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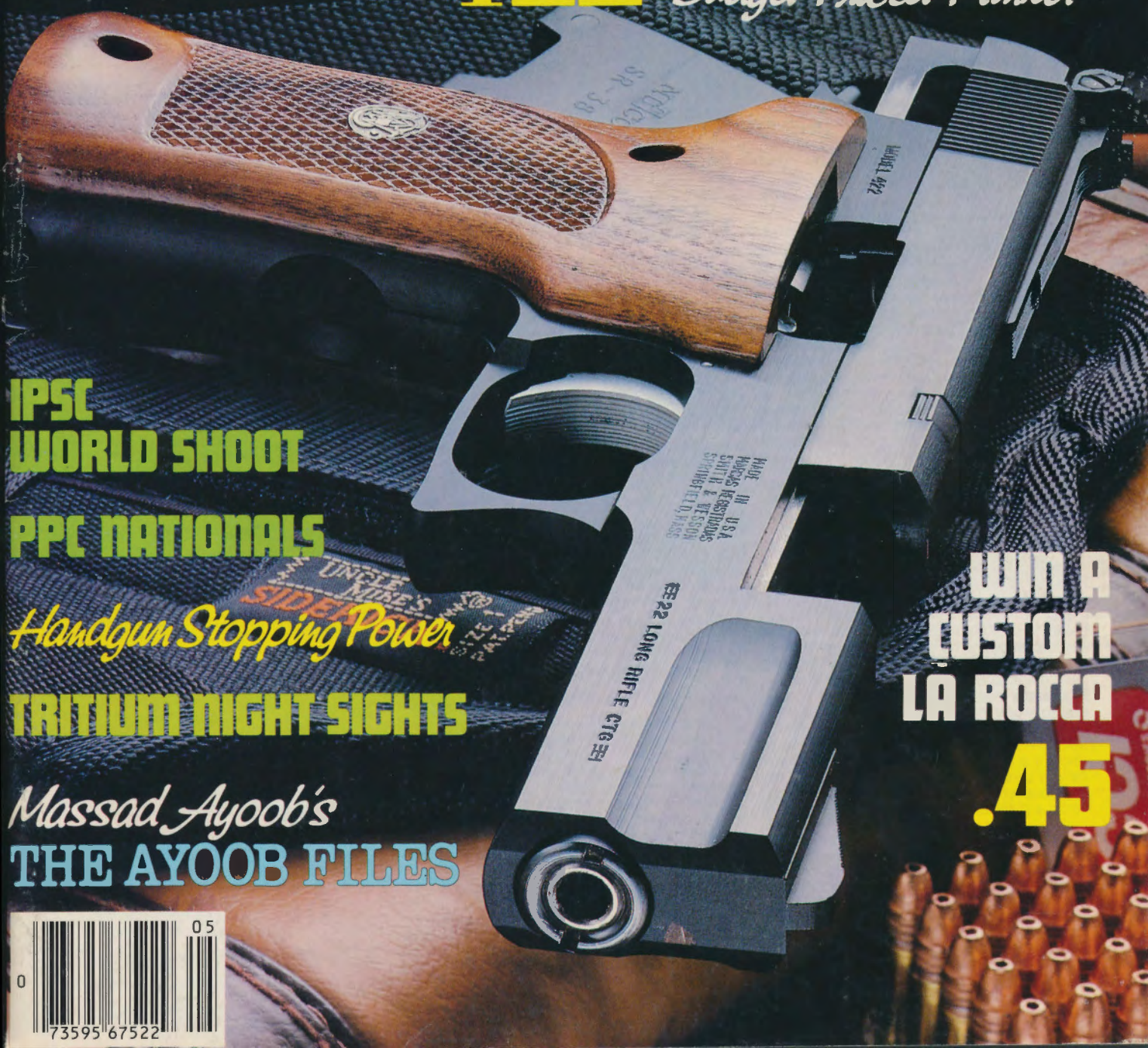
## HANDGUNNER

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Smith &amp; Wesson

422

Budget Priced Plinker

IPSC  
WORLD SHOOT

PPC NATIONALS

Handgun Stopping Power

TRITIUM NIGHT SIGHTS

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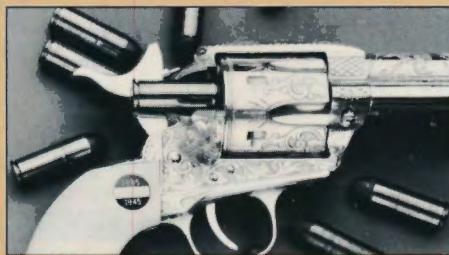
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# HANDGUNNER

MAY/JUNE 1987

Vol. 12, No. 64

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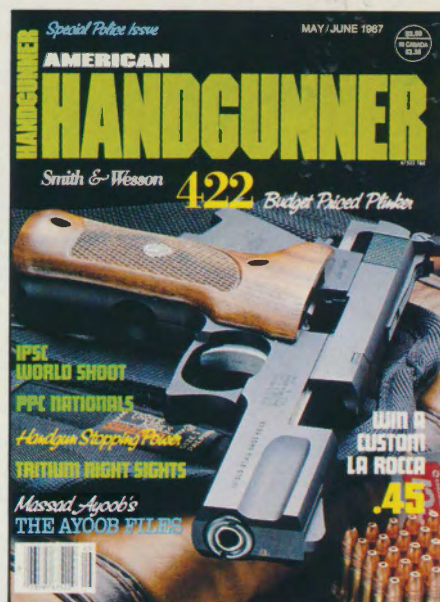
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```
#012 .27 6.67
FIND SHOT 7
```

- You have fired 12 shots.
- Your twelfth shot came .27 seconds after your eleventh shot.
- Your total time was 6.67 seconds.

```
#007 1.54 4.07
FIND SHOT
```

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# HANDGUN LEATHER

AL PICKLES

## SHHH! PICKLES HAS A SECRET ABOUT A NEW HOLSTER DESIGN FROM MICHAELS

Working on the *Handgun Leather* column is one of the most satisfying tasks I have ever undertaken. This column puts me in contact with some of the most cordial people in the gun industry. I don't know what it is about working with leather that breeds such congeniality, but it is certainly appreciated by this writer.

The job—if you can call it that—also presents the exciting aspect of being able to contribute, in some degree, to the development of new designs and products. It is not uncommon for a leathermaker to send this columnist a working prototype of a newly designed holster for testing and comment. This, quite often, involves considerable trust in that patents have yet to be approved in many cases.

The practice, however, does assure that once the design has been formalized, readers of *American Handgunner* are often the first to hear about revolutionary new holster designs and gun carry systems. You may even recall that it was within these pages that you first learned of practical nylon holsters—back when it was still thought to be a passing fad.

I have before me a new holster design that I have recently received for testing and evaluation. This is a Cordura nylon belt holster that is still in the development stage and is, as yet, unnamed. Even the various materials from which it is made are “shop pieces” as witnessed by their raw colorations.

Michaels of Oregon is, without question in my mind, the leader of the pack in nylon holster innovation. While I am sure they will not lay claim to inventing the concept of nylon holsters, they most certainly refined the design, engineering, and material selection.

Michaels also offers what must certainly be the widest selection of nylon holster models and sizes. Whatever your specialized holster needs, if you want it made of Cordura nylon, Michaels probably has something worthy of consideration.

Michaels' latest model, unnamed as it may be, is a belt holster with truly professional features. I hesitate to limit its appeal by calling it a police duty holster, for it most certainly has equal civilian application. Nonetheless, I do suspect that law enforce-

ment is the target market.

This latest Michaels holster design is a snatch resistant (relatively speaking of course) speed rig. It has a belt width adjustment that really works and, practically speaking, will house several makes and models of handguns within its size range.

The holster is an interesting and highly functional blend of Cordura, ballistic nylon, heavy elastic, leather, Velcro, plastic, and thumb-break hardware. It is also a very attractive rig.

Like most Michaels' holsters, the gun encasement body of the holster is a sandwich affair of Cordura outer layer, closed cell foam padding, and nylon inner. Technically I suppose the holster is a break-front but without the traditional spring loading. One does draw to the front, gliding out of the snatch resistant enclosure of the trigger guard, but the slight, necessary resistance is supplied by a wide and heavy duty horizontal belt of elastic rather than flat “U” springs.

The forward edge of the holster is soft plastic. It is unsecured on the top under the elastic belt, allowing the gun to break free, and securely stitched from there on down.

A strap of leather travels from the mid-rear diagonally up to the top where it forms the outside half of the thumb-break safety strap. Another large swath of leather forms the belt loop and the remainder of the thumb break. The center of the belt loop is cut out to accept a unique belt adjustment system featuring a relatively wide strap of Velcro which can be cinched up to firmly accommodate any size belt. Stitching is reinforced, even tripled, at major stress points.

About one inch of the holster bottom is left open, as it should be, to allow drainage and prevent the accumulation of debris.

I have found that my sample will accommodate any make and model of four-inch service revolver and hold it firmly and securely. This is accomplished by, of course, the pressure applied by the heavy elastic front cross piece. In addition, however, the thumb-break safety strap has three adjustment points allowing the correct pressure to be applied from the top. It works very well indeed.

Up until now, nylon holsters were never noted for offering much in the way of a speed draw. With just a little practice, however, I found that I was able to draw my service revolver from Michaels' belt holster with as much speed as was possible with any leather holster featuring a front break and thumb snap safety strap.

All in all I am highly impressed. It seems that Michaels of Oregon has overcome all the barriers that have hitherto prevented nylon holsters from becoming serious contenders for the police market. As a civilian belt holster it is more than worthy of consideration.



*Since the original holster that Al Pickles examined was made, Michaels has made several changes and improvements, so the holsters which will be introduced shortly will be slightly different than the one Al tested.*  
Editor.

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# COP TALK

MASSAD AYOOB

## HIGH CAPACITY NINES GIVE OFFICERS FIREPOWER AND BETTER HIT POTENTIAL

If a cop asks his chief for permission to carry an autoloader on duty and the boss asks why, the answer is likely to come in one word: "FIREPOWER!" While firepower isn't the only advantage of the auto pistol in the police service—nor, to my mind, the most or even second most important reason to have one—it is the attribute most commonly associated with that type of law enforcement weapon.

"Firepower" has good connotations and bad ones. One Ivy League university turned down the request of its campus police to carry S&W 9mm's because the dean felt they didn't *want* firepower. Presumably, the same administration would have put speed governors on the Model 10 .38 revolvers if they could have.

A top firearms instructor at a major police academy was telling me why he thought one particular undercover unit should be restricted to revolvers.

"Every one of em carries a hi-capacity Nine," he sighed, "and it seems like every time they're in a shooting, it's like a contest to see how many rounds they can fire. Maybe if they knew they only had six rounds to shoot with, they'd steady down and hit a few of the bad guys they shoot at, 'cause they sure aren't hitting that many now!"

Yet other departments speak fondly of their fast-shooting new sidearms. Shortly after the Connecticut State Police switched to the 16-shot Beretta 92, their troopers were involved in a running gun battle with some heavily armed thugs. CSP staff says the sustained firepower of their men's 9mm autos was a significant reason for their decisive victory over the bad guys in that bullet-pocked shootout.

New Jersey State Police went to the Heckler and Koch P7M8 pistol, carried with nine Remington hollowpoints in the gun and four 8-round magazines on the belt, after the shootout in which hero trooper Philip LaMonico was slain by terrorist armed robbers. They emptied 15-round 9mm's at the trooper, hitting him some nine times; he emptied his Ruger Security Six without effect and was killed before he could reload. The union, headed by Tom Iskzyricki, lobbied powerfully for high-capacity Nines, and Colonel Clinton Pagano listened to his men.

What convinced skeptics were tests that showed a trooper with the HK gear could fire some 41 accurate shots at 21 feet in 25 seconds, while the same man with the old sixgun and shell loops could manage only 12 rounds. The troopers saw it as an evening of the odds, and the vast majority of Jersey troopers I've discussed it with are delighted with their new

sidearms.

Near me as I write this is a SIG-Sauer P-226 I just bought. It carries 15 9mm Parabellum rounds in its magazine and a 16th in its chamber, and the backup magazine holds 20 more. I find that using this gun without bothering to reload, I can shoot FBI's tactical reaction course in one-fourth of the specified time (12 rounds in 6 seconds, instead of 25, at seven yards; 6 shots each kneeling and left and right barricade in 22 seconds, instead of 90, at 25 yards; and 6 shots standing from that distance in 3 seconds instead of 12, etc.)

A gun that allows you 400% better performance than what is expected with double action revolvers makes sense.

Indeed, it makes *more* sense each year, as an increasing number of criminals learn to travel in packs and make good use of paramilitary urban warfare tactics.

In 1985, New York City's revolver-armed cops took slightly more than five shots per hit to zap the many criminals they had to shoot. Nationwide, it runs about four shots per hit for cops with revolvers, according to the Police Foundation. That four-to-one hit ratio, coupled with two or more perpetrators, leaves the cop with a six-shot weapon clearly behind the eight ball—and more cops and chiefs are recognizing that every day. Given the choice of the .38 revolver versus this fine little SIG, the ugly grey auto is going to get my nod every time.

Sixgunners argue that "firepower doesn't make up for tactics." There are many sound arguments for the revolver in law enforcement, but this is not one of them. Firepower is a *component* of tactics, and has been since the first two Cro-Magnon tribes started throwing rocks at each other and found out that whoever threw the most rocks the fastest generally had a better chance of winning. Virtually every military authority of WWII credited the firepower of the American GI with his semi-auto M-1 Garand as having been an enormous tactical edge over enemy troops who were armed for the most part with bolt action rifles.

Does one need a 16 shot pistol? It depends. A narc who might face multiple armed dopers at once is well served with such a handgun. The cop on routine patrol might find a .45 auto with extra 7 or 8-shot magazines at hand to be an acceptable compromise, as I do. For many, a .357 Magnum revolver with speedloaders is fast and furious enough, and delivers more per-shot stopping power with 125-grain hollowpoints than any auto is going to put out. Each man, each mission decides the proper tool for the job, not a chief in a nice safe office or a gunwriter

at a nice safe desk.

My lightweight SIG would also be a fine choice for the typical off-duty cop who'll carry a gun on his own time, but not spare ammo. Nearly as small and light as my lightweight Commander .45, the P-226 carries twice as many shots. LA deputies tell of the off-duty cop whose 15-shot Smith M-59 allowed him to shoot multiple armed robbers in a savage gun battle and live to talk about it. With a 5-shot off duty revolver, he'd probably be another statistic today.

The P-226 carries with perfect comfort and concealment in my LFI holster from Ted Blocker, and a generation of the New Breed has found that to be true of all the light-frame, high-capacity Parabellums. As Illinois State Police decisively proved 20 years ago, a gun like the Smith 39/439 carries as well off duty as on, and makes the officer much more qualified and defensible with his own-time weapon, both on the street and in court.

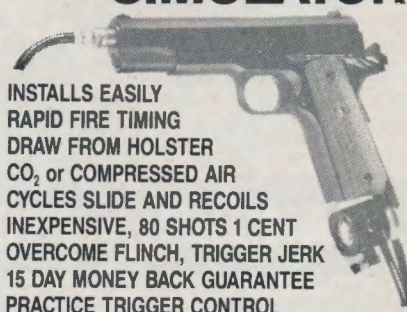
Only gun buffs, shootout veterans, and serious officer survival types, by contrast, carry heavy steel .45 autos or 4" .357s off duty.

When one considers that in a given year in a metro department, some 35% to 40% of the gun battles will involve off-duty or plainclothes cops, this makes sense. Indeed, when the Waltham, Mass. PD became one of the first to purchase S&W's Model 59, the gun that opened the police market to the hi-capacity Nine, they were bought for the detectives.

Today more than ever, the high capacity 9mm autoloader makes sense as an American police handgun. If you doubt that, talk with individual cops from cities like Elizabeth, New Jersey, who are so happy with their SIG P-226's as issue duty pistols that only a 30-hour work week would please them more.



## FIRING SIMULATOR



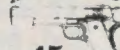
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# LEATHAM'S COLUMN

ROB LEATHAM

## YOU CAN'T BUY BETTER SCORES, BUT A PRUDENT BUDGET CAN BUY BASIC GEAR

The question periodically arises whether or not one can purchase better scores? Bribery of match officials is not the issue we discuss, but rather if the latest whizbang, gadget, attachment, modification will enable you to shoot better. This is a tricky subject because given the right circumstances you might notice wonderful improvement. Others, though, could end in big disappointment.

Say you are an IPSC or Action shooter. You compete regularly at your local club competitions in the "A" or master class. You listened to all expert opinions when you started and bought yourself a suitable, good quality pistol and had the good sights and trigger work done to make it more easily used.

You were told you did not need a fancy, expensive, heavily modified gun and you probably didn't. You were much better off spending the extra bucks on ammunition and instruction fees. But now you are an experienced "A" class competitor and most probably have a full-house gun. This is good as you now can appreciate better the advantages it offers.

But what about those days when you were a beginner? What about all those less experienced shooters who now look to you for all the answers? What will you tell them? Think back on your experiences and save them for the mistakes you made.

I qualify my answers to these questions as I find there is no simple response. If you are well enough off that you can afford the best equipment, then by all means get the best out there. The pride in ownership alone may justify the purchase price. But do not stop at that point, there are many other items also needed. Things which can be just as impor-

tant as the gun. You are much better off to save the price of all those expensive modifications, buy ammunition, find someone to teach you how to shoot your more modestly designed gun and do the more extensive work at a later date. This is how we all did it. I hope you can go out and buy all the best right off the bat but if you can't, don't worry, there are few who can appreciate it at that stage anyway.

Which brings us right back to the real question of what equipment you really need now. We will start from the beginning as many of you who have been doing this for some time may need a refresher and the beginners, first hand information.

The guns we have already covered to some extent so we will only cover them briefly. I use Springfield Armory model 1911's in .38 Super for my general purpose competition guns. They are heavily modified by Wilson's Gun Shop in Berryville, Arkansas. If you are a regular reader of this magazine, then Bill's work will be no stranger to you.

When choosing your own gun, talk to the man doing the work and ask his opinion on what you need. Make sure you are *getting* what you need.

Ammunition. The second most important ingredient. In order to become a good shot you must shoot. To become a great shot you must shoot a lot. The single item all top shooters agree on is you must practice. This creates a need for a large and cheap source of ammo. Unless you are the rich person mentioned earlier, you probably can't afford to go down to the local retail shop and purchase 10,000 rounds of factory ball ammunition. And if you are smart you probably don't want to! I am not knocking factory ammunition. It is generally of very high quality but you can

obtain equally satisfactory results from either a commercial reloader or, better yet, reloading yourself. From a custom reloader, if you have one available, you can purchase ammunition much cheaper than what it would cost new. And depending on the attention paid by the man operating the machine, you can get excellent quality.

But there is another option that is used by most in your shoes. Get a reloading machine and do it yourself. You will be amazed at how quickly a loading machine will pay for itself when compared to factory ammo. And you don't need to be an engineer to use a properly designed machine and first-time load perfect ammo. No longer will you have but one or two choices of ammo to choose from for your .38 or .45. Now you can tailor the ammo to your specific need and your personal gun. It will be just what you wanted, not close. Exactly. And you will know it's good because you did everything yourself. No more wondering if it's going to go Bang!

One last area I would like to cover is protective equipment. Whether shooting combat pistol, PPC, NRA bullseye competition or just plinking, *you must use eye and ear protection*. This is more than just a good idea, it is common sense. If you were to receive a list of testimonials from people who were saved from their own carelessness by a good pair of glasses, or can hear as good as they ever could simply because they used hearing protection, that list would be miles long (depending on how small you wrote!) On that list you would find my name a couple times. I have fired literally hundreds of thousands of rounds and still have excellent hearing, although like many, I hear only what I want. Also, I have survived a couple of incidents with only minor cuts and burns on my face that would have most certainly been more serious without proper eye protection.

For hearing protection I usually wear both the foam style ear plugs and the traditional earmuffs. I most often use only the plugs in competition as the muffs can become quite cumbersome. One last note on ear muffs, several manufacturers produce electronically controlled earmuffs that actually amplify the normal sounds around you yet close out the harsh and damaging decibels created by discharging a firearm. These would be of interest to those already experiencing hearing problems as they still allow you to hear people talking or let you hear impact targets being hit.

Next issue we will cover some other equipment you will need and get into finding a person or facility to teach you those things it would take years to figure out yourself. There are several good facilities around the country and a few competent people who travel around (such as myself) doing seminars and classes at your own facilities.

I will try to answer any letters I can about topics covered in this column and may include any interesting or pertinent ones in the column. Send to: Leatham's Column, American Handgunner, 591 Camino de la Reina, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92108.



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# SILUETAS

TIM JOHNSON

## DISENCHANTED INTERNATIONAL CLASS HAS HOPE IN NEW COURSES AND MONEY

I really don't know. After winning at the Internationals and holding a national record, there really doesn't seem to be much left to achieve. The old enthusiasm just isn't there!", was one shooter's response to the question, "Are you going to the 1986 Internationals?"

It would appear the old guard, after 10 years of participation in "The Iron Turkey Wars" is suffering from battle fatigue. This particular syndrome is most evident among IHMSA's elite corps—the International class shooters.

The world's most accurate pistols can be found in IHMSA's Unlimited category. Many of the builders and innovators of these pistols can be found in IHMSA's International class.

Perhaps their innovation and experimentation has succeeded too well?

During metallic silhouette's embryonic stage (1975–1976), the good shooters hit 28 out of a possible 40. The class break for International in 1987 is 40 out of 40 in Unlimited. Yet, at the 1986 Internationals, there were no less than 33 shooters in Unlimited that shot 80's (two perfect 40's). The absolute winner is determined by the shoot-off. Shoot-off targets are the scaled down rimfire silhouettes at 200M (in championship matches) or the 50M chicken targets

at 200M (in local matches). When a shooter misses, he drops.

Attrition determines the winner. When the difference between the first and second place finisher is two or three chickens, where is the clear-cut winner? If you take the top 10 finishers and run the shoot-off three times, in all likelihood, you'll have three different winners. Gone are the days when a three to five shot difference that could be demonstrably repeated separated the winner from the second place finisher. Gone with it is the glory.

The weapons have also gotten significantly better. The 1800 fps of a 30-30 TC has evolved into the 2500 fps of the current crop of super-duper XP-100 custom Unlimited pistols. Sub-MOA groups if not the norm, then, are at least no longer unusual. Today's weapons have clearly eroded the challenge.

Elgin Gates has always been against IHMSA offering cash prizes. His opinion that it would ruin the good fellowship of the organization is well known. In the U.S. people compete for glory, challenge—and money. To the International class shooter, the challenge and the glory are minimal and the money non-existent. Lower classifications will always have the goals of shooting a 40, setting a record or achieving the next higher classification. IHMSA's upper echelon, by

contrast, seems to be getting bored.

Having said this, guess what IHMSA's elite International shooters do for fun? You got it! Shoot silhouettes! Some new and innovative matches are being shot using the omnipresent chicken, pig, turkey and ram targets.

They've been shooting things like: a 200 Meter Match (all targets at 200M), the Chicken Match (all ranges 50M, 100M, 175M, 200M are shot using the 50M chicken as a target) and a 500 Meter Match (the rifle silhouette course shot with scoped Unlimited pistols). Of the group, the 500 Meter Match has the best potential for restoring the challenge of the impossible 40. Unfortunately, few ranges can extend their firing line to 500M.

What changes could be made that would offer a challenge to the International class shooter yet offer an enjoyable game to the lower classifications?

Firstly, set up a factoring criterion similar to the major/minor caliber designations of IPSC. Unlike IPSC, use case size rather than power to determine the designation. The .223 (and those of similar size) cases would be designated as minor calibers. The 300 Savage, 30-30, 35 Remington, .356 and .375 Winchester based cases would rate a major caliber designation. Minor calibers would be forced to shoot at different ranges by extending the firing line to 75M, 150M, 225M and 275M. Major calibers would shoot the same 50, 100, 175 and 200 meter targets with one exception—weight!

It would be a simple matter to weld a U-shaped bracket to the target legs. A weight increase could be realized by driving lead ingots into these brackets. The chicken could be made heavier by 5 lb., the pig by 4 lb., the turkey by 3 lb. and the ram by 2½ lb. Granted, a 2½ lb. increase in ram weight does not sound like much. But, by making the targets hard-set a significant increase in knock down difficulty would be realized.

A vexing question arises. Do I shoot the inherently accurate small cases and risk marginal rams, or do I suffer a beating from the larger calibers and shoot the closer targets?

A more interesting (and more expensive idea) would be a special "Heavy Metal" money match having its own distinctive targets: a 50M warthog, 100M standing grizzly, 200M rhino and 250M mastodon.

An invitation would be sent to those competitors who could prove (by score card) one half of his scores were at least 38 (96%) and paid a \$200 entry fee upon request. The non-silhouetter would have to shoot in two matches, IHMSA or NRA, to achieve his 96% rating. No rating, no shooting! Prize money could be split 75/25 (competitors/hosts) from entry fees, donations and promotions. Of the 75% prize money, the winner would get one-half. Second would net 25%. Third would garner 15%. Fourth would receive 5% as would Fifth place.

Everybody else would get a heartfelt thanks and better luck next time. That payment scale ought to put a little pressure on! Money, challenge and glory—with enough of each—metallic silhouette could be the 21st century's Shutzenfest.



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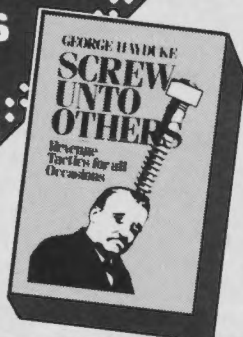
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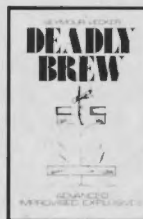


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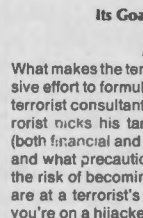
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# THE GUILD SPEAKS

GEORGE WESSINGER

## SPECIALTY TOOLS FROM GUILD MEMBERS SIMPLIFY AND EXPEDITE CUSTOM WORK

I started in the pistolsmithing trade many years ago. At that time there were schools designed to teach general gunsmithing and repair and some custom rifle building, but there was nothing to help the budding pistolsmith learn. The special tools available were for the general trade working on rifles and shotguns. The only tools appropriate for handguns were at the respective factories where the guns were produced and were not available to smiths on the outside.

I was fortunate to have had a very healthy education, in my early years, from the three major American handgun manufacturers. I happened to be in the right place at the right time, and was able to get into these factories as a student and even as an employee in several. This was an education I could not have bought and by getting on the inside I was able to get dimensions and at times even drawings of most of the special tools used in the manufacture and service processes.

In the early stages of my business I didn't have the machines necessary to make tools, but I was acquainted with several machinists and was able to have many of these special tools made for my own use. As time passed I acquired more and more machines and began to make more of my own special tools.

I designed a lot of new ones myself, but many were designs of other Guild members. Through the American Pistolsmiths Guild, I know a lot of fine pistolsmiths. And many of them have shared their designs with the membership in general. Some have well equipped machine shops, some with very modern, state-of-the-art CNC machines. These members are capable of turning out some very useful and ingeniously designed tools and fixtures.

As a group, Guild members are capable of making any fixture, assembly tool, gauge or special tool needed. The problem is that it is not practical for a shop, that has a machine used for making custom guns, to shut down long enough to make one (or even several) special tools, for someone else. It just is not practical unless a rather large number of the tools are made and could therefore generate a profit. Until recently none of us had the ability to market tools in quantity so very few were available to the new pistolsmiths.

For years there have been special tools and fixtures made for the general gunsmith, for work on rifles and shotguns. Most of these have been available through Brownells Inc. (Dept. AH, Route 2, Box 1, Montezuma, IO 50171). This is a fine, family owned organiza-

tion that has been furnishing tools and related products to gunsmiths for years. They are always growing, and with increased interest in the handgun shooting sports over the past 10 or more years they really started a serious search for quality tools for pistolsmiths. Bob and Frank Brownell are associate members and supporters of the American Pistolsmiths Guild so it was only natural for them to look there for handgun related products.

The first Guild member contracted to build pistol tools for Brownells was Ron Power of Power Custom (Box 1604, Independence, MO 64055). They began by offering several of Ron's tools and now carry over 40 of his items, mostly for the custom revolver. Lou Ciamillo of Maryland Gun Works (26200 Frederick Rd., Hyattstown, MD, 20871) was listed in an early catalog and now offers a large assortment of tools and accessories. Several special revolver and auto tools produced by my custom shop are also featured. Other Guild members whose products are offered through Brownells include Bill Wilson (Wilson's Gun Shop, PO Box 578, Berryville, AR, 72616), R. E. "Smoky" III (4418 Central Ave., SE, Albuquerque, NM, 87108) and Jim Clark (Clark Custom Guns, Route 2, Box 22A, Keithville, LA, 71047).

Although Brownells does not manufacture tools themselves, they have contracts with well-qualified specialty machine shops to produce them. They offer a large and growing list of tools and fixtures under their own name. They are offering several basic tool kits for the beginner and several complete tool kits for the police armorer. This list features tools designed for the beginner, the hobbyist and the accomplished professional, for building the latest in custom handguns. Most of the top pistolsmiths are capable and well equipped to make their own special tools. However, it is often more practical and economical to buy a quality made tool, at a reasonable price, than to spend the time necessary to set up a machine and make it in house.

Another Guild member that has been providing special tools, mainly for the S&W, is Francis Brown of Precision Specialties (131 Hendom Dr., Feeding Hills, MA, 01030). These tools are available direct from Fran. Write and request his catalog. Items manufactured by the other Guild members, who are listed previously, may be purchased directly from them, also.

As a pistolsmithing instructor, I attempt to check out all ready-made special tools and fixtures available, in order to recommend the best ones to the students. Occasionally, I find one that is poorly designed or made and of course I want to steer the students away from it. The tools discussed here, manufactured by members of the Guild and other qualified shops, are of excellent quality. Without exception, the ones I have used and tested from the sources listed here do the jobs they were designed for. Cost of these items is generally reasonable, in light of the limited market and when the quality of construction is considered.



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# PISTOLSMITHING

JOHN LAWSON

## FOUR CRAFT GUILDS FOR PISTOLSMITHS OFFER DIVERSITY OF MEMBER BENEFITS

The origins of Craft Guilds are lost in the haze of antiquity, but it is almost a certainty that at least two existed during Biblical times. The oldest would seem to be an association of artificers in metals at Tyre, a seaport on the Mediterranean coast, that became a model for all later alliances. What these early craftsmen called themselves is not recorded.

What is certain is that the early Norsemen were the first to call their craft associations Guilds. Webster's dictionary says that the term guild is from the Old Norse word, *gildi*. And, an interesting sidelight is that some of the first craft guilds were formed by artificers in metals, the early weapons and armor makers.

During the Mercantile Period, guilds flourished and some historians give France credit for both their origin and proliferation, but it is recorded historical fact that the Steinmetzen, or stonemasons of Germany, predated any known French guild, as did the cloth weavers of West Flanders, a political subdivision of Belgium, not France. And, a further interesting note is that the German masons were the first guild to admit both operative and purely speculative members. That is, an initiate might be an active stonemason who worked at the trade or a man who was merely interested in the philosophies and technology of the craft.

Of the four guilds available to pistolsmiths, two admit only operative members while two also admit speculative, or associate, members. All four are androgynous associations, open to both men and women in the craft.

The two strictly operative guilds are international associations, rooted deeply in London Craft Guild practice, roughly equivalent to an American closed shop trade union, while the other two are American only and both fraternal and social in nature. While there may be some superficial resemblances,

none of the four are AFL-CIO affiliated labor unions. Membership will not give a candidate instant prestige and status or assure employment, and all demand certain obligations to the craft and agreement to a code of business ethics.

