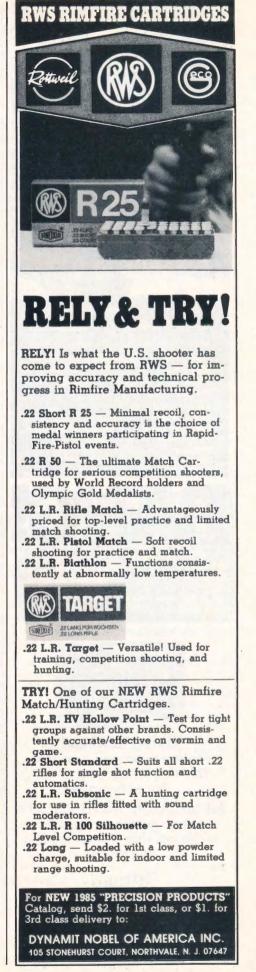
It's all quite handy, but I didn't like having to fine-tune charge weights with a wrench, so I did a bit of drilling and tapping, and attached a knurled brass nut to the flat surface of the hex head. It is now possible to adjust charge weights much more easily, with fingertip control. I made this minor alteration by drilling and tapping an 8-32 hole, ⁹/₃₂nds of an inch deep, straight into the center of the ¹/₄th-inch adjustment screw. This hole accommodates a small screw that threads through the center of the knurled nut, and protrudes about ¹/₄th-inch past its shank.

Smack out of the box and onto your bench, the RL-550 turns out quantities of good, accurate reloads. Of course, you're almost obliged to use Dillon dies exclusively, if all the advantages of the press are to be realized, but that's a small concession. The Dillon dies are top quality.

You resize and decap at the first station, then seat a primer. At station two, the case mouth is flared and a powder charge is added. Then, at three, a bullet is seated, and, at four, the crimp is made. These last two operations should be separate, says Dillon, because "simultaneous seating-crimping of semi-auto cartridges is not recommended. This is because," Dillon continues, "in a combination seating and crimping die, we have two forces that are opposed to one another. That is, forcing the bullet into the cartridge case while trying simultaneously to crimp it in place."

"A better idea is to seat the bullet in one die and then separately crimp it in place in another. With semi-auto cartridges (9mm and .45 ACP), you must use a separate tapercrimp die to get reliable ammunition and function from your semi-automatic pistol. This type of crimp is necessary to maintain the square-shoulder effect where the brass edge of the case meets the bullet. It is on this tiny shoulder that the functioning of your semi-auto pistol depends. If the shoulder is rounded or roll-crimped, the cartridge will enter too far into your pistol's chamber, and jams will result."

Hang onto that remark about the function of the .45 ACP depending on a "tiny shoulder" that exists where the brass meets the bullet, then read the comments on .45 ACP headspacing in this issue's Handloading column. And as far as having separate dies for seating and crimping is concerned, little if anything is to be gained over using a combination seat-crimp die that is correctly adjusted, whether you're handloading for an auto or a revolver. Just make sure all cases are uniform in length, then adjust the die body and its seating stem so the bullet will be fully seated as the crimp is formed. If the case mouth has been flared so as to accept the bullet without undue resistance, and if the stem matches the shape of the bullet, there will be no deformation.



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The owner of a new Dillon press is urged not to "suffer in silence." The instructions are lengthy and complete although parts are hard to read. He's invited to call a toll-free number and have problems involving the set-up, adjustment, and operation of the thing solved over the phone. The offer hits home, because it reflects a level of conscience long forgotten by a lot of manufacturers. When you buy from anyone but Dillon, you don't get a tollfree "trouble hotline."

Still, you're not likely to run into any heavy problems with the RL-550, provided you're blessed with common sense, and provided you can read the instructions.

And, whatever you do, be sure to read the section on trouble shooting before you call Dillon's toll-free number. Chances are you'll discover something you've overlooked, and that the Dillon RL-550 is not at fault.

DUTCH CONNECTION Continued from page 47

secondary advantage is that the bullet does not contain lead. Feeding through automatics is superb. In fact, even in the USA, specialists agree that they might very well be the ideal police rounds. It did not take the research committee long to decide that this was the "stopkogel" (literally: "stopping bullet") the police had been asking for.

