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JFK, 1961

Like their fathers and older brothers who served at the Bulge, Okinawa and Pusan, our Vietnam Veterans served our nation for the same principles of "duty, honor, country" that have always guided our American fighting men in combat.

And, like many dedicated Americans, the Thompson served proudly in all three wars. In fact, many Vietnam Veterans report that the Thompson was more highly sought after than any other weapon, due to its reliability under jungle conditions and the stopping power of the .45 ammo it fired—two characteristics found lacking in certain other military-issued weapons.

Now, the American Historical Foundation is proud to honor our Vietnam Veterans through the issuance of the Vietnam War Commemorative Thompson.

Limited Edition Of Only 1500

This is the first commemorative longarm ever issued as a combat memorial to these brave Americans. Only 1500 will be made in this strictly limited edition commissioned by The American Historical Foundation and built to the Foundation's specifications by the official maker of the famous Thompson, Auto-Ordnance Corporation. Each is specially serially numbered between 0001 and 1500, with the prefix V (for Vietnam).

This serial number is also inscribed on the accompanying Certificate of Authenticity, which attests to the 24-karat gold plating and the edition limit. You will also receive firing instructions and a 20-round magazine, in the event you wish (or need) to fire it.

For your ease of ownership, the Vietnam War Commemorative Thompson is being produced in a semiautomatic firing version. This means that no special license is required to own one.

The Vietnam War Commemorative Thompson has already been classified as a Curio and Relic by BATF, an acknowledgment of its collectible status.

Special Commemorative Features

This Thompson is a real man's weapon, constructed of 12 pounds of steel and walnut, but hand built with special commemorative features.

You sight across the 24-karat gold plated rear sight base and through the special, gold plated activator knob with a single rib, symbolic of the DMZ that divided the two Vietnams. The highly polished, gun-blued barrel is cut with 35 deep cooling fins and mounted with a mirror-

polished, 24-karat gold plated Cutts Compensator and front sight.

Your finger curls around the 24-karat gold plated trigger, as your left hand and right arm grasp the American walnut stocks—original G.I. production—hand finished with seven coats of hand-rubbed lacquer and polished to a gleaming presentation grade.

The stocks show off the 24-karat gold plated sling swivels, swivel mounts and screws which affix the black leather military sling.

You cradle the precision-milled receiver, which is highly polished to highlight the roll-engraved and gold-gilt inlaid commemorative inscriptions. The presentation side bears our Flag, the Vietnam Service Medal, the famous Thompson "bullet" trademark and quotations from both Presidents Kennedy and Reagan. The reverse bears the special serial number, the issuing organization and the Thompson patents.

The shoulder stock is fitted with two, full-color, fired-enamel cloisonne medallions, bearing a gold plated inscription in black—symbolic of the Vietnam War Memorial—surrounding a circularized yellow and red flag of the Republic of Vietnam. The pistol grip is fitted with a matching medallion embossed with the Great Seal of the United States and commemorative tributes.

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Highly Collectible

Because of the extremely small edition limits and their availability as semiautomatics, Thompson commemoratives have become some of the most highly collectible firearms in recent history. Previous Thompson commemoratives have been quickly fully subscribed and now bring significantly higher prices on the collector market.

A furniture-finished walnut display case, green vel-

vet lined and fitted with an acrylic glass lid and three solid brass locks, is also available to show and protect your investment.

How to Reserve: Satisfaction Guaranteed

Available exclusively from The American Historical Foundation, you may use the reservation form below or call toll free. Your satisfaction is guaranteed, or return for a full refund within one month.

With your reservation, you will be made a Member of the Foundation and receive expert information concerning the history, care and display of military arms and edged weapons.

Prompt response is required if you are to be one of only 1500 men, museums and organizations worldwide who have the opportunity to own one of these extremely rare, firing showpieces. If the edition is sold out before your reservation is received, your deposit will be refunded and your name placed on a standby list. This special commemorative Thompson is assured a place of honor in any collection, and it provides a lasting, tangible link between those Americans who fought for freedom in Vietnam and their forebears of World War II and Korea.

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24-hour, 7-day toll free: (800) 368-8080

Yes, I wish to reserve the Vietnam War Commemorative Thompson, selectively plated with 24-karat gold, with roll-engraved inscriptions and deluxe presentation-grade finish. Only 1500 will be made. I will also receive a Certificate of Authenticity, membership in the Foundation and information concerning the history, care, display and firing of the Thompson.

☐ My deposit of \$95 (or credit card authorization) is enclosed. Please invoice (or charge my credit card) for the balance due:

☐ in four equal payments of \$300.
☐ in full.

☐ Please also send the optional furniture-finished walnut display case at \$225 each.

☐ My payment in full is enclosed. (\$1295 per Thompson; display case, add \$225.)

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AMERICAN HANDGUNNER

MAY/JUNE 1988

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

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30 Day Money Back Guarantee

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

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

Shop Around & Call Us Last

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

SPEAK OUT

Handgunner Discriminates

I feel I must take issue with your Custom Gun Giveaway like the Jan/Feb '88 issue showcasing the Wilson 10mm. Your sample entry contains the disheartening disclaimer, *Open to US Citizens Only*.

I feel somewhat discriminated against in this seemingly small but offensive matter. I believe that there must be some means of including your Canadian readers in such contests.

Kim Stinson
Weyburn, Sask.
Canada

Please note that we have altered the entry requirements to US residents. You need not be a US citizen, but you must reside in the United States. The reason is that exporting of firearms is complicated and we do not have an export license.

The Real Crime

Concerning Charles E. Petty's article *Handloads for Defense* in the March/April 1988 issue, I agree with the author about using factory loads for self-defense for the reliability factor.

The problem is not the kind of ammo we use in self-defense, but the obscene attitude the courts have towards the criminals who commit crimes against us and then are allowed to sue us for preventing them from maiming, robbing and killing our loved ones. That is the real crime.

T. Lee Harrison
Randleman, SC

Plaxco's Pick

In Massad Ayoob's article on Mike Plaxco in the March/April 1988 issue, Mike is quoted: "I've worked on about every make of .45 there is, and I prefer the commercial Colt." Yet in the same issue there appears an advertisement for Springfield Armory that states "master pistolsmiths J. Michael Plaxco and Richard Heinie both use Springfield pistols as the basis for some of America's finest custom pistols, and they both shoot their own custom built Springfields in competition."

What is the real story here? Does Mike Plaxco opt for the Colt or the Springfield Armory pistol?

Joseph Meis
St. Louis, Mo.

We contacted Mike and asked him about this discrepancy. Mike said, "The confusion is due to your long publishing lag time. In the year and a half since I did the class with Massad and the time you published the article, I have switched to Springfield Armory pistols. It is a very competitive product, equally as good as the Colt at a better price."

We might add, in the spirit of journalistic integrity, that Mike is "sponsored" by Springfield Armory and his endorsement of their products is paid. Consider his endorsement in the same manner that you would weight the credibility of any athlete endorsing any product, from William "Refrigerator" Perry and his Big Macs to John McEnroe and his Bic razors.

Ge Gaw Gadget Guns

I was pretty much resigned to not renewing my subscription. I am bored to tears with impractical pistols and ge gaw gadget guns. However, your March/April 1988 issue seemed to reverse this trend somewhat. If you continue to include enough interesting and relevant articles for this ordinary shooter, I will keep renewing my subscription.

By the way, regardless of article content, your graphics are superb.

George Hosch
Concord, Calif.

Taffin Is Tops

A solid gold "thank you" to John Taffin for his *Siluetas* column in the Nov/Dec '87 issue of *American Handgunner*. Having only recently had my reading glasses changed and been told that my distant vision required no correction, I assumed the inability to see sights clearly was the end of open sight revolver shooting at age 55.

Thanks to John's informative article I called an optometrist who advertised "Sports Vision Problems" and the doctor and I took several handguns to a wood lot where he tried all of the lenses he thought would do the job.

Bingo! Crystal clear sights and only slightly out-of-focus bullseye. The doctor's prognosis is that I should be able to see open sights for at least 10 more years.

I also particularly enjoy *Taffin Tests*. His extensive reloading experiments include many bullet/powder combinations not generally found in reloading manuals.

Congratulations to you on the addition of this knowledgeable handgunner to your staff.

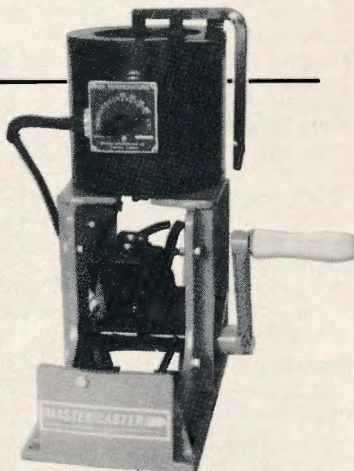
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Junk Simi-Autos

I ordered your *American Handgunner* and I found that it was not for me. All you people can write about is .45 Auto or 9mm. What the he-- (sic) do you think those of us who shoot wheelguns are to do or read?

For a fact I wish to stop receiving your book as it is no good to me since I own and SHOOT (sic) a .44 Mag like all my friends and family do. We all own revolvers and are proud to own and shoot them.

I do not know a single person who owns and shoots one of those junk simi-autos (sic) you so proudly write about.

Bob Webb, Lee A. Cole,
Mark N. Long, Eugene Hanson,
Ray Hubbard, Art Frost
all of the Douglas County
Sheriff Dept. (state not
indicated on letter)

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INSIGHTS INTO IPSC

CAMERON HOPKINS

HILL HOLSTERS SET NEW STANDARD IN SPORT KNOWN FOR NONCONFORMITY

Individualists love IPSC because it is freestyle. No other handgun game allows such unrestricted freedom for competitors to seek their own vision of perfect equipment. Silhouette imposes all sorts of rules on the guns—weight, sight radius, scopes—and bullseye guns have to fit in a certain sized box. PPC allows a good deal of latitude in the firearms, so long as you shoot a revolver because autos need not apply.

IPSC is freestyle—the only limitation is the ammunition must at least meet the minor caliber power factor. The equipment is unfettered with unnecessary regulations.

So it is unusual in this individualistic sport to find a majority favoring any one thing. I can only think of a handful of products that attract almost universal acceptance:

Bar-Sto barrels

Bo-Mar sights

Swenson safeties

H&G #68 200 grain .45 bullets

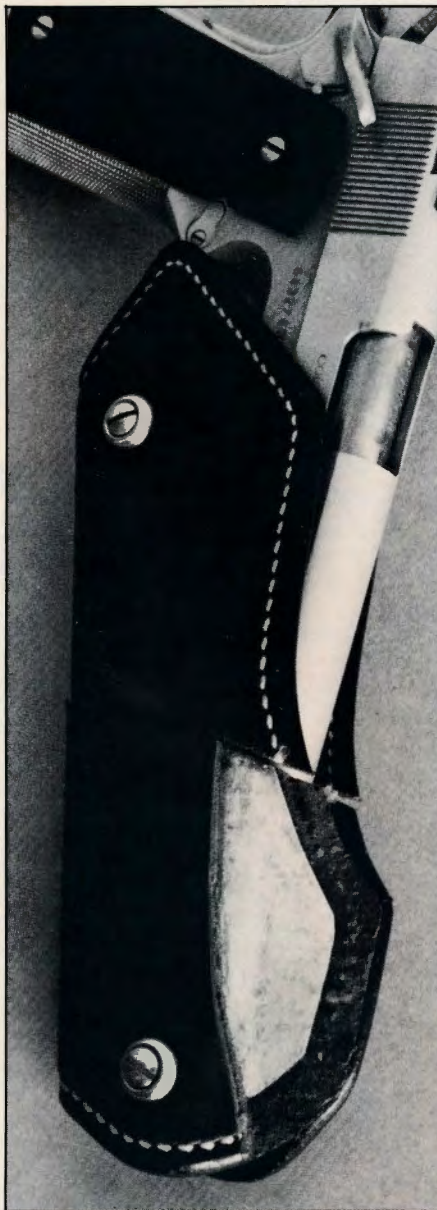
Perhaps there are a few other products that appeal to a lot of shooters, but not too many (the Shaw shooting bag comes to mind). But there is a new product that's taking the IPSC world by storm. After recently shooting the Arizona State Championships (107 competitors) it suddenly hit me that almost every man was wearing the same holster.

I have seen our local section, Linea de Fuego, switch man by man by woman to Ernie Hill's holsters, but I had not realized this was such a far-flung trend. My old IPSC buddies in my home state of Texas (I'm stuck in the Granola State of California: the land of fruits and nuts) have told me that Hill holsters are the rage in the Lone Star State. *Handgunner* correspondent Jim Weller from Pennsylvania reports that Hill leather is extremely popular up there in Yankee Land.

Now this is curious. In seven years of active IPSC shooting, I have never before seen one holster grab the market so completely. Each time a new national champion came along, which has been infrequent during the Leatham Dynasty, there was a brief surge in whatever brand the winner wore. I recall eagerly ordering my Rogers-made Plaxco holster back in 1983 after Mike won the '82 Nationals.

Look around your own club. Isn't there a large preponderance of Hill leather? I would suspect so.

We can't attribute this to Leatham's four national crowns because he was wearing



The entire Hill holster is lined with steel for rigidity and strength.

Gordon Davis holsters for three out of four victories, and we never saw a huge shift to Davis leather. He only won the '86 nationals, and the world title, with the Hill "Leatham/Enos" model IPSC holster. (By the way, I suspect a name change pretty shortly—Brian Enos was wearing a Rogers Combat Assault holster at that Arizona match I just attended.)

The point is: Hill's popularity is not just a transient trend of copying the champion. His holsters are being picked by the free-

stylers because the Hill speed holsters are, people seem to indicate by their mass purchases, the best.

I have been using a Hill "LE" holster (#3 cant in the appendix or "vasectomy draw" position) since just after the World Shoot, September of 1986. That's about 16 months as of this writing. I think it's the fastest, most durable holster on the market. I've used Davis and Rogers extensively but I have no experience with Blocker leather. I used a Rogers Plaxco model for two years and a Davis California Challenger after that for a year and a half. I tried the Rogers Combat Assault for about six months.

None equal the Hill rig. In fact, none can even come remotely close. My initial apprehension about the Hill steel-lined holster was that it would squish when I dived into prone. I always had this problem with the Davis California Challenger which flattens when you land on top of it. The Davis steel insert then keeps it flat, so you can't get your gun back inside.

I met Ernie in Orlando at the World Shoot and spoke my mind. I told him I didn't think his holster could stand up to my rather vigorous prone technique (hit the deck!). "Try it," said Ernie confidently.

I switched holsters right then and there in the exhibitor's tent, slipping on the Hill rig and taking off the Rogers Combat Assault. I wandered outside the tent and proceeded to go prone just as hard and fast as I could. Five times. That would have smushed my old Davis rig. The Hill holster was not even creased. I was convinced.

Since then I have used the Hill rig to the exclusion of all others, except when I'm feeling martial-artsy and I shoot a club match in Tactical Class from a Milt Sparks Roadrunner (best damn concealment rig for a five-inch you'll ever try).

The Hill holster doesn't have a steel lining, it *is* steel! The entire holster. It is wrapped with smooth cowhide that remains just as fast as the day I bought it, now 16 months later. It is rugged and tough. It retains the gun as well as any other low-cut competition rig, which is minimally. The gun won't fall out under the standard IPSC retention tests. Then again, it isn't exactly what I'd call "snatch resistant" either. The Hill rig offers a good blend of speed and retention.

The Hill belts I can live without. I still prefer the Rogers plastic-leather laminate belt which is a tad thinner than the Hill. I have too many pairs of shorts (it's *hot* in southern California) with belt loops too narrow for Ernie's thick belts. That's no reflection on the steel-lined belts, which are reinforced under the holster position portion of the belt for added strength.

It is rare to find a product that freestyling IPSC shooters can agree is the best. It appears the Hill holster is one of them.

For more information, write to Ernie for a catalog at Ernie Hill Speed Leather, 4507 N. 195th Ave., Litchfield Park, AZ 85340 or call (602) 853-9222.



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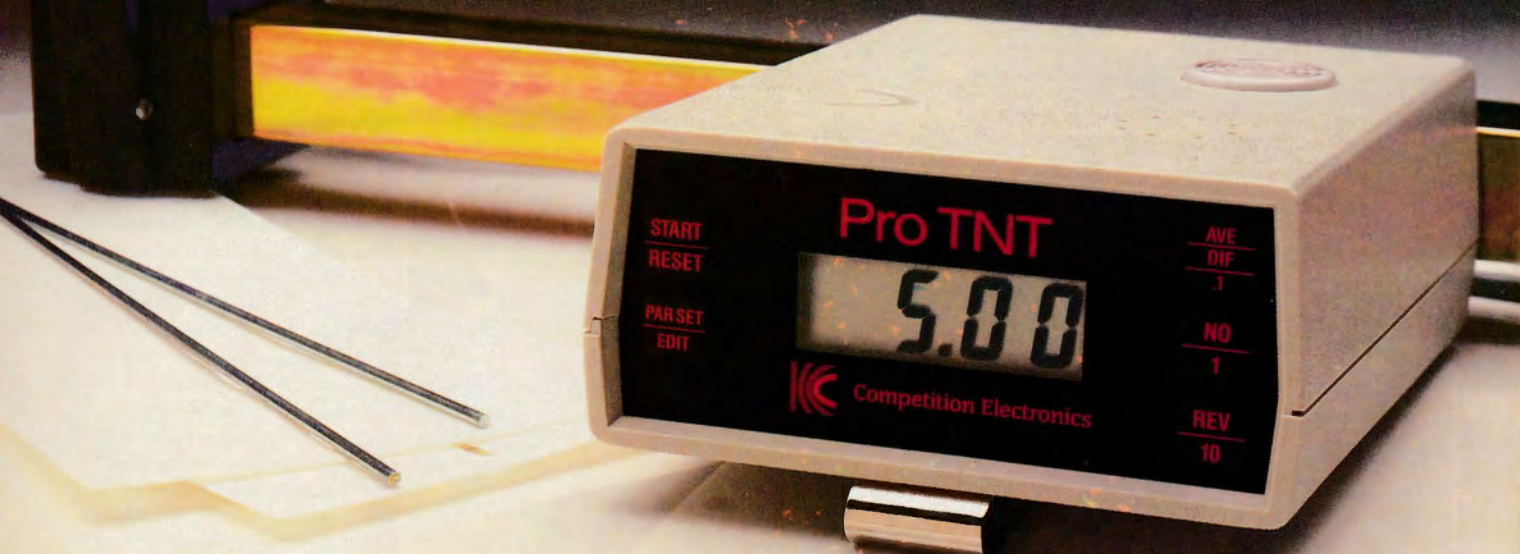
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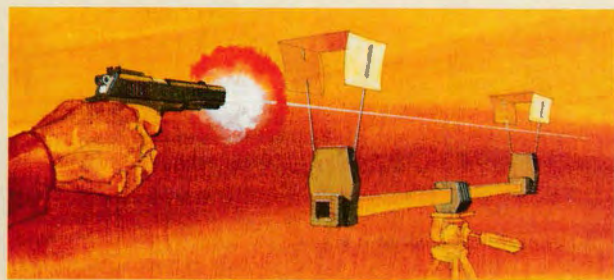
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HANDGUN HUNTING

J.D. JONES

CUSTOM CALIBERS AND MODERN SCOPES MAKE XP-100 A GOOD HUNTING PISTOL

Since most big game seasons are over and varmint hunting is just ahead of us, possibly a review of the XP-100 and what can be done with it is appropriate.

The original XP was a varmint gun chambered for the .221 Fireball which is essentially a short .222. The now-obsolete thinking of "little cartridges for little guns" to give the greatest efficiency was just coming into vogue and the high pressure Fireball convinced a lot of people that was the way to go.

The XP-221 had a rough time in the beginning. First, the adjustable sight on the XP was probably the worst sight ever put on an otherwise quality pistol. Handgun scopes were either non-existent or in their infancy and, believe me, those early handgun scopes were really poor.

In addition, the gun looked weird. Needless to say, sales were very grim for many years. Looking back, I'm amazed Remington didn't drop it after the first couple of years.

A very few enterprising gunsmiths converted XPs to larger calibers, such as the 6mm Remington or .22-250, and were largely unsuccessful in having them accepted by the public. The early emphasis was on varmints and the lousy scopes then available probably were the actual killers of the whole scheme. A few of us put rifle scopes on the 221 and played with it a bit finding outstanding accuracy along with unacceptable awkwardness.

The benchresters probably saved the XP. The very rigid action, due to not having a magazine cut-out, apparently resulted in greater accuracy than actions with a magazine cut-out. A large number of the XP's produced were turned into bench guns and these sales coupled with a few Remington employees interested in bench shooting probably kept the gun in production. Conversely, the Ruger Hawkeye in .256 Mag-

num fell by the wayside.

As pistol scopes improved, interest in the XP slowly increased. IHMSA unlimited class silhouette shooters gave the XP its greatest shot in the arm with the majority of XPs produced for several years being converted to silhouette guns. The 7 BR was introduced as a silhouette gun and, while successful on many ranges, was marginal in Ram power on many other ranges.

A few years ago it apparently dawned on Remington that the guys in the field were doing things with the XP they didn't realize could be done. Lo and behold the .223 XP appeared and was an instant success. The .35 Remington is now available and while its factory loading is a veritable dog for hunting, careful handloading—particularly in conjunction with lengthening the very short factory throat—will turn it into a real romper stomper with 180 through 200 grain bullets.

Wood stocked XPs are available through Remington's Custom Shop, however, the interest I see expressed in my mail and phone inquiries regarding XPs shows Remington's marketing to be very effective, but their choice of calibers is sadly lacking. I expect them to catch on to this and rectify it in the next few years, which will kill the custom XP business. But for now, my weekly inquiries are probably about 10 times higher than they were this time last year. There is no doubt about it—the publicity regarding XPs is working.

SSK's most common inquiry is regarding the rechambering of 7 BR XPs to the 7-08 Remington. A lot seems to have been written to popularize this conversion but no one seems to mention the fact that few, if any, of the original BR chambers clean up when rechambered to 7-08. Typically, after rechambering, a fired 7-08 case will show a "scuff" mark on the body of the case where the original BR shoulder was

located. I have never seen one that did not exhibit at least a scuff mark.

It doesn't do any harm but the customer has a right to be unhappy if he isn't aware of that before the chambering job. The "scuff" mark can become an actual ring around the case that is simply unacceptable in a chamber. A much simpler solution is to rechamber to the .284 Winchester cartridge which makes the 7-08 look somewhat wimpy in comparison and does not have any chamber problems.

The .35 Remington can be rechambered to .358 Winchester for a fairly large gain in power, with factory ammo, over the .35 Rem. Many are interested in opening the bolt face and installing another extractor to convert to the .350 Remington Magnum which does give an appreciable increase in power in .35 caliber.

The .308 has its following in custom XPs too. A few are being built in this caliber but the greatest interest in custom XP seems to be in very powerful, long range varmint/deer guns. Although the .223 can be converted to .22-250 for a large gain in power, few individuals seem interested in this conversion although it is one of the best ones. Maybe they just haven't thought of it.

