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make this .45 unique to you—and truly one of a kind.

Each .45 is built by the gunsmiths of Thompson/
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the Thompson Submachine Gun. NRA test firings of
their .45 shows accuracy "significantly better than the have been more wrong." housands of heroic tales of valor immortalize the famous .45 . . . and from the frontlines of four major American wars to the holsters of Marines on bases, the M1911A1 .45 Caliber Pistol has been an embodiment of the Marine Corps motto, "Semper Fide-lis"—always faithful. It never let an American down. But now, this proud workhorse is retiring after 75 years of stalwart service, being replaced by the smaller 9mm—thanks to NATO standardization. The old Corps' their .45 shows accuracy "significantly better than the average as-issued M1911."

To proudly wall mount or desktop display this mustandby is now marching off the battlefield and into museums. seum quality firearm, a velvet-lined, furniture-finished walnut case measuring $14'' \times 8'' \times 3''$ is available. The glass lid and the concealed lock protect your investment from If you were born between the late 1880s and 1968, it Your ownership and display of this museum-grade firearm today—and as a family heirloom tomorrow—says is the symbol of your time, your day, your age. And future Americans will look back on our time, with reverence, as the ".45 Era." you're proud of our American military heritage. dust and unauthorized handling. Three other .45s, honoring the U.S. Navy, U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force, are also available. Each has How much longer will the .45 be made? No one knows. But while it is, we're proud to salute the Americans of the ".45 Era" by issuing a separate, firing, com-RESERVATION Satisfaction Guaranteed or Return in 30 days for Full Refund To: The American Historical Foundation memorative .45 in honor of each of the four American 1142 West Grace Street, Dept. D80 armed forces that carried it. Richmond, Virginia 23220 Telephone: (804) 353-1812 24-Karat Gold Plating TOLL FREE 24 hours: (800) 368-8080 "Old Slabsides" is not dead and polished and blued gun steel of the U.S. Marine Corps Commemorative 45. Yes, I wish to reserve the following firing Armed Forces
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HANDGUNNER

JULY/AUGUST 1988

Vol. 12, No. 70

CROSSFIRE: DERRINGERS, Massad Ayoob and J.B. Wood Are derringers good for self-defense? A hot debate! MASTER TIPS, Jon Winokur. Sally van Valzah on controlling the flinch. THE AYOOB FILES, Massad Ayoob. Finally, the truth about the infamous Newhall Massacre. LLAMA'S AUTO PISTOLS, Dave Arnold. A fresh new look at autos from the Spanish gunmaker. FALCON GUNSIGHT, Howard E. French. 186

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Big bite, little kick, that's the compensated Officers Model.

You can win a sumptuous Carry Comp .45 from Pistol Dynamics.

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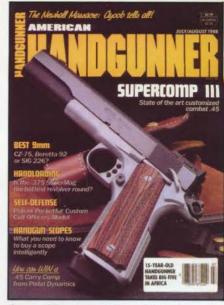
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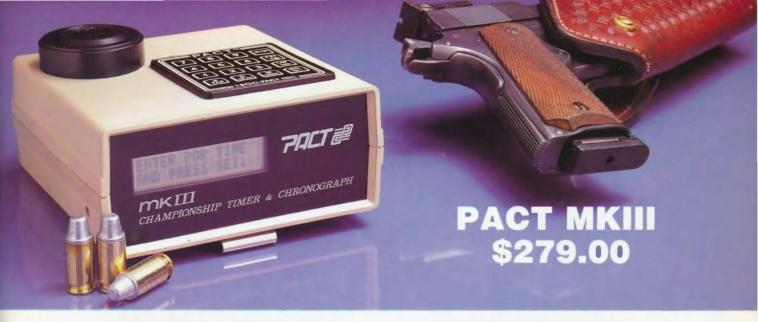
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TRAIN WITH THE BEST

The \$64.00 question

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Why do I need a timer?

Whether you are training for competition or self defense; if you are going to improve you've got to keep track of the two elements of marksmanship 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, without a timer, you have no accurate measurement of your speed and no way to tell if a given technique is helping or hindering your progress.

Of course shooting timers, like guns, are not created equal. A well designed shooting timer is an invaluable training aid which will dramatically improve your practice sessions. A poorly designed timer, with functions that are inconvenient or difficult to use, becomes nothing more than an expensive buzz box that distracts you from your shooting each

time you use it.

Advanced display

The PACT MKIII featues an advanced 32 character display instead of the four digit display commonly found on other timers and cheap alarm clocks (sorry guys, but facts are facts). This display allows the MKIII to display all of the information about a given shot (shot number, split time, total time) at a glance and eliminates the hassle of having to "toggle" back and forth between functions in order to review your shot string.

Full function keypad

Our 32 character display and 16 key keypad make the MKIII about as easy to use as your pocket calculator. For example to enter a "PAR TIME" of four seconds, simply push "PAR." the MKIII will ask you to "ENTER PAR TIME AND PRESS SET" so you push "4," "SET." Want to change it to six seconds? Push "PAR," "6," "SET," it's that simple!

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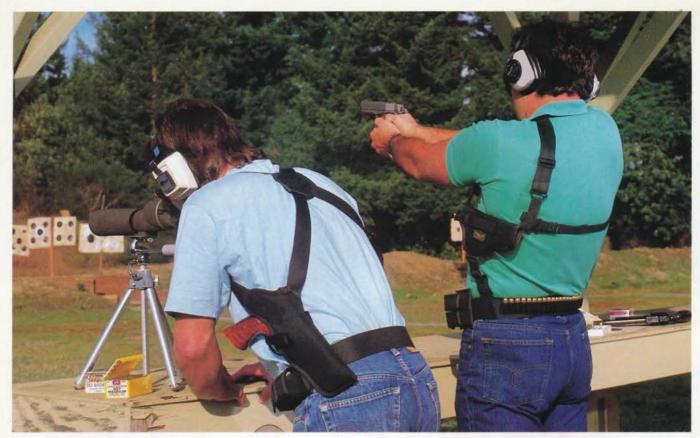
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sell it factory direct to you. We take full
responsibility for your satisfaction. If you are not 100% satisfied with any PACT product, return it to us undamaged (no fair driving over it) within 30 days, and we will refund your money. That's our promise and you can depend on it.

Lifetime Warranty

The MKIII features a real simple repair policy. If it breaks due to a defective part or faulty workmanship we'll fix it free. If you break it (people really have driven over them, ask Mickey Fowler) we will fix it for cost. No hassles and no questions asked.

Shop Around & Call Us Last

Before you buy a shooting timer take the time to do a little research. Call the different manufacturers and get their literature. Compare each timer feature for feature and watch out for bizarre operational limitations, like the inability to review shots when using a PAR time or the requirement for two machines to run a Man vs Man event. You'll find that dollar for dollar and feature for feature the PACT MKIII gives you more honest "bang for the buck" than any other shooting timer on the market.



MIKE'S S

by Michaels of Oregon



VERTICAL Shoulder Holster is secured by an onside belt loop, a comfortable shoulder harness and an offside tiedown that accepts 1 or 2 belt accessories.



HORIZONTAL Shoulder Holster has comfortable and thin shoulder harness, onside tie-down plus offside tie-down that accepts 1 or 2 accessories.



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super BELT SLIDE Holster snugs gun against your side in a high ride, forward draw configuration. Extra-thin profile with belt loops on both sides so trouser belt can pass inside or outside the holster.

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Whether you carry a handgun for law enforcement, personal protection or sport, your own security and protection for the gun are only as good as your holster.

SIDEKICK® nylon shoulder holsters, belt models and concealment rigs all have the same things in common . . . they fit the gun properly, they fit you properly, and they provide quick access in any situation.

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Ask your gun or sporting goods dealer to show you the SIDEKICK holster best suited to your needs.



NEW DUTY HOLSTER for uniformed police, security personnel and others who need maximum security for a gun, a fast, smooth draw and one-handed holstering. Fully tested by police on the street. Two sizes for popular revolvers.



INSIDE-THE-PANT Holster has black steel clip to hold gun inside waistband. Ultra-thin laminate won't chafe, allows quick access.



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SPEAK OUT

Ayoob Goofs

After 15 years of reading and enjoying Mas Ayoob, I have finally discovered an error of fact in one of his stories.

The "urban guerrilla terrorist" in the motion picture *Black Sunday* did not use a four-inch Smith 29 as Ayoob stated in his story 4x.44 (May/June 1988). That weapon was a four-inch Model 28 .357 Magnum Highway Patrolman. Its identification points include 1) skinny barrel, 2) a large gap between the front of the cylinder and the frame and 3) a narrow, ungrooved rib. The latter feature is clearly seen in the shot where the terrorist is speedloading with an old Dade. (Ain't VCR "pause" buttons wonderful?)

Please tell Ayoob to shape up. I don't want to have to take time from my busy schedule to write another letter of this sort in the year 2003.

Steve Mesner Hagerstown, Md.

Straightforward Reporting

After years of owning rifles and shotguns, I recently decided to buy a handgun. I did my homework by buying many of the available gun magazines.

I found them to be sadly lacking in helpful information, most falling into two main categories: First, the "we love everything" school of journalism. ("The Acme Kerplunk is a beautifully crafted gun that we think every shooter should buy, and please see their full color ad on the back cover.")

Second, the "Howard Cosell create-abogus-controversy school of journalism." ("Six inch barrels versus five inch barrels . . . The Controversy Splitting Our Nation!")

Then I found your magazine—objective (writer's emphasis), informative, beautifully illustrated and highly readable. I especially enjoyed the straightforward reporting of Charles Petty and John Taffin. I also liked Jon Winokur's *Master Tips* and the no-nonsense reporting of Massad Ayoob.

Tim Adams Moriarty, NM

Bravo Glock

I guess this can be a testimonial to Glock, not necessarily the pistol (I haven't had my Glock 17 long enough to make that determination, though it seems very dependable so far) but certainly to the company and its people.

I had some questions about my new Glock 17 so I called the company. I got Bob Gates, national sales manager, who is a very nice gentleman who spoke with knowledge and expertise. He didn't make me feel stupid or inferior just because I have a Colt handicap! In other words, I got the "horse's mouth," not a "horse's ——." Thanks again, Mr. Gates,

and thanks American Handgunner for a fine publication.

P. Sturgill Catlettsburg, Ky.

High Road

I think this is the first time I've ever done this. I would like to say your magazine is very well done and I like your format. *The Ayoob Files* section is unique and educational. You appear to be taking the "high road" in your overall approach. Please continue.

Jon Pollock Olathe, Ks.

P.S. I sent a modest contribution to the Mark Branham Fund.

Thanks for your kind words. Your thoughtful contribution to the Mark Branham Fund to help defray exorbitant legal fees for the defense of this persecuted armed citizen (see May/June 1988) has been worthwhile. Massad Ayoob reports that Mark Branham was recently found not guilty in the trial involving his righteous use of lethal force in self-defense. Watch for a complete report in The Ayoob Files soon.

Lucky 13?

Why is it that everytime someone gets shot with a 9mm (*The Ayoob Files*, March/April 1988) it is 13 times? Never 12 or less, never 14 or more. Always 13.

A.B. Cole Avondale, Ariz.

Well, it's not always 13. Yes, the motorcycle thug who tried to kill Officers Kolowski and Burchette in The Ayoob Files (March/April 1988) took 13 hits from a 9mm before bowing out of the fight. It was reported in some circles that the drug dealer who killed four FBI agents in the "Great Miami Shootout" took 13 bullets from a 9mm before he threw in the towel, but that is not correct. The cop killer with a clean toxicology screen went on to commit murder with two Silvertip 9mm slugs buried in his chest. Reliable reports indicate that the major arteries above his heart had been severed by the 9mm projectile, but apparently this did not incapacitate the brutal killer.

Then there was the infamous Cook County, Ill., shootout in 1977 during which a crazed heroin addict took 33 hits from Model 59 Smith and Wesson 9mm pistols. Still the druggie stayed in the fight! He was finally taken out with a 12 gauge rifled slug. Massad Ayoob said of the Cook County 9mm gun battle, "Officers kept emptying Model 59s into him over and over. Some Cook County cops forever after carried .44 Magnums."

Then in 1988 came the Pasadena, Calif., gunfight between DEA agents and two oriental drug merchants. The head doper took nine 9mm slugs in the boiler room before he surrendered. He had time for a death-bed confession before he bled-out.

UNCLE MIKE'S SIDEKICK TO SIDEK

Belt Accessories



...AND AMMO AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

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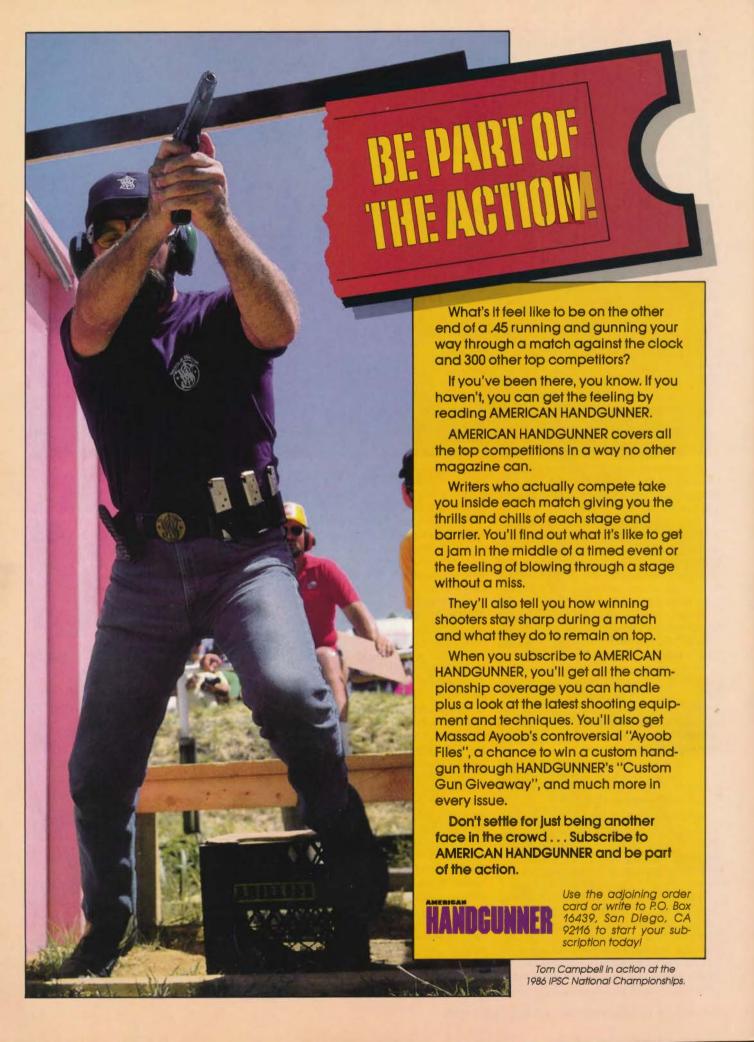


Single or Double Pistol Clip Pouch for .45 or 9mm clips; Velcro flap.

carriers hold ammunition silently and securely. Belt loops fit over holster or trouser belt, or on the offside tie-downs of SIDEKICK vertical and horizontal shoulder holsters. All accessories in camouflage or black.



Folding Handgun Cartridge Carrier holds 12 cartridges; compact and silent.



Skeptic

Through the years I've seen many ads in American Handgunner magazine for all kinds of work by dozens of pistolsmiths, but I was always skeptical. As a fellow handgunner once told me, "You and I could go together and buy an ad in a gun magazine but that would not mean that either one of us was a qualified pistolsmith."

At the same time, however, I needed to have work done on my new Colt Detective Special. It had already made two trips to Colt's warranty repair shops which had yielded nothing. Then two trips back to the Colt factory in Hartford. I paid Colt \$100 for a "hand hone" action job that left me wondering what in the hell I'd spent my money for while Colt acted like they couldn't care less.

Then I saw an ad in American Handgunner (March/April 1988) placed by Mr. Campbell H. Irwin in which he said that he runs "a one man shop that cares . . . " I decided to take a

I explained to him that I'd already wasted so much time and money and that the Colt factory had now said my one year's warranty had expired while they had been dragging their feet on fixing my Detective Special.

My little Colt came back exactly one month to the day after I'd shipped it and Mr. Irwin's letter said in part, "I have done a complete check and re-adjustment to all the action's parts that Colt had improperly installed in a haphazard, wherever, whenever fashion. In addition to installing a new recoil plate I also found that your gun's cylinder bolt wasn't unlocking at the correct time and that the hand was far too long. Also, the latch bolt was hitting the safety bar and causing a rough drag. Furthermore, sir, I had to make a special shim to hold the cylinder in the right location. You'll note that it no longer moves fore and aft as it formerly did.

"With as many years as I have in this business, I can tell when a defective gun is the owner's fault and when it is, then he must pay. I side with Colt on many occasions regarding their fair warranty repair service, but this time my work is on the house for you. I've contacted Colt and described your gun's many problems and they've agreed to take care of it. As you can see, I am a caring person when it comes to fair play."

My Detective Special is finally working as it should and American Handgunner readers can rest assured that Campbell H. Irwin can do a quality job.

> Frank L. LeBleu Santa Ana, Calif.

Skeptic, Part II

I am very skeptical about your Custom Gun Giveaways. As a subscriber to Handgunner I have never seen "who won what" reported in your publication. Within 104 printed pages, surely there should be an announcement. Why not?

> Fred C. Gale Carson City, NV

We prefer not to publish the names of the winners because the guys who have won expensive custom guns could, possibly, be targeted for home burglary. With just a

name, city and state, any literate crook is but a phone book away from stealing your guns. We can publish just the name and state with less risk, but it seems rather futile because there is no way for you to verify the winners on that slim information.

(Our subscription records show multiple copies go to various agencies of the Department of Justice. Every copy goes through the US Postal Service, which has strict regulations against mail fraud. In the face of that, do you really think we'd have the nerve to run a fake contest?)

Robert J. Dillman of Texas would say phooey to your implication that the contest is phony. He won a Cogan custom .45 in the March/April 1987 issue. Nuts says Joseph J. Morrell of Indiana who shoots his La Rocca custom .45 that he won in the May/June 1987 issue. Thomas P. Breen of Illinois would differ with you on his Cannon custom "Street L" revolver from the July/August 1987 issue. Rodney M. Clark of Arkansas is a believerhe won a Ron Power Grand Master Universal revolver in the Sept/Oct 1987 issue. William G. Martin took home a Volquartsen custom Ruger .22 from the Nov/Dec 1987 contest. Dennis M. Wade of Washington, his Wilson custom 10mm auto in hand, would attest that the Jan/Feb 1988 contest was real.

AMERICAN HANDGUNNER WELCOMES letters to the editor of no more than 350 words. Letters rers to the editor of no more than 350 words. Letters must include the writer's full name and address. Letters must be signed by the writer. Typewritten letters are preferred, but legible handwriting is acceptable. Send your letters to Speak Out, American Handgunner, 591 Camino de la Reina, Suite 200, San Diego, CA, 92108.



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	Uniden	Maxon #	Snooper
			-Uniden
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i	BEL	Cobra	-Cobra
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1988 Cincinneti

LEATHAM'S COLUMN

ROB LEATHAM

WHO IS THE GREATEST PISTOL SHOT? LEATHAM PROPOSES NEW INDEX

Who is the best pistol shot in the world? I Wdon't remember how many times I've been asked my opinion on this subject. Is it Jerry Barnhart, 1987 IPSC and Steel Challenge Champion? How about Allen Fulford, the victor at last year's Masters tournament? Maybe it's John Pride who posted top score at the Bianchi Cup in 1987?

Maybe it's none of them. What about good ole John Shaw? He didn't win any of the major tournaments last year, but he did place a very close second at not only the Steel Challenge but also the Bianchi Cup.

Hey, how about me? I didn't win any of the major pistol matches last year either, but I wasn't that bad. Besides, I'm a nice guy and that should count for something, shouldn't it? Maybe not!

Anyway, if you really want to do this right, you're going to have to look in the old record books too. This really complicates matters! How about the first IPSC World Champion, Ray Chapman? The year was 1975 and he is still active today, both competing and teach-

ing. How about Bill Blankenship? Bill racked up a string of championships and records in US and world bullseye competition that stand today, and most likely always will.

What about Ed McGivern, the author of Fast and Fancy Revolver Shooting and arguably the fastest gun of all time? Even though he wasn't a competition shooter, some of his feats are incredible.

So where does this all leave us? Were the shooters of the past better than those of today? And, if so, how are we to determine the world's best pistol shot? We can't go back in time and ask Ed to shoot the Bianchi Cup, so we'll have to leave the heroes of yesteryear in their respective places of honor in the history of handgunning.

For today's championships the question becomes one of measuring performance in different matches and different disciplines and then adding the results to determine the greatest shot.

For years I have been keeping track of the various action shooting games by adding the

placings of a shooter at the end of the year to see who finished the most consistently at the top of the pack. For example, in 1987 I placed fourth at the Steel Challenge, 15th at Bianchi Cup and third at IPSC. This gives me an aggregate of 22 with an average finish of 7.3.

As a comparison, I had an aggregate of 3 in 1985 for three wins in the three big matches with an average of One. Can't beat that!

Last year was not so good for me, and my friend and practice partner Brian Enos nipped by me with an average finish of 7.0. What this means for 1987 is that Brian was a more consistent shooter than Rob Leatham. It could then be said that Brian was a better pistol shot than me in 1987. Damn!

This is just an informal, simple way of keeping track of who's doing what. Obviously there are those who don't go to all the big matches. That's not to say these many shooters are not great shots, it's just that there's no way to compare them if they don't compete!

Another factor is the recent advent of a new match. The Masters is now topping the prize money offered by any of the traditional "big money" matches and is certainly a bona fide major tournament. In fact, The Masters was largely inspired by the same question I'm asking—who is the best pistol shot? The Masters seeks to crown the all-around greatest handgunner by testing the three basic disciplines of handgunning in a single match. It is still one match, though, which does not test consistency over time and over different

Continued on page 79



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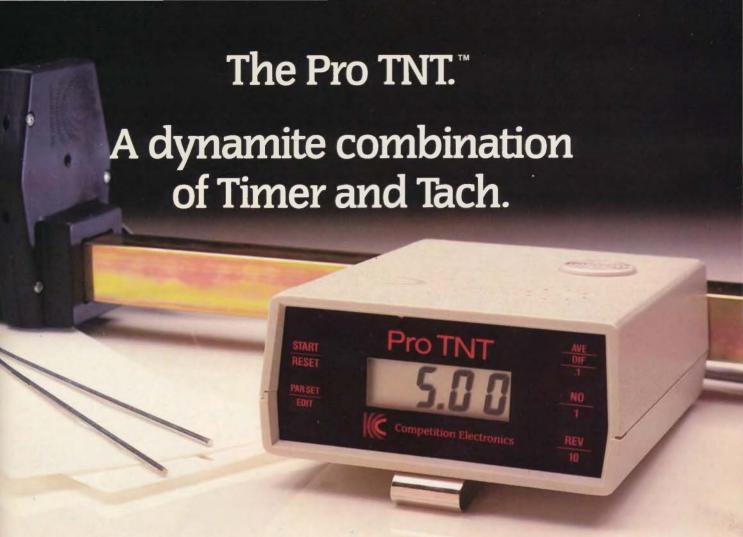
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PRO

By J.B. Wood

By Massad Ayoob

"It may have limited firepower, but it is there when you need it." "Given a choice of a derringer or a knife I'd vote for my Cold Steel Tanto."

ARE

Aquick description would be large caliber, small size, and one or two DERRINGERS shots. The accuracy was not outstanding, but it was sufficient, across a card table, when the deck produced more than the standard number of aces.

Its best-known form, perhaps,

The derringer-type pistol is a century out of its time. Just as the duellists of yore would have traded their Manton flintlocks for Plaxco Compensator .45 autos could they but have gotten hold of

them, the riverboat gamblers and the frontier lawmen who packed derringers for hideouts did so only because the Browning .25 auto, the

Colt Mustang .380, and the Smith & Wesson Chief Special had not yet been invented.

To use a derringer today for personal defense would be like

using leeches instead of antibiotics to cure infection. The typical derringer is a two-shot pistol. Now, it is often quoted that the average gunfight runs 2.3 rounds per participant. I happen to think that old canard errs on the light side, but even if it were true, the derringer man would be underequipped for even an average encounter from the start.

Add to that the hit potential factor. Those of us who use derringers to plink with (men with a grasp of street reality don't use them for much else) know that they are woefully inaccurate even before

the stress factor is introduced. Under the enormous pressure of fight or flight reflex in a deadly danger situation, they become even worse.

Studies by the Police Foundation show that with modern, smooth-action, six-shot DA revolvers, the average police officer only hits the man he is shooting at in a gunfight once out of every four shots. Even if the derringer was as controllable under stress as a good Police Special-which it most certainly is not-that would leave you out in the cold against even one armed criminal opponent. Two attackers make the outlook even worse. And even if you're the combined incarnation of Rob Leatham and Wyatt Earp and can put each of your two bullets into an opponent's cerebral cortex, if you face three armed men with your 2-shot derringer, your death is virtually assured.

Cases where a derringer has actually kept a good guy alive against armed violence are rare. Consider three of the best known ones:

-Private investigator JJ Armes, a double amputee whose prosthetic hands have been rigged with a special device to allow Continued on page 81

was the Remington two-shot .41 rim-fire, made from 1866 to 1935,

and much copied in the postwar years. Making the transition from the Mississippi riverboats to the urban jungle, the derringer in modern form has often been chosen as a personal protection

piece, or as a back-up "second gun" for law enforcement use. Many of the modern copies are in .38 Special chambering, and this gave the advantage of using the same round as the duty revolver in the latter role.

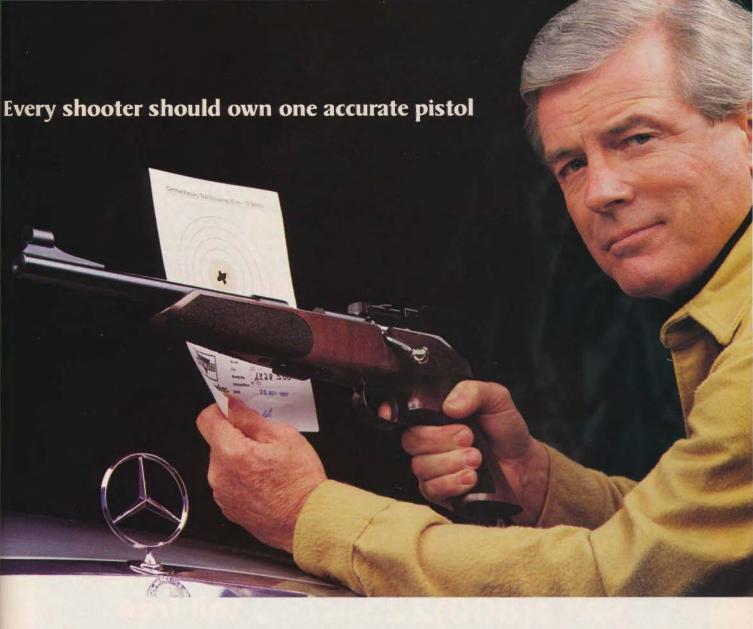
The little gun has had its detractors. Often cited as a minus is its capacity, usually no more than two rounds. It has been said that with only a small increase in size and weight one can have a five-shot snub-nosed revolver, or a small automatic. In the case of the revolver, the comparison is not entirely accurate, if all of the mea-

surements are taken into consideration. The width of the cylinder, for example. Concealed in light summer clothing, it is quickly evident which gun is more likely to "print through.

As for the automatic, (and regular readers will known that I am an auto-pistol person), those that match the derringer in size are chambered for .22LR, .25, .32, or .380 Auto. Personally, I feel that in the hand of an expert, those calibers are quite adequate. However, there are many who will insist that nothing less than a .38 Special, preferably in a + Pload, can be effective. In the same carrying space, the derringer offers this level of power.

Concentrating on the two-shot single-action derringers that are similar to the old Remington, there is one other objection that should be addressed: The rather long hammer arc makes them a little slower to get into action. With practice, though, it's easy to bring the hammer to full cock as the gun is grasped and drawn. And, anyone who doesn't practice with the chosen back-up or personal defense piece is always at a disadvantage, regardless of the type of gun.

Another question is safety. Many of the early Remington copies Continued on page 80



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PISTOLSMITHING

JOHN LAWSON

STAINLESS STEEL FOR HANDGUNS HAS VARIOUS HARDNESS, STRENGTH TRAITS

We sat behind the crowded Police Range firing line, waiting our turn to shoot. The range hadn't changed much since the early 1950's when Jerry and I had been instructors here and had qualified officers of the TAPD.

Out of boredom, we began to comment on the shooter's techniques and equipment. Concentrating on one at a time, from the streetwise Narc, dressed in leathers and a gold earring, firing a LW Commander on the far left to the Sweet Young Thing from Records and ID, struggling with her Model 64 Smith on the far right, we noted a number of shiny weapons, most of which were stainless steel.