Each, however, offers its members a slightly different package of trade connections, publicity, benefits, education and social advantages over going it alone, through a closer association with like-minded fellow craftsmen. One confers Range Official status and allows trade displays at affiliated meetings and matches.

One word of caution: there is a profound difference between agreeing to a simple code of business ethics and to an unconditional guarantee. In this day of million dollar lawsuits and prohibitive insurance premiums, be absolutely certain that you discuss and understand the legal ramifications of any guild-required guarantees with a practicing attorney in your state before you sign an agreement regarding product liability. Liability laws vary in all 50 states and vary again if you do business interstate. Under certain conditions, you may actually be assuming the original firearms manufacturer's liability in perpetuity by such agreements.

It is interesting to note that many of the shops with the best reputations, some of whose names are household words, offer no specific warranty. The reason is abundantly clear: a million dollar lawsuit could put you and your family on bread and water for the rest of your life. That \$50 attorney consultation fee is tax deductible and money well spent by any company, large or small.

As water seeks its own level, a prospective candidate should choose an affiliation carefully and wisely, according to the dictates of personal philosophies and projected goals. He will, after all, very probably maintain that affiliation for a lifetime.

Professional Gunsmiths of America (Box

224E, Lexington, MO 64067, (816) 259-2636) offers prospective members a newsletter that includes question and answer and advertising sections where a puzzled pistolsmith might find the answer to a question or advertise services to the profession. The PGA is building a gunsmithing school that will have some of the top names teaching classes to members. Also in the works is a gunsmithing magazine that will be for sale to the general public, a vehicle that will provide publicity for members and inform the consumer of services available. PGA was organized in 1985. Open to general gunsmiths.

American Pistolsmiths Guild (Rt. 1, Box 40, Chapin, SC 29036, (803) 345-5472) offers members the opportunity to become associated with many of the top pistolsmiths in America and publicity through national publications. Founded in 1977 by eleven of the top recognized pistolsmiths of the day, the association was dedicated to ascertaining the competency of members before admission, to provide a free exchange of technical data between members, to foster a fraternal feeling among members, to advise shooters of Guild members in their immediate vicinity and to advance the image of pistolsmithing in general. This association is right for pistolsmiths who work on PPC and IPSC weapons as a specialty, though many members also work on duty weapons.

Combat Pistolsmiths Association (1810 East Columbia Ave., Tacoma, WA 98404, (206) 474-5465) is dedicated to pistolcraft as a Martial Art. Prospective members must specialize in duty or street carry weapons. The member's newsletter discusses the problems and solutions found in everyday shop work, as well as those encountered on the street and firing range. When accepted to membership, the candidate is given Range Official status, required to act as a range officer at local matches and is further allowed to have a trade display of his goods and services at meetings and matches. Members are all affiliated with International Combat Shooters Association and U.S. members with Pacific Pistolcraft, where classes are offered and regional matches held. Organized in 1961 by gunsmiths who were dedicated to providing reliable, accurate hand weapons for servicemen and civilians leaving for the Vietnam war.

Guild of Master Craftsmen International (166 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex, UK, BN7 1YE) is dedicated to the preservation of individual craftsmanship as both an art and a craft. A quarterly magazine keeps members in touch and some local groups have formed in the U.S. The Guild of Master Craftsmen would especially appeal to firearms engravers or those who produce the magnificent pieces dedicated as commemoratives, but all pistol craftsmen are welcome to apply for membership.

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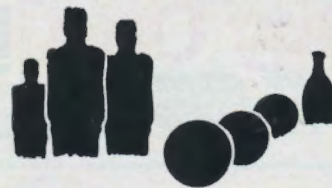
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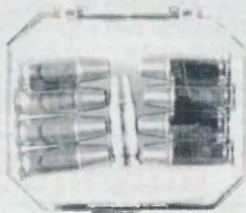
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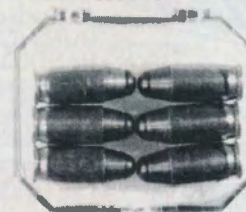
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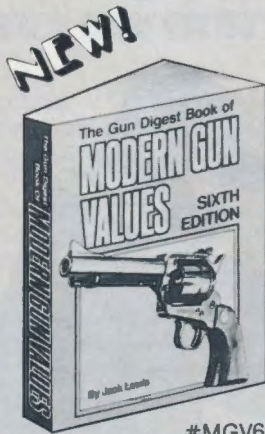
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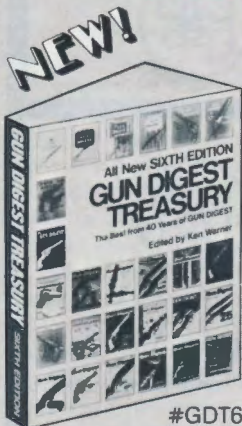
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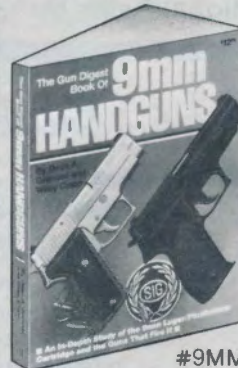
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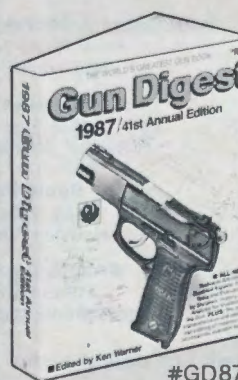
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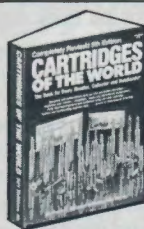
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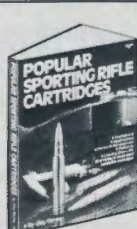
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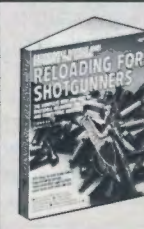
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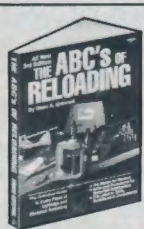
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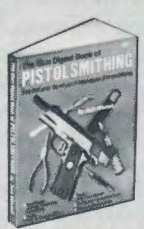
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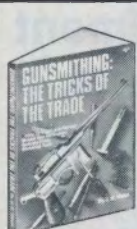
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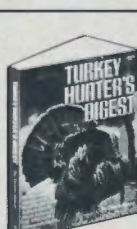
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# HANDLOADING

DAN COTTERMAN

## BATTLE OF THE BULGE—HOW TO SIZE 9mm WITHOUT RING AROUND THE RIM

A few issues back (Nov/Dec '86), we pointed to an error in one of the major reloading manuals wherein the 9mm Luger section stated, in effect, that making tapered carbide sizing dies was practically beyond the capabilities of most die manufacturers. Jay Postman of RCBS snapped back with, "All carbide resizing die inserts are tapered!"

Now, in the hope of advancing our knowledge of 9mm resizing and carbide-insert resizing dies even further, we offer a few significant comments from handloader

George V. Sheaks of Ventura, Calif. He begins his letter by noting the ugly, over-squeezed, "hourglass" configuration of his 9mm handloads, then goes on to explain why it happened and how the condition was corrected.

"Many 9mm sizing dies oversize the case near the case head, thereby leaving the case with a dished-in appearance and an unwanted shoulder near the head. The 9mm case is a tapered rather than a straight case—the die manufacturers know this of course—but

some literature on the subject seems to suggest that carbide sizing die inserts cannot be made any other way but straight. Therefore, if a 9mm sizing die is straight, which some of them may be or nearly so, the case walls near the head will have to be oversized in order to properly size the neck portion for bullet tension.

"I started loading the 9mm with a 1983 Lee carbide sizing die and encountered the situation mentioned above . . . however, when loading new cases or fired cases that were not bulged from firing (therefore not requiring full-length resizing), this problem could be avoided by backing off the sizing die to neck size only. This worked well with the heavier Federal and Remington cases, but the lighter Winchester cases would not be neck sized enough for sufficient bullet tension.

"Neck sizing worked well until it was time to reload the cases a second time after firing. Ammunition fired in my 9mm handguns results in slight case bulging, which makes it desirable to full-length resize for aesthetic purposes as well as for functionality. However, to full-length resize with my die meant that the case would end up with the dished-in appearance and neither alternative was acceptable, leaving the case bulged or going with the dished-in look.

"Still believing that all 9mm sizing dies were straight or nearly so, I considered purchasing a second sizing die directly from the manufacturer, but having them open it up so it would size the base of the case to a perfect .390" and then using my current die to neck-size for tension—a dual sizing operation, but one that would be worthwhile if results were good.

"I next wrote to Lee Precision, Inc., about this modification and a few days later received a telephone call from Mr. Lee advising that such a modification could be done for \$20, but that it should not be necessary since their 1986 9mm carbide sizing die will size to .390" rather than to the previous .387." I immediately purchased one and results can only be described as near-perfect.

"I first set up the die in a single-stage press and adjusted the die to full-length resize with the bottom of the die making contact with the shellholder. The case looked to be perfectly sized: no oversizing near the base, and you could even observe a taper in the sized case (a surprise since I was still expecting a straight-walled sizing die). The only small problem was that the case necks were sized a little more than they had to be and, regardless of the neck expander, there was a slight bulging of the case neck (like some military .45 hard-ball ammunition) after bullets were seated.

"To almost completely eliminate this bulged-neck appearance, it was only necessary to back off the sizing die about 1/16-inch. This still resulted in sufficient sizing of the case to completely remove all traces of bulging from the base, and at the same time reduce the amount of neck sizing. Winchester cases, along with the Federals and Remingtons, had proper bullet tension and loaded rounds could pass as factory ammunition."

Sheak goes on to observe that a similar

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situation exists with the .380. "My carbide RCBS resizing die also oversizes .380 cases by a small amount when full-length resizing, again leaving the cases with a dished-in appearance. I haven't yet attempted to find a die that is more dimensionally correct—the last I knew Lee did not make a .380 die\*—but there is a solution that is effective through the use of a double-sizing operation.

"A standard .38 Special sizing die is almost the same diameter as the base of a .380 case, being just slightly larger, and running fired .380 cases through the .38 die will almost completely remove any bulging near the bases. If your .38 die sizes a little bit on the tight side, it will do an even better job. Then it is necessary to adjust the standard .380 die to neck-size only, and size the necks for bullet tension. The .38 Special die will not contact the neck areas of the fired cases.

"I have been doing the initial sizing with the .38 Special die in a single-stage press, but this dual sizing operation could be set up in a four-station progressive loader, provided that the decapping pin is removed from the .380 die used to neck-size, and that bullet seating and taper-crimping is done with a combination seater/taper-crimp die like the RCBS.

"Most or maybe all currently manufactured die sets, including carbide sizing dies, are designed with a slight radius at the mouth, which helps funnel the case into the die. . . . This feature is not all that necessary with single-stage reloading, but it does offer an advantage with progressive loading where cases must be aligned with three or four dies at the same time.

"A disadvantage of the tapered-mouth sizing die is that it will not size the case quite as far down the case body as it would if the die mouth were square. This is a consideration with once-fired military .45 ACP cases where it may be desirable to full-length size all the way to the extractor groove. My Lee sizing die will not quite do this; it leaves a small but unsightly shoulder near the base of the cases, but an older Lifetyme carbide sizing die that I have will completely resize the case, because the die mouth is square . . . reloaders can improve the appearance of the .45 rounds by using a square bottom die, at least for the first time that once-fired military cases are sized and loaded.

(\*Lee Precision manufactures three-die sets in .380. These include a carbide-insert resizer and Lee's Powder-Through Expander Die.)

West Coast Ammo (12981 Herrick Ave., Sylmar, CA 91342, phone 818-362-7413) is selling handgun bullets with a .004" copper plate. Bullets are cast using 6% antimony, 1% tin. Despite the copper plating, which is added to eliminate leading the bore, the WCA bullets I've been loading and shooting—158-grain .357" SWC, 240-grain .429" radiused flatnose, and 230-grain .452" RN—include a single lubricant groove. The groove is filled with a blue substance which, according to my tests, doesn't have to be there, because bore leading doesn't occur when it's removed. Nor is accuracy affected, because the WCAs have been capable of printing five-shot clusters of

less than an inch at 25 yards, even when I've applied a little heat to them so as to melt away the lube before they're seated.


The old Western copper-plated bullets also had a single lube groove, actually a shallow serrated cannellure, that was more or less filled with a sticky brown substance. Removing it would sometimes allow a slight amount of leading to occur, especially after prolonged shooting sessions that would cause the barrel to heat up. The plating on the Westerns was, however, quite thin; so thin, in fact, that it could be scraped off by a thumbnail.

Not so the WCAs. The plating is there to stay and there's no leading, no jacket to shed. As for the lube groove and its content, well, the groove's there so I suppose it doesn't hurt anything to have some lube in it, provided

you don't leave a box of handloads sitting in the hot summer sunlight long enough for the lube to melt into and contaminate your powder charge.

West Coast Ammo is retailing their product in calibers ranging from .380 to .45 for \$23 per 1000, up to and including .38, and for \$28 per 1000 for .41 and larger. Add \$10 per 1000 for plating.

Hard bullets such as these, while they don't lead the bore, can't be counted on to expand in anything but the most resistant target media. They are, however, uniformly cast with diameters that, according to my measuring, are consistent within a .0004."

The address for sharing information with other handloaders is Rt. 1, Box 7,  Llano, CA 93544.

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# INSIGHTS INTO IPSC

CAMERON HOPKINS

## JOE'S FRONT SIGHT IS BACK TO LOOK AT THE REAL MEANING OF 'PRACTICAL'

I am Joe's front sight. I'm a serrated ramp and I team up with my sidekick Bo to give Joe sharp, quick sight pictures. Bo sits in the back of the bus dovetailed into the slide, and you may remember the odyssey of me and Bo hopping from gun to gun as Joe hungrily bought whatever IPSC pistol happened to be popular since he started competing 10 years ago. I've been from a Commander to a Government, from a .45 to a .38 Super.

But I gotta tell ya, I'm worried about Joe. He's been acting awfully funny lately, like his powder ain't dry. No compound in his primers. His upper-B-zone's got holes in it.

I think Joe's turned schizophrenic. One minute he's squawking about being a martial artist and the next minute he's buckling on his .38 Super Wilson Accu-Comp stuffed in a skimpy, low-cut gamesman's rig. That's where I live, incidentally, on Joe's Super.

Joe's got a permit to carry a concealed weapon and my cousin, Fred front sight, guards Joe on his carry-gun, a .45 ACP Colt Officers Model. Imagine that, a gamesman

packing a practical pistol!

Every morning Joe retrieves his Officers from the bedside table and stuffs it in his Milt Sparks Summer Special. (Now that pisses me off. I freeze my bluing off every night inside a dreary dungeon, a gun safe, while Fred stays warm as toast up in Joe's bedroom.) By the way, Joe put a Devel follower in the stubby Officers magazine so it now takes seven rounds. Fred says it works just fine.

But I digress. Joe takes Fred everywhere. Fred snuggles behind Joe's hip pressed tightly into Joe's side and well-concealed under a light jacket. Joe carries factory ammo, Winchester 185 gr. Silvertips. Obviously, Fred is instantly ready to line up on trouble because the Officers is cocked-and-locked. Is there another way to carry the Colt autoloader?

Anyway, here we have Joe Martial Artist. Yet come match time, Joe tosses the Officers and grabs me. Off with the Summer Special and on with the Ernie Hill Speed Leather. Bye-bye .45, hello .38 Super. Adios tactics,

aloha winning.

I don't understand Joe. During the week Joe alertly stays in Condition Yellow—he avoids darkened corners and keeps a wary watch for suspicious characters. He always sits with his back to the wall in restaurants and other public places, and his eyes dart about always probing for potential danger. Joe doesn't seem nervous, he's just in a relaxed state of attention.

Then again, at the matches on the weekend he daringly confronts hordes of hostile targets with no regard to taking cover and utter contempt for tactics. He happily reloads in the open, exposed to combatant targets. He shows no remorse for killing innocent bystanders represented by no-shoot targets. He's out to win, and to hell with prudence.

But Joe insists he is not schizophrenic, that he is actually a consistent proponent of practicality. He sees the concept of "being practical" as addressing any given situation in the most expedient manner to accomplish the task at hand.

On the street, Joe sees the problem as being prepared to defeat unexpected attack. In the match, Joe views the situation as a contest with the object of winning. He approaches each in the best manner he can.

I overheard Joe chatting with one of his shooting buddies the other day about this.

"I don't understand why a guy can't be both a martial artist and a gamesman," Joe ventured. "After all, a match and a fight are distinctly different problems calling for different solutions. When I shoot in a match, I shoot to win and that means using the best competition equipment I can afford. Turns out a compensated Colt in a speed holster is the best equipment.

"Out there," Joe went on, gesturing toward the city, "the best equipment for defending yourself is a full-bore automatic pistol discreetly concealed, yet accessible for immediate action.

"How is that contradictory?" he wondered.

"Yeah," agreed Joe's buddy, "we all know that match strategy and street tactics have about as much in common as an F-16 and a Piper Cub. Hell, I'd never double-tap six Hells Angels with a reload in between. I'd hammer 'em once, and then hit 'em again if they still showed some fight. Then I'd take cover and reload, if I hadn't been able to take cover already.

"But take that same scenario in a match," Joe's pal went on, "like an El Presidente, and I'd stand there and pop each target twice and reload just like you're supposed to. And, I'd hose 'em down and not worry about A-hits 'cause time's so important in Comstock."

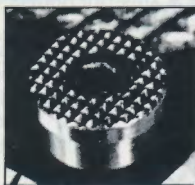
Joe and his buddy talked for quite a while about the differences between competition and the real-world. After listening to Joe explain the real meaning of practicality and how a guy can be a Martial Artist/Gamesman all rolled into one, I kinda began to see his point. Maybe he isn't a nutcase after all.

But he's still a slob. He still hasn't cleaned me from the last match and I've got dried-up sight black all over me. I am Joe's front sight.



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Men like these established today's fundamental rule of handgun safety:

# Always rest the hammer over an empty chamber.

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22 Cal "K" Frontier Scout

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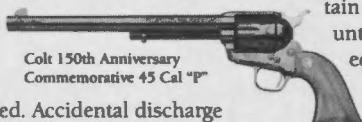
Do the same: Carry the revolver holstered, with the hammer always resting over an empty chamber. Load five, not six, and index the empty chamber into position under the hammer.

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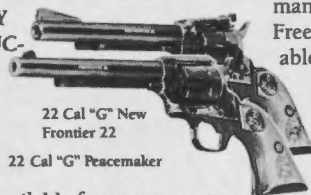
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22 Cal "G" New Frontier 22

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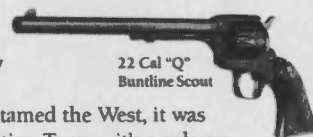
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22 Cal "Q" Buntline Scout



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# HANDGUN HUNTING

CAMERON HOPKINS

## HUNTING HANDGUNS SHOULD BE TOTED BY RIFLE HUNTERS AS SECONDARY ARMS

*Editor's Note: J.D. missed his deadline for the only acceptable excuse—he was hunting! Look for J.D.'s column back again next issue.*

Handgun hunters utilize the handgun as the primary weapon, but rifle hunters can—should!—carry a hunting handgun as a secondary arm. The selection of the rifleman's hunting handgun requires different considerations than the choice of a handgun as the primary hunting weapon.

The rifle hunter should carry a hunting handgun as a sidearm for three major reasons.

First, the long gun hunter's handgun serves as a valuable tool of emergency equipment. In case of an accident, the injured hunter may signal for assistance by firing the handgun three times in rapid succession. My hunting buddies and I agree that three shots indicate trouble—a broken ankle, snake bite or whatever. Three rapid shots is a good number because the odds are remote of firing three times, quickly, at an animal. Two yes, three no.

Second, the rifle hunter can use a handgun to administer the *coup de grâce* to crippled game. Disabling hits—non-fatal spine shots, hip girdle shots, non-fatal neck shots—put the animal down because of paralysis, but a *coup de grâce* is necessary. A handgun is far more convenient than a scope sighted rifle for polishing off game at point-blank range. Rifles at contact distance can ruin a lot of meat unnecessarily.

(A good example of the need for a handgun to dispatch a wounded animal occurred just last week when I was hunting on the famed Y.O. Ranch in Texas. An axis deer dashed in front of our pick-up truck and was smashed by the bumper. I immediately ended the beast's writhing with a shot to the neck before the creature even realized he'd been hit. My rifle was inaccessible at the time, but the handgun was out of its Davis flap holster before the shock of being run over even began to hit the animal.)

The third reason to carry a hunting handgun as a rifle hunter is to ensure the immedi-

ate access of a firearm. The call of nature finds you squatted behind a bush when a royal elk steps from the woods. The rifle is out of reach, and you know that reaching it with your pants around your ankles would be impossible. Don't let that 6x6 elk saunter away—draw your sidearm and kill it. I'm sure you can think of many other times when your rifle would be unavailable and a handgun on your belt would turn a sour hunt sweet.

Given that a rifleman benefits from a handgun, what handgun should a rifle hunter select? The handgun should be worn in a holster on a belt and it should be unobtrusive and as compact as possible so as not to interfere with the primary weapon, the rifle. The rifleman's handgun is to be carried a lot and shot a little, unlike the handgun hunter's primary weapon.

First of all, forget the rimfire. Only a centerfire handgun can fulfill the three requirements of a rifle hunter's sidearm. The hushed crack of a .22 is insufficient to signal danger; the power is often inadequate for dispatching wounded game; the caliber is far too weak to tackle that surprise elk.

There is a lot to be said for an automatic because its flat, compact shape and light weight makes it comfortable for prolonged carry. The barrels are short, no more than five-inches, and the ammunition capacity is high. Either the 9mm or .45 are the best bets due to a wide variety of guns chambered for them and also the suitability of the cartridges. However, I'd pick my shots very carefully in using the 9mm or .45 as a primary arm in an unexpected encounter with elk, deer and, especially, bear.

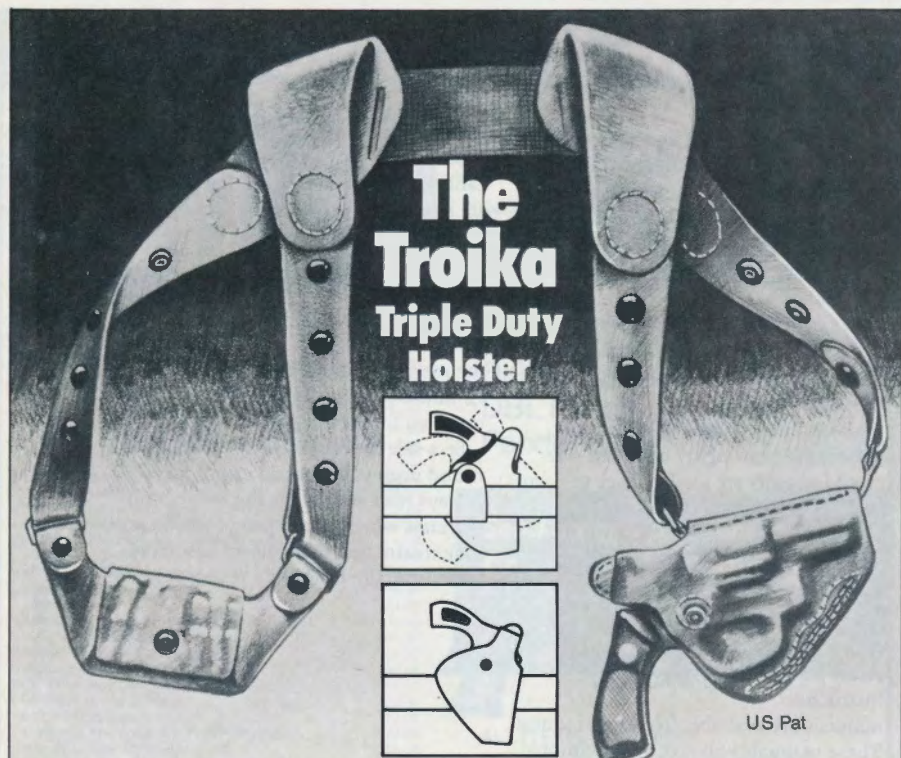
My personal favorite for an automatic is a Colt Gold Cup in .45 ACP because I shoot a lot of .45 in IPSC and am therefore fairly proficient with this gun. I carry two spare magazines of Winchester 185 gr. Silvertips. It killed the axis doe without fanfare and has harvested the odd warthog or two in Africa.

The revolver is probably a better choice, however. The wide range of suitable calibers, models and barrel lengths lend this appeal. A six-inch barrel is really too long for comfortable carrying on the belt unless you are well over six-feet tall. I suggest a four-inch barrel. The .357, .41 and .44 Magnums are all good choices, but my favorite is the .454 Casull with a 4¾ inch barrel.

The rifleman's holster should be a flap design in order to protect both the rifle and the handgun from banging against each other. One of the Seven Deadly Sins should be scratching two guns simultaneously! A flap holster compromises speed of the draw, but this is not significant. Even with your knickers around your feet, you can get your revolver out in time to swat that surprise elk.

Spare cartridges should be carried. Automatic fans should carry one or two loaded, spare magazines. Wheelgunners should carry extra rounds in either cartridge loops or pockets (watch they don't rattle around making noise).

Hunting handguns are not just for handgun hunters. The rifle hunter can—should!—carry a handgun.



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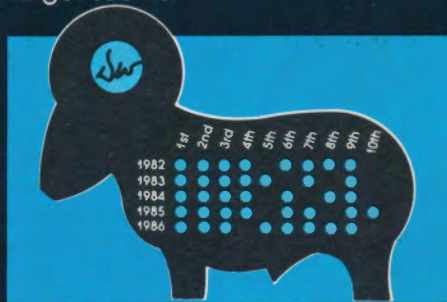


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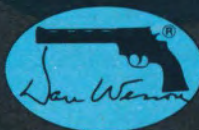
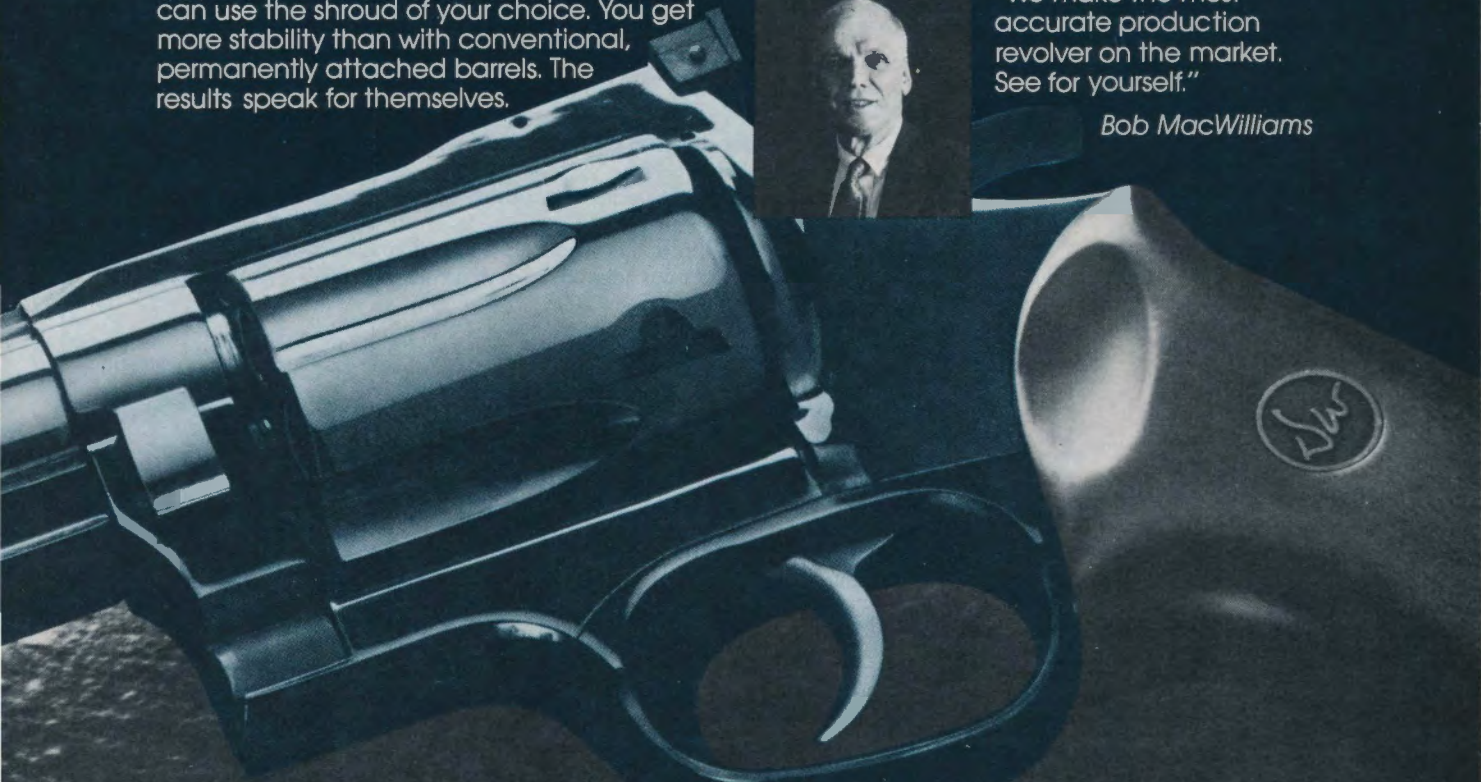
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"We make the most accurate production revolver on the market. See for yourself."

Bob MacWilliams



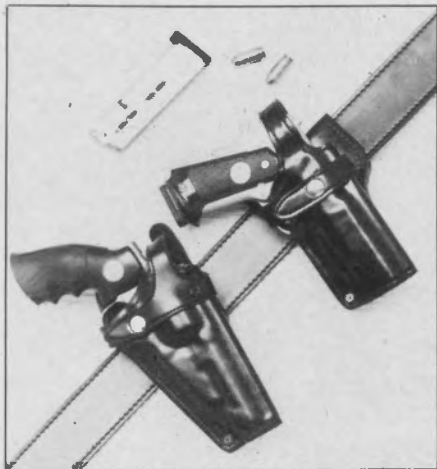
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# ROGERS SS-III HOLSTER

By Massad Ayoob



Securing holsters are very big in law enforcement today. The thinking cop of the Eighties realizes that no gun scabbard is truly snatch-proof, but also realizes that for the last decade, hardened prison gang members and others have been training in prison on how to disarm policemen and murder them with their own guns.

Bill Rogers, the ex-FBI man who left the Bureau to devote himself to making better and safer holsters, has been successful with all his designs. The all-plastic breakfront from his first generation of designs is still at work with Miami, Metro-Dade, and other major police agencies, and has an excellent track record in the field, having saved numerous officers from murder attempts. His sec-

## A new snatch-proof police holster!

ond generation rigs, the Boss and the more streamlined WRATH (Weapon Retention And Tactical Holster) have likewise met with success in the police world, and the acquisition of Rogers Holsters by Safariland should only increase the availability of these excellent products.

The third generation is now available, and

it's called the SS-III. True to its name, the holster has no fewer than three releases. *American Handgunner* is a newsstand magazine, and we have no intention of publishing a guide on how to get policemen's guns out of their holsters. Suffice it to say that the concept works.

The key is that the first two releases are accomplished simultaneously, and the third follows immediately. With practice, the draw becomes instantaneous, with virtually the same speed as a conventional thumb-break "quick draw" duty rig.

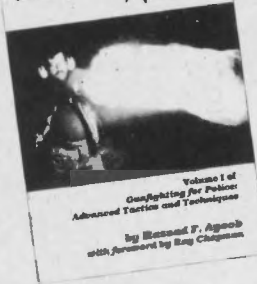
As always, it's possible for a trained man to take the gun from the authorized wearer's holster, but the angles and grips involved for proper release make this extremely difficult for anyone but the person wearing it. I don't think there's a more snatch-resistant holster on the market.