I've been pushing the 250 Savage for about 12 years as a varmint-deer cartridge with little success. It's a great little cartridge, but it isn't popular.

While SSK does a large variety of calibers, the .375 based on the .284 Winchester case and 6.5 based on the .284 are now the most popular. The 375/284 will do 2400 fps with a 270 grain bullet for about 92% of what a factory load in a 375 H & H rifle produces.

Petite Darla Wilson shoots mine without problems—no one ever told her to be afraid of a gun!

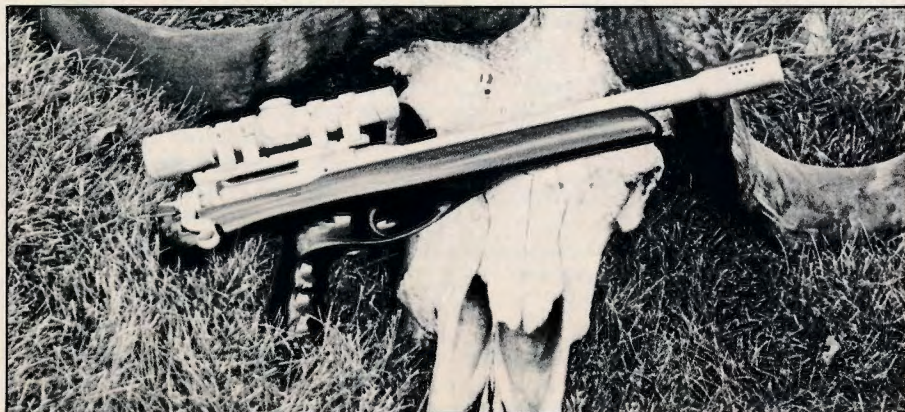
The 6.5-284 will crank up over 3200 fps with a 85 grain bullet and over 2800 fps with a 140 grain. Try matching those ballistics with a "small, efficient" case.

The bolt action XP is very strong and adaptable to high pressure and large cartridges usually considered suitable only for rifles. However, the XP can handle them with ease and the natural shock absorbers of the hand, wrist, elbow, and shoulder permit the same cartridge to be fired more comfortably than in a rifle.

At this point, the XP is at its most powerful in my .50 caliber conversion based on a shortened, rebated .460 Weatherby case.

You can expect a decent XP to be more accurate than most over-the-counter rifles. The new Bausch & Lomb 4X pistol scope is not only tough but also is very sharp with a distinctly superior cross hair when hitting small objects is the object.

The 7X Burris with parallax adjustment is a good rig for mild recoiling guns. If you want an XP built up to a max power gun you had better go to someone who has a lot of experience building heavy recoiling ones as they have to be done right. Stock breakage and keeping a scope on them is a real problem. The right type of muzzle brake is also necessary.



SILUETAS

JOHN TAFFIN

OH SAY CAN YOU SEE IN THE BRIGHT SUNLIGHT, TRY THE KING TUBE SIGHT

Everyone who has shot silhouettes very much realizes that certain times of the day, rather we should say certain lighting conditions, are much preferred. In the early days of silhouetting, I can recall trying to have a shooting time or position that would give me the best possible lighting conditions. Before we had a covered firing line, I always hoped for a cloudy day.

The first big bore revolver designed mainly with silhouetters in mind was the Ruger 10½" Super Blackhawk. It is an excellent revolver for the task, but the sights are designed for quick draw rather than long range precision shooting. When the sun hits the sharply sloped front sight, it turns gray, and in some lighting conditions, virtually disappears. Carbide sight smokers and spray-on sight-black became valuable pieces of equipment.

The early TC Super 14's were equipped with rifle-type front sights which allowed the use of a slide-on hood over the front sight. This was a real step forward, but if we did not remember to keep sliding the hood back on every few shots, it soon became a victim of recoil and flew off the front sight base.

I forgot to push my sight hood back on and had to retrieve it enough times that I finally drove the original front sight out of

allowed the use of various sizes of front blades. The combination of a shaded front sight plus interchangeable blades was good for three to four extra targets per match.

Richard King did his silhouetting in Texas, where temperatures of 100 degrees are not uncommon, and not only did he have to face the problem of sights disappearing in the glaring sun, but also that of heat mirage arising from the hot barrel and blurring the front sight. King decided the only solution to the two-fold problem was to develop a sight system that would put the sights in the shade at all times. A little experimenting and the King Tube was born.

The King Tube is a ¾" black anodized tube of #6061 T-6 Aluminum with a one-inch eye piece at each end. The eye pieces are removable to allow the use of various front and rear sight combinations. The tube, including eyepieces is 17" long and allows a sight radius of 15", as both front and rear sights are recessed. At the present time the King Tube will fit the following Unlimited guns without modification: Remington XP, TC Super 14, Chipmunk, Beeman, and Anschutz. Other handguns will require drilling and tapping and possible weight removal to come in under the Unlimited weight limits imposed by NRA



The King Tube Sight installs easily and provides clearly defined sights on bright, sunny days. It is legal in IHMSA, NRA.

its dovetail and replaced it, and eventually all of my Super 14 front sights, with the Lyman #57 hooded front sight which also

and IHMSA. The tube itself weighs 6.2 ounces.

My King Tube is installed on a Super 14

and required removal of the front and rear sight, and it was then a simple matter to mount the tube using a block that replaces the rear sight and an L-shaped adapter in place of the front sight. The tube mounting itself is not rigid, but the rear of the tube is held in place by the horizontal and vertical adjusting knobs and a spring loaded plunger that bears on the left side of the tube at an angle of around 45 degrees.

The adjusting set-up on the King Tube allows for a very precise adjustment of approximately one click equalling 1/8" @ 100 yards. This will of course be somewhat affected by the distance between the front and rear mounts. The clicks are very positive and can be easily felt and heard, an asset that all adjustable sights should possess.

At the present time, the King Tube is supplied with a front blade and two different width rear notches, and a front dot with two different sized rear peep sights. All sights are made of plastic and are easily modified. The tube, with inserts, is available for \$115 plus \$5.00 shipping and handling from King's Armoury, 3005 Monties Lane, Dept. AH, Arlington, TX, 76015. Blank inserts are available for \$1, peeps from .060" to .250" are \$1.50 each, dots are \$1.25, and rear notches and front blades are available for \$5 each. At these prices a shooter can afford to do a lot of experimenting to come up with the most desirable combination.

King maintains that the King Tube with proper rear sight notch, coupled with the use on an adjustable aperture mounted on the shooter's glasses, will alleviate many of the sighting problems associated with shooters over 40. The tube itself keeps the sights in the shade, while the adjustable aperture aids the older eye to focus.

How good is the King Tube? I watched a shooter at the '87 NRA Silhouette Championships use one to shoot the half-sized targets at long range. His score was in the high 60's in an 80 round match. In talking to him later, he had nothing but praise for the King Tube.

Because of its capability of shading sights and combatting heat mirage it is very popular in the Southwest, and one shooter made the comment to me that "It is so good that it ought to be banned!"

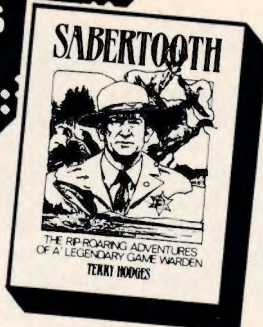
I like the King Tube and plan to keep it permanently mounted on my Super 14. It is just one more weapon in our fight against tired or aging eyes. The peep sight set-up available with the King Tube might prove to be the best sight combination for those of us with sight problems.

Since the column on aging eyes and pistol sights appeared in the Nov/Dec issue of *American Handgunner*, I have been contacted by shooters who have tried some of the methods suggested and found that they worked.

Pat Taylor is an experienced hunter and silhouetter and had to give up shooting handguns because he found himself literally unable to see the sights. He refused to

Continued on page 14

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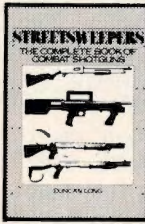
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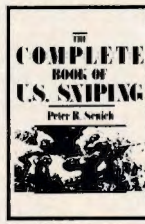
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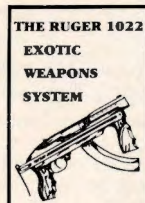
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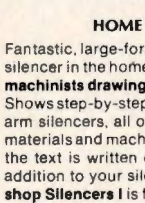
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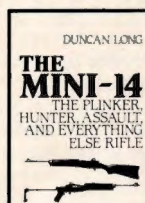
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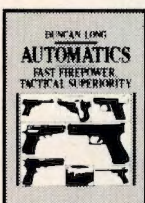
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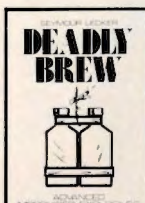
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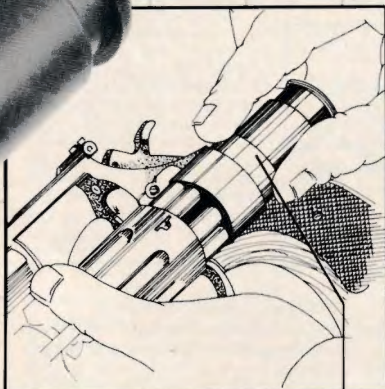
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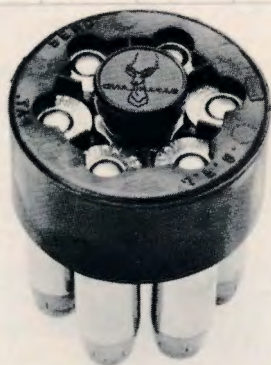
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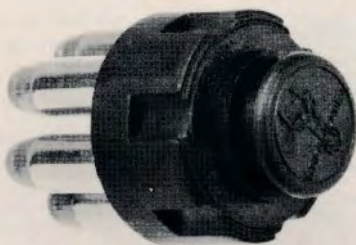


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Continued from page 12

accept the fact that his handgun shooting days were over and started with the idea of having glasses made that would focus on the sights. He went this route when he picked up an old pair of reading glasses, held up a handgun, voila! he could see the sights perfectly.

The obvious problem, of course, was that it is impossible to walk around wearing reading glasses. So he came up with what he calls the "Taylor Spot." The Taylor Spot is exactly that, a spot, in the upper left hand corner of the right lens. This is for right-handed shooters; left-handed shooters would need it in the upper right hand corner of the left lens. The doctor told him at first that it could not be done, but turns out it can be. Glass lenses, not plastic, can be ground with a different prescription in the upper corner.

Taylor reports that he has gone through a number of pairs of glasses until he found the right combination. Now he has it and reports that it is not even noticed in normal wear. For hunting or standing silhouetting, one simply moves the head and looks through the spot. A simple idea that works.

Claude Stoltz sent information on the Knobloch "Universal" Shooting Glasses. This German-made unit consists of a frame without lenses so that prescription lenses may be installed and with an adjustable aperture for the aiming eye and a cover disc for the non-aiming eye. He was also kind enough to supply the names and addresses of three dealers who handle the Knobloch unit. They are:

Freeland's Scope Stands
3737 14th Ave.
Rock Island, IL 61201

Champion's Choice Inc.
223 Space Park South
Nashville, TN 37211

Accuracy International
1507 Driftwood Dr.
Bozeman, MT 59715

Contact the one closest to you for information and latest prices on the Knobloch unit.

There are any number of things that contribute to one's silhouette score. An accurate gun, selected handloads, concentration, proper trigger control—all of these are important. But the most vital ingredient is the ability to see the sights. It is obvious that many of us are waging the same battle. Keep fightin'!



Chronograph Breakthrough

\$199



"Out performs the expensive chronographs at a fraction of the cost."

...Ross Seyfried, shooting editor; *Guns and Ammo* magazine

Until PACT introduced the PC last year, shooters for a chronograph were torn between two choices. To go with a full feature skyscreen based machine at a premium price, or purchase a low end "break screen" or "down range box" at a more reasonable price, but lacking the ease of use and superior performance of a microprocessor based skyscreen machine.

Each time you fire

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AV: 2491.1 FPS

Your shot number, velocity and current average velocity are displayed simultaneously on our state of the art, easy to read, 32 character display. Because this information is displayed and stored automatically, no button pushing required, you are free to concentrate on your shooting instead of having to piddle with your chronograph every time you want to know what shot you are on or what your current average velocity is.

After you have completed your string, simply press the review button to display a complete statistical summary of your string. This summary consists of your highest and lowest shot velocities and their corresponding shot numbers, the extreme spread and Mean Absolute Deviation (MAD) of your shot string. MAD is, in our opinion, the best indication of ammunition consistency yet developed.

In addition, all shots (up to 200) can be individually reviewed after you have finished your string. Why is this important? When using other chronographs, with no or limited review capability, you must shoot, stop, put down your gun, pick up your pencil, write down your velocity, put down your pencil, pick up your gun and repeat. That stinks! With your PACT PC you get your shooting out of the way first, then make a permanent record of your string either by hand or with our optional printer.

- uses standard 9 volt alkaline battery (included, of course)
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The PACT PC's Glint Guard™ circuitry allows us to dispense with this silliness. Glint Guard™ internally compensates for changes in light conditions in much the same manner as the automatic exposure feature in a modern camera. Now we won't try to tell you that you will never find yourself in a circumstance in which the PC has trouble seeing a given round. However, under normal conditions you need only set up your screens and fire a round over them to obtain a velocity reading.

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HANDGUN LEATHER

AL PICKLES

13 YEARS OF FIELD TESTING RESULTS IN MURRAY'S BIG BORE HUNTING RIG

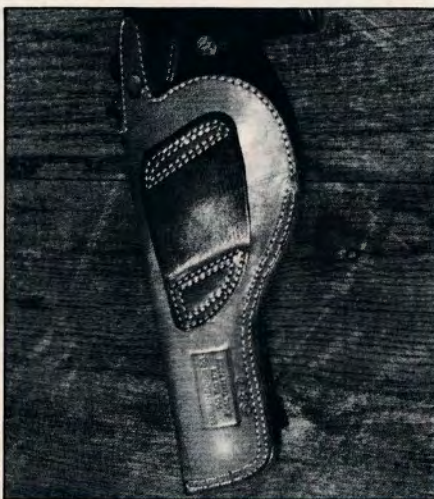
Dick Murray has been in the leather business for quite a few years and has always catered to the hunter and horseman. Actually the hunting horseman might be a better term. His handmade products have included saddle scabbards, saddle bags, chaps, shell holders, and other leather items.

Some 13 years ago Dick developed a hunter's holster for his own Smith & Wesson Model 29 .44 Magnum which sports a Bo-Mar combat rib. The holster was the result of dissatisfaction with hunter's shoulder rigs then available. Much experimentation went into the project with many designs and materials falling by the wayside as being unable to stand up to the rigors of the hunting field while both protecting the big gun and, at the same time, offering a reasonably fast presentation.

After coming up with a fully acceptable model, Dick put it through a personal test in the field lasting 13 full years. It does not surprise me that the holster passed since it is probably the most well-made belt holster I

have ever examined.

The holster, which apparently doesn't have a name so I'll call it the Murray Hunter's Holster, is made from 10 ounce saddle skirting leather. As a horseman of some modest



experience, let me assure you this is heavy and tough stuff.

The lining is also heavy but supple top grain chap leather. Both have been perfectly cured. To give you a better idea of what we speak in heavy leather, the back edge which includes the two sides, the lining, and the welt, is about $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch thick.

The welt, running down the back and across the bottom, is first glued in place then secured with two rows of stitching using heavy nylon thread. The wide belt loop, which bears the weight of a large caliber field revolver, has no less than four rows of stitching on both top and bottom.

One of the most unique features of the Murray Hunter's Holster, however, is a safety snap which doubles as a flap to protect the hammer and hammer recess. Flaps are important in a field sidearm. Without them there is a good chance of debris clogging up the action. As an illustration, have you ever spent much time in the woods without accumulating all manner of bark, twigs, and leaves in the bottom of your pants pocket?

Murray's design features an outside safety snap lip that is $\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide and serves the added function of a flap. Additionally, there is a leather tab on the top of the holster front which, when the safety snap/flap is closed, seals in and protects the gun hammer and recess. Suffice it to say that the design is extremely well thought out and executed.

The Murray Hunter's Holster is oiled with two coats of some special oil mixture developed over the years, then three coats of finish are applied for protection of both the holster and the wearer. That is to say that, unlike many top name holsters, this rig probably will not leak oil onto your clothing.

Murray's holster presents your gun at a butt-to-the-rear angle of about 15 degrees. While this is not traditional, it is definitely professional. There is quite a difference between the two. Butt-to-the-rear looks odd, but the presentation allows the fastest draw. Acknowledging there are people not inclined to change long established habits, Murray will also offer the presentation in conventional mode.

In testing the Murray Hunter's Holster I find, much to my surprise and delight, that I can execute a good speed draw in spite of the modified flap configuration. I would, therefore, highly recommend this holster for deputies who carry large magnums on back country beats. My last cop job, well after official retirement, was that of Tribal Game Protector on a very large Indian reservation. As such, I often pulled mounted patrol in the heavy forests of the Pacific Northwest. This was the supreme test of gear and beast. I would have felt very comfortable with one of Dick Murray's holsters for my .44 Magnum.

Murray's holsters are very reasonably priced at \$40 plain, \$50 basketweave, and \$65 with floral tooling. Various dyes are available. Dick doesn't have a catalog (you don't need one when you are already selling all you can make) but can be contacted at Murray Leather Co., P.O. Box 373, Aledo, TX 76608, phone (817) 441-7480.



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PISTOLSMITHING

JOHN LAWSON

MILLETT BORESIGHTER SOLVES PROBLEM OF ZEROING REPLACEMENT IRON SIGHTS

The most popular modification to a stock handgun is replacement of the factory sights with a higher visibility fixed or adjustable combination. This sometimes results in an unwanted side effect: a change in point-of-impact relative to the line of sight. So, an obvious first step before the expenditure of live ammunition, is to bore sight the piece, restoring the original bore centerline to line of sight divergence, regaining a proper point of impact.

Some silhouette pistols (XP 100, Contender) are easy to bore sight; you clamp the action in a padded vise, sight through the bore to a white card on a convenient shop wall, place an X at bore center and then adjust the sights to a point above the X that is the exact distance between the bore centerline and the line of sight, be it a scope crosshair, an Aimpoint dot or the top of the front blade. This distance is called parallax.

Obviously, without sight adjustment, the bullet will strike this exact distance below the line of sight at the short distance to your nearby shop wall. So, it is necessary to adjust the rear sight, giving a line of sight X on your white card that is the exact distance below the bore centerline X in inches that your bullet will drop at the range you want to sight in. The end result is that you sight directly at your target over the known distance you have chosen for sight-in, your bore points, now, above the line of sight, and gravity drops your bullet right into the X at the target when you fire.

Most other kinds of pistols and revolvers present a variety of complex obstacles to conventional bore sighting techniques, to wit: while revolvers may be bore sighted by clamping the frame in a padded vise, opening the cylinder and sighting down the

bore by using a small mirror, it is extremely difficult to locate the bore center. I have made small plugs with cross hairs, apertures, etc. in years gone by, but none were totally satisfactory. I found it extremely difficult to position myself behind the sights to establish the sight plane; usually, something attached to the bench or piled thereon was in the way.

Most autoloaders have no direct visual access to the bore. The breech face may be a considerable distance from the rear sight, and the slide does not allow a continuation of the bore line. It is time consuming and counter-productive to grind an accurate bore diameter rod that will extend from the muzzle a foot or so, lay a parallel on the top of the rear and front sights, hold it steadily while taking accurate measurements at the muzzle a foot ahead of this point.

These were only some of the problems encountered in bore sighting most common handguns. As a young apprentice gunsmith, I was told that it was impossible to bore sight a handgun. If not, it certainly wasn't an easy procedure and very definitely not a common one.

All of this changed when Millett introduced their Handgun Boresighter. I've used one since it was first made available and, although its results are at best approximate, I've saved ammunition that would have been wasted in preliminary sighting-in and trips between range and bench.

The Millett Handgun Boresighter consists of a base mounting block with two top rods that allow a dial indicator to slide back and forth over a replaceable bore rod, placed centrally below the indicator mount rods. The .45 ACP bore rod and a 9mm/.357 rod are supplied with the fixture.

To use the Boresighter, you clamp the mount base firmly in a bench vise with the rods parallel to the floor. Then you adjust the dial indicator mount so that the dial indicates zero. It is important to have some tension on the indicator point when you are indicating zero. Then indicate the length of the bore rod. You should get a zero reading the entire length.

Next, you slip the pistol's bore over the bore rod, lift the indicator point to clear as you slide it forward to a stop and lower the rod to read the front sight blade's height above the bore rod. Repeat for the rear sight, and you have a reading of the divergence above the top lands of the barrel. Adding half the diameter of the bore rod will give heights above bore centerline, should you want that figure.

I found that the indicator point supplied with the Boresighter was creating a problem: The point would slip into the rear sight notch, giving a false reading. I merely substituted an elephant's foot (flat bottomed, large indicator rod point) from Starrett's indicator point assortment and my needs were satisfied. The accurate flat point straddles the rear sight blade and will quickly show a burr as a high point that lets light through between blade top and point surface.

Another shortcoming is that the chart supplied is only accurate when using high velocity factory ammunition and it does not allow measurement of very short sight radius weapons. You can quickly calculate for any sight radius by using this formula: 1 minute of angle = .00029" (twenty-nine hundred-thousandths of an inch) per inch of sight radius. You must determine the sight radius in decimals. To convert a fraction to a decimal, divide the numerator (top figure) by the denominator (bottom figure.)

You can now fire a group, determine how much to raise or lower a sight and adjust it precisely by using the Boresighter's dial indicator.

As a general rule of thumb, revolver sights have a higher front blade (in relation to the bore's centerline) than the rear blade. The difference is based on a number of factors, such as grips, frame shape, distance the crotch of the hand is placed below line of sight, etc.

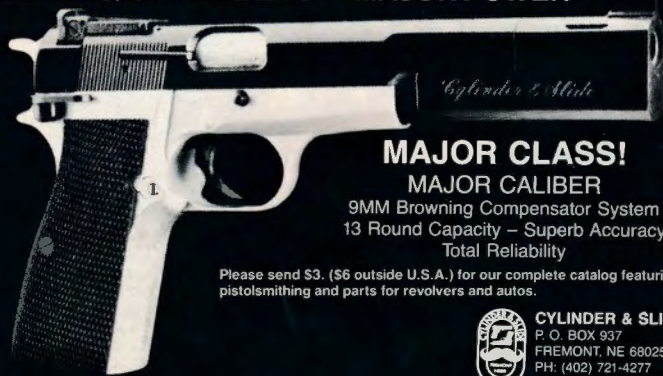
Autoloaders usually have a front blade lower than the rear blade. Colt current production pistols vary between .008" and .012" difference. Browning Hi Power pistols I've observed have a rear sight (adjustable) that is .023" higher than the front blade.

A good general rule to follow when replacing sights is to accurately measure the set you remove and replace them with sights that have the same height difference.

