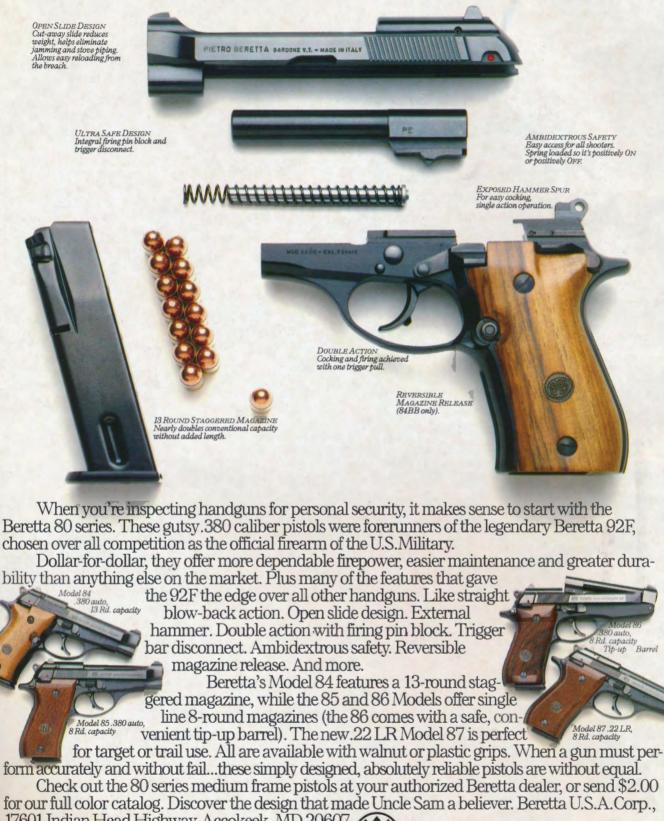


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MARCH/APRIL 1987

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Cover: The Masters 3-handgun match. Clockwise: Howard Roe, Wayne Bowker and Brian Enos. Photos by Cameron Hopkins.

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Rob Leatham CM

PACT MKII

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

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

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

"If you combined every other shooting timer on the market into one It would still not contain all the features of the PACK MKII. Working with It has measurably improved my basic shooting skills.

. . . Brian Enos

EASY TO USE

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

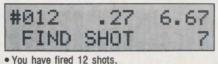
ADVANCED DISPLAY

The MKII features an advanced 32 character LCD display instead of the four digit display commonly found on other timers and chronographs. This display allows the MKII to provide you with all of the information for a given shot at a glance, eliminating the hassel of having to "toggle" back and forth between functions in order to review your string.

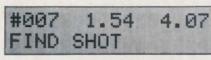
GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE:

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

MKII CHAMPIONSHIP TIMER ON/OFF TIMER/UNRONO Pending



- · Your twelfth shot came .27 seconds after your eleventh shot.
- Your total time was 6.67 seconds.

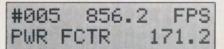


Now you are curious about how long your reload took, so you tell the Timer to "FIND SHOT #7" and you see that your reload took you 1.54 seconds. (The time between your sixth and seventh shot.)

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"The PACT MKII is the only timer with all of the functions needed for advanced training'

*Patent

. . . Chip McCormick

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

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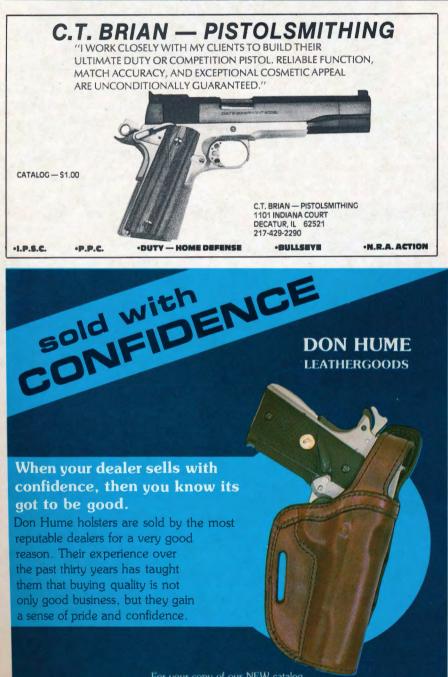
AMERICAN HANDGUNNER • MARCH/APRIL 1987

HANDGUN LEATHER

AL PICKLES

SMALL LEATHER SHOPS THRIVE DESPITE MASS PRODUCTION LINE COMPETITION

For many of us it is sort of hard to picture holster making as a computerized assembly process, yet there are a few companies that come quite close to that description. For the most part they are the big brand names in leather work. There are other leather sales companies who farm out much of their work south of the border while presenting a domestic image. There is nothing wrong with either of these operations as long as the end product



For your copy of our NEW catalog, send \$5.00 (refundable on \$25.00 retail order) to: Don Hume Leathergoods, P.O. Box 351, Dept. AH, Miami, OK 74355 is a good serviceable holster for a reasonable price.

At least one major holster maker who has been in the business for a very long time is still utilizing belt driven machines from before the turn of the century. Hand labor is still very much a part of his operation and the quality of his products is beyond question.

There are still, however, quite a few very small, almost basement or garage operations in the gun leather industry. In many of these cases the only machinery involved is a commercial sewing machine or two. Most of their work is quite good. If it wasn't, their small business would certainly not be able to survive in the presence of the computerized giants. Advertising for these small operations is usually by word of mouth. Sometimes their work can offer pleasant surprises.

One such small operation is John's Custom Leather of 525 South Liberty St., Dept. AH, Blairsville, PA, 15717. The entrepreneurs are John and Jo Ann Stumpf. Their designs are good, their work is equally good, and the pleasant surprise is prices are roughly onehalf of what you might expect to pay.

My sample of their work is a Model #115 Breakfront Shoulder Holster fitting revolvers from 4 to 10¹/₂ inch barrels as well as most large autoloading pistols. While this particular holster was originally designed for the handgun hunter, the Stumpfs are experiencing an increasing local demand from law enforcement, especially the Pennsylvania State Police, for off-duty carry.

The breakfront design has a spring closure that is quite strong. As a matter of fact, while my sample is designed for the 4" Model 29 .44 Magnum, I find it also houses the smaller framed Charter Bulldog Tracker .357 Magnum quite securely and only a strong spring closure could accomplish that.

I will admit that upon initial inspection I was somewhat critical of the exposed metal "U" at the bottom of the front closure and wondered if it might scratch the underside of the barrel upon drawing the gun. Although this has not proved the case I still think I would prefer this metal piece covered, if only for aesthetics.

The proof of a good holster is, as in other things, in the use and I find nothing but praise for the comfort afforded by the #115 shoulder rig, a remarkable feat considering the rough use to which I put my holsters and guns while knocking about the ranch.

This particular holster is constructed of 8-9 ounce cowhide which is molded to order for the various large frame firearms. It is lined with smooth calfskin. The wide leather harness, which is actually the secret of a comfortable shoulder rig, is adjustable and features a "Balance Plate" in the center of the back where the straps cross. Security of the rig is assured by belt attachment snap loops. Stitching, finish, and uniformity of color are excellent. The best part of all, however, is a price range of only \$45.95 to \$56.75 for the largest of hunting guns.

John and Jo Ann offer several other interesting holster designs and their catalog is only a buck.

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HANDGUN HUNTING

J.D. JONES

CONDITIONING OF THE BORE PRIOR TO ACCURACY TESTING AFFECTS GROUPING

Bausch & Lomb have made superb quality rifle scopes for many years. I've used their scopes on rifles including one of Ron Freshour's lightweight rifles chambered for the .50 BMG cartridge. Handloads using 230 grains of powder and 750 grain bullets seemed to suit the 6×24 B&L just fine.

For years B&L's Don Robertson has listened to my urging to bring out a really high quality pistol scope. At the last SHOT Show, Len Knight (V.P.) and Randy Hoffman (President) assured me the project had their support.

I had previously torture-tested some of their experimental products and couldn't break them with recoil-unlike a lot of scopes currently on the market. As of now the B&L pistol scope is a reality. They now have my gratitude.

Frankly, I don't have the specifications or prices at this time, but I sure like the way it looks and shoots. It's bright and sharp, has a good reticle and it's adjusted to be parallaxfree at 110 yards.

Initially a 2 and 4 power version will be available. They will be identical in appearance. First production will be black in color with a textured surface finish. I think enough of this rig to have made it the standard scope on the new Handgun Hunters International limited edition Contender. (For more information write HHI, POB 357 MAG, Bloomingdale, OH, 43910 (614) 264-0176.)

Another new product that you may have noticed in last month's column is a new version of my 320 grain .44 bullet. This bullet retains the general shape of the original, but the lube groove is different and it has two crimp grooves. Crimping in the top groove positions the bullet to the correct length for short cylindered guns such as the S&W and Ruger Super Blackhawks. Crimping in the bottom groove positions the bullet out a bit for long cylindered guns like the Redhawk and Dan Wesson.

Two weights are available. The lightweights come out at about 285 grains cast of linotype and about 305 grains cast of wheel weights. The heavier versions cast about 310 grains in linotype and around 320-325 with the alloy I normally use. Bullet weights of all bullet moulds are approximate only and vary tremendously with different alloys.

The short length cylinders won't gain anything with the new 320. The lighter version will allow slightly greater case capacity and correspondingly greater powder charges and velocities. The long cylinder guns gain in accuracy by reducing the jump of the bullet from cylinder to rifling. Seating it out to the end of the cylinder increases case capacity

and allows more room for powder. the Redhawk 7.5" will get at least 100 fps more.

As far as I know, this is the first cast bullet to utilize two crimp grooves. (Jacketed bullets may be re-cannalured to allow longer overall cartridge lengths but may give problems by jumping crimp in recoil-it works OK if everything is right.)

During initial testing I used a Ron Power Redhawk and found a 305 grain version to give superior accuracy when driven to a little over 1500 fps with WW296 and lubed with GSB lube. Several lubes were tried and with this particular load the GSB was slightly ahead of Paco Kelly's lube in accuracy.

After bore conditioning by firing about 30 rounds of the load I wanted to test. I put 48 rounds into a 4.25" group at 100 yards. Shooting, of course, with a sandbag rest. The sight was an Aimpoint MK III. A B&L 4 × would probably have cut the group size a bit.



HHI limited edition Contender

The moulds are available through SSK. (Rt. 1, Bloomingdale, OH, 43910)

Some of you may be wondering about the "after bore conditioning" in the preceding paragraph. Frankly, not too many people want to talk about bore conditioning. Let's

open a can of worms. The best way to test a particular load is to completely clean the bore of the firearm-and that in itself is almost an art. Then fire enough rounds through the bore to condition-foul-the bore with enough rounds for the barrel to reach its maximum accuracy with that particular combination. Then fire for serious grouping ability.

In the case of the above load it usually takes about 20-30 rounds before maximum accuracy is reached. Then the barrel delivers its best accuracy for a lot of rounds. Fire a cylinder full with another lubricant, and the accuracy goes to 5-7 inches for six shots with the original load. Thirty shots later individual groups will be down to 3-4".

Obviously different barrels and loads react differently, but I usually get a chuckle out of lousy group sizes when the barrels aren't cleaned between loads, and conditioned. This doesn't just apply to cast bullets and pistols. Changing from one powder and bullet to another without cleaning will frequently result in a loss of accuracy until the bore is conditioned to the load being used.

For example, if you load a series of cartridges with 3031 you can usually shoot a reasonable amount of them without accuracy deterioration. If you shoot three loads of 3031, then three of 4064, then three of something else and on and on you probably haven't learned a thing about what the gun is really capable of doing with any of the loads tested. Obviously I'm speaking in generalities here.

Cleaning is another problem. I recently got a .375 JDJ back from a customer who complained of accuracy problems after a couple thousand rounds of excellence. The rifling looked very shallow for several inches ahead of the chamber. It was shiny but shallow.

Firing it and recovering the bullets revealed no real rifling marks on them. Fouling had built up ahead of the chamber enough to swage down the bullet enough that it was not being engraved by the rifling when passing through the bore. Some other bullets were soft enough to be squeezed down then expanded by base pressure to shoot around 2-3" groups at 200 meters in this same barrel. Just about the time you think you've seen it all, something

else comes along.



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You will never have enough tools. If this sometimes results in protestations from a dismayed spouse, who would rather invest in a new carpet than in an electrochemical logo etching machine, we can only reply: If one tool would do all of the work in the shop, there would be only one tool for sale in the catalog!

When I first went to work as a gunsmith's apprentice in 1946, the top echelon armorers and revolver specialists were usually retired or part time tool and die makers. This genre of gunsmith was undismayed by a lack of commercially available tooling for specialized wheelgun work; the bottom drawer of their elegant, handcrafted solid oak tool chests housed an ever increasing number of makeshift reamers and clamping fixtures, lathe-turned range rods and stoning fixtures best described as geometric anomalies. I spent most of my lunch breaks inspecting, measuring and drawing these shop built tools in my ever-present spiral bound notebook, together with what I felt (at the time) were improvements on the original designs.

Problems that I encountered during a recent stint as Department Armorer for local Security Police found me leafing through my ancient notebook and rummaging in the bottom drawer of my not-so-elegant pressed steel machinist's tool box. The result was disgusting. I resolved to update and modernize my revolver working tools.

Since this was coincident with the arrival of Brownells latest catalog (Brownells, Inc., Rt. 2 Box 1, Dept. AH, Montezuma, IA 50171. \$3.50, postpaid), and I had budgeted \$500 for the project, the modernization took only a few days.

Brownells Armorer's Service Kit and the

correlated add-on kit was a good beginning, since most of the law enforcement revolvers that I service are of S&W make. Next, an extractor rod and yoke alignment fixture and a hand fixture/bench block filled out the capabilities of the basic kit of tools. And finally, a universal sear stoning fixture rounded out the new look for my bench and truck tailgate, which serves as a portable bench at competitions.

Some of the specialized tools that I already had on hand were a yoke facing reamer and two extractor rod tools that I had made years ago. These joined a quantity of sideplate shims and cylinder and yoke endshake bearings as useful additions to my portable Armorer's Service Kit.

I took down my cylinder deleading reamer and a .357 chambering reamer, a good pistol cleaning kit and patches, solvent and several kinds of oil and grease. My pocket knife joined the growing pile of necessary tools as did a tiny flashlight, snap caps, sets of muzzle chamfering reamers and forcing cone reamers, gauges and several special range rods and feeler gauges. The stack was growing.

Deleading cloths and polishing materials for stainless weapons and blued steel variations were, I felt, a necessity, so they were placed on the pile. A good micrometer and caliper, a steel rule, a set of small hole gauges and a tiny toolmaker's square joined the group. Then came the special stones, tiny set

Continued on page 75





TERRORISM Its Goals, Its Targets, Its Methods THE SOLUTIONS

by Michael Connor What makes the terrorist tick? In this first truly comprehensive effort to formulate answers to the terrorist threat, antiterrorist consultant Michael Connor tells you how the ter-rorist picks his targets, where he gets the wherewithal (both financial and technological) to carry out his mission, and what precautions the individual can take to minimize the risk of becoming a target. Should all else fail and you are at a terrorist's mercy, Connor tells you what to do if you're on a hijacked aircraft or receive a mail bomb. 51/2 x 81/2, hardcover, 272 pp. \$17.95



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SILUETAS

JERRY RAKUSAN

SILHOUETTE SHOOTERS CONCOCT MANY INGENIOUS SOLUTIONS TO TROUBLES

S ilhouette is not a monolithic entity. Like a city, it is a structure comprised of many wards (regions), families (clubs) and individuals (members). In IHMSA, as in a city, you don't get much of a feeling of the tone just by reading the mayor's annual report. Or Elgin Gates' message from the president.

In reading over the latest issue of the *Silhouette*, I skipped over Gates' words, passed by the minutes of the annual meeting, and ignored the many scores published.

I did, however, spend a good deal of time reading the comments on the local matches sent in by match directors and secretaries. And it was here that I really got an idea of what handgun silhouette shooting is all about.

I learned of some of the problems the directors had at the matches, and some of their ingenious solutions.

One problem at the Clairston Sportsmans Club was the light background, which made identification of the white targets difficult. The solution was to darken the background with broken clay birds from the trap field. A problem, not yet resolved at the Rosedale club, was in the .22 events, where ejected cases from auto pistols were, and are, interfering with the shooters in the next stations.

In reading the results of matches in August, I learned that attendance was down at many shoots because of the extremely hot weather, especially in the southeast. I can't imagine what it would be like sighting at those rams when the temperature was hovering at 106°. I also felt for the youngsters who were setting up targets, who had to wear gloves because the targets got so hot. And I sympathized with the match directors at the Kenai, Alaska club who had only three shooters show up for their August match, and yet reported that they had a great time.

I liked the humor of Steve Torix who reported on the first handgun match at the Malta, Idaho range; "It took a brave bunch to brave the heavy rains and my wife's cooking all in one day, but we did survive."

I hope all of the match directors read all of the reports in the *Silhouette*, and not just their own; there's a lot to learn in that small type. Such as – don't schedule a match in Utah on the opening day of bowhunting season; don't schedule a match in the Midwest at grain harvest time; and, as Mark Jurras of the Simsbury, Conn., club says, "Target setting time was cut to 1½ minutes, 2 minutes with paint, with the help of a four-wheeler. The target setters' pay may have to be cut, they seemed to be having a little too much fun."

In spite of the above, not all of the IHMSA news was in the small print of the match reports. There is now a video tape available of the 1986 Internationals. Two versions are offered, a one hour at \$38.95 and a two hour at \$48.95, with a \$5.00 shipping charge for each. Order from Chuck Nease, Rte. 10, Box 125, Salt Rock, WV 25559.

The really big news is that the delegates of IHMSA have voted to adopt a short range big bore course, 25 to 100 yards, open or scope sights, and standing only. I'll keep you posted.



SILHOUETTE DATA BOOK

By Tim Johnson

Any competitive rifleman will tell you of the importance of: temperature, light, wind, mirage and background – but how many erstwhile handgunners consider those factors? The metallic silhouette shooter who would like to score that "perfect 40" in this lifetime had better consider them!

Since you cannot control any of the aforementioned variables, what good is the knowledge of them? Record keeping (Oh No!!).

Oh yes. Comprehensive record keeping can change your hit ratio by at least 25 to 30% moving you from "by guess and by golly" conjecture to an educated assumption. Loose-leaf binders pose a problem—loose leaves. High tech or not, you'd look a little silly and be more than a little uncomfortable hauling around your Apple II personal computer in an Alice Pack. So, what's the alternative?

The handy-dandy Silhouette Data Book available from Triangle Reloading Bench, 18904 Fuller Heights Road, Dept. AH, Triangle, VA, 22172, for the munificent sum of \$4.50 plus postage. Each page, (white for chickens, yellow for pigs, green for turkeys, and azure for rams), double side printed, is broken down into the following segments: distance (50M, 100M ... etc.), category (class-unlimited, freestyle, standing, whatever), zero (elevation and windage), corrections (elevation and windage), date, gun, caliber, place, hour, temperature, target color (aw c'mon!), background, light and mirage. There are also three small segments: one for sight picture, and two small clocks for wind and light direction.

The largest section mimics the IHMSA scorecard with two target images having a superimposed crosshair and circle that provides a handy reference point for your spotter. It also has in this area a section for windage and elevation corrections made during firing. Although why the windage corrections would be designated WG is beyond me?

Last but not least, my favorite section, the receptacle for numerous and varied four-letter words – the remarks section.

All of this information (whew!) is easily kept in a $6^{"} \times 8^{"}$ notebook printed on heavy paper giving one page for loading data, another showing the various target dimensions and two pages of directions as to the use of the (many) aforementioned sections.

My personal favorite statement from the directions is No. 28, "Record during firing the direction of the shot fired." The symbol would indicate a 2 o'clock shot. MAY OR MAY NOT HIT TARGET DEPENDING ON HOW BAD... cute!

Do yourself a favor and buy this silhouette shooter's diary. That may be all that's lacking from your first 40.



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THE GUILD SPEAKS

GEORGE WESSINGER

FORMER GUILD PRESIDENT JIM CLARK OFFERS NEW PIN MASTER COMPENSATOR

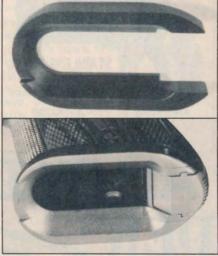
The Guild is happy to announce the winner of the annual Custom Handgun raffle, Steve Polinger of Guards Pass, OR. The winning ticket was sold by Guild member George Long, also of Grants Pass.

The handgun is a Ruger Redhawk in .44 Magnum donated by J.D. Jones, with a custom shrouded barrel by Lou Ciamillo. Bill Wilson did a superb custom action job and installed his scope mount with a Mark V sight furnished by Ron Power. A beautiful matte hard chrome finish by Jim Kelley of Metaloy completes this fine and useful custom hunting revolver. I'm sure the winner will enjoy using it as much as the Guild members involved did building it. Congratulations Steve, and good hunting.