A great advantage is that it's available for both revolvers and autos. The growingly popular police service automatic has, until now, been generally carried in speed holsters because, lacking a cylinder or round-back trigger guard, it stymied designers who tried to build secret niches in place to hold the gun against an unauthorized draw.

Teaching an Advanced Officer Survival course for the Police Marksman Association and Houston Police Patrolman's Union recently with Ray Chapman, I was pleased to learn that the SS-III had just been adopted as standard holster for any of the 4,000 officers in that city who were carrying autoloading

*Continued on page 78*

## StressFire



## "STRESSFIRE"

At last! The first volume of Massad Ayoob's long awaited series on "Gunfighting for Police: Advanced Tactics and Techniques."

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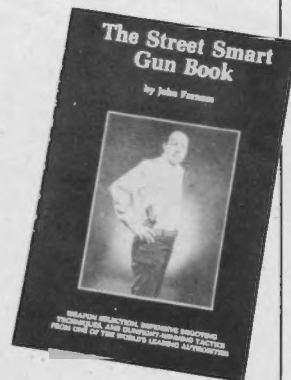
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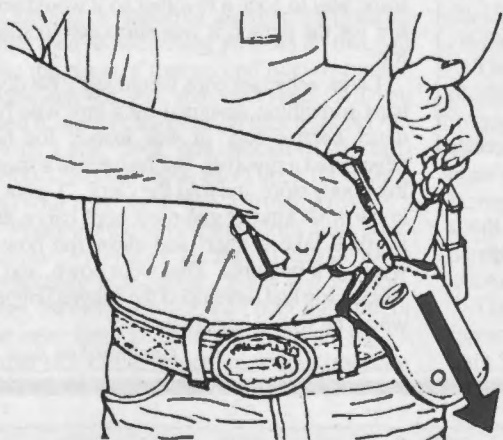
# MASTER TIPS

Collected by Jon Winokur

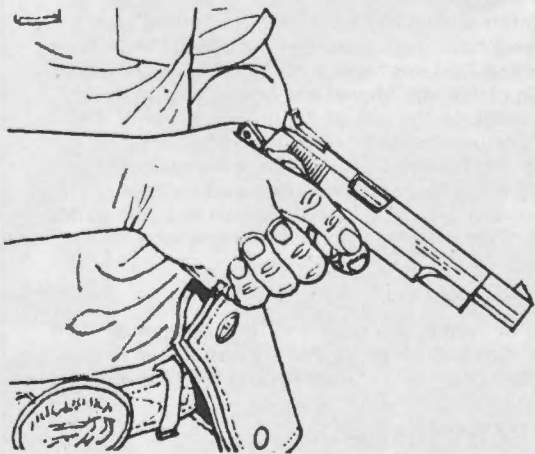
## Safety First

1. Before firing any gun, make certain your shots will land in a safe place.

2. Be "muzzle conscious" — know where the pistol is pointing at all times and never point it at anything you don't want to harm or destroy.

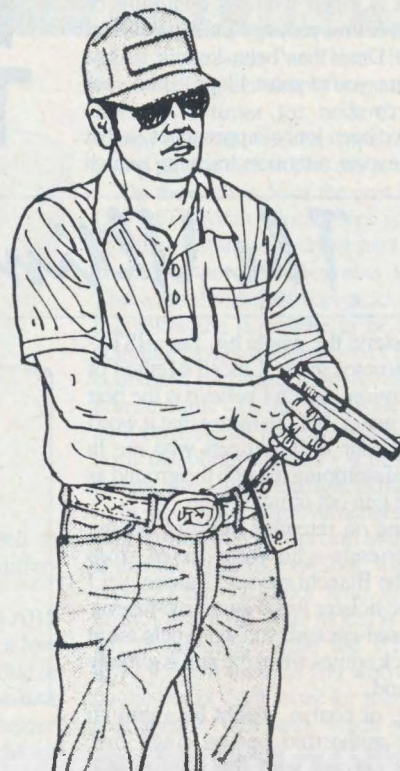


3. Make sure your holster does not allow the muzzle to point at any part of your body.



4. Keep your finger out of the trigger guard unless the pistol is pointed down range and you're ready to fire.

5. Make sure you have a solid grip with the drawing hand before you begin the draw.



MIKE DALTON, Combat Master; winner of the Man vs. Man Speed Event at the 1983 Bianchi Cup, 1977; 1978, '80 and '82 Southwest Pistol League Champion; co-founder of International Shootists, Inc.; co-author of *Life Without Fear: The Complete Handgun Self-Defense Manual*.



6. Keep the weak hand away from the muzzle when drawing and re-holstering.

7. Make sure you have both hands on the pistol before you thrust the gun toward the target.

8. Do not disengage the safety or move your finger towards the trigger until you have a proper grip and the muzzle is pointing completely down range.



One out of every five murdered police officers is killed with his own gun, or one snatched from a partner. Bulletproof vest maven Rich Davis has been known to say, "The one gun you're most likely to be shot with is your own."

There have been lots of approaches to that problem: weapon retention training, snatch

# Magna Trigger:

locked .45 Colt auto; that's good news most of the time, but bad news if you're semi-conscious and the opponent has got sixty seconds to "play with the combination," or if the burglar got into your house before you got home and has been left alone with your pistol long enough to figure out how it works before you come through the door.

## The Ultimate in Gun Safety

resistant holsters, the whole bit. I'm a JSTA-certified instructor in the Lindell Method of weapon retention, which I believe is the best such system going, but I'm aware that it won't work against four Hell's Angels who are in the process of stomping me into the ground as they peel the gun out of my holster.

I am strong on retentive holsters, having two good friends who were saved from murder by the Bianchi model 27 alone, yet I know that the holster won't guard me forever if I've been cold-cocked, and won't help me at all if the attack comes when the gun is already out in my hand.

The ideal, of course, would be a gun no one but the authorized person could fire. Autoloaders carried with the safety catch engaged come close, but the opponent can eventually figure it out. One Florida study showed that it took something like 16.9 seconds for the average person to figure out where the release catch was on a cocked and



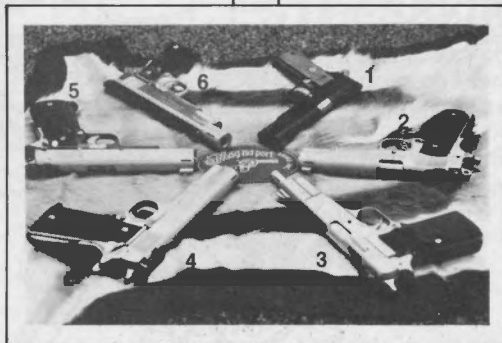
*Only you  
can fire your revolver*

*By Massad Ayoob*

The closest I've seen to the ideal is the MagnaTrigger Safety Conversion developed by Joe Smith of Cupertino, Calif. Joe, who told me he had never fired a handgun before, read in the paper one morning that two CHP officers had been killed when a scumbag got hold of one of their revolvers. A gifted inventor, Joe exclaimed, "There's got to be some way to code a revolver so it would only fire for the person it was supposed to shoot for."

Later, reluctant cops would say, "We don't trust something designed by a guy who has never been a cop." It was worse; Joe had never fired a revolver. But he went to a sporting goods store and told the clerk, "I want to know what kind of gun most cops carry, and if you'll take it apart and show me how it works, I'll buy one." That went down, and in weeks, Joe had developed the MagnaTrigger, which he would later patent.

*Continued on page 74*



1. Frank Paris Bowling Pin, Integral Porting. No Recessing of Bore
2. Michigan Armament, Ported through Slide Bushing and Barrel
3. Browning Hi-Power, Extended Barrel
4. Colt Government, Ported through Slide Bushing and Barrel
5. 41 SSK Avenger Conversion, Ported through Slide Barrel and Bushing
6. Jim Clark Custom Bowling Pin Gun, Integral Porting. No Recessing of Bore

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## PRO-TIMER III

**A new, improved  
shooting timer from  
Competition Electronics!**

*By Jim Weller*

If you're like me and have a tough time finding a shooting partner at practice time, there is something you can do that will take the place of that second man to run the stopwatch for you and vice-versa. All you need is one of Competition Electronics' (753 Candy Lane, Dept. AH, Rockford, IL, 61111 1-800-222-3845) new Pro-Timer III timers, and your need for a "live" partner is over.

Featuring the same capabilities as its predecessor, Pro-Timer II, the III model has a completely redesigned chassis and the controls, formerly scattered all over the front of the case, have all been moved to the top on either side of the screen, making it unneces-

sary to remove the unit from your belt to check your stats or to reprogram for a different course.

The chassis is, as before, made from ABS plastic in a light almond color. New is a low frequency start/stop buzzer which is an aid to shooters who are hard of hearing. The unit clips to the shooter's belt, with the buzzer facing front. The shot sensor is a series of small holes located just above the horn. Incidentally, the horn sounds much like a home smoke alarm.

The Pro-Timer III can operate in four different modes. These include Shot Mode, Shot Mode with Par Time, Plate Mode, and

Plate Mode with Par Time. Translating all that into English simply means that it functions as a timer for both Comstock and Timed matches, with the capability of having a stop plate attached directly to it.

On the underside of the unit is located the ON/OFF switch which gives you the choice of either instant or delayed start. There are a couple of new changes also located here. There are three electrical jacks located there that allow the stop plate to be connected; a coupling jack that allows two of the units to be connected for timing man vs. man contests; a relay module jack that allows the use of a light as a start signal instead of the horn; and a horn disabling switch to shut off the unit's buzzer when using the light as the start signal.

In view of the improvements in the III unit, CEI has stopped production of the Pro-Timer II and the original Pro-Shot. The Pro-Shot I replaces the Pro-Shot with upgraded features. Cost of the basic model is \$197.95 plus \$4.50 shipping, while the PT-III goes at \$274.95. For those of you who don't want to go the bucks right away for the more expensive model, CEI will, when you're ready, upgrade the PT-I to the PT-III for a cost of \$80 plus shipping.

As I said earlier, having a unit like this takes the place of a shooting partner quite easily. If you're serious about your practice work, then once you press that buzzer there's no turning back.



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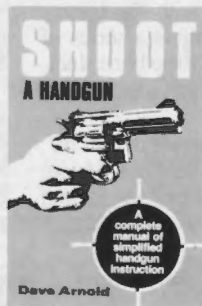
Bill Jordan became a shooting legend during 30 years with the U.S. Border Patrol. An unmatched sharpshooter, he's written a fascinating book about gun fighting. He tells you how to do it and what equipment to use.

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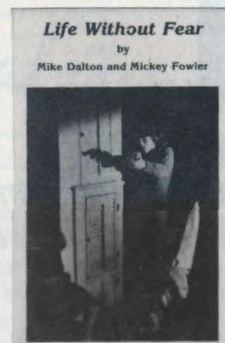
## LIFE WITHOUT FEAR

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and Mickey Fowler

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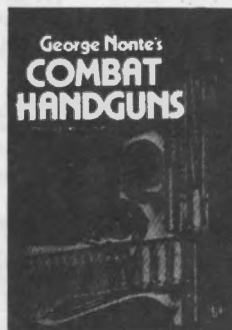
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# The AYOOB Files

By Massad Ayoob

## SMALLBORE GOOD GUYS VS. LARGEBORE BAD GUYS

**Situation:** Three case studies showing that firepower and high-tech guns don't always win.

A few issues ago, *The Files* touched on several cases where well-armed good guys had stopped criminal attackers armed with less effective weapons. Analysis showed that in every single case tactics and awareness had been the deciding factors in the Good Guys' victory, and their possession of superior firepower had been merely another proof of that tactical awareness.

Yet the reverse—Good Guys outgunning more heavily armed Bad Guys—probably occurs with more frequency. High powered weapons are a status symbol in the criminal subcultures. Studies show ex-cons prefer US-made .38 Special and .357 Magnum revolvers. Inner city youth gangs consider high-capacity 9mm's the "in" guns, as do many within the hardcore drug culture. Marielitos also favor the 14-shot Nines or "El Quatro-Cinco," the latter usually carried with a spare clip of .45 ACP. And outlaw bikers are hip to AR-15s converted to full-auto, GI .45s, any revolver that says Magnum on it, and Smith & Wesson 9mm's.

Needless to say, self-styled urban guerrilla terrorists are into military weapons. The favored gun of the Symbionese Liberation Army was the .30 Carbine converted to full-auto M-2 configuration. Patty Hearst has stated that when William "Cujo" Wolfe sat outside in the getaway car during SLA bank robberies, he would fondle his M-2 machinegun moaning, "Oh, God, I hope the pigs come . . . oh, God, I wanna kill some pigs . . . oh, yes, I wanna kill some pigs!"

Cujo finally got his chance in the climactic "SLA Shoot-out" with the LAPD. In the initial moments of the battle, full automatic fire from the SLA hideout was so fierce as to drive back and temporarily immobilize the substantial LAPD contingent, and a squad was sent back to headquarters to fetch full-auto weapons from the armory. The SLA was eventually overwhelmed by force of numbers, with the police firing more than 5,000 rounds of return fire. The SLA leader, Donald "Cinque" deFreeze, was found dead next to the pistol he always carried, a Browning Hi-Power 9mm, with which he is believed to have killed himself.

As a result of this incident, LAPD felt itself so sufficiently outgunned that the SWAT team upgraded from semi-auto AR-15s to selective fire M-16s, and from Ithaca pump shotguns to Remington 1100 autoloaders, later replaced by Benellis. Nonetheless, manpower and collective firepower from lesser weapons won that

**Lesson:** Tactics with a mousegun is far more effective than machismo with a howitzer!

bloody day for the good guys.

Consider also, in the early '70s, the last stand of Twyman Myers in New York City. Myers was then believed to be the last of the Black Liberation Army, a "revolutionary" terrorist group proven to be responsible for several completed and attempted assassinations of police including the Piagentini-Jones and Foster-Laurie murders. At the time of the confrontation with Myers, the police did not realize that the BLA had simply gone underground, preparing to re-emerge in the Eighties working with the terroristic Weather Underground.

At the time of this shootout, Myers was believed to be the sole survivor of the murderous radicals, and known to be heavily armed. A contingent of several task force officers had learned Myers hideout location, and staked it out. As Myers emerged from the building carrying an attache case, they closed in and ordered him to surrender.

Myers whipped out the archetypal terrorist pistol, a Browning P-35, and opened fire. One wounded lawman spun to the ground as the sidewalk exploded in an exchange of shots. Myers was hit multiple times by police handgun fire, including at least one Super Vel 9mm softnose from a fed's S&W model 39, but none of the bullets struck an instantly vital zone, and he emptied his Browning.

As the determined cop-killer fumbled to reload, one middle-aged detective leaned out from behind his cover, carefully aimed his Chief Special, and fired. He was supposed to have been issued the then-new Keith style semiwadcuter ammo, but his snubby was loaded with the infamous old 158-grain roundnose lead .38 Special.

No matter. The bullet pierced Twyman Myers heart. Myers stiffened and toppled over, dead. Cautiously advancing officers found that the reason he'd been unable to reload was that after dropping the first magazine, a police bullet had struck the bottom of the gripframe of his Browning, bending it enough that he couldn't insert the fresh 13-round magazine he was clutching in his left hand. They also breathed a sigh of relief when they examined the attache case Myers hadn't had a chance to open: it contained a Colt Trooper .357 Magnum and a Schmeisser 9mm submachinegun, both fully loaded.

For a true nightmare scenario, try being armed only with a single-action .22 revolver and being up against a murderer wearing



# LETTERS

## TO LEE PRECISION, INC.

### FIRST TIME RELOADER HAS NO PROBLEM WITH PRO 1000

Thank you for making your 1000 progressive reloader so readily available to the consumer! I think you should know that I have no experience with reloading prior to my purchase of your machine and yet after 1742 rounds of 9MM Luger I have had not a single problem!

— P.B.J. Mendocino, California

### SHOCKED AT LOW PRICE

I recently purchased your Lee Progressive 1000 reloader. I am extremely impressed with this incredible piece of equipment. I had been interested in reloading for a number of years, but I did not shoot enough to justify the expense or trouble of investing in reloading equipment. I had done some research into reloading equipment offered by different manufacturers. Then I ran across your Progressive 1000 a few months ago. I was shocked. Here was a single system that did everything at a price other manufacturers wanted for a single stage alone.

I have used the Progressive 1000 for several months now and it has given me flawless results. Its smooth, simple operation produces consistent loads everytime.

— R.D. Coppell, Texas

### BEST MONEY EVER SPENT

I just bought one of your Progressive 1000 loading machines, wow what a loader, I love it. It is the best money I have ever spent on shooting equipment. My friend has a Dillon and it does not even compare to your product.

What used to take me all week to load for our Sunday shoot now only takes an hour or so.

— K.D.M. Flatrock, Illinois

### BEST RELOADS

I recently purchased the Progressive 1000 complete with carbide dies for the 9MM caliber. Since purchasing this outstanding reloading press I have had nothing but the best in reloaded rounds.

— C.D.S. Richmond, Virginia

### USER LIKES EASY CALIBER CHANGE OF PRO 1000

I think you have a winner with this press. I bought my Progressive 1000 in 357 Magnum about 3 months ago and I have already bought shell plate carriers for 9MM and 44 Magnum. The press seems

to load consistently good rounds and I am pleased with the ease at which calibers are changed.

— M.F.R. Los Alamitos, California

### DISCOVERED LEE MAKES VERY HIGH QUALITY PRODUCTS

I have used a lot of loaders in my time, even the Dillon Progressive and the RCBS Green Machine. Out of all the loaders I have used, my experience shows me that your Progressive 1000 is the top of the line in shell reloaders.

From now on I am going to buy just Lee Loader products. I think that your company is putting out a very high quality product, an inexpensive product of high quality.

— T.G. Midlothian, Texas

### LOADS 12 TO 15 ROUNDS PER MINUTE

After using your Progressive 1000 for a little over two months I am really glad I bought it and not another brand. After I have worked with the 1000 for a week, a friend came over and timed me—I loaded twelve to fifteen rounds per minute.

— L.Y. North Platte, Nebraska

### TOTAL SATISFACTION

My Progressive 1000 is the greatest. So great that I could not name any press that can even closely match the 1000. The sad thing is, I could not wish for anything more with the 1000 Lee Progressive. I wish I could. I am so eager to see what is the next great Lee product. I am damn sure it is another great (product) affordable as a pizza pie.

— R.R.L. Los Angeles, California

### RECEIVED CATALOG PROMPTLY

One of the big reason I decided to buy Lee equipment was that you answered my request for a catalog right away. I wrote to every other company in the reloading business over a month ago and have yet to receive some catalogs.

— R.L. Loring, Maine



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a ballistic vest, armed with two powerful handguns, and carrying a suppressed MAC-10—with which he has already murdered your older brother and shot your father.

The victim of that horror, in the summer of 1986, was Jeremy Sterger of Wilton, Calif. The muffled shots that woke Jeremy had already killed his big brother, wounded his father, and killed his father's girlfriend. The murderer, a jealous former boyfriend of the dead woman, now began stalking the house to exterminate any other witnesses.

Jeremy ran to his bureau and grabbed his Ruger Single-Six, a gift from his father, and hurriedly filled the chambers from a box of .22 Long Rifle ammo. When the madman burst into his bedroom, Jeremy was waiting on his flank, behind the bedroom door. He fired three times, striking the killer in the head and neck area. The gunman collapsed atop his now-silent MAC-10. He was unconscious and probably already mortally wounded. Not realizing this, Jeremy's wounded father staggered into the bedroom with a .22 rifle he'd grabbed and shot the fallen intruder again in the back of the head, killing him instantly. The terror was over.

Jeremy Sterger was 14-years-old at the time of the shooting.

Let us examine the three scenarios. Force of numbers is a tactical advantage that generally overwhelms superior firepower if combined with other tactics. Obviously, if a horde of LAPD officers had simply advanced from cover and walked toward the SLA safehouse, the automatic weapons of Cinque and his fellow radicals would have chopped them to pieces by the dozen. Instead, the embattled officers took effective cover, utilizing suppressive fire and chemical agents from the relative safety of their "containment ring."

In the Twyman Myers gun battle, the officers initially had the advantage of force of numbers, but Myers took the initiative and was the first to gain effective cover, thus holding the tactical edge for a while. The crafty detective who took Myers off guard while firing from protective cover himself was the one who terminated both the event and the suspect, proving yet again that tactics employed with a mousegun is far more deadly than machismo with a high powered weapon.

Young Jeremy Sterger was alerted to the intruder's reign of terror too late to do anything to save his family. But the same cool-headedness that doubtless had convinced his father that he was responsible enough to have his own handgun at the age of 14, saved his life that night.

When the heavily armed intruder entered his room, the boy was in a position where he could see the criminal before the criminal could see him. Fortunately, he did not attempt any useless "Drop that gun" heroics, and simply shot for the one area that most effectively guarantees a stopping hit with a .22, and fired repeatedly until the perpetrator was neutralized. Had he aimed elsewhere, the intruder's "bulletproof" vest would have allowed him to shrug off the mild .22 impacts, kill the boy, and then finish off the father.



In all three cases, heavily armed gunmen succumbed to lesser but more tactically applied firepower of Good Guys. In each case, events reinforced the order of priorities for management of a violent encounter. First comes mental awareness and preparedness, then tactics, then skill with the safety equipment. Only when all three of those have been fulfilled comes the matter of optimum equipment, and only at that point will consideration of .38 versus .45 or roundnose versus hollowpoint really matter in the street survival quotient.

Massad Ayoob is director of the Lethal Force Institute, PO Box 122, Concord, NH 03301. He and a staff of ten now teach combat shooting, street survival, and what Massad calls "management of lethal threat" around the US, South America, and Canada. Programs are available for both police and armed citizens.

## NEW HANDGUN SHOOTING GAME

Remember the old carnival shooting gallery, where, in addition to the line of ducks and the revolving pipes, there was a "B" target? All you had to do was to knock out all of the B to win a prize.

Bill Croce, Jr. of Holicong, Pa. has taken that concept a step farther, and is trying to get handgunners interested in a new shooting game. Bill calls his group The American Dot Shooters Association.

Basically, there are two different target types used in dot shooting. The first is the D-15, with three rows of five dots each. This target is shot with any caliber; one shot at each dot. If the shot touches the dot it is scored as one point; if it completely obliterates the dot it is scored as an X to break ties.

There are also the Series 30 targets. These are made in three sizes, for .22, .38 and .45 caliber and have 10 clusters of three dots each. One shot is taken at each cluster and the number of dots touched is the score. If the shot touches all three dots, it is scored as an X to break ties.

Note that the dots are all the same size, slightly less than 1/4" diameter. The spacing of the dots in the cluster targets is such that a direct center hit will touch all three dots, depending on the caliber designated. All targets are shot at seven yards.

Bill is soliciting membership in the Association at \$10 per year. Members will get a laminated membership card, an embroidered patch, sample targets, a bullet key ring, and information on club matches and postal matches.

This is a most interesting concept, and one that brings back the element of pinpoint accuracy in handgun shooting that seems to have been lost in the recent growth of action shooting events. It can be enjoyed in both formal matches and informal get-togethers, and it's fun!

For more information, write, Wm. E. Croce, American Dot Shooters Association, Dept. AH, 1986 Holicong Rd., Holicong, PA 18928.

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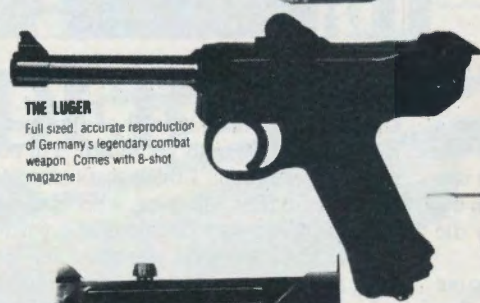
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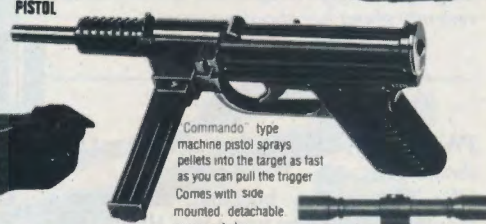
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# CONVERSATION

## *with a Champion*

By Jon Winokur

*Christie Rogers, the 1985 and 1986 Women's IPSC [International Practical Shooting Confederation] Champion, is the wife of Bill Rogers, himself a top IPSC competitor and a former FBI agent who turned a holster designing hobby into a highly successful business. In addition to her roles as a wife and the mother of two teenage daughters, the Jacksonville, Florida resident is active in her church, is an accomplished potter and plays a mean game of tennis. Although she competed in her first local match in 1982 and only three years later won her first national championship, she's anything but a fierce competitor: her approach to pistol competition is friendly, cooperative and refreshingly easygoing. I spoke with her recently about her shooting career:*



**JW:** First off, Christie, how did you get into shooting?

**CR:** Through my husband. He's been a shooter ever since he was a boy. His dad was on the Air Force skeet team and got him into shooting at an early age. My dad was in the war and had a gun, but he never really did any shooting.

When Bill and I were in college we'd go out and shoot at tin cans once in a while, but beyond that for a long time I didn't do anything but watch Bill. He shot a lot of trap before he got into IPSC and I would watch and keep score. When he first started shooting IPSC, which was several years before I did, I would help organize the matches—I was secretary of our club even before I began shooting. It looked like fun and there were some other women shooting, so one day I just decided to try it. I did well pretty quickly, better than at any other sport I had ever tried, so I just kept at it. Bill was very helpful. He's my coach, of course.

**JW:** Then you ignore the conventional wisdom that says husbands shouldn't coach their wives.

**CR:** He's an excellent coach and he's very patient, probably because he's done so much teaching. He also does my gun work and designs my holsters. Without him I wouldn't be shooting.

**JW:** What do you consider your strengths

and weaknesses as a competitor?

**CR:** I think my main strength as a competitor is that I don't seem to get rattled. I'm not a nervous person and I think that's extremely important in IPSC shooting, where you have to make on-the-spot decisions like when to reload. In some sports you shoot the same thing again and again and you can practice it at home over and over until it's ingrained in your subconscious. But in IPSC you don't know until you get there where the reloads are going to be or how you'll get through a certain tunnel, and people who can't think under pressure are at a disadvantage.

I used to feel that assault matches were kind of my bugaboo because I didn't feel that I was very fast, but I've been trying to work on that. I should start running, but I haven't gone that far.

**JW:** Do you prefer surprise matches to published matches?

**CR:** I'm not sure I have a preference either way, but I think it's an advantage not to be nervous in either case.

**JW:** Have you had to make any sacrifices in order to become a champion?

**CR:** There's been a definite sacrifice of time with our family. Of course, Bill and I are together at matches and when we're practicing, but we have two teenage daughters, and although they're good kids and we've never

had any problems with them, we haven't seen as much of them as I would like to. In the summertime we'll stay at the range until after dark and they'll already have fixed themselves dinner by the time we get home. So they've probably suffered a little, even though they haven't complained. It's hard to be really good at something and have a family too.

**JW:** How much practicing do you do during the season?

**CR:** During the "season," when the big matches are going on, we'll go out three or four times a week for an hour or two. Unfortunately, we don't have a range in our back yard—we borrow a police range that's about twenty minutes away. Other people also use the range, so we have planned our practice sessions around them.

**JW:** Let's talk a little about equipment. Do you shoot different guns for different matches?

**CR:** This year I've been shooting the same gun, a Wilson .38 Super LE Accu-Comp. I shot it in the Bianchi NRA Action Match as well as the IPSC Nationals and the Steel Challenge. It has a pivoted trigger so it's very light and very smooth. You can never tell when it's going to break, which prevents you from anticipating the shot. I think I heard Bill say that the pull is a pound and a half, but the way the pivoted trigger works, it doesn't really change the trigger mechanism the way you would ordinarily lighten the trigger.

**JW:** What about ammo?

**CR:** For the Nationals we shoot (powder charge deleted for safety reasons, Ed.) of Blue Dot with a Hornady 160 grain copper-jacketed bullet. For the Steel Challenge and the Bianchi Cup, we use a 130 grain copper-jacketed bullet and 5.4 grains of Unique.

**JW:** Do you do your own reloading?

**CR:** It's kind of silly: we own a bullet company that has three Camdex automatic loaders, but we end up loading our own in the garage on an RDP because the big machines are usually set for .45 ACP. I fill the primer tubes and load the cases and tumble the brass, and Bill pulls the handle.

**JW:** And your leather?

**CR:** I wear a Rogers Combat Assault II holster. It's made with the Safari Laminate inside that holds the weapon firmly and allows the holster to be very low-cut in the front. It still passes the holster test but it's only about an inch and a half tall at the muzzle. It's a very fast holster. I wear it strong-side and just a little toward the appendix. And I use single magazine holders.

**JW:** Magazines?

**CR:** We use Metalform .38 Super mags.

**JW:** Who cleans the guns?

**CR:** [Laughs] I get out of it as often as I can. Bill has the equipment to do a good cleaning job over at the shop, so I'll try to send my gun with him whenever I can, but sometimes he says, "Come on, it won't hurt you to do it."

**JW:** How do you prepare yourself mentally for competition?

**CR:** I try to visualize the match and run it through in my mind so that once I get there to shoot I feel like I've done it before. I like to watch someone else run the match—it doesn't



matter who it is—just to see how it works. If it's a published match, just looking at the diagram in the book is misleading.

I don't like to look at the scoreboard. I know it helps some people to know how they're doing, but I feel that I always do the best I can, so I don't pay attention to the scores. It wouldn't make me shoot any better if I knew I was in first place or second place or last place.

**JW:** *What percentage of shooting would you say is mental?*

**CR:** [Hesitates] Oh, about fifty percent. I was going to say a very high number because you can be an excellent shot, but if you get up there and fall to pieces you'll never amount to much of a competitor. Lots of people are terrific in practice but when they get into a match they fall apart. In their case it's eighty or ninety percent mental. You have to have both the physical skills and the mental toughness to perform when it counts, so that's why I say it's about fifty-fifty.

**JW:** *Do you isolate yourself at matches?*

**CR:** People are always trying to talk to Bill for one reason or another at matches. I've seen people come up to him and ask him a question when he was practically in the shooting box. It doesn't bother him and I guess I've learned from him not to let it bother me. I don't think I'm easily psyched-out by people and I try not to do it to other people. Of course, just before I go to the line I try to go off my myself and be quiet and think about the match. Other than that I really enjoy visiting with people at the matches and

I don't try to psych people out, and I don't notice when people try to psych me out.

**JW:** *What's your advice to new shooters, especially women?*

**CR:** My advice to men and women would be to learn to shoot accurately and don't press for speed. I've seen new shooters in our local matches shoot slowly but carefully, make the hits, and beat much more experienced shooters who go flying through dropping shots. Get your accuracy first and then work on speed.

If you really want to be a top competitor, you have to compete in as many matches as possible. It seems that every year there are more and more matches, and it's hard to keep up the intensity, but that's what you have to do to improve whether you're a man or a woman. Being familiar with your weapon and doing a lot of dry firing is also helpful.

As far as women are concerned, the best advice I can give is don't be afraid to try. The men won't laugh at you: I've never had anybody be unpleasant to me or try to rush me or treat me like a dumb woman, even when I first started shooting. I competed in the last two European championships—in Austria last year and in Paris the year before—I was the only woman competitor and everyone was very patient and courteous.

**JW:** *How did you do in those matches?*

**CR:** [Laughs] I was high woman.

**JW:** *Do you think we'll ever see women competing on a par with men?*

**CR:** I don't know, but I'd like to think that we could. Women are getting better and better,

but given the fact that IPSC shooting requires a lot of upper-body strength, I'm not sure we'll ever see a woman National Champion or World Champion.

There are other shooting sports where women do compete equally with men, where you're simply standing and shooting for accuracy. But with the power factor and double taps required in IPSC shooting, I don't think there are any women who can shoot on a par with the top male competitors.