"Remember that call we rolled on one night to assist the Security Guard at Peerless Laundry on 12th Street?" Jerry asked me.

"I sure do," I replied. "When we were a block and a half away I saw two figures scuffling under the streetlight, one of which was holding the brightest chrome plated revolver I'd ever seen." "Yes, and right on the spot I decided that I'd never carry anything that would call attention to itself like that."

"Not everybody feels that way," I countered. "There are some advantages that outweigh the high visibility. Resistance to corrosion and lack of obvious holster wear to name two."

We were soon the center of a small discussion group as shooters and those waiting to fire joined us.

There are many different categories, subcategories and individual types of steel grouped under the generic term "stainless steel" that a proper discussion of the subject would fill several volumes. Only a few types are of direct concern to handgunners, however. Even those shooters who don't presently own a s/s weapon should learn something about care and maintenance because they are going to be with us for the foreseeable future, despite the continued popularity of chrome moly handguns and the inroads being made by plastics for a number of component parts.

17-7 PH (PH means precipitation hardenable) is a weldable, hardenable stainless used mostly for magazines.

17-4 is often used for cast frames because it won't warp when hardened. It can't be successfully forged.

410 or 416 is hardenable, and most often used for barrels.

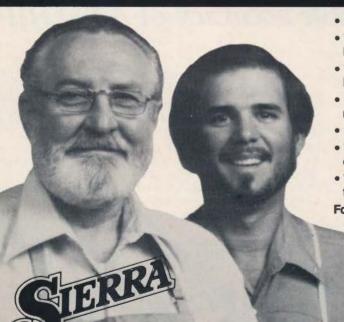
Some of the other 400 series steels are used for forged parts, but 440, a very popular steel for knife blades, is useless for gun parts. 440 steel has an impact limit of four footpounds, while \$77 tool steel has a rating of 180 foot-pounds.

What becomes obvious is that a steel is chosen for ease of part fabrication. While that steel is acceptable for the use it was selected for, it is usually not the optimum steel for long wear and impact resistance. The optimum steel would often prove difficult or impossible to shape into the required part. The infamous problems of Auto Mag production are a case in point.

If theory matched practice exactly, stainless steel handguns would be somewhat larger in size than their chrome moly steel counterparts, to provide equal margins of failure above normal stress and shock loads. In actual practice, some of the other qualities of stainless make up for lack of bulk, to wit: If a part expands slightly, it does not have a tendency to fracture. Stainless steel, we are told in machinist's manuals, is a soft but very tough steel, where chrome moly steel is hard and more brittle.

Continued on page 83

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HANDGUN LEATHER

BOB ARGANBRIGHT

MASSAD AYOOB AND TED BLOCKER JOIN FORCES ON NEW CONCEALMENT HOLSTER

Holster design is a very dicey thing. Too often, the holster maker is an excellent leather worker, but a non-shooter. In most such cases, design suffers. So it is exciting news when a leading handgun authority

collaborates with one of the best of custom holster makers on a new holster design.

This is the case with the new Ayoob LFI Concealment Holster from Ted Blocker's Custom Holsters.

One of the most respected of the current crop of gun writers, Massad Ayoob is equally well-known as the chief instructor with the Lethal Force Institute (LFI). Massad's profession in police work allows him to legally carry a concealed handgun. Feeling that none of the current concealment holsters satisfactorily met his requirements, he designed his own. To meet the speed requirements, Massad chose a hip holster, with the need for concealment dictating that it would be an inside the pants holster.

Though similar to the better inside the

Though similar to the better inside the pants holsters available from other makers, the Ayoob/Blocker holster has significant differences. First, it is available only as a belt and holster set, as the holster attaches to the belt with velcro, and the belt is lined fully with velcro. This allows the holster to be worn anywhere around the waist, from the middle of the back to cross draw position, and at any desired angle.

Ayoob points out that the velcro also allows one to adjust the height of the holster relative to the belt. He feels this is important, as it lets the wearer position the gun in exactly the same spot regardless of the cut of the trousers (high waisted dress

slacks vs. low waisted Levis).

Many of the better inside the pants holsters, such as the Nelson/Sparks "Summer Special" which is the standard all others are measured against, are constructed with the flesh side of the leather out (called rough out). The rough surface of the leather tends to grab the fabric of the pants and prevents any shifting of the holster. Ayoob feels that the rough out construction allows the holster to absorb moisture quicker and is more prone to causing rust damage to the gun it is carrying. The Ayoob/Blocker holster is constructed smooth side out to prevent this, and Ayoob feels the extra stabilizing provided by the rough out is not needed with the velcro system.

As with the "Summer Special," Ayoob's holster includes a steel lined band around the top of the holster and stitched-in sight rails. The steel band prevents collapsing of the holster when the gun is drawn and allows easy re-holstering. Lack of this feature makes it difficult to insert the gun in an inside the pants holster, as well as compromising safety as the user often inadvertently points the muzzle at the off hand while holstering the gun.

The sight rails allow the use of target front sights without the sharp edges contacting the face of the holster. A proper sight picture is impossible when the front sight has drawn a sliver of leather from the

face of the holster.

Finally, this new holster differs from most of its competitors by including a thumb break retaining strap. Massad has related in print how, while testing a prototype of the Bianchi Pistol Pocket which didn't have a retaining strap, his short barreled revolver was ejected from the holster when he vaulted a hand railing in his office.

Continued on page 83





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SILUETAS

JOHN TAFFIN

SILHOUETTE SHOOTING TECHNIQUES CAN BREED POOR HANDGUN HUNTING HABITS

It was a perfect day for the silhouette shooter. No wind, lighting conditions were perfect, and the target was perfectly silhouetted at 100 yards. He had already assumed the Creedmore position and as the sights lined up perfectly, he slowly and carefully squeezed the trigger exactly as he had done so many times before.

As the handgun bucked in recoil, the shot felt good. He had done his part and the bullet hit the target dead center, just as it had done hundreds, no thousands, of times before.

But that "perfect" shot ruined a perfect day. The silhouetter was not shooting in a match; this time the target was a trophy buck antelope that presented him with an ideal shot. And the shot, which would have been just the ticket for an iron critter, saw his antelope run off, gut shot, resulting in hours of trailing and meat that was not fit to eat

The shooter had experienced negative transfer. That is, he had carried over his well-earned silhouette skills to the hunting field, and as a result he wound up with a gut shot animal. When the opportunity presented itself for a shot in a hunting situation, the shooter's mind went on automatic pilot, so to speak, and he locked into a silhouette mode. He did everything right in the wrong situation.

This is not a single example, but has happened many times even including hunters of dangerous game who actually dropped down into Creedmore position as their subconscious mind seemed to take over when it came time to shoot.

Does this mean that silhouetting is a game that should be avoided by hunters? Is silhouetting really a liability for hunters or are there skills that are learned that are a definite asset?

There is no doubt in my mind that silhouetting provides excellent training for hunting. Some skills come automatically with success in silhouette competition; others come only by a deliberate seeking of them by approaching silhouettes with the idea that one can become a better, and thus more successful, hunter. At the same time it is important to realize that there are practices that come from silhouetting that will prove to be a hindrance to the hunter.

What do we learn from silhouetting that will automatically provide positive transfer to the hunting field? Any silhouette shooter, that is the least bit successful, very early learns the importance of maintaining a perfect, or maybe we should say as nearly perfect as possible, sight picture. If the sights are lined up precisely with the same amount of daylight on both sides of the rear notch and also with the top of the front sight lined up exactly with the top of the rear notch, let the sights wander around on the target and the result will still be a hit.

Continued on page 74



All good hits on a steel sheep, but those would be "gut shots" on a Dall sheep. Silhouetting can subconsciously ingrain poor hunting habits if you don't concentrate hard when you're in the field.

9mm vs. .45

The FBI Academy conducted a Wound Ballistic Workshop on Sept. 15-17, 1987, with eight recognized experts on gunshot wounds. The purpose of the study was to recommend to the Bureau either the .45 or the 9mm as a sidearm for agents.

Three of the eight experts recommended the .45 over the 9mm. Four of the eight advised that there is no real difference in the wound ballistics between the two rounds. One man said the 9mm is better.

Some excerpts from the report:

"The single most important element is shot placement," wrote Robert L. Adkins of the Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences. "Caliber is the least important criteria . . . both the 9mm and the .45 have approximately the same energy and recoil. Construction of the bullet is more important than diameter," Adkins said.

Dr. Vincent Dimaio, chief medical examiner of Bexar County, Texas, said, "We do not, in fact, fully understand the interaction between a bullet and a body. At present, most people quantitate the injury by the amount of kinetic energy transferred from a bullet to the body. This is not the complete picture, however."

"Aggressive action by a determined adversary can be stopped reliably and immediately using a handgun only by a shot that disrupts the brain or upper spinal cord. Even the most disruptive heart wound cannot be relied upon to prevent aggression before 10 to 15 seconds have elapsed," said Dr. Martin L. Fackler, colonel, US Army, of the Letterman Army Institute of Research Wound Ballistics Laboratory. He continues, "The critical consideration is that the bullet produces its permanent tissue disruption to sufficient depths to insure major vessel disruption from any angle. Of the bullets that attain this goal, common sense would dictate that the largest one (.45) would be the most effective since it would put a larger hole in heart or vessels."

Stan Goddard, research leader of the Ballistics Sciences Ordnance Systems and Technology Division of the Battell Columbus Labs says, "It is clear . . . that the 9mm is a more efficient design both from a ballistic and from an energy packaging viewpoint."

Dr. Douglas Lindsey, professor of surgery at the University of Arizona, offers an interesting anecdote about the unpredictability of gunshot wounds: "What matters to the human target is not what it is shot with, but what structures did the bullet pass through before it stopped, or exited the body. I once treated two patients shot over the heart. The patient shot with the air gun went to cardiac surgery and spent a long time in intensive care. The patient shot with the 9mm went home with two band-aids, a tetanus shot and an appointment slip for Southern Arizona Mental Health. The bullet bounced off the fifth rib, tunneled under the skin and came out through the scapula.'

Sgt. Evan Marshall of the Detroit police said, "The best 9mm JHPs and .45 JHPs are virtually identical performers in actual shootings."

Dr. Carroll Peters of the University of Tennessee said, "With the best of the currently available bullets, the .45 ACP cartridge provides a damage profile that is closer to optimum than the profile produced by the 9mm Luger cartridge. For similar impact kinetic energies and similar stopping distances in soft tissue, a large and heavy bullet will cause more tissue damage than is caused by a smaller and lighter bullet."

"The currently issued W-W 9mm 115 gr. Silvertip dangerously lacks penetration due to its early and full expansion," writes Dr. O'Brien C. Smith of the University of Tennessee Medical Center. "The current W-W .45 ACP 185 gr. Silvertip is marginally better. The Remington .45 ACP 185 gr. JHP is

better yet, but even more penetration would be desirable. . . . Caliber is the basic bullet dimension which produces injury at any given wound depth (a function of mass, velocity and shape). If a .45 and 9mm expand to the same diameter at the same rate and reach the same depth, they will produce identical injury. If they do not expand, the .45 produces more injury at the same depth than does the 9mm."

Each and every one of the eight experts notes that bullet placement is the single most important factor in stopping power. All agree that "adequate" penetration is necessary to reach the vital organs. Other than those two points, the experts differ to one degree or another as the controversy over the 9mm versus .45 rages on.







BOOK REVIEWS

The World Directory of Custom Bullet Makers, by D.R. Corbin; format 9 by 7 inches; hardcover; 3-ring binder; 190 pages; illustrated; \$24.50. Available from Corbin Mfg. & Supply Co., 600 Industrial Circle, White City, OR 97503.

This fairly recent addition to Corbin's substantial library of books about custom-swaged bullets begins with an introduction that's devoted to getting into business making bullets. Corbin manufactures and sells the machinery for this, so what we read is a sales talk, a pitch. But it's a good pitch, because what the author says is true: there is great demand for specialized bullets the big bullet mills simply can't afford to make. These, says Corbin, are "custom bullets, which obtain value from their very diversity and uniqueness."

If, however, you have no thoughts of going into business making bullets, this book will be of value to you. It contains chapters on choosing the best hunting bullet, how to get the bullets you want, and bullet testing.

Beyond the presentation of its introductory chapters lies the bulk of the World Directory. If you've a need for a special caliber or type of swaged bullet, or if you'd like to design your own bullet and have it made, you can get in touch with a small, option-flexible company that'll do it for you. Listings that include dozens of custom bullet makers are separated into two sections.

First, the makers appear in alphabetical order, after which they're listed according to the caliber in which they specialize. You can check the caliber listings, spot the specialists, then flip back to the alphabetical section. There, beneath the name, address, and telephone number of each maker, is a list of specialized bullets. In all, the book runs the gamut from .14 caliber, through a wealth of handgun bullets, to .557, .622, and shotgun slugs. In short, this is a lengthy source of where to get bullets you just can't walk into the local gunshop and buy.

Supplements to the World Directory will be made available as new manufacturers venture into this fascinating field. The first supplement does not, however, list new manufacturers. Instead, it offers a considerable volume of tables never before published. These tables compare every caliber from sub-cal to shotgun slugs, with 10 weights in each, using identical ogive shape and density of jacket and core.

You will note the effect of twist rate, sectional density, length, volume, and other factors, immediately. The unique aspect of these tables is that they allow you to compare core density and proper twist ratio for other core materials, such as tungsten, silver, uranium, gold, lead, steel, plastic, or wood. Also provided is the source code for the programs used, in GW-BASIC. Use the code for fun and enlightenment, says Corbin, but don't

sell it. Dan Cotterman

INSIGHTS INTO IPSC

CAMERON HOPKINS

NEW LIGHTWEIGHT BULLETS IN 10mm FOR CENTIMETER ROUND SHOOT GREAT

Steve Nastoff, pistolsmith extraordinaire, recommends a 185 grain flat-based .45 bullet, a bobbed-off version of the H&G #68 200 grain semi-wadcutter. Steve says the removal of the beveled base on the 200 grain slug leaves a bullet that retains the same bearing surface on the shank of the bullet as the famous H&G #68 which gives the same amount of engagement with the barrel's rifling for equal accuracy. Steve says the lighter weight, by 15 grains, makes for a softer recoiling load. This is worth a try.

John Ricco at C.P. Bullets (630 Second Street Pike, Dept. AH, Southampton, PA 18966) sent me 1,000 of his 178 grain flat based semi-wadcutters for testing. John's bullet is the same as the shorty #68 that Steve likes, but the extra savings in weight, 178 vs. 185 grains, results from a different alloy composition of the lead.

"The 178 grain .45 ACP was designed for less muzzle flip. It shoots extremely well with a compensated pistol," John writes. "It is extremely accurate. The alloy we use is a 92-2-6 mix, that is 92% lead, 2% tin and 6% antimony."

In testing the bullet I found that it weighs 181 grains, not 178. That's okay, my "200" grain #68s weigh 204 grains.

Less muzzle flip? I could tell no difference whatsoever between the 178 grain flat based #68s and the regular 200 grain #68s. I asked a shooting buddy to load a magazine with an assortment of the two loads and I tried to tell which was which. No difference.

Extremely accurate? Again, no difference. I fired several five-shot groups from prone with a Nastoff SuperComp .45 and a Wilson Accu-Comp .45. All of the groups hovered around an inch and a half.

But the most significant reason why I will stick with the 200 grain bullets is the power factor. Loading 5.6 grains of WW452AA behind both the 200 and 178 grainers, here's what you get:

200 gr. #68 930 fps 186 factor 178 gr. #68 980 fps 169 factor

Pushing the powder charge up with the 178 grain bullet would eventually make a 180+power factor, but at the expense of slightly greater muzzle jump.

In a situation like this, I like to remember the crafty old wisdom of my grandfather: If it ain't broke, don't fix it. The 200 grain H&G #68 ain't broke. I see no reason to fix it.

While the lighter slugs in .45 might not be an improvement, lighter bullets in 10mm most certainly are a tremendous help for IPSC. I've been playing with the "Centimeter" cartridge, a 10mm Auto case trimmed back from 1.000" to .869". Originally I liked the 175 grain .44-40 bullet, but now Sierra and Hornady have both introduced lightweight 10mm bullets. Sierra has a 150 grain JHP and Hornady has a 155 JHP.

The recoil of 150 grain bullets at 1,200 fps (power factor 180) is harsher than a hot .45 load, but the muzzle jump is significantly less. The comparison is much like the difference between the 158 grain .38 Super loads and 200 grain .45 ACP loads.

I am loading 6.5 grains of WW231 with either the Sierra or Hornady bullet. This is by far the best IPSC load for the Centimeter.

As far as I know, Paul Liebenberg at Pistol Dynamics (4442 York Blvd., Unit 7, Los Angeles, CA, 91214 (213) 255-4743) is still the only pistolsmith with experience in making Centimeter pistols. I recommend Pistol Dynamics, but only on the condition that you understand Paul is backlogged on work and tends to be overly optimistic in quoting delivery times. His work is fantastic . . . when you get it.

Centimeter barrels are made by Irv Stone at Bar-Sto Precision Machine (73377 Sullivan Rd., Twentynine Palms, CA, 92277, (619) 367-2747).

The main benefit of the Centimeter over the .38 Super is that you can easily reach 1,200 fps with a 10mm 150 grainer without pushing chamber pressures into the Red Zone. The .38 Super needs tender loving care, "fully supported chambers," hefty Remington brass and delicate reloading in order to stretch the round to the outer limits of its power. On the other hand, the Centimeter handily makes major without the slightest sign of pressure. Primers are nice and round with no cratering.

The downside of the Centimeter is the cost of jacketed bullets, the cost of brass and the godawful chore of trimming the cases. Centimeter rounds work in .45 magazines, so at least you don't need to drop more money on new magazines if you're already shooting a .45.

However, the Centimeter only holds 10 rounds—nine plus one in the chamber. A .38 Super with Shooting Star magazines takes 10 tiny rounds plus one up the spout for a total of 11. The Centimeter is one shy of the Super.

A strange string of saucy Newsletters from IPSC world president J.P. Denis are jamming my "in" basket. In Newsletter No. 143 the head honcho of IPSC bemoans the depressing situation regarding course design in certain regions and offers a solution in the form of two examples, one good and one bad. He hopes that IPSC can be improved if we learn from the good example and steer clear of the bad example.

The good example is cited as a standard exercise from a Springbok Trial in South Africa. The bad example, the standard exercises from the 1987 US Nationals.

Personally, I find it humiliating and embarrassing that course design has deteriorated under the current US Regional Director of IPSC to the point that we are singled out from among 31 member-nations of IPSC as a "bad example." Newsletter No. 143 goes on to castigate the US Nationals for two specific rule violations and a general disregard for the principles of IPSC shooting.

But that's not the worst of the flurry of furious letters. Mr. Denis sent another Newsletter to six Regional Directors asking their opinion on whether or not the US Regional Director should be removed from office. It appears that the Regional Director published an essay in the official USPSA newsletter calling for the withdrawal of the United States from the IPSC organization.

In that essay, the Regional Director said that the US pays "one-third" of the IPSC organization's revenue which Mr. Denis calls "a lie." Mr. Denis counters that the US actually pays 14.4% of the operating money. Additionally, Mr. Denis points out that the

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HANDLOADING

DAN COTTERMAN

SIZING LEAD BULLETS TO REVOLVER'S THROAT GIVES REMARKABLE ACCURACY

Diehard cast bullet fans exist in abundance, but nowhere is the fervor greater than among the cronies of the Jewel City Sporting Society, headquartered at Greeneville, Tennessee. Eric Farr, a ranking member of the Society, is a retired Magnavox engineer who has now and then acted as a consultant to various firms within the shooting industry. His comments regarding cast bullet accuracy in revolvers are worth noting.

Farr insists that if cast bullets are to be capable of consistently accurate shooting they must be sized to a diameter that is just slightly smaller than the chamber throats. He says, however, that ideal mating of bullet diameter to throat diameter is not easily achieved. He cites, for example, the situation involving Ruger's .44 Magnum revolvers.

Throat diameters average .432", with groove diameters averaging .430". The problem, as outlined by Farr, is that the largest sizing dies run .431", while the largest moulds run .430" to .4305". The resulting bullet/throat misfit causes bullet deformation, lead fouling, and a loss of accuracy.

Farr's solution has been to have Colorado toolmaker Dave Farmer turn out moulds that will cast bullets with a diameter of .4318". These bullets, says Farr, tend to cause less lead fouling, are less critical with respect to choice of powder charges, and produce

remarkably accurate machine-rest groups. Of course, he says he still coats the bases of his bullets with titanium dioxide, to further reduce leading. (This practice was discussed in my handloading column for the 1986 American Handgumer Annual.)

The bullet/throat mismatch isn't exclusive to .44 caliber. It also exists in .357 and .45 calibers. Nor is it limited to home-cast bullets; commercially-cast bullets regularly measure somewhat smaller than throat diameter.

Responding to Farr's comments, Jay Postman of RCBS writes: "Somewhere along the line the reloading companies decided it would be better (safer?) to use bore-diameter bullets. I guess the theory behind throat-diameter sizing is that the bullets will not tip when they're fired.

"One thing to consider when using largerdiameter bullets is the powder charge. I would never use maximum loads with them as most data is for bore-sized bullets.

"We can supply special Lube-A-Matic size dies in just about any diameter—to the nearest one-thousandth. We don't do them in tenthe!"

Postman's cautions stands: Bullets that are larger than bore diameter will tend to raise pressures. Still, if you're going for tack-driving accuracy with your revolvers, using conservative charges, you will do well to experiment with bullets that are just under throat diameter. The idea isn't new. Several years ago, in an article written for *American Rifleman*, C.E. Harris and J.B. Roberts indicated that bullets sized to cylinder throat diameter would shoot like magic.

Finally, as long as we're sharing tips, Farr advises that it is better to use nose cut-off moulds, because the nose is less sensitive to imbalance than the base.

Last time around, I mentioned having received news of a liquid lubricant now being sold by Lee Precision, of Hartford, Wisconsin. Dick Lee had written that the lube, dubbed Lee Liquid Alox, all but completely eliminated lead fouling. I let it go at that, after which I received a few bottles of the stuff for testing. I tried it first on cast 147 grain .357 semi-wadcutters using 15.0 grains of Hodgdon's HIIO, a pretty stiff charge. Checking the bore at 30 rounds and again at 50 rounds, I found that almost no leading had occurred.

Then, as a sort of ultimate test, I put the Corbin Mity Mite and swaging dies to work and turned out a batch of 50 150 grain semi-wadcutters from soft lead wire. These were coated with the liquid alox, left to dry overnight, and taper-crimped into .357 hulls ahead of 14.5 grains of HIIO. Again, fouling checks were made at 30 and 50 rounds. Leading was not absolutely eliminated, but considering the fact that test firing was done fairly rapidly, and considering the intensity of the load and the extreme softness of the bullets, the results were remarkable. The minor amount of lead-smear deposited in the bore of my test gun was not sufficient to affect accuracy.

"I am one of those who is fast approaching 50 (years young) and needs tri-focals," writes Mike Roosevelt, of Sunnyvale, California. "I have discovered that the easiest way to keep my shots in the black at 25 yards is to have an accurate pistol and load. My goal is to have a combination that, from a Ransom Rest, will punch out the X-ring. Your column has been an excellent source of helpful hints and has saved me many hours of frustration. After much work on the Ransom Rest, I have attained my goal with a S&W Model 586 and a Colt Gold Cup. My loads are: 3.3 grains of WW 231/146 grain bevel-base wadcutter and 4.1 grains of WW 231/180 grain semiwadcutter."

Derk von Huls, of Dieburg, West Germany, deserves much credit for the popularity of WW 452AA. After not hearing from him for several years, we have received the following information: "Quite a few years ago I sent you some loading data for Winchester shot-shell powders. One of the loads I mentioned (5.4 grains of WW 452AA in .45 ACP with a 200 grain SWC) has gradually become a standard among IPSC shooters.

"After not having used this load for a few years, due to Big Brother here in Germany, I wanted to make a cross reference regarding recoil/velocity and dug out my old leftovers of WW 452AA. This particular keg still had

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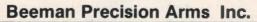
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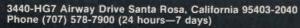
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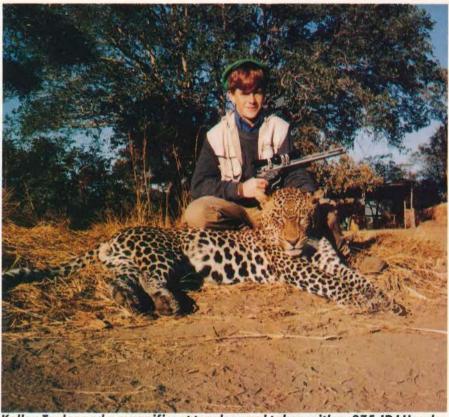
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HANDGUN HUNTING

J.D. JONES

15-YEAR-OLD KELLEY TAYLOR HUNTS BIG FIVE WITH .375 JDJ CONTENDER PISTOL



Kelley Taylor and a magnificent tom leopard taken with a .375 JDJ Handcannon. Below is Kelley's record-class rhino also taken with the .375 JDJ Contender pistol.

K elley Taylor is an unusual individual for a 15-year-old. He has hunted and traveled widely and prior to last summer had a string of rifle trophies taken worldwide likely to elicit the envy of almost any hunter.

Elephant, lion, leopard, Cape buffalo and rhino were all taken with a T/C Contender chambered in .375 JDJ. Without a doubt he is the youngest individual to have taken the Big Five with a handgun. I only recall a few other individuals in the world who have accomplished this achievement. They are Larry Kelley, Lucky Nightingale and Bill Weiss. In addition, he took a large number of plains animals and went to Australia to successfully take buffalo and banting. I took a banting in 1986 and believe it to be the first taken with a handgun. Since then Lucky Nightingale, Herb Bobchin and Kelley Taylor have taken them.

Kelley is, or seems to me, to be somewhat small for his age and he always wears a smile. His .375 JDJ wears an Arrestor muzzle brake and a 2x Leupold. He certainly doesn't have a bit of trouble handling it.

I've talked with a couple of his professional

hunters and they say he is as good as about anyone they have seen when it comes time to get down and dirty and pull the trigger. He has learned his anatomy lessons well and knows how and where to put the bullet. He is cool and does not get excited-at least to the point of it interfering with what he has to do-when close-in hunting of dangerous game becomes an intense experience.

shooting a .44 Magnum revolver at age 11 and (at that age I would expect him to have been very small) its recoil didn't bother him from the beginning. I strongly suspect no one told him to be afraid of it before he pulled the trigger the first time.

Kelley's father is obviously an avid hunter and is astute enough to recognize his son's abilities and limitations and let him push them to the limit.

Having discussed Kellev's achievements with quite a few hunters, I suspect a number of you will resent the fact that a 15-year-old has had the opportunities to do all of the things he has done. Yes, it's true it takes a hell of a lot of money to do the kind of hunting he has done and, yes, dear old dad footed the bill and arranged the hunts for him. In fact, Dad went along with him and shared the experiences as well as hunting himself.

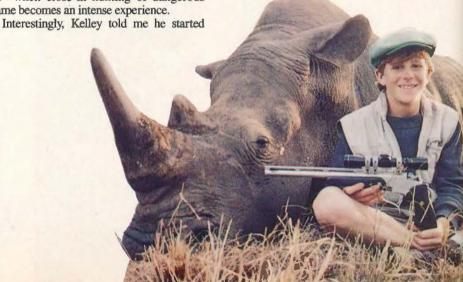
But, regardless of the bucks and opportunities you and I didn't have, Kelley was there, did the hunting, pointed the gun and pulled the trigger the right way when it counted. That ranks, in my book, as an extraordinary achievement. I expect someday the name Kelley Taylor will be held in the highest regard by the top hunters of the world.

The SHOT Show held little of interest in the way of innovative products of direct interest to handgun hunters. The Kimber bolt action Predator is supposed to be back in production, however, I have still not received mine ordered in January of '87.

The Anschutz Exemplar seems to be in the same boat. I ordered one of them in January '87 also. Now it is announced in .22 Hornet too. I guess that means there are now two of them we can't get.

Ithaca has revived the old Sterling single shot-at least to show off. The man I spoke with didn't know much about it or when it would be available and seemed like he couldn't have cared less about it.

The Springfield Armory 1911 conversion to a single shot handgun was there and I was informed they will be available very shortly.

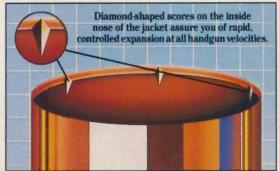




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COP TALK

MASSAD AYOOB

FBI TESTS NEW S&W 'MINI' 645 AS REPLACEMENT FOR 9mm SWAT PISTOL

The rampant swing to the high-capacity 9mm autoloader is big news these days. Miami has gone with the Glock 17, and my friend John Pride tells me LAPD has recorded its 17th winning gunfight with the 9mm autos of Beretta and S&W persuasion that lawmen in the City of Angels are switching to in droves.