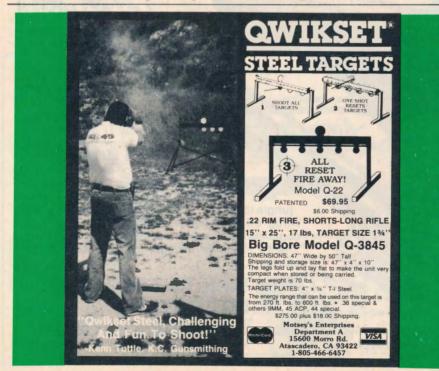
Speaking of Jim Kelley, congratulations are in order to him and wife Darlene. They are now the owner/operators of Metaloy Industries, Inc. of Berryville, AR. They have been running this business for quite some time and have now bought the entire operation. The Metaloy finish they offer is not only outstanding in appearance, but extremely durable. Their turn-around time is quite good and a handgun can usually be plated and returned to the shooter in 3 to 4 weeks. As Jim says, "It is not rust proof, but will not rust if taken care of." Contact Jim at 50I-545-3611 for more information and prices.

Eddie Brown, Route 1, Box 153, Perry, MO, 63462 (see The Guild Speaks, Sept/Oct

1985) has introduced an excellent new product for the Government Model pistol. It is called the Maxi-Well and is a professionally installed mag funnel unlike any other presently on the market. It is installed by cutting away the lower quarter-inch of the frame and silver soldering in place. A portion of the rear of the frame is left intact to insure strength and rigidity. Any gunsmith that can install a Bo-Mar rear sight by milling, and a front sight by silver soldering can install the Maxi-Well. Only slight hand work is then required.



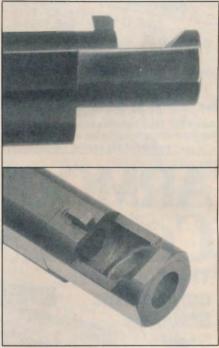
Brown mag funnel



Eddie advises that this product is not intended to replace or compete with the hobbyist add-on plastic or steel parts. This product is intended for the professional to produce a professional job on the highest level competition guns produced.

The part is a high quality investment casting and will be available by the time this issue goes on the newsstand. Contact Eddie at 314-565-3261 for more information and prices.

Jim Clark, Rt. 2, Box 22A, Keithville, LA, 71047 has introduced a compensator called the Pin Master that is available completely installed and finished or as a kit for the professional gunsmith. The Pin Master is made from one of Jim's bowling pin sleeves with the compensator, or deflection chamber, forward of the front sight. The chamber deflects the gas forward and up which results in a great reduction of muzzle rise and felt recoil. The Pin Master is a result of the muzzle brake Jim has used on his fine Ruger .22's since 1956. It works well on the .22 and



Clark Pin Master

works equally well on the .38 Super and .45. It has been hand tested by numerous shooters and most agree it is excellent. Machine rest tests prove it does not affect accuracy.

The Pin Master is available as a complete gun built by Clark Custom or as a kit to be installed by a competent gunsmith. Jim advises he can also convert a bowling pin gun to the Pin Master at quite a saving. Contact Clark Custom at 318-925-0836 for additional information and prices.

While I am on the subject of Jim Clark, I would like to congratulate Jim Clark Jr. for his win in the Soldier of Fortune Three Gun Championships and his win in the long range phase of The Masters. For years Jim Jr. has been following in his father's footsteps as an outstanding pistolsmith. It is great to see he is also following as an excellent pistol shooter and competitor. Congratulations Jim, and keep up the good work.

CHRONOGRAPH BREAKTHROUGH

START STRING DEVIEW

EDIT



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POLT #

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HANDLOADING

DAN COTTERMAN

EFFECTS OF TEMPERATURE ON RELOADS AND CHALLENGE TO BEAT HERCO IN 9mm

S hooting in cold weather results in lower bullet speeds. I've even read that the reduction will, in extreme cases, be sufficient to cause a significant drop in point of impact at extended ranges, especially with handgun rounds. Following a series of informal tests conducted here, I'm not sure there's enough difference to worry about. Here's how it went. The .32 S&W Long rounds and the .22 Rimfires were factory-loaded, the rest were handloads using powders common to the reloading of each particular cartridge. Loads varied considerably as to charge intensity, bullet weight, primer, and so on, as did barrel lengths. About the only thing that was consistent was velocity loss, which amounted to 20 to 25 fps when ammo temperature was

Cartridge			
and bbl length	Vel. @ 90°F.	Vel. @ 45°F.	Vel. @ 0°F.
.22 RF, 6"	1200 fps	1180 fps	1170 fps
.32 S&W Long, 4"	655 fps	635 fps	625 fps
.22 Hornet, 10"	2205 fps	2195 fps	2185 fps
9mm Para., 4"	1155 fps	1130 fps	1115 fps
.38 Special, 6"	930 fps	910 fps	900 fps
.38 Super, 5"	1310 fps	1285 fps	1270 fps
.44 Special, 6"	940 fps	920 fps	910 fps
.44 Magnum, 10"	1480 fps	1465 fps	1450 fps
.45 ACP, 5"	810 fps	790 fps	780 fps
.45 LC, 10"	1510 fps	1490 fps	1475 fps

reduced from 90° to 45° and 10 to 15 fps from 45° to 0°. Chambers were allowed to cool following each shot, and all velocities represent five-shot averages.

The foregoing resulted, as I said, from informal testing – a day of rushing in and out of the house, from freezer to shooting bench and chronograph. Test samples of ammo were protected in plastic bags, and I was obliged to use implements and methods that may have given temperature readings that were a few degrees more or less than accurate; but the indication, I believe, is that velocity drop due to cold weather is generally insignificant.

None of the powders used in my tests was W-W 452AA. I'm onto it now, though, because I've received a report that said fodder is actually giving *lower* bullet speeds when the temperature goes up! IPSC shooters, I'm told, are increasing charge weights in .45 ACP loads to compensate for the loss. It's that or store ammo in plastic bags and immerse them in ice on hot summer days. Mike Jordan, components manager for W-W, has assured me that laboratory tests will be carried out and that I'll be informed of what they learn about this apparent phenomenon.

There is, however, a good chance that what's happening is more commonplace than it is phenomenal. It is highly likely that increased temperatures are causing wax to melt and contaminate the powder charge, which would explain the lower velocities. *Continued on page* 77

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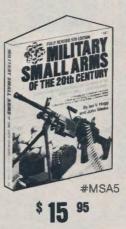


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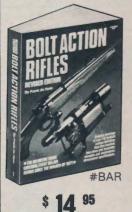
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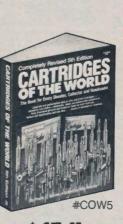
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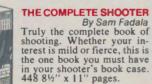
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COP TALK

MASSAD AYOOB

SELDOM HEARD ARGUMENTS REKINDLE OLD AUTO VERSUS REVOLVER DEBATE

The revolver versus auto controversy in police circles is more heated than ever. It continues to follow the lines of old arguments, often discredited. "Revolver versus Auto," for most cops, comes down to "Reliability versus Firepower."

Doing this for a living as a combat weapons/officer survival instructor full time, I question both arguments. The single most reliable handgun I own happens to be an HK P7 9mm auto that survived 4500 rounds of shooting *without disassembly or anything but surface cleaning*, yet never came closer to a malfunction than failing to lock the slide open over an empty magazine. Firepower is nice, but I find that the real arguments in favor of an auto are the increased hit probability under stress, and a safety catch that someone unfamiliar with that particular gun is unlikely to be able to immediately release if he gets it away from you.

Let's give some depth to the argument with real-world factors that you don't see in the usual debates. Revolvers are superior for barricade shooting. Whenever possible in an actual firefight, you want to be behind something that will stop your opponent's bullets. The deeper you're behind it, the better. The closer your gun is to your barricade, the more of you is shielded by that protective surface; the farther your gun is from the barricade, the more of your eyes and head and body have to follow it out into the unshielded kill zone.

A revolver's design allows it to hug the barricade. Lay the side of your wheelgun's barrel against the brick wall you've taken cover behind, and you are maximally shielded, and your gun is stabilized. In 1980, I learned that the old canard that "If the barrel touches the barricade, vibrations will make the bullet miss" was a crock. In fact, laying your sixgun's barrel on something firm gives you a close approximation of a Ransom Rest.

Try the same with an automatic, and you're likely to get a fast jam. Friction of the slide against the barricade will slow down the slide cycle, and if you're shooting around the right side of a barricade with a Walther P-5 or around the left side with almost any other gun, the ejected shell can hit the wall and bounce back into the open ejection port, jamming the pistol. Treacherously, this doesn't usually show up on the 2-by-6 boards we use for barricades on the training ranges, but *will* happen in short order when you've laid your service automatic upside a full-length wall. This is why I teach my auto users the Jim Cirillo barricade position, in which the gun is canted away from the barricade, preventing slide contact and arcing the spent casings straight up and over your head when firing from the left side.

Not for nothing have a preponderance of the world's best handgunners switched from autos to wheelguns in the Bianchi Cup, the fat-pursed Wimbledon of Handgunning. One-fourth of the demanding Bianchi Cup format is barricade shooting, and here the revolver has a great advantage. While a street cop wouldn't put his hand next to the barrelcylinder gap to be burned in the braced position most Cup shooters get into with their wimp-loaded sixguns, the fact remains that the sixshooter is more amenable to shooting from behind walls. This is one powerful reason why the last four Bianchi Cups were won with Smith & Wesson .38 revolvers.

On the other hand, new prison and streetgang tactics for killing cops have shown a side of the "service automatic advantage" that has never been published before to my knowledge. For several years, prison gangs



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 ACCREDITED BY THE ACCREDITING COMMISSION OF THE NATIONAL HOME STUDY COUNCIL APPROVED FOR VETERANS AND GI BENEFITS

has kept a lot of good cops alive when scumbags got their safety-locked service automatics away from them and couldn't make them go off.

Yet, another little known fact is that one of the great advantages of the popular "backup gun" is that it allows the officer to arm a gualified companion who, at the outset of the danger situation, is unarmed. This writer has carried a second gun every time he wore his uniform since 1972, yet has never had to draw it because he'd been disarmed, or run out of ammo, or for any of the other conventional reasons for second gun carry.

What this writer has had call to do, on multiple occasions, was draw the second weapon to arm an assistant who did not have his or her own gun on when the danger presented itself. Not every qualified Good Guy knows how to work a given autoloader, but anyone who has qualified with any handgun knows the "point gun, pull trigger" operation of a double action revolver. Having been on both sides of this issue-something as mundane as leaving my Colt Agent with my wife in the parked car as I entered a place of business in a rough neighborhood carrying my concealed, full-size fighting handgun, or something as serious as being handed a Detective Special by a city cop I was riding with as a civilian visitor when an armed robbery arrest was imminent-I like revolvers for backup guns.

Yes, I agree with the conventional wisdom that a second gun for your own use should be the same action type and caliber as your

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primary handgun. But for the above reason, even though I am often likely to be carrying a Colt .45 auto as my primary defense arm, my normal backup gun is a small frame Colt or Smith & Wesson double action revolver in .38 Special. I've been in danger with a lot of qualified people when there weren't enough guns to go around. All of them would have been competent with a revolver. Not all of them would have been competent with my Star PD, my PPK, my Lightweight Officer's Model, or any of my other concealed carry automatics. The curse of the revolver when a bad guy grabs it becomes the blessing of a revolver when you hand it to another good guy to back you up with.

The reason the revolver versus automatic argument rages on is that there are so many good points for each side. It's one of the toughest decisions for the lawfully armed man or woman to make.

All I ask is that you make your own decision based on real reasons, not mythical ones.

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have been training the bad guys to grab a cop's gun upside down from the front, rip it out of the holster, and pull the trigger at point blank range with their little finger. Inaccurate at any significant distance, the technique is lethal within arm's reach.

Picture, however, trying to do that with a cocked and locked .45 auto, and trying to release the safety catch upside-down. Depressing the grip safety would be awkward at best, maybe impossible. With any auto, even if the gun goes off the first time, it's unlikely that it will fire a second time: the slide's movement will be blocked by the heel of the attacker's own gunhand in the upsidedown position. It is remarkably likely that the officer will survive being shot one time-a national study of officer-involved shootings indicated that only one of every four felons shot by trained police die of their wounds. and a Florida study of gunshot injuries from a hospital perspective indicated a nine out of 10 survival rate. Being shot more than once, however, greatly increases the odds of dying from the gunfire. Thus, the auto pistol in general is a much more survivable weapon in this type of attack, and if a safety catch is in place, it is most unlikely that the officer so attacked will be shot even once.

A characteristic of a handgun that is a strength in one moment can be a weakness in another. The auto pistol with the safety engaged is proprietary to the user, that is, someone who doesn't have familiarity with that particular handgun can't make it go off until he has fumbled with it for a while. This

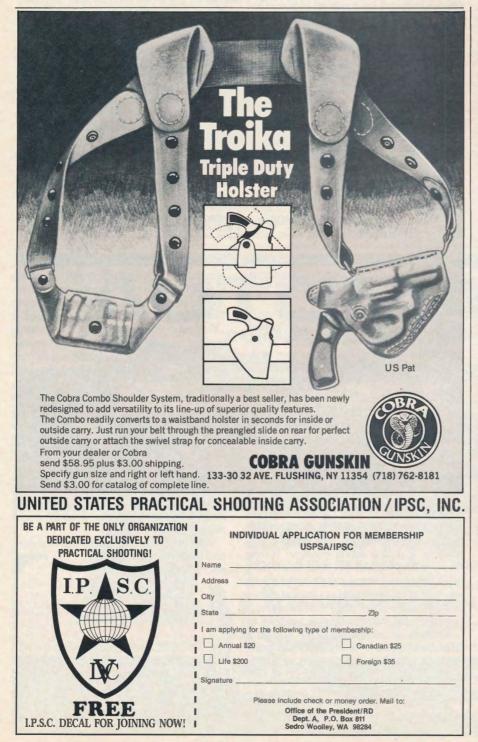
INSIGHTS INTO IPSC

CAMERON HOPKINS

PRACTICAL PISTOL FROM JEFF COOPER; 10mm ROUND FOR IPSC LOOKS ENTICING

Several juicy tid-bits. A Perfect Ten will take on new meaning this year as the 10mm comes to life in various guises, including one specially designed for IPSC. Tactical Class is becoming more popular, and a practical pistol from Jeff Cooper holds much promise. Another new gun for Tactical Class also looks tempting, but you will probably never get to shoot it.

Our European correspondent reports he



has seen, touched, handled a .45 ACP Heckler and Koch P-7. The rumor of a .45 chambering of the German squeeze-cocker has been drifting about for some time now, but this is the first tangible proof we've had.

A call to H&K to verify the report brought rain to the picnic. Nope, no .45 P-7. Too small a market. The H&K spokesman acknowledged that IPSC shooters and some others would purchase .45 P-7s, but added that there is not enough demand to justify introduction. A minimum order of 50,000 pistols is required before the Germans ever get serious.

The H&K spokesman noted there are 28 manufacturers of .45 caliber pistols in the United States and added that H&K is not enamored with becoming number 29. Also, H&K is reluctant to introduce a .45 when the US Armed Services has switched to the nine.

"The forty-five is a dead caliber," the H&K man said.

However, our man in Europe can obtain one of the .45 P-7 prototypes, and he will report his experiences and test results in a future issue of the *Handgunner*. We may not be able to feast, but we can at least look at the menu.

But for a .45 you can shoot in Tactical Class, we have an offering from none other than the founder of IPSC. The Gunsite Service Pistol is a practical pistol designed with modifications specified by Col. Jeff Cooper.

The GSP is a Springfield Armory Government Model upgraded to Cooper's standards at the Gunsite facility in Arizona. Jeff's onsite gunsmith performs the modifications.

Of the GSP, Jeff says: "The piece itself contains no surprises, and there is nothing new in it at all. The concept will be criticized by gamesmen in that the weapon is not personalized, but that is exactly the idea.

"The GSP includes what is needed in a service pistol, and nothing that is not. Now this is in accordance with my view, and obviously my view could be wrong. The notion, however, that there ought to be a pistol available over the counter, that is ready-to-go for serious work is rather novel, and I cannot expect it to achieve much popularity in the press.

"It is, however, exciting great interest among the faithful. The pistols, incidentally, are just great, but then why wouldn't they be?"

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For more information, call (602) 636-5382 and ask for gunsmiths Gary Huggins or Richard Carson. Continued on page 69

By Dan Cotterman

his time we're working with the Forster/ Bonanza Co-Ax, a press said by the manufacturer to make reloading ammo faster, easier, and more accurate. This is accomplished because the Co-Ax features snap-in and snap-out die changing, automatic selfacting shell holder, three times the mechanical advantage of ordinary C-type presses, floating guide rods that assure improved alignment and minimize friction, and plenty of working room for right or left-handed operators.

The Co-Ax has a lot more to offer, and we'll be discussing some of it later, but first let's take a closer look at what the features mentioned above mean to the handloader. We'll begin with easy die changing. Once the dies are adjusted for correct resizing, seating, and crimping, they can be snapped in and out

BONANZA **CO-AX B-2** PRESS

of a slot in the head of the Co-Ax. A steel ball with adjustable spring tension is located within the slot, at the upper left side. The ball exerts pressure on the top surface of the die lock ring so as to hold the die in place while allowing it to move slightly as the case enters the chamber. Correct case-to-die alignment is further enhanced by the action of the shellholder jaws. These are machined, springactuated plates that are designed to float with the die. Assured thus is optimal alignment on both vertical and horizontal axes, which results in more concentric case resizing, bullet seating, and neck crimping.

Repriming with the Co-Ax is a separate operation, which is done at the top of the press. That's where, with the earlier models, it is necessary to use standard shell holders. The newer Co-Ax Model B-2 dispenses with that need by including an adjustable shellholder. This, as far as I have been able to ascertain, is the only difference between early and current models. The adjustable setup, which includes a steel mounting plate and three slotted jaws, is available as a kit and is easy to install. It works well, and including it on the B-2 was a good idea. If, however, you already own an older Co-Ax and shellholders for the cartridges you reload, there's no need to add the kit.

We may have revealed the derivation of the term Co-Ax in examining the alignment capabilities of the die and shellholder. Axial alignment is achieved again during repriming, and the Co-Ax is designed so that the surface of the priming punch is always at right angles to the case head. Uniform depth of seating is achieved automatically; therefore, there is no dependence on the operator's tactile perception. The result is no crushed primers and none that protrude so as to cause premature firing or interfere with cylinder rotation.

The Co-Ax priming system isn't fast, at least you don't think of it as being fast, because you're placing the primers in the punch one at a time. It is, however, one of the best I've ever used. I've never had a poorly seated primer, which is more than can be said for some of the automatic priming systems extant. Indeed, there's a heap of wisdom in the old axiom that advises us to make haste slowly.

But this press, for all its built-in handiness, is not without limitations. For one thing, it can't be used for file-and-trim work, such as is necessary to the making of certain wildcat rounds. Also, because of the universal shellholder set-up, you can't fit an accessory shellholder for swaging bullets. A conventional C or H-type press is needed for these operations.

Forster/Bonanza (82 East Lanark Avenue, Dept. AH, Lanark, IL 61046) will, on request, send you answers to more questions than you thought you could ask about their Co-Ax, or about what C.E. Purdy, who Continued on page 75



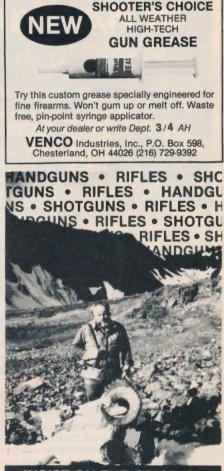


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AMERICAN HANDGUNNER • MARCH/APRIL 1987

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ROB LEATHAM

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Focus. To a photographer it may mean the clarity of an object as seen through the camera. To one trained in the martial arts it may be exemplified as the singularity of purpose on which one's mind can concentrate. In shooting, focus represents both—the preci-

sion of what you see and the clearness with which you think.

Webster's New Ninth Collegiate Edition describes focus as "a position in which something must be placed for clarity of perception." This "position" is referred to as a "focal



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point." When you shoot, either in practice or in competition, what occupies your focal point may well determine how well you are able to perform.

The conscious mind is able to focus on only a single item at one time. This is both a burden and a blessing. We must learn to use this single mindedness to our advantage.

The subconscious mind can perform many of the functions necessary to shoot much better than the conscious mind. So all we must do is allow the subconscious to take control. Obviously, this is easier said than done, as the conscious part of your mind is the more dominant.

Fortunately, it is rather simple to control. What is needed here is a way to calm or quiet the conscious mind. This is easily accomplished by "tricking" your conscious mind into focusing on a single, simple item thereby allowing the subconscious mind to control the shooting.

Ok. You with me so far?

Now is where all those lessons you were taught such as look at the sights, squeeze the trigger, etc. come into play. They are tricks used to occupy the conscious mind. I sometimes use others not so conventional. Generally, I tell myself to relax, think clearly or look at the targets. What works for me may not work for you and vice versa—but the concept is still the same.

I think you could ponder your big toe and get the same effect, but, having nothing to do with the task at hand, it would become very difficult to focus when your conscious mind noticed distractions. It would obviously put more emphasis on the no-shoot target you are about to hit than your big toe, therefore causing a distraction and subsequent loss of concentration.