**JW:** *Has anyone besides Bill influenced your shooting career?*

**CR:** Lee Cole was an inspiration to me, especially when I was first starting out. She was always friendly and encouraging. Lee won more major titles than any other woman in the history of practical shooting, and she did a lot for the "image" of women competitors.

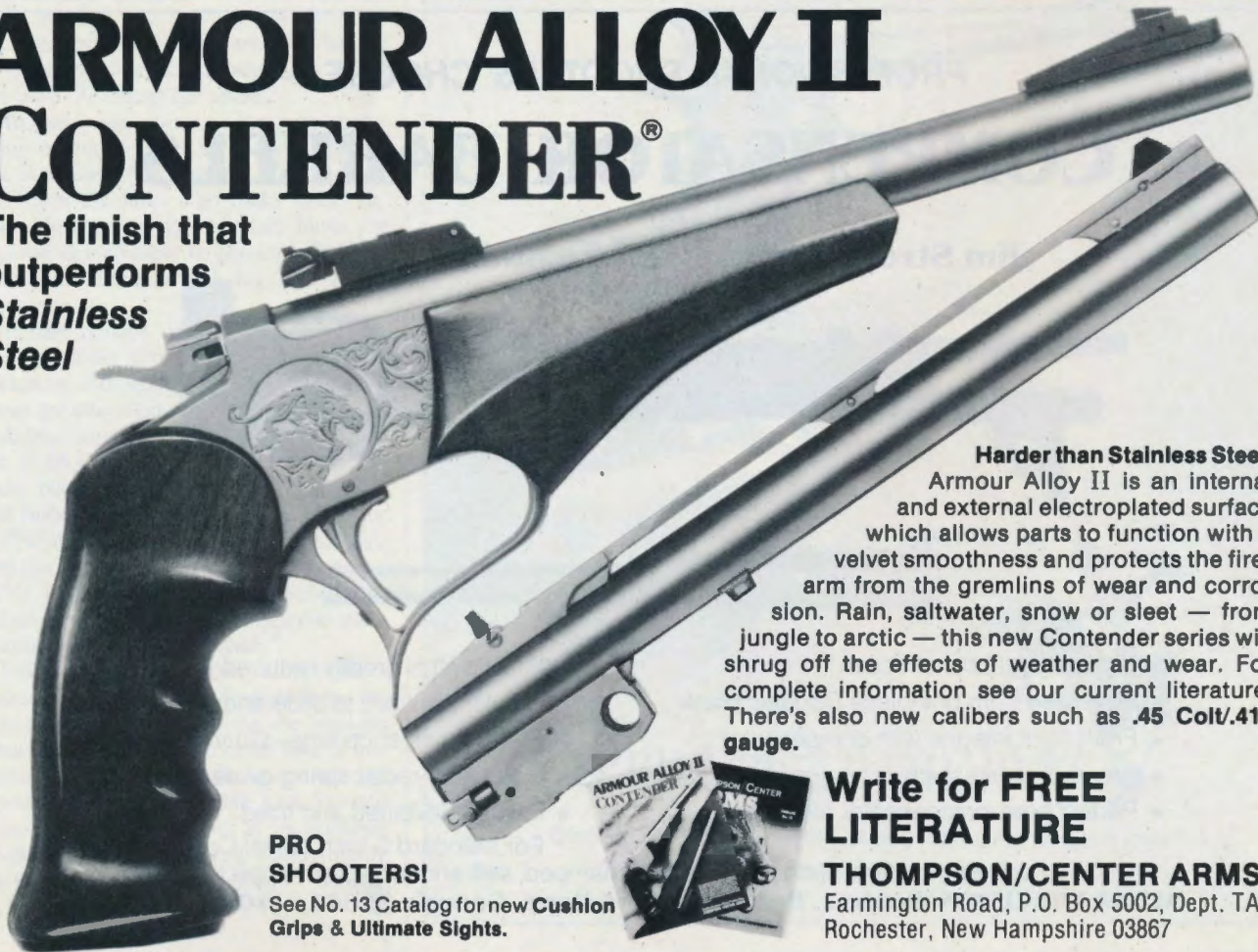
**JW:** *Has your success changed your life, your attitudes?*

**CR:** I don't think so. I haven't gotten even local press coverage because I think they're hesitant to write about shooting. And as for most of the women that I've competed against the last couple of years, a lot of us shoot pretty equally. I've beaten them on occasion and they've beaten me on occasion. We all know each other and we know that winning depends on who's having a good day and who's having a bad day.

I really like the people I've met through shooting. We know people all over the world. When we go to the European Championships, people invite us to stay in their homes

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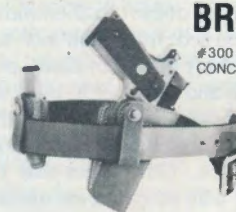
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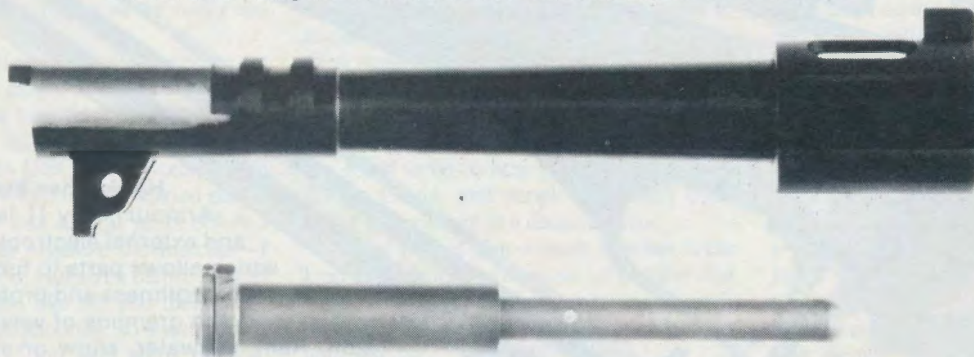
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## TENTH ANNIVERSARY GIVEAWAY GUN WINNER



On the occasion of our Tenth Anniversary, we sought the finest custom gun in America to offer to you, our readers, as a fitting gesture of our gratitude for your support over the years. Paul Sokolovski graciously donated one of his handmade Sokolovsky .45 pistols to commemorate our Tenth Anniversary.

The Sokolovsky .45 is machined from bar stock and then handcrafted to final perfection. Paul is only making 50 of his handmade pistols, and there are not many left before he hits his self-imposed limit.

But *American Handgunner* reader Michael Miller of Moreno Valley, Calif., has one of them. He entered our Custom Gun Giveaway contest in our Tenth Anniversary issue, September/October 1986, and won.

A veteran of military service, Michael is a longstanding handgunner active in PPC, IPSC, bullseye and bowling pin shooting. "I've been involved with firearms for the past 30 years," Michael says, "since my father gave me a .22 rifle at age seven."

Michael is also an active handgun hunter having hunted coyotes for a living at one time. A prime coyote pelt still brings a good buck from the folks who make ladies fur coats. However, today Michael hunts for sport and next October he plans to stalk deer and elk in Colorado with his T/C in .35 Remington.

Michael reloads on a Dillon 450 press which he shares with shooting buddies Bob Blackmore and Jeff Hopps. Our Giveaway winner got into reloading back in 1963.

Michael competes with a "basically stock" Colt Gold Cup in IPSC and bowling pin shoots, but prefers a modified S&W L-frame from Robert Perkins of Bob's Cop Shop for his PPC shooting. Michael says he is considering a comp gun for IPSC.

The lucky winner collects Smith and Wesson Commemoratives with special interest in law enforcement "specials."

Collector, hunter, shooter, competitor—Michael is an American handgunner. We salute the Michaels of America, the handgun enthusiasts who share with us the love of fine firearms and pay tribute to them with safe and responsible gun handling. We look forward to another 10 years together as we continue our dedication to American handgunning with the standards of excellence you have come to expect.



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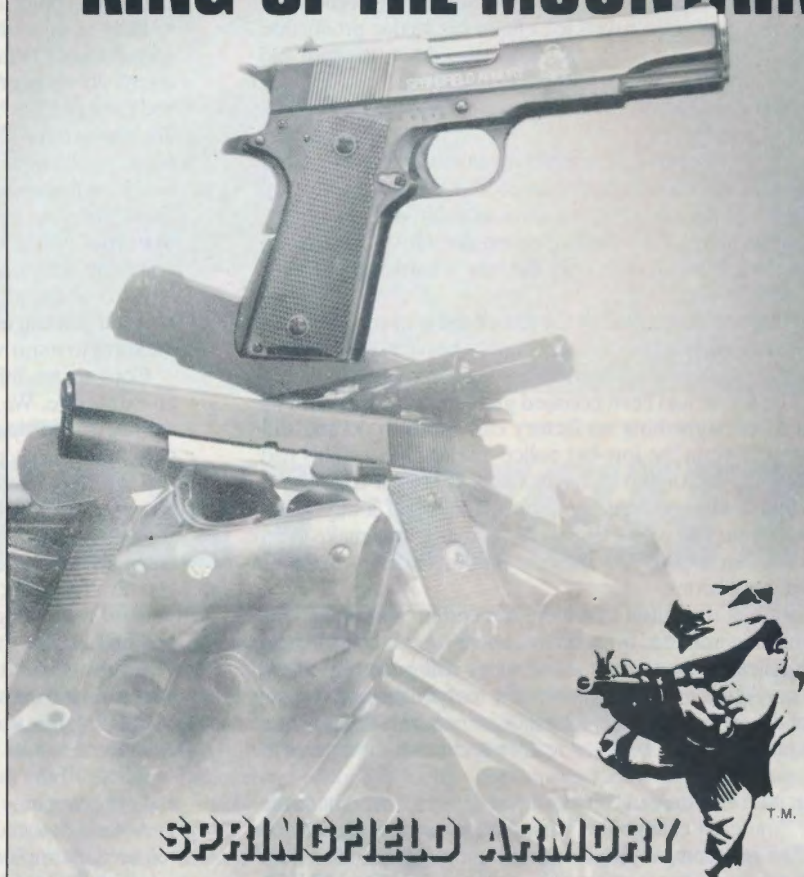
and the time proven Series 70 safety system. We even offer a choice of two finishes (military Parkerized or polished blue), a choice of two calibers (.45 ACP or 9mm), and a choice of either assembled pistols or unassembled kits. And, in final preparation for our climb to the summit, we've priced our 1911-A1 low enough to make it absolutely the best pistol value on the market.

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# SHOULD POLICE BE ALLOWED TO CARRY CUSTOM GUNS?

*The street cop should be thinking of customized guns as performance tuned to maximum capability.*

## PRO

*By Massad Ayoob*

Not long ago, I sat across the desk with the president of one of the world's largest revolver manufacturing firms. We were talking about the excellent reputations his duty sixguns were establishing for durability, reliability, and smoothness out of the box.

"You might be interested in seeing mine," I mentioned, drawing and unloading my personal specimen of Mr. President's Company Gun, fine tuned for maximum performance by Lou Ciamillo of Maryland Gun Works.

The chief executive stroked the action a couple of times. He punched his intercom and asked for one of his senior production people. When the man arrived, the boss handed him my gun and said, "Tell me why we don't make them that smooth!"

A long moment later, the harried production foreman replied, "We can't afford to."

He was right, of course. The revolver involved is the brand I recommend above all others, and is so good it immediately was in the "big three" of service revolver sales as soon as it was introduced, quickly forcing its way to the second slot. Out of the box, it's damn good. But, worked over only the way a master pistolsmith can, it is *fantastic*.

What did my revolver have that the run-of-the-mill company gun wouldn't? The barrel had been made slightly heavier, the better to balance in my hand, a modification the firm itself was about to switch to. The action had been polished glass smooth on each of its bearing surfaces, something no factory can afford to do and still remain competitive in the low-bid police market. New sights had been installed for maximum visibility under low-light conditions, sights that might have snagged on a cheap holster if a buyer had tried to carry them that way. The company was right to make them ramped for general use; for me, the Patridge sights installed aftermarket work better.

Let me state at the outset that there are certain customizations that should *not* be tolerated on police weaponry. Lighter springs in revolvers or heavier springs in autoloaders will generally cause malfunctions. As a general rule, trust only magazines made by the producer of the service automatic itself. *Never* attach a trigger shoe which can jam the gun at best and lead to accidental discharges at worst.

Consider that I've trained officers from departments where the boss says, "You can't change the grips that come on your service revolver. The gun company knows more about gun handles than you do!" Never mind the fact that coast to coast, LAPD to NYPD, most streetwise officers adorn their service revolvers with grips that fit their hands. Hogue and Pachmayr are the favorites. Officers state that they pay \$15 or much more out of their own pocket for

*Continued on page 66*

*A gun that meets factory specifications is a gun that has been tried and tested.*

## CON

*By Fred Romero*

There is no question that this is a touchy subject and I'm probably going to come off sounding like an old maid, but after careful consideration I have to go on record as being *against* the use of modified weapons by law enforcement officers in general, and uniformed police officers in particular. I can hear the roar of dissent coming from station house locker rooms and bathrooms (or wherever you read your magazines) branding me a heretic. But that's how I feel. And on the assumption that we have your attention, let's pursue this point a little further.

Bear in mind this statement is not based on theory or pie-eyed speculation. On the contrary, for those of you who don't know me, there's 20 years of experience and personal observation behind it, and most of it has been in the field. (Editor's Note: Fred Romero is a 20-year-veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department. He is a cop's cop, a patrol officer with plenty of street savvy. His views are based on first-hand experience from inside a squad car, from over the sights of his issue sidearm, from confronting the filth and scum that crawl the dark alleys.) So when the subject of police equipment comes up, I'm no stranger to the many gimmicks and additions that have come and gone and *still* remain on cops' guns. I've seen most of it and you can take my word there have been some pretty unique attempts to improve on an already functional factory product.

Cops are no different than anyone else when it comes to wanting an extra edge. We all would like to think our equipment represents the latest word in design and, if it's not, some of us will, by God, take whatever steps are necessary to remedy that oversight. The end result of this misguided energy can be funny sometimes if the potential for tragedy were not so real. When you tinker with something that already works you run the risk of setting up unwanted variables. Take, for example, this sampling of a few classic attempts at making a good gun better:

Cutting the trigger rebound spring in a revolver to lighten trigger pull and only to find out later the trigger won't return dependably.

"Carving" out the hammer mainspring (S&W) to improve the action only to cause periodic misfires.

Bending this same spring to relax the tension and get a "softer" pull. Same results.

Filing off the hammer spur on revolvers (for whatever reason) and not being able to clear a jam unless the trigger is pulled.

Adding "specialty" sights to some semi-autos only to find it required cutting into the slide too much, or once mounted the gun wouldn't fit in the holster.

Filing the case hardening off of the single action notch in a revolver and finding out the "fall off" pressure required to cause the hammer to slip has become dangerously light.

*Continued on page 64*



By Tony Lesce

The problem of sighting a handgun in the dark has plagued shooters for decades. The problem's especially acute for law enforcement officers, as many of their shoot-outs occur in dim light. Likewise, a householder facing a night intruder often needs a low-light aiming system.

Many "systems" have been tried, and many devices have been concocted. They've usually proved to be expensive and bulky, as well as unreliable. Some require extensive training to use, while others are dangerous to the user. Clamps which mount flashlights on the weapons provide ideal aiming points to opponents.

***Low light shootings seem to be the rule in self-defense gunfights. Maximize your handgun's effectiveness with radioactive tritium night sights!***

The basic principle of night firing seems to be that "if you can see the target, you can hit it." The problem comes when there's enough light to see the target, but not enough to see the sights.

Even white paint on the sights can only reflect light falling on them. "Luminous"



## NIGHT SIGHTS

paint spots that require flashing a light on them are often impractical in the field.

Tritium inserts in the sights give luminous aiming dots that are easy to acquire.

Tritium sights have a number of advantages. They're passive sights, unlike infra-red systems which illuminate the target and have a glow visible to an opponent with the proper filter. Tritium sights have no batteries,

switches, or other components likely to fail. In use, they're practically fool-proof, and anyone who can shoot a handgun and has normal night vision can exploit the potential of tritium sights with little training.

Tritium is a radioactive isotope which emits a dull glow. A very small amount, held in an aluminum capsule with a sapphire lens, forms the basic insert for a handgun sight. Manufacturers such as Armson and SIG/Sauer furnish front and rear sight blades for weapons with removable sights. These components can be installed by any gunsmith. Many firearms owners have the skill to

unscrew or drift out the sights on their handguns and replace them with the tritium components.

The radioactivity level is so low that no permit is required to own these sights. NRC regulations require that all tritium-equipped weapons be labeled with an identifying sticker.

Tritium sights are available for most handguns. The cost of tritium sights varies with the handgun for which they're made. Front blades from Armson cost between \$40 and \$60, retail. Rear sights cost between \$40 and

*Continued on page 81*



# RCBS AUTO PRIME

By Dan Cotterman



The entire reloading process—resizing and decapping, powder charging, bullet seating, all of it—should amount to a series of smooth, trouble-free operations. That's the way it is, at least till gremlins invade the automatic priming apparatus, a mishap that occurs with discouraging frequency on most so-called progressive reloading machinery. You have to stop loading until the problem has been corrected. It is therefore often handier to skip the priming phase on such presses and make priming a separate operation. Even with single-stage presses priming is better handled separately.

For the reasons I've cited, and because of the importance of having primers properly seated, everything I say about the RCBS automatic priming tool will be based on the assumption that you're going to buy one and isolate the priming of cases from the rest of your reloading procedures. It's easier, it's safer, and it'll contribute much to your ability to assemble reliable, free-functioning ammo.

This RCBS tool, which will prime 50 cases in about five minutes, has been tested here throughout the priming of thousands of cases—handgun and rifle, large and small primer sizes—and has never failed to pick up a primer and seat it correctly. In fact, it's so easy to use that I've invited visitors to my reloading room to seat a few primers, just to see how easy it is. People who've never reloaded a round of ammo—children, cocktail waitresses, delivery truck drivers—can seat primers with this tool and get them right every time. There is therefore no good reason why anyone who's serious about reloading shouldn't be using it.

The tool, priced at \$54.50, comes ready to use, but doing so will be a lot easier if you pick up on a few things I've done with it. First of all, you might consider building a small wooden box (5"x5"x4" high will do) on which the tool will be mounted. This way, the tool can be stationed far enough back on the

bench that the handle won't be sticking out in the way and high enough off the surface of the bench that your knuckles won't be hitting when you're at the bottom of the seating stroke. This won't be necessary, however, if you don't mind having the handle project about nine inches beyond the edge of the bench.

Here's how the RCBS priming tool works. After you've loaded either of two (large or small) feed tubes with primers and inserted the tube into the primer feed arm, you push the handle down. The feed arm and tube will move forward and automatically drop a primer into the primer rod assembly. Next, you raise the handle to the top of its stroke and insert a case into the shellholder. Then lower the handle and seat the primer to the bottom of the primer pocket.

Raise the handle and remove the primed case. You'll discover that small primers require less pressure to be seated than large primers, but it's easy to get the feel of doing it right. You can check for high primers by passing a straight edge over the surface of the case head. Or if you want to see whether you're getting primers seated exactly right, you can use the RCBS Go, No-Go depth gauge. One end of the gauge has a .002" projection, the other end has a .005" projection, both of which are of a diameter smaller than that of the primer pocket. If the primer is seated as it should be, the Go end will sit flush against the head of the case, but the No-Go end will rock slightly. Once you've determined that everything is going as it should, an occasional spot check will be all that's needed.

As I said, this tool picks up a primer and moves it into position for seating every time, nor have I through intentional erratic handling been able to cause it to malfunction. But I like to go for the ultimate in neatness and convenience, so I drilled a 19/64ths hole in

Continued on page 82

# BOOK REVIEWS

*Gunproof Your Children*, By Massad Ayoob, Police Bookshelf, Box 122, Concord, NH 03301, 17 pages, \$4.95

A good friend of mine once told me that the A progression of a child's life went thusly: "Rug rat, ankle biter, curtain climber, back yard baby, and front yard baby." If you're currently blessed with one or more of the aforementioned blasting their way through your domicile like miniature Tasmanian Devils and you're a gun owner, Massad Ayoob has taken the problems of children and guns in hand in his latest offering.

In this short, handbook-style treatise, the author speaks to those who keep a gun in the house mainly for self-defense, although the casual gun owner is also addressed. His premise is that rather than "child proof the gun," it is better to "gun proof the child" instead. His reasoning, logically, is that since the gun is kept for self-defense, it would be



foolhardy indeed to field strip the gun and spread the parts around the house, hidden in various nooks and crannies under lock and key. He likens this to a diabetic keeping his syringe in one place, needle in another and insulin in a third. Then, when he feels a diabetic coma coming on, cannot get to his equipment in time to assemble it.

Various other methods of attempting to render the gun safe are discussed, but all are discarded in the final analysis because children are more innovative than we usually give them credit for. Thus he moves on to methods of how to instruct your child from an early age on the "dos and don'ts" of firearms.

"An excellent indicator," he says, "is the family pet. If the child is capable of handling chores normally associated with pets, then the child is probably ready to begin his or her firearm education."

Throughout the book, Massad uses a multitude of analogies and good reasoning why something works or why it doesn't. This type of argument is something that Ayoob is very adept at, and one finds his methods and reasoning hard to fault. If you have children and guns in the home, even if you've already begun their education with them, *Gunproof Your Children* will prove interesting and informative reading. Jim Weller



*The Pride Method*, By John Pride and Jon Winokur, Potshot Press, P.O. Box 1117, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272, 56 pages, illustrated, soft cover, \$4.95 plus \$1 shipping.

Handgun shooting, as any aficionado of the sport can tell you, is a decidedly double-edged sword. On the one hand, nothing can be more relaxing or enjoyable as an afternoon at the range plinking away at fat paper targets in the company of a few good friends. Under these ideal conditions shooting can be a calming endeavor with no hint of strife. Now, throw in a few variables commonly associated with match shooting (i.e., big money and prizes at stake, people watching your every move, posted scores, cameras, etc.) and you have the kind of pressure-cooker atmosphere that catches most shooters a little short.

If you have never shot competitively before, then you might find it hard to understand what all the hoopla is about. Rest assured it's not as easy as it may look, not by any stretch of the imagination.

John Pride, a seasoned pistol shooter with an enviable list of credits to his name, has written an interesting little book that deals with the problems of match shooting in a most unique way. Unlike a lot of other printed guides that try to stress the basics of marksmanship in some new or provocative way, Pride's book relies heavily on the *mental game* of shooting.

It is no secret that many top shooters use some form of self-hypnosis to overcome the rigors of an important match. But, what is interesting is how involved the science of mind over emotions has become. *The Pride Method* covers this fascinating subject in a clear and easy to understand manner.

With the assistance of co-author Jon Winokur, Pride takes the reader through the maze of pitfalls waiting for the unsuspecting or weak-willed shooter standing at the threshold victory. Such demons as: dealing with the crowd, weather, the Eternal Bozo, getting psyched-out, and bad calls, to name just a few, are all dealt with using Pride's "positive attitude" approach to shooting.

For those who are more "street" oriented, there is even a section covering the realities of knock-down power, point shooting, and surviving the ultimate confrontation. Not the kind of stuff usually associated with a book on match shooting, but interesting to most of us nonetheless.

*The Pride Method* leaves no stone unturned for those who are seriously looking for a solution to their match woes. Although the subject of self-hypnosis in shooting may not be for everyone, many well-known names in the sport have embraced the idea to some degree. That fact, plus the reputation of the man presenting the information, makes this book a noteworthy addition to any handgunner's library. *Bob Sharp.*

# Bianchi Goes With Adventure



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*Inspector Charles Grabbatin of the U.S. Customs gives the field a pasting with a stunning display of shooting prowess!*





# 1986 PPC Nationals



By Robert Mejia

**H**ope springs eternal in the breast of a Des Moines-bound PPC shooter, and part of that aspiration naturally concerns the weather, which is always questionable in Iowa's capital. Fate was kind this year. The 25th annual National Police Revolver Championships enjoyed near-textbook climatic conditions with nary a drop of rain and mostly negligible winds.

The feds won it again this year. (Aranzo Milbourne of the Secret Service was the 1985 champion). Curiously, in the 25 year history of the NPRC, the overall winner has always been a federal, state, or municipal peace officer. A sheriff's deputy has yet to take the gold.

All hands were watching Milbourne wondering if he would become the third man to win this match three times. Kerry Hile of Columbus, Ohio P.D. (who did it three times *in a row*) and Jerry Jackson of the Border Patrol are the only "triple crown winners." But Inspector Charles Grabbatin of U.S. Customs posted a 1495X104 (possible 1500X150), edging out Douglas Young of Wackenhut Services (a private security firm) by three points.

Lest you think that three points is not a lot, some perspective is in order here. At the top echelon of PPC competition, there is very rarely a runaway winner. Take, for example, this year's service gun match. The first *seven* places were decided by *X count*, those shooters all posting perfect point scores. Believe me, three points is a substantial margin. It is sort of like winning the Steel Challenge by a full minute.

Libby Callahan of Washington D.C. Metropolitan Police was the Woman Champion with a 1488X102. She won the warm-up match the day before the main event, and has the ability to take the overall championship. She bears watching closely.

The team events have always been hotly contested, and 1986 was no exception. After 10 years of being the bridesmaid, LAPD Blue finally made it to the altar. The 2377X175 (possible 2400X240) fired by J.P. Nelson, Chris Kaufman, Fred Romero and John Pride squeaked past the 2376X151 posted by the Hanford Gold. LAPD's arch-nemesis, the Secret Service, was close behind with 2374X155. The two-man team event was won by Charles Crawford and the perennial Frank Glenn of Arizona Department of Public Safety with a 1194X89 (possible 1200X120).

LAPD's win was particularly gratifying for them, since this tournament was the swan song for LAPD Blue. Shortly after the Nationals, J.P. Nelson retired to take a position with the NRA. Kaufman and Romero will retire later this year, so that leaves John Pride to pick up the pieces and start anew. But the departing champions will not be totally forgotten. Fred Romero has left a legacy for them. *The Complete Manual of PPC*, Romero's *magnum opus* (his work has graced these pages many times), is now available for the paltry sum of \$15, postpaid, from FR3 Enterprises, P.O. Box 2022, Simi Valley, CA 93065. Although aimed primarily at the new shooter, there is grist here aplenty for even the most jaded veteran's mill. The entire spectrum of the game is discussed in detail. This book is a must for every serious competitor's library.

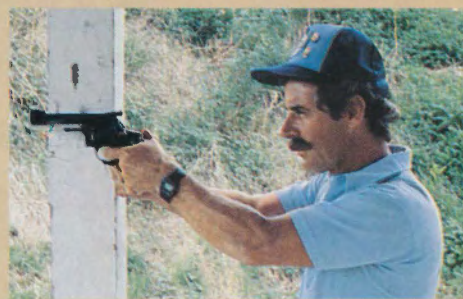


## MEET THE CHAMPIONS

By Robert Mejia

**T**he 1986 NPRC open champion is a study of contradictions. A 16-year-veteran of the U.S. Customs Service, Inspector Charles Grabbatin hails from Columbia, SC. He won last year's President's Match, and is the first-ever Customs man to take the open aggregate. What sets Chuck apart from most other PPC shooters is his gun, coupled with one of the most unorthodox shooting stances I've ever seen.

Chuck shoots a heavy-barreled S&W M-10, the same bread'n'butter K-frame that accounts for probably 99% of all PPC guns. But there the similarity ends. The gun sports a five-inch barrel, which is unique in my experience. Six-inch tubes are



**Chuck Grabbatin shoots with an unorthodox stance and odd-ball barrel length.**

universal in this sport. Joy Kay did the barrel and specially cut-down Bo-Mar rib. Chuck then put it all together.

He claims the shorter barrel has less muzzle jump, and causes the gun to recoil straight back instead of up. Chuck prefers a wide trigger over the predominant narrow, smooth trigger. Pachmayr Grippers, Rogers leather, and Remington factory wadcutters complete the winning form.

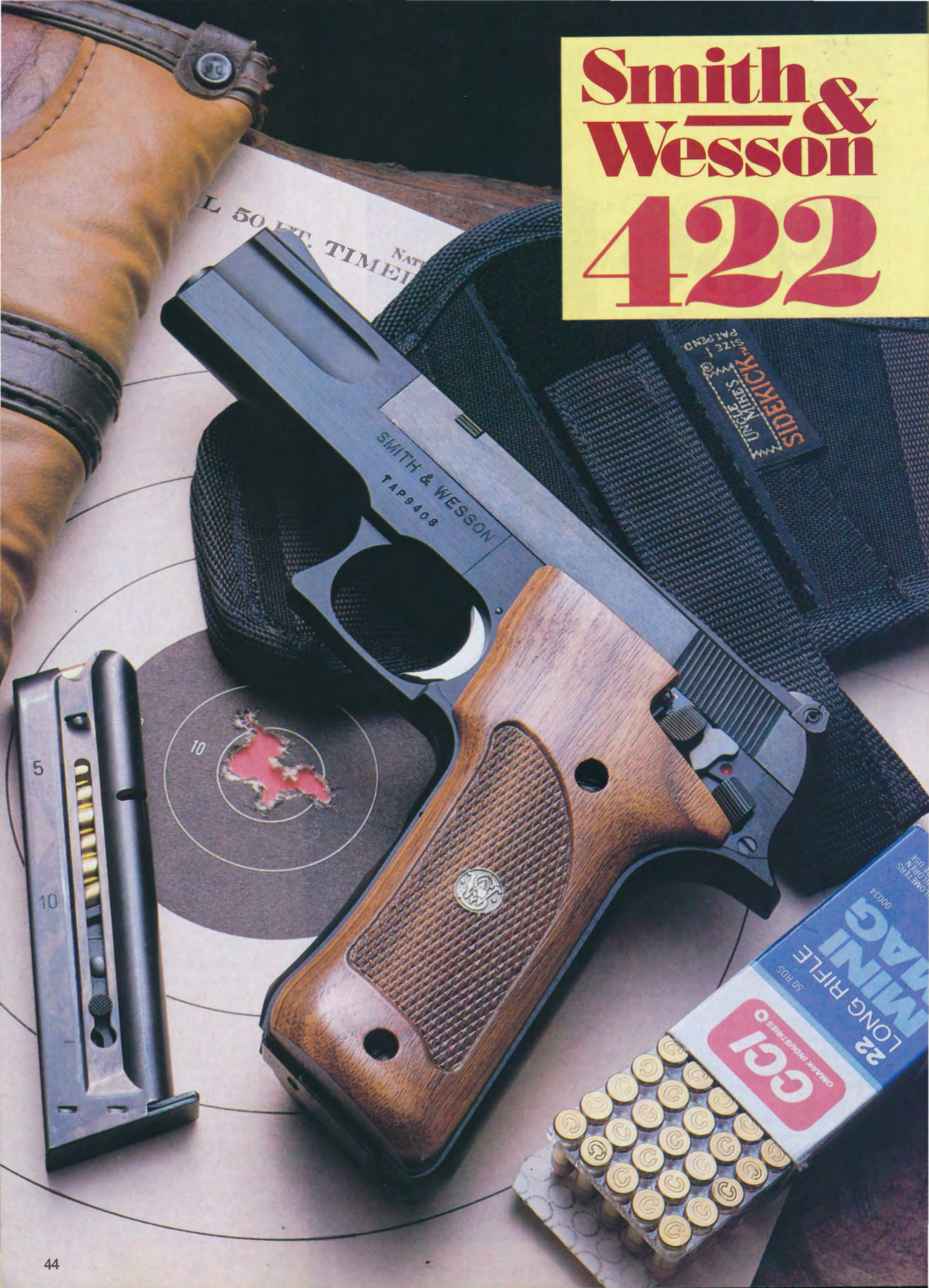
And please note that, with Davis and Aristocrat pre-set adjustable sight ribs in vogue these days, Chuck's old Bo-Mar requires him to laboriously count clicks between range changes. Yet another example of how plain skill outperforms bells and whistles.