Yet, behind the scenes, is a strong if quieter trend: that toward the .45 auto in

the police service.

The badge and the .45 are not a new combination. Texas Rangers went wideeved for the 1911 automatic soon after the year of its inception. For decades it's been a favorite backup of streetwise felony squad officers. (The Torelli character on TV's Crime Story is well and truly portrayed: for many years the Colt .45 auto, carried according to regs with the chamber empty, was extremely popular among Chicago cops, with some 1,300 authorized as of 1986).

In the late 50s came the dawn of Jeff Cooper's new pistolcraft movement, and soon a burgeoning number of police weapons instructors strove to convince their chiefs to adopt or at least authorize the .45 autoloader. A surprising number did, from Hollywood, Florida to El Monte, California.

That was then. This is now. Have all those "obsolete old GI clunkers" been washed away by the new tide of high-tech

Parabellums? Not hardly.

El Monte still has the .45, albeit in the form of the new double action S&W 645. Dover, New Jersey Police thought long and hard about cashing in the Colt auto that had become their trademark, and finally stayed with it, upgrading to the Series '80. Numerous departments carry the doubleaction SIG-Sauer P-220 in the ACP chambering including the Department of Energy and, as an option to the P-226 9mm, the Arizona Highway Patrol.

Such a host of departments have gone to the 645 that a Bianchi executive told me recently his firm is selling more new police leather for that gun than for any 9mm. The aforementioned Chicago cops can be expected to join that parade. Concerned about accidental discharges with cocked and locked pistols, one of which had recently taken the life of a brother officer in an accidental discharge situation, Chi cops have been ordered to carry only double action autoloaders for plainclothes and backup. Yet many departments, most notably LAPD, utilize the Colt .45 cocked and locked for the SWAT function.

The big swing may be in the wind, and it'll come from Quantico. After two Silvertip 9mm bullets from the FBI SWAT Model 459 failed to neutralize the gunman who then used a Mini-14 to shoot down half a dozen agents in Miami, leaving two dead and a couple more crippled for life, the Bureau began to wonder if their SWAT men might benefit from a heavier caliber. The Bureau has so long been in bed with Smith & Wesson, as columnist Jack Anderson once put it (I prefer to charitably think that they just have an excellent working relationship, and armorers already trained with that brand) that the S&W 645 was a logical choice. Scuttlebutt is that the 645 is now going through an intensive workout at Quantico, and that the FBI training center there has several of the long-promised "Mini-Gun" versions of the Smith & Wesson .45 auto as well.

Adoption of the gun for FBI SWAT would give it a big boost in overall law enforcement . . . but if rumors are true and the little DA . 45 auto is being considered as a general issue gun for all agents as well, it could lead to an increase in the collective popularity of the police .45 such as has never been seen. Time will tell.

Right now, the agency looking at adopting the .45 auto has three pistols to choose from. There are several others, but none with the marketing clout to get in the door of the big agencies. Those leading contenders are:

S&W 645. Big and square edged enough to be awkward in concealed carry for most people, this gun has it all for open carry in uniform. The safety catch on the slide and the magazine disconnector safety give it the life-saving edge in a struggle for a weapon that has kept so many Smith Parabellum owners alive to wear the badge. In 1987, a scumbag in Wisconsin got a locked 645 away from an overpowered sergeant, and tried unsuccessfully to kill him and a brother officer. The gun-grabber, unlike the cops, did not

I hear complaints about the magazines and bushings on 645s, but my luck with them at LFI has been superb. They feed anything, have quite acceptable accuracy, and offer 9-shot capacity along with stainless construction.

SIG P-220. For those departments that insist on not utilizing safety latches on DA automatics, the P-220 (which has no such device) is the logical choice. Smaller and lighter and much more suitable for 24-hour open or concealed carry than the Smith, I

find it also has a smoother action. Like the S&W, it seems to feed such powerful loads as the wide-mouthed 200 grain Speer hol-

lowpoint out of the box.

Colt Government. In the Series '80 stainless, this is a better police pistol than ever. My only mechanical concern is that I see some that won't feed all brands of hollowpoints without throating. The necessity for cocked and locked carry forces you to balance a more accurate first shot under stress than you'll get with any double action auto, against a somewhat greater likelihood of an accidental discharge in a highstress situation.

ny of these fine pistols give the officer certain distinct advantages. One, of course, is the one the Bureau is looking at: stopping power. Those of us with many .45 hollowpoint shootings in our files are seeing that it puts enemies down faster than 9mm JHP or .45 ball loads. You have to go into much harder kicking .357 Magnum loads to begin to equal, let alone exceed, the controllable .45s legendary "stopping

Some agencies are still stuck with nonexpanding bullets. Jacketed 9mm or flatnose .357 are horrendously excessive in penetration, not to mention their minimized stopping power. The .45 ACP 230 grain ball round is the only currently available handgun bullet that fits the Geneva Convention rules yet gives a cop a fighting chance in a gun battle.

A good .45 hollowpoint is perhaps the most "socially conscious" safety round. A study by Berkeley, NJ Police Sgt. Rick Washburn found the W-W Silvertip in .45 ACP to be the police auto bullet least likely to overpenetrate the walls of dwellings. Berkeley cops now carry that round in iss-

ued Smith 645s.

The .45 ACP cartridge also burns its powder much more efficiently, giving it the least muzzle flash of any sufficiently powerful police load, making it the ideal night fighting round. Ease of trigger control (at least after the first DA shot) combine with these other factors to make it perhaps the one duty gun a cop is least likely to miss his target with, thus reducing danger to bystanders from wild shots. There's also more safety to officers: many current police 9mm loads can penetrate Level I body armor in a gun grab or wild shots situation, but no such .45 load will pierce those vests, still worn by tens of thousands of cops. (While no officer has been killed by an intentionally armorpiercing "killer bullet" through his vest, lawmen have died when a conventional 9mm or .357 round punctured their flimsy Level I armor. The author urges all brother cops to accept nothing less than Level IIa protection, which is proof against such loads).

The .45 automatic isn't waning from the police service scene. On the contrary, I believe it is at the threshold of its greatest popularity ever on the law enforcement scene.

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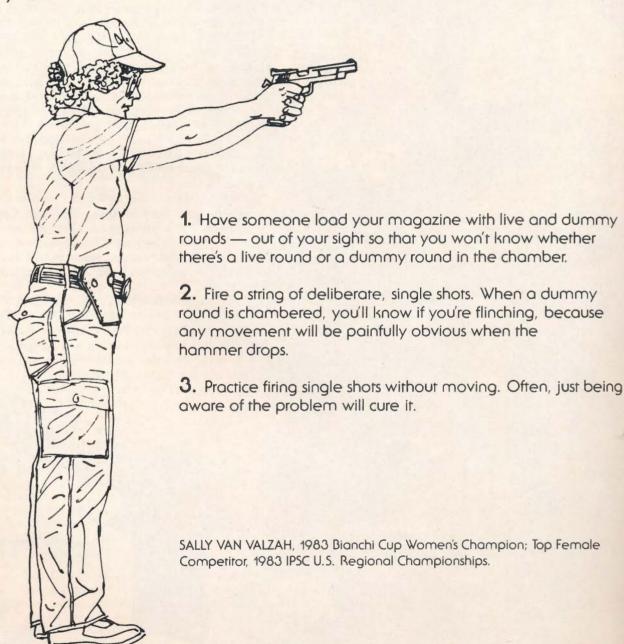
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THE NEWHALL MASSACRE

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There is no blacker day in American law enforcement history than April 5, 1970. On that date in a community 25 miles from LA occurred the Newhall Massacre, the incident in which many of us who now teach it believe the movement called Officer Survival was born. In less than five minutes, two heavily armed and well-prepared scumbags shot and killed four members of an agency then believed to be one of the leaders in police training.

The lessons of Newhall are taught in Basic in almost every police academy in America. Though most civilians in the world of the gun are dimly aware of the incident, few know the details. Fewer still know that it involved two armed citizens, and that at three to four points civilians who were properly equipped and prepared could have brought it to an end. This writer has discussed Newhall in detail both in lecture and in the police professional journals, and has had the benefit of both the official CHP version and inside information from men who were on CHP at the time it occurred, including some of those involved in the investigation. What follows is a distillation of what the armed citizen can learn from the tragedy that was the Newhall Massacre.

Civilians Jack and Pamela Tidwell are driving in rural Newhall, California at about 11:20 p.m. when a red Pontiac hardtop swerves across a median strip into the path of their Volkswagen, cutting them off and rudely jarring Pamela from her sleep. As the red car pulls to the roadside, an angry Jack Tidwell draws abreast, and his equally outraged wife rolls down her window so her husband can give the offending driver a piece of his mind.

Tidwell yells that the careless driver's tag number has been taken down and will be reported to the Highway Patrol, and that Tidwell would like to kick his ass. The lone driver of the Pontiac smiles and calls him a punk... and raises into clear view a blue .38 snubnose that he points at Jack.

Pamela begins screaming. A truck is coming up over the hill behind them and, thinking quickly, Tidwell stammers that the Highway Patrol are right behind them. The man with the gun glances nervously behind him, then jerks the barrel of his Smith & Wesson at Tidwell in a gesture of dismissal. Putting the VW in gear, Tidwell races away as fast as the Beetle will carry him. Fifteen minutes later he finds a payphone and reports what has happened.

The first California Highway Patrol unit to get the call is one manned by Walter Frago and Roger Gore, both 23. Anticipating the route of the red Pontiac, they assume a stakeout position near Cascade Junction on US 99. At six minutes to midnight, they radio that they are in position behind the suspect vehicle, which now has two men in the front seat. Highway Patrolmen James Pence, Jr. and George Allen, both 24, reply that they are coming into position to back up the first unit.

The red Pontiao turns onto the Henry Mayo Drive off-ramp from 99, homing toward a Standard gas station next to a popular truckstop called Jay's Restaurant.

Inside the Pontiac are Jack Twining, 35, with a 20-year history of crime including a bank robbery he's on parole for and assault on police with deadly weapons, and Bobby Davis, 27, who also has a long record and loves to talk about how he hates cops and will kill one rather than go to prison again.

They've seen the black & white CHP Dodge Polara pull in behind them, and they know what's what. Their discussion is quick: if they get any chance at all, they'll shoot down the officers rather than go to prison. They know their freedom won't survive a carstop. They're planning a series of bank robberies, and this afternoon were target practicing in the mountains and testing the two-way radios they plan to use in the next stickup. This is why they were apart when the incident with the Tidwells occurred: Davis was en route to pick up Twining from where he'd left him on the side of the road after they'd experimented to see how far the walkie-talkies would transmit.

They have amassed an arsenal of guns that includes a Smith & Wesson Model 39 9mm auto, a six inch Colt Python .357 Magnum, two snubnose Colt .38 revolvers, a 1903 Springfield .30/06 military rifle, a Remington model 572 .22 pump rifle, and a Ruger Deerstalker .44 Magnum semiautomatic carbine which they've left in the trunk in a jammed condition that they couldn't clear.

Continued on page 92

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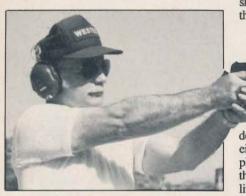
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TEST REPORT

LLAMA'S Compact Compat Automatics

By Dave Arnold



Ever since 1904 the Spanish arms company of Gabilondo y Cia has been manufacturing a variety of handguns under the trade name of Llama. While they have produced both revolvers and semi-automatic pistols, Llama is best known in this country for their semi-auto pistols of the Browning design. These are virtual copies of the Colt 1911 except for slight dimensional differences in the size of some of the parts. Llama's latest offering are a pair of compact versions of the 1911-style pistol.

These new guns, which are being offered in .22, .380, 9mm Parabellum and .45 ACP, are very similar to the Colt Commander series in that the barrel and slide are shorter. Like the standard Llamas, these new pistols follow the 1911 design in almost all respects. They operate with a locked breech action and have the barrel attached to the frame with the same swinging link. They have the usual manual and grip safety systems, slide stop and magazine. As far as finish is concerned, guns can be had either in blue or nickel.

There are, of course, a few differences, the most noticeable being the prominent rib on top of the slide. This contains a rear sight assembly that is adjustable for windage. A different, shorter extractor is used and, as already mentioned, the actual dimensions of the various components are slightly different in size to those of a Colt Commander or Government Model.

Overall length is 7% inches while height is 5% inches. Weights, unloaded are 37 ounces for the 9mm and 36 ounces for the .45. The latter has a magazine capacity of seven rounds, while the 9mm holds nine. The front of the grip is grooved for a firmer hold while polished wooden stocks complete the package.

I received two 1X-Bs in .45 and 9mm for evaluation. The pistols come in nice plastic cases which is a fairly common feature in many of today's European handguns. In addition to the gun, the cases also contain warranty information and an instruction manual. The guns are handsome pistols with all surfaces exhibiting a bright blue finish. The quality of the polishing is very good with no evidence of buffing marks or rounded edges.

On the range the guns handle much like a Commander. Both guns are comfortable to shoot and exhibit very little recoil in spite of their shorter length. I find the sights well seated bench rest at a range of 25 yards. The best groups I could get, irrespective of gun or ammunition, was just on five-inches. This is adequate for a service handgun, although many other similar pistols that I have tested, including Llama's double-action Omni, have displayed much better accuracy.

In the past, Spanish handguns have not had a good reputation among some of this country's shooters. However, in the last few years I have noticed some significant improvements in many of the pistols coming out of Spain. As far as Llama is concerned, I do know that they have also been doing all they

Refreshing quality and affordable price combine to make Llama's new compact automatics an attractive alternative.

defined and easy to pick up when bringing either gun quickly into aim. My only complaint is some sharp edges on the grooves of the manual safeties, which makes them a little uncomfortable to disengage.

I fired a variety of factory loads in the .45

can to improve their quality. A friend of mine who visited their factory some years back told me of all the posters he saw throughout the assembly line reminding employees that quality was their number one consideration.

To what extent they have been successful is



The author notes a trend to higher quality in Llama recently.

that included Winchester Silvertips and hardball, Federal hardball and 185 gr. JHPs and PMC hardball. Much of my shooting was quick and dirty stuff at close range and the pistol digested all without any problems. The only ammunition that gave difficulty was Federal 185 gr. semi-wadcutter target loads which would not always feed. In fairness, it should be pointed out semi-wadcutters often give trouble in many other non-competition .45s. In the 9mm pistol, I shot Federal 123 gr. FMJ and Federal and Norma 115 gr. JHP loads all of which were handled without any problems.

Accuracy evaluation was done from a

hard to say as my evaluation was not exhaustive enough to determine how the guns will hold up after extensive use. Nevertheless, the guns did give a good account of themselves and, what is just as important, they are also reasonably priced. The suggested retail price of the Model IX-B is around \$284 which is quite a bit less than what equivalent semi-auto pistols usually go for. This certainly makes the IX-B worth looking at for those who have a limited budget. Further information can be obtained by writing to the distributor, Stoeger Industries. Dept. AH, 55 Ruta Court, South Hackensack, NJ, 07606.



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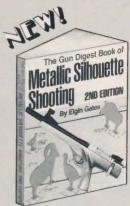
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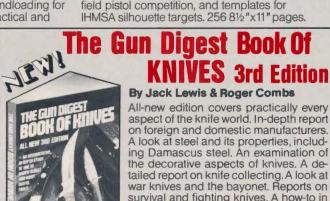
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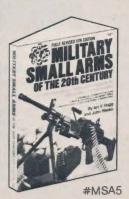
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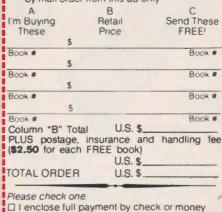




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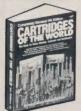


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FALCON GUNSIGHT

By Howard E. French

I first saw the Elbit Falcon Gunsight on a prairie dog hunt in Montana. Mounted on a .22-.250 this sight was used to take prairie dogs at 200 yards. Impressive!

This is a fairly bulky sight, some 8 inches long and weighing 15 ounces. However, the weight did not bother me as I was going to put it on some hefty recoiling handguns to give it a real trial.

I mounted the sight on a Contender, chambered for J.D. Jones' .375 cartridge, a pistol round that lets you know when it goes off. However, mounting the Falcon sight proved to be a bit difficult. The Jones barrel had his T'SOB mounts, but these mounts are a fraction of an inch wider than the standard Weaver-style bases. The T'SOB mounts are made for the Bushnell scope rings which have more sideways adjustment than the usual Weaver scope bases.

Regardless of the base, I wanted to see how the Falcon stood up under the recoil of the .375 JDJ, which is based on a .444 case necked down to .375 caliber. With a bit of persuasion I got the Falcon scope on the T'SOB mount, although the locking screws did not engage across their full length.

After firing a number of rounds I could not tell that there was any difference in accuracy with the Falcon as compared to a conventional optical lens scope. Then I put the Falcon on another J.D. Jones barrel, a .45-70. Again accuracy was the same as with a pistol scope. However, when I took the Falcon from the mounts I discovered that it had really been through the works. The locking screws had actually been bent by the recoil of these two powerful car-

tridges! It still hadn't significantly affected accuracy.

I got a conventional Weaver base and had it installed on a .44 Magnum Contender with a 14-inch barrel. Naturally the Falcon slid smoothly onto this base with no problems. Locking screws tightly in place, ready to shoot. Again, accuracy was the same as a regular scope.

Just turn on the activator, which lights up the red dot, and toss the pistol up. You see a red dot superimposed on the target. The dot measures one inch at 100 yards. You don't have to squint through the Falcon scope, you can keep both eyes open, getting a full field of view. The intensity of the dot can be regulated. I found that I could easily spot the dot in bright sunlight and could also see it in a darkened room. There are elevation and windage knobs at the rear of the scope that move the dot about .20 inches at 25 meters.

This is not new, there have been electronic red dot sights out for many years. Falcon claims that their scope, which has a lens diameter of a little over 3/4," is easier to sight through than others.

The Falcon is powered by a Lithium battery that will last some 10 years. In actual use, with the dot activated, it depends on the circumstances. In bright sunlight it will last for about 120 hours while in a darkened area it will last for months.

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Working full-time as a shooting winstructor, I have an unusually good opportunity to watch multiple specimens of new guns in actual hard-use. That experience has led me to be skeptical of the little Detonics pistol and a tad leery of even the Colt Officer's Model. The new Lightweight version of that pistol, however, has begun to change my mind.

Any new gun is a marriage of new designs, new slide masses and spring pressures, new metal-to-metal contacts. I've found stainless Officer's Models to feel rougher than stainless Government Models, for example. While many owners of the first-generation, all-blue-steel Officer's Models are thrilled with them, I've met a lot who had jamming problems or suffered the sights coming loose.

Yet every lightweight Officer's I've run across has been a fine little gun. No jamming problems unless you fed it something it wasn't designed for. No breakages, no unnecessary roughness. With only a couple thousand of the LW OM's in the field, I've heard nothing but praise from their owners.

Mark Seiden cannot recall his sample jamming even once in thousands of rounds of Winchester Generic Hardball, and he wears it daily. Frank Furci considers his LW Officer's one of the finest .45s he's ever owned, and switched back to his LW Commander only because he liked the feel of the larger grip. A third shooter who prefers to remain nameless once carried two or three different guns a week, but has now hung them all up on the display wall in favor of his Officer's Lightweight.

There is something in the marriage of the lightweight frame, made out of Alcoa #6 or equivalent Duralumin, that mates very smoothly with the 4140 steel of this pistol's slide. Actions are notably slicker out of the box, and the best factory triggers I've seen on any OM's have been on the lightweights.

I recently field-tested a Lightweight Officer's Model (hereafter referred to as LWOM) serial # LFA2071. Out of the box, it was by far the smoothest of the three new OM's I've had to play with lately, and had the best trigger. It broke at about six pounds with just a touch of creep. That creep, which tends to come from the design of the Series '80 firing pin safety, is something I'm comfortable living with. This is a street gun, and a street defense pistol can be expected to be levelled at many suspects in gunpoint situations for every time it has to be fired. In that scenario, I want a

trigger that's going to feed me back some felt movement before the gun goes bang. It's nothing that can't be coped with by someone familiar with double-action shooting.

These little beasts, with their bell-mouthed bushings, are not designed for accuracy. Like most OM's I've fired, it groups only about From among the several Lilliputian Forty-Fives, this gunfighting expert picks Colt's Lightweight Officer's ACP as

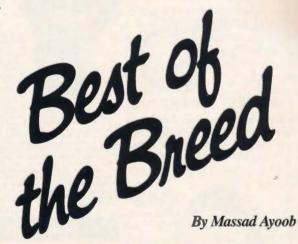


Ayoob says the blue steel and stainless Officers aren't nearly as well made and reliable as the alloy frame lightweight.

half as tight as a good Mk. IV Government, which is to say, still good enough for neutralizing a man-size target at ranges of 25 yards and in. At seven yards and in, the pistol will throw its fat slugs almost, if not quite, into one hole. True, a Mk. IV Gov't will put them all *in* one hole, but in real life at close range, the Officer's is close enough for Government work (yes, the pun is intended).

What about feeding with hollowpoints? Like most .45 automatics, mine didn't reliably feed widemouthed hollowpoints like the 200 grain Speer Inspector and Blazer, the 185 grain Federal, or the similarly sized Winchester Silvertip. Only the 185 grain Remington JHP ran through 100%, as did Remington, Federal, and Winchester 230 grain ball as soon as the gun was broken in with 100 rounds or so.

Our gun shot disappointingly high left, costing me 22 points when I ran it on the close combat course a few times using the Bianchi Cup target. While rear and front sights have been known to come loose on early OM's, both were tight on this pistol. I drifted the sight to the right with a field-expedient sight changing tool, a Clipit Police knife wrapped in a handkerchief. Replacing 230 grain Remington hardball (which chronographed the fastest of all major 230 grain bullets we tried) with the same firm's hollowpoint,





we adjusted for elevation as well. Lighter, faster bullets will always hit lower than heavy slow ones in the same gun.

Will hollowpoints expand from this little gun? Probably not. The Remingtons made from the late '70s on don't reliably expand even out of 5" barrels, and even the more easyopening hollow cavity slugs tend to stay closed when launched at 3.5" barrel velocities. Al Kulovicz of the Cook County, Illinois Sheriff's Office recorded the case of a person killed with three Speer 200 gr. JHPs fired from an equally stubby Detonics, none of which expanded.



The pattern at left was shot at combat speed with a Commander while the right pattern—you can't call em groups!—came from the Officers. Both are more than adequate for personal defense. Ayoob tested the Officers (below) with a variety of ammo.



However, all three bullets *did* stay inside the body and delivered substantial shock power, causing swift death.

I can live with the Remington JHP in this gun. Going about 935 fps out of a 5" barrel, it stays in the body about seven times out of 10, compared to three times out of 10 with hardball. With its velocity lessened by the short OM barrel, I would expect it to stay inside, thus dumping all its energy and reducing danger to bystanders.

What about hardball? By the halfway point of its 200 round break-in period, our LWOM had begun a 100% reliability rate with all three major brands of jacketed 230 grain roundnose that would last the remainder of the several-hundredround test. Some .45 shooters have had so many jams with hollowpoints in guns that weren't suited for them that they're simply phobic about loading anything but 230 gr. FMJ for the street. With a 5" gun, this gives them an unacceptably high danger of their bullets going all the way through a human target at close range. The 75 fps or so that a hardball round drops from the short barrel should reduce this tendency.

Were I the sort of person who feels it's "hardball or nothing" in a .45, I would carry the stubby Officer's Model. It would present less danger to bystanders, and would probably increase stopping

power rather than diminish it; a 230 grain slug at 750 fps that stays in the body delivers a lot more energy than one that perforates the body at 830 fps and just bumps it on the way through.

Fortunately, my experience has shown me that a custom-throated gun will reliably feed a welldesigned hollowpoint. If I were to pack the LWOM, I would do as Frank Furci did: send the little gun to Bill Laughridge of Cylinder & Slide Shop, who advertises in these pages and is among the few who can throat a Colt reliably for the Speer 200 gr. JHP. Thousands of these have gone through Frank Furci's LWOM without malfunction, and if they give me the level of performance that was seen in the Cook County shooting, I'll be perfectly

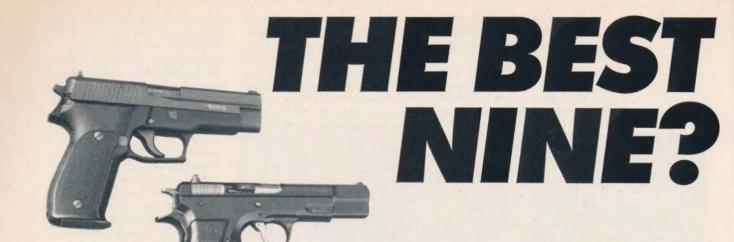
The LWOM was extremely popular among my friends and students. Just as most comment that the all-steel OM's don't recoil as much as expected, the universal comment on the LW was, "Damn, it kicks!"

That, of course, is what folks used to say about the original Lightweight Commander, and about the .357 Magnum when it was first introduced. Recoil is a relative concept, and today's shooter seems more able to learn to handle a sharp kick than any handgunning generation that preceded him. Most students were able to forgive the recoil in gratitude for the light carrying weight. "This is what an Officer's Model or Detonics should feel like," was the statement I heard again and again. For most who carry a handgun daily, more recoil for less weight is an acceptable

Indeed, that's a trade made by every service revolver shooter who switches to a small-frame snubnose .38 for plainclothes carry. I find a Chief's Special with +P .38 Special loads kicks dramatically more than, say, a 4" model 10 K-frame; the difference between the Government Model and the LWOM is relatively much less. I would unhesitatingly pack the light Officer's over the Chief if I needed a compact, light belt gun.

I think that when the three Colt Officer's Model .45s are compared with one another—blue steel vs. stainless vs. lightweight—the latter comes out as "best of breed," not only for its design and carrying characteristics, but for the consistent quality of workmanship.

I agree with my students' collective assessment of the Lightweight: "This is what the Colt Officer's Model should be!"



But others say it's the SIG 226 and still more claim it's the CZ-75. Which nine is really the best?

While there is much debate over the best nine, most experts agree that the best three guns are the SIG (top) the CZ-75 (middle) and the Beretta 92 (bottom).

PISTOL CHARACTERISTICS

				A. 11 11 11 11		-			
PISTOL	MAGAZINE CAPACITY (ROUNDS)	WEIGHT (MAG LOADED)	DOUBLE ACTION TRIGGER	SINGLE ACTION TRIGGER	BARREL LENGTH	"BOX SIZE" (LENGTH X HEIGHT)	GRIP WIDTH	GRIP CIRCUMFERENCE	SIGHT RADIUS
CZ-75	15	39 ozs.	9.75 lbs.	3.75 lbs.	4.5"	8.0" x 5.5"	1.30"	5.5"	6.31"
SIG/SAUER 226	15	37 ozs.	11 lbs.	4 lbs.	4.3"	7.75" x 5.5"	1.29"	5.65"	6.29"
BERETTA 92 SBF	15	40 ozs.	11.25 lbs.	5.25 lbs.	4.9"	8.5" x 5.5"	1.39"	5.69"	6.21"

By Glenn V. Dalrymple

The last decade has seen the rise of the large capacity 9mm semi-automatic pistol. Not the least of these is the recently adopted Beretta 92 SBF 9mm pistol for the U.S. Armed Forces (we will undoubtedly hear *much* more about this in the future). Several Federal agencies, as well as a number of police and sheriffs departments, are considering the move to 9mm.

The military and the law enforcement community aside, what about the value of these newer 9mm pistols to the citizen for personal and home defense? How would they function in a field trial directed toward the civilian? To this end I asked J. Michael Plaxco, world-class shooter and pistolsmith, to assist in the evaluation of three of the best nines, Beretta 92 SBF, the Sig/Sauer 226, and the CZ-75.

The pistols used for the tests are *not* guns specially selected by manufacturer's reps. They are part of my personal collection and

were purchased through the same channels you would use. All tests were conducted at the Plaxco Academy, Roland, Ark. in 1986. All three pistols were fired in an out-of-the-box configuration except for minimal shortening of the hammer spur of the CZ-75.

Some characteristics of the test pistols are summarized in the accompanying table. The force required to drop the hammer with the gun in single-action mode was measured with an RCBS instrument. The double-action trigger response was measured with a Chatillon Model IN-10 which included weights calibrated against NRA standards. The barrel length was measured by placing a brass rod in the barrel, the length of the rod from the breech face to the end of the barrel is the barrel length. The width of the grip was measured at the widest point with a micrometer. The grip circumference was measured with a tape measure.