The ability to concentrate during times of heavy stress will be very much a result of how well and on what you focused while being pressured.

Examples of this are found in all facets of life. I was lucky enough to be present and involved with the recent delivery of my first child. This obviously was a very stressful time for my wife, and I found it quite interesting for not only the miracle of my son's birth, but also to witness a person under a terrible amount of both physical and mental stress, not to mention a great deal of pain. Amazingly enough, not one of the attending nurses or doctors once told her to concentrate on how this hurts or how terrible she must feel. Always it was, try to relax, remember to breathe, and when it came time to push, push and push hard.

I sincerely doubt a person could be under more pressure than a woman during delivery. It certainly appeared worse than any pressure I have felt in any shooting competition. Again, amazingly enough, those techniques used to deal with this incredible pressure are the same we use to combat the minor pressure of shooting in competition. Focus on the problem at hand, concentrate on what is necessary and do what is needed to complete the task.

Avoid the wandering mind syndrome. If Continued on page 72



....AND I'M COMING OUT SHOOTING!": THE LES DAVIS INCIDENT

Situation: A barricaded maniac swears he'll kill as many cops as he can in his crazed last stand.

On March 21, 1977, five hostage incidents took place across the United States. One occurred in the small community of Freeport, Illinois.

That morning, a man named Frank DeBoer had decided that his life was going to come to an end, and since it couldn't possibly be his fault, other lives would end first in retribution. At 42, DeBoer was an unemployed lumber yard worker whose associates would later describe him as a "loser." His big hope had been a \$100,000 workmen's compensation claim he'd put in for an injury he'd received while on a picket line. That morning, his attorney had called to advise that the case had been settled. For a paltry \$11,000.

His wife would say later that he had been bitterly morose. That morning, he'd refused breakfast and wouldn't even talk to her. "He sat there in front of the TV, just stewing and not talking to anyone," she would tearfully explain to police when it was all over.

The call from the lawyer was the trigger. He slammed down the phone, went upstairs, and began to gather his guns. He walked out the door with five of them. As he was leaving, a terrified Mrs. DeBoer asked tremulously, "Where are you going?"

"I'm going down to the lumber yard to shoot a few people," he answered coldly.

As soon as he and his car were out of sight, Mrs. DeBoer called the police.

Freeport PD and the Stephenson County Sheriff's Department responded from the textbook. Well-armed officers from both agencies raced to the lumberyard, and others grimly came in off their patrols to stake out the route the potential psycho gunman was likely to take from his home to what he now perceived as the vengeance ground.

The staked out officers were hoping to overwhelm the potential psycho killer with a show of force and convince him to surrender. They never got the chance. The day's freezing rain was turning to snow, and DeBoer's car had become disabled at the slushy roadside of Illinois Route 26.

DeBoer's aunt happened to pass by. She had already stopped to pick up her stranded nephew when she saw the guns. She asked him what he was going to do with them, and he told her what he'd told his wife: he was going to the lumber yard to shoot people.

The aunt tried verbal crisis intervention. Let me take you home,

Lesson: Practice and more practice. Solid training carries the day as reflexes take over.

she said. We'll talk about it. DeBoer got in the car. To submit meekly and allow himself to be driven home? To commandeer the vehicle and force the aunt to drive him to the lumber yard he intended to turn into a charnel house?

No one will ever know. As soon as the car was underway, its passenger was recognized by two of the units that were part of the dragnet for the suspected gunman. They pulled the car over, a cruiser sliding in behind it while a police van pulled in front.

And Frank DeBoer came out shooting.

The shotgun bucked in his hands as he jumped out of the right front passenger seat, breaking the window out with the gun muzzle as he barricaded himself behind the open door. Hit twice as the shotgun blasts raked through the Freeport patrol car, Officer Lyle Kuhlemeyer went down. His partner, Officer William Small, returned fire.

Small's defensive gunfire succeeded only in blowing the rest of the glass out of the shattered car window and in making DeBoer reflexively duck. Now unable to aim effectively, DeBoer cringed behind the door long enough for Small to drag Kuhlemeyer to safety behind the cruiser and out of the kill zone. The wounded officer would recover.

Small was no longer shooting, and realizing that he had been momentarily overwhelmed, the enraged DeBoer turned his shotgun on the police van, blasting out the windshield.

By now, Freeport Police Lieutenant Jack Munda, DeBoer's brother-in-law, was on the scene. He had been off duty and heard of the situation on his home scanner.

Munda had come to help, not to fight. He yelled to his brother-inlaw that the downed officer needed an ambulance. The gunman responded with raves and threats. Munda put down his own gun as a gesture of good faith. He offered to trade himself as a hostage if DeBoer would only fall back, call off his deadly threat, and allow the ambulance to assist the badly wounded officer.

Normally, cops are taught that it's suicide to bargain themselves as traded hostages. The suspect's antagonism toward police and The Establishment all but ensures the volunteer hostage's death. In this case, Munda was gambling on the fact that the gunman was a relative.

It worked. Munda drove away with DeBoer in the back seat Continued on page 52 proprietor of the American Pistol Institute, the world famous small arms training school at Paulden, Arizona. I had the rare opportunity to interview him recently at Gunsite Ranch:

JW: Jeff, as we sit here in front of the fireplace, the IPSC (International Practical Shooting Confederation) National Championships are being held in Phoenix, less than 100 miles away. You're the founder of that organization and its Honorary Chairman, yet you've let it be known that you won't attend. Why?

JC: How do you suppose the parents of Vanessa Williams feel?

JW: Where has IPSC gone wrong?

JC: They've forgotten the "P". They should

go to the term that John Bianchi handed to the NRA and call it the International Action Shooting Confederation. When a man will buy himself a \$2,000 Super .38 with a GI can on the front of it and use the lightest possible load to get an advantage over somebody else in order to win a match, he has certainly lost track of why he is in that match. If you ask him he'll deny that and say he's in that match to win cups. "That's fine, why don't you win cups at frisbee, because this way you're setting a bad example and teaching the wrong things.'

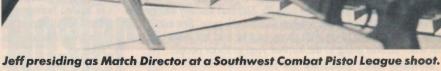
Your book Master Tips has given people the idea that they should do things wrong. There are pictures in your book of people waiting for the start signal with their eyes on their gun. That is not what you look at, you look at the target! The only reason you shoot is because somebody is trying to kill you. If you're looking at your pistol how do you know what he's doing? And you don't take your eyes off your target when you load. You don't "look it in." Since the target isn't shooting back, you can get away with it-in matches. But when you're in a fight, you shouldn't take your eyes off your adversary.

conversation with a Champion **By Jon Winokur**

Talking to Jeff Cooper about practical pistolcraft would be like talking to Abner Doubleday about baseball or James Naismith about basketball, except that there's some doubt whether Doubleday and Naismith actually originated the sports they're credited with. No such doubt exists with Cooper and acknowledge the contributions of Jack Weaver, John Plähn, Elden Carl, Ray Chapman and others, Cooper conceived, developed and popularized the modern approach to the defensive use of the pistol. But Cooper would probably find the comparison to Doubleday and Naismith invidious; for him, pistolcraft is not a game but a deadly serious business, and he has long since parted company with those who view the handgun primarily as an instrument for winning trophies. Nevertheless, his work has influenced generations of "gamesmen" and "martial artists" alike.

II, Cooper has published books and essays on a variety of subjects, including the classic "Principles of Personal Defense" and "Cooper on Handguns." He is the founder and

practical shooting; although he's quick to A retired Marine officer who saw extensive action in the Pacific during World War



I understand that your book is directed toward competition, but I'm saying that you can't separate practical competition from self-defense. The first time I heard the expression "street gun" I thought, "What other kind of gun is there?" That's when I first learned that people were building weapons that were no good on the street but were designed to win matches. In that case, the organizers of matches are not presenting a proper challenge. If you can win a match with a weapon which is not designed for the street, it means the match is wrong.

It takes a lot of imagination to design a proper match, but more importantly, it requires a "command" personality. You can't put these things up to a vote, which is what the clubs have been doing. How would you think you'd come out if you were to put the rules for motor competition up to the drivers? That's not what it's about. When a man is a competitor he should not make rules.

Going back in the history of English weaponcraft, which I've been reading about recently, they decided during the reign of Henry VIII that a competitor competes. At such time as he stops competing and becomes a master, then he can make rules. They understood that a competitor rules for himself rather than for the good of the discipline.

I find what people have done with the discipline annoying. It has perverted my purpose in life. I try to keep polite about it, but I find it difficult to suffer fools gladly. I've been told by my friends at the NRA that I'd better learn to compromise or see nothing accomplished, but I find it very hard. It may be my military background. You've heard the old phrase, "Lead, follow, or get out of the way." I find that I can lead well; I find that I'm a good subordinate; but I don't collaborate well. Rather than mix your views with mine, I'd rather the two of us sat down, came to a consensus and both of us used that, whether it's mine or yours.

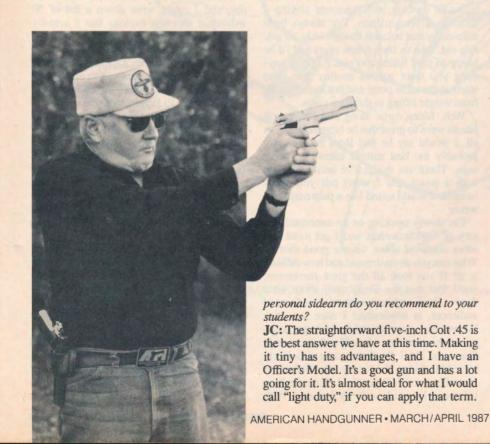
JW: Let's turn to another controversial subject. What's the current status of the Bren 10, and precisely what is your involvement?

JC: As to its current status, it's difficult to say. I have two of them, a presentation model and a field gun which is now in Alaska but will be coming down here in a couple of weeks. The gun is extremely stimulating to use—it's one of those things you can't describe; you have to go and do it.

Whether you can buy one from the current manufacturer I cannot say and I don't know. I got a call last week from Harlene at the factory saying all is well. But I've been told that before. I have no money in the operation, consequently I have no leverage. I've stayed well clear. People call me up in despair saying, "Jeff, can't you do something?" And the answer is "No, I can't do anything. All I did was put the gun together conceptually. I put the necessary blocks in place; I did not design it."

Most of what I've done in my life has been eclectic-taking the best ideas of other people and putting them to use-and I'm not going to apologize for that because I think it's one way to make progress. Whit Collins invented the cartridge by taking a .30 Remington case and putting a .38-40 bullet in it. The Czechs took the Pettit designs from France and put a few Browning features in, and their designers at Brno designed the Czech 75, which is the best of the 9s. It was my idea to put the 10mm cartridge in the Czech design. Tom Dornaus, an engineer who had been with Pachmayr, put the drawings on paper. I'm not an engineer, I'm a conceptualizer.

JW: In the absence of the Bren 10, what



Action in which a pistol is involved is always unpredictable – there's no such thing as "light duty" and "heavy duty" for a pistol. Well, the point is this: I live out here in the open and I wear a full-size steel gun. If I'm in a situation where I have to be very compact, cutting everything down, where everybody's going to be restricted to 10 pounds of luggage for the next six months, then I'll go to a lighter, more compact weapon like the OM.

JW: What kind of shooting do you do these days?

JC: Not enough. Whenever I'm not otherwise involved I try to get down to the range and shoot some, but I don't shoot nearly enough. I try to shoot a little bit for each class, partly because students like it, but mainly because certain things are difficult to explain but easy to demonstrate, like the rhythm on pairs. If I can hear the student shift his target, he's doing it wrong. I shouldn't hear, "one-two, pause, one-two, pause, onetwo." I should hear, "one-two-three-four-fivesix." I can talk until I'm blue in the face, but I can teach it better by doing it.

And for some reason I can't understand, students have difficulty with the braced positions in long range shooting—the prone and the kneeling—so I often do that to show them what can be done. They struggle at 25 and I'll go out and shoot at 200 to show them it can be done.

But I don't shoot as much as I should. I've been having a lot of fun recently with the Scout project, and I guess I've shot rifles more in the last few months than I have pistols.

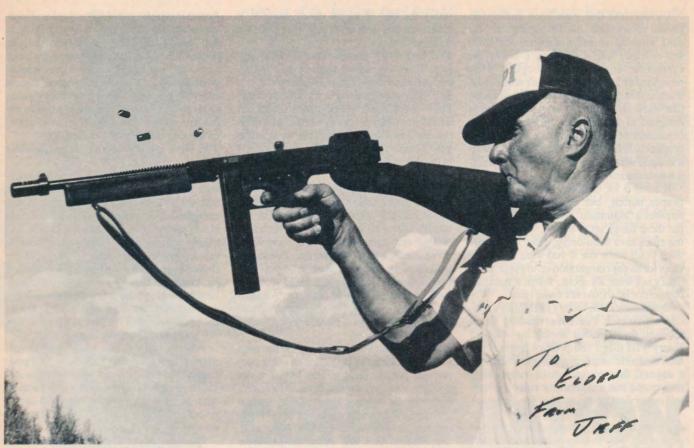
One thing, I do a lot of cavalry charges on my "tricycle" (ATC). I have a steel gong set up between the north range and the south range, and since I have to roar back and forth when we're running two classes, I try to see how fast I can go and still hit that gong when I go by it. I can get up to about 40 miles an hour, but then I have trouble making the turn. We have a verse out there that goes, "Here lie the bones of Uncle Ern, He hit the gong but missed the turn."

JW: You've long been a proponent of the large automatic for self-defense, but if you had to rely on a revolver, what would it be?

JC: A number of years ago we made a gun up for the San Diego Sheriff, a dyed-in-the-wool revolver man who felt that anybody who would hold an automatic in his hand would spit on the flag. We found him one of the older models of the Smith .44 Special-the one on the big frame but without the rib. We gussied it all up, got it properly tuned and set-up with a five-inch barrel. Elden (Carl) worked over the action, built the Sheriff a set of custom stocks, and loaded him up a thousand rounds of 240's that left that five-inch barrel at just a hair under 900 fps. That's as good a wheelgun as you're going to find for defensive purposes. If I were stuck with a revolver, I'd use that.

JW: Let's talk a little about the early days of practical shooting. Can you point to a moment when it all began?

JC: The doctrine began in 1956 at Big Bear [California] when I set up the first Leatherslap. As far as I know, it was the first match



The "kiss technique." Jeff shoots this way to demonstrate the negligible recoil of the .45 ACP. Jeff presented the original picture to Combat Master Elden Carl.

of its kind held anywhere in the world. It was unrestricted as to technique, as to weapon, as to caliber, as to holster, as to profession. It was a straight quick-draw match—just draw and hit a King Kong target at seven yards. It was all pretty primitive, but it was the beginning.

We had so much fun we didn't want to wait until the following year to do it again, so we organized the Bear Valley Gunslingers and began to hold matches once a month. Now, those matches were in no way fair, because they were dreamed up by the guy who put them on and he usually won his own match. He made up the rules as he went along. Then Jack (Weaver) began putting on matches at Palmdale and he usually won them—but we would give him a scare now and then.

John Plahn was a key figure in this story. He had advanced degrees in physical education, was a teacher and a member of the Sheriff's department. Up to that time, none of us thought about how we did it. John came along with little or no previous shooting experience and said, "I can figure this thing out in one year." We all laughed. We figured it would take at least five years of shooting to get to be as good as any of us. Well, he studied Jack, he took pictures of Ray (Chapman), he found out where the wasted motion was, where the points of pressure were. He determined the easiest and most efficient way to move from point A to point B. He reduced it all to a workable body of knowledge and thereby made the single greatest contribution of anyone to the existing discipline. .IW: What about Elden Carl?

JC: Elden was a thunderbolt, a magnificently coordinated athlete. Anything physical, Elden could do better than anyone else. He took up the motorcycle and was riding motocross in Mexico within a little while; he was a great pool player; he picked up the harmonica and learned to play that in six months; ballroom dancing; entertainment singing – Elden is a phenomenon. I've always been amused by that because though we're all getting old, take us back a few years and I'd be happy to take Elden and coach him at anything you want against another man who starts at the same point and put money on it, from weight lifting to shooting craps.

Well, Elden came along and his natural talents were so great that he began beating us all. I would say he and Ross Seyfried are probably the best natural talents I've ever seen. There are things I've seen Elden do with a pistol that I won't tell you about because it would sound like a pulp magazine writer.

I'm slowly working on an anecdotal history of marksmanship, and I get more and more confused about what a good shot is. What can you do on demand and how difficult is it? If you took all the great marksmen, you'd find that the God's truth about what they've done, and been seen to do in front of audiences, is impossible! I once saw Jack Weaver turn a corner and find a target edgewise to him and saw it in half with one round. I've seen Thell Reed do some absolutely incredible things. And in my case, in front of an audience of 1500 people, I broke the long balloon at 142 yards with my first shot. With my second shot, from the waist, I split the bullet on an axe blade and hit two targets beyond it. That's the kind of thing you shouldn't mention too much because it makes you sound like a liar. But the fact is those things did happen.

I'm closer to my 66th than my 65th birthday, and I could write down a list of 50 individual shooting exploits that I actually have done. If I wrote them down in a column, I'd be the biggest liar in history.

I'll give you another example: they took Ross Seyfried, who's a great shot, and bought him a warehouse-full of ammunition and had him just shoot El Presidentes. He was under no pressure and he shot all afternoon. He finally shot a 59 in 6.2 seconds, which comes out to about 165 points, 65 points over par. Now, I'm not saying that Ross didn't do that, but you see, he had nothing to lose by going as fast as he could. He must have known that sooner or later, going as fast as he could, being a very fine shot—as I say, probably the best shot now shooting—he would get a record score.

JW: For a couple of years after the first Leatherslap in 1955, Jack Weaver shot it from the hip like everybody else. Then, in 1958, he decided shooting from the hip was too unreliable and devised what is now known as the Weaver Stance. What are your recollections of Jack?

JC: I always put him at the top of the list as the guy who taught us all how to do it. When I first saw him shooting two handed, it didn't seem sensible to me. My immediate reaction *Continued on page 65*

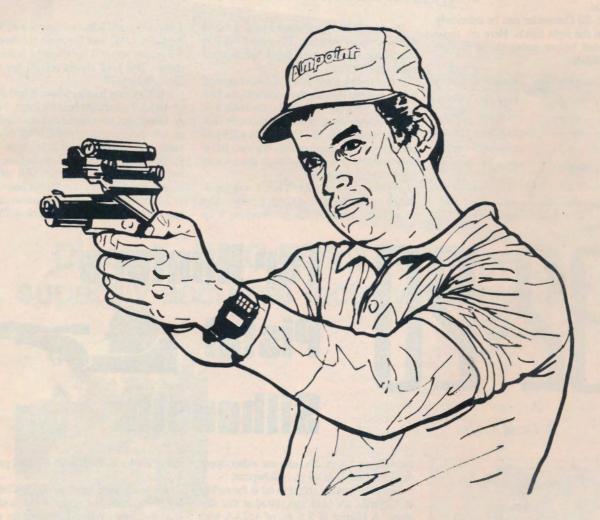


Sighting-In

After you've chosen the specific load you intend to use, sight-in your gun first at 50 yards. Use your steadiest shooting position, not a bench rest; the results will be more realistic and closer to match conditions.

When you're satisfied with your 50 yard dope, sight-in for 25 yards. Only the elevation should change; windage should remain the same.

If you use different brands of ammo or a variety of handloads and you want pinpoint accuracy, you'll probably have to re-sight your gun for each load.



FRED ROMERO III, NRA High Master, PMA 1490 Club, NRA President's 100, Winner, 1982 Bianchi Cup Practical Match.

Our local club recently started N.R.A. sanctioned Hunter Pistol silhouette matches. When it was announced that we were starting these matches, many wondered what is the best pistol and caliber for the competition.

The answer is the Thompson Center's Contender in the .357, .41 or .32–20. Of these three, the .32–20 is the best choice. Larry Weir, Albert Turner, Dan Wagoner and Ronnie Carroll, who took the first four places in the N.R.A. Nationals and Elisabeth Barrington who took top honors in the ladies competition, all used the Contender in the .32–20, which speaks rather well for this relatively new caliber in the Contender barrel.

The next question usually asked was what load should be used, which brings me to the reason for writing this article: lack of information on T/C's .32–20 Contender. Since its rediscovery a few years ago, its popularity has skyrocketed with the silhouette crowd. Because of its mild recoil, the shooter can use a rifle scope.

The .32–20 Contender can be extremely accurate in the right hands. Here are some loads I tried before going on to further experimentation.

Powder	Charge Weight	Bullet*	Velocity
Unique	4.2 grs.	110 gr. HP	1000 fps
Unique	6.0 grs.	110 gr. HP	1476 fps
2400	9.0 grs.	110 gr. HP	1246 fps
2400	11.5 grs.	110 gr. HP	1700 fps
4227	13.0 grs.	110 gr. HP	1720 fps
4227	15.0 grs.	110 gr. HP	1984 fps

*Speer 110 gr. HP should be seated to 1.68" OAL Sierra 110 gr. HP should be seated to 1.90" OAL Working up loads for a .32–20 Contender, the author reveals a gripping story about effects on accuracy.