Chuck has a rather odd bent-arm stance that brings his weapon nearly four inches closer to his face than is normal. When asked how he developed it, he merely grins and shrugs.

*Continued on page 63*



# Smith & Wesson 422





***A new rimfire plinker from Smith and Wesson for under \$200! The Model 422, complete with a box of ammo and a cleaning kit, is an ideal "starter kit" for a beginning handgunner; but an accomplished shooter can also appreciate its fine points.***

***By Howard E. French***

***Photos By Ichiro Nagata***

**S**mith & Wesson is well known for .22 caliber firearms. After all, their first such revolver was the Model 1 Seven Shooter .22 patented in 1855. This model, and variations of it, were used during the Civil War, or, if you're from below the Mason Dixon Line, The War Between the States. Since that time Smith & Wesson has brought us many new revolvers, pistols and even long arms. I am certain that the new 422 .22 caliber pistol is going to win acclaim with American sportsmen.

The '4' in the 422 refers to the fact that the frame of the pistol is extruded aluminum which is mated to a carbon steel slide. The result is that the pistol, with either a 4½ or 6-inch barrel, is extremely light and easy to hold by both adults and young shooters.

Not too light though, for it has enough weight to handle well, however, it doesn't drag on your arm after a long day's shooting. Our test pistol with target sights and a 4½ inch barrel weighs 22 ounces. A short barreled S&W Model 41 autoloading .22 caliber tips the scales at 36 ounces. At a pound less than the Model 41, the 422 is going to be a favorite for people to holster on both hunts and day outings.

I am certain that some shooters will note that this pistol looks a bit like the Model 61 Escort that Smith & Wesson introduced in 1970. It does, like the Escort, have the barrel mounted in the bottom of the frame with the recoil spring mounted above it. The aspect of having the barrel located underneath the recoil spring and guide was apparently not appreciated by shooters of the Escort. However, the Escort is strictly a pocket pistol with a very short grip as the magazine held only five cartridges. The 422 is a full sized arm with a magazine capacity of 10 cartridges. By placing the barrel underneath the slide spring, and closer to your hand, the apparent *felt* recoil is reduced.

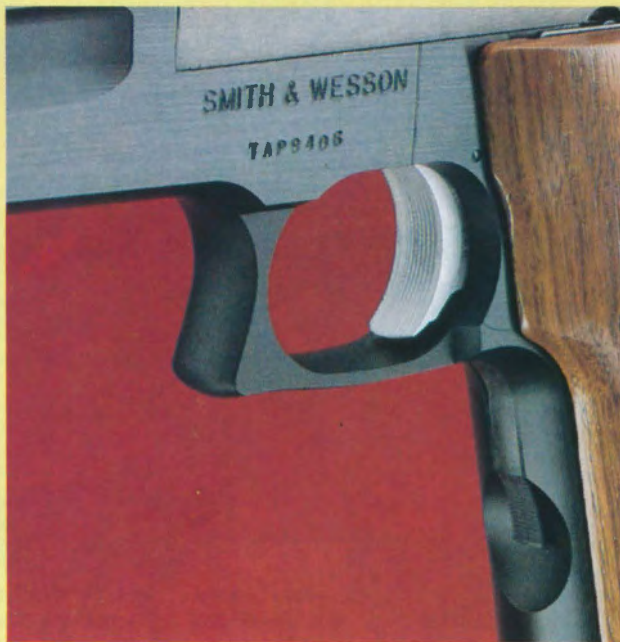
Naturally, all .22 rifle cartridges of the same type will recoil with the same

energy, however, how you *feel* it is something different. Most shotgun enthusiasts, when shooting skeet or trap with over/under guns, usually shoot the bottom barrel first as you don't get the same muzzle flip and the recoil seems softer. The same is true in modern military rifles—usually the barrel is positioned as far down as possible. Again, to help you control recoil.

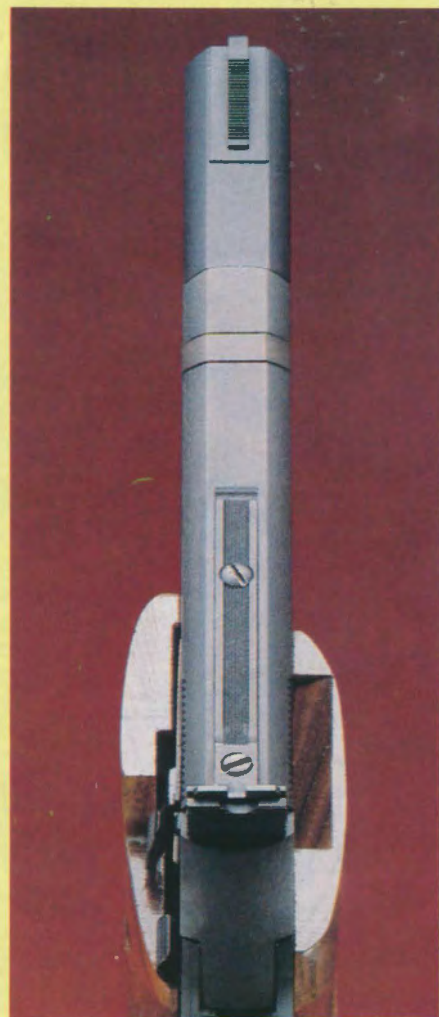
With the 422 I found that the lower location of the barrel, despite the light weight of the pistol, was easy to fire with little muzzle lift. It was accurate despite a series of lightning-like blasts at an elusive tin can. Both women as well as other shooters had the same feeling. It is a fun gun to shoot!

Taking down the 422 pistol is somewhat similar to the old Escort. In the Escort the front sight locked the recoil spring in place, when the sight was released the arm could be field stripped.

The 422 favors that system, only there is a



***That button on the front strap (above) is the magazine release. One would think the mag would fall out when gripping the gun, but the author says it doesn't. Right, the 422 field strips with the aid of a spent case. The barrel is under the recoil spring and rod. All in all, an ingenious design.***







**The 422 is available in two barrel lengths, with wood or plastic grips, with adjustable or fixed sights. It's one heck of a gun for the money!**

separate recoil guide plug located in the slide. To dismount, first remove the magazine, pull back the slide making certain that there is no loaded round in the chamber. With the slide locked to the rear, insert a *fired* case with the mouth of the case facing the muzzle of the pistol and the base of the case facing the exposed recoil guide rod. Release the slide and allow it to move forward until the mouth of the case is against the inside of the forward part of the frame. You may have to move the slide a bit with your hand while pulling up on the recoil guide plug.

When the guide plug becomes free, pull back on the slide, then remove the fired cartridge case and the recoil spring and guide rod. The slide can now be removed from the action.

Basically, this is as far as one needs to go for cleaning and oiling of the pistol. To clean the barrel from the breech, as one should always do if possible, you must push down on the rear of the cleaning rod which depresses the hammer so that the brush or patch enters the chamber cleanly.

To re-assemble, put the slide on the frame, insert the recoil spring and rod, holding the spring and rod with the same empty case, and ease the slide forward until you can insert the recoil guide which then snaps into place. There is a cut in the recoil guide that snaps



Photo By Howard French

around the guide rod; this cut should face the butt of the pistol. Once the recoil guide rod plug is in place, pull back on the slide until the empty case falls free and the gun is ready.

Smith and Wesson says that the magazine is similar to the Model 41 magazine. That's an understatement. I found that the 422 magazine fits the Model 41 pistol, but the Model 41 magazine, while it enters the magazine well, would not lock into place. The only difference between the two magazines that I could see is the slot-cut in the magazine

which engages the magazine release button extension.

The Model 41 has a side mounted release catch for the magazine while the 422 releases from the center of the front grip. The slot in the 422 magazine is long enough to work in both of these two pistols. I am certain that with a little careful file work you could extend the existing slot so that the Model 41 magazine would also work in the 422 pistol.

I took a 422 magazine, loaded it, and used

*Continued on page 68*



**Jim Kelley, right, removes a Colt 1911 frame from the plating tanks containing \$10,000 worth of chemicals. The Metaloy plating chemicals are mixed to a secret recipe that only two men in the world know. Below: Metaloy plates duty weapons, hunting handguns and competition handguns like this Wilson Accu-Comp. All parts are plated for corrosion resistance, greater hardness and a lower coefficient of friction. It's handsome too.**



*By Cameron Hopkins*

**S**teaming humidity in the sweltering sun of Africa's bushveld keeps a hunter sweating pint after pint of salty perspiration. Guns rust quickly, literally in a matter of hours. But handgun hunting hombres like J.D. Jones don't sweat it. They've given their SSK Handcannons an inoculation against rust.

In a thundering downpour on a lonely road in Louisiana's swampland, a State Trooper huddles over his ticket book as he writes a motorist a citation. Rain pelts his service revolver, streams into the cylinder and flows out the bottom of his holster. But the trooper doesn't sweat it. He's safeguarded his sidearm against corrosion.

Master pistolsmiths Steve Nastoff and Richard Heinie painstakingly create some of the finest custom .45 autos in the country. Hundreds of manhours go into fashioning elite examples of the gunsmith's art. But it is a functional art and the finish must be both attractive and durable. They don't sweat it. They've seen to it their custom guns are both

*What do plinkers, policemen, and pistolsmiths have in common? A preference for Metaloy's precision chrome plating!*

## METALOY'S MIRACLE PLATING



aesthetically pleasing and functionally finished.

What do the guns of hunters, policemen and pistolsmiths have in common? They all sport Metaloy precision chrome finishes.

Metaloy (Rt. 3, Box 211-M, P.O. Box 578, Berryville, AR, 72616, (501) 545-3611) is an extremely hard electro-deposited chromium that is applied to guns by a rigidly controlled proprietary process. Metaloy produces a superior degree of adherence and uniformity that is not attainable by conventional chrome plating.

The secret? It's the formula for the plating chemical. Like the unsurpassed Eley priming compound, it is a closely guarded secret. Metaloy president Jim Kelley explains, "It's like Kentucky Fried Chicken. We add our own 11 spices and herbs."

Jim memorized the formula from his mentor, the man who discovered the Metaloy process during WW II, and only these two men know how to mix this batch of special chemicals.

When a gun arrives at Metaloy it is first detail stripped into its component parts. Next all the existing finish must be removed

*Continued on page 75*





CH

It is axiomatic in the pistolsmithing profession that if one wants to attain prominence, then one must draw the spotlight of the *American Handgunner*. A feature in these pages is the mark of excellence, a badge of distinction to wear proudly. Anyone who is anyone, say the better pistolsmiths, has appeared in this prestigious publication.

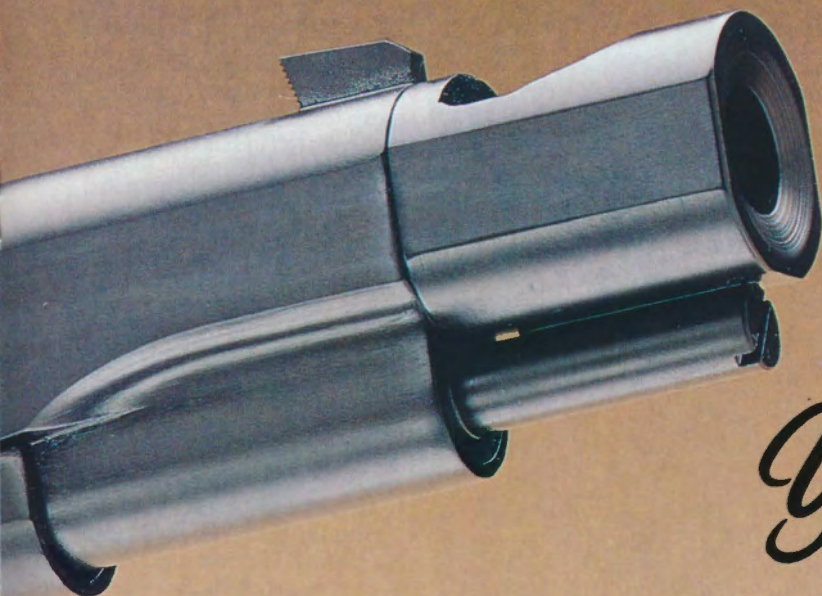
Consequently, we are forever deluged with self-serving pleas for recognition. "I am great, make me a star!" cry the budding pistolsmiths. Some will eventually gain our respect, some will have to remain in their state of obscurity.

So it came as some surprise when we learned of a soft-spoken, humble man secreted away in a shady corner of New England. Tranquil and at peace, like the rolling meadows and quiet woods that surround him, pistolsmith Mike LaRocca had never pestered us with pleas for recognition. Mike knew his talents would eventually draw notice, and he had enough confidence in his skills to allow his work to speak for itself.

It did, and loudly. Precisely two years ago, in the May/June 1985 issue, we first featured Mike in a *Pistolsmith Profile*. We were impressed with his work then, and two years later we find he has refined his techniques to yet a higher plane of quality.

Mike graciously consented to present a





*You can win a*

# LA ROCCA CUSTOM COMBAT .45

*Tucked away in a cozy nook in New England lives a master pistolsmith whose work is turning heads from coast to coast. His name is Mike LaRocca and this custom combat .45 illustrates his impeccable skills to create fine firearms.*

lucky reader with this LaRocca Custom Combat .45. Beginning with a Colt Government Model pistol, Mike fitted his renowned LC II Comp System which includes the LaRocca Ramp Ported Compensator, a highly effective compensator for reducing felt recoil.

Among the first, if not *the* first, to offer an enlarged magazine funnel, the custom .45 sports LaRocca's Rock-Well mag funnel. This enlarges the magazine well opening by some 400%.

In addition, Mike installed a set of Bo-Mar adjustable combat sights in a precisely dovetailed slot. No daylight peeks through the dovetail, a sign of superb workmanship.

The trigger is a Pachmayr National Match set to a crisp 3½ pounds. The front strap is hand-checked at 20 lpi for a firm purchase on the weapon.

A flared ejection port facilitates reliable and authoritative ejection of spent cases. An extended magazine release button aids in

rapid reloads. An extended thumb safety speeds up the acquisition of a target. A special "Black Velvet" bluing gives the gun a brilliant luster.

Custom grips are from Kim Ahrends (915 First Ave. SE, Dept. AH, Clarion, IA, 50525 (515-532-3449).

Of course the LaRocca custom .45 has been fully accurized with all internal parts honed and polished to perfection.

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LaRocca Gun Works  
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**Limit 1 entry per household.**

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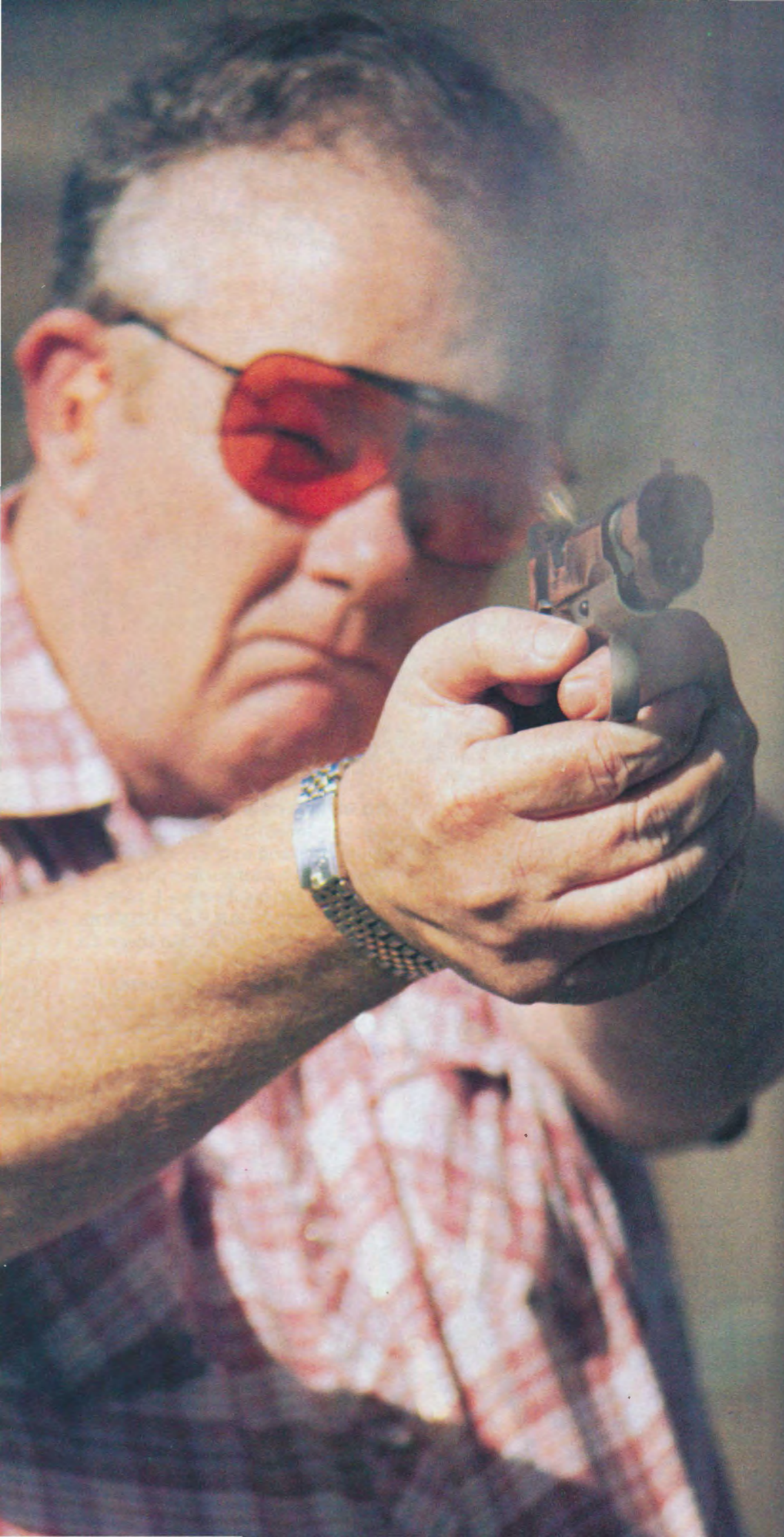
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Contest void where taxed or prohibited by law. No purchase necessary. Winner must comply with all federal and local laws. Employees and agents of Publisher's Development Corp. not eligible.





**M**arty Liggins, ballisticsian for Accurate Arms, is a big fan of the 10mm Auto. He uses a Contender with a custom barrel in silhouette competition and extols the virtues of the cartridge to all who'll listen. Well, I heard him and his arguments are reasonable. The cartridge is superbly accurate and can be loaded down quite a bit to make the IPSC major power factor of

## 10 mm LIGHT

By Charles E. Petty

*Down-loading the 10mm and shooting it in a compensated auto turns this powerhouse into the 10mm Light, ideal for IPSC, action and bowling pin shooting!*

170. This is noteworthy for, right now, the options available to IPSC shooters are limited: either he shoots a .45 or has to push the hell out of the .38 Super or 9mm to make major. Yes, there are a few folks who are making major with the 9mm, although they seem to be doing it at the expense of astronomical pressures, weirdly throated barrels or undersize bullets. Marty's enthusiasm for the cartridge made me wonder: is there a place in IPSC for the 10mm Auto cartridge and could it be made to work in a Government Model?

I'm sure you have all heard of the Bren Ten debacle and

**Author found the 10mm Light to recoil less than a .45 ACP but not quite as soft as a .38 Super.**

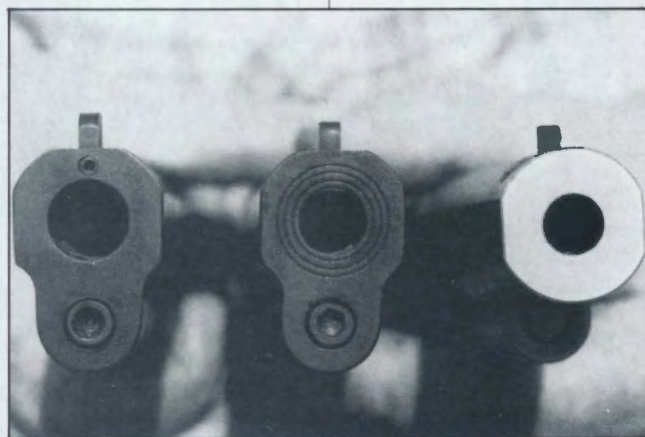


while the gun is, at least for the time being, dead, the cartridge is very much alive and available from Norma. There are two factory loads: a 160 gr. hollowpoint that churns up over 1250 fps, and a 200 gr. ball round at almost 1100 fps. Obviously, neither of these loads is suitable for IPSC—they're too hot—but there is no reason the 10mm can't be loaded down a little. The key to the whole thing will be for an American company to come out with a gun. Colt recently unveiled a Government Model in 10mm that they have dubbed "Delta Elite." Rumor has it that other companies are looking at it too. This will surely lead an American ammunition maker to offer the cartridge.

With these thoughts in mind it seemed as if it would be worth investigation but, right now *nothing* is readily available. Marty suggested I get in touch with Mike Rock at 101 Ogden Ave., Albany, WI, 53502. Rock has an enviable reputation for making super accurate barrels for rifle competitors and benchrest shooters. He also made barrels for the ill-fated Bren Ten and is one of only a few men with facilities for rifling the .40 caliber, 10mm bore. Mike began by reaming out a .38 Super barrel and then rifling it. The barrel, as it came, was almost too pretty to shoot.

The frame and slide were not a problem. I had recently completed a test of Springfield Armory's new M1911A1 and felt that it was a very likely candidate for building a competition gun, so I placed an order for a Springfield Armory frame and 9mm slide. The 10mm's rim dimensions convinced me that a 9mm or .38 Super slide was the proper starting point. I don't believe a .45 slide would work, for there is too much slop and we'd have to use the extractor to center the case in the slide. Next, I enlisted gunsmith Leonard Baity of 414 2nd St., North Wilkesboro, NC, 28659, to help with the building. Leonard has an adventurous nature and was willing to tackle a purely experimental project. He builds a dynamite comp gun and all we'd have to do is open up one of his .38 Super compensators a little.

Still, there were a lot of



**Wave of the future or trendy fad? Time will tell, but for now the 10mm shows promise.**

**A target's view shows the relative bore size of (L to R) .45, 10mm, .38 Super.**



**A chamber's view shows the relative sizes of the cartridges—.45, 10, .38.**

unknowns in the project. What to use for magazines and extractor; what sort of dimensions were needed in the slide? When all the parts arrived Leonard and I sat down and studied the matter. We agreed to begin work the following weekend but, when I arrived at his shop, enthusiasm had gotten the best of him and we had a working model.

Baity had carefully opened

up the slide and had the gun ready to shoot, *sans* comp. Two other problems we anticipated that didn't materialize were the extractor and magazines. A .45 extractor required only slight modification to work perfectly. Wilson-Rogers magazines required a little adjustment of the lips to get the round to release properly but it was, at worst, a minor modification. An extra added

attraction is that magazine capacity is increased to eight rounds in the standard mag and nine with a Devel follower. The recoil spring is standard Government Model.

The first shot fired was one of those cross-your-fingers events, but we needn't have worried for the gun functioned well. Not flawlessly, but well enough to leave us encouraged that we were on the right track. Had the wheels fallen off at this stage we would have, at least, saved the time and expense of making and fitting the comp.

With the knowledge that it was workable, our enthusiasm doubled and Leonard went ahead with the building. The gun was completely accurized and the comp fitted. Then, with the gun still in the white, we shot it again. With the comp on, it was even better and the decision was easily made to go ahead and complete the job.

Baity installed one of his

*Continued on page 72*



**T**he Swiss are clever. The only country in the world that requires every man-jack to own a gun is no nation of ninies. The Swiss dominated the long row of billowing flags snapping in the brisk breeze with a *huge* Swiss flag dwarfing the banners of the United States, Great Britain, Ecuador, France, Germany, Venezuela, Australia and the Philippines.

And Canada, Norway, Belgium, South West Africa, Sweden and Spain. The shooters flocked to World Shoot VII from all corners of the globe and, with one exception from Spain, all were delighted to participate in the greatest IPSC match ever held anywhere.

# WORLD SHOOT VII

*By Cameron Hopkins*

heard conveying his prediction to a curious waiter in a restaurant.

"Some damn American" may well be a justified sigh of resignation, laced with a bit of bitterness, over the futility of facing the world's greatest IPSC shooters—on their own turf. Even abroad, Americans have always shot with distinction, but give us the home field advantage and you'd better allow a point spread of more than two touchdowns. You're facing the Chicago Bears at Soldier Field.

Indeed, anyone going to any foreign country for any reason faces culture shock, dyschronia (jet lag) and culinary surprises. (Our European friends tasting Mexican food for the first time were impressed. Reports held that there were long lines outside the porta-potties the next day.) Be that as it may, the Americans had a pair of titles to defend and they really couldn't care less if

Strolling around the Orange County Sheriff's Range, the site of the four-day tournament in Orlando, Florida, one was impressed with the sing-song banter of foreign tongues.

"Hey, mon ami, vous tirez tres bien!" came the congratulations in French. The jibber-jabber of strange and beautiful languages.

Amid the guttural, nasal tones of German and the soft, sensuous notes of Castilian Spanish came the starched crispness of proper British-English.

"I'm learning to speak American," boasted a Britisher. "I can say 'Ya'll load and make ready.'"

World Shoot VII saw a brotherhood of practical shooters band together with camaraderie and goodwill to crown the new World Champion. Who would it be?

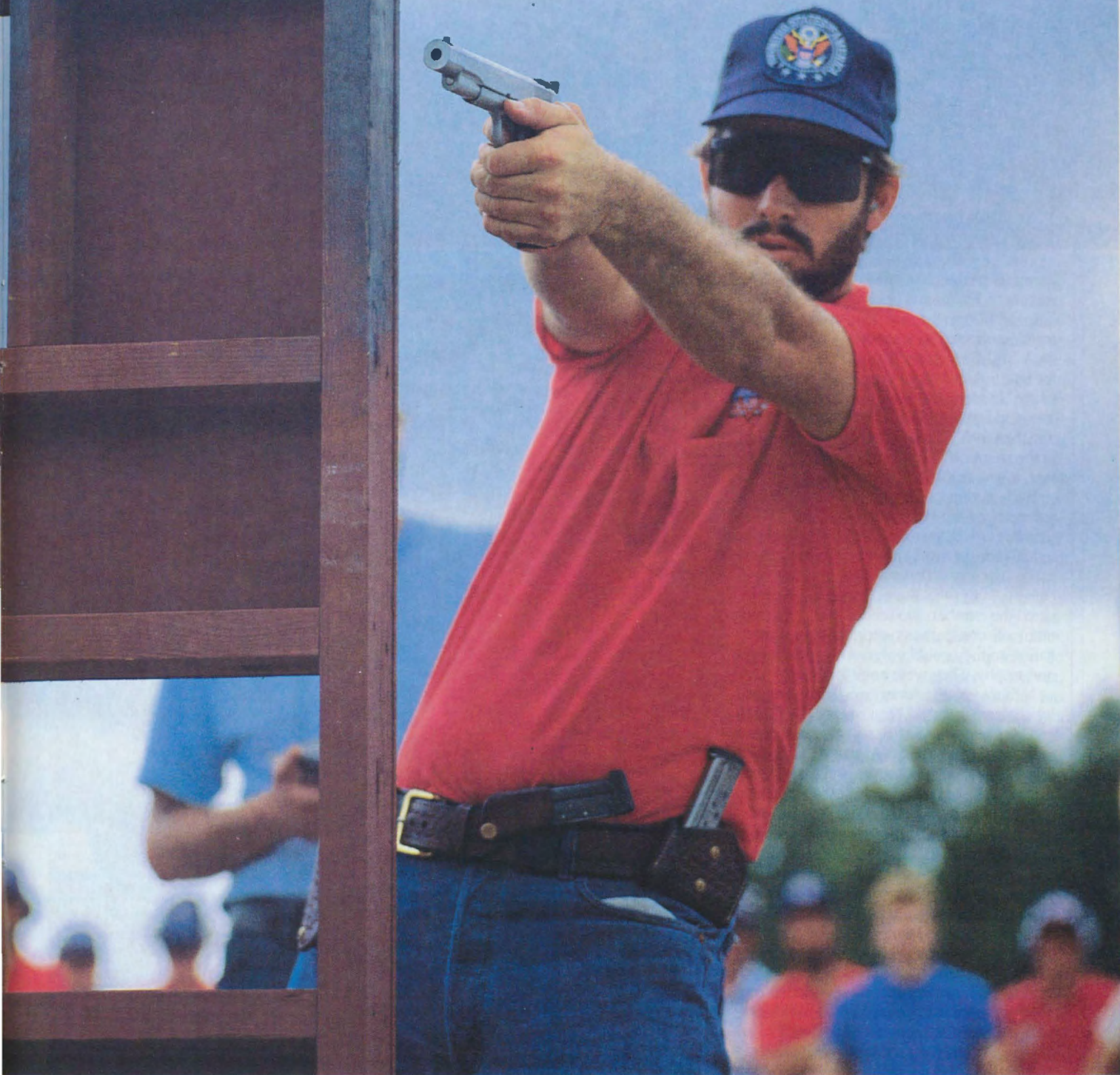
"Some damn American," scoffed one disgruntled foreigner who was over-



**National Teams parade before the overflowing crowds during the opening ceremonies. The event drew extensive local and national media coverage.**



*Rob Leatham wins  
his second IPSC World Championship!*





they shot to the best of their ability in Orlando or Oslo.

Coming into World Shoot VII, America stood as the defending World Champion Team and also boasted the reigning individual World Champion, Rob Leatham. The American ladies were anxious to prove themselves against the defending champions from South Africa.

A tough road lay ahead. Twenty-eight stages comprised the match. Twenty-eight! One intensive Standard Exercise tested basic skills while assault courses and speed shoots

**No, Tom Campbell (right) isn't about to hit the bank. He's reloading on the run during an assault course. Pretty fancy props, eh? Meanwhile, John Sayle (below) drops to kneeling to shoot the attackers to the right of his car. This stage simulates a parking lot mugging. All rounds must pass beneath the orange bar which serves to enforce the proper use of cover. This is practical shooting.**



balanced the match to reflect a blend of DVC: Accuracy, Power and Speed.

In addition, the top 16 finishers in the match competed in a shoot-off to determine the World Champion. The shoot-off counted for better than 10% of the overall score, and many shooters lost or gained ground here. You could easily win all 28 stages and still not win the World Championship if you blew out in the shoot-off. The shoot-off wasn't important, it was crucial.

Each nation entered a five-man team to compete for the honor of their country. The members of the teams also competed as individuals for the world crown. The two teams seeded first and second shot together as a squad. Sadly, the State Department designated the number-two seeded team as a non-team of non-persons representing a non-nation so they could only non-compete for a non-trophy. They were none too happy.

Neither was the American Team captained by veteran shooter Tom Campbell of Smith and Wesson. Our team was denied the chance to beat their only real competition fairly and openly with the consequent bragging rights. Nonetheless, non-official scores were kept on the non-team.

The situation of politics marring sports is not unprecedented. The 1980 Olympics in Moscow saw a United States boycott, a warped contortion of politics to include athletics. Then the Soviets played tit-for-tat and sat out the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

Now IPSC enters the politico-sports arena. Citizens of the Republic of South Africa were barred from competition as representatives of their country; they could compete as individuals, but not as a team.

Consequently, citizens from Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia) were prevented from







**America's top guns (above) are the Ladies Team, the men's back-up team and the Mens Gold Team. 1979 World Champion Jimmy von Sorgenfrie (below) uses a car for cover. Note the orange rail. Shooting behind the mail box is Rob Leatham. Again, the orange rail enforces tactics.**



competing because this communist African nation imposes sports sanctions against South Africa.

The international flavor of the match was seasoned with too much pepper. The confederation of practical shooters was blemished by politics.