It is difficult to find some easy way to describe the size of a pistol. What actually is the "height" and "length" of a device with the configuration of a semi-automatic pistol? The concept of "box size" is an attempt to convey this information. Box size simply means that a rectangular box of the dimensions given will exactly contain the pistol. The box dimensions include the impact of the front and rear sights. The Beretta 92 has a lanyard loop which adds to the vertical dimension.

The army says it's the Beretta 92.

Of the pistols, the Sig 226 is the smallest. It is 37 ounces in weight, the barrel length is 4.3" and it can be contained by a 7.75" × 5.5" box. The Beretta 92 is the largest; it has the greatest weight, longest barrel, widest grip and grip circumference, and requires the largest box size. The CZ-75 falls between the other two pistols in terms of size and weight.

In the hand the grip of the Beretta 92 feels thicker than the other two pistols. The CZ-75 and the Sig 226 are similar although the texture of the surface of the Sig 226 seems to be a bit slick (more on this later).

The CZ-75 has the lightest double-action trigger (9.75 lbs). It is also very smooth. The Beretta 92 and Sig 226 are about the same (11.0–11.25 lbs). The single action triggers for the CZ-75 and Sig 226 are very acceptable,

3.75 and 4 lbs. respectively. The Beretta 92, while heavier (5.25 lbs), is certainly acceptable for a weapon of this type. The single-action triggers of the CZ-75 and Sig 226 were more crisp than the Beretta 92 which has considerable creep.

The CZ-75 is a very comfortable pistol to hold and shoot except for individuals with large hands. The CZ "bites" such a person; a very minimal modification may be required to make the pistol comfortable enough to allow extensive shooting. The CZ-75 has a thumb safety on the left rear of the slide. This means, the CZ can be "cocked-and-locked" and fired in a single-action mode, if desired. The double-action mode is primary, however.

The CZ-75 sights are somewhat small fixed sights, but they are quite adequate for most shooting needs. The rear sight can be drifted for windage correction.

The Sig 226 has the simplest possible safety system; it is like a double-action revolver. There are *no* safety levers or catches. A vigorous pull on the trigger produces a shot via double-action. Subsequent shots are single-action. The hammer is lowered from the cocked position by a decocking lever. This pistol relies, primarily, on the safety emphasized by Jeff Cooper—that which is in the head of the shooter!

The de-cocking lever and the slide stop are in a reversed order for some shooters. That is, the slide stop is to the rear of the decocking lever. Both the front and rear sights can be replaced with similar items of varying heights. Both the front and rear sights can be drifted for windage correction. The sights are large and allow easy target acquisition.

The Beretta 92 safety system is more complicated. The thumb safety simply drops the hammer. The safety must be moved *again* in order to re-engage the trigger and fire a shot. The safety lever must be rotated by arching the thumb back toward the shooter's face. Biomechanically, this is a much poorer motion than the flexion action used to depress the thumb safety on the CZ-75.

The Beretta 92 can be carried with the hammer down on a round in the chamber, and can be fired double-action without moving the safety. This is not the recommended method, however. The Beretta is more difficult to operate than the 226 or the CZ-75. This fact may be of importance to some shooters who are considering a large capacity 9mm for personal defense.

The Beretta sights are fixed; the rear sight can be drifted for windage correction.

All three pistols have 15 round magazines, and all three will fire most any type of 9mm Parabellum round. We have test fired approximately 15 different commercial brands and handloads without any problems. Some exotic rounds tested include Glaser Safety Slugs and GECO BAT bullets. We have had no failures to feed or fire any of these loads. All bullet configurations—full metal jacket, Winchester Silvertips, Federal hollowpoints seem to be satisfactory.

We all know that most participants in gun battles are within 10 yards of each other. Accepting this fact as a given, virtually all police departments have instances of stopping shots delivered by officers at 25 yards or farther. This means the officers had the capability to shoot accurately at distance, and they had weapons which could hit at these longer ranges.

For this part of the evaluation, Mike fired three 5-shot groups from 25 yards. He fired from the prone position at NRA bullseye targets. Federal jacketed hollowpoint ammo (115 gr.) was used.

25 Yard	Groups	
Pistol	Average Group	Extremes (min-max)
CZ-75	2.4"	1.5-3.15
Sig/Sauer 226	2.45"	1.9-2.9
Beretta 92 SBF	3.02"	2.35-4.45

I should emphasize that the 25 yard test primarily measures the grouping ability of the pistol. While we tend to think of tight the right. This was easily corrected by drifting the rear sight. The Beretta shot some 4" high, which is very annoying since the problem cannot be easily corrected. The front sight is too short and cannot be made taller without some major modification.

The result of the 25 yard test is that all three pistols are capable of acceptable combat accuracy. The Beretta 92 provides the only major concern because of the problem of the low front sight which forces the pistol to print too high.

The terms "double-tap" and "double-hammer" have generated some controversy. Mike feels strongly that he shoots strings of two separate shots rather than the second shot being a non-directed "hammer." For this test Mike fired six groups of two rounds each (12 round total) at standard IPSC silhouette targets. A ProShot electronic timer was used to give the start signal and to measure the time between shots.



Former IPSC national champion Mike Plaxco shot the nines with the author during the extensive testing.

groups as an index of accuracy, it is not. It is a measure of precision. The difference between accuracy and precision is subtle but important. Accuracy means the capability to hit the point aimed at, while precision refers to how close do the bullets hit to each other. We can readily see that we could have a pistol with a high degree of precision, but poor accuracy, that prints a 1" group about 12" away from the point of aim. This is why we must have some ability to adjust the sights. The ideal situation is that the point of aim is the point of impact of the bullet. The result of this test shows that all three of the 9mm pistols have the capability to produce groups sufficiently small to be satisfactory for personal defense purposes.

The out-of-the-box CZ-75 provided point of aim, point of impact accuracy without any change of the rear sight or modification of the front sight. This suggests that the factory technicians took the time to sight in the pistol before sending it out. The 226 shot slightly to

Winchester 115 gr. FMJ was used. The first round of each pair was fired via the double-action stroke; the subsequent round was single action. The results show quantitatively, all three pistols were equal and, indeed, performed very well with respect to the indices of the study. Times of less than one second to the first shot and less than 0.3 seconds between shots are certainly adequate for self-defense purposes. Also the scores achieved indicate the pistols are capable of hitting the target under conditions of rapid fire, including a double-action to single-action transition.

To extend the evaluation to multiple shots, multiple targets, two rounds were fired at each of three targets at seven yards. As before, Mike started from the Combat Ready position. The first rounds were fired double-action with subsequent rounds fired single-action. Three separate runs of six rounds each were made with all three guns.

Continued on page 72

Frank Pachmayr's .45

The dean of combat .45 automatics is now retired, but his genius at customizing the Government Model lives on.

By John Lachuk

It's a lot easier to accurize a .45 ACP Government Model today than it was when I started doing it, over fifty years ago!" declares pioneer pistol customizer Frank Pachmayr. "In fact, it's less work now than it was just twenty years ago. All kinds of bolton parts are available today—rubber grips, adjustable target triggers, wide rubber grip safeties, rubber-padded mainspring housings, and extended slide releases. I developed and manufactured all of these myself. They're all still available from my old company."

Frank Pachmayr retired in 1980, but the Pachmayr corporation still markets most of the original product line, and continues to maintain the high standards that made the name "Pachmayr" synonymous with

"quality."

All evidence indicates that Frank Pachmayr was the first commercial gunsmith to customize the Model 1911 to improve handling and accuracy. Records confirm that Frank was accurizing .45's as far back as the early 1930's. I remember watching Frank at his bench, working on a .45 Colt automatic when I was about 16. And that was longer ago than I care to mention!

Deliberately designed with sloppy tolerances, so that a dunk in the mud served only the better to lubricate it, a Government Issue Model 1911 .45 ACP was lucky to deliver groups the size of a ten-gallon hat at 50 yards! For all of their beautiful glossy carbon-bluing, early-day commercial Colts did little better.

Despite (or perhaps because of) this, the .45 ACP was required equipment for big bore NRA competition. Only reluctantly did match competitors of yore take the ugly brute in hand to fire specified leg matches. Yet today, the slab-sided .45 Auto Colt or Coltclone is the weapon of choice up and down the firing line, both in NRA shoots and the rapidly burgeoning IPSC and other combat-styled matches.

The one man who most deserves credit for this unlikely metamorphosis from beast to beauty is none other than Frank A. Pachmayr. When Frank opened his own shop in 1929, he was already noted as the man to see for the finest in pistol smithing. The red







Pachmayr "wide link" on the bottom locking lugs insures tight, reliable lock-up.

hot marksmen of the Los Angeles Police Department had beat a steady path to Gus Pachmayr's shop in the loft above Lail's Garage, where Frank had apprenticed with his father since age seven. They entrusted their duty weapons and target guns to Frank for action smoothing, trigger pull adjustments, and improved sights.

At that time, revolvers ruled the roost. The .45 ACP was still regarded by most as merely a lusty old warrior, fit only for the battle



"Headspace eliminator" is a tiny ball bearing under spring tension on the breech face to push the cartridge fully into the chamber.

ator" is a finy spring tension to push the carcochamber.

(1) barrel (2) slide (3) receiver (4) wide link (5) upper link pin (6) slide stop pin (7) slide stop (8) recoil spring guide (9) recoil spring (10) recoil spring plug (11) barrel bushing housing (12) barrel bushing (13) housing/plug pin (14) slide tightener (15) slide tightener adjustment screw (16) headspace plunger (17) slide stop pin lock ring (18) Bo-Mar rear sight (19) "Signature" neoprene grip (20) overtravel screw (21) trigger (22) mainspring housing



Frank changed that perspective by tightening up the tolerances of the old war horse, for such early-day gun-greats as Charles Askins, Tommy Carr, Lee Echols, Al Hemming, and Harry Reeves. As Frank recalls it today, "More than fifty years ago, several well-known shooters asked me if I could develop a way to improve the accuracy of the Model 1911 Colt .45 ACP. I knew that the accuracy of this fine, dependable handgun was adversely affected due to the fact that the barrel moved during each firing cycle, and very seldom returned to exactly the same position in battery.

"To overcome this," he continues, "I developed improvements that forced the barrel to return as nearly as possible to the same position each time. The real test came when all five members of the U.S. Treasury Team used our modified Colts to break the existing team record by 23 points." This was the first (and to the best of my knowledge, the last) time a team cracked a national record, all equipped with .45's accurized by the same man!

Continued on page 84

TAFFIN TESTS

The silhouette ram stood challenging me at 200 meters as I slowly squeezed the trigger of the new single action revolver I was testing. The gun rolled and as it was coming down out of recoil I looked at the target to see either the strike of the bullet indicating a miss, or that sudden change in color as the target starts its trip backwards.

This time something was radically wrong. I did not see the bullet kick up dirt nor did I see the target color go from bright black to a dull gray as its angle changed. In fact, I saw nothing. The target was already down.

This is normal when shooting fast moving, flat shooting bullets in an unlimited or production single shot, but this had never happened before with a revolver.

That first shot at the ram told me that this was no ordinary revolver or cartridge. The gun was the then-new Seville Stainless Silhouette Model with a 10½" barrel and

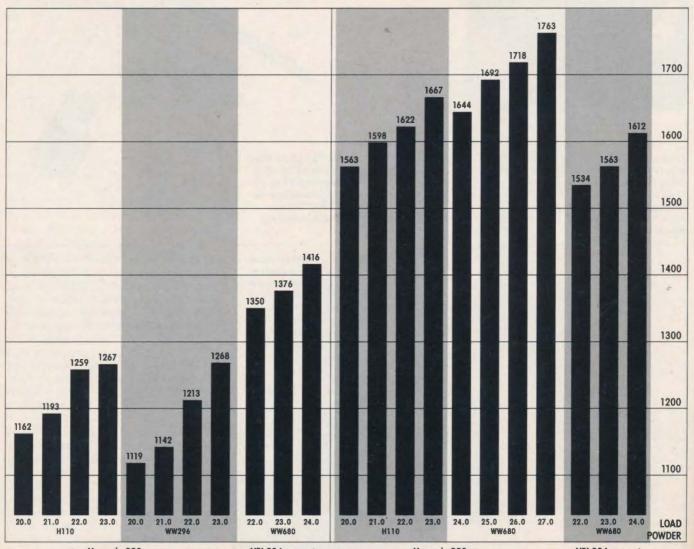
Before this experience my favorite silhouette revolver loads had been the .44 Magnum 240 grain Full Metal Jacket at 1300 fps and the .357 SuperMag 180 grain

the .375 SuperMag

chambered for the equally new .375 Super-Mag. Launching a 220 grain jacketed bullet at 1700 fps, the .375 Super-Mag completely changed the concept of the silhouette revolver. Its flat trajectory and speed had heretofore only been found in single shot handguns.

Full Metal Jacket at 1400 fps. Both of these were accurate and powerful enough to get the job done. There is that instant, when shooting rams, which sometimes seems like an eternity—between the firing of the gun, the clang of the steel, and the eventual toppling of the target. With the .375 Super-

HIGH PERFORMANCE .375 SUPERMAG LOADS



Hornady 220 gr.

DAN WESSON 8" bbl

NEI 204 gr. cast

Hornady 220 gr.

TC CONTENDER 10" bbl

NEI 204 gr. cast

Mag everything happened right now. Fast!

What is the .375 SuperMag? The cartridge was created by Elgin Gates of IHMSA after the tremendous silhouetting success of the .357 SuperMag. The .375SM combines the flat trajectory of the .357SM with the energy of the .44 Magnum.

Originally brass had to be made by cutting either .375 Winchester or .30-30 brass to 1.600", the same length as the .357 SuperMag. When Elgin called me early in the gestation period of the .375 and asked me to be one of those who worked on the loads for the cartridge in the Dan Wesson .375 SuperMag, I immediately said yes. But in the back of my mind I wondered about the making of brass. Would it really be as easy as he said it would be?

Being more artist than mechanic, I have a way of botching the simplest task. I need not have worried. Making .375 SuperMag brass is simple. The easiest method is to use a special trim die produced by Redding. The .375 Winchester, or 30-30, case is full length resized, and then run up into a special trim die, also made by Redding, that is mounted in any standard loading press. The portion protruding from the top of the die is removed with a few strokes with a fine toothed hacksaw, and then the top of the case is filed while still in the specially hardened die. Deburr the case and it is ready to load. No inside neck reaming is needed. Cases should be full length resized first as there is a lot of variation in the size of new brass and some will not enter the trim die.

Since the .375 SuperMag case has a slight taper, a standard carbide sizing die will not work and it is necessary to lightly lube the cases before sizing. If .30-30 brass is used it must first be expanded to .375 neck size and then trimmed. This is best accomplished in two stages: I go to .338 first, then to .375 with very little case loss. This adds two extra steps to the forming process, but only has to be done once and .30-30 brass is much cheaper than .375 Winchester. Locally the savings is \$3.35 per box. There is a trade-off, however, as .375 brass is much stronger than .30-30 brass.

Now it is possible to skip all the brass-making steps as IHMSA offers ready-made .375 SuperMag brass for \$15.30 per box of 50. (Order from IHMSA, P.O. Box 1609, Idaho Falls, ID, 83401) However, since .30-30 brass is so plentiful and once-fired cases are very cheap, the most economical way is still the making of .375 SuperMag brass from .30-30 cases.

When the .375 SuperMag was introduced there were no suitable jacketed bullets available for use in a revolver. The closest was the Hornady 220 grain jacketed soft point .375 Winchester bullet. The only problem being the fact that the cannelure was placed such that the loaded round was too long for the Dan Wesson cylinder length. IHMSA ordered a special run of these bullets with the cannelure placed .050" higher on the bullets to allow proper

seating and crimping of bullets. All the special bullets are now sold out but Hornady has changed the specs on their bullets so that all 220 grain bullets coming out of the factory have the cannelure in the proper place for revolver use.

Loading the .375 SuperMag is a little different than most revolver cartridges. As mentioned, cases cannot be full length resized with a standard carbide sizer as the case has a slight taper. This is a minor, but irritating, nuisance to me and I would have much preferred a straight case. However, this would have required the production of completely new brass and the .375 SuperMag would probably never have gotten off the ground.

Primer selection is more critical with the .375 SuperMag than other revolver cartridges. While the .375 SuperMag is at its best with small rifle primers, the Dan Wesson hammer fall is not heavy enough to consistently ignite large rifle primers. Large rifle primers work fine in the Seville and TC, but to keep things simple I use magnum pistol primers in all revolver loads. Pistol primers are not only softer than rifle primers but will also show high pressure signs at levels below those of rifle primers. This is not all bad as it gives a built-in safety factor.

Like its older, smaller SuperMag brother, the .375 SuperMag has the capability of having one load give excellent results in both revolvers and single shots. For example, 21.0 or 22.0 grains of H4227 with the Hornady 220 jacketed bullet, both excellent performers in the DW .375 SuperMag, give 50 meter groups of 5/8" and 7/8" respectively when fired in a custom 10" .375 TC barrel. Thompson/Center does not chamber for the .375 but a number of custom barrel makers such as SSK (Rt. 1, Della Dr., Bloomingdale, OH, 43910) provide excellent barrels for the .375 SuperMag.

If I had to pick one favorite load for the .375 SuperMag it would be the 220 grain jacketed bullet over 27.0 grains of WW680. This load gives nearly 1400 fps in the 8" Dan Wesson, close to 1700 fps in the 10½" Seville and almost 1800 fps in the 10" Bellm TC barrel. This is an excellent silhouette load and also would be a good choice if the .375 is chosen for hunting.

There are very few suitable cast bullets available for the .375. A couple of good ones are the NEI #210.375, a 210 grain gas check design. This bullet seats deeply in the case and gives less powder capacity than the 220 grain jacketed Hornady bullet. Redding/Saeco has a new bullet, #375, that also gives excellent results but does not have a gas check and requires thorough cleaning of the barrel after each match.

The .375 SuperMag would not be my first choice as a silhouette revolver, that pleasure still goes to the .357 SuperMag simply because of ease of reloading and availability of both cast and jacketed bullets. However, if I wanted a silhouette revolver to also double as a deer hunting

Continued on page 89



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LEE RELOADER PRESS

By Dan Cotterman

Lee Precision's "Reloader" is the smallest bench-mounted press ever tested here. It's about a foot long, 21/8 inches wide at the base, rises 69/16 inches above the bench, and extends only four inches below the surface of the bench. The frame and handle are cast 46,000 psi ASTM 380 alloy, so the entire press weighs just 27 ounces.

That's light, and so is the price, at least for the remainder of 1988. As the final strains of Auld Lang Syne ruffle the confetti this coming New Year's Eve, the price of the Reloader will rise to \$32.00, but right now it's being sold for \$9.95 when you include a Lee die set and any Lee priming tool. Figure you'll have, say, \$25.98 in a three-die pistol set and maybe another \$11.98 for a Lee Ram Prime (\$15.98 for the Auto-Prime set-up), and you're still looking at roughly 50 bucks for the whole outfit.

It's a fairly appealing deal, but what are the drawbacks to using a tiny, single-stage press like this?

Well, obviously, it isn't going to be fast, so it should be reserved for reloading a round you don't shoot a lot. It will, however, handle rounds as large as the .375 H&H Magnum: working distance between shell-holder and die is about 3½ inches. And just to test the Reloader's strength I ran in a set of Corbins and swaged a batch of bullets ranging in size from .357" to .452". No problems. The frame of the Reloader appeared to be flexfree, and there is adequate leverage. I do, however, prefer to swage bullets with the Corbin Mity-Mite, or a larger single-stage press, because of their superior leverage.

Lee's three-die sets include the Powder-Through Expanding Die, which, if coupled with the Lee Auto-Disk Powder Measure (\$25.98 with four charge disks) can be used with the Reloader press. If you have a powder scale, and wish to pass on purchasing the measure, you can pour charges through the mouth of the die, or simply stand resized,

Continued on page 89

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OMFB - Officers Model Flat Blue

OMFS — Officers Model Flat Stainless

GMFB - Government Model Flat Blue

GMAB - Government Model Arched Blue

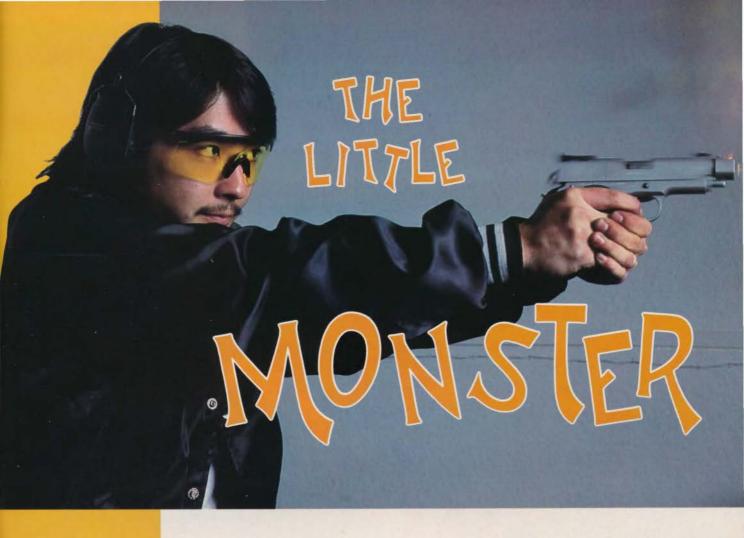
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was just a little skeptical as my friend Chris described the pistol in the gun rug he had just handed me. "Meet the Little Monster. It's a compensated .45 carry gun, smaller than a Commander. It holds 8 rounds, and will put them all into one hole at 50 feet, offhand, as fast as you can pull the trigger—without fighting the gun to get back

on target!"

Knowing that Chris is a good friend of the gunsmith who built the pistol and is sometimes a bit overly enthusiastic about weapons he likes, I unzipped

Lean and mean, this compensated .45 ACP Officers Model is state-of-the-art (martial art, that is) for the street.

the case to get a look at this Wonderpistol for myself.

Inside was a pretty little Colt that soon proved to meet all the claims made about it, and more

Built by G. Lee Brown, of Brown's Guncraft in Van Nuys, Calif., the gun begins life as a stock Colt Officers Model. Lee has been a working gunsmith for nearly 14 years, and has been building compensated guns for over four years now, but had previously concentrated on full-sized competition pieces.

nizes this potential market, and soon introduced their Officers Model. Lee went forward from there to create a pistol that combines portability, shootability, and extra firepower all in one package.

One of the first things I noticed was that the compensator itself is not the bulky full-

Demand for a small and light carry gun

that still packs some punch led Lee to begin

studying the problem. Colt, along with

everyone else in the industry, also recog-

One of the first things I noticed was that the compensator itself is not the bulky, fullslide-profile block of steel one normally sees on a compensated weapon. This is possible for a couple of reasons:

 The port design and gas action are the critical concerns for a handgun compensator, not the weight.

2) The shorter barrel of the Officers Model is better for this type of use than longer barrels because the gas charge does not string out as much prior to reaching the compensator port.

Brown explains it this way, "Without going to an extreme size and configuration for the compensator, it's hard to add enough weight to the muzzle of a pistol to make a substantial difference in muzzle whip and felt recoil. Most of the difference in controlability comes from a proper compensator design that utilitizes the gasses trailing the exiting bullet to force the muzzle of the

By Paul W. Hantke

Photos by Cameron Wong

With Bo-Mar combat sights, checkering and an ambi thumb safety, the comped Officers is a serious self-defense handgun.

piece down and slightly forward when it is

The compensator itself is hand machined and finished from steel stock matching the weapon to which it will be fitted. The port opening is tab-shaped, and the unit is sizedthrough to allow only a minimum of freebore. This prevents any tipping action on the bullet base, which could affect accuracy.

Original Colt barrels are being used for this conversion, although L&B Match

blanks are used for Brown's other competition pieces.

"I can use the L&B barrel, or any other match blank on the Officers Model at the customer's discretion," he explained, "but accuracy sure doesn't seem to suffer with the Colt barrels. The most important factors for accuracy are the lock-up, the sights, and the trigger. And when I'm finished with the guns those areas are well covered.

"There probably would be some dif-

ference in final accuracy with a match barrel, but for this gun the results have been so good with the stock barrel that so far I haven't had a request to use the match blanks."

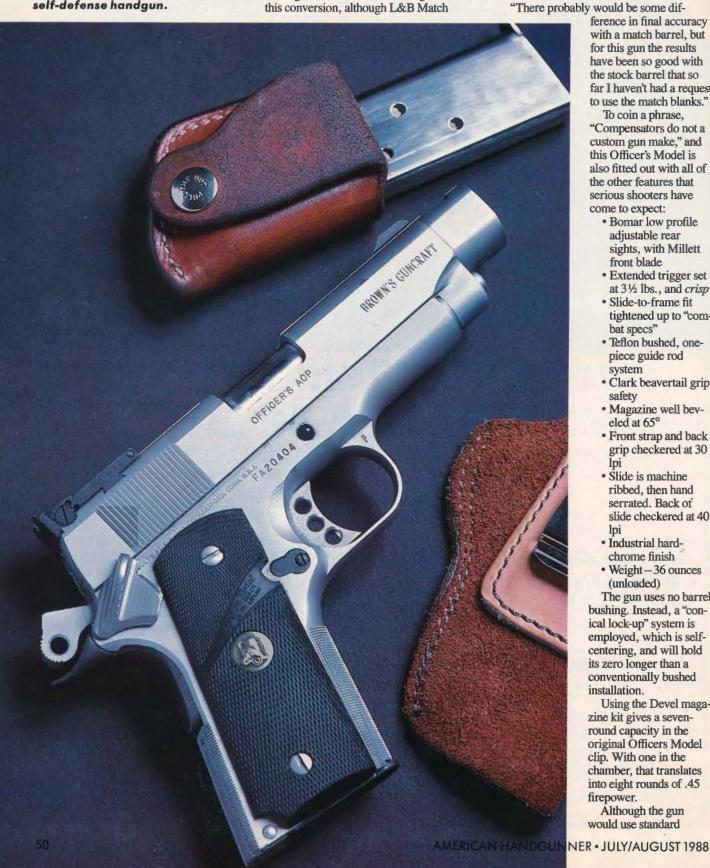
To coin a phrase, "Compensators do not a custom gun make," and this Officer's Model is also fitted out with all of the other features that serious shooters have come to expect:

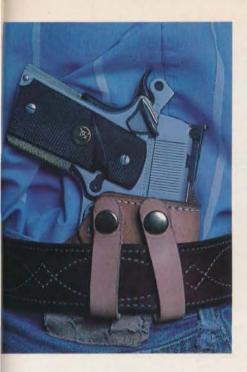
- · Bomar low profile adjustable rear sights, with Millett front blade
- Extended trigger set at 31/2 lbs., and crisp
- · Slide-to-frame fit tightened up to "combat specs"
- · Teflon bushed, onepiece guide rod system
- · Clark beavertail grip safety
- · Magazine well beveled at 65°
- Front strap and back grip checkered at 30 lpi
- Slide is machine ribbed, then hand serrated. Back of slide checkered at 40 lpi
- · Industrial hardchrome finish
- Weight 36 ounces (unloaded)

The gun uses no barrel bushing. Instead, a "conical lock-up" system is employed, which is selfcentering, and will hold its zero longer than a conventionally bushed installation.

Using the Devel magazine kit gives a sevenround capacity in the original Officers Model clip. With one in the chamber, that translates into eight rounds of .45 firepower.

Although the gun would use standard







length magazines if desired, that little extra bit hanging out the mag well serves to partially defeat the compactness of the original configuration. Using the standard mags with Devel kits as back-ups in a carry situation would sure seem to make a lot of sense, though.

Brown works on all good quality hand-

guns, both revolvers and autos. Services available range from simple action jobs to the full-blown competition pieces. Average turnaround is about 60 days for the compensated Officers Model, but you'll have to get in line—I ordered my own "Little Monster" right after I fired the test gun!

The comped Officers (above left) fits a Sparks Summer Special concealment holster. Lee Brown (above) at work with a vertical mill. The end result of Lee's work is a comped Officers (below) that is the same size as a conventional Commander model.



Fully decked-out in period clothing from Red River Outfitters, this hombre is packing his single-action in a double-loop holster from RRO.

Old Colt single-actions and the copies of that famous revolver are very popular and rightly so. While they are surpassed in levels of power and accuracy, they still excel in pleasing performance and, of course, nostalgia.

Many modern sixgunners will select an old style single-action, Colt or copy, because of their traditional values. There is nothing wrong with that—in fact, it's a very good reason. A lot of those sixgunners will also select traditional leather to carry that sixgun.

Just like the single-actions themselves, traditional styled belts and holsters are quite functional. Function is actually one of their strong points because they are patterned after gun belts and holsters which were made to carry the revolver plus an amount of ammunition and perhaps other things as well. The modern made versions of these old rigs do their jobs just like the old timers did.