Before the decision to place such a big order is taken several departments in the government have to give their permission. One of these departments is the Ministry of the Interior under which the police is controlled. The Walther P5 gave no problems, it was accepted and the orders were placed. With the ammunition, however, something went wrong.

While the case was being reviewed by the Ministry of the Interior, the contents of the report leaked out and reached the press. Stories appeared in the newspapers about the devastating effect of these bullets and the term "dum-dum" was used. This triggered strong reactions from the democratic parties who, through their representatives in parliament, demanded to be informed. When the contents of the reports were published, a storm of protest arose. Humanitarian and civil rights organizations demanded that this ammunition should not be bought. Many "specialists" published their meaning about this inhumane ammo that produced such horrible unhealable wounds. Many politicians saw a nice way to improve their image by saying they would never allow the police to use such "inhumane" methods. They even quoted the The Hague agreements.

The most remarkable reactions, however, came from a totally unexpected side. The head of the State Coroners Office took a very strong stand against this ammunition because of its "unnecessary damaging effect." Also the heads of the police unions were against (sic), for the same reason. (They are the same people that advise their members not to carry their guns off-duty.) Strangely enough, no one ever asked the cop in the street his opin-





ion. Having a number of friends among them I know their opinion: definitely pro!

The result of all this was that the committee was sent back to the laboratory to find a bullet with good stopping power that would produce a minimal wound cavity. This under the motto: "If you have to shoot them, shoot them only a little bit." (Can you imagine, Dutch cops are instructed to avoid shooting in the head or chest area in order to minimize the risk of killing a subject. What the subject can do to them seems not to matter).

When the committee reported again they came up with two "solutions" to the problem. The first was to reduce the powder charge in the 9mm round, like the Germans did, so that the bullet would arrive at the target with less energy and thus would also come out the back of the target with less energy. Stopping power would be the same as the standard FMJ (negligible).

A second possibility was a round loaded with a 106 grain "truncated ball." This bullet design looks a bit like a standard ball with the tip cut off. The committee stated that this bullet transfers twice as much energy to $6^{"}$ of gelatin as the standard ball and thus penetrates with much less leftover energy.

What they did not say is that standard ball transfers only 20% of its energy, coming out with 80% leftover. The truncated ball therefore transfers 40% to the target and comes out with 60%, which is a difference of only 20%. Now that sounds a lot less comforting than the "twice as much" of the committee. Ricochet safety seems to be somewhat better than ball but the only real improvement is the accuracy. It would be a nice round for IPSC contests.

The way things stand now it seems that this round will be the standard round for our police. In fact nobody is happy with it but it seems the only possibility to have something that stops better than hardball. The advantages of the new pistol are thus completely offset by the disadvantages of the ammunition.

Oh, I almost forgot. While this discussion was going on the Walther P5 pistols were issued to the police units. Can you guess what kind of ammo they are carrying in it? Exactly: military hardball. I sure hope that if there's ever a shootout and the bullets start flying, I will be out of the way. For at least a few miles!

YOU CARRY A SNUBBY Continued from page 52

Smith & Wesson Model 19 Combat Magnum, caliber .357 Magnum, 2½ inch Colt Lawman Mk V, .357 Magnum, 2 inch Charter Arms Bulldog, .44 Special, 3 inch.

Selection of ammunition is always important when you run a check on guns because no gun is any better than the ammunition you feed it, and sometimes what we think of a 'minor' ammunition decisions can make a really monumental difference in the end results we get.

One thing was for certain: we'd use commercial ammunition. The reason is very sim-







ple. No matter how good I believe myself to be as a loader, I know from experience that I am not so reliable as the makers. I may be willing to risk my life on my own loads, but I certainly do not recommend that anyone else take that risk.