But among the shooters, the spirit of sportsmanship flourished. While their governments may bicker, the athletes competed. The teams and the non-teams went at it with gusto.

**T**hey said it couldn't be done. They said the pressure would break him. They said he couldn't do it again. They were wrong. They obviously didn't appreciate the full scope of the talents of four-time National Champion Rob Leatham. They obviously didn't fathom the intense, passionate desire of excellence within the heart of this great athlete.

Rob Leatham won an unprecedented back-

to-back World Championship and removed all doubt that he is indeed the greatest IPSC shooter to ever face a Z-combo. His is a household name in the homes of shooters everywhere, and his legacy continues.

His form warrants mention. His strategy deserves elaboration. His equipment begs reporting.

The 25-year-old computer technician shoots from an Isosceles stance. He directly faces the targets, feet parallel, shoulders square, head erect, eyes front. He invariably takes a deep breath of air just as the firing commands are issued. Shooter Ready—deep breath—Standby—exhale—Beep. You can see his chest heave with the intake of air, but he releases the breath with less vigor, presumably through his nose, just prior to the starting beep.

His holster is an Ernie Hill low-cut, steel reinforced, speed scabbard worn straight-up-and-down on the point of his strong-side hip. He utilizes a 45° angled Hill mag pouch just below his belly button for his "quick and dirty" mag change. Additional magazines ride in Hill double pouches on and behind his left hip.

Rob's draw is not particularly fast. Rick Castelow, for instance, is much quicker. So are Chip McCormick and Jerry Barnhart. But his presentation is smooth and he has never been observed to fumble his draw in a match. The secret to this striking mongoose's speed is not the draw so much as it is the uncanny ability to fire his first shot the millisecond his pistol is locked-out in the Isosceles stance. Other shooters may beat him on the draw, but they seem to fritter away their split-second edge by taking longer to align the sights and squeeze the trigger. When Rob's gun is up, it's barking. There's no delay between presentation and activation.

The pistol that has captured four consecutive National titles and two consecutive World Championships is a Government Model .38 Super. (Correction: he won the 1983 US Nationals and World Shoot VI with a .45 ACP Government Model, but since then with the pistol chambered in Super.) Up until early 1986, Rob shot a Colt gun, but





recently he has been firing a Springfield Armory Government Model.

All have been customized by master craftsman and American Pistolsmith Guild member Bill Wilson. A champion in his own

**Paul Bromfield rose from 16th to 8th in the Shoot-Off with blazing runs and fierce determination.**

right, Bill performs the magic of his Accu-Comp conversion on Rob's .38 Super. Rob prefers sharp, 20 lpi, checkering on the front strap and mainspring housing. Speaking of which, Rob uses an arched mainspring housing. Bo-Mar sights are precisely dovetailed into the slide. The entire pistol is plated with Metaloy's durable chrome finish. The compensator, the actual Accu-Comp of an Accu-Comp, is the proven design of an expansion chamber constricted with a barely over-bore-size muzzle hole. The narrow opening in the compensator more efficiently channels gases to minimize recoil. Rob specifies Swenson ambi safeties, but uses a standard slide stop. His mag well is bevelled and slightly flared, but he does not use any of the swollen, distended mag tunnels popular on other pistols.

Rob loads 160 grain roundnose lead bullets on a Dillon Precision press. He uses virgin or once-fired Remington .38 Super cases. As with most .38 Super loads, his cannot be published because supporting load data from a recognized authority is not available. It is the policy of *American Handgunner* to withhold loading information that could potentially be too hot for some guns. Liability, don't you know.

Rob's mental attitude in dealing with match pressure appears to be quite frivolous. He jokes and kids and cuts up while others

*Continued on page 70*


### GUNS AND GEAR OF THE TOP 16

PLACE*	NAME	AGE	NATIONALITY	GUN	CALIBER	PISTOLSMITH	HOLSTER
				Springfield			
(1) 1.	ROB LEATHAM	25	U.S.A.	Armory	.38 Super	B. Wilson	Hill
(2) 2.	Jerry Barnhart	26	U.S.A.	Colt	.45 ACP	S. Nastoff	Rogers
(4) 3.	John Shaw	33	U.S.A.	Colt	.38 Super	J. Clark	Hill
(7) 4.	J.M. Plaxco	33	U.S.A.	Colt	.38 Super	J. Plaxco	Rogers
(5) 5.	Rick Castlow	31	U.S.A.	Colt	.45 ACP	L. Baer	Hill
(6) 6.	Doug Evancic	37	U.S.A.	Colt	.38 Super	Wilson/Boland	Hill
(3) 7.	Gary Haltmann	27	South Africa	Colt	.45 ACP	Guthrie/Sheer	Davis
(16) 8.	Paul Bromfield	41	South Africa	Colt	.45 ACP	C. Salassa	Rogers
(11) 9.	Brion Kilpatrick	36	Australia	Colt	.45 ACP	T. Lissner	Bianchi
(10) 10.	Jahnnny Ioannou	34	South Africa	Colt	.45 ACP	C. Solassa	Rogers
(8) 11.	Flemming Petersen	28	Norway	Colt	.45 ACP	K. Gaarder	Gaarder
(15) 12.	Rick Byfield	30	U.S.A.	Colt	.45 ACP	D. Fischer	Davis
(14) 13.	Ross Carter	35	U.S.A.	Colt	.38 Super	B Wilson	Safariland
(9) 14.	Poul Miller	43	U.S.A.	Colt	9mm Major	B. Gray	Hill
(13) 15.	Bill Rogers	39	U.S.A.	Colt	.38 Super	B. Wilson	Rogers
(12) 16.	Jimmy von Sorgenfrie	33	South Africa	Colt	.45 ACP	D. Guthrie	Sparks

\*Place in parenthesis indicates ranking after 28 stages, before the shoot-off. Bold number indicates final ranking after the shoot-off which counted about 10% of the tournament.



# STOPPING OBSERVATIONS FROM THE MORGUE POWER



By Evan Marshall

The problem with trying to carry on a reasoned and intelligent discussion of any handgun caliber's stopping power is the amount of false information that has been disseminated. Whether this inaccurate information is designed to help or hinder the reputation of a particular caliber, it makes the choice extremely difficult.

The 9mm is probably one of the most controversial rounds available. If you're a fan of the small-bore-high-velocity approach to handgun stopping power, it's the greatest thing since jacketed bullets. If, conversely, you worship at the altar of Jeff Cooper, it's the Anti-Christ.

Who's right? Well, both groups are. Sort of. The problem is that first we have to understand what we can reasonably expect from a handgun round. All that we have a right to expect from a hollowpoint slug is that it will expand in soft tissue without striking bone. Handgun stopping power is a subject that we really don't know much about, despite a lot of impressive mathematical formulas and governmental studies.

Over the last decade I've been collecting data on bullet performance in *actual shootings*. As a Detective Sergeant assigned to Homicide, I get the opportunity to study bullets that have been pulled out of people, not ballistic gelatin.

What actual shooting data is showing us, is that there isn't a nickel's worth of difference between the 9mm jacketed hollowpoint and the .45 ACP JHPs. Federal and Winchester

*A homicide detective reveals his findings on handgun stopping power based on bullets recovered from corpses.*

## HANDGUN STOPPING POWER

Caliber	Bullet	One-Shot-Stops*
.380	WW 85 gr. JHP	56%
.38 Special	WW 158 gr. HP (lead)	62%
9mm Luger	WW & Federal 115 gr. JHP	68%
.357 Magnum	Federal 125 gr. JHP	75%
.41 Magnum	WW and RP 210 gr. SWC	71%
.44 Special	Federal 200 gr. HP (lead)	70%
.44 Magnum	WW 240 gr. SWC	72%
.45 ACP	WW 185 gr. JHP	68%
.45 Long Colt	Federal 225 gr. HP (lead)	71%

\*All data derives from documented shootings in the Detroit area under the jurisdiction of Detroit Police Dept. The author compiled these statistics based on research and study in the City Morgue.

One-shot-stops are defined as: *single hits to the torso that caused an immediate cessation of hostile actions.* Fatalities involving multiple hits or single hits to parts of the body other than the torso are discounted. The data base includes felons killed while intoxicated on drugs and/or alcohol.

115 grain JHPs are at the top of the 9mm heap, while the Silvertip is the best .45 ACP man-stopper. Both are producing one-shot-stops in about 70% of the shootings I've researched. In the morgue, not on the range.

Now I have no axe to grind with either camp. I've carried both small and large bore handguns with the stark realization that no handgun, regardless of caliber, is a reliable

stopper. We carry a handgun because other options are either not available or inappropriate. If you want real stopping power, get a .600 Nitro Express.

The police world is replete with failures of the 9mm to stop, but I've found that whenever I've tried to trace them back to the actual officer who experienced the bum bullets

*Continued on page 80*



# **SPEEDLOADERS** for duty use

By Robert Mejia

The police profession has changed radically over the past couple of decades. The days of the classic "20 years and never had to draw my gun" are long gone. Even in the relatively placid, semi-rural areas I patrol, it is rare indeed for more than a month to pass without something alarming me sufficiently to have my gun out of its holster, ready for use.

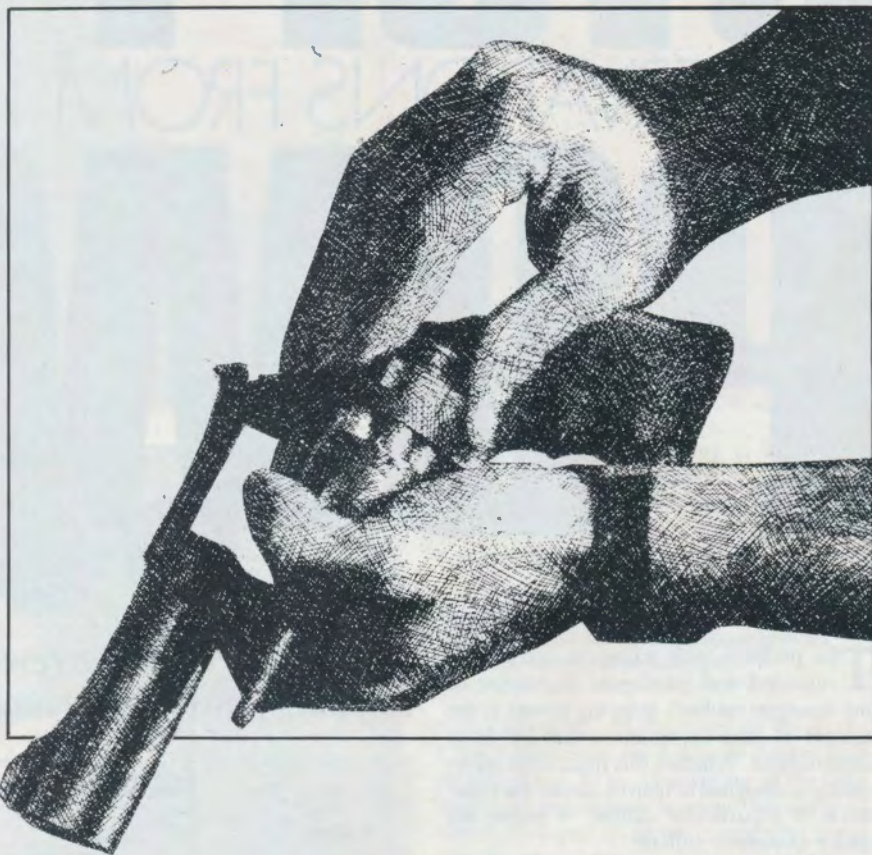
One area of grave importance is how you carry your spare ammunition. If you belong to the blessed few that are allowed to carry semi-automatic pistols, read no further. I envy you. However, should you be required to carry a revolver like the rest of us, what follows may be of interest.

I study FBI statistics closely, so I am aware that the "average" gunfight consists of fewer than three rounds fired by all participants. Those much-touted federal figures will be of little comfort to you when faced with multiple assailants, or some chemical-charged sociopath who just won't go down. The ability to reload swiftly, while under stress, cannot be over-emphasized.

The infamous Newhall incident of 1970 is a case in point. Four California Highway Patrol officers were massacred in less than five minutes by two recently-paroled career criminals. This bloody shoot-out went down on the parking lot of a truck stop and was witnessed by several dozen people. From these eye-witness accounts, the incident was accurately re-created in two excellent films, one by LASO and one by MTI (Motorola). While there are many lessons to be learned from these films, one salient feature of the MTI presentation is permanently etched on my mind.

In the last scene, three of the four officers are down, fatally wounded. The fourth, James Pence, lies behind his patrol car, desperately trying to reload his weapon from a dump pouch with blood-drenched hands. He has been hit, seriously, but not terminally. One of the killers is stalking him, knowing that he is still alive. Abject terror is in Pence's eyes, as his shock-numbed fingers refuse to work any faster and he listens to the approaching footsteps. He manages to get four rounds loaded before he is discovered and executed by a single shot to the head.

That, my friends, is no cheap-detective-pulp-melodrama. It occurred just off Interstate 5 on April 5, 1970. The tragedy sparked a major revamping of thinking on police training methods. In the intervening years, much progress has been made. Unfortunately, a phenomenon I refer to as the "good



ole boy syndrome" still persists.

While doing research for this article, I was told by one city officer why he didn't carry any spare ammunition. If six rounds didn't do the trick, he said, he could always run. Sure. Tell that to the widow of a southeastern deputy sheriff who was killed while trying to retreat to his unit under fire. He was shot at during his approach to a residence where a family fight was taking place. After emptying his revolver at the suspect without effect, he realized that the nearest available ammunition was in the glove box of his patrol car. The back-up deputy got there just in time to see his comrade gunned down.

I could relate other horror stories, but I think I've made my point. The fact is that speedloaders (a circular device that holds the cartridges in the same configuration as they go in the cylinder) are without question the most efficient method yet devised for rapidly recharging a revolver. If you aren't convinced, try to see one of the two previously-mentioned films. James Pence might be alive today if he had had a speedloader.

There are nearly a dozen brands of speed-

loaders on the market, some good, some not so good; each one is a little different from the rest. The trio presented here are the only ones, in my opinion, that are worthy of consideration for duty use.

Safariland pioneered the circular loader concept with the Kel-Lite Firepower Clip. Designed in 1963 by a Mr. Hunt, this was simply a molded rubber pod which held the cartridge rims under flexible lips, and was peeled away from the rounds once they were in the cylinder, very much like Bianchi's current Speed Strip. It remained virtually unknown until marketed under the Kel-Lite label in 1968. Although it never really caught on, it paved the way for others to improve on the basic idea.

What is now known as the Comp I was developed in 1976 by David Johnson of Salem, Oregon. The unique properties of this loader were immediately noted by the people at Safariland, and they lost no time in arranging for distribution rights.

This design is the most compact of the "street-worthy" loaders. The rounds are held secure by a metal star under the rims. When



the charging mechanism is engaged, a plastic spreader at the bottom of the loader bears against the cartridge cases. With the rounds thus supported at two points, there is no play or "jiggle." The mechanism is protected from all sides, so that the loader body itself must fracture before the rounds can be lost.

The spreader also serves as the release. After the bullet noses are inserted in the cylinder, the spreader comes in contact with the cylinder extractor (or cylinder center pin, depending on gun type), and the entire loader is pushed toward the cylinder. The spreader and metal star are cammed out of alignment, allowing the rounds to fall free. With no buttons to push or knobs to turn, this one-motion loading was an instant success.

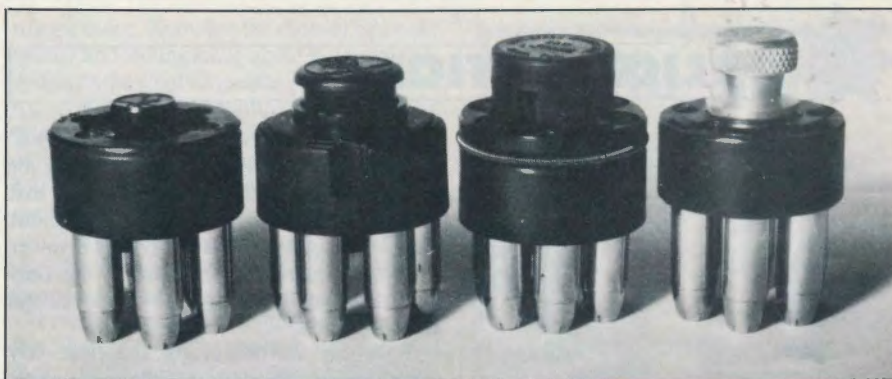
In April 1982, David Johnson introduced the improved Comp II loader. This design retains the proven one-motion camming system. The charging knob is much larger and more precise. The loader body has flutes matching those of the revolver cylinder. Peter Klingsheim, Safariland's roving demonstrator, explained to me that these flutes are to aid in tactile sensitivity when you can't see what you are doing. The top is completely enclosed, thus affording some protection for the case heads and primers. Like the Comp I, this loader must be practically destroyed before it will dump its rounds without the release being activated.

The Comp II loaders I have work flawlessly with all bullet styles, with the partial exception of wadcutters. Wadcutters must be lined up just right, but it is not a major problem. Round nose, SWC, JHP, and all other duty-style bullets slip in the cylinder with ease. The large knob might confuse a novice at first, because no matter how you push or twist it, nothing happens until the spreader meets resistance. This can easily be overcome by proper training and familiarization.

Safariland has introduced a new slimline carrier that is the most compact and efficient I've ever used. The loader actually sits astride the gumbelt, covered by a simple double-ended flap. The arrangement is no more bulky than a dump pouch.

Safariland has always had a reputation for high-quality products. Its speedloaders are no exception. The Comp II is unsurpassed for duty use on the street. Models are available to fit most all modern U.S.-made double-action .38—.357 revolvers. The Comp I is still offered, with a larger selection of compatible firearms, including the big-bore S&W's and five-shot snubbies. Both the Comp I and Comp II are no-nonsense, practical devices.

A casual walk down the line at any major PPC match will reveal that most of the competitors (and practically *all* of the high scorers) have one thing in common: Dade speedloaders. Invented in 1969 by John Fordham and William Powers, this design was the first really efficient speedloader to be marketed. It is pre-dated only by the Hunt-Safariland Firepower Clip. The rounds are held in place by friction, provided by a coil spring, against the rims. Pushing down on the large



L-R: Safariland Comp I and II, Dade Rapid Loader, HKS Second Six.

button forces the rims past the spring, allowing them to drop into the chambers.

After firing countless thousands of rounds in practice, qualification, and competition, I can say quite simply that this loader is the best thing going for use with wadcutters. Those obnoxious, blunt-ended critters are famous for being difficult to load quickly, particularly in guns without chamfered chambers. The cartridges fit rather loosely in this loader, with the resulting bullet "jiggle" giving a fudge factor when lining up with the charge holes. Of all the loaders I have tried with wadcutters, the Dade is the only one that works every time.

Alas, every Achilles has its tendon. If you drop a Dade loader, it will dump some, or all, of its cartridges. John Fordham, while he doesn't deny the fact, states that improper

technique is the main culprit for dropping a speedloader. According to him, holding the loader by the knob or button is the primary reason for fumble fingers. He also pointed out something else that I heartily agree with—if you should drop a loader, don't waste time groping around for it. Go for your other one. I carry 24 rounds on my rig, 12 in speedloaders and 12 in Bianchi Speed Strips (suspenders and belt!).

Dade loaders are available for all S&W centerfire revolvers (except .32 & .45 caliber) in all frame sizes. Colt "T" and "J" frame and Ruger Speed-Six/Security-Six models can also be had. Two styles of cases are offered, one duty and one competition. The only difference is the absence of protective flaps on the competition style. Dade was the

*Continued on page 62*



SAFARILAND



Safariland Speedloaders, now in new exciting blister packaging.



## SPEED LOADER



**COMP I**

- Full view of loaded cartridges.
- Cam-action loading cylinder.

**COMPETITION PROVEN**

The fastest, most dependable speedloader you'll ever buy. Used by Law Enforcement Officers & Competition shooters around the world.

**SAFARILAND'S COMP I & II SERIES.**

Two great loaders, offering speed and dependability. Injection molded from tough polypropylene; state-of-the-art cam action loader; precision tooled locking pin holds rounds from rattling or falling out.

**SAFARILAND COMP I and COMP II Loaders Fit Most Popular Revolvers**

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As a longtime PPC shooter, I must admit to a certain degree of narrow-mindedness. My sport is much like formal NRA bullseye competition in that the courses of fire are well-established and static; the rules are more or less graven in stone, and nothing much ever changes.

But don't be misled into thinking that it is easy. PPC, like bullseye, is a difficult discipline to master, demanding the utmost in precision from both gun and shooter. Please note that a perfect score has only been fired *once* in the 40-plus year history of the game.

I have been aware of the "new" (IPSC, WSSA, etc.) entries in the field that have sprung up in the past 10 years or so, and considered them irrelevant (I said I was narrow-minded, remember?). However, when an NRA Distinguished bullseye shooter that I know, and have a great deal of respect for, got involved in this so-called "practical" shooting, I took a second look. My friend kept after me to come to a match with him. With a vague, uneasy feeling in the back of my mind, I relented.

He sent me a match flyer, and one restriction caught my eye. In bold type were the words NO WADCUTTER, MAGNUM, OR ARMOR-PIERCING AMMO ALLOWED. Now, as any dyed-in-the-wool PPC shooter can tell you, there are only three types of ammunition in the world that matter: mid-range wadcutters for Open Class use, roundnose lead ball for the Distinguished and Service matches, and whatever type is carried on duty (.357 Silvertips in my case). I was assured that my 158 RNL practice load would be more than adequate for the task at hand.

I decided to shoot my Distinguished

Match gun, a six-inch stainless S&W L-frame that is completely stock except for the grips and an action job. It was not that difficult a decision to make. Since I didn't want to change the sights on my duty revolver (which is zeroed for magnums), the only other alternative was my Chief's Special and a pants pocket.

Race day dawned bright and clear. My friend had promised to be at the range a half hour early to brief me. Naturally, when I arrived he was nowhere in sight, so I snooped around a bit. The more I saw, the more that vague, uneasy feeling began to intensify.

The place looked more like an obstacle course than a range. There was no clearly delineated firing line. Odd-shaped wooden frames and small, metal knock-down targets were scattered everywhere. I noted a wall with a rope hanging from the top. This could get serious in a hurry.

I turned my attention to the other competitors. And their guns! A few had pistols which somewhat resembled the ugly old .45 auto I remembered from my army days. But most had gussied-up, two-tone, top-shelf custom guns with all manner of compensators, speed safeties, bells and whistles. The leather carrying those guns was equally varied, ranging from the sublime to the ridiculous. I did not see a revolver anywhere. Hmmm.

I had intended to be low-profile, but everybody seemed to notice me and make comments among themselves. I brushed it off, thinking I was suffering from Acute Cop Paranoia, when I suddenly realized why I was an object of attention. Planted firmly on my head was my department team cap. Brilliant, simply brilliant.

## A PPC shooter dabbles in IPSC, and becomes hooked.

# Confessions of a Convert

By Robert Mejia

There was no point in delaying the inevitable, so I broke out the old gear bag, strapped on my Blocker rig with L-frame and speed-loaders, and got in line to sign up. The guy



ahead of me was an obvious tyro. Rookies the world over have the same look about them, whatever the profession or endeavor. While signing up, he asked the match official about the consequences of an accidental discharge, mumbling something that sounded suspiciously like "sear engagement."

The official looked up at him a moment, then said, "The consequence of an accidental discharge is summary execution, unless, of course, the round goes downrange, in which case we offer you a blindfold and cigarette first."

Sounds reasonable, I thought. The tyro was not so stoic. A weak "Oh . . ." was all he could manage as he moved off.

I plunked down my entry fee and filled out the score card. The official, a tiny smile tugging at the corners of his mouth, did not need to say what was on his mind. I could read it in his eyes—"Great. Another nimrod." What the heck, I thought graciously, he doesn't know any better. Or did he?

"What's your classification?" he asked. Classification? This I was unprepared for, not having been advised of such. I suppressed an urge to whip out my NRA High Master PPC card, guessing (correctly) that he would not be in the least impressed by it. When in doubt, punt.

"Uh, I don't have one," I said in my best devil-may-care voice. "I suppose you should put me in the Master class." Hah, handled that one like a pro. The traces of his sardonic smile became a bit more noticeable.

"Right. Class A it is."

Class A? I could see there was a lot my friend had not discussed with me. And he still had not shown up. It looked like I would have to tough this one out on my own. I had not



anticipated to be regarded as The Thing With Two Heads, but I was not expecting them to welcome me with open arms either. Actually, so far I had been treated as one would a distant cousin from Peoria—politely, but without a great deal of enthusiasm.

While registration was in progress, the chief range officer and his minions had set up several different clusters of targets, none of which were familiar and one that looked downright ominous. After a perfunctory safety briefing (I noted the tyro paying close attention), the match began.

The first stage did not appear too difficult. One engaged a good old B-27 cardboard silhouette at 50 yards with two rounds, then swung to an 18" x 24" steel silhouette at 25 yards with two rounds, then to an 8" diameter steel plate at 10 yards. Time limit was 3.5 seconds, with bonus points awarded for 10-ring hits on the B-27. Each competitor would fire the stage twice, dropping his lower score.

My name was about midway down the list, so I got to watch for awhile. Some of these boys were pretty good, though judging from the relatively unscathed 10-ring of the B-27, not many bonus points would be given. But they were sure making that steel ring.

My turn. I was told to load, and asked if I had any questions. Shaking my head negatively, I assumed a rough approximation of the ready position I had seen the others take, relaxed with hands held shoulder high. The buzzer buzzed, that patridge front blade settled into a good neck hold, and I stroked the

trigger twice. Knowing the shots to be on the money and feeling smug about it, I pivoted to deal with the steel silhouette—and the buzzer sounded. Must be a malfunction, I thought. Surely that wasn't 3.5 seconds. I turned to the official, who was peering downrange. My two rounds were nearly touching, in the X-ring.

"That's good shooting, bud," the official said. "But you need to speed up a bit." Then he smiled. Wise guy.

I managed to finish in time on my second run. But I had two 9's, one high and one low. I took small comfort from the fact that some shooters failed to hit it at all, and were penalized accordingly.

The next shooter to the line received a chorus of hoots, catcalls, and friendly banter. From the snatches of conversation I heard, I gathered that he was the club champion. He had one of those whiz-bang guns and wore his holster where his belt buckle should be. I hoped, for the sake of his future progeny, that he didn't have an accidental discharge in the leather.

His first run was superb. I was most impressed with his fluidity and speed. And accuracy! He had two 10-ring hits. On his next run, he got one round off, then the hammer followed the slide to half-cock. He quickly thumbed it back and fired again, to be greeted with a smoke stack jam. He lowered the gun and grinned sheepishly over his shoulder at us. Now I know why LAPD's Fred Romero calls these affairs "snap 'n' giggle" matches.

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Event number two was interesting. At the whistle, one had to sprint 10 or so yards to the line, knock a can off a stake with the gun hand, and only then could you draw and engage the steel silhouette at seven, 10, and 15 yards with two rounds each. When my turn came up, I was concentrating so hard I was nearly oblivious to my surroundings.

At the buzzer, I was off. I tipped the can and drew smoothly, methodically aligning the sights and stroking the trigger. I was rewarded with six center hits. Then occurred one of those little mental anomalies (I believe the IPSC term is "brainfade") that always seem to strike when you least need it.

With a long-practiced motion, I emptied and deftly recharged my weapon, coming back up into sight alignment almost before

the speedloader hit the ground. A collective gasp went up behind me. These guys were impressed! As well they should be; six more center hits were forthcoming. With gunfire and ringing steel echoing in my ears, I dumped my brass with a flourish. A stunned silence emanated from the group. Impressed, hell, they were flabbergasted.

The wry grin on the official's face was my first clue that all was not well. Then I realized what I had done.

"Man, that was the neatest wheelgun reload I've ever seen! But," he added needlessly, "you only had to shoot the stage once."

Even as my subconscious screamed "Idiot!" I maintained the proper panache by shrugging slightly. Head held high, I reholstered and strode off the line. The crowd

was merciful. I heard only a few scattered snickers.

After that coup de maître, the rest of the day was anticlimactic. I managed to muddle through the last two events, finishing 14th out of 41 shooters overall. Nothing to write home about, that, but not so bad considering it was my first try. And, I was hooked. I'd be back.

Since that day, I have taken to using my 4" S&W M-66 duty gun and Sam Browne uniform rig. I'll probably never win a match with this gear, but I've yet to end up in last place, either. The important thing is that this shooting is excellent practice. Oh, I still burn many thousands of wadcutters on the PPC range. I love that game. But this "practical" sport is equally enjoyable, and beneficial. Some of the courses of fire, such as the first two stages of my first match outlined above, are very realistic and similar to what I might encounter on the street.



## SPEEDLOADERS

*Continued from page 59*

first to incorporate Velcro as an optional closure, a feature I like very much.

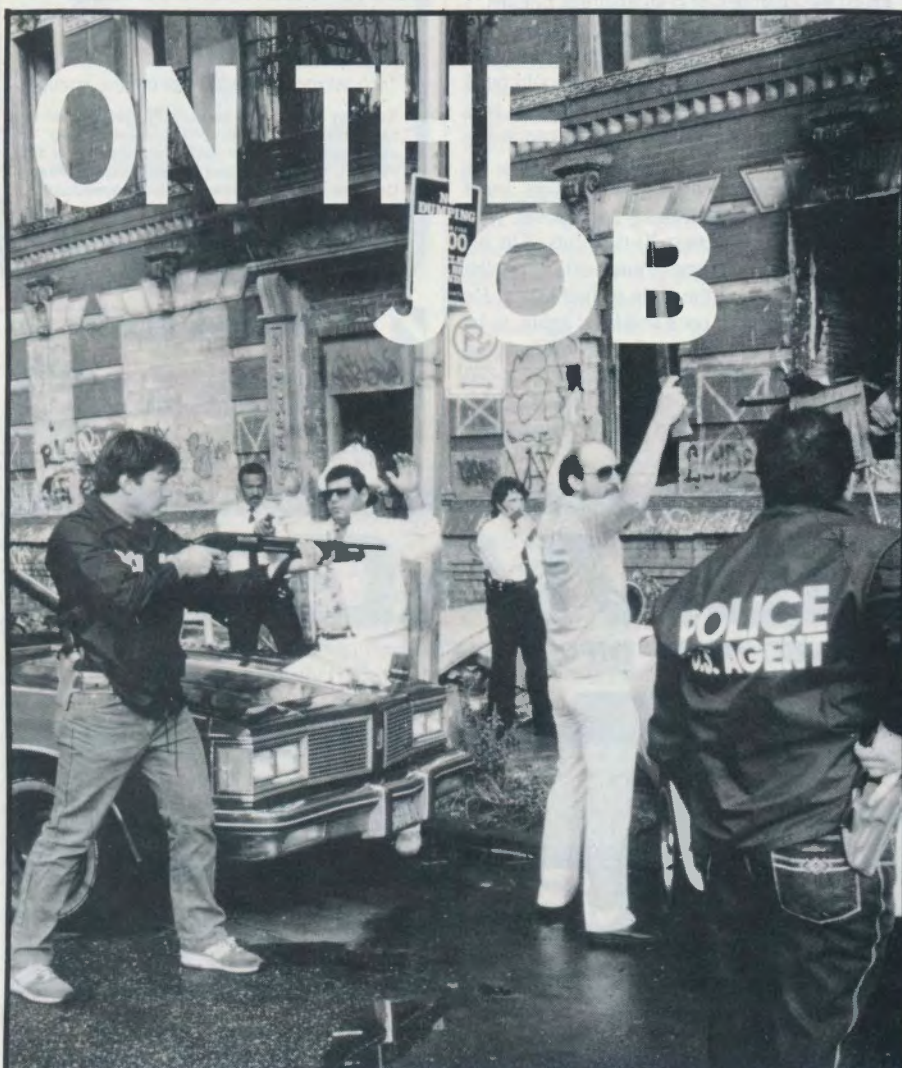
Claimed by its manufacturer to be the most widely used and popular speedloader extant, the HKS Second Six made its debut in 1973. The cartridges are held in the loader by six small fingers which engage the extractor rims. After insertion in the cylinder, the rounds are released by rotating the knob clockwise, thus moving the fingers back into their recesses. Gravity does the rest. The original series "M" held the rounds very loosely, so that there was a substantial amount of cartridge jiggle.