There are several activities today where an old style holster and cartridge belt would not be appropriate but there are just as many shooting activities where such a belt is advantageous. For one thing, those old belts were made to be worn for long periods at a stretch. Following the example of the old gun rigs, the traditional belts and holsters are usually very comfortable to wear. They are generally very functional for the sixgun too, offering the revolver a lot more protection than the

SINGLE-ACTION GUN LEATHER

By Mike Nesbitt

Your Peacemaker is a piece of history. The hoglegs that won the west gain even more nostalgia when riding in traditional gun leather.



Holster rigs from Wild Bill's feature an "antique look" which makes the new leather look and feel like an original.

fast draw rigs of the Hollywood Wild West.

Today there are a few holster makers who specialize in traditional leather for single-actions. Most of their holsters are made specifically for the Colt SAA in its varying barrel lengths and a holster for anything else is regarded as a special order. Each maker has specialties and they all have top quality gear to offer.

Old West Reproductions

One of the first to come to mind among the craftsmen who create the old style gun rigs by hand is Rick Bachman. Rick is a fulltime leather worker and he calls his business, appropriately, Old West Reproductions. The major portion of his work is devoted to holsters but he also makes cartridge belts, wrist cuffs, spur straps, and saddle scabbards

for lever action rifles. He is not confined to these things, though, and he just accepted his first order for a saddle.

Rick has a wide variety of holsters to choose from for the Peacemaker, including a special one for the Sheriff's Model or the Storekeeper with 3, 3½, or 4 inch barrels. The designs for his holsters are based upon originals in his personal collection and each holster is hand-cut and hand-stitched. All of Rick's designs are very functional and they are available with extra tooling. The old time maker's stamp on these holsters which reads "R. M. Bachman—Kalispell, Mont." is truly a mark of quality.

At least as important as a holster is the gun belt. Rick makes three styles of belts to go with his holsters. One is a plain belt for use with the Slim Jim holsters intended for percussion revolvers. Another is a standard car-



A short-barreled SAA in a handmade rig from Rick Bachman.

tridge belt with loops for several cartridges and a width of $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The very best is Rick's money/cartridge belt. This is made of soft leather folded over and sewn along the top. It is easily the most comfortable to wear and it will carry quite a load including the weight of the revolver and nearly a full box of cartridges. The money cartridge belt is three inches wide and while it is priced higher than the standard belt, the extra comfort is worth every penny.

Red River Outfitters

Wearing a cartridge belt is not always

desirable. This was just as true in the Old West as it is today. At the same time, it's always nice to be able to carry a few extra cartridges and Red River Frontier Outfitters has a holster which answers this need.

John Wesley Hardin is said to have used a holster like this one so Red River calls it their "Wes Hardin Holster." Actually, this holster is Red River's #9 Scabbard Holster with six cartridge loops sewn to the holster pouch. The cartridge loops are made for .44's or .45's only and the Wes Hardin Holster is made for 7½ inch barreled Colts or Remingtons only.

Red River has other special rigs as well. One is a form-fit holster designed for the folding trigger Colt Patterson percussion revolver. Another, still in the percussion line, is a holster for the big Colt Walker. And for the more modern sixgunner, they have the Mexican Loop Holster in a special size to fit the Ruger Super Blackhawk.

In addition to those special sizes, Red River has several of the cavalry or military holster styles from the percussion era to the end of the 1890's. These are very popular with today's horse soldiers and anyone else who likes to carry a sixgun protected by a full or half-flap holster.

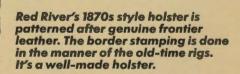
The mainstay of Red River's holsters is probably their Mexican Loop style. This is available for the Colt Single Action in its varying barrel lengths and, of course, the Colt copies too. Cartridge belts are also available along with wrist cuffs, boots, and other leather goods. Red River Frontier Outfitters is the complete name of this maker and they are true outfitters.

El Paso Saddlery

In any discussion about old style gun leather it's fitting to mention one of our oldest holster makers — El Paso Saddlery Company. El Paso has a wide line of holsters for all kinds of revolvers and automatics. In this wide assortment they do have holsters for percussions and several styles for Colt single-actions. For those Colts, a favorite holster style is called the Sweetwater, styled after holsters made by S. D. Myres in the 1890's.

One of El Paso's specialties is a shoulder holster made to fit Colt S.A.'s with 3 to 5½ inch barrels. This is a standard pouch holster rather than a modern spring loaded rig and it looks very good. The shoulder harness has some cartridge loops sewn on to carry a few extra rounds and this rig is fairly comfortable. There is a real historic side to El Paso's shoulder rig—they say it is just like the one John Wesley Hardin had made in their shop in 1895.

El Paso's catalog has another famous name connected to one of its holster rigs, The Duke. This is a holster and belt copying the outfit John Wayne wore in most of his



movies. The belt is made of a soft rough-out leather folded over and sewn like a money belt. While we generally associate this rig with a 43/4" Colt S.A., El Paso makes The Duke holster to fit any S.A. or D.A. revolver with barrel lengths up to 71/2 inches.

In addition to those special rigs, El Paso

occasionally introduces commemorative holster rigs. Personalities commemorated by copying their gun gear were Pat Garrett, G. F. Spangenberg (an Arizona Territory holster maker) and General George S. Patton. The commemorative belts and holsters are usually limited to 1,000 sets and I'm fairly sure more will be introduced.

Trailrider Products

Trailrider Products can boast a personality holster of their own and this one is aimed directly at the percussion revolvers. It's a copy of the holster worn by Lewis Grant who served with the Utah Volunteer Cavalry during the Civil War. Grant's holster, for his 1851 Navy, shows that it was worn by a horseman who wanted to keep his gun. There is a buckled strap which keeps the revolver in place. It is a far cry from the Hollywood rigs, as most authentic gun rigs are, and it was used by an active individual who survived the turbulent years. The Lewis Grant holster is called the "Utah Scout."

Several more modern holsters and a few more old style holsters are made by Trailrider Products. They also have an authentic 1880's period shoulder holster for S.A. revolvers with barrel lengths up to 7½ inches.

Wild Bill Cleaver

Another maker of old style gun leather and one with a particularly unique product line is Wild Bill Cleaver. Bill's holsters and other leather goods are a little more expensive than the products by others, but there is



The Wes Hardin holster from Red River is a faithful reproduction of this famous gunfighter's rig. The loops are unique to this rig.

The antiquing process does not weaken the leather and these holsters are just as serviceable as if they did look like new. Each item is hand-cut and hand-sewn so no two pieces are exactly alike. Bill's brochure shows 10 different general styles of holster for the Colt single-action plus the Colt Lightning and several percussion revolvers. For a brand new "old" gun rig, Wild Bill's is the place to go.

Bill offers two cartridge belt styles to go with his holsters and he also offers two styles of sheaths for Bowie knives. In addition to those items he will make chaps, rifle scabbards, and wrist cuffs. And Bill readily invites custom orders.

To borrow one of Bill's own phrases, his leather work is done "as a true form of Western art."

All of these makers have one thing in common even though they do special items or features in their line of products. That common item is pride: they are all craftsmen and they copy the old style leather goods in a way that the old timers would be proud to see. Single Action shootists today will be just as proud to own and use any of these brand new "old" gun rigs.

LEATHER MAKERS

Old West Reproductions 1840 Stag Lane Dept. AH Kalispell, MT, 59901

Kalispell, MT, 59901 (\$3 for a catalog)

Red River Frontier Outfitters

8348 Foothill Blvd. Dept. AH Sunland, CA 91040 (\$3 for a catalog)

El Paso Saddlery Dept. AH P.O. Box 27194 El Paso, TX 79926 (free catalog)

Trailrider Products

Dept. AH Box 2612 Littleton, CO 80161 (\$2 for a catalog)

Wild Bill's Rt. 4, Box 462 Dept. AH Vashon Island, WA 98070 (\$1 for catalog)

good reason for that. Holsters and gun belts made by Wild Bill are especially well suited for old original Colts because Bill antiques the leather which makes the holster look just as old as the gun.



El Paso's shoulder holster accommodates four or five inch Colt SAAs. It keeps the gun safely out of sight or the weather.



The three manstoppers caught in flight. Talk about a triple-whammy!

MULTI-SLUG MANSTOPPERS

By Joe Zambone

Ammunition using more than one projec-tile for increased man-stopping ability isn't exactly a recent invention. Over the centuries grapeshot, canister and buckshot have worked admirably against enemy troops, but their use was based on the philosophy of trying to hit as many soldiers as possible with a huge swarm of projectiles.

Personal defense weapons, however, generally stuck to single projectiles which delivered a telling blow close-up. But back in the swirling mists of time some innovative soul, short on what passed for bullets then, probably stuffed his smokepole with stones or lead pellets and blew an adversary out of his

That guy, without knowing it, was applying the same theory used to explain the effectiveness of Multiple Munitions Industries (MMI) three-projectile revolver ammunition. Basically, the theory says that a given level of bullet energy delivered to a single impact point isn't as effective as the same total energy spread out over several impact points.

One way to grasp this concept is to consider intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs). In the beginning, missiles carried one warhead of maybe 200 kilotons blast force, far more than enough to obliterate anything up to five miles from ground zero. But no matter how much larger the warhead could be made, within practical limits, little more damage could be done. It was sort of like using a .460 Weatherby on squirrels, where a .22 LR will suffice.

Then along came Multiple Independent Re-entry Vehicles (MIRVs), and now ICBMs spit out ten separate warheads of maybe 20 kilotons each, which can blanket an area the size of New York City and reduce it to rubble. Same total energy, but spread out for greater effectiveness.

MMI, in .38 Special or .357 Magnum, is marketed in America by Silent Partner, Inc., the armored vest people (612-18 Third St., Dept AH, Gretna, LA, 70053).

Both calibers use a 3-part projectile of 250

grains total weight, loaded to +P velocities in nickeled cases headstamped with the MMI designation. On top is a .38 cal. 110 grain jacketed hollowpoint which looks like one of Speer's bullets; it's seated to cannelure depth and the loaded round looks like normal JHP ammo. Under the JHP bullet are two .38 caliber full wadcutter projectiles weighing 70 grains each. These blunt slugs are very soft, probably pure lead for better expansion.

230 grain .45 ACP bullet, and the .357 Magnum round has more power than a medium velocity .44 Magnum factory load. Keep in mind that these energy levels don't consider the added effectiveness of hitting three separate but close spots on the same target.

Pattern spread is stated to be 3 to 5 inches at seven yards, and 16 to 18 inches at 25 yards. The longer range could mean one or two projectiles would miss a man-sized target,

Three of a kind beats Ace high. New multi-slug ammunition features three separate bullets combining for more knockdown power than a single projectile.

Unlike multiplex loads using stacked wafers, which aren't grooved in the barrel for spin stabilization or gas sealing, all three MMI slugs get rifled during their trip. But there's a tiny bit of MIRV-like flight deviation purposely added, so the projectiles won't all hit in the same spot. The flat bullets naturally begin seeking their own path as soon as they encounter air resistance, and their lighter weight causes them to fly higher than the front projectile. They also exit the muzzle in succession, as recoil is causing the barrel to climb, so there's a natural vertical pattern dispersal.

The MMI .38 Special +P cartridge uses 5.0 grains of Hercules Blue Dot powder. probably with a magnum primer. Factory specs call for 801 fps velocity, as tested by the H.P. White Laboratory. About 9.5 grains of a very fine ball powder fuels the .357 Magnum +P, for a laboratory test velocity of 1,064 fps. Both loads test to within industry +P pressure specifications, and are safe to use in modern revolvers; they aren't recommended for small, alloy-frame revolvers.

Although velocities are about normal, bullet weight is nearly 100 grains more than the typical .38/.357 loading, which translates into higher energy levels. In theory, the .38 caliber round has more muzzle energy than a but statistics show that shoot-outs rarely occur at such extended ranges. Seven yards is the average, according to law enforcement studies.

Conversely, sample targets in the MMI brochure show .38 Special spread, for example, of just over one inch at seven yards, which isn't quite what written data says. We weren't sure which ad claim to believe.

We used a Dan Wesson .357 Magnum revolver with both 4- and 6-inch barrels for chronograph and accuracy testing. Velocities were checked with an Oehler Model 33 Chronotach and Sky Screen III detectors at three feet from the muzzle; EP

Velocity Energy Cartridge 802 fps 355 ft/lbs

.38 Special +P .357 Magnum +P 888 fps 430 ft/lbs

Obviously, the .38 Special load was up to factory specs and more in the four-inch Dan Wesson. An extra two inches of barrel length made little difference in velocity here, and in fact the fastest round in each barrel clocked an identical 826 fps.

Our .357 Magnum tests were disappointing because velocities fell 162 fps below fac-

Continued on page 71

You can win a

Fitted with an effective compensator to reduce recoil, the Carry Comp from Paul Liebenberg is the same overall size of a Government Model but with streetproven modifications to enhance the manstopping fight power of this deadly carry gun.

Paul Liebenberg is proprietor and chief pistolsmith of Pistol Dynamics, a firm dedicated to excellence in custom pistols. Paul's exquisite custom pistols are special, very special. His guns hold the distinction of appearing twice on the cover of *American Handgumer*. Two articles, two covers—that's symbolic of his fine craftsmanship for we do not select our cover guns haphazardly.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Paul has forged ahead with a dynamic new customized Government Model called the "Carry Comp." The Carry Comp is a combat handgun designed as a personal protection weapon to be carried discreetly. The overall length of Paul's custom Springfield Armory .45 ACP fight-stopper is the same as that of a stock gun, but Paul's Carry Comp sports an effective muzzle brake compensator to reduce recoil. Fast recovery time from shot to shot has proven decisive in many gun battles, and Paul's efficient compensator greatly reduces muzzle jump and felt recoil for faster shooting.

An adjustable, self-centering cone bushing allows re-accurizing, if necessary after exten-

sive shooting, without replacing or disturbing the compensator.

Unsatisfied with mass-produced grip safeties, Paul handmade a special "carry" beavertail from bar stock. Handmade beavertails are a trademark of Pistol Dynamics. Anti-snag fixed sights are precisely dovetailed into the slide. A full-length guiderod properly assures reliable function of the Wolff recoil spring. An interchangeable front sight is standard with several styles to select. This "Carry Comp" comes with a ramp style front sight.

A match-grade Bar Sto barrel is installed. A safe but crisp trigger job is part of the package along with extensive internal honing and fitting to assure 100% reliable function. A Swenson

ambidextrous safety offers fast and sure access.

The approximate retail value of the Pistol Dynamics "Carry Comp" is \$1600 as shown. For more information on the full pistolsmithing services of Paul Liebenberg, write to Pistol Dynamics, 4442 York Blvd., Unit 7,

Los Angeles, CA, 90041 or call (213) 255-4743.

TO ENTER CONTEST: Use a postcard, (no envelopes), follow sample; include your name and address; your answer(s); dealer name, address and phone number. Mail before August 1, 1988. Send to: AMERICAN HANDGUNNER, Dept. H5 POB 880409, San Diego, CA 92108-0009

Limit 1 entry per household.

DO YOU CURRENTLY RELOAD YOUR OWN AMMUNITION?

A) YES

B) NO

IF NO, DO YOU PLAN TO PURCHASE A RELOADER WITHIN THE NEXT TWO YEARS?

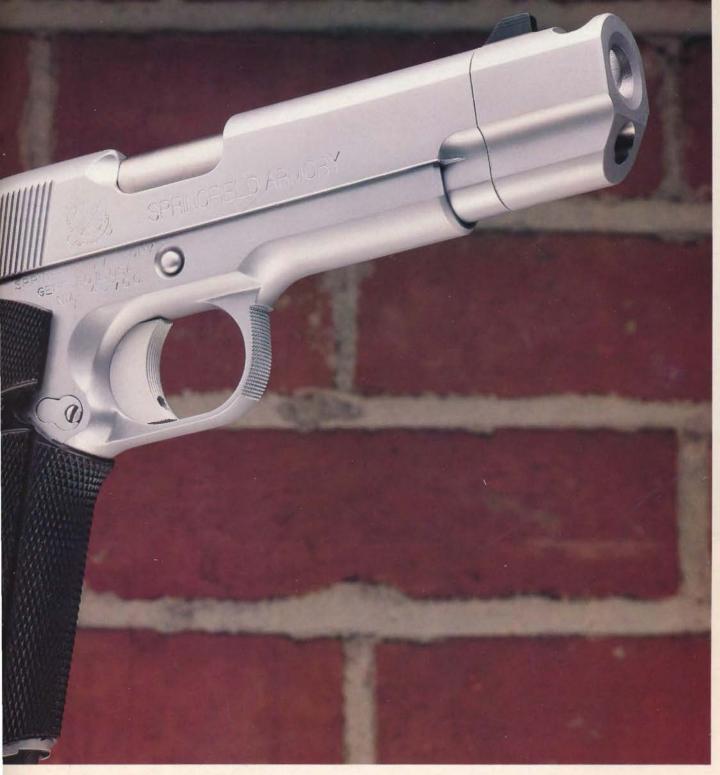
C) YES

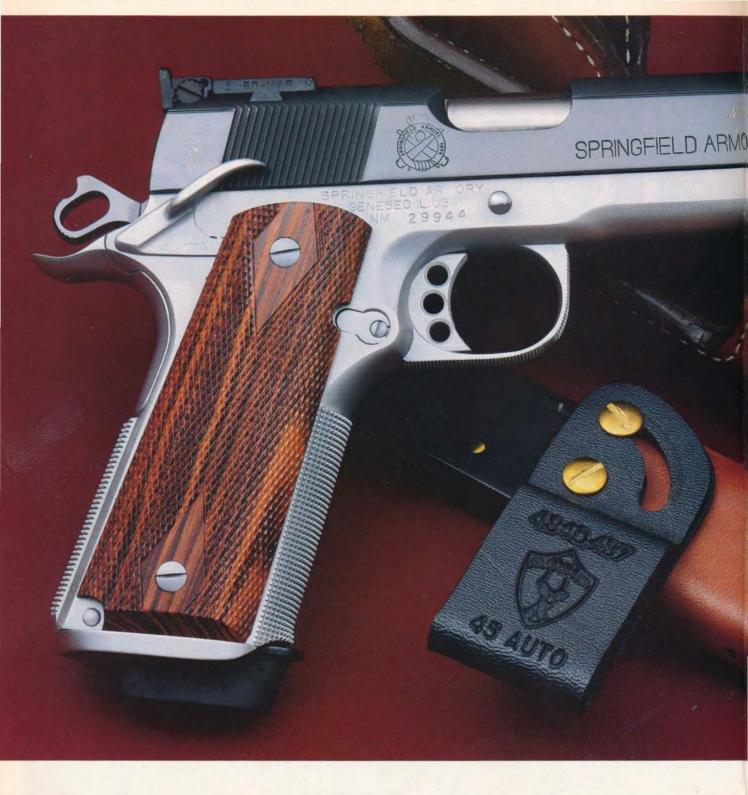
D) NO





PYNAMICH CARRY COMP P COMBAT PISTOL



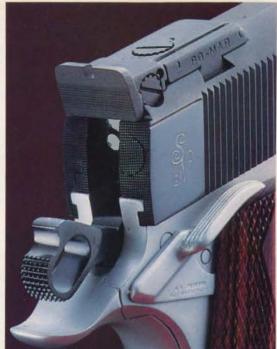


Flawless metalwork.
Exacting tolerances.
Superb accuracy.
Remarkable reliability.

These are the trademarks of a Steve Nastoff custom .45 combat automatic.

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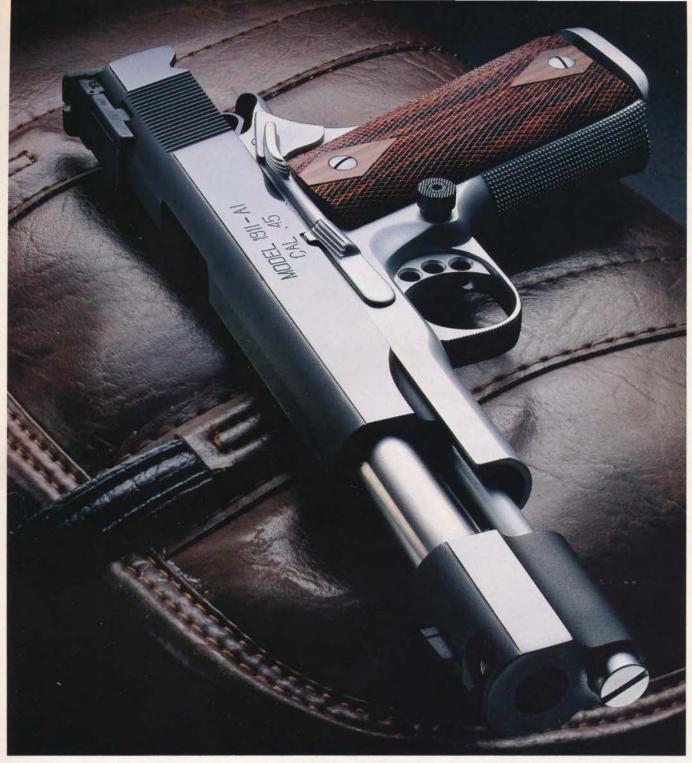




All the sharp edges of the Bo-Mar sight (top) are radiused and smoothed. Note the precise dovetailing of the sight into the slide. The skeletonized Commander hammer, with sharp checkering, is a Nastoff trademark. Note the fine-line checkering on the rear of the slide to reduce glare in the shooter's eyes. Similarly perfect handcut checkering adorns the trigger guard (above). Note the smooth edges on the slide stop pin. Every detail, even the tiniest, is attended by Steve Nastoff.

SUPERCOMP III

By Jim Weller Photos by Ichiro Nagata



ver since the technique of the modern pistolcraft was developed, the race has been on to develop handguns that produce greater power with less recoil. This is no small feat because those who have undertaken such a task are challenging Mr. Newton's law that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.

Nowhere has this race been more enthusiastic than in the field of competition guns for IPSC. Here, quicker is better. Thus the quest is for guns of major caliber that allow you to shoot faster while retaining the sight picture.

During the decade that I participated in IPSC, I had the opportunity to fire custom guns made by craftsmen from all over the

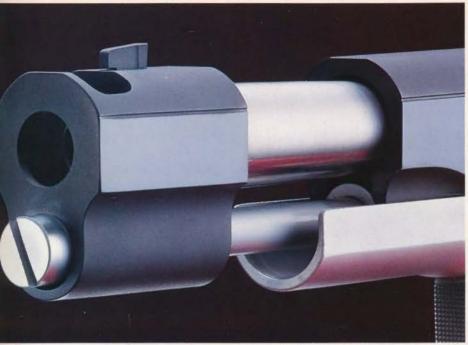
U.S. of A. Some were household names to shooters, and some were little known, trying to establish themselves in a fast rising sport. I seldom found a compensator that did not, to some extent, work. Admittedly, some worked far better than others. Considering the prices of these handmade guns, I also looked for workmanship along with a truly functional compensator. Fit, finish and function were all considered. When the smoke cleared, there were only a few pistolsmiths who passed my inspection on all fronts. One of them was Steve Nastoff.

This isn't the first time that I've reviewed Steve's work for *Handgunner*. I test fired the original Supercomp custom 1911 .45 ACP before it was released to the public, and found

it to be a beautifully crafted piece of work, light in recoil and a delight to shoot. Now, Supercomp III has evolved as the latest generation of Nastoff custom pistols, and judging from my tests, if you decide you want one you'd better get your order in now, because the line is going to get long in a hurry!

The gun I'm testing is identical to the one used by Jerry Barnhart who won the 1987 IPSC Nationals and Steel Challenge. It started life as a Springfield Armory 1911 Government Model.

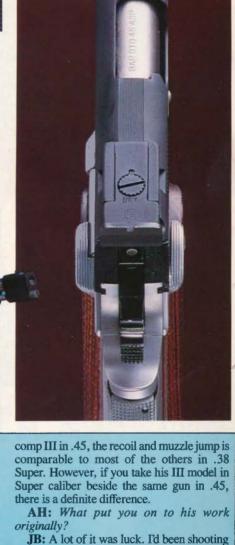
Outwardly, the III retains the lines of the original Supercomp. The metal-to-metal fit is clean and tight. The gun features 50 lpi checkering on the rear of the slide and 30 lpi on the front and bottom of the trigger guard,





Let your eye caress these gorgeous pictures and savor the immaculate skill of a master pistolsmith. The compensator (above) features an expansion chamber for maximum reduction of muzzle jump. A tungsten steel guiderod adds weight and enhances functioning. The swaged mag well (left) greatly enlarges the chute for fast, reliable mag changes in the heat of IPSC competition.





with the frame and mainspring housing receiving the standard 20 lpi. All is hand checkered flawlessly without flat spots or overruns.

The pistol sports a two-tone finish. The frame features a soft beaded texture with Metaloy hard chrome finish, while the slide boasts a beautiful deep blue. Tasteful scroll engraving on the slide proclaims the maker, Nastoffs .45 Shop.

All the standard external goodies are here. Ambidextrous safety, BoMar sights, long lightened trigger and beavertail grip safety are present. The hammer is Steve's skeletonized version of the Commander hammer, beautifully done and checkered on the top.

Continued on page 69

Barnhart on Nastoff

The "man who's won it all" over the past year is an ardent supporter of Steve Nastoff, and uses his guns exclusively. Handgunner felt that a few words from the master on his gunsmith's work would be in order.

AH: In the era of the .38 Super, why are you still shooting the .45 auto?

JB: The .45 is the gun I started with and I didn't want to make a switch until I felt I mastered it. I like the bigger hole diameter and feel that it's better on steel. Until this year, I couldn't see a big enough gain in the .38 Super. The way Steve makes his Super-

JB: A lot of it was luck. I'd been shooting for just a couple of months with a stock Gold Cup and had been having trouble with it. I entered a match in Steve's area, and a friend suggested I talk with him about building a gun for me. At that time, he was an up and coming pistolsmith with a year's waiting list, but I was impressed. I was just lucky.

Continued on page 78





Scopes on handguns are a relatively new proposition. Ed McGivern's book, *Fast and Fancy Revolver Shooting*, published in 1938, shows a picture of a Smith & Wesson .357 Magnum, 8³/₄ inch barrel, fitted with a scope. The scope is Lyman's #438 rifle scope that must be at least 16 inches in length. The scope was mounted on the rib of the .357 Smith & Wesson and the revolver was also fitted with a shoulder stock allowing the revolver to be used as a rifle. Not really a scoped handgun, but a beginning in the direction of optical sights for handguns.

In the late 1950s, still before the advent of scopes specifically designed for handguns, experimenter and handgun hunter Al Goerg mounted a Weaver 1× rifle scope with a 6½ inch eye relief on a Smith & Wesson .44 Magnum. His successful hunting of sheep, goat, bear and elk was written up in the magazines of the time and later published in his book, *Pioneering Handgun Hunting*.

The doors were opened and we soon started to see scopes appear for handgunners. If memory serves me correctly, the 1.5 × Bushnell Phantom was the first true handgun scope. This small beginning has mushroomed into a situation in which handgunners have nearly as many choices as rifle shooters when it comes to scope selection.

Why would anyone want to take something as portable and well balanced as a handgun, and turn it into a short rifle by mounting a scope on it? In the past, as shooters got older, handguns became impossible to shoot simply because aging eyes would no longer focus on the sights. Now with the advent of scopes, which have long been accepted without question on rifles, handgunners can continue to shoot indefinitely. I once thought scopes were an abomination on handguns; it is amazing how our ideas change with necessity.

There are reasons for mounting scopes on handguns other than eyes that will no longer focus clearly on iron sights. Modern handguns, both revolvers and single shots, will outshoot their sights: that is, the range of handguns is greater than the ability of most shooters to place a shot accurately with iron sights. Most front sights cover three inches at 25 yards. Now extend the range to 50, 100, or even 200 yards and the problem is magnified proportionately.

Yes, there are a number of shooters, myself included, who can consistently knock over 200 meter silhouette rams even with the crude sights on revolvers. But, even as small as a ram is, it still is a relatively large target when compared to the kill area on a deer.

Rams go over with foot shots, tail shots, horn shots, belly shots and they all count the same. In the field, when the steel critters are replaced by live ones, shots must be placed with more precision.

Scopes extend the range of handguns and also make the precise placement of shots

The higher magnification scopes are much harder to use.

much easier. Many of our modern handguns have muzzle energies equivalent to, or even greater than, rifles. How many rifle hunters put iron sights on their guns? If one is encountered, it will usually be a very young hunter who has just gotten started and hasn't been able to afford a scope, or hasn't seen the real need of one yet.

Scopes on handguns have other applications than big game hunting. Long range varminting with handguns is great sport and we now have single-shot handguns capable of

A Leupold 4x scope on this .375JDJ Contender brings out the best accuracy of this hunting handgun.



taking prairie dogs, chucks and jack rabbits out to 300 yards, and beyond. On my first experience hunting chucks with a scoped handgun, I found myself greatly handicapped using a 4 × scope. My partner had a .223 TC with a 7 × Burris scope and before the day was over we were taking turns using his TC as I just could not see the animals well enough at 300+ yards to hit with my single-shot even though it was equipped with a 4 × scope. The gun was capable, the sights were not.