The .357 and .44 Special ammunition gave us no special problems. We selected the Winchester 125 grain jacketed hollowpoints in .357 Magnum, and the new 200 grain *Silvertip* in .44 Special.

interrip in the operation							
ARM	BARREL	OVERALL LENGTH	HEIGHT	THICKNESS		IGHT D/EMPTY	SHOT
Smith & Wesson Model 36 Chiefs Special, .38 Spcl.	2 in.	6 1/2 in.	4.03 in.	1.31 in.	25 oz.	19 oz.	5
Colt Detective Special .38 Spcl.	2 in.	65/8 in.	4.49 in.	1.36 in.	28 oz.	22 oz.	6
Smith & Wesson Model 19 Combat Magnum, .357 Magnum	2 1/2 in.	7 1/2 in.	5.14 in.	1.4 in.	40 oz.	33 oz.	6
Colt Lawman, .357 Magnum	2 in.	73/8 in.	4.74 in.	1.56 in.	38 oz.	31 oz.	6
Charter Arms Bulldog, .44 Spcl.	3 in.	7 3/4 in.	4.78 in.	1.45 in.	31 oz.	19 oz.	5
						1.1.1	

Ah, but the .38 Specials proved to be something else again. To my surprise I found that almost no ammunition is loaded these days that *isni* "+ P", and + P is a "No, no" for the light guns such as the Chiefs Special and the aluminum versions of the Colt Detective Special. We finally settled on Federal 158 grain lead semi-wadcutters. Except for wadcutters, these were about all there was in standard loadings.

Just to be on the safe side, I bought a box of 148 grain target wadcutters also. I have long suspected that they are at least as effective as the lead round nose, and may well be more so.

Before beginning the shooting, I decided to subject each of the guns involved to a close physical examination, and to record the results.

The figures in the chart do not tell you much unless you have examined the guns. There were two that really caused me concern: the Smith & Wesson Model 36 and the Charter Arms .44. Both appeared to me to be light to the point of fragility. The cylinder wall thickness and general "beef" in the action just isn't there. Instinctively, I would be very reluctant to use either of these revolvers with high pressure loads, and I don't feel all that happy about them with regular loads.

My impressions of the Lawman and the Combat Magnum are just the opposite; they are heavy revolvers and can handle whatever they are fed. The Detective Special is a good, medium weight utility revolver; enough beef to get the job done, but not enough to weigh down your belt.

What about the first question, then? Is it true that "snubbies are inherently inaccurate; no matter how good you are you cannot hit with them?" Detective Peters, Martha Penso and I went out to the Fairfax Rod & Gun Club range the first good day we had this April. It was a beautiful, sunny day with temperature in the 50° range. We set up a target at 25 yards and shot from the Ransom Rest. Everything seemed to go well and smoothly, and we finished all the shooting in a little more than three hours. The results, however, were disappointing.

Some years ago I used to keep all the targets I shot off the Ransom Rest. After three years I assembled and studied all of them and computed the average and best groups by caliber I had recorded. I found that the overall average group size for pistols and revolvers, ordinary service and target, hand-loads and factory ammunition, came out to 2.8 inches.

4.74 in.	1.56 in.	38 oz.	31 oz.	6
4.78 in.	1.45 in.	31 oz.	19 oz.	5
was that was not i all. By th not delive	eresting the it included nvolved we is standard er a very ess I have	I no snu tith them the snu impressi	in those ibbies I ve perfo	olvers. I e days at fired did ormance.

answer to the question. These snubbles are definitely not as accurate as the average revolver and pistol of longer barrel that I have fired. This should not be read to mean, however, that they are not adequately accurate for the average 7 to 12 yard police shooting event; clearly they are.

The next assertion was that "snubbies, by their short barrels, lose all the effectiveness of their cartridges." We took along several 'control' revolvers in six and 6½ inch barrel lengths, and here is how the velocities compared:

GUN	AMMUNITION	AVERAGE VELOCITY
S & W Model 36		
2 inch	FC 158 or LSWC	654 fps
	FC 148 gr LWC	627 fps
3 inch	FC 158 gr LSWC	713 fps
	FC 148 gr LWC	668 fps
Colt Detective Special		
2 inch	FC 158 gr LSWC	685 fps
	FC 148 gr LWC	662 fps
3 inch	FC 158 gr LSWC	754 tps
	FC 148 gr LWC	694 tps
S & W Model 19		
6 inch	FC 158 gr LSWC	855 fps
	FC 148 gr LWC	748 fps
S & W Model 19		
21/2 inch	WW 125 gr JHP	1185 fps
Colt Lawman		
2 inch	WW 125 gr JHP	1220 fps
S & W Model 19		
6 inch	WW 125 gr JHP	1333 fps
Charter Arms Buildog		
3 inch	WW 200 gr STHP	703 fps
S & W Model 1950 Target		
6 1/2 inch	WW 200 gr STHP	815 fps

The average loss, in percent, from the control guns, came to:

S & W Model 36, 2 inch	20%
3 inch	13%
Colt Detective Special 2 inch	16%
3 inch	9%
S & W Model 19 21/2 inch	11%
Colt Lawman 2 inch	9%
Charter Arms 3 inch	14%
If you belong to the school that	considers

If you belong to the school that considers the .38 Special cartridge as already inade-

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quate at best for law enforcement work, then it is at a distinct disadvantage indeed in the snubbies.

Recent major tests conducted at the Army's Ballistic Research Laboratories tell us that even lead wadcutters and hollow points do not begin to expand until impact velocity betters 700 fps. Only the three-inch guns manage this, and just barely. For jacketed hollow points, expansion does not begin until an impact velocity of about 1,100 fps is achieved. By this standard the .357s pass, but the old .44 Bulldog is in trouble.

Finally it is alleged that "there's no point in trying to learn to shoot snubbies; their short sighting radius makes any improvement highly unlikely." After we did our test shoot in early April, Dick Peters and I agreed to hit the range at least once each week for two months and practice together with the snubbies. We've just completed the commitment and I can speak for us both: this claim is not valid.

We started shooting off-hand at 25 and 50 yards, the the first week would have been like a sick joke had we not been about serious business. I never hit at 50 yards with any of the little revolvers, and I didn't do very well at 25 yards, either. Dick shot the little guns better than I from the start.

We agreed after two months work that the most important thing about shooting snubbies is to take advantage of every bit of help you can get. Use a rest whenever you can, and a two-hand hold is much to be preferred always. One thing that I learned was how to use my initial hits to correct my aim; I now watch to see where my first shot hits and correct from that for succeeding tries. A good grip on the little revolvers helps.

And, logically enough, this leads me to the second major thing we learned. The grips you use are of vital importance, much more so for me than they are with target revolvers.

During the course of our two month test period I managed to try three or four different custom sets as well as the factory issue versions. For me, the very small S & W Model 36s needed most control, and I found that the Bianchi hammer shroud grips are best. These are made of a soft rubber-like material and are very comfortable without being overly large.

One last point: I do not like bobbed hammers on revolvers – or any other guns for that matter – and here the grips which shroud the hammer are of real value and save a lot of damage to clothing.

For me, the choice would be in caliber .38 Special. I don't care much for the design of the Bulldog, and the .357s are just too big and heavy. Subjective judgements, I admit. Of the .38s, I believe the little three-inch guns have a distinct advantage over the two-inch versions, and my choice would be the Colt Detective Special. The little S & W Model 36s are just too light and small for me.

All things considered, however, I find no reason to reconsider my opinion of snubbies. I'd never depend on one given any reasonable alternative.



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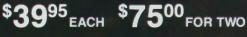
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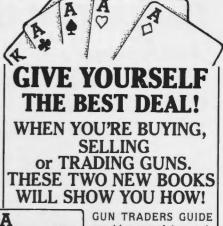
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INDUSTRY INSIDER

JERRY RAKUSAN

SMITH AND WESSON SUES THE ARMY; **COLT CELEBRATES 150TH BIRTHDAY**

We have several awards to give out this month, and we'll call them the Handgunner Fouled Up Finger. The first goes to the BATF for their ruling that the Thompson/Center Contender Carbine Kit was illegal. After telling Thompson Center that it would be OK, they changed their mind. The BATF, in all their wisdom, decided that a customer could purchase a kit, use the shoulder stock, receiver and pistol barrel, and make a short barreled rifle, which is illegal. I'm waiting for them to rule that the possession of a rifle and a hacksaw is also illegalseems like the kind of thing they might consider.