Working up loads for the .32-20, the author discovered the forend and grips on his Contender affected accuracy to a great extent.

For Hunters

Pistol

Silhouette

Working with Winchester brass, I found that new cases measure only 1.280" so you should fire them several times before trimming them to 1.285".

After trying these loads, I found several which worked well but the loads with the best accuracy were not suitable for the Short Eye Relief scopes most silhouette shooters use. Or with some loads like 12 gr. of SR 4759 you find the recoil is manageable, but case life is shortened by 50% – even though there are no signs of high pressure.

My search continued. Then I was introduced to Winchester's 452AA powder. You should start loads at 5.3 gr., working it up 1.910" OAL and with the exception of 5.3 gr., the 1.90" OAL was the most consistent. At 5.5 gr. the recoil is light so that is the load I chose. This load clocks at 1127 fps with a Sierra 110 gr. HP

My shooting partners have found that 5.7 gr. and 5.3 gr. shoots best for them. I use 110 gr. Sierra, but have found that the Speer 110 gr. HP. shot consistently well at 25, 50 and 75 yards, but opened up a little more at 100 yards. Using different primers has not shown any significant differences. All of these rounds were fired in Winchester cases.

Also tried were some .30 carbine cast bullets .308, 115 gr. with gas check at 75 yards

By David A. Slye



110 grain bullets emerged as the best from both Speer and Sierra.

carefully to 5.8 gr. You can use either Speer or Sierra bullets in 110 gr. hollowpoint.

Since the hardest target to hit is the turkey at 75 yards, the load was tested at that distance. A charge of 5.5 gr. of 452AA with Sierra 110 gr. HP, CCI 500 primers, shot the best group at .843". Then the load was tested at 50 yards and 100 yards. At 50 yards, 5 rounds shot into .343" and at 100 yards, 5 again into 1.4375". 5.3 gr. seated to 1.910 OAL at 50 yards shot the tightest group, .125" but at 75 yards and 100 yards it opened up more than the 5.5 gr.'s. Different seating depths were tried starting at 1.850" through using 9.8 gr. of 2400 with a 5 shot group of 1.375.

All tests were fired in T/C's Contender weighing in at just under 4 lbs. with a 5xBurris Scope. When I decided to change scopes for a 7x Burris IER 2" DOT PA the Pachmayr grip put me overweight so I put back on the T/C wood grip. This change led me to a startling revelation.

While shooting a Contender over the past year in .41, .223, .22 and .32-20 in a 10" bull barrel and a 6.5 mm in the 14" bull barrel varying results were noted. The erratic *Continued on page 63*

Off-the-shelf ACCURACY



50 CENTERFIRE PISTOL CARTRIDGES

WARNING: KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN

Discover PMC Pistol Cartridgessuperbly accurate factory ammunition



Officer John Pride, Firearms Training Instructor, L.A.P.D.

- 1985 Canadian National Police Combat Champion
- 1986 National Municipal Police
 Pistol Champion

Compare the accuracy of PMC pistol cartridges to any other factory ammunition on the market, and you'll see why we say it is among the best you can buy. There's a reason for the superb accuracy of PMC... consistency. Our cartridges are as nearly identical as we can make them. In fact, if you chronograph our ammunition you'll get incredibly low Standard Deviation scores, because the difference in velocity between cartridges averages less than 2%. That's outstanding consistency by anyone's standards!

Of course, the quality of individual cartridge components also has a strong bearing on accuracy and performance, and that's another PMC plus: You won't find higher quality components in any other ammunition. Whether you're a hunter or a competition shooter, consistant accuracy is the name of the game. That's why more and more well-known shooters like John Pride are switching to PMC — they've discovered it's a super performer! Pick up a box and find out for yourself.

PMC/PAN METAL CORPORATION 4890 S. Alameda St., Vernon, CA 90058 PMC means PRECISION MADE CARTRIDGES

By Cameron Hopkins

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INTERNATIONAL SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP

57

OALE

Solution ound the bells, summon the village crier, let the word go forth. The Master is the all-around greatest handgunner in the world, a man capable of excellence in the three basic disciplines of competitive handgun shooting.

America's First... America's Only,

TAKOGUNNE

The Masters International Shooting Championship unites the sports of bullseye, silhouette and action shooting in a unique pro-am venue in which competitors shoot three handguns in three events. The events are Long Range (silhouette), Precision (bullseye) and Action (IPSC). Rules come from the three sports governing the firearms and procedures with minor variations added by The Masters. Shooters can use an optical sight in one event only.

The Masters is a catalyst to merge diversity of skill, diversity of discipline, diversity of background. From 14year-old Joe Co to 67-year-old Jim Bates. From eighttime bullseye National Champion John Farley to fourtime IPSC National Champion Rob Leatham. From IHMSA National Champion (standing) Carter Jones to Bianchi Cup Champion Riley Gilmore. From greenhorn novice to consummate professional. The Masters is the Bismark of handgunning, the great unifier.

TOURNAMEN] MASTER

50 CENTER

THAT AND THE

SE CASES

In addition, The Masters attracts those handgunners who have not yet competed in major state, regional or national matches by establishing a pro-am division like in golf and tennis. The Sportsman class is for shooters who A) have never finished in the top 25% of a major tournament and B) have won less than \$100 in shooting competition.

The Professional class is for money winners and top finishers in recognized tournaments. The discipline is



irrelevent-if you've performed well at Camp Perry or IPSC or IHMSA, you're a pro.

Of the 117 registered contestants, 30 entered in Pro class and the rest in Sportsman.

The guns ranged from out-of-the box to exotic custom. From a jazzy 14-inch barreled Desert Eagle semi-auto .357 Magnum to a McMillan glass stocked XP-100, 8 ounce trigger, in 7mm Bench Rest. A 1912 Steyr, Austrian army issue, with bluing worn and surface pitted competes against a shining, full-house Colt .38 Super Wilson Accu-Comp. A \$1,500 Hammerli International .22 rimfire with Aimpoint 2000 scope shoots against a \$150 Ruger Mk. II bull-barreled, stock plinker.

The Masters is a county fair of sport shooting in the Eighties. The match takes place not on a shooting range, but in a shooting *park*. The Pike-Adams Sportsmen's Alliance near Barry, Ill., has created a pastoral setting for the four day match. Towering oak trees shadow the range as neatly cropped lawns sprawl before manicured firing stations. A pond between the silhouette range and the action range ripples gently in the cool breeze as farm ducks quack and geese honk. Children fish in the pond while their parents compete in the match.

This is a family shooting festivity.

Illinois Governor Jim Thompson swooped in aboard his jet helicopter for a special challenge match against S&W president Lee Deters (the governor won). The Illinois legislature, prompted by Rep. Tom Ryder, passed a resolution praising The Masters and its major sponsors: Smith and Wesson, American Handgunner, Winchester, Simmons scopes and Rolex watches.

Yes, the state that brought you Morton Grove now has passed a bill through its legislature saying in part: "... The Masters upholds the intent of the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the state of Illinois, which guarantee the people the right to keep and bear arms..."

Obviously, the good people of Illinois do not share the warped view of that perverse minority in Morton Grove.

Obviously, the good people of Illinois enjoy shooting and the recreational use of firearms. Despite the location in the backwoods, The Masters saw 3,500 spectators *pay* to watch the shooting. Consider—the nearest town of Barry has a population of some 900 people. Many of the spectators, we may assume, drove some distance to share a day of exciting sport shooting with their families.

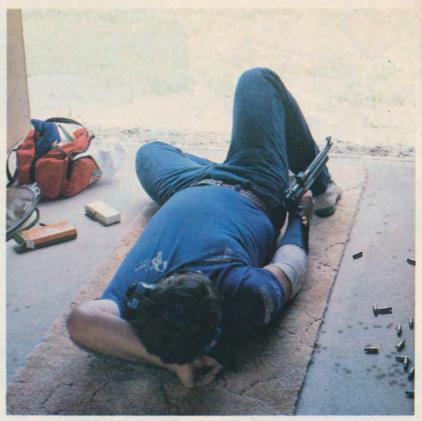
Perhaps the most significant aspect of The Masters is its commitment to stimulating new interest in competitive handgunning by attracting casual shooters to a major match. The Sportsman class featured a daily shoot-off for the *lowest* 24 finishers for – get this! – a cash prize of \$1,000. Pros were ineligible for this as were top guns in Sportsman class. The winners were quickly dubbed "the best of the worst."

Sportsmen enter for half the fee of Pros and compete for half the prize money. First Place Pro, for instance, takes home \$5,000 in cash while First Place Sportsman pockets \$2,500. No small potatoes, even in Sportsman class.

Sportsman class pays cash prizes down to 40th place. In addition, each of the three events offer separate prize money (starting at \$1,250 for first) for placement in the individual stages. A Sportsman who blows out in, say, the Action and Long Range Events can still rake in some dough in the Precision Event.

Needless to say, the Pro class also offers cash. Lots of it. The Professionals compete to win double the amount of Sportsmen. Then again, they pay double the entry fee.

The Master received \$7,500 in cash and a specially engraved Rolex watch valued at \$1,500. Of course the Master picked up a bit of "stage money" in the process. A paltry two grand, as I recall.



IPSC World Champion Rob Leatham was on a roll in the Long Range Event until the bolt-stop on his XP-100 broke. The bolt sailed back six-feet as Rob snapped the action open to reload.

ANATOMY OF THE MASTER Wayne Bowker

Precision Event

2600 Club NRA Distinguished New York State Champion, 1976, 1978 Pennsylvania State Champion, 1975, 1977 Indoor Civilian National Champion, 1979 Civilian Expert National Champion, 1976 Camp Perry National Championships, 1976–1980 California Indoor State Champion, 1986

Action Event

Bianchi Cup 1980: 19th 1981: 19th 1982: 24th 1984: 16th 1985: 11th 1986: 24th **Steel Challenge** 1984: 28th 1985: 34th 1986 California Action Shooting Championship: 2nd IPSC New York State Champion: 1981 and 1982 **Great Lakes Section Champion: 1982** IPSC Nationals: 1981, 1982, 1983 Southwest Pistol League: Record Holder, "Stop n Rob"

Long Range Event

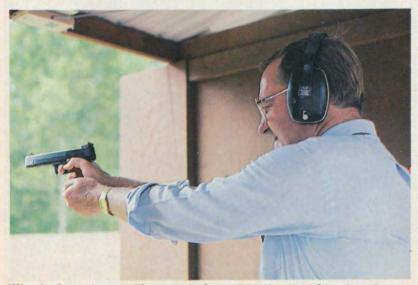
never shot silhouette



1986 Second Chance bowling pin champion Ken Tapp hoses down the plates in the Action Event. Ken's shooting a custom Colt .45.



Pat Sweeney slapped a scope on his IPSC Colt .45 auto for the Long Range Event. He shot well despite the rainbow trajectory.



Illinois Gov. James Thompson beat S&W's president Lee Deters in a special challenge match. The governor shoots a S&W M-41.

The Masters offered a total of \$85,000 in cash, more greenbacks than any other match to date. (Yes, the Steel Challenge has a larger purse, but that purse is comprised mostly of merchandise, not cash.)

hree disciplines, three handguns.

Does the precision inherent in bullseye produce The Master?

Does the finesse inherent in silhouette produce The Master?

Does the versatility inherent in IPSC produce The Master?

Or is The Master a mixture, a man equally adept at all three?

The 1986 Master is an IPSC and bullseye shooter who has never fired a round in silhouette. He had never even heard of the Creedmore position until three weeks before the match. Apparently skills acquired in IPSC and bullseye are sufficient to carry a proficient shooter through long range shooting.

The Master is Wayne Bowker of Long Beach, Calif.

Wayne's competitive shooting began the traditional way with bullseye. As can be seen in the accompanying box *Anatomy of The Master*, Wayne turned to IPSC and action shooting in the early '80s after participating actively in bullseye in the '70s.

"There's no doubt in my mind," The Master reflected, "that if you can shoot bullseye, you can shoot anything."

The 37-year-old father of twin boys said the Long Range Event was the most difficult because it was alien to him.

"It was very refreshing, it was a real challenge. The bullseye wasn't a problem, but the Long Range-I didn't even know what the Creedmore position was!

"I shot it incorrectly, as a matter of fact," the soft spoken Master continued, "They told me later I was supposed to put my elbow on the ground. I just kept my arm straight and locked like in IPSC."

He borrowed a stock XP-100 from a friend. His XP favored a load of 30 grs. of WW 748 under a 145 gr. Speer boattail. A Williams rear sight was the only addition to his factory XP.

Wayne selected the Precision Event for the one-stageonly optical sight. He mounted an Aimpoint 2000 on a 7%" S&W Model 41 with Herrett "trainer" stocks shooting CCI Green Tag ammo. He explained the bright red dot of the Aimpoint "adds about 10 targets to my score."

For the Action Event, Wayne shot his IPSC Colt .38 Super customized with all the bells and whistles by Dick Crawford. His load was light, 3.7 grs. of WW 231 under a 158 gr. Hornady lead bullet.

Editor's Note: American Handgunner is extremely enthusiastic about The Masters. We will be running a continuing series of articles about The Masters including a more detailed profile of Wayne and how he won The Masters in a future issue.

he Masters proves that pistolsmithing is a thriving art in America. Lord, but there was a dazzling array of wild and wonderful guns!

The innovative handguns surfaced in the Long Range Event. The Precision Event was fairly staid with Model 41 Smiths dominating and Mk. I Rugers also making a good showing. Surprisingly, there were very few expensive European target .22s. The Action Event attracted a preponderance of Colt .45 autos with a sprinkling of .38 Supers and a handful of wheelguns.

The unananimous vote for Gamiest Gun has to go to a scratch-built hand-rifle of ungainly proportions (see accompanying photo). Starting with only a Sako A-II action, gunsmith John French fitted a 15" stainless barrel in .308 Win. (That's .308 as in .308 rifle cartridge, not

the .308x1¹/₂.) A Burris 4X scope provides a sighting system.

The Sako action was modified to accept a 10-round M-14 magazine. The Long Range Event has portions calling for 10 rounds in 90 seconds, 9 seconds per shot, urging a shooter to reload rapidly. The box magazine is obviousy faster than single-loading.

A Timney trigger set at 1½ pounds makes good trigger control possible.

The frame is milled from a chunk of aluminum in an awkward shape resulting from the weight limit of $4\frac{1}{2}$ pounds (less scope). The gun tips the scales at 4.49 pounds and sports the ticket from a butcher's scale, on which it had been weighed, to prove it.

How does the .308 hand-rifle shoot? Owner Kerby Smith said, "It's a pussycat. Once you've shot a .454 Casull (with full power loads), it's nothing." Accurate too, Kerby boasted.

However, this Star Wars gun was unusual. Most competitors drug out IHMSA unlimited guns. There were some other strange ones, though, as the accompanying photos illustrate.

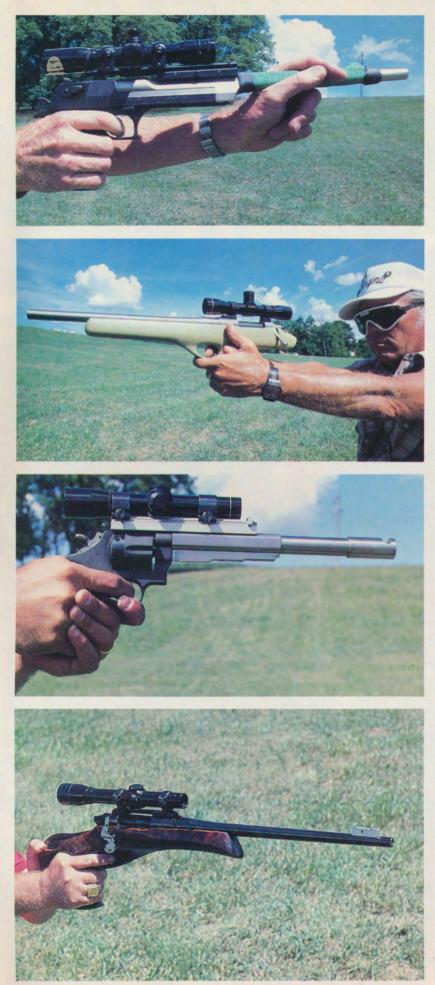
Take Jim Fullwood's 14-inch Desert Eagle autoloader in .357 Magnum. Fitted with a Burris 3X scope and firing a load of Blue Dot powder and a 180 gr. Sierra bullet, the Desert Eagle fared well in the Long Range Event. How does she shoot? "We get three-and-a-half inch groups at 200 meters on a good day," said the native of Kennesaw, Ga., but he added with a grin, "Some days we get three *foot* groups!"

I must confess that Jim's Desert Eagle shattered a prejudice of mine. I should not judge on preconceived notions, but I admit to thinking the autoloading .357 Magnum is inaccurate and unreliable. And too impotent



A custom hand-rifle, above, with a Sako All action and M-14 magazine. It's in .308. Below, Creedmore position stabilizes a custom XP-100 in 7mm IHMSA with fiberthane stock, Bo-Mar rear sight, Bond front hood and Shilen trigger., Among the guns of the Long Range Event, right, from top to bottom, is a 14-inch Desert Eagle .357 Magnum. Then an Ultra Light Arms 7mm-08 in a Kevlar/graphite stock with Leupold 4x scope. Owner Ed Williams says it was built in a week-and-a-half and designed over the phone. Next is an Andy Cannon S&W M-29 with 11-inch barrel and compensator. The Fajen stocked XP in 6mm was declared illegal with two vertical grips. It has a 15-inch Wichita Premium barrel.





for 200 meter knockdown targets. I learned the Desert Eagle, as outfitted by Jim, is both accurate and reliable. I suspect we all fall prey to judging guns based on preconceived ideas, but Jim's .357 auto proves the pie may be tasty even if the crust is soggy.

And then there are guys who make do with what they got. Dance with who brung ya. Pat Sweeney of Redford, Mich., doesn't have a special long range handgun, so he gave this dance to his trusty .45 ACP Colt Government Model. What, an IPSC pistol at 200 meters? Sure, Pat just slapped on a Tasco 3X scope in a Clark grip mount and went to town. You don't have to own three tricked-out guns to shoot The Masters.

Mike Milodragovich of Missoula, Mont., showed us wheelgun technology is alive and well, thank you. He competed with an Andy Cannon customized Model 29 in the Long Range Event. Mike's Cannon Custom sports an 11-inch Douglas Supreme barrel fitted with Cannon's compensator. A Leupold 2X scope in Weaver rings is mounted on the top strap. The slick 29 gave Mike a competitive edge with Cannon's unsurpassed action work resulting in a butter smooth SA pull. Pachmayr grips provide a handle.

Then again you can bring your hunting handgun to the way-out-there event like Denny Ridenour of Grafton, Ill. He's killed five pronghorn and two mulies with his Fajen stocked XP-100 in 6mm with a Redfield 2.5X scope and Wichita premium 15-inch barrel. His Timney trigger set at eight ounces touched off 48 grs. of IMR 4831 under an 85 gr. Sierra BTHP. He added some dead steel plates to his trophy tally.

Handgunner columnist Rob Leatham called on Terry Walker of Gryphon Gunworks to build him a McMillan glass stocked XP-100 in 7mm BR with a 13-inch fluted barrel. He uses Bo-Mar iron sights on his long range gun and shoots a 120 gr. Hornady bullet at 2245 fps.

Rob's bullseye gun is a Clark custom Ruger Mk. II with a 5¹/₂ inch Douglas barrel. He uses his one-eventonly optical sight here, an Aimpoint 2000. His Action gun is his namesake, an Accu-Comp LE (Leatham-Enos) in .38 Super.

Jim Clark Jr. of Louisiana, introduced Clark's new compensator in the Action Event. A refinement of the old Bowling Pin Model, the new comp is called Pin Master and features an effective expansion chamber with a unique sloping front face angled to direct the gases up and to the front. Chambered in .45 ACP, Jim's Clark Pin Master fared well in his capable hands in the Action Event.

Curiously, the Cajun pistolsmmith selected a stock, out-of-the-box XP-100 for the silhouette event. He slapped a Leupold 4X EER scope on top, but otherwise left the Remington single shot alone. What, no trigger job? Nope, Jim said the stock trigger at 2½ pounds was just fine. The fact that one of the nation's top pistolsmiths left this gun alone seems to prove, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!"

The author is an unabashed gamesman and sought a refined scope for his Model 29 in the silhouette stage. The .44 Magnum trajectory calls for lots of hold-over at 200 meters (with a 100 meter zero). The 250 gr. Sierra bullet at 1800 fps drops 25 inches out yonder at 200. The tight time limits prohibit sight adjustments during the course of fire. You cannot pre-set your sights because targets are engaged at varying distances during the 90 second strings.

Hmmmm. The solution, it appears, is a scope with a reticle pre-set for bullet drop. Off went a Redfield 2.5X to Premiere Reticles, a custom reticle maker well known among benchrest shooters, for a standard crosshair with two dots beneath the horizontal wire for *Continued on page 61*

Starting with a Caspian Arms Government Model, custom pistolsmith Bob Cogan works his magic. Many tedious man-hours later, the result is a functional work of art, a super shooting .45 with a glamorous finish!