While the old Master Gunsmith who taught me my trade may well have been right about the impossibility of bore sighting a handgun, the Millett Boresighter is an indispensable shop tool for the pistolsmith who changes sights or performs alterations on them.



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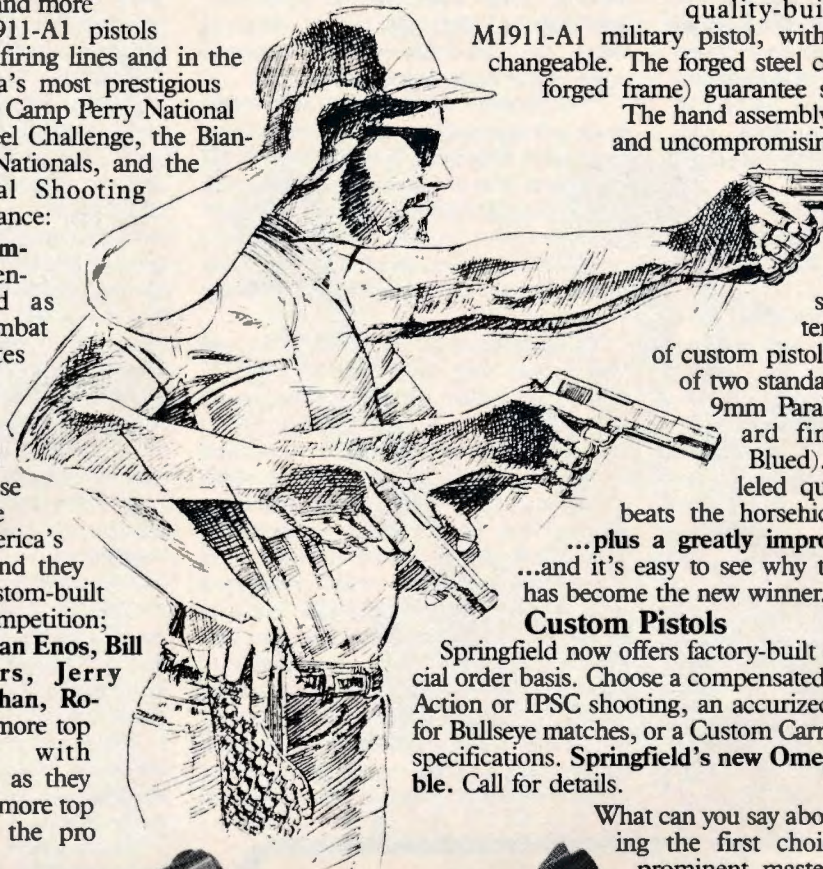
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HANDLOADING

DAN COTTERMAN

HEAD SCRATCHING PROBLEM OF 9mm SIZE VARIES FROM GUN TO GUN, BORE TO BORE

Gunmaker Ed Hobbie, who took over Al "45 ACP" Dinan's shop, also knew the late Harold Sterns of Smith and Wesson. With Sterns' cooperation, Hobbie made up a couple of Model 39s with long slides. Everything was going fine with these and other 9mm handguns, using barrels by Colt, S&W, Douglas, and Shaw, until Hobbie began loading his own ammo. He comments as follows:

"There is an awful disparity with the 9mm, both in bore diameter and case length. (Cases go from .732" to .748", even from the same maker.)

"I wanted to practice pin shooting, function-test my long-slide 39s, and just fool around, but I soon discovered that the 9mm is a bear to load for pin shooting. I used a light load: Lyman 356402 (truncated cone, 125 grain) or Lyman 358242 (round nose, 95 grain) linotype/wheelweights 3:1 and 4.4 grains of Bullseye or Unique. Guns included an accurized 1911, both of my long-slide 39s, a S&W 9mm revolver, and a 9mm Ruger revolver. If I seated the bullets for an overall cartridge length of less than 1.100" the bullets would hit sideways. Bullets recovered from snow showed total fusion to where you couldn't see rifling marks at all. Sizing to .355", .356" or .357" made no difference. I had to seat for an overall cartridge length of at least 1.125" before anything good happened.

The Colt barrel is .355"; the long-slide 39s and one Douglas measure .3545"; the Shaw is .3565". Checking the S&W standard barrels, I found that the old one measured .354", while the new one measured .357". Both revolvers measured .357".

"The strange thing is that all barrels shoot jacketed bullets well, but when I seat cast bullets according to their shape so the front band is at or just touching the origin of the rifling good things happen. The bullets shoot well in .38 Special and .357 revolvers which also shoot jacketed bullets well, even the .357"-diameter S&W 9mms now made.

"In desperation I took a H&G Harvey Prot-X bore four-cavity mold (.3585"), which cast bullets right onto zinc insert washers (.357"). I sized them to .357", then inverted them and sized the front band to .356" to a depth of .125". This abortion will fit into S&W factory 9mm chambers and the Shaw barrel, which I chambered with a S&W factory reamer. But they won't fit into the Douglas, which I chambered 'nicer.' Cases fired in the Douglas drop into the S&W chamber and also feed fine into the Colt chamber, which surprised me. They shoot great seated for an overall of 1.145", but despite Harvey's claim lead as bad as they shoot good. Now, all of these barrels have different twists, which seems to make no difference since it's only the cast

bullets that are at fault . . . seating depth seems to be the key, along with the fact that the jackets on swaged bullets are hard enough to allow the rifling to spin the bullets."

Hobbie's cast bullets, when seated to an overall of 1.100", are obviously jumping the gap so as to skid over the rifling lands. The result is a leaded bore and loss of accuracy, even to the extent of yawing so as to hit sideways. His report only confirms my long-standing dislike of cast bullets. Of course, as he reports, the cast bullets shoot well enough when they're seated further out, but even so they will never match the expansion performance of swaged, jacketed bullets.

Speer's new reloading manual (they're up to number 11 with the publication of this one) includes load data for 30 handgun calibers. Silhouette shooters will note that attention has been given to loading the 6mm, 6.5mm, and 7mm TCU cartridges. Also detailed are loads for the 7mm International Rimmed and the 7mm IHMSA. The Speer No. 11, which sells for \$13, notes that seating 9mm bullets just .030" deeper raised chamber pressure from 28,000 to 62,000 c.u.p.

Back in 1958, when gasoline was two bits a gallon, Dick Lee began selling his neat little Lee Loaders for \$9.95. Now, 30 years and a few million loads later, his son John has designed and built a small, single-stage press that's called "Reloader." I've had no opportunity to test this press, but I've seen a photo of it and it looks like a good deal—especially considering the fact that, due to what Dick Lee calls "sentimental reasons," the press is being offered for \$9.95 if you also buy a set of dies and a priming tool. Next year he says the price will be \$32, which will fully update pricing and put sentimentality in a more practical perspective.

I've declared my dislike of cast bullets, but fair's fair so here's a note from hand-loader Ed Stabler of Satellite Beach, Florida. He uses 115 grain lead semi-wadcutters from Precision Components, Inc., and writes: "These bullets are hard-cast lead/tin/antimony and rate about 20 on the Brinell Hardness Scale. Loads with 6.1 grains of Unique in my Glock 17 will group 1½ to 1¾-inch at 25 yards from sandbags. Loading 5.85 grains of AA-5 gives similar results. I have had no feeding problems, nor have my friends using the Taurus 99 and Sig 226. Fired into wet newsprint, the LSWC expands to about .51," and even better if the end is drilled to make a hollow-point. I've had no leading problems with the PCI bullets—even full-load .357 Magnum SWCs don't lead the barrel. I load these with CCI 500 primers and seat them for an overall length of 1.080. Brass is trimmed to .750-inch."

Share information on good handloads and reloading techniques. The address is Handloading, Rt. 1, Box 7, Llano, CA 93544. Send typewritten or clearly printed reports only, please.

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38	.357	14"
.357	.357	18"
44	.429	20"
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BOOK REVIEWS

The Browning High Power Automatic Pistol, by R. Blake Stevens. Hardbound, format 11 1/4 by 8 3/4 inches. 288 pages, 284 photos and other illustrations. \$39.95. Published by Collector Grade Publications, Box 250, Station "E," Toronto, Ontario, M6H 4E2, Canada.

This excellent and complete treatment of the saga of the development and manufacture of the Browning/FN High Power pistol contains the details you expect—the pre-production striker-fired prototypes, and their evolution into the HP as we know it today. However, it goes much further than this. It covers the work of Dieudonné Saive, who perfected the original design concept of John Moses Browning into the now-familiar form of the pistol. Actually, the final pattern of the Grande Puissance, as it was called in Europe, was as much Saive's as Browning's.

There are many nice bits of arcane data throughout the book, including coverage of the early "Grand Rendement" models, which had an *en bloc* hammer system in a removable sub-frame, a Saive design that pre-dated the use of this feature by Petter and Tokarev. Later in the book, there is a marvelous double-action version of the pistol, designed by Saive in 1952, a gun that was never put into production by Fabrique Nationale. The coverage comes all the way up to the present time, with the short-lived "Fast Action" model that was in the U.S. Military Trials, and the current double-action Hi-Power. An intriguing inclusion is the compact version of the DA pistol, along with a very abbreviated pocket model.

Along the way, each small improvement and change in the basic design is shown in detail, making this book valuable not only to collectors, but also to gunsmiths. All of the many military contracts are covered, from the early sales to Belgium and Lithuania, to later adoption by the British and several nations in South America. Some outstanding special pieces are illustrated, such as the gold-inlaid HP for King Farouk of Egypt, and an elegantly simple pistol that was presented in 1950 to Winston Churchill. The Canadian production of the pistol by the John Inglis firm is particularly well-covered, including the Chinese contract, as are the Indonesian and Hungarian copies.

I had known for some time that a book on the Browning HP was planned by the noted American collector, William O. Drollinger, and this project is mentioned by Mr. Stevens in his book. The Drollinger volume will illustrate as many as possible of the limited-production guns and other rare versions, and it will be a valuable companion-piece to this book. In the meantime, for the arms scholar who wants all of the background on the renowned High Power, this is the definitive work.

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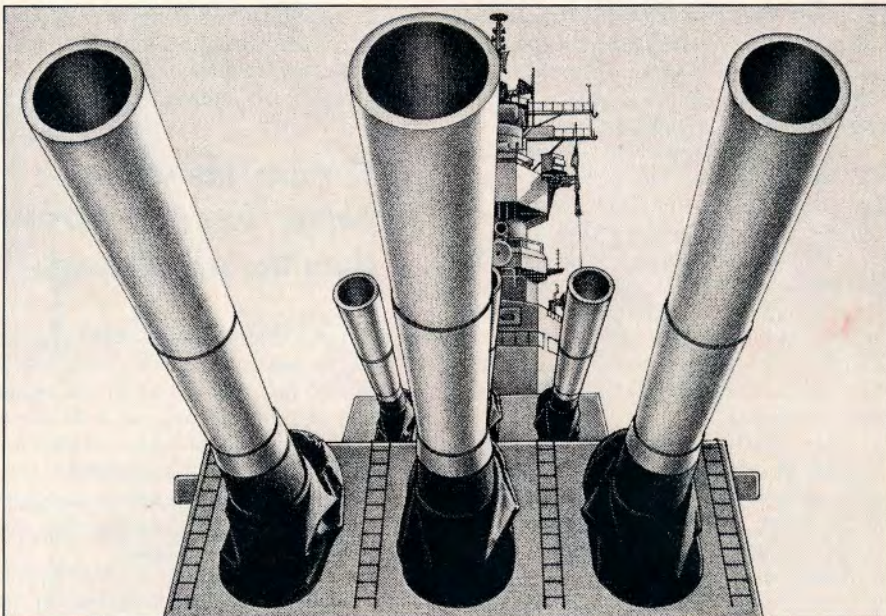
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COP TALK

MASSAD AYOOB

SHOULD YOUR OFF-DUTY, PLAINCLOTHES HOLSTER HAVE A THUMB BREAK STRAP?

No one seriously doubts that the uniform duty holster should have some sort of safety retaining strap, in addition to whatever other retention devices might have been designed into the scabbard. In off-duty and plainclothes leather, however, the topic becomes a subject for debate.

Many cops who wouldn't dream of going on patrol with an unsnapped holster will bridle at wearing a safety strap with their off-duty rig. Some even refer to them as "suicide straps," fearing that they'll make a reactive quick draw from concealment fatally slow.

The strapless holster may not be sexier than the strapless bra, but it will always be a tiny bit quicker to draw from. No national IPSC or PPC champion has ever drawn his winning gun from a strapped holster. This isn't the whole thing, though. I also don't know of any national competitor who ever happened to be wearing his strapless match leather while struggling with an opponent who wanted to take his gun away from him and kill him with it.

After nearly 27 years of carrying a concealed handgun, I've become a believer in safety straps. The only cases I've ever run across where a strap slowed a man down enough to get him shot by the opponent invariably involved someone who did not practice clearing the snapped gun quick. To me, the big advantage of the strapless holster is that it offers a surreptitious draw. When the armed robbers in the 7-11 have their back turned, the officer can sneak his .45 out of his strapless Summer Special without making a "snap" sound that might alert the bad guys in time to cost the plainclothesman his

advantage of surprise.

The safety strap, on the other hand, has the great advantage of keeping the gun in the leather during strenuous activities like foot pursuits, handcuffing of reluctant suspects, etc. I've lost guns out of open top holsters three times: a 6" S&W .38 revolver that caught on the butt and was levered out of its Rogers breakfront holster as I slid off a six-foot barricade during a Smith & Wesson Academy assault course; a 2 3/4" Ruger .357 that bounced out of an early, strapless Bianchi

For me, the strapped revolver was 10% slower than the unsnapped.

Pistol Pocket #3 as I hurdled a low barricade at medium speed; and a John Post Combat Custom .45 auto that caught its butt on the webbing of a lounge chair as I sat down, lifting it from its open-top Alessi holster and dumping it onto the poolside concrete.

A thumb-break safety strap would have prevented all three embarrassing and potentially dangerous incidents.

Alas, thumb-breaks can be slow on auto pistol holsters. While the wheelgunner can simply pop the strap with his thumb as he closes his hand on the revolver, the auto shooter has to use a distinctly different and separate movement or the strap will be caught between thumb and slide, pinning the gun hopelessly in the leather. "Pull-through" safety straps are not the answer, since anything other than your hand that "pulls" on the gun, including a bad guy, will cause the strap to release and surrender the pistol. Such a design would have prevented only one of the three incidents I experienced.

True, the bad guy isn't supposed to see your concealed gun and lunge for it, but the "out of sight, out of mind" concept ceases to work if you have to grapple physically with a perpetrator. If his hand touches your gun, he's gonna grab on it and pull. An open-top or pull-through holster will give up the gun to him, while a thumb-break is much more likely to hang onto the piece long enough for you to execute a weapon retention technique.

To see what the difference really was, I went to the range with my assistant Frank Muggianu and my Pro-Timer II. I wanted to test both auto and revolver in both snapped and open-top rigs. For consistency and real-world concealment, all holsters were inside-the-waistband designs, and all draws were made from under a nylon warmup jacket.

Safety straps were, of course, fastened on each of the strap-type holsters before each draw.

The auto used was a Colt LW Commander .45, loaded with Federal hollowpoint. It had been reworked for street carry by Bill Laughridge at Cylinder and Slide Shop. The sixgun was a 3" S&W model 65 .357, loaded with .38 Special and with a duty action tune by Mike LaRocca.

We began with the Commander, cocked and locked, in a thumb-break LFI concealment rig by Ted Blocker. Throughout the exercise, the silhouette target was 25 feet away, the hands starting at midline of the body. Average time was 1.4 seconds from the signal to the first shot, using the Weaver stance; one handed shooting cut that to 1.17 seconds, but accuracy started to slough off.

Next, the Commander went into a Milt Sparks open-top Summer Special with matching belt. The average time was 1.31 seconds to score a hit going into a Weaver without having to pause to hit a thumb-break, and 1.04 seconds firing one handed. Interestingly, hit potential seemed about the same one- or two-handed in that exercise.

The Commander now went into my Wayne Umberger shooting bag, to be replaced by the 3" S&W revolver. The open-top rig was an early prototype of the Bianchi #3 sans strap (yes, the one I'd once lost a Ruger out of). 1.06 was the average time from start signal to first hit firing two-handed, and one-handed shots cut that to a .98 seconds average. Again, hit potential at five yards was virtually the same single or double handed.

The Smith & Wesson now went into a Ted Blocker concealment holster with thumb-break. 1.18 was the average time. I did not realize until finishing the test that I had neglected to do any one-hand shooting. Since I'm programmed to draw my revolver from a strapped holster and fire from a two-handed Isosceles, I automatically did so.

Strapped auto, 1.4 seconds. Unstrapped auto, 1.17 seconds. Strapped revolver, 1.18. Unstrapped revolver, 1.06. All two-handed drawing from concealment at five yards using inside-waistband holsters. Each figure included the reaction time of my old, slow self, which is about a quarter of a second. All draws were from behind the hip.

Try the tests yourself, to see which works better for you based on your training, dexterity, and equipment. For me, the strapped revolver was 10% slower than the unsnapped, and the strapped auto 15% slower than the unsnapped.

However, when you consider that the unsnapped revolver or auto is perhaps 66% more likely to be lost than out of a thumb-snapped holster (a subjective figure—it's more like 300% in my own experience), we have here a balance of needs.

Each plainclothesman must address his own needs, his own skills, his own hierarchy of concerns about his concealed weapon. Having addressed mine, I accept a slight loss in drawing speed and usually carry my concealed belt gun safety-strapped in place.



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Tom Campbell in action at the 1986 IPSC National Championships.

LEATHAM'S COLUMN

ROB LEATHAM

WEAVER VS. ISOSCELES STANCE IS MORE A MATTER OF ONE'S STYLE THAN SKILL

I find it hard to believe, but there still seems to be a lot of controversy over which "style" or "technique" is the best. While some ways of doing things seem to be superior to others—Weaver versus Isosceles stance—the attention to how well your technique works seems to be less important than if your results are obtained with the "proper" technique.

Consider the Weaver versus the Isosceles stances. Which one is better? Well, that's a lot like asking if a Ford is "better" than a Chevy. For you golfers out there, it's like asking which is the "better" club, a putter or a driver? The answer, of course, is neither.

Like a shooting stance, each club has its own purpose and place. A long par 5 would be a lot longer if you were forced to play with just a putter, and the greens would be a much greater challenge if a wood were your only club.

In pistol shooting as in golf, you are allowed to choose the style and technique you desire. This open-mindedness is the basis for many shooting games such as IPSC, NRA Action and other progressive shooting sports.

It is this freedom of choice that makes this country great and produces champions in every sporting event, from golf to pistol shooting. You can use any club you like, drive any car you choose and shoot any stance you desire.

Why, then, do certain detractors decry the "wrong" way? Analyze the techniques used by every national and world IPSC champion currently active and you will see a very strong trend towards the straight-arm style generally called the Isosceles Stance.

Does this mean the Isosceles stance is superior to the classic Weaver version? Not necessarily. Many great shooters of yesteryear used the Weaver with devastating effectiveness. Ross Seyfried won with the most Weaverish of Weavers to capture the IPSC World Championship in 1981. If Ross were competing today you could bet your last buck he would be right at the top in any contest with his radically bent-armed Weaver.

But does this mean the Weaver is superior? Of course not.

The truth of the whole matter is that, with few exceptions, none of the greats is winning because of a particular shooting style. From a purely functional standpoint, each version has its advantages. The choice you make is not nearly as important as the reason you make it.

When I began shooting, the common way in my area was with either or both arms bent. We had our weak-hand index fingers on the front of the trigger guards and we cocked our heads to the side, somewhat uncomfortably, to achieve the proper look of an aggressive shooting stance. Made great photos, but did little to improve our shooting.

Fortunately, we are an active shooting region here in Arizona and we constantly experiment with new techniques and equipment. This is called "research and development."

The key word here is *development*. The dictionary defines development as "to make fuller, bigger, better . . ." To make better, then, would be the whole point of our testing new methods.


When I began shooting in competition in the late 1970s, a good run on the *El Presidente* was around 10 seconds, clean. Now there is a handful of top shooters who can shoot a clean score in five seconds! That's

development!

Was the deciding factor for cutting times in half on the six-reload-six classic drill a matter of shooting stance? Is the Isosceles twice as fast as the Weaver? Partially, but guns have gotten better too. The dedication of current champions is higher than ever and the desire for excellence is at a peak.

All of these factors account for development, not simply whether or not you bend your arms in your shooting stance.

Master both techniques and learn the idiosyncrasies of each. The advantages of each—yes, each technique has its own advantages—are available to you. Both are good, learn them both.

The trick is to use what works. The great Bruce Lee of martial arts fame preached that no technique is the right technique because the man, not the method, makes the performance. Amen. 

Rob Leatham is the only shooter ever to win the Triple Crown—IPSC Nationals, Steel Challenge and Bianchi Cup—in a single year and the championship form that made his four IPSC National Championships and two World Championships possible is now being taught at the Leatham Shooting Institute. Rob Leatham personally conducts all classes for beginning through advanced levels. For more information, write Leatham Shooting Institute, P.O. Box 1291, Dept. AH, Mesa, AZ 85201.



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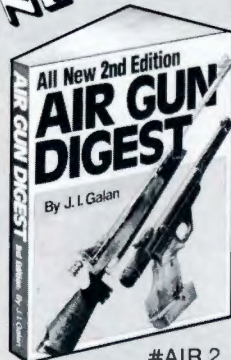


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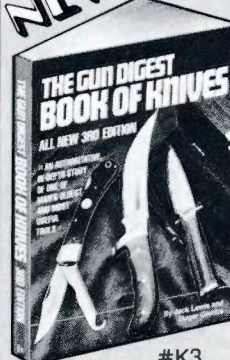
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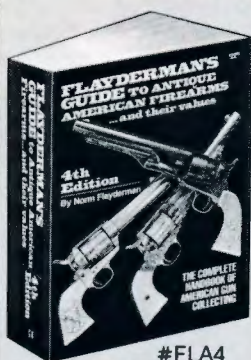
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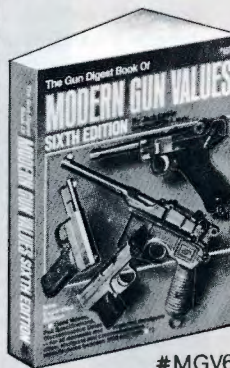


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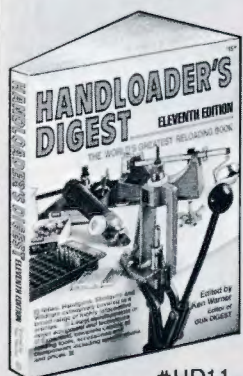


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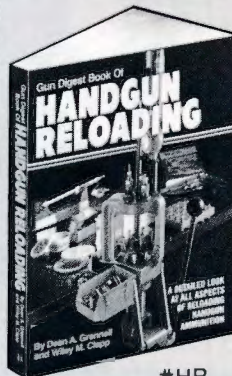


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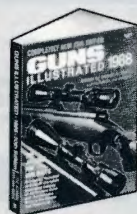


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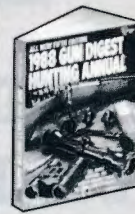


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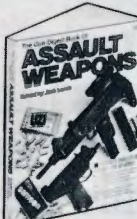


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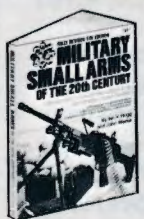


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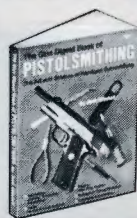


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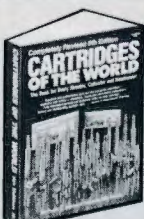


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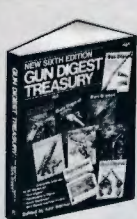
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The AYOOB FILES

ARMED ROBBERY IN PROGRESS: THE STANTON ROBINSON INCIDENT

Situation: A junkie with a semi-auto rifle holds up a restaurant with evil in his eye and murder in his heart.