The improved "A" series loader, appearing around 1978, features a larger knob and a backplate whose purpose is two-fold: it protects the previously-exposed case heads and holds the rounds firmly in the body, hence no jiggle. HKS still offers the older model "M" for some makes of revolvers, on the premise that these loaders function better with the jiggle.

In addition to offering the largest variety of loaders to fit different weapons, HKS also provides a complete selection of quality leather cases, including duty and competition models. One version is now available with Velcro closures for those cops, like me, who prefer a subdued leather rig (and detest polishing brass). The HKS performs equally well with all bullet styles.

My major criticism is that it works best when the revolver's cylinder is kept from turning freely, thus obviating a smooth one-handed reload (as when the weapon is held between the knees or stuck in the belt). Like the Safariland loaders, this product is very rugged. It usually will not dump its rounds when dropped. I have, however, seen one release its rounds while still in the pouch due to turning the knob during withdrawal. This is something to watch out for.

After extensive work-outs with these three loaders, and observing other cops use them



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on the range, certain facts become evident. For the average, non-gun-oriented police officer, who is less likely to practice with his/her equipment, the Safariland Comp II is best choice. It is the most secure loader available, and the most positive in function. The HKS runs a close second, although I must confess to a personal dislike of this type. We shall, however, remain objective. The fact is, that of the several hundred cops of different flavors that I encounter regularly on the job, 99% of those who use speedloaders carry either the Safariland or the HKS, the Safariland being a slight favorite.

The Dade, on the other hand, is a specialist's tool. It is undoubtedly the fastest of the three, but does require a bit more practice to properly master. Remember, also, that it is not as widely distributed as the other two. Many of the cops I talked with had never seen or heard of the Dade.

Whatever your preference, the speedloader is here to stay. If you don't carry them you are depriving yourself of a potential life-saving accessory. A look at the FBI Uniform Crime Report will make one point very clear; regardless of your work location, the odds of being confronted with a deadly-force situation are better than good. You must decide how well-prepared you will be.



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## PPC CHAMPIONS

*Continued from page 43*

Eleven years with the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Police, the last seven as a competitive shooter, have brought Libby Callahan to the winner's circle as the 1986 NPRC Woman Champion. Libby is an instructor with her department's Special Operations Division, and will be back in Des Moines next year with her eye on the overall championship. After winning this year's warm-up match and firing her winning aggregate score, she posted a sizzling 600X47 on the team match. That folks, is only 13 X's off a perfect score.

Libby also shoots an unusual gun. Lou Ciamillo is her pistolsmith, and he used as the basic weapon a type that is rarer than hen's teeth on the PPC circuit—Ruger. Libby prefers the Ruger because, for her, it balances through the frame instead of on the muzzle. Rather than the standard one-inch bull barrel, this gun features a Douglas tube, threaded and stressed at both ends à la Dan Wesson, covered by a shroud that strongly resembles a S&W L-frame barrel. Libby uses a Reno holster, Hogue grips, Safariland belt and

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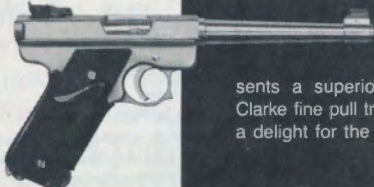
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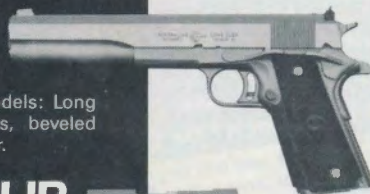
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Both champions want to diversify their shooting. Libby has taken up bullseye with the Army Reserve, and already has accumulated 22 of the necessary 30 points for that game's Distinguished badge. Chuck's interests lie in the IPSC/NRA Action Pistol area. Whatever the discipline, either one is a shooter to be reckoned with.



## CROSSFIRE CON

Continued from page 38

This is only a small sampling of what has come across the work bench of the Los Angeles Police Department Armory through the years. There's more, a lot more, but I think you get the idea. When after-market additions or improvements are attempted the chance for mistakes increases. Unless the change is factory authorized, and accomplished by a factory trained technician, the gun is almost always rendered into something less than the original design intended.

Now, I'll be the first to admit that a good mechanic is often able to make a good car run better, and maybe the same applies to a good gunsmith. But what we saw come into the LAPD Range Office left much to be desired. Even the use of spring kits, those inexpensive replacements for some of the factory springs in a revolver, almost always resulted in the gun being brought in for service because of misfires during routine qualification. Oh sure, the action felt soft as butter—just like the well-intentioned gunsmith promised—but that doesn't help the officer when his back is up against the wall on the street and only every other shot goes off. Using these non-factory springs has the same overall effect as backing off on the hammer spring screw—something only a fool would attempt.

Need more convincing? How about the infamous "revolver safety" that was so popular a few years ago? This idea entails having the cylinder latch reworked so it acts as a positive safety by blocking the hammer from moving. It isn't hard to do and, on first inspection, it seemed to work all right. But in actual use the darn thing kept engaging at the most inopportune time, proving once again that it's not nice to fool with something that already works.

If you are still having trouble accepting any of this as having some basis of fact, consider this thought: when guns come from the factory they are the result of years of research and testing by highly qualified experts. Most changes, however small, can upset the fine balance of the basic design. If the gun isn't the best it can be out of the box, the manufacturer wouldn't put his name and reputation on it, and you can take that all the way to the bank.

Here comes that roar again, "Doesn't Romero know that some guns are junk out of the box?" Yes, I do know that, and I make no apologies for any oversight in production by big-time gun makers. But when you take that faulty new gun to a trusted and respected



smith, he is hopefully bringing the piece up to factory specifications (the way it *should* have been in the first place) and not using it as a test-bed for his own creative ideas. That gun is no doubt going to be carried on your hip or ankle holster for some potentially serious business, you're not looking to take it to a match and try and break the world's record for knocking over falling plates or speed shooting. You can afford to experiment with a match gun, you *can't* with your duty gun.

One of the keys to success in the streets is dependability and simplicity of equipment. The old adage, KISS (Keep It Simple, Stupid!), applies here more than we may want to admit. This isn't to say that some modifications can't be utilized under controlled conditions (i.e., more comfortable grips, paint on sights, etc.), but the test of time has proven all but a few to be less than desirable. Of those modifications that have survived, only a small number found their way into production guns. The removal of some trigger stops in revolvers and the addition of ambidextrous safeties in semi-autos are rare examples. The final test of whether or not any modification merits serious attention should be on the side of enhanced safety and not solely for the purpose of performance.

If your job requires that you ride around in a patrol car answering shaky radio calls and making "routine" vehicle stops on darkened side streets, you probably have enough on your mind without worrying about the latest fads that are being used on the professional combat shooting circuit. Those full-blown, tricked-out guns may look pretty in magazine photos, but they aren't what you would call *practical*. A gun that meets factory specifications is a gun that has been tried and tested.

Another point that shouldn't be disregarded is the fact that when you opt for exotic conversions or additions you are personally going out on a limb of civil liability and you may also be subjecting your department to the same risk. If you absolutely can't live with the idea of a stock gun, then at least take the time to clear the proposed modification with the factory or one of their approved repair shops. Determine if the change violates any warranties, expressed or implied, and if it does you better think long and hard about its use. Also, it wouldn't hurt to get the approval of your department armorer before you start spending big bucks on your gun. He may have other ideas on the matter.

For those of you who still think I'm against progress, I'll leave you with this final thought: most guns work just fine the way they come from the factory, the manufacturers have spent tens of thousands of dollars making sure of that. Unless you know something they don't, which is highly doubtful, leave your gun alone and don't try to improve on success.



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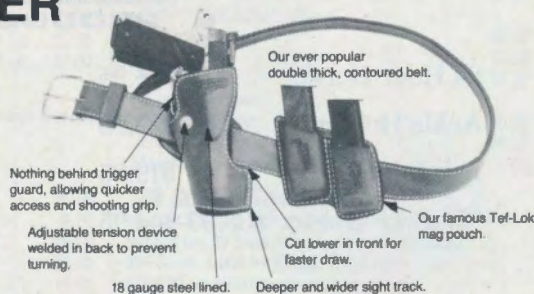


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## CROSSFIRE PRO

*Continued from page 38*

aftermarket "custom" grips to make sure *their* hands fit *their* guns better. This means greater likelihood of the officer hitting what he aims at, and reduced danger of him hitting an innocent bystander under stress.

Is someone to say they *shouldn't* customize the grips, or even buy a different size gun of their own instead of the department's if it makes them perform better? If the department issue load is .38 Special medium velocity and a small-handed officer can't get a good grip on the issue Smith model 10, why *not* allow that officer to carry a smaller Colt Diamondback .38 which they *can* control with the issue load?

At least two large police departments—Michigan State Police and Iowa State patrol—require left-handed officers to carry their guns in right-handed holsters "for uniformity." That's the same mentality as saying every officer should carry his gun just the way it comes out of the box.

Why stop there? Don't "customize" the patrol cars with adjustable seats. Instead, set them all for a 5'11" adult male. If people of different sizes can't adapt, that can't be as bad as trusting them to adapt their equipment to fit them for their needs and abilities, can it?

Of course, it's a ridiculous argument. So is saying that a 5'1" female whose hand is too small for it, and a 6'4" male whose hands are too big for it, both *must* carry a Smith & Wesson K-frame with standard-size stocks developed for the average male hand. Why not carry that a step further, and have the 5'1" female and the 6'4" male also wear *uniforms* tailored to the body shape of a medium size male? As I said, ridiculous.

Sometime you should ask a police armorer or professional civilian-sector pistolsmith just what is his assessment of factory-stock police handguns today. One major brand sees 17% to 50% sent back to the factory rather than being issued. Those guns were caught in time by sharp-eyed police weapons inspectors. If they hadn't been, the defective guns would have been issued for good people to trust their lives to, and the lives of the public.

No, the cop doesn't need BoMar ribs and light springs and all the rest. What the street cop should be thinking of in terms of customized guns is handguns "*performance tuned to maximum capability*." Departments that can afford to, take care of this themselves.

Last I knew, the professional armorers of the Arizona Department of Public Safety went through every single service revolver before they were issued. Among those armorers is Frank Glenn, ace pistolero and pistolsmith and the maker of the revolvers Brian Enos and Rob Leatham shot into the winner's circle at Bianchi Cup. No, Glenn doesn't put Douglas barrels on the street guns, he just customizes them to the point where they always work, and do so without aim-destroying friction and glitches.

Consider the study done some years ago



for *Police Marksman* magazine, in which a police instructor found that a good action job often meant the difference between whether a young rookie hit the target or missed it. I am a good revolver shot, and can get by with a stock action; so can Fred Romero, who's even better at sixgunning. It's the average cop on the street who will benefit from a smooth action that doesn't snag on a rough spot when he's applying 14-pounds of pressure to a two-pound gun and trying to hold it steady on target so the muzzle isn't jerked sideways. This is the sort of "customizing" we're talking about: maximum performance specifications. If the gun companies won't give 'em to you, you ought to be allowed to get it done yourself.

Remember, keep the springs at factory strength, and have only a certified professional pistolsmith tune the action. Not your buddy who works the night shift, not Joe Commando who works the gun counter at Sports World, but a pro who makes his living working on guns just like yours. We want "smooth," not "light." I've lost count of the number of LFI students who were beginners to the revolver and just couldn't shoot a qualifying score with their own out-of-the-box sixguns, but soared well above qualifying level when I just lent them my Ciamillo Ruger my Andy Cannon tuned Combat Magnum, my Moran Python, or my Strahan Custom concealment model 10. All these guns guarantee reliability *plus* enhanced performance, and all have to be customized this way because if they were so built at the factory, price would be prohibitive in bid situations. Today's officer is willing to spend a few bucks to customize the department's gun to maximum factory performance specs to save his own life.

I've published over a thousand magazine articles. The one I got the most hassle from was called "How to Customize the Department's Gun and Get Away With It," published in the Sept. '79 issue of *Police Product News*. In it, I said what I did above: if you work for a boss who cares so little for you he'll refuse to upgrade mediocre equipment to maximum performance level, you'll have to "customize" the equipment to the level it should have been, yourself.

When that article came out, a chief I worked for (who never commented on the fact that half his men carried customized guns, and who himself carried a rusty 1" .38 with the hammer spur broken from him having dropped it) suspended me for "promoting insubordination." I won at the police commission hearing, and as soon as the BS charge was thrown out, I resigned.

Yet, I'll stand behind every word in that article. I think the officer should be able to customize the service sidearm for maximum reliability, smoothness, accuracy, and controllability within the factory specifications. A good example is LAPD, where the officer can carry a 4" or a 6", has a choice of multiple holsters and numerous grips, and where the option has recently been given to switch over to a Smith or Beretta 9mm auto.

"Customizing" means "enhancing for maximized performance." Saying an officer

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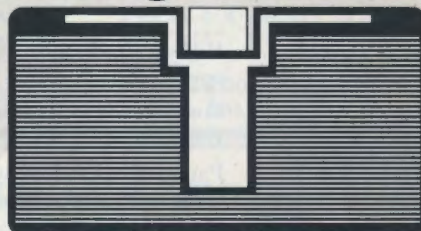
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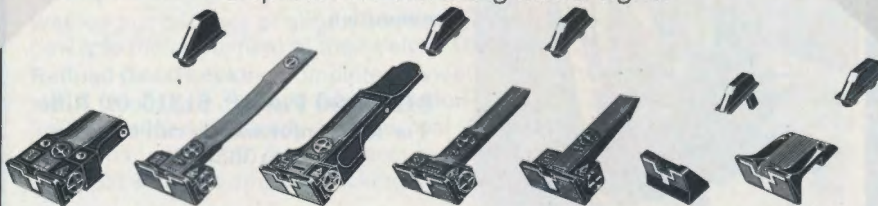
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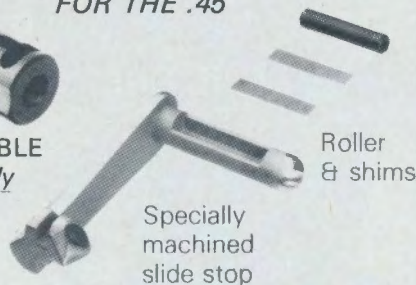
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can't do that with his gun is like telling him he can't do it with his life: "No, Sergeant, we forbid you to 'customize' your education by earning a Master's degree in law enforcement! The Personnel Board says a high school education is all you need, and they know more about it than you do!"

The law officer who cares about his own performance in any arena of the job including shooting, so much that he'll pay out of his own pocket to be a higher-performing cop, should be cherished by his commanders, not scorned. I worry about administrators who want each of their subordinates exactly alike. I picture an army of robots. If the attitude of the clones prevails, and cops in America are told that they must always carry the identical gun and can't pay to have it professionally customized to maximum performance, the day isn't far off when all cops will have to be male, blue of eye and blond of hair, exactly 6' tall and 180 pounds. And if they don't all have an IQ of exactly average, why, we'll just give 'em shock treatments until they come down.



Massad Ayoob works full time for Lethal Force Institute, Box 122, Concord, NH 03301. As Director of Firearms and Deadly Force training there, he works with 1200-1500 personnel per year, most of them police. He is also in the unusual position of being a part-time but fully-sworn police lieutenant with a small municipal department.

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## S&W 422

Continued from page 46

it in my Model 41 without any problems. It feeds beautifully and ejected the magazine with the side mounted release with no difficulties.

One interesting feature of the 422 is the magazine release in the front grip. It is convenient for either right or left handed shooters and does not protrude so that your holster or belt won't, inadvertently, drop your magazine to the ground. I have had this happen with my Model 41 pistol and finally drilled a hole in the holster where the leather sometimes pushed against the magazine release.

Finish on the 422 is satisfactory, but it certainly does not have the bright blue associated with older Smiths. On the other hand, it doesn't have the high cost of such arms and shoots just as well, thank you! The standard sighted 422 with plastic grips lists for \$189 and the adjustable sighted pistol, which features checkered walnut grips, is \$225.75. For this kind of money you could buy two 422's and still have some cash left over if you compare the cost of a 422 to the cost of the Model 41 pistol.

Each 422 pistol comes in a blue box that has one box of Remington's high velocity ammo, Remington's Rem Oil, and a cleaning kit. Everything you need to take the pistol to the range and try it out!

When it was announced that high velocity ammunition was supplied with the pistol some of the writers at the Smith & Wesson



presentation of the 422 asked if that was the preferred round for operation of the pistol. Smith & Wesson had thought about everything but this question. They were supplying a handgun ready to go and arbitrarily picked the high velocity cartridge. Smith & Wesson assured the press that the 422 should handle any long rifle shells.

When I received my test 422 I took Smith at its word and fired as many types of .22 long rifles as I could find, high velocity, hollow points, target ammo, hyper velocity, lead bullets, copper clad slugs . . . well, whatever I could dig up. Three people fired the pistol and there were no jams or any other problems with the assorted ammo. The 422 seemed perfectly happy with any long rifle ammunition. For best accuracy any shooter should check out various styles and different brands of ammunition. For some reason a particular .22 pistol may shoot better with Brand X rather than Brand Y.

Trigger pressure of the 422 is set at the factory for five pounds of trigger squeeze. Not exactly what a match competitor would want, but certainly adequate. Since many shooters may be novices, Smith & Wesson decided to have a trigger pull that would not release at the slightest touch. Comparing the 422 with my Model 41, which I have owned for many years and fired thousands of rounds through, the Model 41 certainly has a better pull without any backlash at the instant of firing.

Smith & Wesson has also added some glitter to the 422. Just like combat autos, it has a flared magazine well so that loaded magazines slide easily into place. In addition, the front of the pistol grip is squared off for two-handed shooting. There is a cocking indicator located on the butt of the pistol just aft of the magazine well. This does not indicate that the arm is loaded, it only tells that the hammer is cocked. The indicator protrudes when the piece is cocked so it can be either seen or felt by the fingers.

The 422 has a magazine safety that really works. On some semi-autos, if you really try hard to defeat the magazine safety, you can fire a round when the magazine is removed. To do this you must pull on the trigger a bit, not enough to fire the piece, then remove the magazine. An additional pull will then touch off the round in the chamber. The 422 seems absolutely safe—despite what I did my pistol would not fire with the magazine removed regardless of how I tried to defeat the system.

Of course, this is one of those two-way streets. People interested in combat handguns want the arm to fire whether the magazine is in place or removed. Otherwise, if you lose your magazine or remove it to reload—leaving one round in the chamber—the gun won't fire. The 422 was not designed for use as a combat arm and many owners, particularly if they have children, will appreciate this safety factor.

But let's face it, the 422 is not designed for combat, it is a gun for the family and the hunter of small game. Which is not to say that the 422 cannot be used for self-protection. Any firearm can be used for defense.

Frankly, I like the 422 with its miniscule

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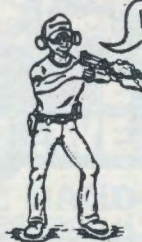
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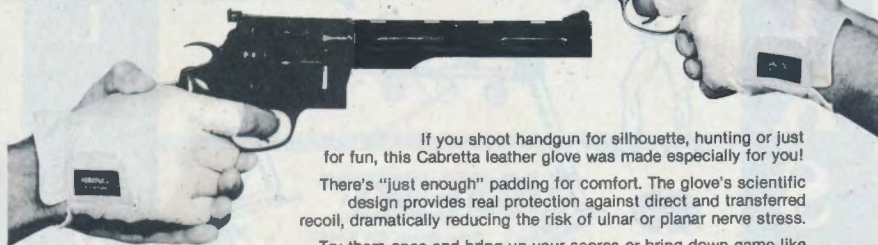
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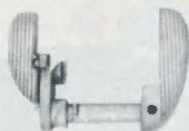
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weight camouflaged into a full sized pistol. One of my favorite .22 rimfires is an elderly S&W Airweight revolver, so old that the original box is red in color unlike the modern blue boxes. This revolver has the alloy cylinder. I have carried that gun for many years. After shooting the 422, I certainly think I will semi-retire the Airweight and strap on the 422 as a sidearm for plinking and hunting!



## WORLD SHOOT

Continued from page 56

sequester themselves in monk-like meditation before stepping to the line. Rob explains his mental conditioning in his column, *Leatham's Column*, of the January/February 1987 *Handgunner*.

But we can say this—his determination to win burns like the white-hot fires of an exploding nova. Determination, desire, the will to win—these are Rob's attributes. Above all else, it is a champion's heart that guides the skilled hands and eyes.

Zen and the art of the .45-caliber semi-automatic. So proclaimed *Newsweek* magazine in its story on World Shoot VII. As far as we can tell, no other pistol shooting event (or rifle or shotgun for that matter) has ever graced the pages of a multi-million circulation news magazine. Certainly not in recent memory. But the World Championship of IPSC caught the attention of this noteworthy publication. IPSC is popular.

Moreover, the coverage was not critical as we were inclined to suspect. "Oh no, here goes the liberal media again attacking the legitimate sporting value of firearms." No, not at all. The report emphasized the practical nature of the sport—after all, the targets are humanoid and the scoring zones are based on anatomical "kill" areas—but the presentation was unbiased and quite fair.

In fact *Newsweek* omitted the one disaster of the match, a blight on the previously unblemished safety record of IPSC. Prior to World Shoot VII, no one had ever been injured in a gun-related accident. Sadly, the record is broken.

Not wishing to embarrass the shooter, we withhold his name. But his accident is a lesson for all of us and that lesson is: Safety First!

The accidental shooting came on an assault course that required competitors to reholster in the middle of a house clearing scramble and then run up a flight of stairs. This was supposed to be a "holster retention test."

Shoving a loaded gun into a holster just to see if it bounces out seems to be imprudent, but that was what the match designers wanted.

A middle-aged man from Spain attempted to holster a loaded gun with his finger still on the trigger, safety off. His finger snagged on the holster, and was pressed backwards. Onto the trigger. Boom.

His Star Model 30 in 9mm Luger discharged into the Spaniard's right thigh caus-



ing a superficial flesh wound. The bullet entered just below the holster and exited just above the knee (phew!). The 9mm hardball missed the femur and the femoral artery.

Dr. George Watkin of Los Angeles was watching. He immediately rendered emergency first aid. Handy to have a physician in your shooting squad. He said the wound was not serious, but the muzzle blast may have caused some burns. Shock set in, and the doctor treated the man until a medi-vac helicopter arrived to take the stricken Spaniard to the hospital.

Canadian Kerry Lathwell is the IPSC Ladies World Champion. The 31-year-old resident of British Columbia fired a .45 ACP Colt Government Model extensively reworked by ace pistolsmith Steve Nastoff. The gun sports the state-of-the-art Nastoff SuperComp.

Kerry wears Davis Leather's California Challenger holster and Davis mag pouches and belt.

Her secret? "Shoot consistently and not try to go too fast," confided the shapely Canadian Ladies National Champion. Of the gruelling 28 stage match, Kerry said, "It was a good all-around shooting test. Some of the problems I've faced before, some not." She reported she had checked the scoreboard about halfway into the match and realized she was winning. Winning handily. Did that affect her?

No, she said. She continued to "shoot to my ability" and let the chips fall where they may. They fell in the winner's circle.

Having won the World Championship, Kerry said her next goal is to shoot well enough against the men to qualify for A-Class in British Columbia. Also, the champion allowed she would like to win the next World Shoot—by a bigger margin.

The American ladies team shot well, but not well enough to topple the reigning Ladies Champions. There were only two ladies teams in the match as only America and South Africa could corral five women, the number necessary for a team. Apparently the rest of the world doesn't have too many female practical shooters.

But, as we noted, the defending champion South African ladies were non-persons on a non-team from a non-country. They trounced the Americans, but then again they didn't. They won and they lost. In theory, they won, but as they were technically not competing, they technically could not win.

Let's put it this way—at the awards banquet there were no Gold Medals given. Instead, five ladies stood for a round of applause. The Americans presented their non-opponents with flowers. Officially, there is no ladies team winner in the world. Unofficially, the South African ladies won.

Impressions. Meeting the international shooters, chatting with them, watching them shoot. Impressions.

One notices that the .38 Super is an American caliber. Precious few foreigners fired Supers. Snooping around a bit, we discovered the reason is not that foreigners are ignorant of the Super, after all they too read *American Handgunner* and know that the



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Super is hot stuff, but that they are unable to locate the brass, the barrels and the various accessories such as magazines and suitable powders. Also, Supers require a bit more sophisticated gunsmithing and many foreign countries have yet to develop a refined pistolsmithing fraternity.

So what was the popular foreign caliber, you wonder. Must be the trusty .45 ACP. Nope, 9mm.

We've never seen so many minor caliber guns in a match before. Browning Hi-Powers were ubiquitous. Also, various SIGs and H&Ks and a few of the new Steyr GB 100s modified for IPSC. These nines came from Europe for the most part with a good sprinkling from South America.

Steyr hosted a shooter's party to hype the new compensated GB 100, the 18-round 9mm semi-auto. The Austrian Team competed with prototype GBs featuring compensators and speed safeties. They didn't do too well, but that is not a fault of the impressive new Steyr GB. Take my word for it—if Rob Leatham had shot a GB 9mm, he still would have won. The singer not the song, the singer not the song.

The foreigners stated they were impressed with the "professional" aspect of handgunning in America. They said the situation of top guns being paid by various sponsors is unique to this country. No "big money" matches like the Steel Challenge and The Masters take place outside the United States. This prompted respect, not resentment. They were pleased that America's bounty spread into the shooting world.

As the festive championship drew to a close, the word was already out on the grapevine. World Shoot VIII will be in Venezuela in 1988. And *American Handgunner* will be there to see if Rob Leatham can make it three in a row.



The author wishes to thank Mr. George Whimple of Atlanta Arms and Ammo for supplying .45 ACP cartridges for his use in the match. On the first stage of the first day, one of the author's loads was a squib, a reload with no powder. George immediately offered to provide ammo to a fellow competitor in the spirit of cooperative fellowship that is characteristic of the IPSC fraternity. Thanks George!

## 10mm LIGHT

Continued from page 51

basket-like magazine funnels and did his usual beautiful checkering job. Bluing the slide and plating the frame completed the cosmetics. When it was finished, it really looked neat, but there was nothing to distinguish the 10mm from any other comp gun and a couple of casual lookers never noticed any difference so we had "10mm AUTO" engraved in big letters on the side.

Dies and bullet casting equipment are available from Redding Reloading (114 Starr Rd., Courtland, NY, 13045) and Dillon has a conversion set for the 550 press. Loaded ammunition is available from Norma. Ammo as well as brass and bullets are also



available from Alco Wholesale, 16462 Gothard, Huntington Beach, CA, 92647. The scarcity and expense of jacketed bullets made me look into cast bullets and I chose the Saeco (these are also available from Redding since they recently purchased Saeco) #048 semi-wadcutter and the #049 with a truncated cone shape that is very much like the factory ball round. Both, when cast from wheelweights, come out around 190 grains. So, once the gun was completed and functioning nicely, it was simply a matter of developing loads.

There is very little loading data around, and most of it is for loads much hotter than needed. This is where I got my biggest surprise. I had reasoned that loading data would be roughly similar to the .45 ACP. We were, after all, using almost the same weight bullet, but this wasn't at all true. The 10mm case design turns out to be highly efficient and powder charges run almost a grain less for equivalent velocities. It is really nice, for a change, to not have to worry about exceeding pressure levels and loading the 10mm *down* proved to be easy. Velocity of 950 fps is reached with 190 gr. cast bullets and 5.0 grains of 231 or 6.0 grains of Accurate Arms #5. Pressures of these loads are almost half those of factory loads and do not exceed 16,000 CUP.

As I was working up loads it really didn't seem to make much difference which bullet/powder combination I chose, for all of them were surprisingly accurate. In fact, 25 yard groups were more often than not one hole. One target that I was using as an aiming guide while I chronographed six different loads had all 60 shots in a little over two inches. Up until then the appeal of the cartridge had been somewhat theoretical but this really got my attention.

One of the major problems in evaluating comp guns is the subjective judgement of recoil. There is little to recommend anything other than a .45 unless felt recoil is reduced. That is the obvious attraction of the .38 Super and, I think, an equal attraction of the 10mm. Using loads that generate equivalent power factors in .45, .38 Super and 10mm, I fired a magazine through each in turn. I believe that the .38 Super has less muzzle rise than either, but the difference between it and the 10mm was small. Both were substantially less than the .45 and the 10mm felt to me as if I were shooting light target loads in the .45.

A number of other shooters were also invited to try the gun and their consensus was that recoil was substantially less than the .45 although not quite as light as the .38 Super. The attraction of this, to me, is that it is possible to have a load that mimics the Super's light recoil at pressures that are over 40% lower. You don't have to worry about blowing cases with the 10mm.

There is a lot of satisfaction in doing something that isn't simply a rehash of someone else's work and the 10mm project certainly was that. I began as a "what if" sort of thing and ended as a possible future option for IPSC. I see two significant advantages.

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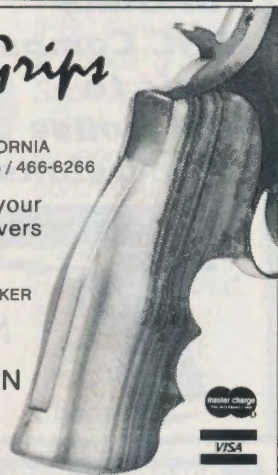
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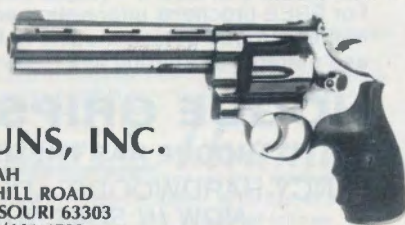
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is superb. I have heard lots of claims for accuracy in comp guns that leave me shaking my head. Yes, it is possible to have a well-built .45 shoot two inches at 50 yards but that is a rare combination of gun and ammo. With the cast bullets most of us shoot, three to four inches is a much more realistic number. In the case of the 10mm, carefully loaded ammunition with selected cast bullets grouped around 2½ inches when fired prone at a standard bullseye target and ammunition reloaded with pulled factory bullets really did make two inches.

I think it's important to remember that our intention was not to build a gun to shoot factory ammo. There is no need for all that velocity. Not that the gun is going to blow up, for it won't but the slide recoils at such a fast rate that it plays hell with the timing of the feeding cycle. I shot some of both factory loads to get the brass, but functioning was erratic and the brass is launched somewhere into next week. Someone who wants to build a 10mm just to get more velocity is likely to be disappointed. Not that it can't be done, but it will take careful management of the various masses and springs to get it to function well. I think the cartridge will be a dandy defense round, but I am skeptical about "converting" Government Models for use with factory ammo. I'm not saying it can't be done, but that wasn't what we were trying to do.

The 10mm does not have the loading problems associated with the .38 Super and accuracy was great. The gun seems to be very unconcerned about loads—it shoots almost everything well. The down-side of all this is 10mm components are hard to come by. It is possible that, by the time you read this, Colt's production will be underway and that will insure that others begin to produce ammo.

As far as I'm concerned, the 10mm shows great promise for IPSC shooters but there's still some work to do. So I'm not ready to scrap my Super, but there really is something neat about being the first kid on the block to have a 10mm and it just might be the start of something big.