This points up the different requirements in scopes for varminting and big game hunting. Scopes of $1.5 \times$ to $4 \times$ are great for most big game hunting, and I normally mount 2 x scopes on my revolvers and 4x scopes on single-shots for this purpose. Switching to varmints, a 4× is barely adequate and 7× and 10 × are much better.

The higher magnification scopes are much harder to use because of tremors showing up much more, plus they have less eye relief, and less field of view than the smaller magnification scopes. This is normally not a problem in varminting as one usually has a solid rest. For chucks, we even take a small table top rest mounted on an old navy tripod that allows us to take those long shots. Carrying such a rig after big game would not be very practical.

I find myself relying on scopes when it comes to accuracy testing of either ammunition or handguns and, fortunately, we are seeing more and more handguns being manufactured "scope ready," that is, the shooter can

mount a scope fairly easy himself. All TC's are drilled and tapped for scope bases; Ruger's Redhawk is available with scope rings that mount on integral bases; all Super Redhawks are set up for scopes; Freedom Arms single actions accept their scope base readily; and Smith & Wesson is experimenting with a Model 29 with integral scope bases.

In the past Colt has offered the Python set up with scope rings that mount on the rib and now offers the .357 Whitetailer with rings that mount on the barrel rib. The Hunter Pac consisting of an extra shroud with a Burris base and Burris rings, is now available from Dan Wesson. This allows the shooter the choice of iron sights or scope by simply changing shrouds.

There are also a number of "nogunsmithing" mounts available for shooters to install themselves. B-Square catalogs such mounts for 14 different handgun models and I





prefer their mounts for the Colt Python especially. The B-Square Python mount clamps onto the barrel rib and is easily removable without marring the beautiful finish of my 8" Python. I also use a B-Square on my 10" Dan Wesson .357 as I prefer to leave this sixgun set up for silhouettes and I can add the scope without changing the shroud or sights.

Weaver has "no-gunsmithing" mounts available for Colt Pythons and Troopers, all Rugers, and Smith & Wesson L and K frames. I have used the Weaver mount base system, which uses one screw in the rear sight screw hole, plus a barrel yoke, on a Ruger Mark X .22 and a Ruger .357 Blackhawk. The barrel yoke system forms a very rigid mount but may require some gunsmithing as all barrels are not the same size and some material may need to be removed from the inside of the yoke to get it to fit the barrel properly.

Since the TC is already drilled and tapped for scope mounts, it is simple to attach mounts from Buehler, Burris, Redfield, Leu-

Continued on page 72

Does the scent of Hoppes No. 9 turn you on? Do you live, breathe and dream guns, guns, guns? Maybe you have a medical condition called...

SUBSTANCE ABUSE: GUNPOWDER

By Neil E. Staley, Jr.

The medical profession has made great progress in treating people who have obsessions with substance abuses such as alcoholism, drug addiction, and overeating. Now there is cause to believe that "the obsession of shooting" may be among the list

Shooters afflicted with shooting disorders and gunpowder addiction display many of the same symptoms as people who have problems with drinking, drugs, and too much food. While the shooting sports may seem to have nothing in common with these other problems, experts believe that certain personality types are prone to overindulgence and the actual substance is merely the chosen poison.

It is not implied, however, that everyone who enjoys shooting has a problem. Many people enjoy the sport without experiencing problems directly attributed to an abnormal compulsion. Just as some people can drink sociably without having to drink to be sociable, some shooters have a wholesome enjoyment of shooting without having to go shooting to be sociable.

If you are involved in the fast lane of the shooting world you should take this test for your own enlightenment.



1. 8	1t	what	age	did	you	first	shoot	a fire-
arm?								

- 2. At what age did you begin shooting on a regular basis?
- 3. How many firearms do you personally own? 1 to 5 _____ 6 to 10 ____ More Than 10 ____
- 4. Have you noticed it takes more expended ammunition to get the same effect, or euphoria?
- S. Have you ever set a limit on amount of ammunition you were going to expend at a single range visit and exceeded that limit?
- 6. Do you find it difficult to cease firing before you run out of ammunition?
- 7. Do you ever lie about how much you really shoot? YES _____NO ____

- 8. Do you hide your ammunition or gunpowder? YES ______ NO _____
- 9. Have you ever told your wife/ girlfriend that you were going out to shoot pool with your buddies when you actually went to the range?
- YES _____NO ___ 10. Have you ever told your wife/ girlfriend that you were going to work late when you were actually planning to visit your favorite gun shop?
- YES _____NO ____ 11. Do you spend increasingly more money on guns and gun accessories instead of buying needed food and clothes?
- 12. Do you find you are more sociable among other shooters on the range than you are in other environments?
- YES _____NO ____

13. Do you sometimes feel you could do
more with your life if you were not obsessed
with shooting?

- YES _____NO ____ 14. Do you often find yourself daydreaming about past shooting experiences or future matches? YES _____NO ____
- or future matches? YES _____NO ____ 15. Do you use shooting as means of escape? YES _____NO ____
- 16. Do you often go shooting alone? YES _____NO ____
- 17. Do you often go shooting before 11:00 in the morning?
 YES _____NO ____
- 18. Do you go shooting to change the way you feel? YES _____NO ____
- 19. Do you go shooting when you are depressed? YES _____NO ____
- 20. Do you get depressed when you can not go shooting?





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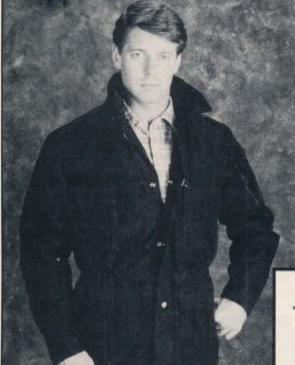
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SUPERCOMP III

Continued from page 61

Another new addition is a magazine funnel extension that is silver soldered to the butt after the magazine well has been swaged. This perfectly blended magazine well greatly enlarges the entry for magazines and makes it easier to hit on a speed reload. All this is set off by a gorgeous set of Hogue stocks.

The sights on the pistol consist of a .093" front and a standard BoMar .110" rear. I would prefer this combination, especially in long range (50 yards) firing. Up close I don't believe it makes a real difference, but when you're reaching out there, this set-up would allow you to fine tune your hold just a little

In addition to the test gun, Steve supplied 100 rounds of his match ammunition for me to try, along with two magazines. The ammo features Steve's own S&S bullet, a 185 grain SWC, pushed by a charge of 6.8 grains of WW473AA. This round makes the IPSC "major" power factor with a velocity of 980 fps, and a power factor of 181. More on its importance later.

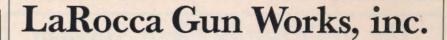
Before going to the range, I did some dry firing to acquaint myself with the trigger pull. This gun dropped the hammer at 21/4 pounds, and felt lighter. Steve told me that he was afraid that it wasn't light enough, but I assured him I wouldn't want any less. He told me that he has gotten the standard .45's down to 13/4 pounds, but that's the limit of safety. He also allowed that he is able to get the new Series 80 guns to a flat two pounds while retaining the "safety gear" thoughtfully installed by Colt.

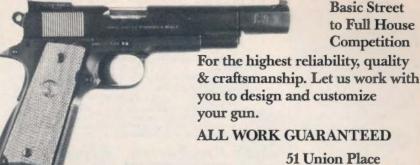
There are several new internal additions to the newest Nastoff creation. First is the addition of the cone-type barrel, sans bushing. These are BarSto barrels with the cone integrally machined on the barrel. Nastoff installs a right hand twist for right handed shooters and a left hand twist for southpaws. This allows the gun to torque down into the shooting hand rather than up and away for even better recoil control.

Also new is the way he cuts in the underlugs when fitting the barrel to the gun. The barrel doesn't begin to unlock until the slide has retracted approximately .150". This is in contrast to standard guns where the barrel begins to unlock almost immediately as the slide retracts. It's a further aid to accuracy and recoil reduction that just aids the shooter that much more.

The compensator itself has retained the original outside dimensions and uses one large port. However, the chamber dimensions of the comp have been altered. The actual port has been shortened slightly and the interior has been downsized. Just how much and where, only Nastoff knows, and he ain't talking.

One last addition is a full length recoil rod with a tungsten carbide tip that screws on and off. The tip measures 11/2 inches long by 7/16 inch thick. This is strictly for the addition of weight at the muzzle and to aid in slowing





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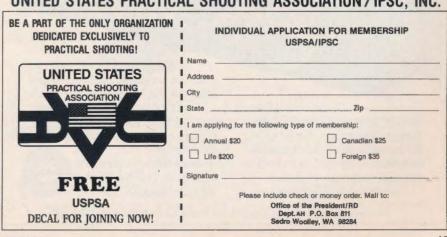
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down the unlocking process.

Off to the range I went, with Steve's handloads and 100 rounds of my own, using the S&S 185 grain SWC and my pet load of 452AA which, incidentally, does not make the IPSC major factor. Running the target down to the 10 yard range, I loaded up with the 473AA loads and let fly.

I experienced a heavier felt recoil than I expected, yet the muzzle barely moved at all. According to Nastoff, the new SCIII is designed to function at its best with the hotter international loads.

"There comes a break," he says, "at around 940 fps, where the comp seems to function even better than it normally does with the lighter U.S. major rounds."

To test that theory out, I switched over to my loads which made major at all IPSC shoots. In my opinion, the difference was significant. The gun shot softer, but the muzzle flip was more pronounced than with Nastoff's fodder. I found double taps significantly easier to place close together, and fired one 16 shot group at 15 yards in 15 seconds that went a hair over two inches with the hotter ammo. My own loads were as accurate, but I couldn't hold as tight. The Nastoff gun really does "come on" with hotter loads.

Earlier on, I mentioned the new, larger mag well. It would be foolhardy to attempt to speed load using a magazine that doesn't have a bumper pad installed. Steve had a Pachmayr pad on one magazine, and I still felt more was needed, although Steve uses these thinner pads on all his magazines, and anyone who has ever seen him reload can't argue that it works. All Shooting Star mags come with the large Shaw pads as standard, and my own inclination would be to use those.

Through all 200 rounds there was nary a bobble. The harder recoil I mentioned earlier was really nothing more than a little slap on the palm, lest you thought I felt otherwise.

Nastoff guns have certainly won their share of the gold this past year in the hands of Jerry Barnhart (USPSA Nationals, Steel Challenge, Ohio Sectional, 2nd in World Shoot, Second Chance, and winner of the speed stage at the 1987 Masters); Kerry Lathwell (Women's World Shoot Champ, High Woman at U.S. Nationals); and John Sayle (Captain, U.S. Silver Team). Shooter Marvin Fair also finished ninth at the Nationals using a Nastoff prepared gun.

His Supercomp III is a superb piece of craftsmanship in every respect and he also builds "carry" guns that are every bit as reliable as his match pieces. For those of you who "care enough to buy the very best," his guns are a must-see.

Plans are also underway to produce what I like to call a "shelf gun." This will feature a slightly modified compensator and items like the checkering will be done by machine rather than by hand. All will be built on Springfield Armory guns and will retail in the neighborhood of \$1,800. For information, you can write him at 1057 Laverne Ave., Youngstown, OH 44511, or call at (216) 799-8870.

RECOIL

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MANSTOPPERS

Continued from page 55

tory specs. Although 430 to 447 ft.-lbs. of energy is nothing to sneeze at in a .357 Magnum, this round isn't as "hot" as many factory loadings. But take into account projectile dispersion which prohibits full body penetration, compared to the usual .357 Magnum round-nose slug which drills through attacking felons, and it's easy to see that even with the MMI's reduced velocity it's more effective than factory loads.

Our accuracy tests found that the projectiles separate as claimed, and spreads were about what Silent Partner states they should be. The leading projectile always hit close to the aiming point, while the other two slugs usually hit high and right or left of center.

Projectile dispersion was much better with the .38 Special round, about twice as good, and it didn't seem to matter much which barrel length was used. At typical engagement ranges around seven yards, our .38 Special projectiles were grouping about 2 inches or better. The trauma of such multiple hits in the same area would pretty much call a halt to hostilities.

We fired many slugs into some of Silent Partner's Kevlar body armor panels, and found that the relatively low velocity coupled with soft lead projectiles didn't allow much penetration. Typically, the 3-slug mass came to rest within three layers of Kevlar, mushroomed to nearly .80 caliber.

Recoil was very light with the heavy Dan Wesson and .38 Special MMI ammo, and a bit sharper with the .357 Magnum loading. It would be possible to fire fast "double taps" in double-action mode without taking much time to return to the sight picture after recoil.

In short, Multiple Munitions Industries has a good self-defense round, capable of imparting far more energy to a doped-up target than regular .38 Special or .357 Magnum factory ammo.

INSIGHTS IPSC

Continued from page 21

US Region has enjoyed a profit of \$40,000 from the royalty paid by Smith and Wesson on the IPSC Commemorative Model 745 pistol.

The world president concludes his letter with the observation "If (the US Regional Director) considers, as he writes, that there is absolutely no interest for him to remain with IPSC, I frankly believe that he should quit our organization immediately. It certainly will not mean disaster for the Confederation for we will certainly find somebody in the US who will start a new organization where our principles will be respected."

That's what I love about shooting-never any hard feelings, all shooters enjoy their sport without the slightest hint of controversy or bitter politics. Tennis anyone?



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BEST NINE?

Continued from page 43

Quantitatively, the three pistols are equivalent as indicated by the results. On qualitative/subjective grounds some comments are in order. The CZ-75 has such a long hammer spur that it "bites" the web of the thumb of some shooters when the gun goes into recoil. We have tested two CZ-75s with varying degrees of shortening of the hammer spur and have found no evidence of interference with proper functioning. Also, the CZ-75 has a magazine retention device which prevents the magazine from falling free of the pistol when the magazine catch is depressed. This is easily removed and does not seem to effect the pistol in any manner except that its removal does allow rapid magazine changes.

The 226 has some problems related to holding the pistol. The screws which keep the stocks in place get loose and require frequent tightening. Also, the pistol feels "slick" in the hand. During slow fire on the range, this is not a problem. If the shooter is under stress, there is a possibility that a strong shooting grip could be compromised.

The 92 has problems with the sights and with the safety system. For the civilian and the question of personal defense, any of the pistols should be satisfactory. The 226 and CZ seem to be easier to operate than the 92.

Unfortunately, all three pistols are expensive-list prices are \$500 or more for the basic pistol plus one extra magazine. The Beretta and 226 have been fairly easy to obtain. Only recently has the CZ-75 become available in the USA through standard import channels, although these pistols have been available in Europe and Canada for several years. Replacement parts needed for repairs of the CZ-75 may be difficult to obtain in the USA.

HANDGUN SCOPES

Continued from page 65

pold, TC, or Williams. The Williams mount is a very light mount that has built-in rings while the others require separate rings. Any of these mounts will work well on factory chamberings for the TC.

When the TC is used with cartridges like SSK's Handcannon series such as the .375JDJ, .41LJDJ, .430JDJ, or .45/70, scope mounting becomes a different proposition. All of these chamberings result in much more recoil than standard calibers and require stronger mounting systems. SSK has developed their own mounting system which consists of a specially machined rib which can be extended into a full length ventilated rib if desired. It is secured to the TC barrel with six, rather than four, screws and the scope itself is held on with three or four rings. SSK calls their mount the T'SOB, pronounced "tea-sob," with the T standing for tough and the SOB standing for exactly what you think it stands for!

The SSK T'SOB is also available for Rugers and Smith & Wessons. The T'SOB is expensive, but when one realizes that a .44 Magnum revolver puts more stress on a scope and mount system than a .600 Nitro Express rifle, the cheapest way of mounting a scope could wind up as the most expensive.

The T'SOB can only be installed by SSK; it is not sold as an add-on. Most revolvers will also require the installation of scope bases by a competent gunsmith as drilling and tapping of the frame or barrel is required. Freedom Arms revolvers will accept a special scope mount base of their own manufacture that fits into the recess formed for the rear sight assembly. The rear sight is removed completely, and the FA base fits into, rather than on, the frame. This gives a very secure mounting system.

For those bases that can be installed by the do-it-yourselfer, there are a few pointers. Number one, simply reading the directions that comes with the mounting system can solve a lot of problems. Keep it clean—clean all screws and screw holes with solvent. The rings, bottom of the base, and top of the frame or barrel that will accept the mount should all be degreased.

Normally the screws that are supplied for mounting the base will be longer than necessary and must be ground to length. This will take time and care as each screw should be made to fit a specific hole and only after each screw is tailor-made should they all be tightened. It is a good idea to place Loc-Tite or similar adhesive in each hole, sparingly, before the entire assembly is tightened down. Screws should be snugged up tight, but they will snap if too much torque is applied. Once assembled, allow the Loc-Tite to set up at least overnight.

For ease of installation, I prefer to clamp my single-shot barrel, or entire revolver, padded of course, in a bench vise. If it is possible to sight through the scope before tightening the ring screws, it will be much easier to get the scope straight avoiding the frustration of having the horizontal crosshair listing to the right or left.

We have talked a lot about scope mounting systems, what about the scopes themselves? Twenty-five years ago, handgunners had exactly one choice, Bushnell's 1.5 × Phantom. Now the choices are 1.5 × , 2 × , 3 × , 4 × , 5 × , 7 × , 10 × , and even a variable 1.5–4 × . Handgunners have a choice of silver or blue finish, crosshairs, duplex reticles, and even dots. TC offers their Electra Dot series in either 2.5 × or 3 × . The Electra Dot uses batteries and at the turn of a switch the dot and crosshairs light up red. And of course, the Aimpoint scopes offer no magnification but instead have a red dot that is aligned on the target.

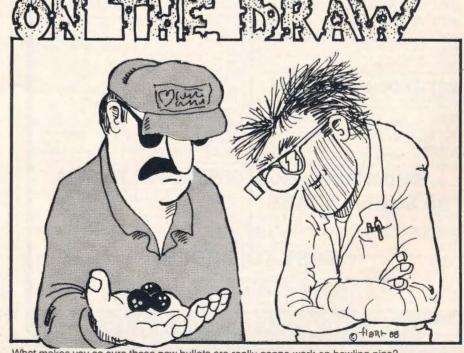
With the advent of NRA's Hunter Pistol and IHMSA's Field Pistol, we now have scopes available from Burris, Leupold, and TC that have target adjustment knobs. That is, the scope can be adjusted simply by turning a knob by hand rather than having to remove scope caps and turn the adjusting screw with a coin. Burris also offers a





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number of models with parallax adjustment from 25 yards to infinity provided by the turning of the front of the scope.

Scopes are available with varying eye reliefs going from minimums of 7", 8", 10", 11", 12", and 14" to maximums of 12", 16", 19'', 20'', 22'', and 24''. Most $2 \times$ and $4 \times$ scopes are in the 12''-24'' range with the higher powers having the least eye relief and the 10 × Burris being set up with an eye relief of 8"-12".

Scopes will probably be made smaller and lighter in the future and Burris is now offering their Mikro scopes in both $2 \times$ and $3 \times$. These are 5/8" tube scopes and weigh only four ounces. They work especially well on lightweight handguns like Smith & Wesson's Model 19. Fully loaded, my six-inch Model 19 with scope and mount weighs less than three pounds and makes for very easy

As mentioned before, handgun scopes take a terrific beating and only top quality scopes should be used on big bore revolvers and the heavy single shots. Reserve the less expensive scopes for handguns of .357 Magnum power and below as most of them will come apart on the heavy kickers. I have had good results with Bausch & Lomb, Burris, Leupold, Redfield, and Thompson/Center scopes on big bore handguns. I have also seen a couple of the less expensive scopes come apart on .44 Magnums. Picking the right scope and the right mounting system, and also making sure that they are installed properly, will result in the least expense in the long run.

Handgun Scopes

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SILUETAS

Continued from page 18

However, let the front sight dip or rise or let it move to the left or right in the rear notch, and the result is usually a miss.

Maintaining a perfect sight picture is a lesson that silhouetting teaches quickly to those who are at all observant of what they

are doing.

I wish I had a record of the number of targets I have missed for the simple reason that I did not maintain a consistent grip on the revolver or single shot. Revolvers are especially unforgiving in this area, and many a target has been lost by this shooter because I relaxed my normally vise-like grip. The result, a high miss.

Trajectory is something that I have learned a great deal about from silhouetting. That "flat-shooting" load turns out not to be so flat shooting after all, and quite often revolvers do not have enough sight adjustment to allow one to sight-in for chickens all the way through rams and still maintain the same sight picture with the same load. Many .44 silhouette sixguns usually require that I either hold under on chickens, or over on rams. So much for flat shooting revolvers; silhouetting gives us a true picture of how a given load really flies.

If we are really honest about what we are doing, we will receive a true picture of both our ability and our handgun's ability, as we make our way through the silhouette course. All hits count if the critter goes down. While a game animal has a definite kill area, a steel critter is very forgiving and it is a rare hit with a major caliber that will not take a properly set target down. Yes, I have lost targets that refused to go down for no known reason. This, however, is the exception, not the rule.

It is foolish to think that hitting rams consistently at 200 meters from a Creedmore position with iron sights will also allow the shooter to do the same thing in the game fields. Yes, there are a few rare individuals, deadly shots with excellent eyes and near-perfect handguns that can do it if all conditions are right. Most of us ordinary folk would do well to realize how many of the rams we get are foot-shot. Or horn-shot. I've taken many a ram that



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would have been misses had they been

All of this should teach us that 200 plus yard shots with iron sighted revolvers are not very realistic, and even with singleshots we are stretching it by using iron sights. Give me a sandbag rest, a good single shot with an equally good load, plenty of time, and I will ring the shoulder of a ram all day.

Unfortunately, these conditions cannot be readily transferred from the shooting range to the hunting field. What can be transferred is a realistic appraisal of how far we can shoot iron sighted handguns well enough to be sure of our game.

Most silhouette shooters, myself included, prefer a six o'clock hold as it is easier to see the sights with the target above them. For me this means holding on the feet of the chickens and turkeys, and the belly of the pigs and rams. This does not transfer very well to the game field. How far is he? Let's see, do I hold on his feet (where are they?), or do I hold on his belly (can't see that either). It makes much more sense to sight-in to hit the point of aim for a given distance.

It is not the fault of the game of silhouetting that we experience negative transfer, it is our fault as shooters for continuing practices that transfer negatively to hunting. Want to put some new excitement into silhouetting and at the same time really practice for hunting? Forget about winning and instead concentrate on the use of silhouetting as a real learning experience for hunting. This change of mind-set may be the most difficult hurdle to manage.

A few simple changes will accomplish what we need to give us real positive transfer to the hunting field. This past fall, Colorado opened up for big game hunting with handguns for the first time. A good friend of mine got ready by shooting IHMSA Field Pistol.

Most shooters involved in either NRA Hunter Pistol or IHMSA Field Pistol use low recoiling calibers such as the .32-20 or .32 Magnum. My friend used his scoped Ruger Redhawk .44 Magnum with full house loads consisting of 300 grain bullets at 1400 fps. A very tough load to use through a 40 round silhouette match, and he also had to put up with a lot of comments from other shooters who thought his elevator wasn't quite making it to the top. But he shot all spring and summer with that load and gun.

The result? You guessed it, a 6x5 bull elk on opening morning. Positive transfer!

As hunter/silhouetters, we can do the same thing with long range silhouetting. Forget Creedmore. Shoot standing or kneeling. Set the sights to hit dead-on at 100 meters. Use the same load and handgun that will be used for hunting. Pay close attention to hits, striving for solid hunting hits. Of course, scores will drop, but it will be excellent training for hunting and probably put a lot of fun back into a game that can easily become too serious.

HANDLOADING

Continued from page 22

about six pounds in it and had been in my powder bunker for a little over six years.

"I even managed to find the original powder slide for my Star reloader.

"I am a non-trusting handloader and therefore I threw 10 charges into my scale and these resulted in a charge weight of a little over 5.8 grains! Dump it back and re-check ... same results. I loaded 10 rounds and stuck them into my test machine, a '98 Mauser action mounted in a fixture. I have several barrels that just screw in. They're plenty strong for testing even the most extreme pistol loads. Even our proof houses use this set-up.

"Velocities with this load ran from 842 to 892 fps, a bit erratic for my taste. For final verification I picked up a three-pound can of WW 452AA from the latest shipment to hit Germany and, using the same powder slide, loaded another 10 rounds. Charge weight was checked, and ran 54.0 grains for a total of 10 charges. Close enough to the original 5.4 grains per charge. Velocities ran from 972 to 979 fps from the six-inch test tube. My fiveinch Colt barrel showed the usual fourpercent loss.

"Conclusion: Leaving an opened can or keg of WW 452AA around for a long period of time results in a serious deterioration of this powder. However, this stuff deteriorates the safe way: it becomes heavier and loses power.

"The loss in consistency for the batch loaded with the old left-over powder was not enough to affect them as practice loads. With the resulting 7,000 rounds, I had only one jam due to a split case that had found its way through my case conditioner and into the loader.'

Lt. Col. W. H. Barnard, of Twentynine Palms, California, responds to Dudley S. Thomas, Jr.'s remarks about problems with handloading the 9mm (see March/April 1988 American Handgunner) by commenting: ... I've loaded a few thousand 9mm Parabellum rounds, and others, with a Dillon Square Deal and 550, using Dillon carbide dies. The only problems in my experience have been with 1) WCC cases (1986 and 1987) with lead bullets in 9mm and jacketed bullets in .380 auto, which seem to require more taper crimp to secure the bullet; 2) PMC cases in .380, 9mm, and .38 Special, which are hard to resize and bell. And yes, I have talked to the folks at Dillon about the fact that their 9mm dies, in order to accommodate all types of brass, do create a 'belly' in some. No big deal. They look funny, but they shoot and reload fine."

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BARNHART SPEAKS

Continued from page 61

AH: Give your impressions of his work.

JB: First off, I find that his guns require less preventive maintenance. For instance, I've fired as many as 2,000 rounds through one of his guns over a period of several days without cleaning, and never had a problem.

My Supercomp III was built on a Springfield Armory gun in early 1987. In 40,000 rounds I've never had a problem. The trigger had to be touched up once as I do a lot of dry firing, but other than that, nothing. The gun is still tight.

Another early Supercomp gun has a documented 300,000 rounds through it, and other than replacement of parts that just plain wore out and a couple of re-tightenings, it still

functions without a problem.

There are many schools of thought on how to tighten a slide to frame, but I feel that Steve's is the best. I've seen other work that would rattle, but not his. His guns are accurate under any conditions. I've fired 2,000 rounds in just a couple of days in practice without cleaning and not had a malfunction.

AH: Are all your guns built from Spring-

field Armory products?

VISA

JB: I feel that they are making the best Government Model on the market today. When they approached me initially about a sponsorship, I told them that I wouldn't agree until I thoroughly tested their product. I've found that they stay tighter longer and don't need re-fitting as often as other brands. I shoot many hot loads in practice for 2nd Chance and a lot of hardball. The guns just don't seem to loosen up.

AH: Is there anything else you recommend?

JB: I really like the Metaloy finish. The gun with the 300,000 rounds fired has a Metaloy finished frame and shows absolutely no signs of wear. Likewise, I use only the Shooting Star magazines. It's currently the only magazine that offers eight round capability off the shelf, although I understand that there are some others in the works. The Shooting Stars seem to seat easier than others. I can push them in with my thumb and they click right into place.

AH: Any chance you'll be going to the .38 Super in the future?

JB: Steve is building me a new SCIII in .38 Super right now, but I won't say for sure until I've tried it out. I figure that I may be able to gain five to ten percent on score and the extra rounds it holds can make a difference. We'll see.

There you have it, straight from the horse's mouth, as it were. Judging from his triumphs in the 1987 shooting season, 1988 is going to be even better. If Jerry changes to the .38 Super and makes the gains he anticipates, there could be a new coronation in the kingdom of IPSC.

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LEATHAM'S COLUMN

Continued from page 10

courses of fire like my proposed system.

We "modern" shooters focus on the fastpaced, big-money matches, but what about staid old bullseye shooting? Shouldn't we also look to Camp Perry for the best pistol shot? And the IHMSA and NRA silhouetting championships?

The problem then becomes one of attendance. No one I know of currently competes in all those matches.

Then you have various classification systems. Marksman and Sharpshooter, AAA and AA, Master and A classes. This really gets complicated!

Because of this confusion, I've come up with what I will call the Rob Index. Catchy name, huh? I like it! It will be a bit different than what we've used in the past, so I better explain.

Instead of going from your placement-1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. - we will go by your percentage of the winning score. If, for instance, a match winner has 500 points and you have 450 in second place, you get a Rob Index of 90% and the winner gets an RI of 100%. Average all your RIs throughout the year for an overall RI at the end of the year. This will take care of the consistency question and also take into consideration the degree by which you either win or place. For instance, a 2nd place finish could come with 99% of the winning score or, say, 75%. The numeral 2 does not reflect the amount by which you were beaten whereas a percentage more accurately reflects how close you came.