Lesson: An employee with a fast hand and a .44 Special revolver shows cool under fire and a will to survive.

It is early evening on the 15th of February, 1985, and Stanton Robinson is dressing for work.

First he dons a Jackass shoulder system, a locally made product that holds the gun horizontally under the arm. Under the arm goes a Smith & Wesson Model 24, a heavy-frame .44 Special custom-ordered with three-inch barrel and rounded S&W walnut grips. It is loaded with Glaser Safety Slugs. Next on is the blue steel Smith & Wesson Model 36 Chief's Special, with five Winchester + P 158 grain lead hollowpoint .38 Special cartridges in its chambers. There's no holster for the Chief: its right grip panel has been replaced with a Barami Clip Grip, which hooks onto the edge of his belt securely as Robinson stuffs it butt-forward in the waistband behind his left hip. Spare ammo for the Chief goes into a pocket, and Safariland speedloaders filled with Winchester Silvertip .44 Special go into a pouch under his right arm, balancing the weight of the heavy revolver in the Jackass rig, a well-worn holster assembly now marketed by Galco.

A massive and intimidating man, Robinson stands six feet four and weighs well over 300 pounds. He shrugs into a loose brown jacket to cover the hardware.

Then he heads for work, at Burger King.

Ordinary fast food restaurants do not require armed employees, but there is nothing ordinary about the Burger King on South Ashland Street, Chicago. In the heart of Englewood's rough ghetto district, the good people who make up most of its clientele are occasionally joined by thieves, pimps, and junkies. Only two months before, when he was working at another Burger King in the area, manager Odell Johnson had been robbed at gunpoint. One of the two robbers in that incident had attempted to shoot Johnson. Now, at the new location, he understandably found it comforting that his huge employee was armed.

Stan arrived for work a few minutes before his shift began at 7 p.m. He walked into the back, the food preparation area, and began chatting with a pretty young female employee. In a moment, his shift would begin.

It began with a bang. At almost exactly 1900 hours, Stanton Robinson heard a commotion out front near the service counter. Almost immediately, the thumping of fast moving feet was joined by screaming.

The girl was forgotten. Robinson moved toward the sound with a big man's practiced economy of motion, gliding silently as his right hand slid under the jacket and onto the finger-grooved walnut grips of his .44 Special, his thumb poised on the safety strap release.

He had almost reached the swinging doors that separated the front customer area from the back when those doors burst open. He saw manager Odell Johnson coming through, bent forward in a scuttling motion that was a half run and half crawl, his hands flailing forward for balance.

Robinson heard him cry, "There's a guy up there with a gun!"

What the terrified restaurant manager doesn't add is that he has seen the face behind the gun before. The robber is the same man who held him up and almost killed him two months ago. He also neglects to tell Robinson that there is a second perpetrator who appears to be holding a pistol.

The chunky revolver has cleared leather now, and as Stanton Robinson reaches the doorway, he doesn't know exactly what is waiting for him.

What is waiting is a team of professional armed robbers. Robert Stevenson, 34, is an ex-junkie who stands five-ten and weighs an emaciated 130 pounds. He is wearing jeans, a skullcap, tennis shoes, and a GI fatigue jacket to cover his sawed off weapon. The gun is a Savage Model 6 semi-automatic rifle, fully loaded with .22 Long Rifle ammo. Behind him is his partner, LaRossa Mullins, a bigger man who is on parole for armed robbery. In his hand is a "non-gun," an authentic replica of a large handgun, carried for intimidation value.

As the robbery began moments ago, Stevenson had recognized the manager as the man he had tried without success to

Continued on page 64

SHOOTING STAR MAGS CHOICE OF CHAMPIONS

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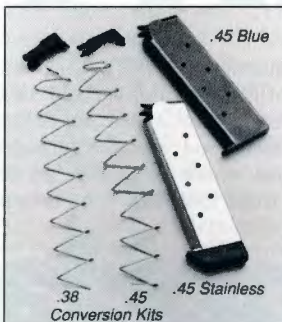
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TAFFIN TESTS

In 1905, Smith & Wesson began testing a new cartridge and a new sixgun, both of which turned out to have a tremendous impact on the shooting world. By 1908, the .44 Hand Ejector First Model and the new .44 Special cartridge were available to six-

fondly remembered as "The Triple-Lock" because of its system of locking the cylinder in three places: at the rear, at the front of the extractor rod, and also at the front of the cylinder, where the yoke meets the barrel. This third lock was soon dropped as

the .44 Special

gunners. The new factory loading of the .44 Special carried a 246 grain bullet over 26 grains of black powder, basically the same load as the old .44 Russian, but both the new round and the new sixgun had great future possibilities.

The first N-frame Smith & Wesson is

being too expensive to manufacture and now 80 years later both Dan Wesson and Ruger lock their cylinders in much the same way. Many fanciers of fine sixguns believe the old Triple-Lock is the finest example of revolver making to ever exit the Smith & Wesson factory.

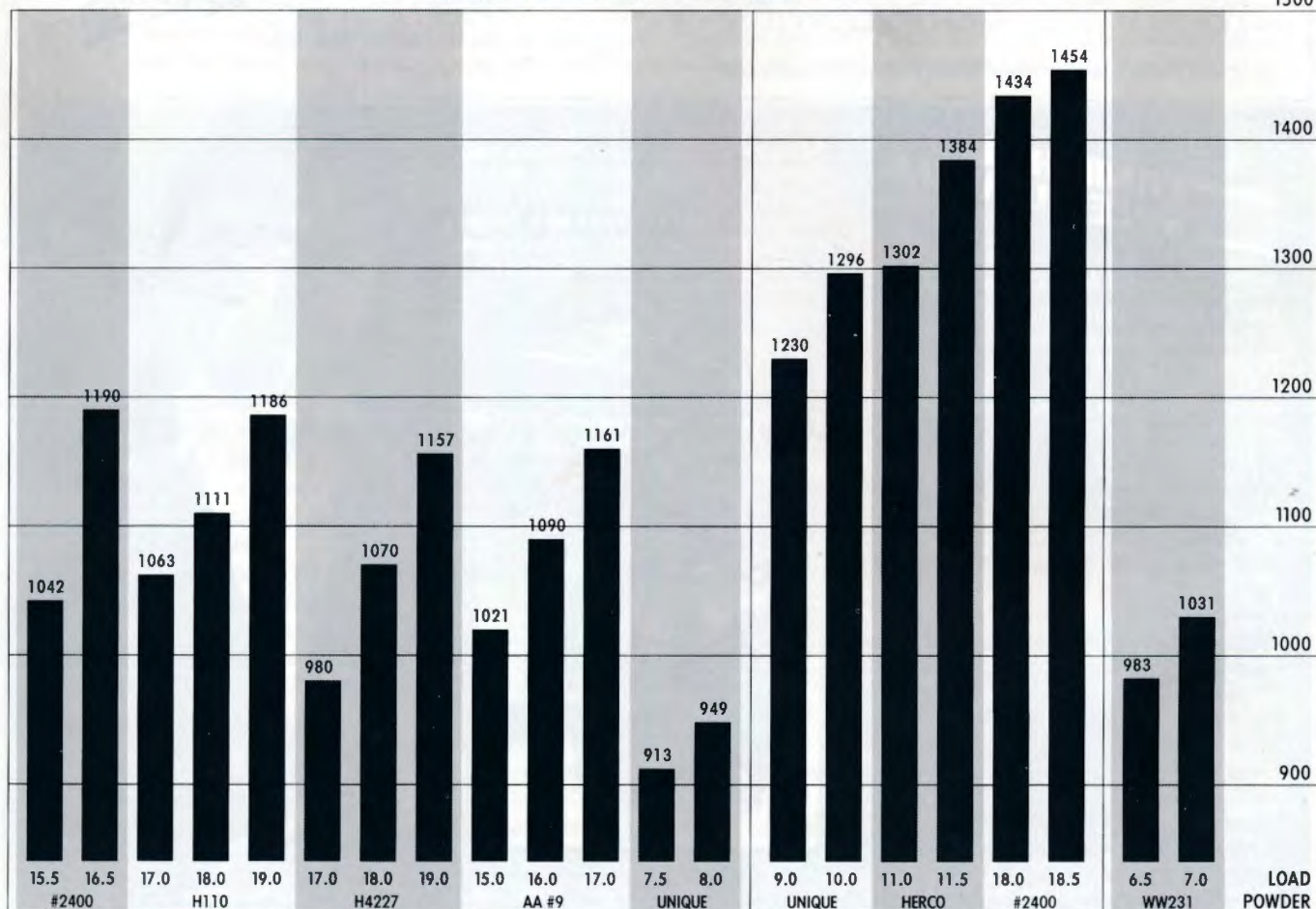
The Triple-Lock is long gone but the .44 Special lives on. If pressed to the wall, I would have to vote for the .44 Special as the most significant development in revolver cartridges in this century. Not so much for what it was, or is, but for the doors it opened. Pioneer experimenters soon realized what they had to work with and replaced the anemic 700 fps factory load with handloads giving 1100-1200 fps. The .44 Special is aptly named as it is a specialized cartridge that can only realize its best potential when handloaded.

The .44 Special, handloaded to 1100-1200 fps with 250 grain semi-wadcutter bullets, spawned interest in really powerful sixguns. The Special and the experiments of handloaders, who wrote numerous articles in *The American Rifle-*

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NOTE: Heavier loads, those above 1,000 fps, should only be used in late model .44 Special Colt and Smith and Wesson revolvers. All loads use WW cases and CCI #350 primers. All cast bullets are sized .428"

man from 1927-1941, opened the doors for the .357 Magnum. And the tremendous popularity of the .357 Magnum as a sportsman's sixgun, led to the creation of the .44 Magnum, which had to come long before the sixgunning public was ready to accept the .454 Casull. Ain't progress wonderful?

The main proponent of the .44 Special was, of course, the legendary Elmer Keith. For 30 years, or until the advent of the .44 Magnum, as far as Elmer was concerned there were only two kinds of sixguns: .44 Specials and all others.

He had a positive effect on thousands of sixgunners with his writings which always preached the power and accuracy of the .44 Special. His early load, using the old balloon head cases, was standardized at 18.5 grains of #2400 with his #429421 Lyman 250 grain semi-wadcutter. When folded head cases were replaced by solid head cases, the standard load was dropped to 17.0 grains of #2400 with the same bullet.

Keith always claimed 1200 fps with his load and finding some balloon head cases that were in perfect shape, I duplicated his old load. As usual, Keith was right. My duplicate loads clocked 1233 fps from a 7 1/2" barrelled Colt.

Wanting to see just how strong modern .44 Special brass is, I did two things. First I sectioned both .44 Special and .44 Magnum brass and found them identical in cross sectional area. Secondly, I trimmed .44 Magnum brass to .44 Special length and found both cases had the same capacity and weighed the same. I then loaded a batch of both cases with the same load of 17.0 grains of #2400 and 250 grain SWC's. The muzzle velocities were virtually identical.

The brass may be the same, but .44 Special sixguns are not .44 Magnums. Compare a Colt Single Action to a Ruger Redhawk and this is readily apparent. **DO NOT TRY TO LOAD .44 SPECIALS TO .44 MAGNUM VELOCITIES!** The results could be disastrous.

There are so many excellent bullets available for the .44 Special that one could spend a lifetime of shooting just experimenting with the old .44. The .44 Special is a cast bullet revolver for a couple of reasons. Speeds necessary for the expansion of most jacketed bullets can only be obtained by pushing relatively lightweight .44 Special sixguns to the limit, which is not conducive to long life for either sixgun or sixgunner.

Also, most .44 Specials have groove diameters of .426"-.428" while most jacketed bullets are .430" in diameter. I, for one, do not like the idea of pushing a jacketed .430" down a .426" hole. On the rare occasion that I do use a jacketed bullet in my .44 Specials it is Sierra's 180 grain JHC loaded to 1200 to 1300 fps using 20.0 grains of #2400.

Favorite cast bullets for the .44 Special are Keith's original #429421 250 grain semi-wadcutter as produced by Lyman, who just recently modified the design to get it back to the original idea of three driving

bands of the same width and a square cornered grease groove. NEI's #260.429 is a very close copy except the nose is just a tad bit longer than Lyman's design. Both are excellent bullets.

Lyman also produces two bullets designed by Ray Thompson back in the '50s. Their #429244 is a 255 grain gas-checked SWC, while #429215 is a 220 grain gas-checked SWC. All four of these bullets are excellent performers on targets as well as game. A lightweight .44 Special bullet that I prefer is Hensley & Gibbs' 200 grain gas-checked SWC #237GC.

For light loads in the large frame .44 Specials, or for defensive use in the Charter Arms Bulldog, bullets usually chosen are NEI's #200.429, a 200 grain SWC, or NEI's #185.429, a full wadcutter. These lighter weight bullets mate perfectly with the 19 ounce Bulldog.

Favorite loads for the .44 Special are easy to identify as I have been shooting the same three loads ever since my wife presented me with my first .44 Special at our first Christmas together. Using either the Lyman or NEI Keith bullets at 250 grains, my light load is 6.0 grains of Unique for around 675 fps. Very pleasant to shoot, duplicates factory load, and also very accurate. Unique is also employed for my most used medium loading, 7.5 grains for around 900 fps. This is very close to a perfect defensive load—plenty of power and easily controlled.

For a heavy load, I have not been able to improve on Keith's old load of 17.0 grains of #2400 and a 250 grain bullet. This load gives velocities right at 1200 fps and is certainly adequate for any Idaho deer or black bear at reasonable ranges. All bullets are sized to .428" for use in my Colts and Smiths; cases extract easily with no signs of excessive pressure.

This load shoots five shot groups at 25 yards of one inch or less in both my Colt New Frontier 7 1/2" and my Smith & Wesson 6 1/2" Model 24. In fact, the Colt New Frontier .44 Special 7 1/2" with its combination of accuracy, power, lightweight, easy to pack quality, and just plain good looks, comes very close to being my idea of a perfect sixgun.

Since most .44 Specials have barrels of .426" (Colts) to .428" (Smith & Wessons), my best results have been obtained with bullets sized to .428". All brass is full length resized first and most loading die sets have to be adjusted to use .428" bullets, as the expander balls provided with .44 Special dies are set to prepare the cases for .430" bullets. A special .425" expander ball is necessary to prevent .428" bullets from fitting loosely in the case. These can be special ordered or the original expander can be turned down a few thousandths to insure a tight fit. Both a heavy crimp and a tight friction fit are necessary to start the powder burning properly.

A myth has grown up around the .44 Special, namely that of being the most accurate of sixgun cartridges. It probably

Continued on page 92

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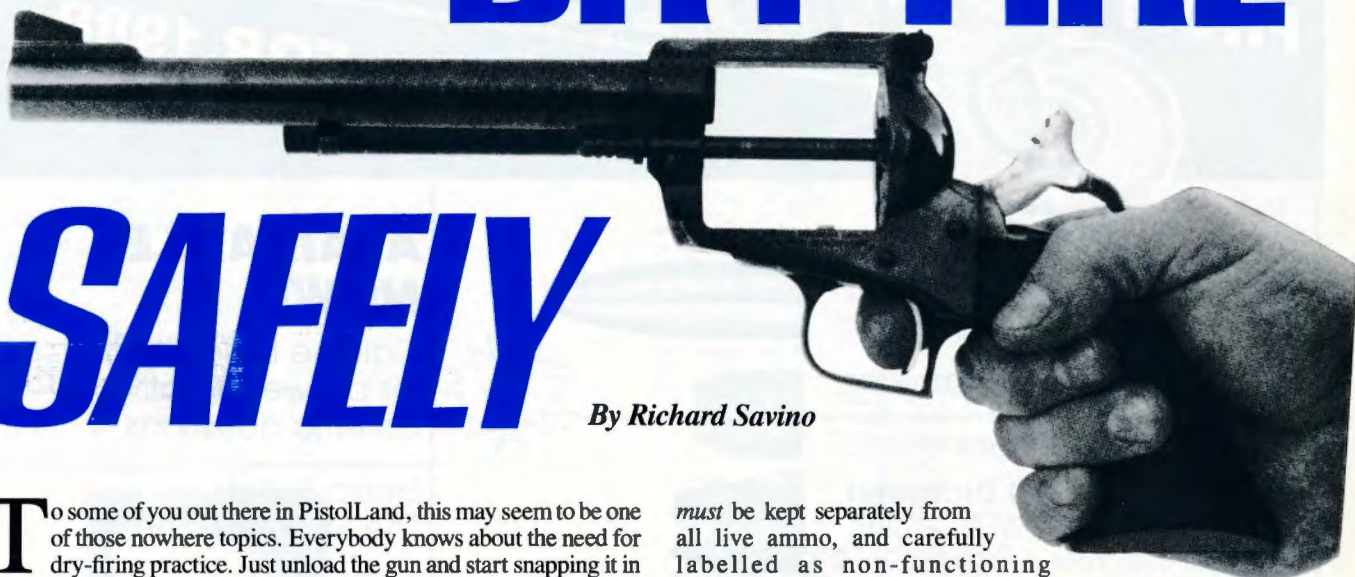
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HOW TO DRY FIRE

SAFELY

By Richard Savino



To some of you out there in PistolLand, this may seem to be one of those nowhere topics. Everybody knows about the need for dry-firing practice. Just unload the gun and start snapping it in a safe direction. Right?

Wrong. The subject is often mentioned in passing, even in otherwise exhaustive texts on gun handling. But it's not simple. It's deceptively complicated. People have been killed as a result of poor dry-firing drills.

First and foremost, I ask you to remember this: the rules of safe gun handling are *not* suspended during practice.

To set up for dry-firing properly, you need a place and a time to yourself. A few minutes taken out each day can be enough, if those minutes can be counted on as your own, and not shared with kids, wife or TV. The best bet is to have a room of your own where no one will disturb you. Remember that you'll be going through the motions of operating a real handgun under realistic conditions. People unsympathetic to your goals could misinterpret your actions: some could conclude that you're a little weird about guns.

Decide which gun or guns you're going to use. Then *unload them*. The only ammunition you should have at hand is dummy ammunition, made especially for you or bought commercially. Dummies can be made up easily from standard loading components—they

must be kept separately from all live ammo, and carefully labelled as non-functioning ammunition.

The reason dummy ammo is used is that it provides a very close-to-real feeling, especially in revolvers, where the dead-weight of the bullets simulates what you'll have in your hands with a live-loaded piece. The balance is there, too, whether in a semi-auto or a wheelgun.

Dry-firing's objectives are to get you to forget about consuming real (and expensive) ammunition; eliminate the psychological effects of recoil and blast; and allow you to concentrate on the handgun's sights and trigger pull. For this, naturally enough, you need a realistic target. But obviously, since you're indoors (and probably don't own a

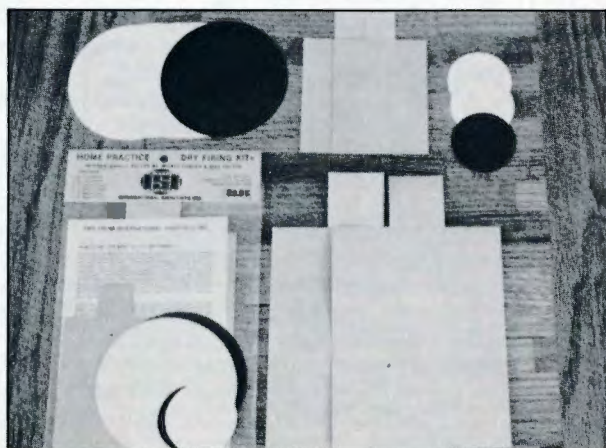
bowling alley), a full-size target won't do for most purposes. It's too bloody big. The NRA provides a wide selection of bullseye targets, from the 50-foot rifle and even smaller airgun cards, to diminished human-torso silhouettes like the B-27. The IHMSA has excel-

lent reduced-size targets, too. ISI, an advertiser in these pages, sells miniature IPSC targets.

Set up whatever target you select in a spot where it would be of the approximate size seen on the range. Yes, you can pin it to a wall, or tape it. But here's where you want to start thinking defensively. Is it pinned to an *outside* wall? A wall where, if there were a live round under the hammer, the bullet would go out of



A nifty dry-firing aid, this Crosman pellet conversion of a .45 slide attaches to the frame so you can shoot CO₂ powered pellets from your 1911 frame. Dummy cartridges (right) are available from Pachmayr. These are "snap caps."



ISI Inc. sells a dry-firing kit with scaled down targets for the IPSC/action shooter.

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the house and expend itself harmlessly in the landscape? Or where it might kill a neighbor? Is there some kind of backstop you can use—just in case? You'd use a backstop for real ammunition, wouldn't you?

Okay, you've thought about that—and maybe, if you live in an apartment with paper-thin walls, you've decided to do your dry-firing practice down at the club range on off-hours, or at a friend's. There's simply too much at stake for the mentality that says: "It can't happen to me."

Now, as to actual practice: this will vary immensely with the individual. I customarily dry-fire for about an hour, using a modern single-action revolver, a double-action defense sidearm, and my standby .45 automatic. The time is evenly divided up between the three types of handgun, but for me the DA wheelgun is the big competency obstacle. I dry-fire first with the SA, then switch over to SA work on the DA gun (the single-action pulls are comparable on these two weapons). Then I get into 50 or so careful double-action snaps: both slow and fast. Since the DA revolver is not my primary defense arm, I do not work on techniques "from the leather," leaving this for the Colt Mk. IV auto.

With the automatic, I do a full 20 minutes of timed trigger-pulls interspersed with leather-work. Using my regular speed holster and my regular stiff, wide belt, I first practice ultra-slow draws, speeding these up as I go on. Of course, with the SA auto guns, you have to cock the hammer each time manually. *Only* if you are practicing clearing

drills should you ever rack the auto's slide. There *could*, by some quirk of fate, be a live round mixed up with the dummies (sorry, no innuendo intended). And you know what would happen then.

Some people tell me it's unrealistic to expect even most serious handgunners to

practice dry-snapping for a full hour: the conventional wisdom calls for a 15 minute session every day of the week, if possible. My time schedule is presently managed in blocks that make the one-hour session, twice or so a week, practical. Roll your own as you

Continued on page 76

Dry Firing For Handgun Hunters

By Cameron Hopkins

Dry firing is not just for target shooters, it is for any shooter who aspires to excellence. The handgun hunter has an obligation based on hunting ethics to become a proficient marksman, and dry firing can be invaluable.