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his American Handgumer Giveaway Gun is a Special Edition Cogan Custom Speed Comp constructed on a Caspian Arms frame and slide and engraved by John Adams.

This .45 ACP pistol is donated to the American Handgunner and a lucky reader by Accurate Plating & Weaponry Inc. and Caspian Arms Ltd.

The Speed Comp system installed on this pistol is the end result of four years of research and development. Extensive comparison testing of other well known compensator systems currently available was done in an effort to offer you, the discriminating shooter, the ultimate in accuracy, reliability and recoil muzzle rise reduction.

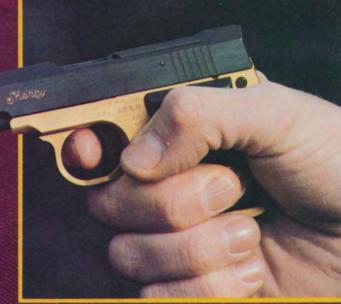
The Cogan Custom Speed Comp includes the following features: Slide shortened half-inch; Speed Comp System; 5-inch Match Barrel; low melt Bo-Mar rearsight; Giles-Clark adjustable slide tightner; hand checkered grip frame, mainspring housing, trigger guard and back of slide lined; special mechanical trigger system; Wilson beavertail grip safety; B&C extended mag release button; extended thumb safety; Ebony grips; Accurate Plating duraguard hard chrome finish. Total value is \$1583. Scroll Engraving of all flat surfaces of the pistol by John Adams, value \$450.

Interested readers can contact Accurate Plating & Weaponry Inc. at 1937 Calumet Street, Clearwater, FL, 33575, (813) 733-0923. Caspian Arms Ltd. at 14 North Main Street, Hardwick, VT, 05843, (802) 472-6454. John Adams, P.O. Box 167, Corinth, VT, 05039, (802) 439-5904. **TO ENTER CONTEST:** Use a postcard, (no envelopes), follow sample; include your name and address; your answers; dealer name, address and phone number. Mail before April 1, 1987. Send to: AMERICAN HANDGUNNER, Dept. H3, POB 880409, San Diego, CA 92108. Limit 1 entry per household.

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Sherry: A Designer Pistol

This .22LR pocket pistol (Calvin Kleins of course) features gold anodized finish and a sound design.

By Joe Zambone

Wilkinson Arms, of Parma, Idaho, makes perhaps the finest 22 Long Rifle semi-auto purse pistol in America today. Their *Sherry* is a marvel of engineering and design sophistication, with features not usually found on small self-defense guns.

The pocket-sized company, best-known for their *Linda* semi-auto 9mm carbine, now makes minuscule weaponry which measures up to all tests. We were curious about how their Sherry stacked up against traditional micro-blasters like the Raven, Jennings and others, so we bought a test model from the only jobber offering this gun to dealers (Southern Ohio Gun Distributors, 105 E. Main St., P.O. Box 332, Lebanon, OH 45036).

We paid three times as much for our Sherry, at wholesale, as comparable .25 ACP pistols sell for, but we think the extra expense is worth it. The old saying "you get what you pay for" applies here, in spades.

The Sherry's frame is machined from high-strength aluminum alloy, as compared to the typical frame which is cast from "white metal" alloy without close-tolerance final machining.

The slide isn't cast of alloy, as found in many small-caliber autos, but is instead lovingly hatched from a block of steel by factory machinists. The six serrations in the slide, for example, are cut with such precision that you cannot detect a rough edge. Every tolerance and measurement we checked was as precise as found in high-tech military weaponry.

To enhance visual appeal, Wilkinson treats the Sherry's frame with gold anodizing, and steel parts with deep-luster bluing which comes out as near-black. The slide's top is matte-finished to reduce glare. The grips are black plastic with gold medallions, while the trigger and magazine release assembly are black-anodized aluminum. The contrast between gold and blue/black parts is striking and transforms the Sherry into a "designer" gun which competes with jewelry for good looks.

To cap cosmetics, the manufacturer engraves "Sherry" on each side of the slide's forward area, and fills it with gold. They also stamp their city and state, the caliber and the serial number into the frame's left side, just behind the trigger. The other side has "Wilkinson Arms," engraved in script. We feel the design is appetizing enough to attract many gun buyers.

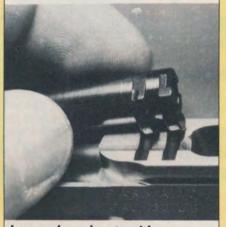
Not apparent at first glance is the detailed thought which goes into the Sherry's design. In the area of "little touches," each grip has a raised forward ridge which mates with a fine groove machined into the frame; this allows one screw to hold each grip firmly in place without shifting.

On the slide, just in front of the rear sight, designers added a small hole which will vent gases upwards should a cartridge case fail, instead of allowing hot gases to travel back along the firing pin channel, then between the slide and frame, and burn the shooter's hand. The closer one looks, the more design excellence one notes.

One welcome feature in Sherry pistols is the steel magazine's capacity: eight rounds, rather than the usual six or seven. You can also chamber a round, offering nine shots without reloading. A hammer-block, crossslide safety allows carrying the Sherry with a



Sherry features petite recoll spring guide rod.



Lugs on barrel mate with grooves machined in frame.

round chambered.

Overall, the Sherry .22LR pistol is $4\frac{1}{4}$ " long, 3 inches tall and .875" thick at its widest point (in the grip area). In short, it's only a wee bit larger than a pack of 100mm cigarettes. At $9\frac{1}{4}$ ounces empty, slightly more loaded, the Sherry won't drag down your pants or hem line when carried concealed.

The steel barrel's length is $2\frac{1}{8}$ ", with sixgroove, right-hand rifling. This sturdy little devil, with wall thickness of nearly $\frac{1}{10}$ inch, snaps into the frame via two lugs; the rear lug incorporates the feed ramp.

Like some sophisticated European auto designs (the Benelli B76, for one), the Sherry uses a bolt rather than the usual integral slidemounted extractor, ejector and firing pin. The bolt is precision-machined from steel, and lifts easily out of the slide during disassembly.

Rudimentary sights are machined into the slide: a tiny bar in front matches a narrow

notch in the rear. They're difficult to acquire in a hurry or in low-light conditions, but this shouldn't matter with a point-and-shoot selfdefense gun.

Disassembly is simple, starting with removal of a screw which goes through the slide's right side and holds the bolt in place. Retracting the slide slightly allows the bolt to drop out; moving the slide forward about an inch lets the barrel drop out; the slide now pulls off frontward and the recoil rod and spring pull free from the frame. This is basic disassembly for cleaning and with practice it takes less than 15 seconds.

FUNCTIONING

Here's what we learned from field tests, and shooting over our Oehler Model 33 Chronotach with Skyscreen III detector system.

CCI brand CB ammo, their HP-Short rounds and other such offerings won't cycle the action in this (or any other) semi-auto pistol. They aren't supposed to, by the way. It takes a certain amount of recoil force to slam a slide back far and hard enough so a fresh round can be picked up from the magazine.

CCI Mini-Caps also failed to cycle the Sherry's action, but we were able to chronograph them anyway with manual feeding. They clocked 386 fps average, with a lead bullet weighing 29 grains. This offers muzzle energy of about 10 foot-pounds (fpe), and would be a good round for in-home or shortrange target practice.

Standard $\mathbf{\tilde{T-22}}$ target-grade .22LR ammo weighs 40 grains, and clocked at 643 fps average in the Sherry. The muzzle energy of about 37 fpe isn't enough to stop a charging felon, but it's still a nice practice slug.

CCI Mini-Mag ammo, with a 36-grain hollow-point slug, clocked at 809 fps average, with muzzle energy of 52 + fpe.

CCI's ultra-quick **Stinger** 32-grain bullet crossed our chrono screens at 908 fps average, with energy of about 59 fpe. This is one of the best self-defense rounds available for .22 LR pistols.

Federal's Lightning ammo, hit 828 fps for an energy reading of 61 fpe. Another superb defensive round.

Winchester Super Silhouette ammo, with blunt-nosed 42-grain slug, wouldn't feed reliably in our Sherry. It's designed for revolver or rifle shooting, and shouldn't be used for self-defense auto pistols. It clocked at 664 fps, with about 40 fpe.

Winchester's **Super-Max** fodder, a new offering, clocked at 842 fps average and 62 fpe, not bad when you consider the .25 Auto's max energy of about 55 fpe.

With full-strength round-nosed .22 LR ammo we experienced no failures to feed in over 300 rounds. Accuracy was on the order of six-inch groups at 10 yards; not targetgrade but OK for plinking or defensive shooting.

There's no suggested retail price for the Sherry, but based on dealer cost it should sell for about \$140. That's a bit much for a pocket .22 LR, but then the Sherry isn't run of the mill. Further information: Wilkinson Arms, Dept. AH, 26884

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By Charles E. Petty

The 1986 Hunters Pistol Nationals saw National records fall like tenpins and provided drama on a scale rarely seen in the laid back world of silhouette shooting. The story will be told around campfires for generations to come: how Larry Weir shot the first ever perfect score and then the next day, with a broken hand, established yet another National record.

The NRA Hunters Pistol and Smallbore Hunters Pistol National Championships were decided at the Rowan County Wildlife Assoc. ranges in Salisbury, NC. There are four targets, fired at increasing ranges, which make up the course of fire. Fifteen shots each are fired at chickens (25 meters), pigs (50 meters), turkeys (75 meters) and rams (100 meters). The 60 shot course is repeated the next day to make the 120 point aggregate required to determine the National





Larry Weir posts the first clean score of 60x60 on his way to capturing the national crown.

Hunters Pistol Silhouette 1986 Championship

Champion.

Competitors in Hunters Pistol almost universally use single shot pistols with the Thompson Center Contender the runaway favorite. Over 95% of the shooters at the Nationals used them and an even larger percentage equipped the gun with some sort of optical sight. Leupold scopes were the most popular with Aimpoint second and everyone else a distant third. Most were rifle scopes which accounts for the rather unusual shooting positions used. There was no clearcut favorite caliber, but the leaders were 32-20, 22 Magnum, 32 H&R Magnum and 357 Magnum. Almost all ammunition was handloaded and many 32-20 shooters were using Sierra 110 gr. rifle bullets.

The word was out that Larry Weir of Dallas, Texas, was the shooter to watch, for he had easily won the warmup match and he was, after all, defending titles won in 1984 and 1985. The first day proved that he was, indeed, the man to beat as he proceeded to shoot a score (60×60) that many thought could not be done. Even though his shooting seemed almost effortless he came from the line each time drenched in sweat and once remarked to a TV reporter, "Don't let anyone tell you this isn't hard work."

All day long he shot at a rapid, rhythmic pace and dispatched 59 consecutive targets. The pressure must have been enormous for, when he raised the gun for the last target, a pig, the shot just wouldn't break and, when it finally did, the pig teetered on the stand for a long moment before finally toppling to the ground.

Later he told me he purposely delayed that

last shot so the crowd reaction would not disturb the other shooters. The consideration was well justified for, when the "game pig" fell, he was surrounded by cheering shooters all of whom seemed as happy as he.

All except one.

As Weir was leaving the line a competitor came forward to protest that, during the period while targets were being reset, Weir was sitting less than the *suggested* two steps away from his equipment. All day Weir had sat on a stool at the rear of the firing line between strings, head down, deep in concentration. The press of the crowd on that last stage caused him to move the stool forward a bit. Maybe he wasn't two steps away but he was as far as he could get. In the rule book the only requirement is that the shooter not handle his weapon and move away from the bench while someone is downrange.

The frivolous protest caused quite a stir. The word "chickenshit" was heard—loudly and often. In fact, heated words were exchanged between the protester and some competitors and the chickenshit departed for parts unknown without filing a formal protest. But the damage was done. A moment that should have been one of triumph for Weir and a vicarious thrill for those of us fortunate enough to watch, was spoiled.

Still, the match was only half over and the topic of conversation became whether we might get to see another perfect score and an impossible 120×120 . The next morning, however, the topic changed abruptly to whether Weir would be able to shoot at all. He came to the range with a broken little finger on his right hand. No, folks, he did not

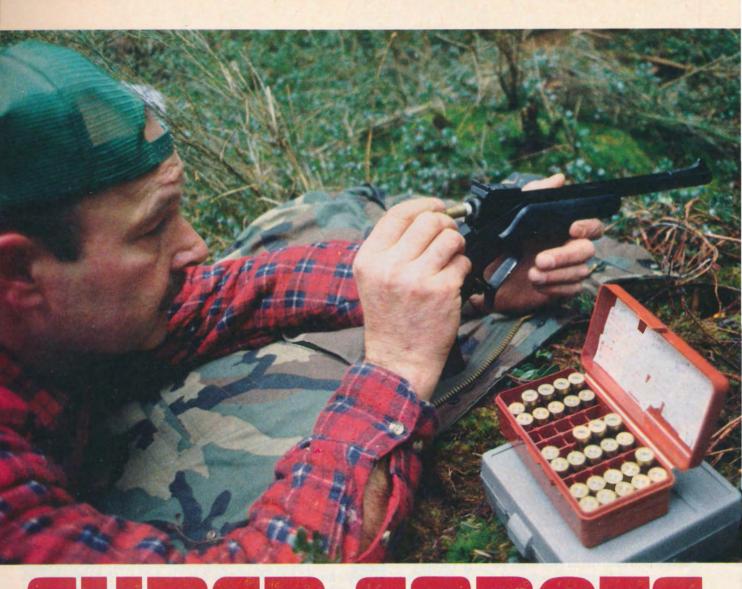
break it on the protester's face.

The gallery was even larger when Weir went to the line the first time and they winced collectively with each shot. Even though he had borrowed a pair of shortened grips, he later told me that each shot was a bolt of pain fired up his right arm. He handled the gun awkwardly and had difficulty opening the Contender to reload. I watched every shot he fired that day and never saw him wince. He had begun the day with a four target lead, but everyone felt that it was a whole new ball game.

Well, it wasn't. In a performance that is probably unparalleled in shooting history, Larry Weir shot 58×60 . While his closest competitors missed targets in wholesale lots, at least by comparison, Weir missed only one turkey and one ram. That gave him a two day aggregate of 118 \times 120, seven points above the previous record. It also gave him his third consecutive National Championship a full ten points ahead of the nearest competitor. A movie script writer couldn't have done a better job.

1986 HUNTERS PISTOL

Open: Larry Weir (118) Master: Jimmy Koon (102) AAA: Jesse Lusk (104) AA: Gary Dowell (97) A: John Ward (85) B: John Daniels (55) High Senior: Thomas McCown (90) High Junior: Raschelle Green (96) High Woman: Terri Rensing (98)



SUPER SABOTS

By Joe Zambone

O ne way to increase bullet energy in any given caliber is to shoot a lighter-thannormal slug at higher velocities. This takes advantage of the ballistic law which states that projectile energy is the square of velocity, but is only directly related (one-toone) to weight. This law is best explained by comparing the 9 mm round to the .45 ACP; despite weighing half as much as the lumbering 45 slug, the 9-mil's extra speed gives it comparable muzzle energy.

However, there's a practical limit to how light a bullet can be in, say, .44 Magnum caliber. A 125-grain slug would be shorter than it is wide, and as ballistically efficient as a light bulb. The solution is to use a bullet of about that weight, but with a smaller diameter for better flight characteristics.

R & R Sabot, Inc., of Danbury, Conn., makes a plastic sabot (pronounced say-bo) collar for handloading, which cradles a .38 bullet and allows firing it in .44 Magnum weapons. The same principle is used in Remington *Accelerator* .30-cal. rifle ammo firing .22 cal. bullets, and in ultra-velocity, armorpiercing military ammo up to 6-inch bore.

The white R & R sabot weighs about 9.4 grains, is 0.592-inch long, 0.427-inch outside diameter, and has 0.037-inch wall thickness. A .070-inch diameter hole in the base allows powder gases to hit a tiny part of the bullet's base, promoting in-flight sabot separation from the bullet. Four slots, .025-inch wide, extend from the sabot's mouth downward for .070-inch; after leaving the barrel, the "petals" formed by these slots are peeled slightly back by wind pressure, and this "parachute effect" helps retard sabot flight to ensure separation.

What appears to be a simple item took

nearly six years to perfect, and is injectionmolded from the world's most expensive plastic (as of March, '86).

"We tried every material we could find," said Read Turner, one of R & R Sabot's partners, "but they either self-destructed, melted or wouldn't take the rifling without shearing. We finally found this Valox-like plastic made by General Electric, but right now there's only about 1,000 pounds of it in the world, and it's really expensive."

Robert Betz, the other half of R & R Sabot, said prices should drop soon, because GE is tooling up to make several tons of the rare material. It seems VCR makers want to try it for gears in place of nylon, because the formula is extremely strong, self-lubricating under heat/pressure conditions, offers a 15-year shelf life, and has ceramic fillers which resist abrasion and wear.

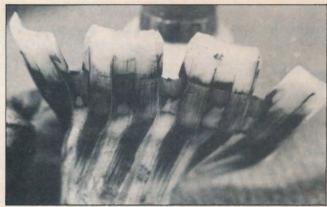


Sabots transform your .44 Magnum into a .357 Scorcher with screeching velocities over 2,000 fps!

"If VCR makers switch to this material," Betz added, "that will lower the price through increased production and we'll lower our prices too." A poly bag of 100 R & R Sabots now sells for \$9.99 plus shipping, a small price to pay for sizzling performance gains.

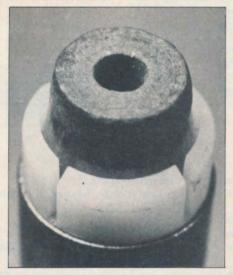
R & R Sabot offers reloading data for 158-grain cast bullets, but our extensive tests were aimed at determining how lighter and heavier bullets would perform. Some facts came to light before the first test round was fired. They warrant your perusal.

First, although the sabot collar is only .427" O.D. by itself, it expands to .429"-.430" when a bullet is inserted, which nicely fills a .44 Magnum's bore. If you size cast slugs to .358" or larger, they'll still seat in the sabot but the bullet/sabot combo may be difficult to start into a cartridge case without excessive belling.



Fired sabot opens with wind pressure and releases bullet. Note rifling marks on recovered sabot.





Second (most important), a .44 bullet seater plug hits the sabot's mouth when short (lighter than 158 grains) bullets are used, resulting in damage to the plastic and an erratic flight path. Use a .38 cal. seater plug, which fits nicely down inside the sabot and allows seating pressure to bear on the bullet nose. My RCBS dies allow such plug changes between calibers.

Third, bullets can be cast, swaged or jacketed, but there's an obvious cost advantage Any style .357 bullet fits in .44 sabot (above). Hollowpoint .357 slug fits inside sabot (left). Mild roll crimp prevents sabot from shifting in case during recoil.

with unjacketed slugs. Home-cast bullets offset the dime-a-shot sabot cost without affecting performance.

Because high-velocity sabot ammo is ideal for varmint or deer hunting, we built test loads with long barrels in mind. Our test guns are a Ruger Super Blackhawk with 10^{1/2}-inch barrel, and a Thompson/Center Contender with both 10- and 14-inch barrels. It was quickly evident that velocities in the Ruger were only 15 to 40 fps lower than in the 10-inch Contender, so we clocked remaining loads only in the two T/C barrels to save time.