I believe this will raise a few eyebrows when the results are tallied. The same problem of attendance still applies. For my RI to be applicable, you must shoot at least three of the major matches mentioned above. For those who do not shoot cross-disciplinary matches, there are sub-categories.

Those interested in the action games would have to shoot the Steel Challenge, Bianchi Cup and the IPSC nationals. The one with the highest RI will be the best action pistol shot.

For those who can take in a few more matches, I suggest The Masters, Camp Perry and the NRA or IHMSA nationals. The Best Shot for 1988 will have to shoot all six matches.

This will be a tough one to pull off. Just getting to that many matches, qualifying and getting classified and whatnot may be a hell of a job, but the challenge is there.

Unfortunately, I won't be at enough matches to qualify in all six, but I'll try to make them all in the future.

This should be an interesting shooting year. Each match had a new winner last year and there are more good shooters competing now than ever before. The scores get better and the level of competition gets higher every year.

We'll tally up the results at the end





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of the year and see what happens. I'm not too worried though. My mom said I'm the best and she wouldn't lie. I don't

Rob Leatham is now teaching his champion's techniques in action shooting to beginner, intermediate and advanced shooters. Classes at your home range or classes at Leatham Shooting Institute in Arizona. For complete information write to Leatham Shooting Institute, P.O. Box 1291, Mesa, AZ 85201.

DERRINGER: PRO

Continued from page 12

have the same safety provision as the original, a sear step on the hammer that keeps the hammer face away from the heads of the firing pins. In the copies, this engagement is much stronger than in the Remington. In cases in which the gun was dropped and accidentally fired, I have never seen a broken safety notch. In every one of these cases, it was determined that the gun was being carried with the hammer fully down, a most hazardous practice.

Currently-made derringers of this type all have a manual hammer-block safety added to the design, usually in the form of a cross-bolt push-button. On those by American Derringer Corporation, this safety is self-cancelling as the hammer is cocked for the first shot. In the neat little single-shot .38 derringer by F.I.E., there is an automatic internal transfer-block that rises to firing position only when the trigger is fully depressed.

And then there are the ultra-modern double action derringers, such as the BJT DA and the Intratec TEC-38. In these, the only relation to the old Remington is the arrangement of the barrels. Both guns have fully enclosed hammers which are cocked only when the trigger is pulled all the way through its arc. The BJT DA has a manual hammer-block safety, and the TEC-38 has a front-mounted grip safety that blocks the trigger. For those who feel that single action is too slow, these two offer a fast alternative.

There is another factor that recommends the derringer in the frequently perilous area of police undercover work. In instances where the type of gun carried might be seen by members of the group being investigated, a duty-type handgun, even a snub-nosed revolver, could cause suspicion or a blown cover. A derringer would be less likely to result in pointed questions that could endanger the whole operation—or perhaps a life.

Speaking for myself, in situations which might develop into Serious Social Encounters, I prefer a 9mm double action automatic with a large-capacity magazine. Realistically, though, there are times and circumstances in which carrying a pistol of those proportions is simply not possible.

I view the derringer in the same light as the small automatic pistols—the gun you can take with you, regardless of the limitations dictated by clothing or other factors. It may have limited firepower, but it is there, when you need it. It is not recommended for the amateur. It is a "last resort" piece, for the expert.

DERRINGER: CON

Continued from page 12

killing him.

the firing of a double-action Hi-Standard .22 Magnum, uses the device to shoot and kill an assailant at point blank range.

-The young heir to one of the free world's great fortunes, being kidnapped, draws a Hi-Standard .22 Magnum derringer and shoots his assailants once each, killing both.

-A young Los Angeles woman, attacked by a rapist, twists her .22 Magnum miniature revolver (called, arguably, a mini-derringer) from her bag and shoots him twice in the chest at contact distance,

I am delighted that these three good people had guns available when they faced homicidal criminals, and if they truly believed that they could have carried no other guns but these, more power to them. The fact is that all three survived because their attackers didn't want to kill them at the moment. JJ Armes' system would probably have worked as well with a 5-shot Smith & Wesson Bodyguard .38 Special. The young scion who caught his kidnappers unawares could have done every bit as well with a Beretta .25 loaded with the MSC ammo advertised in these pages, which in my slaughterhouse tests duplicated the .22 Magnum round out of a pistol, and would have had considerably more of a buffer zone of safety. Our Angelena, struggling in the hateful embrace of the convicted rapist, reminds me of my good friend Elita Arcaya, who in the same situation ran her Gerber Guardian dagger into her would-be rapist's chest three times in one second, leaving him feet up on the bloody park lawn as she strode indignantly away. The lady in LA had used century-old technology; Elita had resorted to a method a few millenia older. Either would have been served as well or better with a modern, compact handgun.

If I had to carry a tiny gun, I'd much rather have the utterly reliable 9-shot Beretta loaded with MSC. Effect in flesh is the same as a .22 Magnum from a derringer barrel, with nine rounds on tap instead of two, and each shot much easier to direct to the vital targets.

And spare me the talk of large caliber derringers. Have you ever shot a Remington-pattern pocket pistol in .357 Magnum, .45 Long Colt, or .44 Magnum? If the gun

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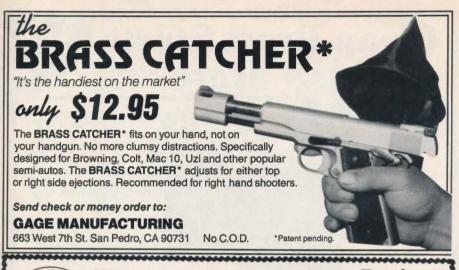
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does go off, the flash and recoil slow you down terribly between first and second shots, not to mention the awkward manipulation of re-cocking the hammer. And these guns are heavier than Airweight .38 Special revolvers to carry.

Yes, I've played with the double-action .38 Special derringers, the TEC and the overgrown Hi-Standard clone made in Connecticut. Neither was a user-friendly tool that could be trusted to stay steady with only a thumb and one finger holding its puny size steady against an incredibly heavy DA trigger pull while you tried to deliver a center hit. Both are comparable in size to the 7-shot Colt Mustang, which loaded with .380 Silvertips will probably zap four head-size targets in the time it would take you to hit two at the same distance with your "hi-tech" derringer, and still have three more .380 rounds instantly in reserve.

When you figure the limited firepower, the slowness of manipulation, and the difficulty of hitting with a derringer, the sum of your logic says there has to be something better. There is.

A derringer in heavy caliber? For the same size and weight I can carry a Mustang Lite with those seven .380 Silvertips. Next to my typewriter now are two baby pistols: a Hi-Standard .22 Magnum DA, generally considered the best of the derringer breed, and a Beretta Jetfire .25. The latter is shorter, roughly the same weight, nearly as flat, has 450% the firepower with about the same per-shot impact using MSC loads, and is much easier to hit with under stress. No contest.

I own two or three of the five-shot dwarf revolvers known as mini-derringers. I've never carried one seriously. They're so slow to operate you can literally work a knife faster in close quarters. At a distance, I'll take any firearm, but given the choice of a derringer, a mini-revolver, or a knife with three street muggers right on top of me in a darkened hallway I would vote for my Cold Steel Tanto knife as #1 choice. And, speaking as a recognized instructor of the knife, I'd take a good .25 auto (let alone a snub .38) over the Tanto. That-shows you where I rate derringers.

Hell, I wouldn't even take a derringer into a time machine with me to go back to the frontier a century ago. If I had to take a pocket pistol, it would be the Beretta .25 with two clips of MSC. As soon as I got there, I'd hunt up the richest riverboat gambler I could find and burn up one clip demonstrating the gun for him. Then, he'd probably throw his derringer into the Mississipi and pay me so much money for my .25 auto and its remaining clip that I could afford to hire a bodyguard and not worry about it anymore.

HANDGUN LEATHER

Continued from page 16

As with the production version of the Bianchi holster, Massad has insisted on a thumb break retainer.

As previously mentioned, the holster comes with a matching belt. This belt is of 11/2 inch width, of heavy top grade cowhide, and my sample is a beautiful plain brown finish which says "expensive dress belt" rather than the customary 13/4 inch "Gunfighter" stitched belt which screams gunbelt. Blocker has a reputation for producing the finest gunbelt in the trade, and this belt is of equal quality. I'm sure the pistol packer with several different guns could purchase one belt and different holsters for each of his handguns.

My sample rig is for my favorite snub nosed revolver, a 21/2 inch Colt Python. I have modified my snake by removing the hammer spur and replacing the factory grips with a set of custom hide-out grips by Guy Hogue. Though large for a concealed carry gun, this premium grade snub conceals easily when worn in the LFI rig in cross draw position under a jacket, or for summer wear, with a sport shirt worn with the shirt tail out.

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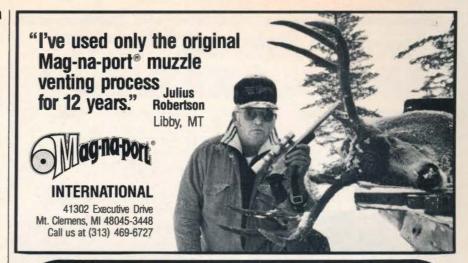
PISTOLSMITHING

Continued from page 14

Stainless steel handguns require a different lubricating oil than their chrome moly counterparts. You can mix your own very easily. Buy a gallon of the very best spindle oil from your local oil distributor. To this, add four ounces of Tri Pak additive oil or Essential Lube additive, obtainable from a local oil distributor. The essential ingredient is silicone, so you may add four ounces of pure silicone oil, obtainable from Brownells. Any of the above additives work just fine. Then add two ounces of Amzoil or Mobile 1 synthetic oil. Mix the oil thoroughly and fill your application containers. A few drops will make a rough action smoother and the silicone will stay on the parts for a long time.

Do not apply to the bore or chamber, because oils carbonize and cause function problems. Oil only bearing surfaces. One last additive is a few drops of STP to a small drop of spindle oil on the sear and hammer notch. It stays put a long time and seems to smooth letoff considerably.

Bores should be cleaned with a powerful solvent. I like the Trichloroethane 111 sold by



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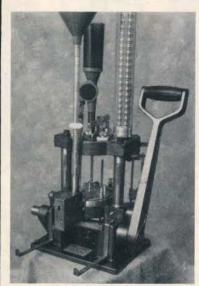
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You can score a stainless bore badly with a stainless steel bore brush. To restore smooth surfaces, you should fire six or seven special loads with metal polishing paste in the bullet's lube ring instead of bullet lube. Shines them right up.

One of the new arrivals on the range called out to the group standing around us. "You guys gonna shoot or chew the fat all day?"

As the shooters drifted back to their stations, the Sweet Young Thing complained about grouping low and right.

"You need a bit of personal coaching on the line," I told her.

"Out of curiosity," Jerry whispered to me, "just how do you expect to correct for a low right point of impact?"

"By holding high and to the left!" I whispered back.

The music was the same; only the lyrics have changed in thirty-odd years.

PACHMAYR'S .45

Continued from page 45

Frank's mechanical genius had raised the .45 ACP from a purely combat weapon to the level of precision target tool. One of the greatest handgunners of all time, Charles Askins, says, "When I first knew Frank Pachmayr, he had a very modest shop. Besides himself, there were two other technicians. This was a half-century ago, but even then the arms that came to the Pachmayr shop were top quality. In those days, the match pistol shooters fired the .38 Special revolver. Unlike today, when the .45 auto pistol is the ranking handgun, the revolver held first place. It was Pachmayr who saw that the hammer fell not only too slowly but altogether too far. He immediately set out to correct this with a determination that would not be denied.

"The Pachmayr short action was a fine success, and those marksmen who were keenly intent upon bettering their scores and winning more matches flocked to the Pachmayr shop for the alteration to outmoded revolvers.

"This was only the beginning. When the .45 auto pistol came to the fore, Our Man commenced a study of the handgun to see how it could be improved. The Model 1911 pistol as it came from Colt would put all of its shots in the bottom of a #3 washtub at 50 yards. After Pachmayr finished with the same pistol, it would keep all of its hits on a playing card at the same yardage."

As detailed in his fascinating autobiography, *Unrepentant Sinner*, (recommended reading for anyone—order by sending \$17.95 plus \$2 postage to Guns Books, 591 Camino de la Reina, Ste. 200, San Diego, CA, 92108.), Colonel Charles Askins used a

Pachmayr-accurized .45 Colt Government Model with deadly effect during World War II, in North Africa and Europe. Always a fierce and aggressive shooter, Askins amassed 117 trophies during his competitive career, winning the Texas championship five times, NRA All-Around once, and was high man on all of the All-American teams during that period.

Frank Pachmayr's mechanical genius had elevated the .45 ACP from a purely combat weapon, to the level of a precision target tool. His methods, though accepted as commonplace today, were innovative and revolutionary over a half-century ago. Frank began by judicious wielding of a 3-pound rawhide mallet along the sides of the slide, back from the area of the slide stop disassembly slot, taking care not to overdo it. It was (and still is) a lot harder to separate the slide rails than it was to close them. Variations in steel alloys and heat treatment among GI and commercial Colts made it necessary to go slowly and try the frame-fit often. Vertical play was removed by tapping the top of the frame rails downward.

When the slide fit so tightly that it had to be hammered back and forth on the frame, Frank used die marker to find the high spots. He stoned these down to gain full contact, until the slide articulated on the frame as if it were on ball bearings, yet remained rocksolid!

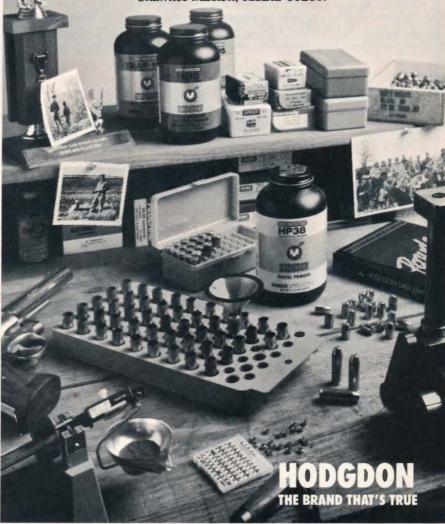
To improve barrel fit at the muzzle, Frank lathe-turned the barrel on centers to assure concentricity, relieving the O.D. by .010-inch, beginning three-quarters of an inch back. He sleeved the bushing, and reamed it to a bare slip fit. At the rear, he welded a bead around the barrel hood, and filed away the excess. He filed the slide opening to a gentle inverted "V," and shaped the barrel hood to a wedge fit. He installed a longer link, and welded the bottom of the barrel lugs to allow fitting them solidly against the slide stop pin. After fitting, the slide entered into battery with a decisive "snap," locking the slide, frame, and barrel into one solid block of steel!

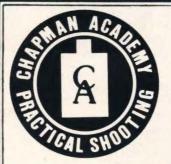
Realizing that even the best of marksmen couldn't effectively test pure mechanical accuracy, Frank built what may well have been the first pistol machine rest. "I had to find out just how much difference the accurizing made," he explains. "For one thing, I discovered that all barrels weren't created equal! Some guns didn't shoot like I wanted them to, even after accurizing. By changing the barrels, I could make them shoot. I didn't want to waste time working on bad barrels, so I made a rest to hold just the barrel to test its accuracy before I put it in a gun."

Frank machined an ingenious fixture that held the .45 ACP barrel rigidly in his machine rest, with a breeching mechanism containing an independent firing pin. From that day on, every barrel used in a Pachmayr accuracy job was first tested for accuracy. Any barrel that couldn't deliver groups no larger than an inch was rejected. Some barrels actually fired groups that measured an honest quarter-inch, center-to-center at 25

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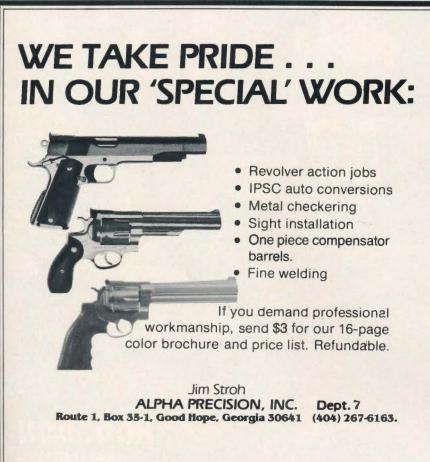
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yards!

Years later, when they became available, Frank switched exclusively to new Colt National Match barrels, which he ordered in quantity. Testing continued, with only about half of Colt's premium barrels meeting Pachmayr's stringent standards. Still later, Pachmayr changed to stainless steel Bar-Sto match barrels, justly noted for their accuracy. Rejections ended abruptly!

Bar-Sto makes their barrels with oversized hood and lugs, ending the need for welding up these areas before fitting. Bar-Sto also offers their match barrels with short chambers, allowing the gunsmith to use a chambering reamer to achieve correct headspace,

after the barrel is properly fitted.

One of the miracles of Frank's early accurizing of the .45 ACP, was a crisp trigger pull, tuned precisely to the four-pound weight required by match rules. "No matter how accurate a pistol might be," he explains, "you can't shoot it with a heavy, creep trigger pull!" Frank devised a fixture that jigged the sear and hammer between hardened steel plates, to allow stoning the contact surfaces to exactly the correct angles.

Another one of Frank's early techniques consisted of welding the nose of the grip safety, then carefully filing it to stop rearward trigger movement just as the sears released, eliminating objectionable overtravel. Today, most custom triggers include an Allen head set screw that impinges on the magazine release, allowing easy overtravel adjustment. Among the best is Pachmayr's own self-lubricating, deeply-grooved, adjustable, lightweight nylon trigger, with stainless steel bow.

"With all of the work we used to do on a .45 in the old days," remarks Frank Pachmayr today with a chuckle, "we only got \$25 for an accuracy job. And for that, we test-fired and sighted every gun. We did

charge extra for target sights."

With minor embellishments, Frank's original .45 ACP Government Model accurizing methods remain basic among pistolsmiths to this day. The present-day Pachmayr "Combat Special" system embodies many of the same steps. A Pachmayr "Wide-Link" and Bar-Sto barrel allow near zero-tolerance fitting, with the barrel adjusted to reach battery at exact top-dead-center. Often the slide is no longer flush with the rear of the frame. So the slide and frame are "blended" by filing. Horizontal serrations are optional.

Further refinements include a hand-fitted oversized barrel bushing, a lowered ejection port, beveled magazine chute, extended slide release and thumb safety, and, of course, Pachmayr neoprene rubber grips, mainspring housing, and beavertail grip safety.

The Wide-Link is one of the major features currently carried over from the fabulous Pachmayr .45 automatic *Signature Accuracy Control System*. "We guaranteed that any .45 automatic with our Signature System would shoot groups at 25 yards of 3/4-inch or better," Frank declares proudly. "We spent eight years developing the Signature accuracy job, and we were granted eight separate patents. It was the best .45

accuracy job ever, bar none."

Kingpin of the Signature System was the Slide Guide, a yoke that wrapped around underneath the frame ahead of the trigger guard, creating two rails that pressed upward against the slide. The rails were precision-ground to a 120-degree included angle, forming a "V" that cradled the slide, which had matching bearing surfaces ground on its outside edges. The Slide Guide was secured at the rear by a centerless-ground, extra-long, independent slide stop pin.

A boss underneath contained a conicalpointed Allen head adjustment screw, that
seated in a conical depression machined high
in the front of the trigger guard, allowing
precise adjustment of upward pressure on the
slide, to accommodate various loads, from
target to terrific. Any possible wear could
also be compensated. Note that the slide-toframe fit was subject to normal tightening
procedures before the Slide Guide was fitted!
The Slide Guide was precision investment
cast of precipitation hardening H-900
stainless steel, tempered to 200,000 PSI.

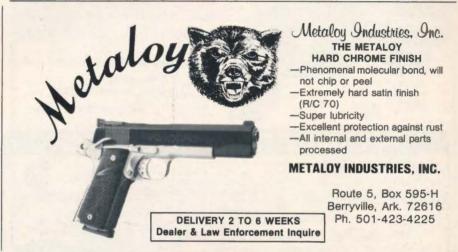
A patented investment-cast stainless steel bushing assembly was slip-fit into a hole reamed into the top of the figure "8" opening at the front of the slide. The bottom of the keyhole was threaded to accept a hollow retaining cap screw that replaced the conventional recoil spring plug. A coin slot in the front of the threaded plug allowed quick takedown.

An absolutely tight union between the conventional Government Model bushing and

barrel has always been merely an elusive dream, because the barrel must remain free to rotate downward at the rear, to disengage the locking lugs from the slide. The Signature barrel bushing provided absolute immobility of the barrel at the front, by enclosing a Messerschmidt type self-aligning bearing ring within the bushing housing. The O.D. of the hardened steel bearing was ground to a section of a perfect sphere, where it articulated in a mating spherical section machined within the bushing. Internally, the ring was reamed to a snug slip fit with the barrel, which was ground between centers. The result was a ball-and-socket joint between the slide and the barrel, leaving the latter free to pivot downward at the rear, yet with zero play in any plane at the front.

To impose absolute control upon the barrel at the rear. Frank devised an equally innovative redesign, replacing the standard narrow link with a patented Pachmayr Wide-Link, shaped like an inverted "T," the full width of the barrel lug. The two lugs that normally extend down the sides of the narrow link, and abut against the slide stop pin, were milled off. A tight-fitting slot was milled inside of the frame to make space for the Wide-Link. Forward motion of the barrel stopped when the wings of the "T" made solid contact with the bottom of the barrel lug. The rear of the barrel was then firmly locked against motion in any direction, by maximum possible contact surface.

"I discovered a long time ago," says Frank, "that chamber depth varied considerably





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13 Surrey Dr., Brookfield, CT 06804 (203) 775-0564 Dealers send FFL for prices from one barrel to another. Worse, case length of some ammo was always at the bottom of the specs. When you combined the worst of both, a deep chamber with short ammo, accuracy was lousy!" The problem with a short case arises when a loaded round settles at the rear of the chamber, and has to be driven forward by the firing pin before the primer indents. The cushioning effect results in irregular ignition, and unexplained fliers on the target. Displaying the usual Pachmayr precision, Frank dealt with the difficulty from both aspects. It goes without saying that Pachmayr Signature System .45's were fitted to exactly correct headspace.

To overcome the problem of short brass, Frank installed his patented Headspace Eliminator, a spring-loaded plunger positioned in the slide above the firing pin, placing an 8pound pressure against the head of the case, assuring that it was always bottomed in the

chamber.

"Another problem cropped up," says Pachmayr, "when we first installed the Wide-Links. They were binding up in some guns. We found out then that the link pin holes drilled by the factory weren't always square with the frames." Frank corrected that difficulty by jigging each gun in a mill, and reaming the holes .005-inch oversized, making them square with the barrel axle, and using an oversized pin.

From the perspective of a half-century in the business, Frank Pachmayr observes, "Today's .45 Colts, and even most copies, are a lot more accurate right from the factory, than they were when I first started accurizing them. Everybody is using better steel alloys today, and the heat treatment is more consistent. In the old days, you were lucky to get about 20,000 rounds through the gun before you had to go back and re-tighten the slide. Now you can count on several seasons of hard shooting before a gun loosens up."

Today's combat pistol competitors burn ammo at a phenomenal rate! They shoot thousands of practice rounds to the oldtime NRA shooter's hundreds. It's even more important for them to have accurized .45's that don't shoot loose. Some modern-day champions who use Pachmayr-accurized guns are, combat-shooting guru Jeff Cooper, Ray Chapman, who won the World Combat Pistol Championship with a Pachmayr-customized .45 Auto Colt, and 1981 World Champion Ross Seyfried.

"I wish I were starting out again today," says Frank wistfully. "The gunsmithing business is a lot more sophisticated now, but the dedication to craftsmanship has been lost by a lot of young people. They don't want to spend years learning their craft, the way men of my era did. And they want the big money before they're worth it. Of course, there are some promising youngsters out there. Guys like Alain Laquieze, George Hoenig, and Mike Maxwell. All of them worked for me at one time. Alain and Mike are still customizing fine shotguns for me. Doubtless there are many other young pistolsmiths out there who are fine craftsmen. And some of the oldtimers are still at it too."

Although Frank Pachmayr himself has

long since given up personally accurizing .45 auto pistols, his talents haven't been entirely lost to us. His hard-won skills and techniques, freely communicated to many fine gunsmiths over the years, are being carried on by today's capable cadre of pistolsmiths.

TAFFIN TESTS

Continued from page 47

pistol, I would take a real serious look at the .375 SuperMag.

Revolvers chambered for the .375 SM are a little heavier and bulkier than most handgun hunters prefer, but a scope sighted 10" TC should be perfect for the task.

The .375 SuperMag remains a reloader's proposition as it is the only cartridge for which factory revolvers are available, but no factory loaded ammunition is to be found. Dan Wesson .375's, once only available as a special item from IHMSA, are now a standard Dan Wesson catalog item. And after many false starts, United Sporting Arms is now back in production of their stainless silhouette revolver in both .357 SM and .375 SM.

Easier to handle than a .44 Magnum, and flatter shooting than a .357 SuperMag, that's certainly enough reason to make room for the .375 SuperMag in the sixgunning world.

LEE RELOADER

Continued from page 48

primed cases in a loading block and funnel them in.

Spent primers fall through the Reloader's steel ram (3/4" diameter) and jump (almost always) into a slot in the body casting, then fall into a small triangular pocket at the base. The pocket will hold quite a few primers, but emptying it will call for unscrewing three quarter-inch mounting bolts. One way around having to do this is to drill a hole in the bench and fix a catcher to the bottom side. Doing it this way, you can cut a hole about an inch in diameter in the center of a screw-on jar lid, then fasten the lid directly in line with the hole in the bench. Dumping spent primers amounts to no more than twisting the jar away from the lid. Another method involves mounting the press on a couple of elongated wood blocks an inch or so thick. This way, the press is suspended above the surface of the bench so that the spill of spent primers can be dammed up from rolling off onto the floor.

One might not choose to do all his reloading on a small press such as this, but considering its price and the fact that it occupies very little space on the bench, it's entirely feasible to bolt up two or three so as to have any one of them ready when different rounds are to be



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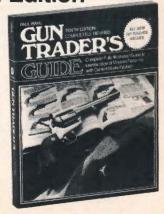
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reloaded. That way everything, including shellholder and die, can be adjusted and ready to go.

Also on the plus side is the fact that the Reloader's linkage has no backswing, which obviates the necessity of making a cutaway notch in the face of your reloading bench.

The little Lee Reloader press comes with a good instruction folder, and includes a copy of Hodgdon Powder Company's Basic Data Manual. Contained therein are a number of shotshell powder loads for handguns, notably Trap 100 charges for everything from the .221 Remington Fireball to the big magnums.

The Reloader's handle is balanced, so that it won't fall and cause the ram to pinch your fingers. Nor does the price result in any discomfort. It's a good deal, even if you wait till 1989, but it's a better deal now.

Additional information is available from Lee Precision, Inc., 4275 Highway "U," Dept. AH, Hartford, WI 53027.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Continued from page 66

SCORING THE TEST

First, add up the total number of "YES" responses. Then review your responses to questions one through three. If you answered 10 years old or younger to question number 1, add 3 points to your total. If you answered 16 years old or younger to question number 2, add 3 more points. For your response to question 3; add 2 points for "1-5," add 4 points for "6-10," add 6 points for "MORE THAN 10." Now total your points for all responses.

INTERPRETING YOUR SCORE

0-5 You definitely do not have a substance abuse problem. In fact, it is a wonder that you took this test since obviously you do not enjoy life in the fast lane of the shooting world. You must have stumbled on this magazine in a waiting room somewhere.

6-10 You may have a substance abuse problem with gunpowder, depending on which questions you answered "YES" to. Your condition is considered minor and you are grouped in the "low risk" category. You are advised to seek counseling with your club's or department's firearms instructor to determine if treatment is required.

11-15 You have a substance related problem. Your condition is considered moderate. You are, however, in the "high risk" category. You are advised to seek professional help from your local Firearms Training Counselor to determine if:

1) you have a shooting problem

2) your shooting causes you problems.

A "shooting problem" means there are things that interfere with your full appreciation of the shooting sports. If shooting "causes you problems" we mean that your obsession with the sport has not yet matured to the level that you have learned to cope with the demands that shooting

places on your life. Treatment for shooters in this category consists of weekend clinics (i.e., gun shows, basic marksmanship

courses, matches.)

16-20 You have a severe substance related problem. Your condition is considered critical. You are grouped in the "afflicted" category. If you answered YES to enough questions to attain this score, you have both: 1) problems with your shooting, and 2) problems directly attributed to your shooting. Formal rehabilitation is usually required for shooters in this category. Formal rehab is best accomplished at higher level schools (i.e., Firearms Instructor and Shooting Coach Certification Schools).