I am not a handgun hunter, I am a rifle hunter, but my hunter's dry firing drills apply equally to handgunners.

My favorite dry firing for hunting practice is the TV, specifically the TV tuned to a PBS nature program. Animals being animals, they never seem to stand still for very long in front of the cameras, so moving targets are available to the dry firing hunter. Also, when the animals are shown standing still, you never know how long they're going to stay there, so you learn to shoot accurately, but quickly.

A wide variety of television (and rented video) programs are being aired about nature, the outdoors and lots and lots of game animals.

A second dry firing method for hunters is to click and snap at photos of game animals clipped from outdoor magazines. Tape the photos to a wall and have at it!

A third way is to dry fire at projected slides taken either at the zoo, or from one of your hunts. This is a bit cumbersome as you have to drag out the projector, set up the screen and monopolize your family room. Also, you have to dry fire in a darkened room which is not conducive to iron sights. Scopes work just fine against the projector screen.

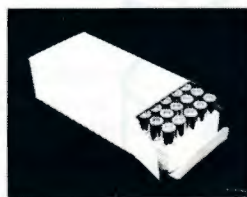
As in any dry firing, be sure and "shoot" in a safe direction. Just in case. I have a gorgeous, world-record 19" Sony on my trophy room wall from an AD (accidental discharge) while dry firing at, as I recall, Marlin Perkin's *Animal Kingdom*. Fortunately the TV was the only thing destroyed. Don't forget, there are two kinds of people in this world: Those who have had an AD and those who are going to have an AD. Dry fire, but be careful.



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243/6MM 100 GR. PSP		34.50	62.75
25/20 CAL. 86 GR. SP		31.50	57.50
25 CAL. 87 GR. HP		34.75	63.25
25 CAL. 100 GR. PSP		34.50	62.75
25 CAL. 120 GR. PSP		37.25	67.75
65 MM 120 GR. PSP		37.25	67.75
270 CAL. 100 GR. PSP		34.50	62.75
270 CAL. 130 GR. PSP		37.75	68.75
270 CAL. 130 GR. BRONZE PT.		56.95	104.50
7MM 150 GR. PSP		40.25	73.50
7MM 175 GR. PSP		42.95	78.75
30/30 CAL. 150 GR. SP		38.95	70.95
30/30 CAL. 170 GR. SP		40.75	74.50
30 CAL. 125 GR. PSP		37.50	68.50
30 CAL. 150 GR. PSP		40.25	73.50
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30 CAL. 165 GR. PSP		41.50	76.25
30 CAL. 180 GR. RN SP		43.50	79.50
30 CAL. 180 GR. PSP		43.50	79.50
30 CAL. 180 GR. BRONZE PT.		61.75	113.95
32/20 CAL. 100 GR. SP		34.50	62.75
45/70 CAL. 300 GR. JHP		54.95	101.50
45/70 CAL. 406 GR. SP		58.50	105.95



EMPTY AMMO BOXES

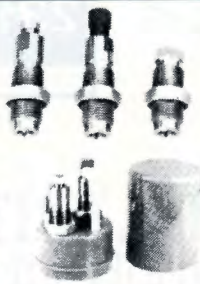
All boxes are plain white, and include a styrofoam tray.

CB-01	9mm and 38 Spl. Wadcutter (50 round)
CB-02	38 Spl. Semi-Wadcutter (50 round)
CB-03	357 Mag. 38 Spl. RN, JSP, JHP (50 round)
CB-05	233 (50 round)
CB-06	41/44 Mag. 45 L.C. (20 round)
CB-07	41/44 Mag. 45 L.C. (50 round)
CB-08	45 ACP (50 round)
CB-09	308 and 243, etc. (20 round)
CB-10	30/06, 7mm Mag, 300 Win Mag, etc. (20 round)

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30 Carbine w/carbine size	29.25
Carbine Sizer only, pistol calibers	13.50
Carbine Sizer only, 30 Carbine	19.65

22 Hornet	7x57	3006	32 S&W Long
221 Fireball	7mm TCU	300 H & H	38 Super & 38
222 Rem	7mm Exp (280)	300 Win Mag	ACP
223 Rem	7mm Wea Mag	300 Wea Mag	380 Auto
22/250	7mm/08	77 Jap	38 S&W
220 Swift	7mm Rem Mag	8x57	9mm Luger
243 Win	762x39 Russian	338 Win Mag	38/357
6mm Rem	762x54 R Russian	35 Rem	357 Maximum
250 Savage	30 Herrett	375 Win	10mm Bren Ten
257 Roberts	3030 Win	375 H & H	41 Magnum
2506 Rem	3040 Krag	4440 WCF	41 Action Exp
65 Jap	303 British	444 Marlin	44 Spl/Mag
65x55 Mau	308 Win	4570 Govt	45 ACP
270 Win	300 Savage	25 ACP	45 Colt
270 Wea	765 Arg Mau	32 ACP	30 M1 Carbine

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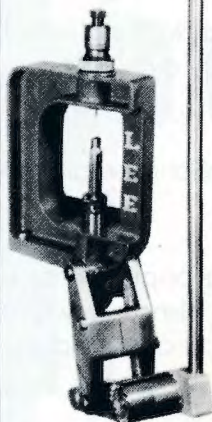
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22 Remington Jet	12.50	46.50	10.95
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222 Remington	15.00	61.00	16.75
223 Remington	16.50	66.00	16.75
222 Rem. Mag.	15.75	62.50	16.75
22-250 Remington	17.95	74.25	19.95
220 Swift	19.95	84.50	25.00
243 Winchester	18.95	77.25	24.95
6mm Remington	18.95	77.25	20.25
25/20 Winchester	12.50	46.50	12.50
257 Roberts	18.95	77.25	18.75
250 Savage	19.95	84.50	19.95
2506 Remington	19.95	84.50	25.50
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		Per 500	Per 1000	Case Price
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380 Auto 88 GR. JHP (Rem.)		26.50	47.50	N/A
380 Auto 95 GR. FMJ		20.95	37.75	\$148.75/4430
9mm Luger 115 GR. JHP (Rem.)		28.95	52.75	N/A
9mm Luger 115 GR. FMJ		23.25	41.75	\$136.50/3660
9mm Luger 124 GR. FMJ		24.25	44.25	\$133.25/3390
38/357 110 GR. JHP		25.50	46.25	\$157.50/3820
38/357 125 GR. JHP		23.95	43.25	\$129.95/3360
38/357 140 GR. JHP (Rem.)		29.50	53.50	N/A
38/357 158 GR. JHP		28.25	51.25	\$123.50/2660
38 Super 130 GR. FMJ (Rem.)		27.25	48.95	N/A
41 Mag. 200 GR. JHP (Rem.)		41.25	75.25	N/A
41 Mag. 210 GR. JSP (Rem.)		42.25	77.50	N/A
44 Mag. 180 GR. JHP (Rem.)		39.95	73.50	N/A
44 Mag. 240 GR. JHP (Rem.)		43.85	80.95	N/A
45 Auto 185 GR. JHP (Rem.)		43.25	79.25	N/A
45 Auto 185 GR. FMC (Rem.)		43.25	79.25	N/A
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223 55 GR. FMJ (BT-W/Cannellure)		15.95	28.50	\$126.25/5000
22 Cal. 55 GR. Pointed Soft Pt.		25.75	46.50	\$145.50/7640
30 Carbine 110 GR. SP (Rem.)		25.95	46.95	N/A
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		Per 500	Per 1000
Bulk Packed			
380 ACP		\$36.25	\$65.75
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357 Magnum		36.95	66.95
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41 Magnum		48.50	88.95
44 Special		48.50	88.95
44 Magnum		48.50	87.95
45 ACP		44.25	80.75
45 Long Colt		48.50	88.95
25 Auto (Remington Brand)		33.95	61.50
32 Auto (Remington Brand)		34.50	62.80
32 S&W Long (Remington Brand)		34.50	62.80
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		Prices Per 50 Postpaid		
Quantity		222/223	380/9mm	38/357
50-450		\$68.75	\$34.75	\$34.75
500 or more		59.25	29.75	33.75

Minimum order 50 boxes of one size. Order in increments of 50 boxes.

MASTER TIPS

Collected by Jon Winokur

Competition Ammo

For reliable, accurate ammunition, the components must be of the highest quality and the loading procedure must be consistent. Ammo loaded on a single-stage press just won't be as consistent as ammo produced on a progressive loader.

I've found the following components to be the best for all around IPSC-type competition:

BULLET: The Hensley & Gibbs #68 is the most accurate and reliable in guns that have been properly ramped and throated. The 200 grain semi-wadcutter bullet cuts clean, easy to score holes. Whether you cast your own bullets or buy them from a commercial caster, make sure the edges are sharp and there are no visible voids on the surface of the bullet.

CASE: Other than new commercial cases, once-fired WCC military brass is the most consistent brass ever made and it's readily available at reasonable prices.

PRIMER: In my experience the Winchester large pistol primers are the most consistent, but any good commercial brand will do.

POWDER: Winchester Western 231 Ball Powder is the popular choice because it's clean burning and meters beautifully in almost any type of powder measure. It's very consistent from lot to lot, and produces outstanding accuracy and uniform velocity.



JACK BRESKOVICH, engineer, ballisticians, inventor, manufacturer of Advantage Competition Shooting Accessories and "B" Class shooter in the Southwest Pistol League.

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ALL NEW DESIGN

New Collar & Collar Lock

Assures precise alignment of expander spindle. Split collar aligns itself between inside tapers of die. Result: Expander spindle is precisely centered.

New Expander Spindle

Solid, one-piece rod. Bottom portion tapered to guide cartridge into die. Improves alignment and accuracy for smoother operation.

New Elliptical Expander

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New Hardened Steel Decap Pin

Will not break, bend or crack, even when depriming stubborn military cases (we even put a new "flashhole" in a Berdan case).

NEW WARRANTY

Hornady "New Dimension" Reloading Dies are guaranteed not to break from normal use for two years, or they will be repaired or replaced at no charge.

New In-Line Bullet Seater

Gives bench rest precision. Universal design reduces manufacturing costs...and thus lowers the cost to you.

New Bullet Seater Alignment Sleeve

Guides bullet and case neck into die. Because case neck and bullet are enclosed in sleeve before seating begins, you're assured of in-line, bench rest alignment every time. Free-floating sleeve extends beyond bottom of die.

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Series I

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Compare our "New Dimension" dies with the

competition. And then compare prices. With our "New Dimension" Reloading Dies, you get the best possible die, at the least possible cost. See your Hornady dealer today. And write Hornady for the complete story on "New Dimension" Reloading Dies, plus a copy of our latest catalog.

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reloading is
all about**



Hornady

Hornady Manufacturing Co., Dept. AG1058
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Forjas Taurus, SA, is Brazil's foremost handgun manufacturer. Located in Porto Alegre, the company was founded in 1939 by German immigrants who had originally intended to import machinery from their native land to manufacture revolvers. The outbreak of World War II thwarted this and forced the company to make its own machinery. Production commenced in 1942 with revolvers that closely resembled Smith & Wesson, although some features of other

instead of blue.

It was rumored that there was a connection between the Taurus and Smith & Wesson companies and, as I have subsequently discovered, there was some substance to this. From 1970 until 1977 Taurus was owned by the American conglomerate Bangor-Punta who also controlled Smith & Wesson. In spite of this connection, both companies were operated as separate entities although there was some interchange of technology.

upgrade overall quality through employee training and improved quality control throughout the various production stages. From what I can see in respect of the two Taurus revolvers that I tested, this drive for quality has certainly paid off.

The Taurus revolvers I received for evaluation were a five-shot three-inch .38 Special Model 85 in stainless steel and a blued six-shot four-inch Model 66 in .357. The former is a small frame revolver along the lines of the



TAURUS REVOLVERS

By Dave Arnold

manufacturers, like Colt, were embodied in the design. In those days there was a ready market for Taurus guns in Brazil and sales were initially restricted to that country alone. The company enjoyed considerable growth and was able to establish its present, modern factory in 1956.

In the mid 1960s the local market started to drop after the government imposed gun control laws that restricted Brazilian citizens to owning not more than two handguns. This prompted the company to look to other countries to keep up its sales and, in 1968, it began exporting its products to the United States and other countries. Up until 1971 the export guns were marketed under the names of the various importers as well as the Taurus trademark. Since then, all exported models have carried the Taurus name.

My first contact with Taurus revolvers was in 1978 when I was living in South Africa. At that time they impressed me as budget-priced serviceable revolvers but with a rather austere finish. The models I saw closely followed the Smith & Wesson design even to the boxes that they were packaged in. In fact, the latter were virtually identical except for the color which, as I recollect, was yellow

All this ended when the Taurus management arranged a buy-out from Bangor-Punta and, since then, the company has gone its own way. At the present time, Taurus offers a complete range of medium and small frame revolvers similar in external appearance to Smith & Wesson revolvers.

Their small frame models are chambered for both .32 and .38 Special. The medium frame models are available in .357 and .38 special as well as .22 LR and come with either fixed or fully adjustable, target-type sights. The company also offers most of their models in blue, stainless steel or satin nickel. Their range now also includes a large 9mm 15-shot double action auto. This was added some years ago when Taurus purchased the Brazilian Beretta factory that was producing the early version of the Model 92. The Taurus version is known as the PT-92 and PT-99 which has fixed and adjustable target sights respectively.

One of the new policy directives that occurred after the buy-out from Bangor-Punta was that Taurus would concentrate its efforts on producing handguns of high quality instead of a large volume of cheap guns. As a result, an intensive campaign was started to

Smith & Wesson Chiefs Special and is also available with a two-inch barrel. Its overall length with a three-inch barrel is 7¾ inches and its weight is 22 ounces. The two-inch model weighs two ounces less and is 6¾ inches long. It has fixed sights with a ramp front blade to avoid snagging in the holster or clothing. The test gun had large combat stocks made of smooth Brazilian walnut that covered the front strap but smaller wooden grips are also available.

Removal of the sideplate revealed an internal lockwork that is basically Smith & Wesson but simpler in that it uses less moving parts. The most significant differences are a separate rebounding firing pin in the frame and a transfer bar safety system. All internal components exhibited excellent workmanship. The exterior surfaces were polished bright with no evidence of rounded edges or buffing marks that one often finds in cheap handguns.

The Model 66 is a medium frame revolver along the lines of a Smith & Wesson Model 19 that comes in barrel lengths of three, four and six inches. The former has an overall length of 8½ inches and weighs 32½ oz. The four-

Continued on page 83



Bill Jordan on Jordan Grips

By Sheila Link

Now, almost 50 years after he first designed a pistol grip that controls fast single- and double-action firing, Bill Jordan's Combat Pistol Grips are being reproduced by Pachmayr.

Here, in an exclusive interview, the 'Fast Man With a Slow Draw' discusses the grips he designed:

AH: When did you first design these grips, Bill?

BJ: Back about 1938 or 1940—somewhere along there.

AH: Why did you feel it necessary to design grips?

BJ: To begin with, none of the grips available suited me at all. They just didn't seem to have anything but *looks* to qualify 'em and I wanted grips that would *do* something, that would help control the gun, particularly the double-action revolver I was carrying in the Border Patrol, and what other Border Patrolmen and, for that matter, something like ninety percent of all law enforcement officers carried.

AH: What was the main problem with the grips available and in use then?

BJ: To begin with, they were all made to flare at the bottom. The bottom of the grip flared away, best shown on the grips of a single-action revolver. Grips were made to conform to the frame of the handguns. This resulted in two problems—one, the little *hump* always at the back of a handgun grip, this shape was not only *followed* by but even *accented* by the grips. As a result, when a gun recoiled, particularly a heavy-recoil revolver, it was slammed into the web of your hand, between your thumb and forefinger, where it's tender. I wanted it to hit right in the *palm* of the hand, and the only way to do that was to have it (the gun) fall away at the *top*.

The flare at the bottom of the grips

forced the gun down into your hand. Then, as it recoiled, it kept going farther down so that, after each shot, the web of your hand crept closer and closer to the hammer. After about three shots with heavy loads the hammer was tight against your hand, so you couldn't shoot the gun.

AH: Were you shooting competition at this time?

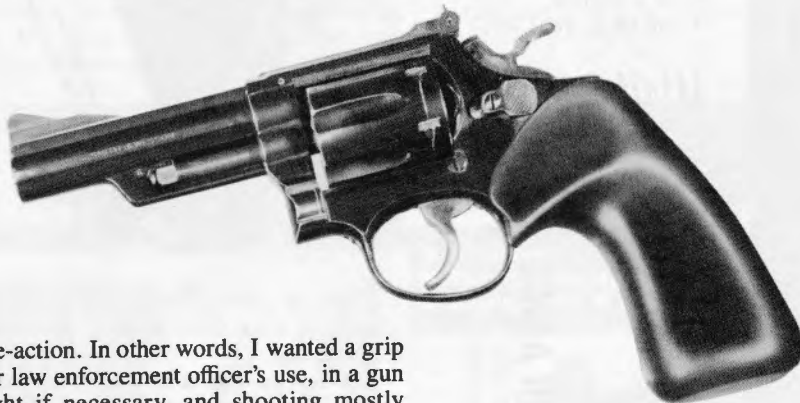
BJ: Yes, but I was really not so concerned about a *competition-style* grip. I was interested in a grip that would conform to your hand when the gun was being fired—and allow you to keep a firm grip on it while shooting double-action, high-speed dou-

BJ: Yes, we talked at Camp Perry. He made up the grips and sent them to me. I put 'em on and tried 'em, and then sent 'em back, with comments as well as marks on the grips. He altered them according to my comments, I took the modified grips, and repeated the same procedure. I think there must have been about five alterations before I said, 'All right, this is it!'

AH: What gun were you using these grips on?

BJ: A .357 Smith & Wesson Magnum—the original Magnum.

AH: Were you pleased with these grips? Did they do what you wanted?



ble-action. In other words, I wanted a grip for law enforcement officer's use, in a gun fight if necessary, and shooting mostly double-action.

AH: When you recognized the need for re-designing pistol grips, did you, yourself, make them?

BJ: No, I did not. I had my ideas of how they should be made. One thing was that the little narrow *filler* between the trigger-guard and the front of the grip, that you find on most grips, are just *cosmetic*. They come down so there's very little grip resting on your second finger. The grips I envisioned would have a *wide* surface there, that actually remained on your finger and would not let the gun go down in your hand. This also made it (the gun) fall away at the *top*—and this causes it to recoil right in the palm of your hand. This is what I wanted. So, I called Walter Roper, the first of the custom handgun grip designers. He did a lot of work especially for target shooters. Well, he started working on the ideas I had, and made a pair to the shape of my hand, which is quite large.

AH: Did you work with him personally?

BJ: Yes, they sure did. Until Walter died, he made those grips. He didn't make many of 'em because they were a kind of experimental design. But, after he died, Lew Sanderson took up making the grips. Lew was with the Detroit Police Department, a pistol shooter who'd gotten busy, I suppose, just building grips for himself at first. But soon he was making custom grips. He ran into a pair of those Walter Roper had made, and contacted me to ask if he could make the grips. I told him he certainly could. I had no objection and would, in fact, be very happy if he did make a few of 'em. He constructed the grips until he died.

AH: What materials did Walter Roper and Lew Sanderson make the grips from? Was wood the only material used?

BJ: Yes, they've never been made with anything but wood until now. Woods used ranged from plain walnut to highly grained Circassian and some of the exotic Mexican woods.

Continued on page 88

APPROVED BY THE B.A.T.F. this firearm must be used with the 21" carbine barrel as pictured. Federal Law prohibits the use of this firearm with any barrel shorter than 16 inches.

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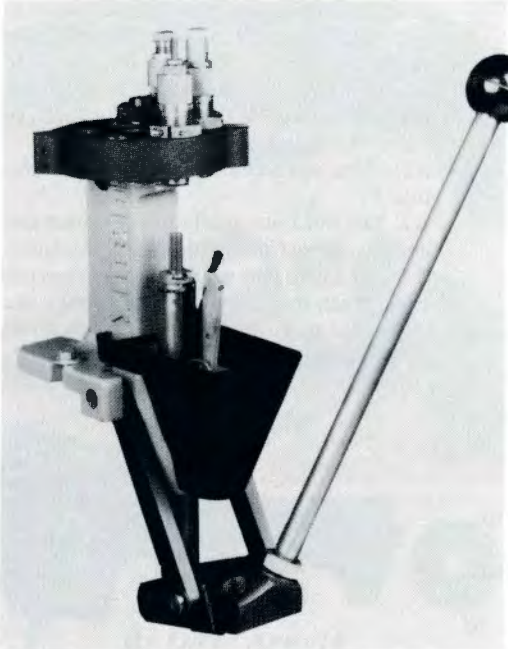
THOMPSON/CENTER ARMS

Farmington Road, P.O. Box 5002, Dept. TAH 5
Rochester, New Hampshire 03867

If you've been handloading long enough to prefer a single-stage press, you may go for Lyman's T-Mag. It's six single-stage presses—or effectively so—and it occupies no more space than is required for one. That means you can adjust your dies and reload as many as three different cartridges when the need arises, without bothering to do more than turn the T-Mag's turret. Or you can mount two three-die sets, or a three-die set, a two-die set, and Lyman's number 55 powder measure. You get the idea: this throwback to early times—before so-called progressive presses grabbed the spotlight—is capable of opening the way to

incidentally, also calls for knocking out the ram pin and turning the ram so the shellholder notch faces forward. Of course, none of this will be necessary if you're going to mount the T-Mag on a bench whose surface is no more than a couple of inches thick.

I set this 18-pounder up for loading .45 Colt and included Lyman carbide dies in that caliber. Three holes remained unoccupied in the massive turret. I could have put in another three-die set. Instead, I put in a two-die set for the .30-06 and used the remaining empty station for Lyman's #55 powder measure. It was, of course, neces-



LYMAN T-MAG TURRET PRESS

By Dan Cotterman

a level of ammo production which, although less than rapid, is worth experiencing.

My first go with a Lyman turret press involved the fairly lightweight Spar-T. It competed well against other multi-station presses available during the Sixties, because for about \$30 it offered six stations instead of three or four, which was the case with others that cost almost twice as much. These days the price tag reads a C-note heavier than it did for the old Spar-T, but the T-Mag is a somewhat more solid press—strong enough for swaging bullets, a task I might not have assigned to the Spar-T.

It's a good thing as far as I'm concerned that the T-Mag offers the option of upstroke or downstroke operation. All three of my reloading benches are built with about a four-inch facing. Using the downstroke mode would have meant sawing a sizable notch into one of these facings in order to allow for the backswing of the T-Mag's linkage. Tapping out the toggle pin and reversing the linkage is simple, and I've found that upstroke operation works quite satisfactorily and eliminates the need to notch the bench. Converting to upstroke,

sary to change powder measure settings for the two rounds, but it was handy to have both die sets adjusted and in place. Other options included using a couple of three-die pistol sets and mounting the powder measure in Lyman's powder measure stand on the bench. With this set-up the drill is to resize and reprime a batch of empties, add powder charges, then seat bullets. Changing from caliber to caliber only requires changing standard shellholders.