The first thing we learned, from a few pretest shots, is that slow powders (HII0, 296), which excel with heavy .44 Magnum slugs, don't perform well with sabots. The collar is so slippery and easy to rifle, and the projectile so much lighter than normal, that slow

.44/.357 SABOT LOADS							
BULLET	POWDER	OAL†	VELOCITY (10" bbl)	ENERGY (10" bbl)	VELOCITY (14" bbl)	ENERGY (14" bbl)	NOTES
105 cast Lee	Unique, 15.0	1.550	2097 fps	1026 ft/lbs	2177 fps	1105 ft/lbs	(1)
105 cast Lee 105 cast Lee	Unique, 16.0 Blue Dot, 20.0	1.550 1.550	2179 fps 1994 fps	1107 ft/lbs 927 ft/lbs	2237 fps 2165 fps	1167 ft/lbs 1093 ft/lbs	
110 JHP	Win 231,12.0	1.530	1837 fps	824 ft/lbs	1908 fps	890 ft/lbs	
110 JHP	Win 231, 13.0	1.530	1965 fps	943 ft/lbs	2033 fps	1010 ft/lbs	
110 JHP	Win 231, 14.0	1.530	2034 fps	1011 ft/lbs	2132 fps	1110 ft/lbs	(2)
110 JHP	Green Dot, 13.0	1.550	1942 fps	920 ft/lbs	2039 fps	1016 ft/lbs	(3)
110 JHP	Green Dot. 14.0	1.550	2063 fps	1039 ft/lbs	2186 fps	1167 ft/lbs	· · ·
125 JHP	Unique, 15.0	1.570	1936 fps	1039 ft/lbs	2013 fps	1125 ft/lbs	
125 JHP	Unique 16.0	1.570	2083 fps	1204 ft/lbs	2133 fps	1263 ft/lbs	
125 JHP	Blue Dot, 20.0	1.570	2033 fps	1148 ft/lbs	2087 fps	1209 ft/lbs	
125 JHP	Blue Dot, 21.0	1.570	2110 fps	1238 ft/lbs	2183 fps	1333 ft/lbs	
125 JSP	Green Dot, 13.0	1.550	1884 fps	985 ft/lbs	1944 fps	1048 ft/lbs	
125 JSP	Herco. 20.0	1.550	2154 fps	1288 ft/lbs	2283 fps	1446 ft/lbs	(4)
*130 FMJ-RN	Herco, 20.0	1.550	2136 fps	1317 ft/lbs	2236 fps	1443 ft/lbs	(5)
*130 FMJ-RN	Blue Dot, 22.0	1.585	2097 fps	1270 ft/lbs	2273 fps	1491 ft/lbs	
*130 FMJ-RN	Blue Dot, 23.0	1.600	2181 fps	1373 ft/lbs	2318 fps	1552 ft/lbs	
*130 FMJ-RN	HS7, 22.0	1.550	2049 fps	1212 ft/lbs	2124 fps	1302 ft/lbs	(6)
140 JHP	Unique, 15.0	1.590	1914 fps	1139 ft/lbs	1978 fps	1216 ft/lbs	
140 JHP	Unique, 16.0	1.590	1948 fps	1180 ft/lbs	2056 fps	1314 ft/lbs	
140 JHP	Blue Dot, 20.0	1.590	2029 fps	1280 ft/lbs	2112 fps	1388 ft/lbs	
140 ЈНР	Blue Dot, 21.0	1.590	2108 fps	1383 ft/lbs	2191 fps	1492 ft/lbs	
140 JHP	Blue Dot. 22.0	1.600	2122 fps	1400 ft/lbs	2236 fps	1554 ft/lbs	
158 JHP	Blue Dot, 20.0	1.605	1986 fps	1384 ft/lbs	2073 fps	1506 ft/lbs	
158 JHP	Blue Dot, 21.0	1.605	2033 fps	1450 ft/lbs	2147 fps	1618 ft/lbs	
158 JHP	Blue Dot, 22.0	1.610	2081 fps	1518 ft/lbs	2207 fps	1708 ft/lbs	(7)
158 JHP	H110, 27.0	1.650	1676 fps	984 ft/lbs	1859 fps	1225 ft/lbs	
158 JHP	H110, 28.0	1.655	1757 fps	1084 ft/lbs	1879 fps	1238 ft/lbs	
158 JHP	HS7, 20.0	1.650	1789 fps	1121 ft/lbs	1888 fps	1250 ft/lbs	
158 JHP	HS7, 21.0	1.650	1880 fps	1239 ft/lbs	1971 fps	1362 ft/lbs	(8)
166 cast Lee	Blue Dot, 20.0	1.735	1945 fps	1394 ft/lbs	2050 fps	1549 ft/lbs	(9)
166 cast Lee	Blue Dot, 21.0	1.735	2064 fps	1570 ft/lbs	2113 fps	1648 ft/lbs	
166 cast Lee	H110, 28.0	1.755	1684 fps	1045 ft/lbs	1824 fps	1226 ft/lbs	
166 cast Lee	H110. 29.0	1.760	1827 fps	1230 ft/lbs	1906 fps	1339 ft/lbs	
170 FMJ-RN	Blue Dot, 20.0	1.735	1887 fps	1343 ft/lbs	2024 fps	1547 ft/lbs	
170 FMJ-RN	Blue Dot, 21.0	1.740	1950 fps	1435 ft/lbs	2076 fps	1625 ft/lbs	
170 FMJ-RN	H110, 27.0	1.740	1711 fps	1105 ft/lbs	1814 fps	1242 ft/lbs	
170 FMJ-RN	H110, 28.0	1.750	1727 fps	1124 ft/lbs	1839 fps	1276 ft/lbs	

 \dagger = Overall length of cartridge

* = .355" nine millimeter bullet

(1) 105-gn loads have recoil of a .38 Special +P, and shed sabot collar at about 12 yards.

(2) Sharp recoil at 14.0 gns Winchester 231, but no overpressure signs. Two top 231 loads have standard deviation figures as low as 2; accurate.

(3) Green Dot loads slightly compressed, mild recoil.

(4) Herco 20.0 fills case to the mouth; charge compressed. Hefty recoil.

(5) Nine-mil bullet is .355" diameter, so heavy crimp was used to retain it in the sabot collar for revolver use. Excellent varmint bullet, sheds sabot at about 40 yards.

(6) Hodgdon HS7 doesn't reach bullet base when sabot is fully seated; might be nice for long, heavy slugs in revolver. HS7 was more accurate in shorter T/C barrel.

(7) Hefty recoil with this load, but both 21.0 and 22.0 Blue Dot loads had very small extreme spread; tests confirmed potential accuracy. Sabot collars haven't shed at 80 yards (practical brushy deer hunting range) with 158-gn bullet.

(8) Nice load density with plenty of room for bullet. Recoil fairly mild.(9) Truncated cone 166-gn bullet design sheds sabot at about 40 yards.

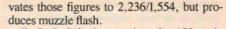
This reloading data is presented for information only. Neither the author nor American Handgunner assume any responsibility, stated or implied, for use of this information because we have no control over individual reloading practices. Start at least 10% below listed loads and work up carefully watching for signs of pressure. These loads are recommended for modern guns in good condition only.

powders don't have a chance to develop peak pressures. What you'll get instead is an awesome muzzle flash, even with a 14-inch barrel, unless bullet weight is around 170 grains.

Our sabots fit so snugly into sized .44 Magnum cases (assorted lots of many-timesfired brass) that we used only a mild roll crimp. In fact, seating resistance slightly deformed the soft JHP noses, making them flatter and wider. It would probably be OK not to crimp if all rounds are intended for single-shot pistols. None of our crimped bullets backed out of the cases under recoil when fired in the Ruger SBH.

We tried 105-grain truncated cone bullets, hard-cast from a Lee mold. With sabot included, initial projectile weight is thus 114.4 grains, and the slowest powder to use is Blue Dot. These tiny slugs barely peek out of the sabot collar, which allows wind pressure to act quickly on the sabot and shed it about 12 yards from the muzzle.

With velocities as high as 2,200 + fps, these are good varmint loads. The mildest of



R & R Sabot's test data for 158-grain rounds, we learned from our duplication loads, is slightly *under*stated. They show 2,104 fps from a 14-inch Contender with 21.0 Blue Dot, while our test load churned up 2,147 fps (and 1,618 fpe!).

Bullet expansion was still phenomenal, and the one slug we recovered had turned into a huge lead wafer. Again, soft nose bullets would insure quick game kills without bullet blow-up. Since this bullet fills the sabot so well, it doesn't separate from the collar even out as far as 80 yards.

A 166-grain Lee truncated cone bullet, cast in extra-hard alloy, is a real sizzler. It offers 2,113/1,648 over 21.0 grains of Blue Dot, and would be even more potent with an extra grain of powder. The nose profile helps shed the sabot in about 30 yards.

Either of the 158 or 166 grain bullets are fine for handgun deer hunting, since their energy levels exceed that of a .30-30 carbine

> Sabot and bullet (left) empty sabot (center) and base of sabot (right).

1,300 + foot-lbs., is a pussycat to shoot.

All told, I chronographed the initial 275 test rounds in a three-hour shooting session, and didn't need a relief shooter to rescue me from undue recoil. None of the sabot loads had the "buck and blast" of a string of Remington 180-grain factory JHP rounds we fired for comparison.

With the iron-sighted 14-inch Contender, test shooters had 158 grain JHP holes cutting each other at 15 yards, with the sabot still attached. Four-shot, one-inch groups at the same range, with 166 grain cast bullets, showed that sabots were just starting to separate.

Long-range tests were confined to 75 yards, with a 10-inch scoped Contender, which is about practical pistol hunting range in my area. Tests were made shooting standing, off-hand, in wind and heavy rain.

Surprisingly, at that range the 158 grain JHP bullets still cut a 44-cal. hole. Despite the sabot being attached, however, we managed two 4-inch groups of four rounds each. We also shot a 5-inch group with 125 grain JHP bullets, but this would undoubtedly improve in decent weather. The lighter slugs had shed their sabot collars at the test range, as did the 166 grain Lee, and the light bullets up to 158 grains.

Accuracy was much the same in other rounds we tested. Some had shed their collars, but the longer, jacketed bullets hadn't. Our feeling is that this doesn't make much difference for hunting, since an attached sabot would aid in creating a wider wound channel.

. 38 SEATER

DIE FITS IN-

SIDE SAROTY

HITS BULLET

NOSE. BEST BET!



these loads, in the Ruger, still cranked out 900 + foot-pounds of energy (fpe) five feet from the muzzle.

Sierra 110-grain JHP bullets were tried with fast powders which are suitable for short-barreled revolvers. Some impressive velocities came in our T/C test barrels, and the heavier Green Dot load at nearly 2,200 fps is a dandy varmint round.

Sierra 125-grain JHP bullets perform better with the same 20.0 or 21.0 grains of Blue Dot than did the 105-grain bullets, but not as well with identical charges of Unique. It appears that Unique is most efficient for bullet weights of 100 to 110 grains, but still works well with bullets up to 158 grains. Blue Dot, on the other hand, works best with bullet weights from 125 grains on up.

Our hottest 125-grain load, using 20.0 Herco/14-inch T/C, clocked over 2,200 fps. At that speed, the soft hollowpoint bullet simply disintegrates on impact with dirt. We never recovered a slug. Flat nose bullets would be a better hunting choice, since they'd still expand at practical hunting ranges.

Our 130-grain FMJ tests were run to see if 9 mm bullets (.355") would work in sabot collars. They do, very nicely.

Bullets weighing 140 grains actually clock faster than lighter slugs with the same charge of Blue Dot, since there's finally enough weight to allow efficient powder burning. A slightly-compressed 21.0 grain Blue Dot charge produced 2,191/1,492 – which are, respectively, muzzle velocity and muzzle energy. Adding one grain of Blue Dot eleand even outperform a 300-grain factory .45-70 slug fired in a Hand Cannon

44 SEATER

DIE HITS SABOT

AND RUINS IT.

DO NOT USE!

Contender. Our last test load used Sierra 170 grain silhouette FMJ bullets, which performed well also. The R & R folks are running ballistics tests on 180 grain Speer Silhouette bullets now, and state that the rams fall nicely at 200 yards when this slug is used with 20.0 grains Blue Dot. They say it's possible to use .35 cal. rifle bullets too, but no load data is yet available.

Some of the more potent loads have a fair kick, but this is tamed by the heavy Contender pistol. We found that all Unique loads give a sharp, immediate jolt to the hand, while Blue Dot's burning curve spread recoil over a longer time for less jolt (but still more overall recoil). And slow-burning H110, which produces energy levels as high as A fresh twist would be using large slugs cast from pure lead, which expand dramatically yet stay together on impact, rather than blowing up on flesh as JHP handgun bullets probably will.

Bulk-packed .38 cal. SWC swaged bullets, such as those made by Alberts, perform well for a hunting role and allow enough cheap practice for a shooter to become proficient.

"No Federal Firearms License is needed to buy sabot collars through the mail," said Turner. "And we offer custom-loaded sabot rounds too, built to the customer's

specs, for about \$14 a box of 20." R&R Sabot, Inc. Payne Road, Dept. AH Danbury, CT 06810 For *orders* only, call toll free: 1-800-325-8399 For *information*, call 1-203-790-7495. Recognizing the almost universal desire pistol in competitors to use a personalized pistol in competition, the founding group of IHMSA provided for these shooters by forming the Unlimited pistol category.

The basic unlimited pistol rules were laid out during IHMSA's founding meeting at the 1976 Championships in El Paso, Texas. During the intervening years a number of clarifications have been issued by the IHMSA Executive Committee, however, the rule retained its basic intent and any pistol legal for competition in 1976 would be legal under the current rule.

The IHMSA Unlimited rule is "A gun to be anything other than a Production gun with maximum barrel length and sight radius of 15 inches and a maximum weight limit of 4th pounds, unloaded with magazine. The sight radius to be measured from the rear edge of the front sight, if an open sight is used, or from the aperture insert if a closed sight is used, to the rear surface of the blade, peep hole, post or aperature of the back sight as seen by the eye in sighting position. The overall length of all sighting apparatus including hoods, covers, tubes, sunshades, extensions or whatever, shall not exceed 18 inches."

"Barrel length is measured by inserting a rod down the barrel until it makes contact with the bolt or breech face, then a straightedge placed horizontally across the muzzle of the highest part of the crown. The distance between the bolt face or breech and the top of the crown, thus measured, is the official barrel length. The overall length of Unlimited pistols may not be more than 25 inches. Measurements to be 'square' or parallel to center line of bore. Shooters may not qualify in Unlimited classes with Production guns. If a muzzle brake is used it must be measured as

part of the barrel length."

IHMSA UNLI

"Not allowed are scopes or any optical device, artificial rests or supports, slings, padded or unnecessarily heavy clothing, or any kind of wrist or arm supports or bracelets.

Friction materials or padding used on the shooter's clothing or on any part of the gun have been ruled as violating the artificial rest rule and will not be allowed.

The next few years saw a real race among shooters and gunsmiths to see who would produce the magic pistol and design the perfect cartridge. Literally hundreds of wildcat cartridges were designed and tested against the steel. The ideal cartridge is still thought to be one which recoils like a 22LR with the trajectory of a laser and the power to knock over a Sherman tank. Constitutes a bit of a design problem, but a lot of people are working on it!

Desert Eagle

Remington XP-100

Weatherby Unlimited

Remington XP-100

The firearms manufacturers recognized the growing market for long range steel bangers and T/C was the first to enter by releasing their 14-inch Contender barrels and target wood. The T/C 14-inch combination has been successful because it offers a good cartridge selection and accuracy at a price hundreds of dollars less than a full-house custom Unlimited pistol. Many of the top Unlimited pistol competitors began their Unlimited competition by installing the 14inch barrel on their trusty T/C Contender Production pistols.

In 1978 I had the opportunity to test fire

80 x 80 Unlimited Champions

Year	Champion	Action	Stock	Barrel	Cartridge	Gunsmith
1978	Stan Hanigan (KS)	XP-100	Rem.	Douglas	.308 Win.	Radke
1979	Dave Tobin (CA)	XP-100	Western	Douglas	7mm U	Ugalde
1980	Jim Jonason (CA)	Wichita	Factory		7mm IHMSA	
1981	Mike Averre (WA)	XP-100	Western	Douglas	7 x 51	Top Hat
1982	Joe May (OH)	XP-100	Fiberglass	Douglas	.308	Sinclair
1983	Pete Ball (CA)	XP-100	Western	Douglas	7mm	300 BJR
1984	Lon Pennington (CO)	XP-100	Western	Douglas	7mm	Unknown
1985	Darrel Crofford (TX)	XP-100	Western	Rem.	7mm BR	Unknown



By Bert Stringfellow

Single shot hand-rifles are the name of the game!



Weatherby's prototype Unlimited pistol, chambered in 7mm/.240 Weatherby belted magnum. Although deadly accurate, I felt that the cartridge, which pushed a 154 gr. Hornady bullet out of a 15-inch barrel at 2650 fps, was too much for silhouette competition. The final version of Weatherby's factory Unlimited pistol was released in .308 Winchester chambering.

Weatherby produced 200 pistols in the first production run, 25 of these pistols became limited edition pistols for the IHMSA membership. The remainder appear to have gravitated to collectors. Due to a problem with his action builder, Weatherby discontinued production at the completion of his first run.

During this same period Jim Rock, manufacturer of the Merrill single shot pistol, introduced a 14-inch barrel for the Merrill chambered in 7mm Merrill. The 7mm Merrill being a .225 Winchester case necked up to a 7mm. The Merrill Unlimited pistol became popular with a number of shooters on the West Coast who performed quite well with the combination.

Wichita Engineering (later to become Wichita Arms) entered the market during this same period with an Unlimited pistol based on their benchrest single-shot boltaction set in a center grip Fajen stock. Wichita chambered their pistol for all the popular calibers.

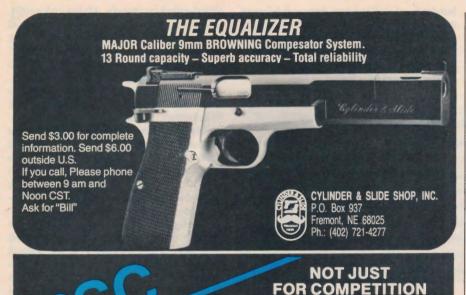
Remington's XP-100 action is the basis for the majority of the custom built Unlimited pistols. The XP-100 chambered in 7mm BR is well accepted by the competitors and is successful both as manufactured and customized. Remington sells the XP-100 7mm BR less sights, allowing the buyer to choose from the sights available or develop his own combination.

Firearm accessory manufacturers recognized the demand for the specialty items required by the growing sport of pistol silhouette. George Peterson, owner of Western Gunstocks, designed and supplies a line of stocks for the XP-100, the Wichita, Thompson Center Contenders and custom bolt action pistols based on the smaller Sako actions. Peterson also offers center triggers for the Sako and light-weight bolt shrouds for the Remington bolt actions. Fajen of Missouri also offers a full line of stocks for Remington, Wichita and Contenders.

The bolt action has been the basis for all the winning pistols. All the bore diameters from .224 to .458 have been tested and tried by the Unlimited pistol enthusiast. The most successful bullet diameters have been in the range of 6.5mm through .308.

The search for the perfect Unlimited pistol and cartridge is still in progress. Every year at least one new pistol design or cartridge is introduced at the Internationals. Two new pistols which have shown up of late are the MOA falling block pistol with a line of new wildcat cartridges and Pachmayr's bolt action conversion for the Colt auto frame. Both of the pistols have desirable features as do all the new designs. I'm going to keep looking. Who knows, someone may just come up with a recoiless ram seeking laser.

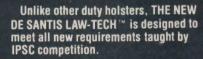
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Now available for the Beretta 92 SBF, other models under development. If department requires variations of the basic holster, we would be glad to quote vou.

Precisely planned, THE LAW-TECH ** MAGAZINE CARRIER is cut very low in front, as in competition pouches, and magazines HOLSTER AND LEATHER GOODS CO. HOLSTER AND LEATHER GOODS CO. New Hyde Park, New York 1040 New Hyde Park, New York 1040 are widely separated to facilitate proper purchase.

Santis



THE AYOOB FILES

Continued from page 27

behind him, still heavily armed. Two of his five guns, a rifle and a shotgun, were left at the scene, but still at hand were a singleaction .22 revolver in a hip holster and two more shotguns, one of them an Ithaca model 37 pump gun loaded with 12-gauge rifled slugs.

DeBoer headed home, to make his last ditch defense at his own castle. He was en route when the call crackled out over the red transceivers of ISPERN, the Illinois State Police Radio Network that reaches into every patrol car in the state, that an officer had been shot and another had been taken hostage by the gunman.

One of the cars that caught that message contained Corporal Charles Odell and Sgt. Glessner "Les" Davis of the Illinois State Police, who worked out of District 16 in Rockford. They had just been pulling up to the headquarters building in the growing sleet when they caught the broadcast. Odell spun the wheels as he hit his red light and siren, and Davis set aside the reports he'd been working on. He had time to think that he was usually in his own car instead of riding with one of his men, but his unit was now in the repair shop and with it, the standard issue shotgun that rode in the truck. At the moment, it seemed a hell of a place for it. He glanced down reflexively at his service pistol, ISP's standard issue Smith & Wesson model 39 9mm. A sergeant doesn't take his subordinate's own shotgun away from him; if it went ugly. Davis knew, he would have only his pistol.

Soon they arrived at the scene. A cordon of police had quickly thrown up a perimeter around the embattled DeBoer home in the hamlet of Florence Station. Davis was the ranking man at the scene, and instantly began the task of assigning the state, county, and

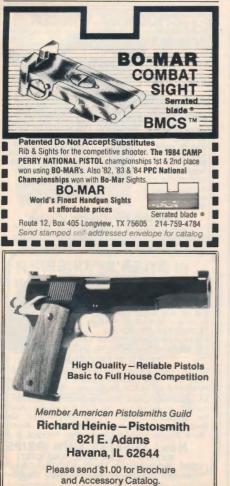
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local officers into their positions on the containment ring and directing traffic away from the danger site.

An FBI hostage negotiation expert was on the scene, but had gotten only a busy signal when he called DeBoer's number. For the first of several times during the siege, Davis clenched his teeth in rage at the reporters: it was calls from journalists that had so angered the hostage-taker that he'd removed his phone from the hook, thus putting himself out of reach of any voice of reason. At one point, Davis had to personally remove a TV cameraman who was approaching the house so closely that Davis feared he'd trigger a barrage of fire from the antagonized gumman.