21-31 You are in deep trouble. Your condition is considered terminal. In the "terminal" category most of the damage done by the disease (it is a disease) is irreversible. Only full-time employment in a firearms related occupation can arrest the progressing effects of the disease.

COUNSELING NOTES

Here are some specific counseling tips for certain questions. If you answered "yes" to:

4. You have developed a tolerance level. Try going cold turkey for about two weeks then return to the range. If this does not help, then buy a larger caliber weapon.

5. Never set limits.

6. Take more ammunition to the range than you have time to expend.

7. Never lie about how much you shoot. This is undignified. Other shooters may think you are making unfounded excuses for poor marksmanship performance. Learn to accept your scores until you get personalized coaching.

8. Do not be so paranoid. Share.

9 & 10. Get a new wife or girlfriend you do not have to lie to. Your therapy requires a supportive partner, not someone to increase your guilt from lying.

11. Seek a better paying job.

12. You have good taste in friends. Your behavior in the normal world, however, is a reflection on the sport as a whole. Take care not to be anti-social.

13. Seek full-time employment in a firearms related occupation.

14. This is a form of mental training. Con-

tinue as before.

15. Shooting provides a means of attaining a "SEE" experience. The "SEE" experience is a Spiritually Enlightening Encounter usually associated with marksmanship revelations. Without such revelations you will not improve your scores.

16. This is unsafe. Use the buddy system. 17. Most matches start before 11:00. This

is unavoidable.

18, 19, 20. Shooting can cause unacceptable behaviorial problems. Radical mood swings are typical in shooters who are deprived of their right to go shooting. The mood changes are not the problem,



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however. The problem is the obstacle preventing you from going shooting.

The author is a small arms instructor in the US Navy. He has competed on the US Navy Pistol Team since 1984 and holds a Master classification. He was twice designated for the President's Hundred in Service Pistol.

THE AYOOB FILES

Continued from page 30

In addition, readily accessible to them in the back seat of the Pontiac, are two stolen Colt 1911A1 .45 automatics, each fully loaded with seven rounds in the magazine and an eighth in the firing chamber, and a 12-gauge pump shotgun sawed off at both barrel and stock and loaded with 00 buckshot. In Davis' waistband is the Smith & Wesson Bodyguard five-shot .38 Special he terrorized the Tidwells with, and in the front seat with Twining is a four inch Smith & Wesson Model 28 Highway Patrolman .357 Magnum.

And now, they've pulled to a halt in the parking lot of Jay's Restaurant, perhaps 100 feet from approximately 30 witnesses in that location alone. The parking lot is well lit. What is about to happen will be clearly

visible.

Both of the 158 grain roundnose bullets bore through the young cop's thorax traversing on the most deadly angle possible.

Gore pulls the CHP car into a felony stop position behind the Pontiac. He draws his .357 and levels it at the car, using his open driver's door for cover, as Frago pulls loose the Remington 870 riot gun and racks a 12-gauge shell into the chamber. He step's behind the right front fender of the patrol car as Gore, three times, orders the suspects out of the car. Finally, Davis truculently steps out of the driver's seat, and follows Gore's orders to assume the position at the left rear of the Pontiac. Twining is still in the right front seat as the two officers move forward.

Gore begins to search Davis, who is standing with feet wide apart and his palms outstretched against the car as Officer Frago comes up behind the right door of the Pontiac. The Remington shotgun is in his right hand, its butt on his hip and its muzzle in the air, as he reaches with his left hand for the car door.

And then it happens.

The witnesses hear Frago scream "Hold it" and see him try to swing his shotgun muzzle down. He doesn't make it. Two



fireballs explode from the front seat as Twining pivots in the front seat and fires the revolver ironically called a Highway Patrolman. Both 158 grain semiwadcutter .357 Magnum bullets enter the front of Frago's chest and tear out through his back. He falls without reacting and dies within seconds.

Gore, on the other side of the car, pivots away from his prisoner and shoves his own .357 toward the man who just murdered his partner. Twining, meanwhile, has jumped out of the car and levels his Model 28 at the young officer. They exchange fire for an instant, but the duelling Magnums do not count coup; the gunman's bullets are jerked harmlessly low into the side of his own Pontiac, and Gore also misses his man, his .357 slugs striking a Mustang parked near the restaurant some 33 yards away.

But the now-forgotten Bobby Davis has taken advantage of the distraction to twist away from the cop and go for the hammer-shrouded .38 belly gun in his waistband. He snatches it loose and shoots Patrolman Gore twice in the left front of the chest at point blank range. Both of the 158 grain round nose bullets bore through the young cop's thorax, exitting his back on the right, traversing on the most deadly angle possible. Roger Gore is dead before his corpse hits the pavement.

Davis has been rapidly firing the sawed off 12-gauge and Officer Pence has been returning fire with his .357 Magnum.

And as he falls, a new swath of white headlamps and red lights falls onto the death scene: the backup unit has arrived. The copkillers immediately raise their revolvers and open rapid fire on officers Pence and Allen. Pence has time to breathlessly blurt a radio message that shots are being fired before he's out of his cruiser on the driver's side, his own .357 in his fist.

The second CHP Polara is parallel to the first but behind it and to the right. Seeing that the perpetrators are moving to the left, his partner Allen racks a Western Super-X double-aught buck load into his Remington 870 and maneuvers from his vehicle to the one vacated by the first patrol team, taking up a position behind the open right front door.

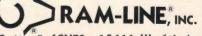
After laying the initial lead hail on the incoming cruiser, both Davis and Twining have clicked dry. Dumping their empty Smith & Wessons, they dive into the Pontiac, going for the guns in the back seat. Davis snatches the sawed off shotgun, while Twining comes up with one of the army surplus .45s. He fires one round and the automatic jams. Without bothering to try to clear it, he throws it back into the car and jumps into the back seat again, grabbing the second .45 auto.



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Ruger P85	17 rounds	MAG 9085
Browning High-power	15 rounds	MAP 9015
Kassnar PJK-9HP	15 rounds	MAP 9015
Beretta Compacts	15 rounds	MAS 9115
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As he does so, Allen opens fire with the shotgun.

A standard 870, carried with its chamber empty per police policy, holds but four shells. Allen fires three of them, somehow ejecting one live shell onto the ground. One blast tears out the back window of the Pontiac and a nearly spent pellet strikes Twining in the center of the forehead. It doesn't crack the skull, but marks him instead like a Hindu and delivers enough pain to make him, in his own words later, "mad as hell." He comes out of the car on the left hand side.

Meanwhile, Davis has been rapidly firing the sawed off 12-gauge and Officer Pence has been returning fire with his .357 Magnum. Pence's fire has not taken effect. But the copkiller's has.

He hammers four shots from his .45 automatic. Hardball 230 grain slugs strike Officer Pence in the right chest and legs.

Allen, having emptied his 870, has dropped the empty shotgun and drawn his .357 as he moved toward the back of the first cruiser, behind which his partner has also taken cover at the left rear. His Magnum blooms roaring flame like Pence's, and then he is struck in the face and upper chest by a blast of Davis' buckshot. He sags against the right trunk area, trying to hold himself up, and is hit in the chest with another blast of double-aught. He reflexively triggers his .357, firing a round through the back window of the patrol car and into the front seat, before he tumbles to the pavement toward the right rear of the patrol car.

Now arrives Gary Ness, a private citizen who, seeing a gun battle unfold before his eyes, doesn't react like the other bystanders. Thirty-some people have hit the floor inside the restaurant and the Standard garage, and those at the gas pumps have accelerated their vehicles around behind the station out of the line of fire. But Gary Ness has seen a lawman fall out of his cover with shots still coming in on him, and there is one thought in his mind: Rescue!

Ness slams his car into Park, leaps from the vehicle, and runs to the fallen Patrolman Allen. Unable to move the inert bulk of the dying officer, who has been struck with at least ten 00 projectiles, his second thought is to protect the still raggedlybreathing policeman from being shot again.

Looking up, the 31-year-old Saugus man sees activity at the Pontiac: Davis has at last emptied his sawed-off, and he is trying to operate the slide of the Remington 870 he has grabbed from beside the corpse of Officer Frago.

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the shotgun accidentally discharges into the air, and a startled Davis drops it and claws Frago's unfired .38 Special service revolver from the dead officer's holster.

Meanwhile, there is shooting going on at the other side of the vehicle. Pence, the one surviving patrolman, is at the left rear of the first cruiser exchanging fire with Twining. His .357 clicks empty. He has not scored a hit.

Twining is luckier. He hammers four shots from his .45 automatic. Hardball 230 grain slugs strike Officer Pence in the right chest and in both legs, one shattering a bone. The young officer, his revolver empty, goes down to both knees, desperately trying to reload.

Back on the other side of the car, citizen Ness sees the suspect Davis pick up the .38 from the first downed officer. In desperation, he grabs the Remington shotgun that has fallen next to the cop he was trying to help, Allen, and tries to fire. Click. The gun is empty.

"Got you now, motherf -- er!" cries Twining triumphantly as he shoots Pence in the back of the head, killing him instantly.

Flame blooms from the muzzle of the .38 at the other car. Davis is firing at him with the dead officer's gun. The citizen desperately throws the useless shotgun aside and grabs the .357 that Patrolman Allen has dropped. Taking a two hand hold he manages to be cool enough to cock the hammer and aim.

At the shot, Davis flinches. The .357 slug has apparently hit the car in between, but a chunk of the bullet drives into the copkiller's upper chest. A citizen has done what the embattled cops could not: the first penetrating gunshot wound has been imparted to one of the gunmen.

Ness works the action again. Click. The revolver is now also empty. And, to his horror, Ness realizes that the action is clos-

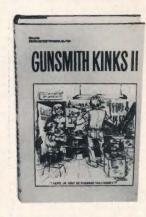
ing in on his left.

Pence has been laboriously trying to reload. Though some official sources deny it, some CHP officers insist that Pence was found with spent casings in his trouser pocket, the legacy of range training. He has clawed six live rounds from his dump pouch (never having been told to load with a couple of rounds and close the cylinder) and has finally managed to insert the sixth cartridge. As he is starting to close the revolver Jack Twining, who has cautiously crawled up the left side of the patrol car, now leans against the left rear door and aims his .45 automatic.

"Got you now, motherf---er" cries Twining triumphantly as he shoots Pence in the back of the head, killing him instantly.

Knowing the situation is now hopeless, Ness bolts for a ditch near the edge of the Bob Brownell's

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Three CHP men lay dead and a fourth, Allen, dying. As the manhunt began, the gunmen were following their own paths. Each would intersect again with civilians. At about 3:25 Davis stumbled onto a camper parked on a dirt road belonging to Daniel Schwartz, 40. As Davis broke in through the back window Schwartz awoke and yelled, "Go away!" Davis replied, "Get out or I'll kill you! I want your truck!"

The nightmare was over. The learning experience had just begun.

Schwartz grabbed a British Enfield Commando revolver, a WWII surplus gun of the type sold by Seaport Traders not long before the incident for \$19.95, and chambered for the short .38 S&W cartridge. Davis fired a round from the stolen CHP .38 Special into the left rear of the camper, missing Schwartz, and the citizen responded with three shots fired blindly from his war surplus revolver. One of them struck Davis, but the low-velocity 146-grain bullet was so decelerated after passing through the rear of the camper that it inflicted only a minor wound.

Davis screamed, "Come out or I'll set your camper on fire!"

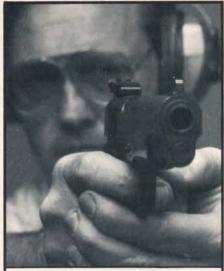
Schwartz obeyed.

As soon as the citizen exitted the camper the copkiller jumped him, savagely clubbing him with Frago's revolver. There was nothing else he could do with it. The gun was empty. Schwartz had surrendered to a harmless revolver. The citizen feigned unconsciousness and Davis drove away. When he did, Schwartz got up and began walking until he found a power station. He phoned police from there.

Shortly after the call, LA County deputies D. Yates and J. Thatcher, alerted to Schwartz's report, executed a felony stop of the stolen International Scout camper. Davis took one look at the levelled police

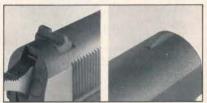
weapons and surrendered.

Meanwhile, Twining had surfaced at 4:30 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Hoag, whose suburban house was 3½ miles from the shooting scene and, ironically, only a few hundred yards from the Newhall CHP substation. Mr. Hoag had been fixing breakfast with his wife when he heard their dog bark near the garage, and went to investigate. He found a shotgun-armed



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man attempting to steal their car. He offered the man the keys, but instead, Jack Twining marched him inside at the point of the stolen CHP shotgun and took the couple hostage . . . but not before Mrs. Hoag had looked out the window, saw what was happening, and called CHP.

Highway Patrolmen and LA County Sherriff's personnel surrounded the house. Mrs. Hoag and her 17-year-old son escaped. Telephone negotiation with police and with unauthorized reporters who'd somehow gotten the phone number would later yield valuable input into the nature of the shooting. Twining coldly remarked of Officer Frago who had approached with his 870 in an unshootable

None of the four dead officers had more than two years experience. In police experience, all four were near-rookies.

position, "He got careless, so I wasted him."

Shortly after 9 a.m., Twining freed Mr. Hoag, and a few minutes later was given a surrender ultimatum by LASO. When he did not respond, the house was gassed. On the second assault, a shot was fired from inside and deputies fired back. Their 00 buckshot and .357 slugs tore through the body of Jack Twining, whom the medical examiner would later state had blown his own head off with the shot the deputies had heard, using Frago's shotgun.

The nightmare was over. The learning experience had just begun.

Forty shots were fired in the truckstop, 15 by the officers and 25 by the killers. The old canard that "criminals have cheap guns and don't know how to shoot" was given the lie: Twining and Davis' guns were all top quality, and they had literally twice as many weapons as the two patrol cars they shot it out with . . . and they were on their way back from target practice. Relative shooting ability is evident from the results of the incident. Davis and Twining were described by CHP later as "avid hunters."

None of the four dead officers had more than two years experience. Ronald Reagan was governor then, and part of his law and order platform had been to expand CHP. This had been done, and done so rapidly that there weren't always enough senior field training officers to ride with each young patrolman. In terms of police experience, all four of the Newhall victims were "near-rookies running with near-rookies." Yet in fairness it is reported that all four were Vietnam vets, and all acted according to their training. The three of the four who were able to vigorously returned fire.

The three who used their handguns were all firing .357 Magnum ammo. There is no record in CHP of any of them ever firing a shot in training with anything but mild .38

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wadcutter. Soon after this shooting, CHP standardized on the .38 Special caliber and the +P+ load, with which patrolmen now regularly train in day and night fire.

Only one patrolman, Pence, can be said to have been killed by lack of firepower. Shortly after this incident CHP became the nation's first big department to first approve, and then issue, speedloaders.

Allen has gotten a bad rap from many subsequent survival instructors, who imply that he panicked and ejected his rounds without firing the shotgun. In fact, he fired three of the four shells in his 870. It should be noted here that the practice of taping the slide of a police shotgun so that there will be evidence of the officer's having racked it can cause such weapons to malfunction. The fact is that Allen fought valiantly.

Why did the first two officers approach at all? With less than two years experience each, neither had apparently faced men who did not succumb to the authoritative aura of their badge. While they knew they potentially faced armed men, they didn't know they were up against hardened excons prepared to kill cops to evade capture. CHP also believes that had they waited another minute or two for backup to arrive, Davis and Twining would probably have surrendered, or at least, been overwhelmed by superior firepower. CHP trainers say that there is one word to account for the tragedy: "Time."

The hero of Newhall was citizen Gary Ness, who was so recognized and honored by CHP.

ne doubts that Jack Tidwell, the citizen offerced off the road by Davis at the beginning of the encounter, will ever again accost an offensive motorist and offer to kick his ass. Bizarre behavior by another may be indicative of violent behavior potential. Even if Tidwell had been armed, there would have been little he could do once the cars were abreast and Davis made the first move. Once the situation had digressed to there, it is apparent that he thought coolly and quickly and probably saved the life of his wife and himself. Tidwell apparently knew his guns-he accurately described Davis' weapon to CHP as a two-inch .38 revolver - and had he been armed, his best strategy would have been to keep going. Only if the suspect had forced him off the road should he have resorted to a weapon if he'd had one, and then it should have been ready to use immediately from a posture of cover and surprise.

The hero of Newhall was citizen Gary Ness, who was so recognized and honored

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man to have been armed with his own gun that would have been fully loaded and familiar to him. None of the reviewers would have been surprised if a Gary Ness so equipped had simply dropped both the gunmen with a couple of shots. Sadly, it wasn't in the cards, and the circumstances did not allow Gary Ness' great courage to be matched by situational wherewithal. Poor Dan Schwartz had no way of knowing what he was up against. The instincts that told him to surrender were the logical instincts of a peace-loving citizen facing an evil professional in the world of violence. He had no way of knowing that his gun was loaded, Davis' was empty. A .38 "short" isn't much of a gun, but it beats hell out of an empty .38 Special. Yet, in fairness, Schwartz couldn't have known that the monster he was about to surrender to was helpless against him. Schwartz is lucky to be alive. He apparently unloaded his Enfield before surrendering it to Davis, which may well have saved his life: Davis would almost

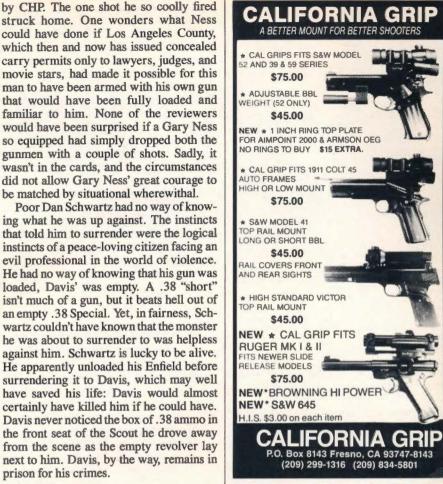
Civilians in a given year will kill 30 percent more criminals than the police.

prison for his crimes.

Did it occur to Stephen Hoag that there was a reason his dog was barking at 4:30 a.m.? Might he have been wiser to investigate with a discreetly concealed handgun?

It is not known whether Mr. Hoag even owned guns. We do know that, for some time, his life and that of his wife and 17year-old son lay in the capricious hands of a man who bragged of murdering policemen. We also know that, while Hoag was alone and with Twining in a hostage situation, Twining's attention was often distracted by his phone conversations with hostage negotiators from the sheriff's office, and reporters, and at one point his former partner who was patched in to him by LASO radio from the nospital where he was under guard. Mr. Hoag was ultimately allowed by his captor to go free, but one suspects that had he been armed, there would have been multiple opportunities for him to take that decision out of Jack Twining's hands.

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Ted Blocker's Custom Holsters 409 West Bonita Avenue • San Dimas, California 91773 (714) 599-4415 never know how many cops are alive today because, as they entered a danger situation, they remembered the lessons they'd learned from the four martyred CHP men, and paused just a second to consolidate their position, or wait for backup. I think it may be time for the law-abiding American citizens who have guns for personal protection-the good people like Gary Ness, the civilians who in a given year will kill 30% more criminals than the police in selfdefense shootings that the justice system rules to be justifiable homicide-to learn from those lessons too.

They should remember the acronym that so many cops have memorized since 1970, the formula put forth by the California Highway Patrol to keep other good people alive so their four young men should not have died in vain.

It goes like this:

N-Never Approach a danger situation until you're adequately prepared and supported.

E-Evaluate the Offense and determine if you might just be dealing with something heavier and more dangerous than it looks.

W - Wait for Backup.

H-Have a plan. Twining and Davis had a plan, and they outgunned twice their number of highly trained lawmen. The responding CHP officers didn't . . . and they died.

A-Always Maintain Advantage over the opponent. Gore and Frago initially had the tactically dominant position, and officer survival experts who've interviewed the surviving Bobby Davis believe that he and Twining would have surrendered if the first two officers had not abandoned their tactically superior

L-Look for the Unusual. The first two officers had reason to believe that the Pontiac contained one or more armed men, yet they ignored the warning and left their cover to approach them.

L-Leave the Scene when in doubt; CHP believes that if Gore and Frago had pulled back out of range when they first perceived reluctance to surrender, they could still have managed to keep a lid on things until

multiple responding units arrived to overpower resistance.

The author wished to thank the official and unofficial spokesmen of the California Highway Patrol for input into this article, and to recognize CHP's selfless efforts to help brother law enforcement officers learn from tragedies such as this one, in the hope that they are not repeated.



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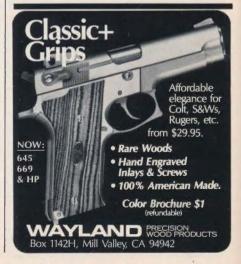
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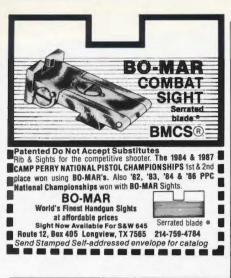
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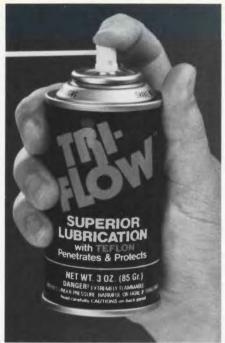
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Correction

In the promotional advertisement for the 1988 American Handgunner Annual, which appeared in the March/April, 1988 issue, page 45, the following quote was used under the heading, "Find out the truth about the Border Patrol Holster;" "Bill Jordan now claims he developed this holster ..." These statements are incorrect, as Jordan has never claimed to have designed or developed the Myres #5 holster. Bill Jordan did redesign this holster into what is now the Jordan Border Patrol Holster. American Handgunner regrets the error. - J.R.



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243/6MM 80 GR, PSP 243/6MM 100 GR, PSP 25/20 CAL 86 GR, SP 25 CAL 87 GR, HP 25 CAL 100 GR, PSP 25 CAL 120 GR, PSP 25 CAL 120 GR, PSP 270 CAL 100 GR, PSP 270 CAL 130 GR, PSP	37.25	67.75
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INDUSTRY INSIDER

JERRY RAKUSAN

SKEETER SKELTON'S 174 GUNS GO ON AUCTION BLOCK TO PAY MEDICAL BILLS

Has IPSC gone to the DAGs (double action guns)? It would appear so from a recent letter from J.P. Denis, President of IPSC. It states: "... after more than one year of collaboration between Tanfoglio and IPSC... a new gun will appear on the market, which is the Tanfoglio-IPSC in caliber .41 AE (Action Express)." This is the copy of the Czech CZ-75, available now in 9mm. It is a double action auto.

I keep reading that the **Bren Ten** is not dead, yet I have seen nothing which substantiates this. If you call the offices of Dornaus & Dixon today, you'll get the same recorded message that has been playing for a year or more: "Thank you for calling D&D. The company is in the process of a complete reorganization . . ."

Come on D&D, why don't you tell us just where you are in the reorganization process? In spite of all of the early problems, you have a lot of supporters out there, and if they don't hear something soon, they just may lose interest.

As most handgunners now know, Skeeter Skelton, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol lawman, and gunwriter extraordinaire, passed away in January. I, and many others, have lost a good friend.

Skeeter's collection of 174 firearms, many rare, unusual, and with low serial numbers, will be auctioned off during a sealed bid mail auction closing June 15, 1988. Included in the sale are twenty-two Ruger firearms all with serial number 22. A certificate of authenticity will be included with the sale of each firearm.

Here is a chance to own rare and historic guns, and to own a memento of the legacy Skeeter left behind—a legacy of honest gun-writing, imaginative story-telling, and a disposition sweetened by mesquite smoke and compassion.

For a list of the guns and accounterments offered and procedures for mailing bids, send \$1 to: Skeeter Skelton Auction, Box 1790, Peoria, IL 61656.

All money collected will be used to pay off the tremendous medical bills amassed during Skeeter's lengthy illness.

Several of the military services have reported slide failures on the M9 service pistol, one at 4,500 rounds and the other at 6,007 rounds. The causes are under investigation. The memo from Rock Island states a new policy of replacing the slides after 3,000 rounds until the investigation is

completed.

If there is one question we get most often these days it is, "Where is the Ruger P-85 pistol?" I know this answer may not help you in the short term, for I can't say that you'll get yours within any specific time frame. However, word from Ruger is that the gun is in full production in their limited Prescott facilities; that police orders are getting priority; and that they have just

observed. Curiously, Irv reports .45 Officers ACP barrel have moved sluggishly. "I think most guys use the Officers for defense. They shoot ten rounds and then put it in a drawer."

But what of the much ballyhooed .38 Super? We're not selling very bloody many," Irv scoffed, "and I suspect the reason is our price. The .38 broach is very expensive and we break 'em pretty regularly in trying to rifle our six-inch integral ramp barrels." Irv explained that six-inch .38 Super barrels are used by IPSC competition shooters due to the extra length allowing for the installation of a compensator.

However, Irv sells a number of standard five-inch .38 Super barrels. "I'm surprised at how many regular shooters—not competitors—are going to the .38 Super."

In the battle between the 10mm Auto and the new .41 Action Express, the Ten is



purchased a 200,000 square foot building nearby which will give them room to expand production.

Steve Vogel says that one of the problems of expanding production is finding qualified tool makers, die cutters and CNC operators. If you feel you qualify, send Steve your resume. He's at Sturm Ruger, Prescott Div., P.O. Box 1591, Prescott, AZ 86302.

Irv Stone, proprietor of **Bar Sto** Precision Machine, makes some of the finest stainless steel barrels for auto pistols. Irv supplies many of the top pistolsmiths of America as well as a small army of do-it-yourself handgunners. Irv's comments on his barrel sales are provocative and give a perspective of trends within the handgunning world.

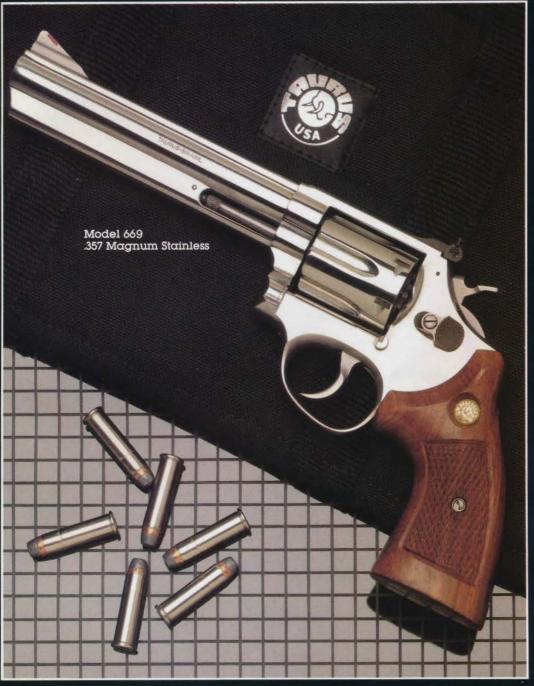
"Forty five is the top bore. It's been our number one seller for years. Everyone wants a forty-five," Irv said as he went on to comment that Government Model .45 barrels constitute the vast majority of sales. Commander barrels in .45 "have dropped off in the past couple of years," Irv ahead. Irv suspects the reason is because the 10mm has been around longer. Regarding the .41 AE, Irv said, "They're not going real well. Everyone wants barrels for the Browning Hi-Power or the CZ-75 and our barrels won't drop-in without slide modifications. This probably accounts for the lack of demand."

I noticed an absence of ads for AMT's Lightning .22 auto pistol lately. I can think of several possible reasons for this. The first is that Ruger took exception to the design. The second is that demand for the Auto Mag II is so great that all of their efforts are directed there. I understand that even the production of the AMT Hardballer .45s has suffered because of the demands for the Auto Mag II.

To all of my faithful readers over the past years, I want to say thanks for reading these little items. I am hanging up my editorial hat, and this will be the last *Industry Insider* column with my byline. And, as the Bartles & Jaymes boys like to say, "Thanks for your support."

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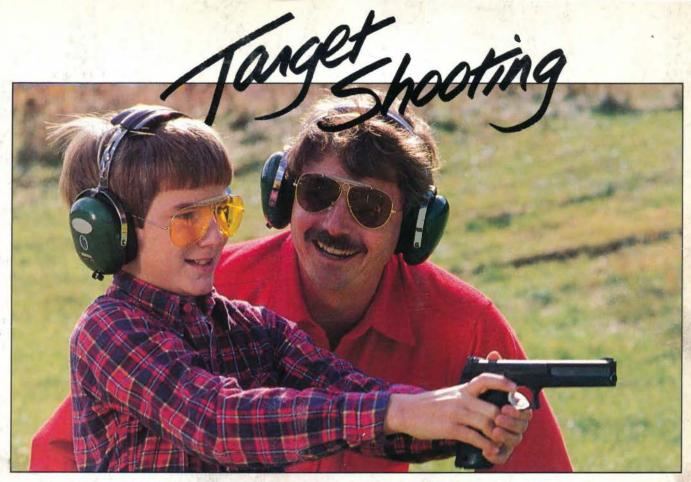
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