## MAG-NA-TRIGGER

*Continued from page 28*

The concept is you cut away the front of the grip frame and install a module that puts a little metal flag behind the S&W's rebound slide so the trigger can't be pulled. That flag sits atop a metal pole, at the bottom of which is a powerful cobalt samarium magnet. When the hand of the authorized user, wearing a special ring with another samarium magnet, takes a firing hold, reverse polarity throws the pole and flag sideways, allowing an instant shot. As soon as the hand leaves the grip, the parts return to place, and the gun can't be fired again.

Like every other cop, I thought it was a gimmick—until I tried it. I came away impressed. The famed police unarmed combat instructors Jordan Roth and Bob Downey documented 138 cops killed with their own guns in a ten year period, and I'm convinced



that if they'd carried MagnaTrigger guns, all 138 would be walking around today.

Cost approaches \$300 for the conversion plus a ring or two. I have two such guns, one of which rides with me when I patrol as a Field Training Officer armed with a revolver like the rookie's instead of my preferred Colt .45 auto, and for years I taught courses with a MagnaTriggered Smith .357. The conversion can be done to coil spring guns like the Ruger, the J-frame Smith, and the Colt MK III, but that system (which blocks the main-spring) isn't quite as reliable as that on the K, L, and N-frame Smith which blocks the rebound slide, and I recommend only the latter.

As a weapon retention instructor, I'll take hundreds of guns a year away from students who didn't think it could happen to them. Those students then take guns away from me. *Nobody* is so macho that "no scumbag can take his gun." A MagnaTriggered K-frame or larger Smith is the ultimate answer to this very real problem.

One thing that hurt the MagnaTrigger concept was gunsmiths who bought modules but installed them improperly. S&W-trained armorer Rick Devoid of the LFI staff does them right, and for the same price as Joe Smith, who privately admits that machining isn't his thing and he hates to install them. Contact Rick at Tarnhelm Police Equipment, 67½ Rumford St., Concord, NH 03301, tel. (603) 225-3636. He can also, for about 70 bucks extra, furnish you with rings that look like real rings instead of the stainless steel bands that come from MagnaTrigger and make you look like a banded duck.

I know how easily a gun can be taken away, and how easily a little kid can reach one; that's why my home defense gun and my service revolver are MagnaTriggered. Properly installed, you lose nothing in speed—I shot the high service revolver score in the '82 Bianchi Cup with my MagnaTriggered model 66 S&W, and won a couple of stages in the Missouri Police Practical State Championships with it—and it even works through gloves.

The price of \$300 sounds like a lot, but in a world where we pay \$2000 to make a competition .45 shoot 2" instead of 4" groups and kick a little less, three bills for a gun no one can fire if we don't want them to is a stone bargain. If you're into guns enough to always be alert and have your rings on, I recommend it highly.

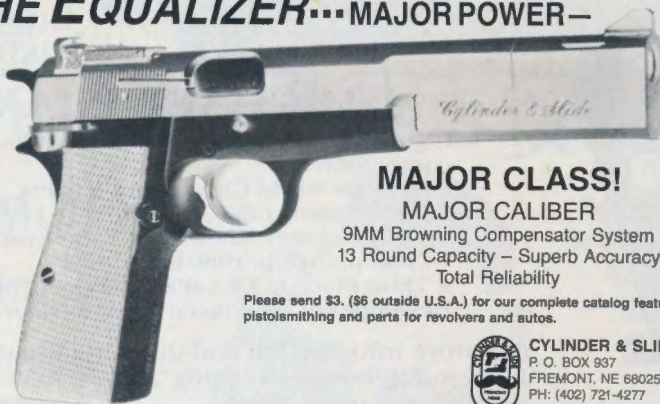
## METALLOY

*Continued from page 47*

along with all traces of rust, oil, grime or grease. A gun must be pristine before going for a bath in the Metalloy chemicals.

This is accomplished with a very fine sugar-sand blasting technique which Jim says is almost as hard to master as the application of Metalloy itself. The gun is held in the hand as the blaster sprays it down to bare metal. Stout gloves are required, and Jim reports the gun must be held just-so to prevent the blaster

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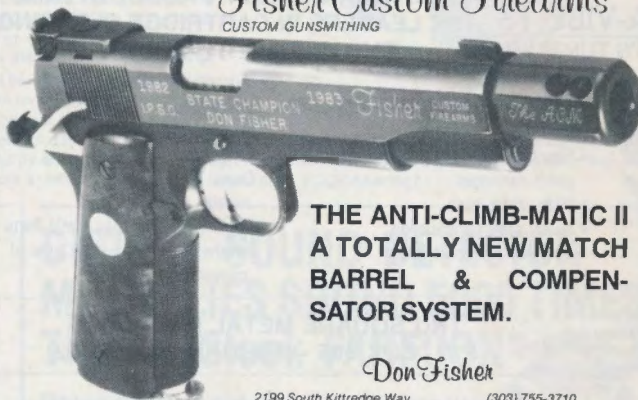
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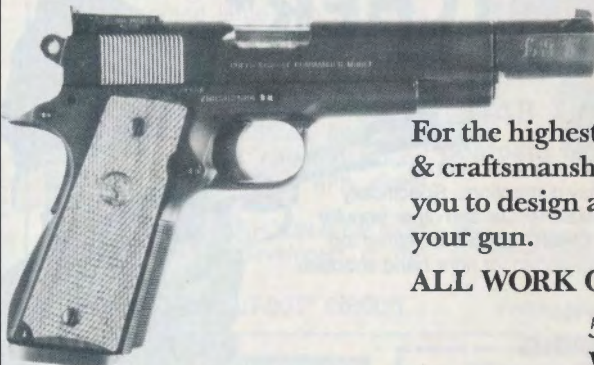
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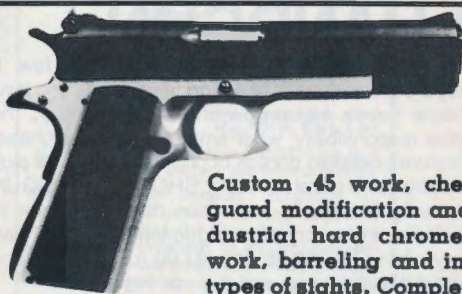
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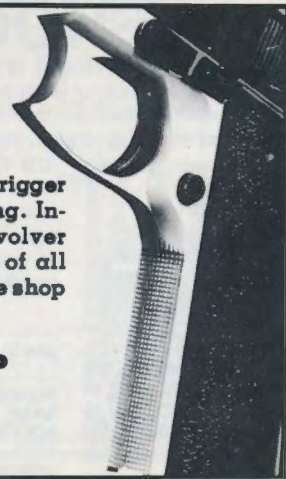
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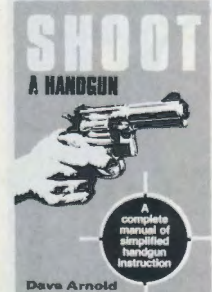
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from throwing it across the room. "Some of my help thought it was real easy till they tried it," Jim allowed.

From there the gun is attached to electrodes and dipped in the Metaloy chemicals for a specific length of time. Slides, for instance, take X-number of seconds while cylinders take Z. All parts are plated—from massive XP-100 barreled actions to minuscule Colt sears and disconnectors.

The Metaloy chrome plating has an equivalent hardness in excess of 70 Rockwell "C" which means it is tougher than the steel itself. Metaloy can be compared to wood glue in that the glue holding two bits of wood together is stronger than the wood itself.

Metaloy works well on automatic pistols where bearing surfaces rub together during the firing cycle. The reason is the lower coefficient of friction of Metaloy plating (0.14 compared to 0.30 for plain steel). Stainless steel autos greatly benefit from Metaloy as galling from steel-on-steel contact is prevented.

The plating process is discriminating in that only gun parts charged by the electrodes attract the chrome plating. In this way a barrel can be plated while the bore remains untouched. Metaloy plating adds no greater than .0002 of an inch buildup.

Metaloy adheres extremely well to the base metal. Standard bend tests show that Metaloy plating does not chip, flake, crack, peel or separate. Metaloy remains faithfully stuck to such hard-to-plate items as .44 Magnum cylinders.

A Metaloyed gun can be delivered with a standard smooth satin finish or with a "Starburst" finish. The Starburst, light or heavy, is the standard Metaloy finish that is glass beaded for a silver smooth satin finish.

Prices vary according to make and model of handgun (long guns welcome too) but an average price is \$100 for a complete gun with two to six weeks turn-around.

And what handgun does Jim Kelley like least? "PPKs throw me a little fit 'cause they're so small," confided the friendly country boy.

Jim gets a lot of orders from owners of neglected, rusted guns. "They just call up and say, 'Please make it look pretty again.' I don't see how people can let their guns get in such a mess. But we sure make 'em look pretty again," Jim said proudly.

Jim works full-time at Metaloy but also finds time to work his family farm in Arkansas. He raises cattle and a few crops to feed his wife Darlene and two children. He goes to work at Metaloy at 8 a.m., quits at 5 p.m. and then goes into the fields to bail hay or tend the cows. He gets to bed, he said, "Aw, 'bout one or two in the morning."

"I'm just an old country boy from way back," Jim smiled, "I work hard for my dollar. That's just the way I am."

And that's just the sort of man I want plating my guns.



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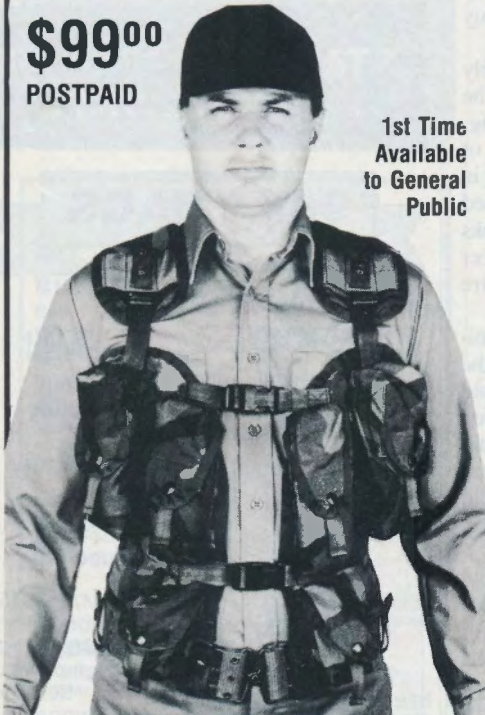
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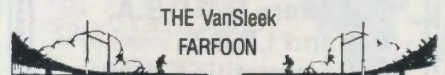
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## ROGERS SSIII

Continued from page 26

service pistols. The Houston Police Department is considering going to the SS-III for revolvers as well, for uniformity.

I first played with the SS-III at the 1985 Bianchi Cup. Though I pride myself on knowing the ins and outs of holsters, I was unable to get a Model 659 auto out of the Rogers SS-III. I then strapped it on and, releasing two of the three protective features, invited NRA referee Dick Crawford to grab at the 9mm autoloader.

Dick, who stands 6 feet 4, lifted me bodily off my feet in front of witnesses, and the gun did not come out even with two-thirds of the safety system bypassed. If this sounds like fun, let me remind you that when you are lifted off the ground via a gun that is attached to your belt that is attached to your pants, the inseam of the trousers rises and you are in effect lifted by one of the more sensitive parts of your body. Next time I try that protective demo, I'll strap on a cup as well as a holster. But there was no actual injury, and even in a violent street encounter, I'd rather have bruises that require an ice-pack in my lap than a medical examiner probing inside my head to find a bullet from my own pistol.

The upside of this rig is that it's extremely secure, and quite fast with training. The downside is that without extensive training, one could fumble with it. While one out of five American police who are murdered in the line of duty are killed with a snatched police gun, the other four are killed by punks who have their own guns, and the officer must always be able to instantly draw and fire his own weapon.

Rogers recommends several hours of initial training and drilling before wearing the SS-III on the street. This practice should include one or more of the releases being unfastened to start, simulating what could occur in a violent struggle for the weapon before the officer himself draws the gun. Bill further recommends daily or at least weekly practice.

I know too many cops who think their gun is a badge of office instead of safety rescue equipment, and won't live up to that training; for such an unmotivated officer, the SS-III would be a poor choice. But for the cop into guns enough to be reading this magazine, it makes eminent good sense. The same would be true for those civilians who wear guns daily, like certain personnel in jewelry, liquor, and gun stores who feel that visible guns deter crime. Visible guns are also accessible to weirdos, and if I worked in a gunshop with my piece visible, it would definitely ride in an SS-III.

Pricing is competitive with other quality security holsters, and a training video is available from Rogers. Write to Safariland, which advertises in these pages, for information. This holster works—though it works only for committed professionals—and it could save your life.

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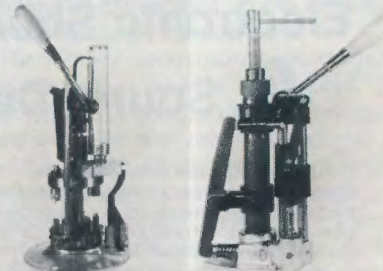
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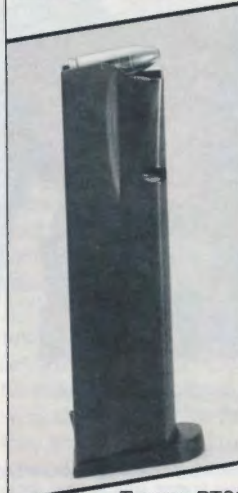
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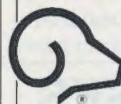
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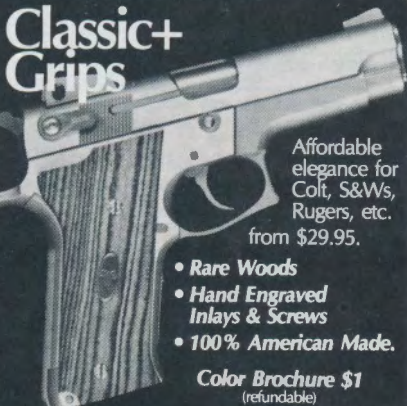


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## BOOK REVIEWS

**Massad Ayoob's Handgun Primer**, By Massad Ayoob, Police Bookshelf, Box 122, Concord, NH 03301, 30 Pages, \$4.95 plus \$2 shipping from publisher.

Of all the shooting authors writing today, those who can actually "tell it like it is" can be counted on just a few fingers. One of those who survives scrutiny is Massad Ayoob.

Ayoob has to be the most prolific handgun writer today, being the author of seven books and countless articles. He has traveled all over, gathering information and learning what works and what doesn't. Anyone can learn from Ayoob, whether they be expert or novice.

His latest is a small booklet entitled, *Massad Ayoob's Handgun Primer*. It's more of a pamphlet than a book, and at only 30 pages isn't going to take a week to read. Yet, he packs a wealth of information inside, managing to convey in short, concise paragraphs more information than many could do in a large volume.

The book is written for the beginner who is interested in self-defense, but he also includes information that can be found useful by the advanced shooter as well. Informative chapters like "Choosing Ammunition," "Learning to Shoot," "Carrying a Gun," and "Home Defense Tactics" are written to aid the first time gun buyer who is interested in self-protection or the police officer who is interested in more than the information given by well-meaning but sometimes uninformed instructors. Both sides will benefit from the man's knowledge.

The book is illustrated with very well done drawings showing everything from proper firing grip to ways of rendering your handgun safe from prying little fingers in the home. In his choice of handgun for home defense he selects the .38 Special for the average person. His reasoning? "Because," he says, "it's powerful enough to win a gunfight but with sufficiently mild blast and recoil for even an amateur to control effectively in a shootout." Throughout all ten chapters you'll find advice that you can't go wrong with. For first time gun buyers, it should be considered a must read. *Jim Weller*

**ON THE DRAW**



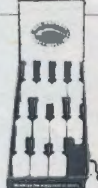
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## STOPPING POWER

Continued from page 57

bouncing back, no one seems to be able to name him. Of course, the 9mm has failed to stop with one shot on a number of occasions, as has every other handgun round.

But we need to compare the 9mm with other commonly carried law enforcement calibers to gauge its effectiveness. The accompanying chart contains the best stoppers in their respective calibers and their percentage of one-shot-stops in actual shootings.

While the 9mm is effectively overshadowed by the Federal .357 Magnum 125 grain JHP, it needs to be noted that the light-weight .357 load produces massive muzzle flash and blast. Coupled with a rather robust recoil, it is hardly the choice as an across-the-board issue round.

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Other loads that outperform the 9mm are either not commonly seen in law enforcement or, as in the case of the .44 Magnum, produce recoil that makes it generally inappropriate for law enforcement use.

The key to stopping power is neither bullet design nor velocity. The key is bullet placement. I've been to the morgue on a number of occasions and seen people who died from a .22 in the heart. I've never been there to look at someone who died from a .44 Magnum in the foot.

We recommend hollowpoints because under high stress levels, our ability to place bullets with surgeon-like precision goes right down the drain. Bullets that offer increased levels of shock can be very helpful. We need, however, to practice, practice, practice.

Besides, in law enforcement we shoot to stop, not to kill. Even those states that possess the death penalty administer it after a trial and careful consideration. Any handgun round is capable of killing, but only a select few produce good stopping power.

When it comes to handgun stopping power, too much depends on how bad the person shot wants to survive. I've seen people take multiple Magnum hits and run away and hide! Others have absorbed multiple shotgun hits and gone on to kill officers. I recently had a witness in a homicide case who had been hit in the head with a mortar round while in Vietnam! Nothing is a 100% and the sooner we realize that, the sooner we can relax and make some logical decisions.

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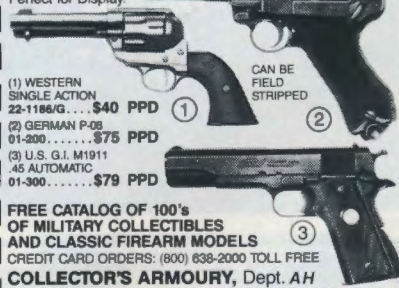


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
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## NIGHT SIGHTS

Continued from page 39

\$100, depending on the pistol. Blades alone are less expensive, but certain handguns, such as the Gold Cup and Ruger Redhawk, require complete rear assemblies, which cost \$189.90. One fairly low-cost assembly is the 3-dot system for the H&K P7. This lists at \$68.95 plus \$10 installation at Armson, Inc.

Some handguns, such as the SIG/Sauer P220 and P230, have the front sight integral with the slide. This requires drilling and installation by a gunsmith licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Some customers prefer to send their sights to be drilled and filled, rather than buy an additional set of sights. This also is restricted to NRC-licensed gunsmiths. Cost of installing a tritium insert in a pre-drilled front sight blade is about \$10. Total cost of installation will vary with the handgun. 

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## RCBS PRIMING TOOL

Continued from page 40

the right rear surface of the mounting box so the feed tube not in use could be stored (holes are drilled in the base of the tool for storing the two priming assemblies). Also, a half-inch band on the ends of the tubes and priming assemblies has been masked off and painted as a means of quick identification, to tell whether they're for large or small primers. Even the small hitchpins used to keep primers from spilling from the tubes until they're placed in the priming arm are color-coded. None of this is really necessary unless you're into customizing, but it does help by enabling you to pick up the right tube and priming assembly as well as letting you know at a glance whether you're set up to seat large or small primers.

This thing works by camming action. For instance, as you push the arm all the way down a contact surface about 3/8ths of an inch long on the upper rear end of the arm rises against the lower end of the priming arm and causes it to move forward. As it does so, its lower front slide moves into impingement with the priming assembly, which, by cam action against the arm, also has risen to the top of its travel. The wall of the priming cup depresses a spring-tensioned steel button on the priming arm, and thus allows a primer to drop from the tube into the cup. The idea of the no-spill feed button isn't new, but the rest of the mechanism is exclusive to the design of this RCBS tool. Its action is positive, absolute, flawless.

Finally, there are those who have suggested danger in using certain brands of primers in automatic priming systems, and one scribe has gone so far as to say that it is unsafe to use any auto-feed system. Well, sure, reasonable caution should always be used, but over the past 30 years I've run many thousands of primers through auto-feed mechanisms—even had a few spills where primers would be stepped on or clatter into the canister of a shop vacuum—and I've never had one go off till it was struck by a firing pin. I am therefore not inclined to worry when someone attempts to don the raiment of profound authority by emphasizing hazards beyond reality. The RCBS automatic priming tool, to be used with all brands of primers, is hereby fully recommended.



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The proven Aimpoint optical technology is retained, the same rugged quality that has won more Bianchi Cup championships than

all other optical sights combined.

The Aimpoint 1000 is a one-power (no magnification) sight with a bright red dot that remains on the point of the bullet's impact no matter where in the tube the dot is placed. There is no parallax and no distortion with this proven technology.

The unit is 6" long and weighs 7.86 oz.

For more information, contact Aimpoint, Dept. AH, 203 Elden St., Suite 302, Herndon, VA, 22070.



## Two New XP-100 Models

Remington Arms Company has introduced two new versions of the XP-100 pistol, one for big game hunting and one for small game and varmint hunting. The former is a production gun, the latter is available only from the Remington Custom Shop.

The Custom Shop is taking orders for the Custom HB in .223 with a heavy 15" target weight barrel. This comes with an attractive wood stock.

The XP-100 Silhouette comes in the traditional Zytel nylon stock chambered in .35

Remington. The single shot pistol has a 14 inch, medium weight barrel.

These new additions to the XP line bring the total models up to four:

XP-100 Varmint Special: .223, Zytel nylon stock

XP-100 Silhouette: 7mm BR, 35 Rem, Zytel nylon stock

XP-100 Custom: 7mm-08, 35 Rem, custom walnut stock

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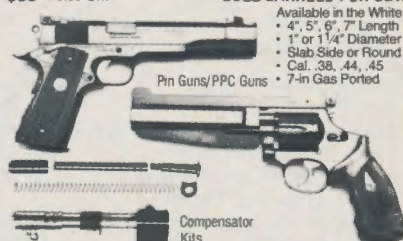
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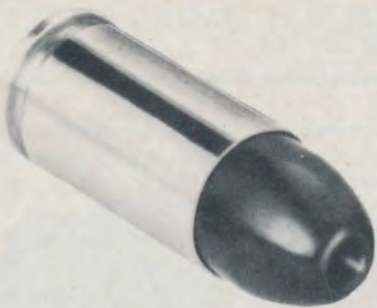
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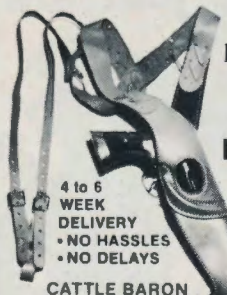
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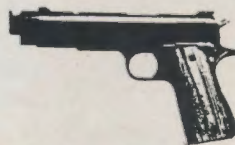
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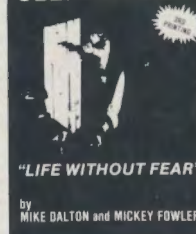
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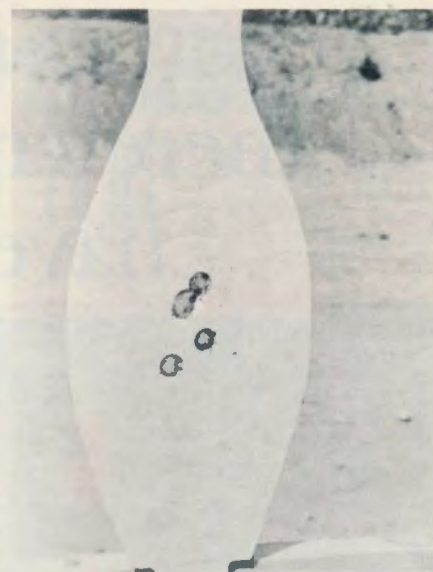


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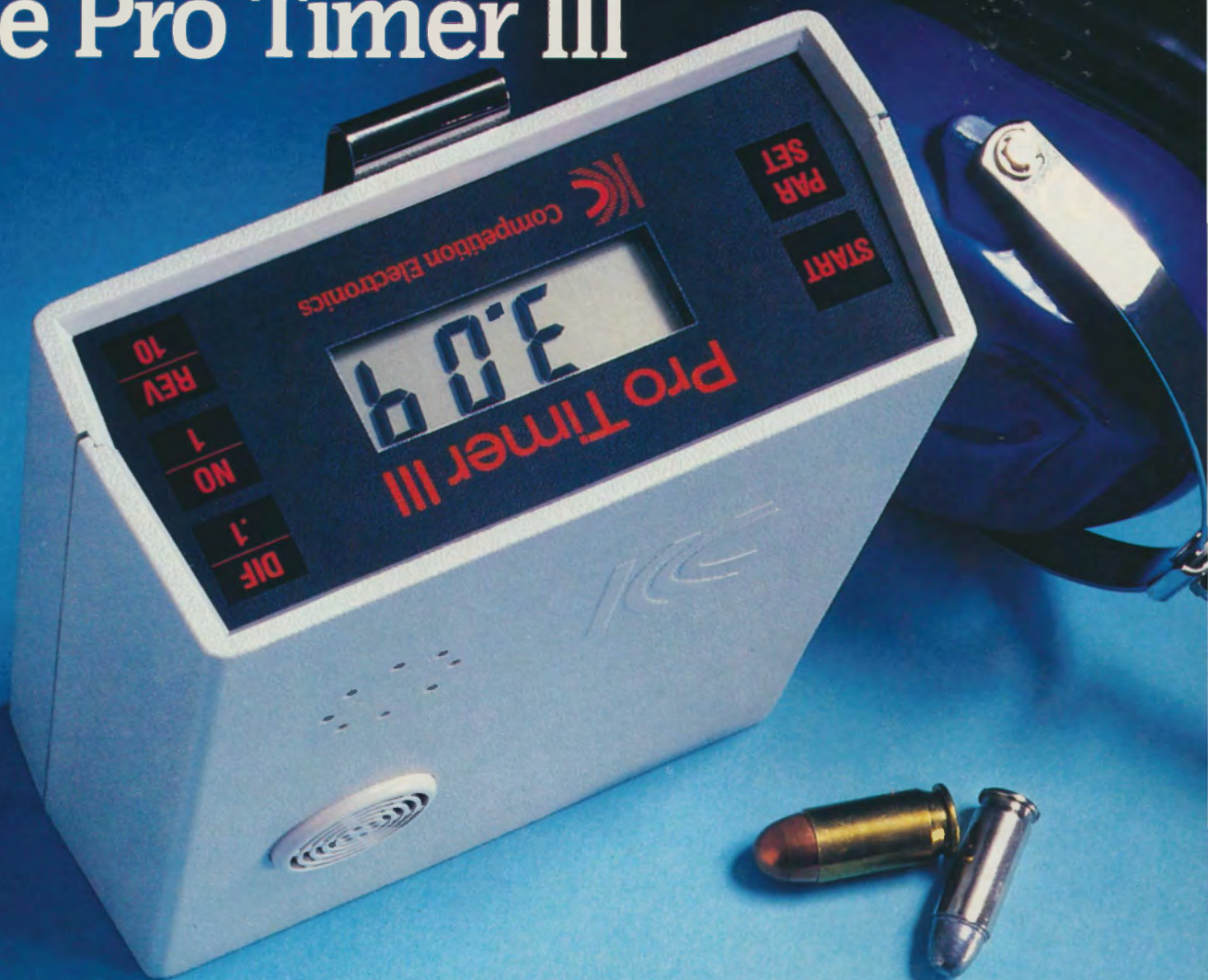
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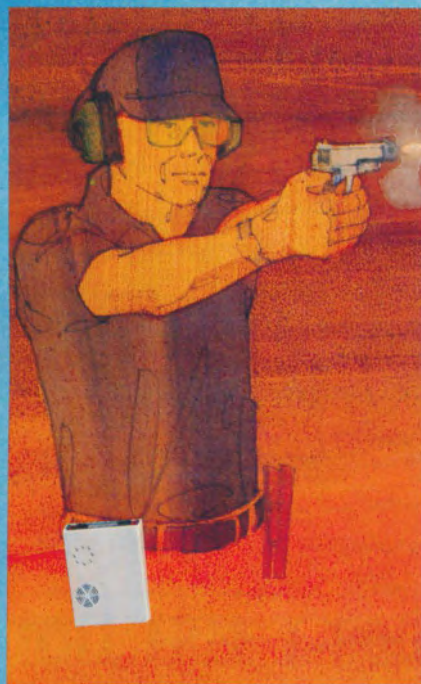
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# INDUSTRY INSIDER

JERRY RAKUSAN

## FOUR NEW BOLT ACTION PISTOLS AND SEVERAL 10mms SEEN AT SHOT SHOW

Having just returned from the SHOT Show, the trade show for dealers and distributors of firearms and hunting accessories, this report may be a bit disjointed and lacking in details. With more than 900 exhibitors at the Show, it will take several days to bring everything back into focus.

If there were any general impressions I got from the three days on the floor of the show, they were:

### THE TEN ON TOP

The next year will see a rash of new gun calibers between the 9mm and the 11mm. The Colt conversion of the .45 to the 10mm as now provided by Norma seems to offer a concept that is saleable, but, I believe, only if one or more of the big three ammo makers tools up to produce the cartridges.

The concept offered by Action Arms, a .41 that they call the Action Express, seems to have a reverse situation; they claim to have a couple of million rounds of the ammo available, but the only gun announced so far is their AT-84 (a Swiss-made copy of the Czech CZ). I did see, at the Action Arms booth, some auto barrels purported to be for the S&W autos.

So, with the Colt 10mm (and probably the Desert Eagle and others) the Action Arms .41 Action Express (plus the several other .41s as offered by Detonics and SSK Industries), what we may see is a shootout at the 10mm corral.



Colt's new 10mm

### FOUR NEW BOLT ACTIONS

Long Range pistol shooting, as evidenced by the IHMSA, NRA Long Range and Hunter disciplines and the long range stage at The Masters, is gathering some interesting bolt action pistol designs. Sako, Ultra-Lite Arms and Kimber all showed new pistols, single-shots except for the Ultra-Light which has a 5-shot magazine and is based on their Ultra-Light action. Oops, almost forgot the Anschütz, a .22 magazine bolt action. Some of these were shown as prototypes, others were to be offered in limited production.

### Victory Arms prototype



### INTERESTING NEW GUN

Perhaps the most interesting "new" gun at the show was the double-action auto shown, again in prototype, by Victory Arms Ltd of England; if and when it will be in production has not been confirmed.

### OH SAY DID YOU SEE?

One indication of something new and popular at the SHOT Show is the number of people who come by your booth asking, "Say, did you see the . . .?" This year, most asked, "Did you see the .22 Magnum pistol from AMT?" Yes, we did, and we, too were impressed. It has clean lines, and an intriguing gas action. This gun, plus the new Smith & Wesson 422 auto lead us to believe that there is still a lot of interest in .22 plinkers.

### HANDGUNS WILL SURVIVE

In spite of guys like Sen. Daniel Moynihan, who is proposing a federal law

many brushfire legislative proposals made that we'll have to fight, but all in all, I think our kids will still be able to enjoy handguns in the future.

Other news from the show: Gun South, importers of the Steyr GB auto pistol say that relatively few of these pistols remain in inventory, and production has ceased. That's too bad; The GB 9mm is a fine, high capacity pistol. No plans were announced for either a revised version or a completely new design.

Coonan's .357 Magnum auto pistol is in limited production, and a spokesman said

that dealers can expect a 45-day back order delay. Magnum Research was delighted with the reception to their .44 Magnum Desert Eagle. It was good to see several handgun companies back in full steam after a somewhat shaky period; the fine guns of Dan Wesson and Detonics were much in evidence, and the dealers were ordering.



Anschütz .22

For those who have no inclination toward the hot .454 Casull round, Freedom Arms was showing their handsome single-action revolver chambered for the .44 Magnum. Made on the same frame as the .454, the .44 Magnum has the same replaceable forcing cone and precise barrel/cylinder gap as the Casull.

Watch for the emergence of a couple of plastic-cased ammo makers in the near future. One will be the re-appearance of United States Ammo of Tacoma, Washington. Their new plastic ammo will have a metal head and a new composition for the plastic case.





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