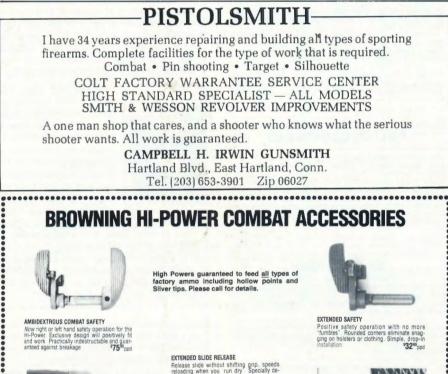
The second award goes to the Maryland Court of Appeals. They ruled that manufacturers and marketers of "small, cheap handguns" may be sued for injuries caused by a third party's misuse of its product. The court's

description of a so-called Saturday Night Special is interesting; they said that these guns are "generally characterized by short barrels, light weight, easy concealability, low cost, use of cheap quality materials, poor manufacture, inaccuracy and unreliability." The gun in the case being tried by the Court retails at \$125.

It's not important that you or I might not want one of these "Saturday Night Specials," but the precedent that this court ruling has on all handguns is devastating. There is no doubt that this ruling will be challenged, as well it should be.

Colt Celebrates 150 Years

All during 1986, Colt will be celebrating their 150th anniversary, and while there is no indication that we'll be seeing the long awaited big bore revolver, they do have some interesting products for this anniversary





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year. Many projects are coming from the Colt custom shop, including a special Exhibition Single Action. This will be extensively engraved and gold inlaid, and will be a oneof-a-kind gun to be showcased at gun and trade shows throughout the country.

For the consumer, Colt has a "contemporary commemorative" two-gun set consisting of a 6-inch Python and an Officer's ACP. The two guns will be in stainless, with the new Colt "ultimate" finish, and put up in a handsome display case.

The new handguns for '86 will be the "King Cobra," a .357 based on the Mark V action, and the "Mustang," a chopped version of the .380 Government. We'll have detailed reports on these new Colts in future issues.

There is some good news for those who wanted to buy a Desert Eagle .357 Magnum, but just couldn't see the \$700 plus price tag. Magnum Research has just announced a price reduction of \$200; the new list price is \$549. In addition, Magnum Research has announced the availability of a conversion kit for the Desert Eagle in .44 Magnum.

9mm Military Pistol

Smith & Wesson, a bit irked at not getting the military contract for the 9mm pistol, is not giving up without a fight. In a recent release, S&W explored their "position regarding test procedures, the validity and accuracy of certain test results, and the possibility that a firm decision in favor of Beretta existed long before any testing was performed." S&W filed suit in October of 1984, and it is interesting that the court did not overturn the Army's elimination of the S&W gun, yet, in its opinion, admitted that the S&W 9mm pistol exceeded the minimum firing pin energy test when properly conducted; that the S&W 9mm pistol fired to and beyond the 5,000 round minimum specified test standard; and that at least one of the two other guns allowed to compete had failed a mandatory combat condition mud test and had a receiver failure at 500 rounds.

Smith and Wesson has appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit in Boston. The case is still pending.

Smith and Wesson Model 647

A late breaking report from the IPSC National Championships says that Smith and Wesson will produce a limited run of 1,000 pistols in celebration of IPSC's tenth anniversary in 1986. The pistol is a singleaction version of the Model 645, the doubleaction .45 ACP auto that should be on your dealer's shelf by now. The tentative model designation is 647. This pistol is virtually identical to Tom Campbell's "Super Gun II," the prototype of the Model 645.

The limited run of 647s will be available for sale on a proportional basis to the member nations of IPSC, and through the member organizations to individual IPSC shooters. The 647s will be numbered IPSC 0001 through IPSC 1000.

Considering that 99.99% of IPSC shooters use Colt Government Models, one wonders why Smith and Wesson got the nod for this special commemorative pistol. Hartford must be steaming.

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SFA4571

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