As an aside to the foregoing procedure, it's worth noting that a number of multi-station presses require the use of as many shellholders as there are die stations. Reloading with such a press will have you either coming up with three or four shellholders for each different caliber you reload. It's that or conduct the various operations—resizing, belling, seating, etc.—one at a time while you jockey the shellholder from station to station. The single-ram, single-shellholder feature of the T-Mag eliminates that inconvenience.

The T-Mag's turret, which is threaded for standard 7/8ths-14 dies, requires positive hand effort to turn and indexes solidly. There is thus good alignment of each die

Continued on page 90

The **ADVANTAGE GRIP SYSTEM**

By Charles E. Petty



Practical shooters are always searching for ways to gain an edge against their bitter enemy, recoil. But while most shooters look for better comps or lighter bullets, there's a simple approach that works well and costs less. Simply make the gun heavier!

The Advantage Grip System designed by Jack Breskovich (P.O. Box 829 Whittier, CA, 90608) does it by inserting a steel panel beneath a slimmed down wood grip to add almost eight ounces of weight where it does the most good. There are limits to the weight that can be added toward the muzzle, such as by making the comp larger, and while a muzzle heavy feel may be nice for some shooters, it doesn't always help the quick sight alignment practical shooters want and need.

The addition of weight to the grip, however, doesn't seem to bother the pointing of the gun but does settle the thing in your hand nicely. There isn't any quantitative way to judge something that's basically subjective anyhow, but I can tell a real difference in the way the gun reacts in my hand.

When I began using the Breskovich grips a couple of years ago my motive was entirely different. I'm sure most of you have read of my tests with major .38 Super loads and we've all heard of them blowing cases. The

thought of a solid piece of steel between my hand and escaping gas is, to say the least, comforting. When a case lets go it almost always blows the magazine out and frequently splinters the grips. On my list of favorite things, picking wood out of my hand doesn't rank very high!

The Breskovich grips do add a little width to the grip as well, so the change in feel may take a little getting used to and shooters with small hands may not be able to use them. The nice thing is that it doesn't cost much to try for, at a retail price of \$46 it isn't quite the same as investing in a new comp gun. Since installation is nothing more than changing grips, trying them is simple.

The steel panels are contoured to fit the cutout of the frame and Breskovich does warn that some aftermarket frames may vary a bit and some fitting may be required, but I've tried mine on a number of guns and haven't run into problems yet. The wood panels are sharply checkered and have attractive stainless escutcheons for the screws. The reduction in felt recoil is significant and in a game where the difference between winning is now measured in hundredths of a second, every little bit helps. Maybe that's why he calls them "The Advantage."



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DILLON 1050

A new progressive press from Dillon Precision spans the gulf between the expensive RL-1000 and the basic RL-550.

Now you get high production of reloads at a reasonable price!

By Tony Lesce

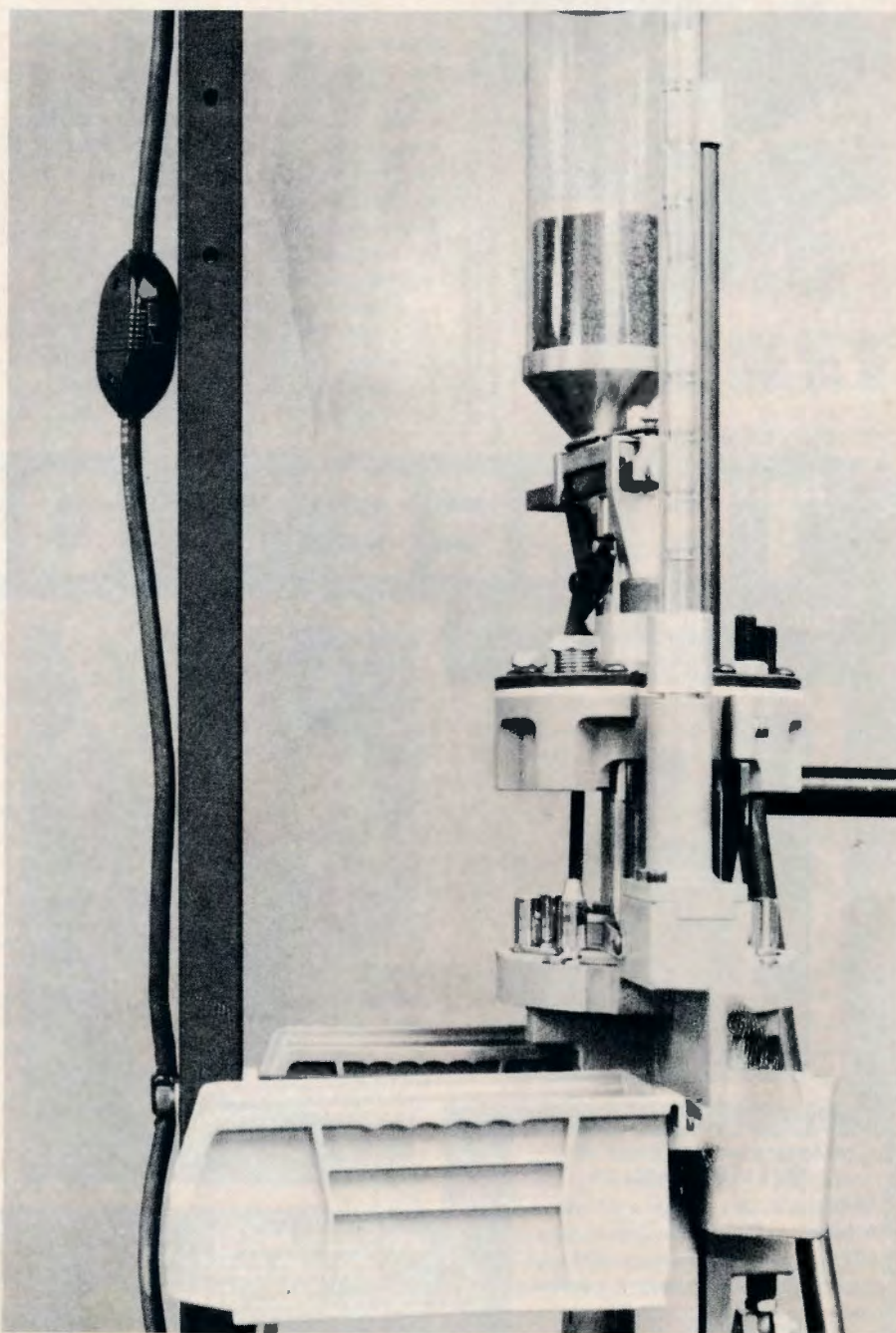
Up to now, the reloader who needed a high-capacity Dillon progressive press was limited to the RL-1000, a machine designed mainly for the commercial reloader. The \$2,500 price tag put this out of reach of most serious hobbyists.

Dillon's new entry in the progressive reloader field is the result of an effort to reduce the cost of the RL-1000 by improving the design and incorporating some of the features of the very successful Square Deal. The new Model 1050 is a large-capacity machine for the advanced hobbyist and the commercial reloader. Its origin, according to Mike Dillon, President of Dillon Precision, was in the requests of many customers for a press with a higher capacity than the well-known RL-550, yet without the high price tag of the RL-1000.

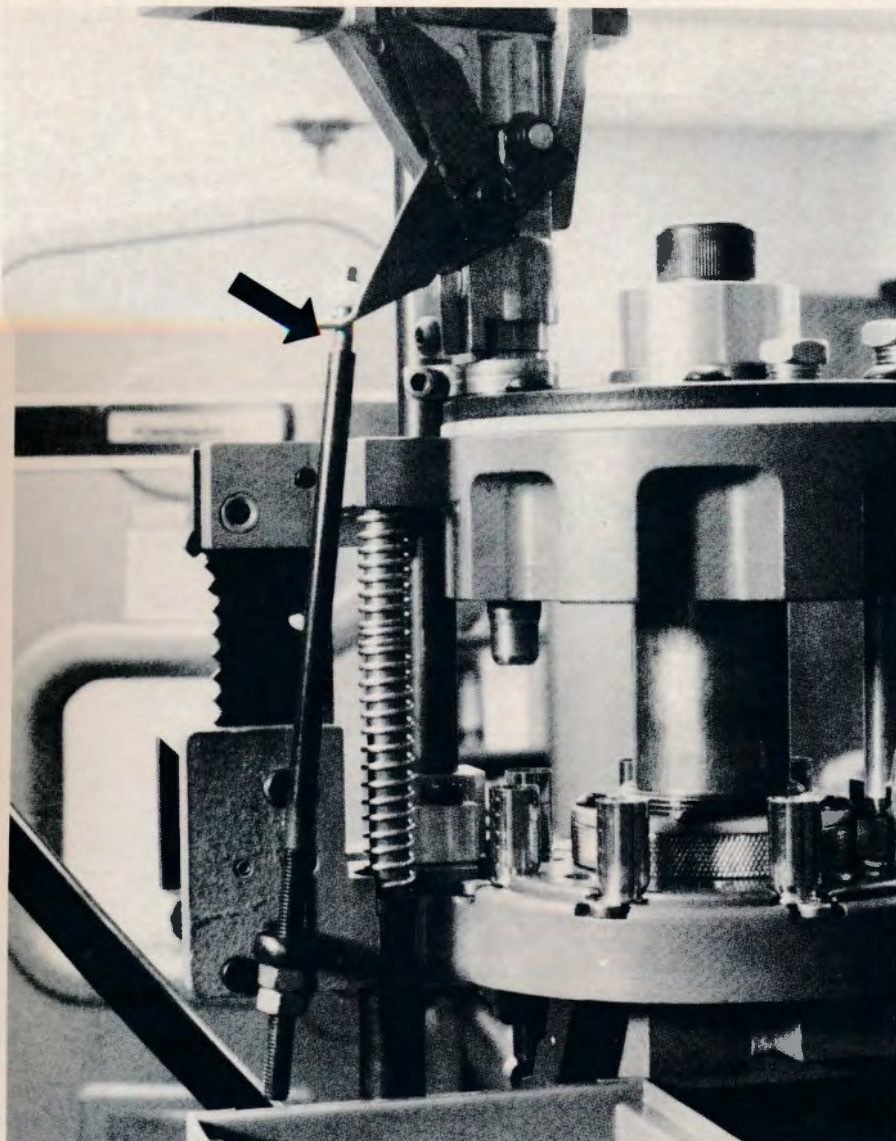
"We recognized the needs of our customers, many of whom are IPSC shooters, for a high-volume, but moderately-priced progressive reloader," says Dillon.

The RL-1050 is smaller than the RL-1000, because it's made to reload only .223 Remington, in rifle calibers, as well as all pistol calibers. These comprise 95% of the applications by RL-1000 customers, according to Jerry Jensen, General Manager of Dillon Precision. The combination of tried-and-true features, and a few innovations, make this the best design yet.

The basic frame is cast iron, and the press resembles the Model RL-1000. Like the 1000, the tool head moves down to meet



The operator's view of a 1050. The black rod (left) holds the electric case feeder. Seat bullet, pull handle, that's all!

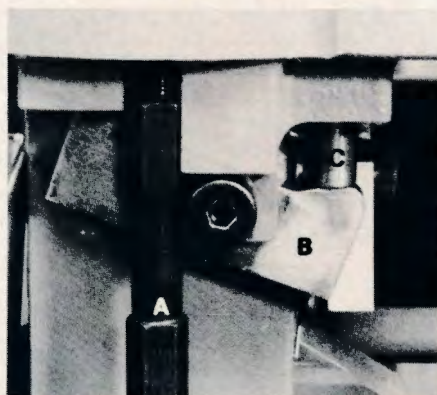


The powder bar return linkage (above, arrow) returns the powder bar positively. A ratchet (above right) prevents reversing the stroke, avoiding half or missed powder charges. The primer pocket swager (right, A) is cammed upward to prepare the primer pocket. At the next station a rocker arm (B) drives a primer punch (C) to seat a fresh primer. It all looks very complex, but the press works flawlessly.

the shell plate. The dies, tool head and powder measure, however, are borrowed from the Square Deal. This is a large press, which has eight stations compared to the Square Deal's four. Let's take them in turn, to understand the logic of progressive reloading:

At Station 1 the fired cases slide in from the automatic shell feeder and delivery tube. A micro-switch operates the case feeder to keep the shell tube full.

Station 2 uses a Square Deal drop-in carbide die/punch set to resize and de-prime the case. Fired primers drop into a



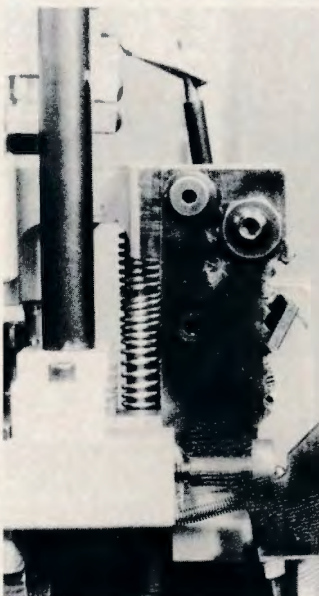
receptacle under the base. The carbide die makes it unnecessary to lubricate small handgun cases, although they should be clean and grit-free before resizing. It's preferable to lube the larger handgun cases, such as .41 and .44 Magnum, and rifle cases should always be lubed to reduce friction which can pull out the carbide insert.

At Station 3, an eccentric drives in a primer pocket swager to remove the crimp from military brass. The tool head has a probe to support the case from inside, which avoids strain on the case rim. The

swager's profile cleans up the military crimp better than that of Dillon's Super Swage.

Station 4 is for re-priming. A primer feed and primer slide, similar to those on the RL-1000, slip a fresh primer into place. A rocker arm operates the primer punch which sets the fresh primer into place. This is single-action repriming, unlike the RL-550 and Square Deal, which require swinging the operating lever past top-center. The "feel" on the priming operation is very delicate, and with the enormous leverage available, the user must be careful to feel for squashed primers.

The primer magazine has a plastic follower rod with a flange that trips a buzzer when there are two primers left, instead of jamming the feeder as in other designs. The primer feeder is adapted from the



Dillon Model 1000. A stout steel tube protects the operator.

Station 5 has a Square Deal powder measure with a "return linkage" which gives the powder bar return a positive action. This avoids powder bar jamming by collected powder debris, which occasionally jammed earlier Dillon models.

The powder measure performs two functions. The case comes up against the shoulder of the powder funnel, operating the bell crank to actuate the powder bar and drop the charge. At the top of the stroke, the increased pressure bells the case mouth. A baked molybdenum-disulfide coating provides dry lubrication for the powder bar, and a roller bearing makes operation of the bell crank easier and more reliable.

One problem which has plagued some reloaders is the result of hesitation or reversing before the completion of a stroke. This can cause the powder measure to drop a light charge or no charge at all. On the RL-1050, a ratchet prevents reversing, once the handle is started on its stroke. This totally eliminates the possibility of short-stroking.

Continued on page 85



New chamberings for the XP include, L-R, .223, new factory-loaded 7mm BR, .35 Remington and 7mm-08. The new 7mm BR brass and loaded ammo is a welcome development as previously the round was strictly a wildcat for handloaders.

Right up front I am going to tell you I was never a big fan of the Remington XP-100. Not that I didn't like it in terms of shooting performance, but all wrapped up in that Buck Rogers space age plastic stock, out in the field she really lacked that warmth I prefer in a hunting arm.

On the other hand, I like modern weapons as much as the next guy as witnessed by my empty

bank account, starving kids and rows of high gloss rifles in my gun cabinet. However, on its intro, Remington may have been stretching things a bit far with that zytel stock complete with holes molded inside for .38 caliber bullet "weights." And, of course, let's not forget that

initial chambering, something titled the ".221 Fireball." Come on guys, really!

Nevertheless, this year I have come to an about face in reference to this particular handgun. Yes, the standard synthetic pistol is still available for those who want it (less the .221 Fireball), but for those dedicated field men who crave something more in traditional lines, the XP-100 is now cataloged from the Remington Custom Shop stocked with a neat looking English walnut stock in not only a right, but also left handed shooting versions as well. Now guys, we're starting to get somewhere!

Before we get to that, and because the XP-100 has been colored with so many variations over the years, let's try and put everything in perspective so the American handgunner can see just how one controversial handgun evolved over the years.

According to press releases, it looks like March of 1963 was the start for this unconventional handgun. For the unheard price of \$99.95 you could get

an XP-100 with the zytel stock, complete with "universal" grips for either right or left hand shooters. She came with her own carrying case, a 10½ inch barrel, a vent rib attached (?), all checking in just under 4 pounds. Because of the Fireball chambering, the receiver was drilled and tapped for scope mounting.

The heart of the XP was Remington's Model 600 series of rifles, now discontinued but taken up in slack by the basic Model Seven. Since the rear of the gun projected past the trigger itself in a bullpup fashion, there is no magazine. Instead a solid bottom has taken its place on this single shot pistol. A dogleg was associated with the bolt handle as it is now, but instead of the bluing we see in 1987, the original XP bolt handle was polished bright.

In its heyday, the .221 Fireball was termed as the "hottest varmint handgun load on the market." Because of the inherent accuracy of this particular cartridge for varmint shooters, (I can well remember ¾ to 1 MOA groups popping up with amazing regularity), whatever the gun may have lost on appearance points certainly gained in popularity by the cartridge alone. Based on the triple deuce family of cartridges, the .221 seemed just right for a handgun shooter. Recoil was noticeably less as the difference between the two— .221/.222— was about ¾ grains of powder and 600 fps. Price too was a strong persuader, at \$3.00 per box of 20 rounds, the aspiring small game hunter could well keep to his limited budget even way back in 1963.

While the XP-100 seemed to be relegated more and more as a point of discussion rather than a serious shootin' iron, if only by its .22 caliber status, it nevertheless held its place in line with the same features (including the .221) until some 17 years later.

In 1980, the XP-100 started to stretch out into other forms of hardware. Part of the reason was due to the increased popularity of handgun silhouette and hunting across the country. Another major part of the XP-100 resurgence was the advent of high quality, long eye relief scopes. For long range duties the XP-100 was becoming a previously unseen natural. And because of its rifle based heritage, wildcatters started to come out of the woodwork. The frenzy was on.

Chamberings ran the gamut. At one point Ron Power, the famed gunsmith from Missouri, could chamber your pet XP in 135 different calibers! And that included everything from the petite .17 to thunderous .45 caliber offerings. Tearing down the XP from its plastic handle found that, yes dear

Remington's bolt-action handgun was revolutionary 25 years ago, but new innovations and new chamberings keep the tack-driver on the leading edge of precision handgunning.

XP-100

By Stanley W. Trzoniec



heart, you could make a purse from a sow's ear. Fajen brought out a wood stock and as memory serves, I can remember seeing a Harry Lawson version that was designed as a push-pull stock. An obvious attempt against the forces of recoil.

In the mid to late '70s fiberglass started to edge in. Sinclair's of Indiana offered a fiberglass handle with or without a thumbhole. Honestly, I can't remember seeing too many of these around. Although Sinclair did not have the market, I think deep down that when gamesmen started to hype up the XP-100, if there was a remote chance a wood

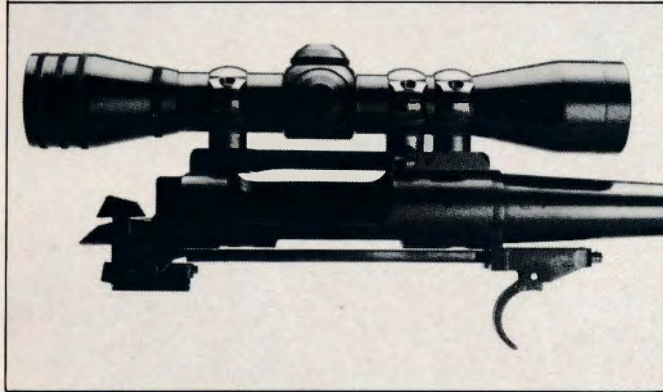
and publication.

Enthused by its reception with the "Silhouette," in 1985 another version was brought on line. Named the "Varmint Special," this model was chambered for the fast stepping .233 Remington cartridge. The barrel was made in 14½ inch lengths only, medium weight, but alas only fitted into that Star Wars handle. In answering the desires of varmint shooters everywhere, the Varmint Special was drilled and tapped for scope mounting only; the barrel was clean and devoid of open sights.

But the big moment in factory XP-100 offerings was yet to come another year later in 1986. It was then that the Custom Shop opened its doors to the wants of XP-100 fans by producing the first factory wood stock. And to top off that announcement, two new chamberings, 7mm-08 and .35 Remington, were on the list. The stock is hand finished after it is profiled from top grade English walnut. The grip is very comfortable, making control of the piece much better when firing large caliber cartridges. The 14½ inch barrel has a slight taper, is equipped with rugged Bo-Mar sights and again comes within that 4½ pound IHMSA restriction.

Note the long transfer bar, left, from trigger to sear. The mid-line grip forces this linkage which is why a magazine cannot easily be fitted to the single-shot XP.

If by chance you are looking for a real eye opener some morning, just get out of bed, waltz out to the north forty and fire off a couple of those 7mm-08 samples. Buzzing out of the muzzle at close to 2900 fps, I guarantee this round will set you up right for the rest of the day. Noted for its



stock would fit into the picture, it was chosen over the synthetic.

It was also in 1980 that Remington took a long hard look at this pistol on the one hand for serious hunting work and on the other for the rising popularity of silhouette shooting. To vie for top billing, an XP-100 Silhouette was put out on the market complete with a 15 inch barrel. This in concert with a total weight of under 4½ pounds put it in the running for this new handgun sport as it came well within IHMSA rules for unlimited class competition.

But this was only the basics of the new entry. The big news was its chambering of a totally new cartridge called the 7mm BR. Remington had used this case before: we had seen it in .22 and 6mm calibers. Basically, Remington BR cases were formed to 7mm by handloaders utilizing a 4 piece die set. They were made from unprimed .308 cases which Remington supplied punched to accept their *small* rifle primers, then annealed with a thinner wall section to help retard neck splitting and ease case forming. The case was then shortened to see an overall length of not more than

In the Remington Custom Shop, right, a craftsman rasps a stock blank.

1.520 inches while at the same time necking the mouth to 7mm. Aside from a 7mm barrel, the only extra that had to be done to the parent XP was the opening of the bolt face to accept .308 dimensions.

The Remington 7mm BR as it stands today is still a handloading proposition only. It's probably for the best as both hunters and target shooters can then tailor their loads to their particular interest. By combining the normally high ballistic coefficients of 7mm bullets with relatively fast propellants, 140 to 150 grain bullets can easily obtain 2200 fps. Naturally on the first outing watch for pressure signs especially if the cases have not been previously fire-formed. *Editor's Note: Remington has introduced factory loaded 7mm BR ammunition and factory formed unprimed cases in between the time that Stan wrote this article*



efficiency on deer, black bear or even long distant pronghorn, generating some 2540 foot pounds of energy (fpe) for Western type shooting. I rate it tops. Being on the Eastern part of the country, however, I prefer something a bit slower, but larger in bullet cross-section. To this end I like the .35 Remington, a proven performer over the long years it has been around.