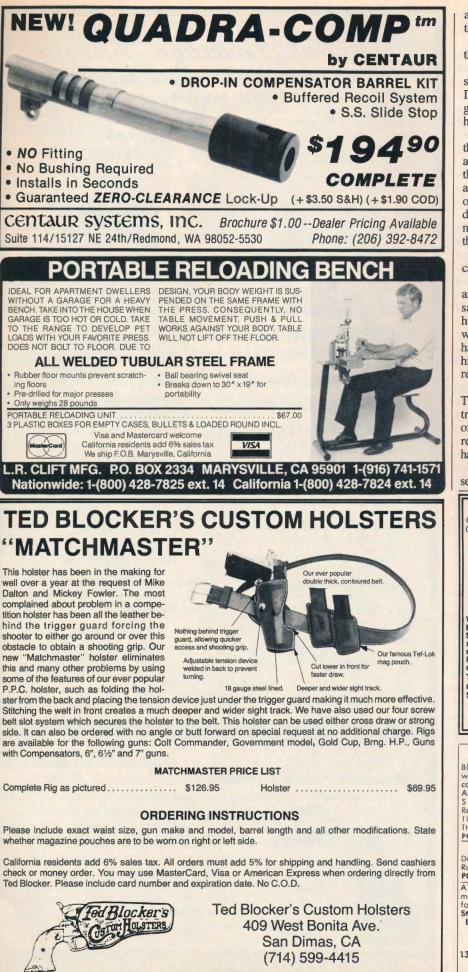
And then, DeBoer himself decided that his world had run out of time. He picked up his own phone, called the police, and delivered the ultimatum: "I'm coming out at two-fifteen," he said flatly, "and I'm coming out shooting. The only way they'll take me is dead. And I'm goin' to take three or four of those (expletive deleted) police with me!"

At about this time, Davis and fellow State Police Sergeant Richard Pratt and a Stephenson County captain had been working on setting up a command post in a nearby building under construction. But now, some 160 yards from the scene, Trooper Pat Young was watching the scene through the $4 \times$ scope of his Winchester model 70 .30/06. ISP does not have a SWAT team *per se*, instead distributing trained riflemen throughout the districts. Young saw a figure in a green jacket move through his crosshairs, and immedi-





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ately broadcast on his radio, "He's coming out the back door now."

Hearing that broadcast, Les Davis knew that they had all run out of time.

The sleet had turned into wind-whipped snow now as Davis and Pratt ran toward the DeBoer house, vaulting a fence and zigzagging past outbuildings, their guns in their hands.

They wound up behind a shed just east of the DeBoer home, joined by a deputy sheriff armed with a pump shotgun. It was decided that they'd move out from different directions and try to pinpoint the gunman. Pratt moved one way, Davis and the deputy in the opposite direction. Davis's recollection of that moment is of an eerie silence, and the feel of the automatic clenched tightly in his fist.

Davis had taken perhaps 25 steps before he caught sight of the man in green.

DeBoer was crouched between his house and an adjacent building. The hostage, Davis saw quickly, wasn't there. DeBoer was hunkered down behind a bale of hay that he was using for cover. A shotgun lay across the hay bale in front of him, and another was in his hands. Davis didn't see the holstered .22 revolver.

He only saw DeBoer turn and look at him. The gunman's eyes flashed and his lips contracted as he recognized the brown uniform of the state police sergeant. Davis would remember only an expression of absolute hatred on the face of Frank DeBoer.

And he swung the gun toward Davis. The sergeant thought frantically of cover, and in



an instant realized that there was none. He was caught in the open. He saw the bulk of the cop-shooter lunging at him now, in a murderous rage, and he looked down the great black eye of the shotgun muzzle.

At that moment, the death battle was irrevocably joined.

Davis threw himself forward and down. It saved his life. The bloom of orange flame cut through the swirling white snow, and the oneounce rifled slug whistled over the diving sergeant's head, passing through where he'd stood an instant before. But Davis was prone now, his left hand in a cup-and-saucer position under the butt of his 9mm, and he began pulling the trigger.

Davis sighted and fired, again and again. He fired so fast that some of the ear-witnesses would say later that they'd heard a machinegun. Yet tachypsychia had set in, the sensation of things going into slow motion, and Davis experienced the gunfight in agonizing slowness.

Davis was conscious of watching his sights, and of his target's reaction. He knew his first shot missed. He saw DeBoer jerk or wince as he fired his second and third 9mm bullets, but the gunman kept coming, like a Golem slogging through the whipping snow, the shotgun still pointed at the policeman.

Davis kept shooting. DeBoer kept coming. At last, Davis saw the man in his sights jerkily dive forward, as he himself had done. Was the attacker going prone, as Davis had? He couldn't be sure. He aimed and pulled the trigger again.





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There was no movement in front of him. Davis got to his feet, the 9mm pointed at the still form sprawled across the shotgun. He jumped to a nearby four-foot fence and braced his two-hand hold against it. He saw other uniformed men emerge from the snowstorm as if from a fog, pressing their shotgun muzzles against the motionless body of his antagonist. Only then did he lower his pistol. He did not lower the hammer and holster the model 39 until he heard one of the other officers yell, "It's all over."

And it was over. Davis had fired eight Winchester 100 grain semi-jacketed softnose bullets, called "PowerPoints" by the factory. Four of them had found the target. DeBoer had taken one in the chest, one in the left side, and one in the neck, and he'd kept coming like The Terminator. Only the fourth and last hit, which caught the gunman in the face, had stopped him. The other three bullets had passed completely through, creating narrow, dimpled wounds: the eighth had exploded the brain and lodged inside, somewhat mushroomed. This had been the killing shot, and witnesses fixed it as either the 7th or the 8th of Davis' rounds.

Robotlike, Davis walked back and picked up his spent magazine out of a muddy pile of manure where it had fallen, and shoved it back into the mag pouch sewn onto the back of his flap holster. Suddenly, he was standing over Frank DeBoer as he was laid on a gurney. The chest still heaved with labored breathing, but the sergeant saw the wounds and knew instantly that survival was not possible.

He had become a creature of training at the



moment the shotgun had faced him: the dive, the sight picture, the "firing until the danger is over" had all been programmed into him for 18 years by the State Police. This was the first time he'd had to shoot a man.

Yet, the training still held. Davis' first reaction was, "We've got to preserve the evidence." And, as someone else stripped the gunbelt and holstered .22 from the dying man's waist, it was Les Davis who thumbed the four rifled slugs out of the Ithaca's magazine, and pumped out of the chamber the empty shell that had almost killed him, and marked them as evidence.

Lessons

Being outgunned is the professional pistolpacker's nightmare. You don't get a whole lot more outgunned than facing a 12-gauge shotgun with an 8-shot 9mm pistol in your own hands. Yet Les Davis prevailed.

Let the questions be answered in Davis' own words. What saved his life? "The train-ing and the practice on the range," answered the man who watched his sights and hit four shots out of eight at 66 feet in poor visibility, in a world where the average cop at 20 feet hits with one shot out of every four or five. Had he been doubtful of his gun, condemned by many Illinois troopers as well as many gun experts as a "minor caliber" weapon? "I'll never feel insecure with it again," Davis answered flatly, adding that he would feel more comfortable if hollowpoint ammo and belt pouches for spare mags were issued. Today, every Illinois trooper carries a model 439 pistol, special Winchester copper-jack-

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Section SR, 420 West Main Street, Geneseo, Illinois 61254 (309) 944-5631 eted hollowpoint 115-grain loads at 1400 fps "+P+" velocity, and a spare magazine in a belt pouch.

During the shootout, a deputy had in fact fired a shotgun at the suspect. But the shotgun was loaded with #6 birdshot, a man-killer at point blank range yet thoroughly impotent at 66 feet. Most of the birdshot charge had spread out and missed the maddened attacker. Three pellets had struck him in the leg, causing him to show no more reaction than if he'd been bitten by mosquitoes. Davis today is contemptuous of any police administration that issues shotguns loaded with anything less than buckshot: Illinois troopers all have shotguns loaded with single Ought buck, with the option of using rifled slugs at their discretion.

Like many cops who've gone almost their whole career without having to shoot, and have then been caught up in the firestorm, Davis wondered for a time if he'd be able to do it again. "I was afraid of that," he told me. "If I'd had to shoot someone again so soon, I might have been branded a 'killer cop.' But it didn't happen, and if it does, I know now that I wouldn't hesitate."

Ballistically, we see that a suspect absorbed three 9mm rounds in vital zones with virtually no reaction until a fourth took out his central nervous system. This was the history of the softnose bullet in law enforcement. The only 9mm round in that configuration with a good track record was the 95grain, dish-nose, Federal cartridge at 1400 fps that superseded the PowerPoint. This in turn was superseded by hollowpoint ammo. Note that three of the four bullets that solidly struck the attacker passed completely through, depositing little energy and making non-dynamic wounds. Fortunately, there were no bystanders behind the psycho gunman to be endangered by the exiting projectiles.

The Davis incident is also an excellent argument for the semi-automatic pistol in law enforcement. Davis recalls that his first shot, fired double action, missed. One wonders how many of the remaining five he'd have had in a double action "police special" that might also have gone wide of the mark.

Under fire from a heavily armed, charging opponent, Davis would not have had time to reload any type of handgun. He reloaded only after the opponent was down, unconscious, and dying from his final wound. Illinois State Police investigation, which encompassed interviews of all witnesses including Davis, indicated that it was either the 7th or the 8th round that reached the brain and shut off the cop-killing assault. Had Davis been armed with a six-shot gun, indications are that he and other officers might have been killed by the wounded tiger who had sworn to force police to kill him, and to die killing them in turn. DeBoer had, miraculously, let his brother-in-law go.

Post shooting trauma occurs even in the most righteous shootings, like this one. Sgt. Davis told me, "I lost a lot of sleep staying up and going over it again and again, wondering if there was some other way. I could never

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find another way."

The felony-stop tactics when the DeBoer vehicle was initially pulled over were not suitable for policemen dealing with a man known to be a heavily armed potential psycho. Fortunately, the wounded officer survived. It is assumed that remedial training in felony car-stop tactics was undertaken by the departments involved. In fairness, however, one should note that it's one thing to do a textbook carstop in the Police Academy parking lot, another thing to do it for real in the presence of an innocent bystander, and on a sleet-swept country road.

A critical learning point is the necessity, when under fire, to keep shooting until the danger has been neutralized. Consider that Davis and the others were in immediate and lethal danger until Davis' 7th or 8th shot dropped DeBoer. The final word on this was the statement by Winnebago County Coroner James Peterson, who after reviewing all the evidence said simply, "It is a good thing Les emptied his weapon."

The bottom line? A pistol can beat a shotgun, if the tactics and marksmanship and cool discipline under fire are there to go with it. Like every other cop who had come close to "putting in his twenty" without having had to use his weapon on the street, Davis had privately wondered if he could really do it if it came down to gunfire. Like most of the others, he discovered the truth for certain only when he found himself in the crucible, and learned that his training had held.

The author wishes to thank the Illinois State Police, Trooper's Lodge #41 FOP, and especially Sgt. Glessner Davis for their contributions to this article.



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The Model 29 resurrected itself from a hohum, keep-em-on-the-paper stock gun into a razzle-dazzle clever-leaf-grouper by way of its passage through Maryland Gun Works. MGW's Lou Ciamillo, president of the *American Pistolsmiths Guild*, installed one of his front-end lockup barrels, like the Dan Wessons, in eight-inch length. Lou slicked up the action for a remarkably crisp and light SA pull and a smooth, glitch free DA. Retiming and relocking the crane added to the 29s accuracy. The 29 favors Sierra's 250 gr. silhouette bullet and WW 296 powder. Hogue Combat grips of gorgeous Kingswood stocked the N-frame.

For the Precision Event, Olympic medalist Don Nygord performed a surgical trigger job, two pounds and crisp as crackers, on the author's M-41 Smith. A Bo-Mar rib with its precise rear sight click adjustments aided a muzzle heavy balance. Herrett stocks with an integral palm rest and sharp, handcut checkering gave purchase to the 41. Best accuracy resulted with RWS R-50 ammo.

Bob Cogan of Accurate Plating and Weaponry was chosen to convert a S&W Model 645 to single-action and install Cogan's effective compensator. Bob replaced the 645 hammer, trigger, sear and disconnector with Model 52 parts to achieve an astonishingly crisp SA trigger. He welded up the awkward Smith safety to minimize the problems of engaging Smith's upside down safety lever. Stippling and recut checkering aided a firm grip.

The Cogan 645 would not function with any handloads, so Federal Match hardball was selected, a bit of a stout load for speed shooting. This was a blessing in disguise, though, as four missed plates fell to the power of the 230 gr. hardball wallopping the plates' bases.



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guns were noticeable by their e author predicted a few .44 Auto show up the Long Range Event, ere seen. Perhaps all of the Auto in the hands of collectors, not Shame, because an Auto Mag ell in this silhouette stage. T/C Contenders put in an , mostly in silhouette calibers like the lack of an ejector in the T/C competitively inferior under the imits of the Long Range Event. y huffing and puffing to pluck out se, grab a fresh one, insert it and e action. son revolvers, hailed in IHMSA category, were few and far Carter Jones, IHMSA Standing er (37), fired a .44 Magnum Dan h a 3X Burris. The author didn't s any .357 Maximum Dan n excellent gun for this event, but

he suspects there were some out there. Pachmayr's Dominator, a bolt action topend for a Colt Gov't Model frame, saw some action in Paul Liebenberg's hands. The La Crescenta, Calif., pistolsmith placed first in Pro class with the help of his 7mm IHMSA Dominator. But wait, surely the Dominator would be even worse than a T/C to reload what with its "shell holder" breech face. Yes, except that Paul's Dominator was modified to extract and, more importantly, to eject. Paul shot with Bo-Mar iron sights.

he 1987 Masters will be August 5–8 and there are two predictions to make. First, the scores will skyrocket.

The Long Range Event was won ith 31 out of 45. Next year, I forecast, the age will be won with a low-40s.

The Precision Event was won with 27 out of 45. Next year look for a high-30s to take top spot.

The Action Event, according to reliable sources, will be altered making a prediction here impossible.

The second prediction involves the turnout. Only 117 shooters gambled on a new match, but now that The Masters has proven it is the most dynamic match around, the organizers will have to refuse many shooters when they reach the limit of 225 competitors. The 1987 match will be filled to capacity, I predict.

Furthermore, this influx of shooters will come from the Sportsman class. I predict 50 Pros and 175 Sportsmen.





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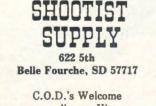
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Oh yes, one last go-round with the crystal ball. As I predicted correctly for 1986, an IPSC shooter will win the 1987 Masters.

he Masters course of fire draws from the three principal disciplines of competition handgunning. The Precision Event is for bullseye enthusiasts and utilizes Olympic targets found in the Biathlon event in which athletes combine alpine skills (skiing) with rifle shooting. The Precision Event targets are falling plates at 25 and 50 meters. The targets are either 4.5 or 1.77 inches in diameter. Shooting is with .22 rimfire pistols. Time limits are fixed varying from one shot in three seconds to five shots in 120 seconds. NRA bullseye rules govern the equipment.

The Long Range Event is for silhouette shooters with knockdown steel targets from 75 to 200 meters. Targets are round, ranging in size from 6 to 12 inches in diameter. Time limits are tighter than in IHMSA, as short as 90 seconds for 10 rounds. Like in IHMSA, a target that doesn't topple, doesn't score. IHMSA Unlimited rules for handguns govern the equipment.

The Action Event attracts IPSC, PPC, NRA Action and various off-shoots of speed shooting such as bowling pin blasters and Steel Challenge hosers. Range is close, targets are big (10 and 12 inch plates) and shooting begins with the gun in leather. Time is your score. Fastest time to knock over the targets wins. Any centerfire handgun of .32 caliber or larger may compete.

An optical sight may be used in one event, and the competitor chooses which event.

Most shooters picked the Long Range Event for a scope, but some savvy contestants selected the Precision Event for an Aimpoint optical sight. In hindsight, it appears the Precision Event begs the use of an optic more so than the Long Range Event. Those itty-bitty 1.77" disks at 50 meters make harsh demands on sight alignment with iron sights.

For a complete, official course of fire, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to The Masters Course of Fire, Roy Jinks, P.O. Box 2208, Springfield, MA, OllO2. Then you too can shoot The Masters at your local club!

RELOADING 32-20

Continued from page 32

groups were blamed on various things powder, primer, reloads and myself. I was out on the range with my 6.5 mm getting varying results with my pet load when a friend wanted to borrow my Pachmayr foregrip as he had forgotten his at home. We put the Pachmayr on his and replaced mine with the wood grip from my 10" bull barrel and went back to my shooting.

The reloads which had been printing three-inches 30 minutes ago were now 11/2"



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at 100 yards. I was excited to say the least. What had caused this sudden shrinking in group size? Could something as simple as changing the foregrip change the group size that much? There was only one way to find out.

He was shooting around a 2" group—we swapped foregrips again and he shot 5 more to show a 50% reduction in group size. Mine opened up again! We did not stop there. He was using a Pachmayr hand grip and I had been using a wood "Hunters" hand grip, so we swapped and his groups stayed about the same, but mine closed up a little, about $\frac{1}{4}$, with the Pachmayr hand grip and wood foregrip. The groups were tighter, but therein a problem arose.

When shooting silhouette there is a 4 lb. weight limit. The Pachmayr hand grip put the Contender over by 3¹/₄ oz. which would have to be shaved off; no easy task as it was already stripped to the bone! In the mean time Ron had put his own hand grip back on his Contender and fired 5 more rounds. The group almost doubled, and the only change had been the hand grip. He still had his wood foregrip on, so we decided to put my hand grip back on his and fire a few shots. The group closed back up. Why?

After thinking about it for a few minutes we found that there was a lock washer in the handle and his didn't have one. We put one in his handle and the group closed back up. How could something as simple as a lock washer change group sizes? Why does the Pachmayr hand grip close groups up and the rubber foregrip open them up? We presented these

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questions to one of our local benchrest shooters and his only reply was-vibration.

With a little more experimentation a rubber O-ring was added between the lock washer and the wood grip. The group closed up for me but didn't help Ron's any.

Through all this I learned that even after you find a load that works well in your Contender, the work still isn't done. Those groups can still be trimmed if you play around a little You shouldn't stop with just the load. As if there isn't enough to do already!

CONVERSATION

Continued from page 30

was, "Look at that guy-that's no way to shoot." We were all excellent hip shots-or rather point shots. Thell Reed was the best. I've seen him reliably knock down iron chickens at 50 meters from the hip. I don't mean once, I mean three out of five. And his misses would be by inches. It proves that if you practice enough, you develop a kinesthetic appreciation of where your forearm is and you can really ring those bells. But nobody could catch Jack once he started using his own two-handed stance.

I conceived and founded the discipline; I promoted, ran and shot in the first contest of this type, and about three years after that Jack invented the stance. I resisted it at first; it took me about two years to learn what Jack had to teach. When I finally went over to the Weaver stance, everything clicked into place.

Jack's dexterity with a revolver was phenomenal. I don't know anyone who can match it to this day. I know Enos and Leatham shoot well with a revolver, but I'm talking about dexterity. There weren't any speed loaders in those days, so Jack would load three rounds at a time. As the second three went in, the



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hand would close the action and the gun would start moving into shooting position. Just as the action shut, the trigger would start back. That oily smoothness is what made Jack so remarkable: he never looked like he was going fast. No lost motion. I think that's characteristic of all the greats. Ray looked slow, but you held a watch on him and you were amazed.

JW: You've trained hundreds of students from all over the world here at API. Are there any students you wish hadn't attended?

JC: We've had several people here at the school over the years that I wish we hadn't had.

We had one kid who split for Canada to avoid the draft-I'd rather he hadn't come but I didn't know that about him.

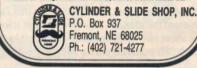
We had one character from Ireland who had impeccable credentials, but when he got here I discovered he was nobody I wanted on my team. But the thing in his case which sort of softened the blow was, because of his lack of self-control, he couldn't shoot. He took both rifle and pistol courses and he couldn't hit his hat because he was so emotionally driven. Then he let it be known that he approved of the disgusting behavior of the Irish terrorists. I wish he hadn't been here. but I didn't know he was connected with them and, as I say, his credentials from the Irish government-I don't mean Ulster, I mean Dublin-were perfect.

Another was a guy who got in here on a recommendation from a close friend and when he got here I found I didn't like his



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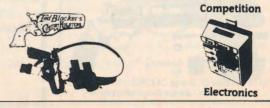
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approach at all. He was strictly gung ho and bragged about what a cutthroat he was. I don't know that he was—he may have just been talking up a storm—but I wish he hadn't come.

And then there was the son of a very important politician who turned out to be extremely irresponsible. I would go even further and say "village idiot" but I can't prove that. I learned not to take a father's word about his son.

JW: On the other hand, are there former students whose lives have been saved as a result of the training?

JC: We have so many of those I wouldn't know where to start. We have about 45 cases now of people who have handled the crisis superbly because they had come here to learn crisis management. And interestingly enough, over half of those people didn't fire a shot. They simply dominated the situation, pretty much in the old Gunsmoke/Matt Dillon style: "Don't try anything with me, you'll lose." Those who did fire have been *invariably* successful. When they come back and tell me that they're alive because of what they learned here, it's very satisfying to us. That's the reason we're in business.