The latest entry in the log sees us up to 1987. At a Remington writers seminar, yet two more versions have been added to current XP-100 inventory. One is that the previously Custom-Shop-only in .35 Remington is now available in a zytel stocked model. The other is a heavy barreled custom gun chambered in .223 Remington with a 15½ barrel, wood stock and all the other favors needed to make

Continued on page 80

the MARTZ LUGER

By J.B. Wood

Photos by Ichiro Nagata

Everyone who has handled a classic Luger pistol knows that the toggle action locks open when the gun is empty. To get it closed, you remove the magazine and leave it out or replace it with a loaded one, then pull back on the toggle and release it.

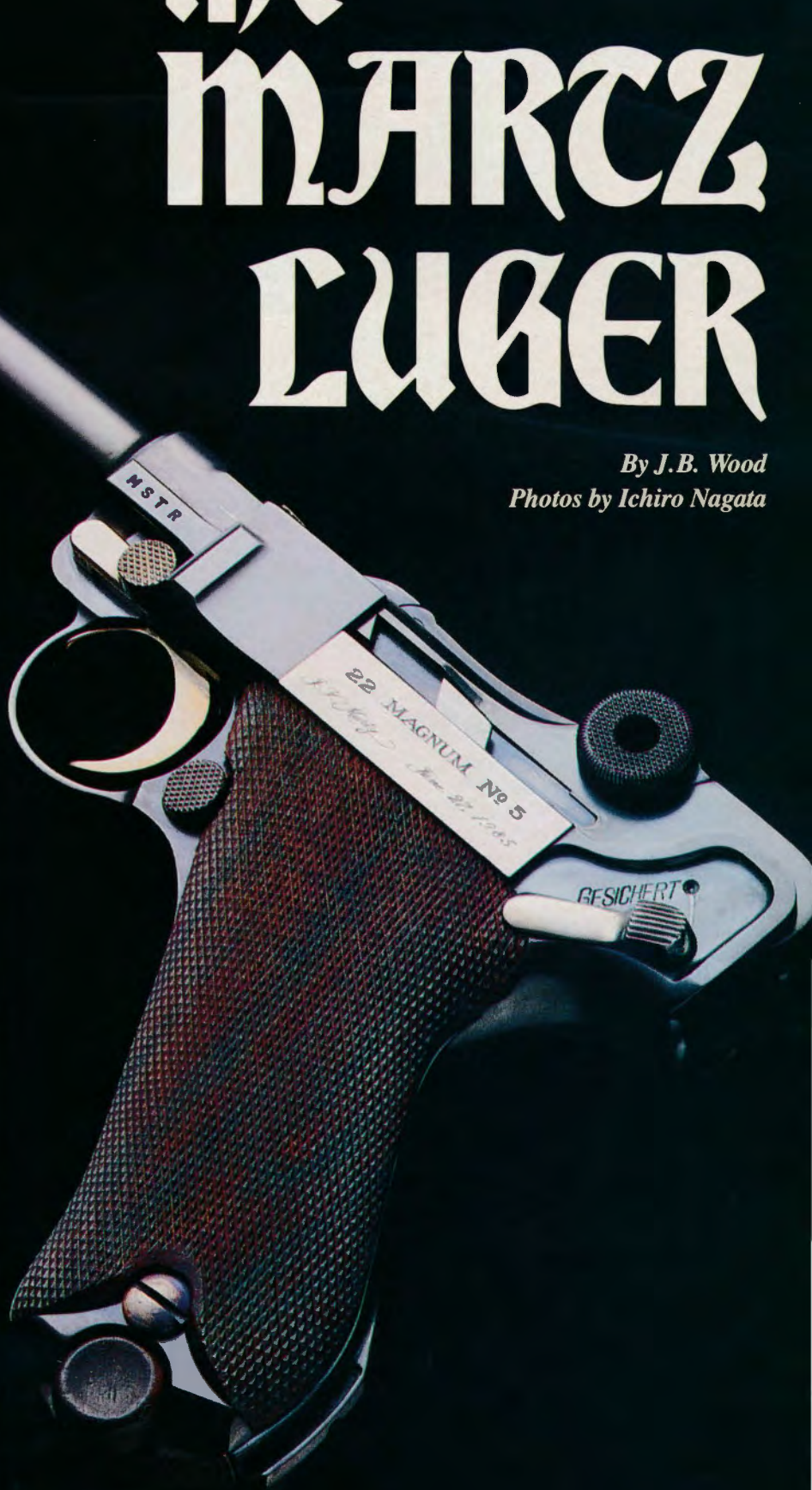
One day, if you're lucky, you might handle a Luger that works differently. If you move the safety lever back to on-safe position, and the action closes with a snap,

John Martz is to Lugers what Antonio Stradivari is to violins. Immaculate craftsmanship, flawless execution, breathtaking beauty. A Martz custom Luger is a functional work of art.

you'll know it's a custom pistol, equipped with the M.S.T.R. —The Martz Safe Toggle Release.

On my own treasured 9mm Martz Luger Carbine, the toggle marking has the words "patent pending," but the M.S.T.R. has since been protected by U.S. Patent number 3956967. For the origin of this ingenious device, we have to back-track about 20 years.

John Vernon Martz had then just completed a 26 year career as a tool-and-die maker for the U.S. Air Force, and was looking for something to do during his "retirement." Through an odd set of coincidences, he became interested in the mechanisms of Walther P-38 and Luger pistols. With his machinist's skills (and a touch of genius), he soon devised a way to link the





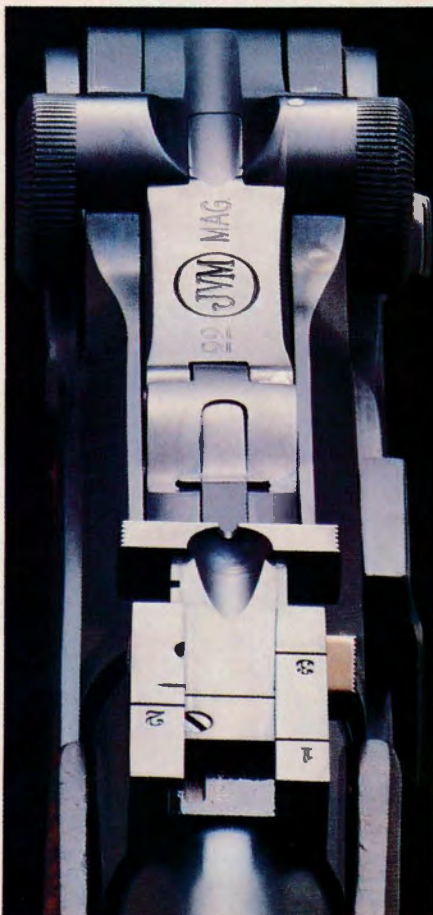
safety system to the hold-open device, with no changes on the outside of the Luger pistol.

His next projects were a "Baby" Luger and a Luger Carbine. As you might expect, the Baby had a shortened grip frame and barrel. This operation was not a simple matter, because the dimensional changes also required several mechanical compensations. The Carbine was a beautiful copy of the original Luger version, and it was subsequently made with barrel lengths that ranged from 12 to 16 inches or more.

The ones with longer barrels could be legally equipped with original-type detachable shoulder stocks. Of all the Martz custom Lugers, I think the Carbine is the most impressive. My own number eleven, a 12-inch in 9mm chambering, is also superbly accurate. Much to the dismay of my collector friends, I shoot it often.

A nice option for a Martz Luger is a finely-made display stand of solid walnut, with an aluminum base and top. The top portion swings open, and the wood has recesses that hold the magazine, a loading/takedown tool, and eight rounds of inert ammo. The top of the stand has an aluminum post, magazine-shaped, with a notch to engage the magazine catch. The angle is just right to balance the pistol for display.

Another Luger design project was the Martz ambidextrous safety. Logically, this meant extending a shaft from the safety lever to the right side of the pistol, and adding a second lever. However, it was not that easy. Inside the frame at the rear, the



All the flats are flat and all the straight lines are straight on a Martz Luger. The steel is brightly polished.

This .22 Magnum splits em out! Rapid fire with the finicky toggle top action is still reliable, a tribute to the workmanship.

arc of the recoil spring lever includes the area where the cross-shaft would have to be. To solve this problem, John designed his own recoil spring lever, which Ed Korda made, giving it a recess to clear the safety shaft. The double safety is now an option on any Martz custom Luger.

It should be noted that collector-grade matched-number guns are never used in the making of Martz pistols.

John uses only good "shooters," and the way he restores all of the original surfaces and edges is almost miraculous.

If the finished guns did not have the Martz markings, and mixed numbers, it could easily be imagined that they were factory-new original Lugers. The pistols are normally furnished in "satin-white," as John calls it. Actually, it's bare steel with a very fine matte finish, and it looks a lot like stainless. A coating of a good preservative is mandatory, of course. On special order, the pistols can be supplied in old-style European rust blue.

Most of the expert machining is done by John himself, but he is assisted by Ed Korda. The welding was done by Earl Reuter, but now John does all his own TIG welding. Cameron McCreary and George Sarkisian do all the wood work including shoulder stocks, walnut grips, and fore-ends. John makes the round walnut and aluminum display stands that he designed.

John's rust bluing is now being done by Rev. Herbert Muenkel of Zumbrota, Minn. When you examine a Martz Luger, you can see that all of these people really know what they're doing.

A few years ago, I was pleased to have John and Neola Martz as guests at my home in Kentucky. It was then that I first examined some of John's custom versions of the Walther P-38. These included long-barreled stocked Carbines and Baby models, and there were some in other chamberings, such as .45 Auto. John has also made custom Lugers in this caliber. Other chamberings have been .380 Auto (in "baby" size), in .30 Luger, and in .38 Super. A ten-gun Navy-pattern "limited edition" in .38 Super is in progress, and eight of the ten have been made so far, seven of which have been sold. Two regular Martz Lugers have also been made in this chambering.

(Editor's Note: John recently made plans to build an IPSC style custom Luger in 10mm Auto complete with a compensator, checkering, beveled mag well, extended safety and all the other modifications favored by combat shooters. We plan to report on this custom Luger after IPSC World Champion and Handgunner writer



Ichiro Nagata's camera captures a bullet exiting the muzzle as the spent case flies out. That's full power .22 Mag ammo shot in the field, not some trick photography in the studio! John Martz (below) welds a Luger.



A Martz Luger Carbine can cost up to \$6,000 with fancy wood mated precisely to the pistol.

Rob Leatham has wrung it out in competition at the Cactus Combat Pistol League.)

About four years ago, John adapted the Luger to the .22 Magnum cartridge, making the first automatic pistol to work reliably in this chambering. The long rimfire round with a quick pressure curve presented quite a challenge, and balancing the efficient toggle locking system to the .22 WMR was not easy. With the kind cooperation of John Martz and George Cosenza, owner of a Martz .22 Magnum Luger, I test-fired pistol number four. As I expected, it was totally reliable and extremely accurate. I fired two boxes of cartridges, 100 rounds, and there were no malfunctions.

Future collectors might be interested in the tally so far: 101 Baby Martz Lugers have been made, mostly in 9mm, a few in .30 Luger. 25 Carbines have been made with 10 $\frac{3}{8}$, 12, and 13-inch barrels, and 62 with 16 and 18-inch barrels, with stocks. Lugers in .45 number 20, with barrel lengths of 3 to 8 inches. There are 7 Baby .380 Lugers, and 7 in .22 Magnum, including two Carbines. For Baby P-38 pistols, with 3-inch barrels, the count is 33. Carbines from the P-38 number 26 with 16-inch barrels have been made, and nine P-38 pistols in .45 caliber, with 3 to 9-inch barrels.

And then there are the prototypes, so far made only experimentally, such as the P-38 in .38 Super, and the Luger in .357 Magnum. Both of these have been test-fired a lot in the past year, and it's possible that they may be offered in the Martz custom line. In a recent conversation, John told me that he's thinking about a P-38 in .22 Magnum. Other chamberings mentioned, for either gun, were the new 10mm Auto and the old 7.63mm Mauser. If any or all of these are eventually made, two things are certain: They will be beautiful, and they will work.

Those who know about custom firearms work will not be surprised at the substantial prices of the Martz guns. The price range is from around \$1,500 up to \$6,000 or more, with the higher figures being for Carbine models in .22 Magnum.

If you are not unnerved by these price levels, and you are really interested in purchasing a Martz pistol, the address is 8060 Lakeview Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648, phone (916) 645-2250. A stamped and self-addressed return envelope would probably be appreciated.

If you decide to become the owner of one of these elegant handguns, a one-third deposit will be required. After you examine and shoot a Martz custom gun, and realize the hours of skillful work behind it, the price may seem small.





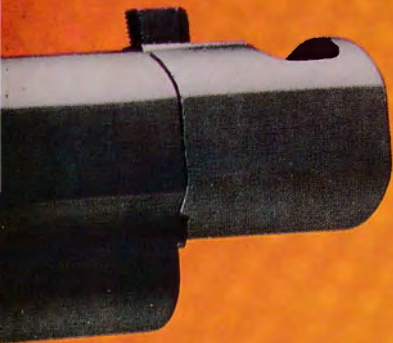
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Pistolsmith Tim Dillon hones the 1911 Springfield Armory pistol into a reliable and accurate IPSC competition pistol with all the features demanded by combat shooters.



Tim Dillon of the Springfield Armory Custom Shop started with a basic 1911-A1 .45 ACP pistol, made by Springfield Armory of course, and fine-tuned the world's greatest combat pistol into a high performance competition .45 suitable for IPSC, bowling pins or other action shooting sports.

The stunning results of Tim's handwork is evident, but some would say this is to be expected since the base gun started as a Springfield Armory .45 pistol. According to leading pistolsmiths across the country, the Springfield Armory 1911-A1 is particularly well-suited to custom work because of the high quality of steel, precisely fitted stock parts and properly specified frame dimensions.

Tim Dillon performed the following modifications resulting in this superlative match-grade .45 valued at \$2,300:

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- New C.T. Brian compensator system
- Low mounted Bo-Mar adjustable sights
- Wilson Commander hammer
- Wilson beavertail grip safety
- Swenson ambidextrous thumb safety
- Videcki long match trigger
- Kim Ahrends smooth, tulip wood stocks
- Combat Corner extended mag release button
- Armidex mag well funnel
- Pachmayr thumb guard
- Checkered front strap (20 lpi)
- Checkered trigger guard (40 lpi)
- Serrated slide back (40 lpi)
- Polished feed ramp and throated barrel
- Jeweled hammer, safety, grip safety
- Matte blue finish

The Springfield Armory Custom Shop offers a full line of custom services for the 1911-A1 pistol, from basic self-defense packages to full-house competition pistols like the one you can win. Additionally, the Springfield Armory Custom Shop offers a complete range of custom services for the Garand, M1A and M14 rifles.

For a complete price list and catalog of Springfield Armory products and services, write to:

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Geneseo, IL 61254



photo by Roger Andrews

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.44 MAGNUM DESERT EAGLE

By Jim Weller

Photos by Brian Jackson

For some time now, certain "Sages of the Sixgun" have preached the gospel that "if it ain't big, it ain't nothin'," and in some cases I would have to agree. For those of you who heartily subscribe to the aforementioned in its entirety, there is now something that none of you should probably be without. The Eagle has landed, and in fine fashion, in .44 Magnum caliber.

The Eagle isn't a new gun. Built by Israeli Military Industries and imported and distributed by Magnum Research in Minneapolis, MN, it's been seen in such movies as "Commando" and "Year of the Dragon," and on the TV series "Hunter." What is new is the caliber, having been only offered initially in .357.

It's a gas operated semi-auto pistol that features a massive rotary bolt with multiple locking lugs. This helps cushion recoil on firing. In my mind, this is the only way to build an auto-loading .44, as I just can't picture one of these being recoil operated.

The first thing that one notices about the Eagle is that it is a *massive* handgun. The grip area is necessarily long to accommodate the length of the .357 and .44 cartridges. So long in fact, that many shooters will find themselves unable to reach the slide release with their thumbs. In that event, simply pulling on the slide and releasing it will chamber the round for firing. Likewise with the safety, which is all but impossible for most to activate with the thumb of the firing hand.

The last paragraph shouldn't bother most people. I doubt that, Hollywood aside, the DE was designed with personal defense in mind. Instead, its forte will be found on the silhouette ranges and in the field in search of game. For those of you desiring this as a defensive gun, I would suggest a set of overload springs be installed on whichever side you want to carry it on. Total weight, with eight rounds of 240 grainers aboard, is a whopping 73 ounces! Madam will definitely not fit this one in her purse unless she's a fifth degree bag lady.

The Eagle is well finished in what strongly resembles a dark phosphate, and should resist rust well. The stocks are plastic. Standard sights are fixed, but there are others available as an option as are a whole range of barrels and finishes. Barrels run



The Desert Eagle uses rotary locking lugs on the bolt, like the M-16. The gas operation helps tame the recoil of the .44 Magnum, as does the weight of the heavy Eagle.



the gamut from the standard six inch all the way up to a 14 inch for hunting and silhouette use.

One thing that is found on all Desert Eagles, whether it be .357 or .44 is a trigger that is absolutely *yucky*! Stock triggers usually pull at well over eight pounds and are loaded with creep and catches. At one time, IMI had listed as an option an entire tuned trigger group. For reasons that will not be gone into here, it was dropped from the line, but has been replaced by a fully tuned package from the people at Timney. This will be available on a customer ordered basis directly from Timney rather than ordering one from the factory. The folks at IMI are apparently rather worried about product liability should they provide the customer with a finely tuned unit. Thus, those desiring something within the realm of reason would be advised to send theirs away for the work. The test gun was provided with such a unit, and I can tell you that it's worth the extra outlay.

Field stripping the Eagle is easy as can be. By simply moving the take-down latch, the barrel is lifted free and the slide moved forward off the frame. Next, the gas piston and recoil system are removed. Care must be taken to insure that the springs are re-inserted properly. They can be inserted upside down, and are marked to make sure that things go back in as intended. All this makes the changing of barrels a matter of only a few seconds for those of you who would like extras of varying lengths.

Moving out to the range, I took along 200 rounds of Hornady .44 ammunition in both 240 and 200 grain loads. IMI does not recommend the use of lead bullets in the Eagle due to the possibility of the gas system becoming clogged, and I adhered to their wishes.

Beginning at 15 yards, the 240 loads grouped into almost one hole just above the point of aim. The 200JHP rounds did likewise but just slightly lower than the heavier slugs. The Timney-worked trigger is a joy to work with, considering the alternative of using the stock factory set-up. There was just a slight creep before the shot broke at just three and one-half pounds. No overtravel was noted during the firing period.

Shooting from a prone rest at the fifty yard mark, both loads again placed themselves just slightly high of the aiming point, and averaged two to three inches of spread. The sights used were the standard issue fixed rear and serrated ramp front. Magnum Research was kind enough to supply me with an extra set of fully adjustable Millets, complete with W/O rear and blaze orange front ramp, however, I did not take the opportunity to install them. Instead I chose to stay with the factory equipment.

IMI says that the Eagle is factory sighted for 100 yards. Seated at a bench, I was able to hold some decent groups in the seven to eight inch range, and I'm sure that someone into silhouette or long-range handgunning in general would be capable of doing better. I have no doubt that the gun itself is certainly able to perform that well.

The gun seemed to have a preference for the 240gr ammunition, although it

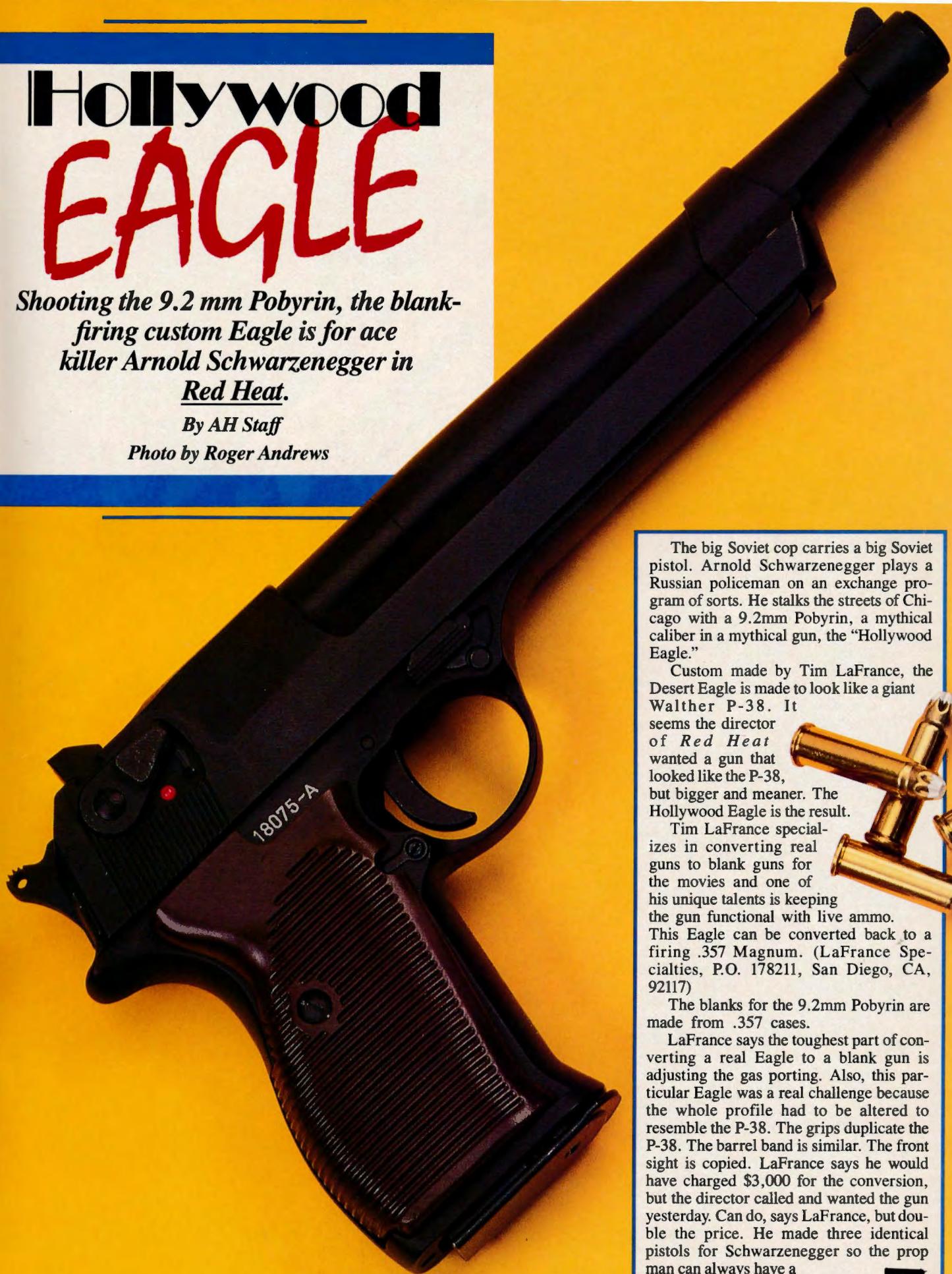
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Hollywood EAGLE

Shooting the 9.2 mm Pobyryn, the blank-firing custom Eagle is for ace killer Arnold Schwarzenegger in Red Heat.