Just as recently as this year – this is the first time we've worked with the Marines – we've had three cases in quick succession of people who had been here and wound up in Latin America and had case-case-case (snaps fingers three times) in which what they learned here had kept them alive. It's marvelous. Hell, that's why you do it. And you can see





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why I get so impatient with these "poolle shooters": they're not serious and I am very serious.

JW: Do you still lecture all the classes?

JC: I try to. In all the time we've been here, I've missed one class completely when I had to be in Europe, and during two or three others I missed a couple of days. During the last 599 I missed Friday and Saturday, but that's rare. While the quality of instruction here is as good or better, the customers don't like it when I'm not personally involved. And there are other little tricks, small matters of technique and control. I feel foolish doing it, but I've found it necessary to show the students that you can shoot a .45 automatic quite well with thumb and forefinger. I find a lot of people won't believe that, so I nearly always do that for the basic class.

JW: There's some confusion about how the famous "El Presidente" drill got its name. Can you clear it up once and for all?

JC: It's said to have originated on an occasion when I was with the President of Guatemala and he was attacked by six assassins, and it's said I killed all six of them—with a reload in the middle. It's a great story; I wish I could remember the incident, but it never happened.

In fact, I did work for the President of Guatemala and I used that drill there for the first time, not for tactical training but as a nerve exercise to get the kids in his bodyguard dextrous with their weapons. There's no possible excuse for shooting the first guy twice if the second and third guys



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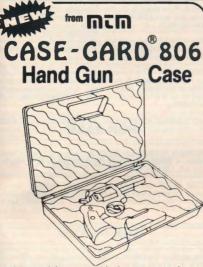
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.41 Magnum bullets, 170-275 grain 410 diameter/JHP/JSP/FMJ/SOLID BOND cores



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When I brought it back to the States I didn't have a name for it but I imagine people knew I had developed it while I was in Guatemala-in those days I was going to Central America quite regularly. Of all people to pick it up were the Australians, and they dubbed it "El Presidente." And then someone else must have fancied there was shooting involved. These stories get around. Whenever you've been doing what you do for a long time, and do it well, people tend to invent stories about you.

JW: It's been 30 years since the first Leatherslap, and, as you've said, you're 65 years old. What's the most difficult part of getting older?

JC: The greatest hazard of advancing age is lack of imagination and lack of desire to explore new ideas. I'm aware of that so I try to stay

open minded.

INSIGHTS IPSC Continued from page 24

Colt is chambering the 10mm Norma in

their Government Model. For IPSC shooters, the ten to consider is not Colt's 10mm Norma, but a shortened version of this cartridge called the Centimeter. We rumbled about the Centimeter a new cartridge just for IPSC! - a while back. but that particular project never bore fruit. The latest word on the revamped effort for the Centimeter is that the guns are ready, the cartridge is ready, the brass is available.

Fathered by noted ballistic gadfly Whit Continued on page 72

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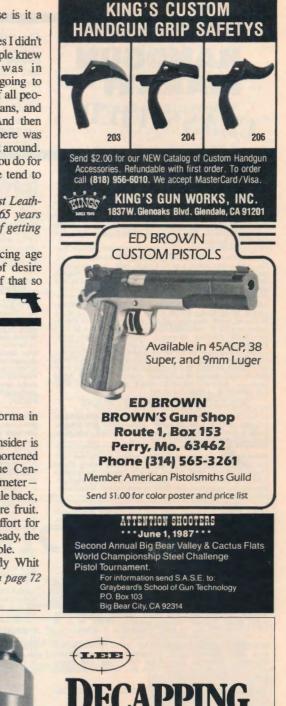
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Continued from page 69

Collins, the Centimeter's standard loading is a 180 grain semiwadcutter at 1,050 fps for a Hatcher rating of 57 and a power factor of 189.

IPSC shooters might prefer the gamesman's load of a 198 grain bullet under 4.0 grains of WW 231 at 868 fps for a power factor of 172. That's cutting it a bit close, so 4.1 or 4.2 grains of 231 might be wiser for a 175 to 180 factor.

The Centimeter case is a hair over a tenth of an inch (.110") shorter than the 10mm Norma. Norma is producing cases and existing 10mm Norma cases can always be trimmed.

Zeroed at 50 meters, the mid-range trajectory is +1.5 inches. The pressure of the Centimeter is moderate at 30,000 psi. You don't have to worry about "Super face" from blowing cases.

Accuracy? Now we must consider the gun for the Centimeter because accuracy is affected by barrels and bushings and fittings as well as the cartridge itself. Nonetheless, the Centimeter is an inherently accurate cartridge like a .38 Special and a .308.

The gunsmith cooperating with Whit on this project is Paul Liebenberg of Pistol Dynamics. The former director of Pachmayr's Custom Shop uses Bar-Sto barrels specially made by Irv Stone. Paul outfits a Colt 9mm or .38 Super to handle the Centimeter by opening up the breechface and other proprietary tricks. Accurate?

"You wouldn't believe me if I told you, so we better just say, yes, it's accurate," Paul reported. Persisting in finding out just how accurate, I finally managed to corner Paul. Admitting that it's hard to believe, Paul said the Centimeter puts 10 rounds into one hole at 25 yards. A hole about the size of a dime, less than a half-inch group! That from a rollover prone position, not a Ransom Rest.

Accurate, reliable, soft recoil. What else would an IPSC shooter want? How about magazine capacity? That too, the custom guns Paul offers stack nine Centimeters in the stick and one in the tube for 10 total. Paul is working on a magazine that holds 10, for a total of 11. Supers, look out!

The Handgunner will carry a full test report on both the Centimeter cartridge and Paul's custom tens soon. In the meantime, you can contact Paul at Pistol Dynamics at 4442 York Blvd., Unit 7, Los Angeles, CA, 90041 or call (213) 255-4743.

LEATHAM'S COLUMN

Continued from page 26

you encounter this, it is a warning, telling you that you are no longer focused on whatever you have chosen. When this happens realize it immediately and return to your focal point. The ability to stay on your focal point will become the basis of concentration. Sometimes you must fight to concentrate. Do not be discouraged for we all deal with this same problem.

Example: At the recent IPSC World

CUSTER DIDN'T HAVE A SUBSCRIPTION TO GUNS MAGAZINE.

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

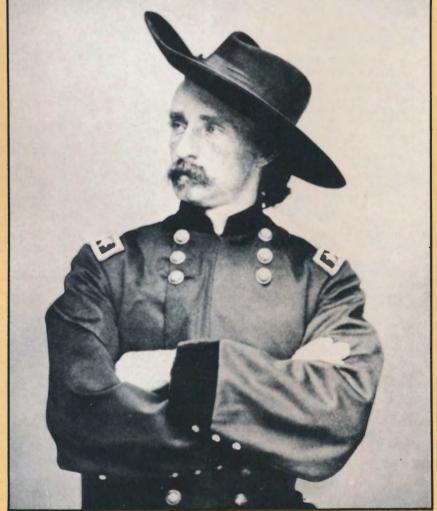
Each issue Custer would have received the latest on:

- Handguns
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- Competitive shooting
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Custer probably realized what he was missing when he met Sitting Bull and 2500 other Indians at Little Big Horn.

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As the commands to fire, "shooter ready, standby," were given, I suddenly found myself thinking about the empty brass laying on the ground I was about to go prone on! Obviously this was not what I had intended my focal point to be. So, as I fell into the shooting position, I told myself to see the sight alignment clearly and remember to follow through on the trigger. Next thing I knew I was putting the safety on and standing up. Scoring the targets showed five clean hits.

This is just one example of many I have experienced. Anyone who has competed for any length of time will have many of their own but few are solved differently than this one. Oh, they may have used a different trick, but the idea is the same nevertheless.

As noted earlier, looking at the sights, the trick used in the above example, is one of the most commonly practiced mind control techniques in the game. The thing you must do is find what point of reference works for you. I know no better way than trial and error. Look at different things, changing your focal point until you come across that little trick that you are comfortable with.

There are exercises you can do at home that will increase your ability to focus both your mind and your eyes. Those involving your sight are easy, those dealing with thought, the mysterious sub-conscious, are a little tougher.

The visual functions most valuable in fast shooting are clear, precise focus and the ability to change focus from one point to another, regardless of distance, instantly. A drill which builds the muscles used and trains the eyes to change the distance at which your eyes focus requires nothing more than a tennis ball suspended from the ceiling by a string. It should be about eye level and all you do is swing it back and forth away from you and simply keep it in sharp clear focus at all times. The faster you swing it, the harder it is to follow.

The mental drills are somewhat more difficult to work on due to their extreme simplicity. One version I use is very easy to do and can be done anywhere or any time. Draw a very small dot on a blank piece of paper. Now try to focus on it and nothing else, blocking out all else you see except the dot. To see only the dot takes incredible amounts of concentration and I personally can only do it for a few seconds most times, and sometimes not at all. The point of this drill is to build such concentration that you see only what you are looking at and not all the distractions surrounding it.

Wouldn't it be nice to look at the sights and see them in sharp clear focus always? And wouldn't it be neat if you could look at the targets and noticed only the part you wanted to hit and not the no-shoots covering it up?

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All these things are possible if only we learn to look at what is necessary and not all the unimportant distractions surrounding us.

These are, of course, simple exercises that on their own are of limited benefit. But when accompanied by lots of practice, on and away from the range, are sure to help every aspiring champion. Mental discipline, confidence and ability will come with time and mixed in proper proportions are guaranteed to make you the best you can be.

BONANZA PRESS

Continued from page 25

designed and fostered this most unusual press, calls, "The Mechanical Advantage of Reloading Presses." I don't understand the engineering jargon and mathematical formulas that inhabit Purdy's tidy little enchiridion; I can only testify to having had a Co-Ax bolted to one of my reloading benches for over nine years, and say that it has the easiest action of any press I've ever tested.

At \$180, the Co-Ax B-2 exists as something of a bargain on today's reloading tool market. Moreover, in my opinion, it is among the most perfectly engineered presses available to the nonprofessional. Unfortunately, this outstanding tool has never been the object of widespread sales campaigning, and so has been embraced by but a few discriminating handloaders. I get letters—lots of letters—from individuals who cite the advantages and disadvantages attendant to using this or that reloading tool. It is significant in this regard to note that, over the years, I have received but one complaint about the Co-Ax. It came from a competing manufacturer who wrote, "The Co-Ax just doesn't *look* like a reloading tool." That may or may not be true, depending on one's cognitive imagery. If, however, all anyone can find wrong with the Co-Ax is its nonconforming appearance, it's time to adjust the picture.

PISTOLSMITHING

Continued from page 10

of needle files and a large assortment of spare parts and specialized individual tools for working on Colt and Ruger revolvers.

"Just how, pray tell," my wife ventured, leaning through the doorway to the shop, "do you propose to cram five gallons of tools and assorted junk into a quart container?" An excellent point. As usual, I had been carried away.

My immediate and undaunted solution brought a groan from the long suffering lady of the premises: I ordered a Kennedy cantilever tool box in the 17" length from Enco Tools, Dept. AH, 5000 W. Bloomingdale Ave., Chicago, IL 60639 (catalog free). When that spacious container for my tools arrived, I arranged them in some semblance





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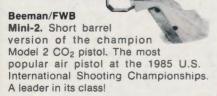
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3440-HG3 Airway Dr. Santa Rosa, CA 95401-2040 Phone (707) 578-7201 of order: cutting tools and reamers together, gauges and precision tools in another section, supplies sorted and labeled and miscellaneous items next to associated things. The final touch was to carefully remove the elegant blue and silver Brownells Armorer's Service Kit label with its badge logo from the small box and transfer it to the side of the new larger one. A plastic name tape on top and a luggage tag with a plastic attaching band through which a spring clip had been threaded made a useful identification and secure closure for the clamp latch. Thus equipped, I set to work trying out my new tools.

Most of the smaller items performed their function without a problem, but some of the larger fixtures were a total disappointment to this perfectionist. I should hasten to remind readers of my tendencies of long standing to expect glitch-free function, and when this is not present, to re-design the offending tool to my own personal satisfaction, based on my own working methods, These methods, also, may not be the "accepted" way to accomplish a given task, because I learned my trade many years before there were armorer's schools or gunsmithing courses.

I talked with the tool designer on the phone, explaining what I felt were areas that could be improved, and my solutions to the problems. He was singularly unimpressed, to say the least. Now, I set to work in earnest: I was looking for perfection, and I wasn't going to settle for less.

Three days later, my fixtures performed superbly and my original expectations were salvaged. I had not cared for the advice to replace the spring in my dial indicator with a heavier one to take up play. A call to the manufacturer of the instrument in question verified my thinking. They stated succinctly that a heavier replacement spring would void the guarantee and would probably damage the internal mechanism, which is guite delicate and very sensitive. I wanted the more sensitive indicator on the extractor rod and yoke tool, so I simply re-designed the indicator holder and made a more accurate tailpiece for the fixture proper. Now it functions to my satisfaction and the clients who watch as I test their extractor rods are impressed with the fixture's ability to diagnose the ills of their individual revolvers.

I have prepared a three-hole-punched report on the exact changes and additions that I made to my fixtures, and any reader may have a copy by sending a request and a selfaddressed, stamped *long* envelope to me at Pistolsmithing, 591 Camino de la Reina, Suite 200, San Diego, CA, 92108.

I really think that my old teachers would be astounded and fully satisfied with the performance of the modern, commercially available revolver tools. It's just that I was thinking, if I attached a round knob to the crane stretching tool in place of the pin, it would be easier to use and more precisely controlled. Oh, well, you'll never have enough tools or sufficient time to make all of the alterations that occur to you as you use them.

HANDLOADING

Continued from page 16

The simple solution is to switch to swaging jacketed bullets.

Corbin, suppliers of complete bullet swaging equipment and components, P.O. Box 2659, White City, OR 97503, has added bullet design software disks for IBM-PC compatibles. The program, they say, does more than compute bullet drop and remaining velocity from tables. It "actually takes your raw data input (caliber, weight, nose shape, core material, jacket material), and produces all the data required to make the bullet, draw it on screen, and fire it. The twist rate to stabilize the bullet, the ballistic coefficient at 2,000 fps, the Ingalls (i) form factor, volume of lead in the shank and in the ogive sections, length of bullet and shank, and dozens of other figures are immediately displayed on screen." Check with Dave Corbin for further details.

Terry Murbach, of Maumee, Ohio, says he still hasn't found a load that'll beat 7.0 grains of Herco behind Hornady's 115-grain JHP in his prized 9mm Browning High-Power. "The Sierra 115-grain JHP is okay, too," he writes, "but it must be seated overly-deep for some guns. Herco's only real problem is muzzle flash in 4" guns." He adds, however, that he's noted no flash in his 6" GP comp tube.

"Good ol' 231," he concludes, "has turned in some good accuracy, but velocities are a full 100 to 150 fps behind Herco."

Colin Lawson, a Scottish shooter and handloader currently working on, as he puts it, "a short-term contract" in Cincinnati, Ohio, reports "excellent accuracy from two loads in the Browning P35, fitted with a Bar-Sto barrel. The first is the Sierra 115-grain JHP in front of 7.2 grains of Herco (maximum listed load!), which gave a group measuring 1.8×1.8 inches, using 30 rounds at 25 meters from Ransom Rest.

"A similar level of accuracy can be obtained using 3.5 grains of Bullseye with a 121-grain cast, truncated-cone bullet. Our best results have been with the RCBS mould, because the rounded-nose profile feeds better up steep P35 ramps than the sharp nose of the Lyman 356402."

Powder man Bruce Hodgdon checks in to note that his Trap 100 will do anything W-W 452AA will do. As if to back his claim, he's listed Trap 100 data for the .38 Super and .45 Auto, as well as a host of heavy handgun magnums, in his new 544-page Data Manual #25. The Manual, which includes loads for Hodgdon, Hercules, Winchester, and DuPont powders in a wide array of handgun, rifle, and shotgun calibers and bores, also has a complete section on silhouette loads. It's available at a suggested retail price of \$14.95 from gun shops. If they don't have it, send \$14.95, plus a buck for shipping and handling, to Hodgdon Powder Co., Dept. AH, P.O. Box 2932, Shawnee Mission, KS 66201.

Keep the load data coming. The address is Handloading, Rt. 1, Box 7, Llano, CA 93544.

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INDUSTRY INSIDER

JERRY RAKUSAN

1987 PROMISES SEVERAL EXCITING NEW HANDGUNS IN 10mm, .44 MAG AND 9mm

In spite of the increasing number of Chapter 11 announcements (LAR Manufacturing being the latest), our past gripes about the perceived quality control problems in the handgun world, and desperate need to get new shooters into the handgun games, there are still some bright spots in the outlook for handguns in the coming year.

First of all there is the Masters Tournament. The concept is brilliant. The execution of the first match was top notch, and the growing interest for similar matches throughout the country is encouraging. S&W is talking about a \$200,000 purse for the 1987 match, and I predict that within the next year or two the Masters will be covered widely by the non-gun media.

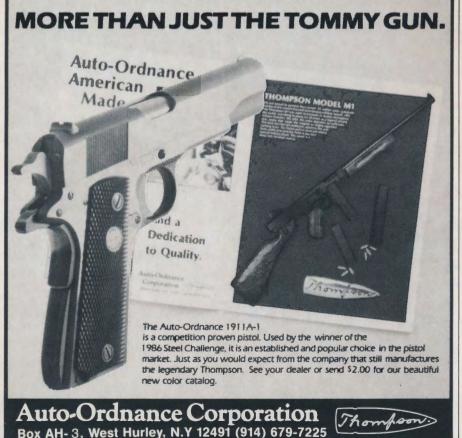
If that bit of sunshine isn't enough to break through the gloom, there is more positive news from S&W. Lee Deters, S&W president, has announced that more than \$200,000 has been allocated to develop a rapid-fire pistol that could win the Olympics. Back in 1984 (in our trade magazine, Shooting Industry) I asked why an American company could not build a gun that could compete against the Swiss and German pistols which were dominating the sport. I had no takers. S&W hopes to have their pistol ready to compete in the Pan American Games this summer.

There is more positive news for 1987. Before the year is out, we should be seeing Ruger's P-85 auto in 9mm.

There is news of a multi-caliber auto coming this year from an outfit called Victory Arms out of England, and another new, fully ambidextrous, fixed barrel, single action auto from a new outfit in Arlington, Mass. Add to this the emergence in 1987 of at least three autos in 10mm, and it appears that there will be some excitement for handgunners in the near future.

Speaking of the 10mm pistols, the word from Colt is that their model will be called the Delta Elite. The configuration will be similar to the current Combat Elite .45, with high profile sights, Pachmayr grips and the triangular Greek letter Delta as a logo.

Another 10mm we can look for in 1987 is the Desert Eagle. Word is that this gun will



be introduced at the 1987 SHOT Show. .

Renato Gamba of Italy has been licensed to produce the famed Mauser HSC pocket auto, and these will soon be imported by Armes de Chasse.

. .

For those who have seen the Calico M-100 rimfire rifle with its unique 100-round magazine, imagine this in a handgun version. American Industries, maker of the Calico M-100 has announced a pistol version. With its 6" barrel and 100 round rotary magazine, it is quite a plinking gun.

The famed Walther PPK pistol, which was banned for importation under the Gun Control Act of 1968 because it was 1/10 of an inch too short, is now being manufactured in the U.S. by Interarms, Ltd. And, it is being made in stainless. It's good to see this handsome .380 auto back in circulation, even at its \$500 plus price tag.

Since the demise of the AutoMag, there has been nothing available for the .44 fan in an autoloader. Now the Desert Eagle, which was first introduced in .357 Magnum caliber, is being chambered for the big, bold .44 Magnum cartridge. All reports so far indicate that it is one shootin' son of a gun.

Blazer ammunition, the non-reloadable, aluminum cased stuff from CCI, is now being offered in .44 Magnum. Not superhot loads, but of nominal power.

Behlert Pivoting Trigger

In an effort to utilize leverage to get a safe 21/2 lb. trigger on a .45 auto, Austin Behlert has designed his pivoting trigger modification.

Here's how Austin describes the modification. He first cuts back the old trigger, sets the action at a crisp 6-8 lbs. and installs a trigger



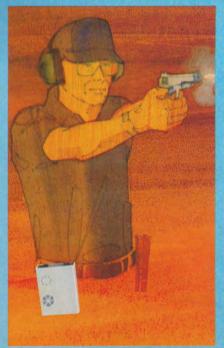
stop in the old trigger. He then mills a slot in the frame to take the new (or front) trigger. This new trigger pivots, with a contact point on the old trigger to utilize the leverage, which reduces the pressure it takes to pull the old trigger through to let off.

This gives the shooter a crisp 21/2 lb. pull that is absolutely safe-no hammer drop to half cock, and no more accidental discharge.

Behlert charges \$125 for this trigger modification if all of the old parts of the .45 can be used. For more information, contact Behlert Custom Guns, Dept. AH, RD 2, Box 36-C Rt. 611, Pipersville, PA 18947, or call to see if there is a pistolsmith near you who is licensed to do the conversion; phone (215) 766-8680.

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