By AH Staff

Photo by Roger Andrews



The big Soviet cop carries a big Soviet pistol. Arnold Schwarzenegger plays a Russian policeman on an exchange program of sorts. He stalks the streets of Chicago with a 9.2mm Pobyryn, a mythical caliber in a mythical gun, the "Hollywood Eagle."

Custom made by Tim LaFrance, the Desert Eagle is made to look like a giant Walther P-38. It seems the director of *Red Heat* wanted a gun that looked like the P-38, but bigger and meaner. The Hollywood Eagle is the result.

Tim LaFrance specializes in converting real guns to blank guns for the movies and one of his unique talents is keeping the gun functional with live ammo. This Eagle can be converted back to a firing .357 Magnum. (LaFrance Specialties, P.O. 178211, San Diego, CA, 92117)

The blanks for the 9.2mm Pobyryn are made from .357 cases.

LaFrance says the toughest part of converting a real Eagle to a blank gun is adjusting the gas porting. Also, this particular Eagle was a real challenge because the whole profile had to be altered to resemble the P-38. The grips duplicate the P-38. The barrel band is similar. The front sight is copied. LaFrance says he would have charged \$3,000 for the conversion, but the director called and wanted the gun yesterday. Can do, says LaFrance, but double the price. He made three identical pistols for Schwarzenegger so the prop man can always have a fresh one loaded.





4x.44

By Massad Ayoob

***The four-inch
.44 Magnum is Massad
Ayoob's favorite handgun
when you need raw power
in a package.***

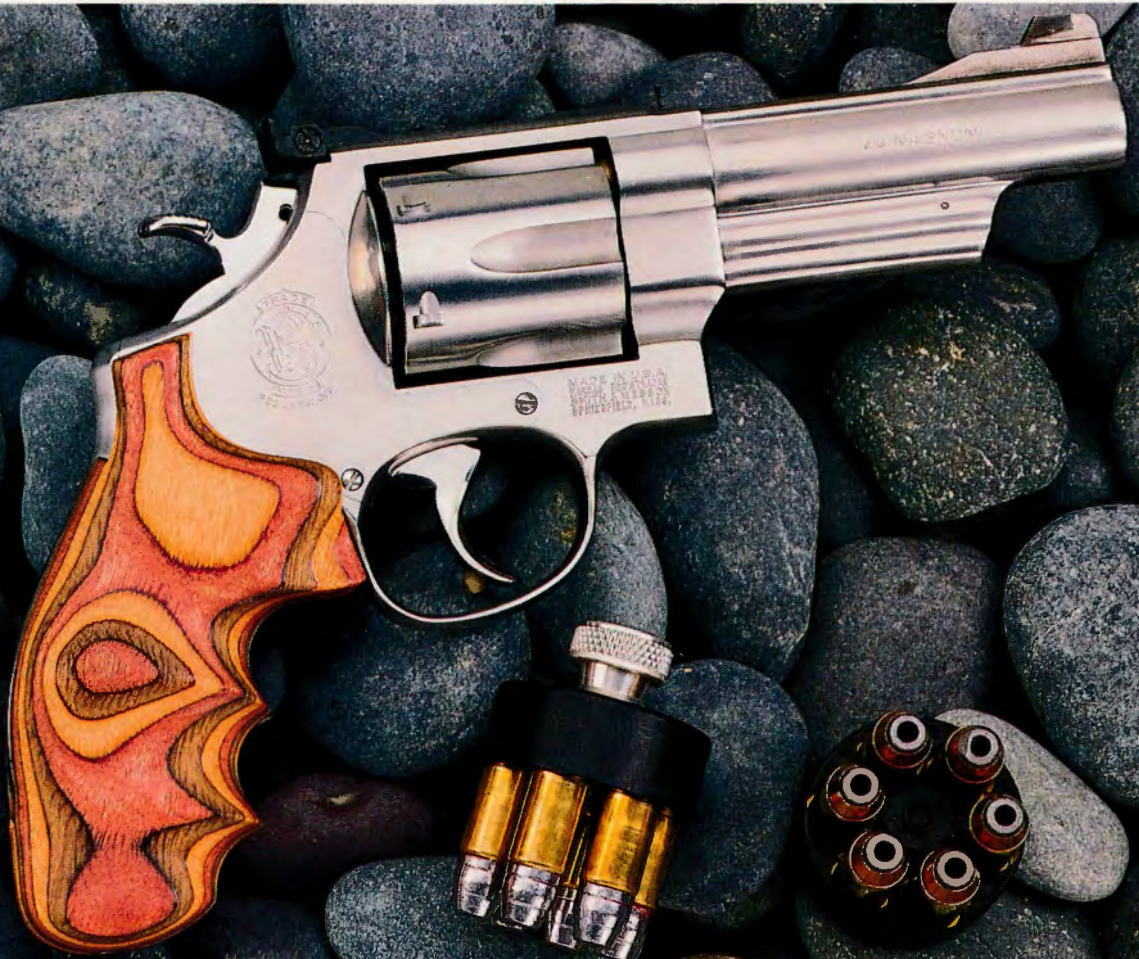
The .44 Magnum. It's a workhorse, heavy-duty handgun caliber. Generally, you find it in a long-barrelled sidearm. More rarely, you find it in a snub.

And, for a growing coterie of professionals, you find it in a four-inch revolver. Over my handgunning career, I've come to agree with them. For *constant daily use as a power tool*, not necessarily as a piece of sporting equipment, I think the four-inch

barrel double action revolver is the most practical .44 Magnum.

I own my share of .44 Maggies. My Thompson/Center Contender Super 14, as its name implies, fires the big .44 through a barrel two inches beyond a foot in length. Another Contender barrel is a ten-incher, and a similar length tube graces my stainless Ruger Super Blackhawk single action. Eight inches is a good length for the caliber, performance wise: that's the size of another of my Contender barrels, and one of my most accurate long-range sixguns is an 8³/₈" Model 29 S&W. My Redhawk's barrel runs 7¹/₂" of stainless Ruger steel, and my superbly-handling new Super Redhawk has its muzzle 9¹/₂" from the cylinder face.

I've not neglected the snubbies. I've got a MagNaPort Custom Second Chance Commemorative Model 29 with a 2³/₄" custom Douglas barrel.



But I don't use any of those guns for anything serious. When I actually *carry* a .44 Magnum revolver, it's a four-inch double action. I own and use three such guns, all Smith & Wessons.

Here's why.

I use a .44 Magnum less as sporting equipment than as an all-purpose power tool, whose purpose encompasses both self-defense and the shooting of substantial animals as reasonable distance. Let's say you're going to Africa for a while. My long-nosed Super Redhawk, with its ability to withstand maximum handloads and its superb accuracy, would be my choice if hunting with a revolver was all I needed to use the gun for. But, in a sometimes troubled land, the sidearm does double duty as a personal protection weapon in the anti-personnel context.

In Rhodesia years ago, and in South Africa today, any citizen or approved visitor the Government says can have a pistol, can carry it concealed. A long barrelled .44 Magnum does not conceal under anything you can normally wear in public. A 4" N-frame *does*, if you pick your clothing and your gunleather carefully. This means that the gun is always with you and ready to protect you and yours when anything comes at you, including a situation in a street riot or a pub as well as something out on the veldt.

If the .44 Magnum is carried as an emergency rescue tool by someone who may be attacked by something larger and more powerful than a man, portability is a critical factor. The gun has to be comfortable and out of the way during normal tasks.

Consider two famous handgunners who chose the four-inch .44 Magnum as their daily working sidearm, and a third who didn't. Elmer Keith, generally accepted as the father or at least the godfather of the .44 Magnum cartridge, normally carried a 4" Model 29. It is not widely known that this was the gun with which he made his famous and controversial 600-yard kill of a mule deer. Those who read his books *Six-guns* and *Hell, I Was There* will recall that a heavy-caliber revolver saved Elmer's bacon more than once when he had to neutralize a psychotic horse or a raging beef critter during his cowboy days. The guns that kept Elmer around were 4 $\frac{5}{8}$ " Colt single actions, the most portable belt guns of their day; it is significant that Elmer retired them when the 4" .44 Magnum Smith and Wesson was introduced.

Ross Seyfried is perhaps Keith's logical heir as all-around handgun guru: still in his mid-thirties, he has been a working cowman, an active part-time cop, a professional hunter in Africa, and world champion of combat handgunning. He used an S&W .357 Combat Magnum as a cop because the regulations said he had to, and a Pachmayr custom Colt .45 auto in IPSC because no other gun could win in that fast-shooting environment. As a working cowboy, however, the gun he normally packed was a 4" Smith & Wesson Model 29 .44 Magnum, in a Sparks #1 AT holster behind

his right hip. He knew that working big livestock could put him in the situation of having to reach quickly for something that could instantly kill an animal that weighed up to 1,500 pounds and had suddenly turned on him. The 4" N-frame Smith & Wesson was his ticket: enough power for the job, in a package small enough to carry every minute of each working hour.

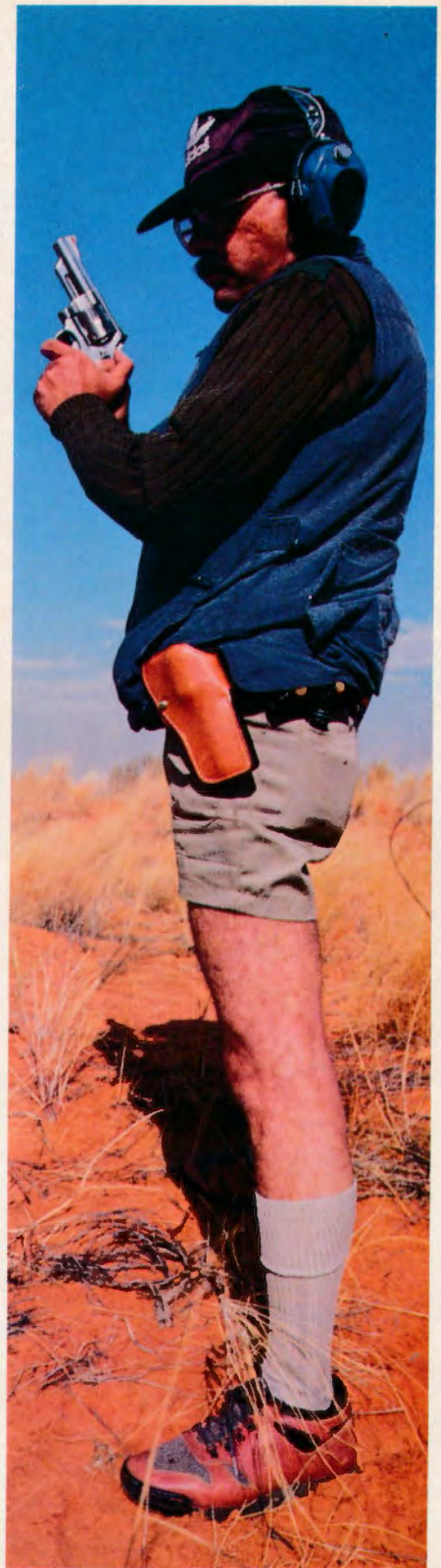
Frank James is one of the most promising new-generation gunwriters. He likes the .44 Magnum but prefers the .41. Last year, Frank was working on his farm when his hand got caught in a piece of farm machinery. His other hand reached instinctively for his 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Smith & Wesson .41 Magnum so he could blast the machine and shut it down before it ate him. His hand closed on empty air: the long-barrelled Smith had been left in its shoulder holster on his tractor because it was too bulky to wear all day. James lost part of his trigger finger. A 4" N-frame in .44 or .41 Magnum, which would have been small enough to carry in a Lawrence holster like Keith's,



Ayoob's Cannon Custom 4x.44 features a smoothed cylinder release button, polished and shaped trigger, over-travel stop, Millett rear sights and Hogue Combat Grips. Andy Cannon did the work himself.

a Sparks AT like Seyfried's, or a Sparks Summer Special like mine, might well have been there on his belt and accessible in time to keep him from suffering the worst injury that could happen to a gunwriter. But 6" and longer revolvers just aren't that comfortable to carry all day, every day, in shoulder or hip holsters.

The 4 x .44 has other advocates. Among America's 10 largest police departments, there are two—Detroit and Houston—that permit any caliber in a double action revolver, and you'll find a significant number of .44 Magnum users in both cities. The great majority favor the 4" Model 29. These include men like my friend Tommy Britt, president of the Houston Police



Ayoob on the fabled sands of the Kalahari Desert in Africa. The author packed a 4x.44 for the trip.

Patrolman's Union, and Evan Marshall of Detroit's Special Reaction Team. While Tommy still cleaves to his 29, Evan carried his only briefly before going back to his preferred .41, and later, switching to the high-capacity 9mm autoloader.

Nolan Santy, master custom pistolsmith, comments, "I always had the best luck with a 4" 29. Every one I owned seemed to

shoot better than the 6½" and 8¾" versions. I think the better balance had a lot to do with it."

My shooting buddy Bill Grimmett, a confirmed .44 Magnum aficionado, feels the same: "I've owned lots of long-barrelled .44s, but for me, the most accurate ones were always the four-inch Smiths and the Ruger single actions I had cut to 4½". I think the shorter sight radius for my corrected vision is what makes it so different for me."

Addison Clark of Kalispell, Montana shot his way to fame with an 8¾" MagNaPorted Model 29 that he used to capture the *Laramie Shoot for Loot* several times, and also Second Chance. On patrol as a Kalispell cop, though, the 29 he opted for was a four-inch.

One day he was attacked in a doorway

personnel handgun needs.

Remember, the only rationale for a gun like that in .44 Magnum is the fear of extremely large, mean mammals. A .45 auto bullet won't penetrate terribly far beyond the hide of a Cape Buffalo, and a .357 might or might not make him blink, but something like a JD Jones .44 Magnum handload with the penetrating SSK bullet has been known in actual experience to stiff *M'bogo* in his tracks.

Sure, my long-nosed 29 and Buntline-Slike Super Blackhawk print better groups at a hundred yards, and put out a bit more power. But they do me no good if they're not with me when I need them. Generations of police work have proven that the 4" revolver is the most comfortable for a constantly armed man who is fre-

I've taken my 4" Smith to the firing line and shot at hundred-yard deer targets against men with scoped rifles in the local turkey shoots. I've never won—what, 4" iron sight revolver against scoped rifle in capable hands?—But I can generally expect to finish toward the middle of the pack. The only time I tried that stunt and finished dead last, I'd switched from Magnum to .44 Special handloads without proper resighting and put every 180-grain Nosler slug in a nice group just under the deer target. Well, they would have been clean misses, at least.

But consider the Elmer Keith Deer. Keith got a lot of heat for reporting that he'd killed a mulie at 600 yards with his 29, which happened to be a four-incher. It had been wounded by a rifle-toting client he was guiding, so he was morally obliged to anchor it however he could, and only the handy 4" revolver was accessible. After firing a few shots to get the range, he snuffed it.

***No man who knows
Elmer Keith and has
seen him shoot would
stand six hundred yards
away and let Elmer
shoot at him with a four-
inch .44 Magnum!***



Occasionally, Ayooob competes on the running deer target with his 4x.44 against scoped rifles. He's never won a match but he usually tags the deer with fatal hits and beats a good number of his rifle toting competitors.

by a savage Alsatian. He cleared the short 29 and fired from the hip, with the dog's nose virtually at the muzzle. The blood that soaked his uniform was not his own: a Glaser .44 Magnum Safety Slug at contact distance had exploded the killer canine's brain. Could he have cleared a 6½" at that point? Would his trademark 8¾" gun have, that close, been blocked by the dog's body before he could bring the muzzle to bear? Neither of us know, but both of us are happy that he had a handy, powerful gun that he was skilled with.

The four-inch N-frame Smith has a mean, intimidating look to it. Hollywood has not missed that point. Four-inch Model 29s were the weapons used by Nick Nolte in *48 Hours*, Lee Marvin in *Point Blank*, Charles Bronson in *Telefon*, and the urban guerrilla terrorist in *Black Sunday*. But if one wants an intimidating gun, the same firm's .357 Highway Patrolman, or even better, a Model 25-2 in .45 ACP cut to four inches, has the same look. Better controllability, too, and all the power an anti-

quently seated in a vehicle, be he a cowboy running his pickup across the range or the African hunter driving between concessions in a Land Rover. I seldom get closer to a horse than driving my Ford Bronco, but Keith and Seyfried were horsemen when they chose 4 x .44s, and that says something about comfort in the saddle as well.

Determine *your* skill level with the given gun and work within it, that's all. I'm presently ranked Class A in IPSC and Master in police revolver, and I'm confident of putting every shot from my four-inch into a deer's thorax at fifty yards. Double the distance, and I'm just as confident with the longer barrelled .44, but will hold fire with the 4" unless the conditions are perfect.

This doesn't mean the gun can't or won't do it at the longer yardages. A quick run over the chronograph will show that you aren't losing *that* much between four and eight inches, and the difference ballistically between four and six inches is trivial compared to the difference between the two in ease of constant wear.

Many observers considered this to be impossible braggadocio. They did not consider that Keith had been experimenting with ultra-long range revolver shooting, aiming at rocks across huge canyons, before most of them had bitten their first teething ring. Keith knew just how much to elevate that front sight, and for him, the technique worked. As his friend Bill Jordan once told me, "A lotta folks razz Elmer an' say he couldn't have made that shot. Wal, I'll tell you this: Elmer Keith don't lie. If he says he made the shot, then he made it. It's just as hard for Elmer to believe that other people can't shoot as good as he does! And I'll tell you this: no man who knows Elmer and has seen him shoot, would stand six hundred yards away and let Elmer shoot at him with a 4" .44 Magnum!"

The best distance shot I ever made with a "four by forty-four" was born of expedience. We were on the edge of the Timbavati River in South Africa's Eastern Transvaal on photo safari, and our company's rations were in Mother Hubbard City. We were depressingly planning on a dinner of stringy mutton and "mealie-pop," the thick cornmeal gruel that is the Black African staple in the bush. I had just finished photographing giraffe when I spot-

ted a trio of impala, a young ram and a couple of ewes, up ahead.

The sound of our Isuzu Trooper spooked them, and they broke into the thick bush. There was a .30-06 in the car for protection (we were in lion country), but I knew I couldn't reach it in time.

I'd been carrying my Smith stainless 629 4" in a Milt Sparks #1 AT angled for crossdraw, my favorite field rig. Suddenly, the Pachmayr grips were in my hand as I rolled out of the stopped Trooper, taking a two-hand wedge hold.

The sleek male impala was ghosting through the bush at what seemed a bit over a hundred yards' distance. As I put the red front ramp on his shoulder, that part of him disappeared in the thicket. I saw the haunches coil to run, and there was only one way to take him clean if we were going to have fresh camp meat.

I raised the sight picture for a spine shot. There was not time to cock the gun. I rolled the trigger back double action. At the shot, the animal disappeared from my view.

"He's down!" yelled Bierke Roux, who was driving. He grabbed the .30-06 and I barked, "I went for a spine shot!" as we ran forward. The impala was down on his right side and had fallen in his tracks, but was still thrashing his head. As we sprinted up, I saw the bullet hole high behind the shoulders, blood bubbling through it from a lung shot, and had time to think, "Damn. Two inches low. Missed the spine." The ram raised his head and looked at me, consciousness still in his eyes despite the mortal wound, and I shot him again through the neck, ending his suffering instantly. It turned out that the #1 slug had hit the spine and pierced both lungs.

That night and again the next morning, we fed on fresh impala steak instead of the last, dried-up mutton. The range of the shot turned out to be 117 of my paces, 120 of Bierke's. I don't normally take a shot that long with a four-inch, but this particular gun was sighted for 100 yards with its stiff-loaded 320 grain SSK bullets and the day before, *American Handgunner* editor Cameron Hopkins had watched me verify the sight picture. The first two shots had gone into a four inch group, the next two into a *sub-one-inch* cluster. I was confident with this particular, unusually accurate revolver, or I would have passed the shot and gone to bed hungry.

As I forked down the grilled impala venison, I knew that any .44 Magnum longer than the one I'd been wearing would have been off my belt and out of reach when the shot presented itself. Now you see why portability is so important to me, and why the four-inch length is my choice in a .44 Magnum field revolver.

Collective hunting experience including my own tells me that while a properly loaded .357 Magnum is all you need for anti-personnel work, its momentum smack and penetration fall short of what's needed for the humane, guaranteed bag of anything bigger than "small game." The .41

Magnum is an excellent gun in its four-inch configuration; fellow gunwriter Clay Harvey dropped a pronghorn antelope with one at 100 yards from prone, and gun experts from Evan Marshall to Frank James consider it superior to the .44 Mag,



Ayoob faced dry, moldy mutton and gruel for supper, or kill an impala for the pot. He shot this young, tender ram at over 100 yards, double-action, with a 4x.44.

especially at longer range.

I won't argue about the .41 Magnum four-inch as a heavy-duty carry revolver. I own one. But the fact is, I haven't carried it in years. The reason is that the .44 Magnum, being much more popular, has much more available in the way of special pur-



The editor, left, points to a two-shot group of less than an inch at 100 yards fired by Ayoob from a 4x.44.

pose ammo. On that Africa trip, my .44 Magnum ammo supply included Speer snakeshot for when we were in black mamba country, Glaser Safety Slugs for massive close-range destruction with no

ricochets or exit wounds for when I was carrying concealed in the cities, and the aforementioned SSK 320 grain penetrative flat-nose handloads. None of those eminently useful special-purpose loads are available for the .41 Mag, and only one, the

Glaser, is made in .45 Long Colt.

Remember again the concept of the four inch barrel by .44 Magnum caliber; a heavy duty, multi-purpose *tool*. The gun is the hardware, the ammo the software. The .41 Mag or .45 Colt might be a tiny bit more user-friendly, but the .44 Magnum unquestionably has far more programs available.

Everybody tells you short barrels are disadvantaged because their lesser sight radius doesn't allow as precise an alignment as a Long Tom. That's true as far as it goes, but consider that in addition to clearing the holster quicker, the shorter revolver also lines its sights up more quickly between shots in rapid fire gunning. At the Second Chance bowling pin match, it is not uncommon to see an individual tally a better score in the 4" revolver match than in the Unlimited revolver event, where 6" to 10" barrels are the rule. In any speed shooting discipline where a fast 7 beats a slow 10 (gunfighting, to name one) the shorter gun's sights align more rapidly for followup hits.

I also find that the shorter barrel is superior for tracking a moving target. The longer the barrel, the harder it is to keep an iron-sighted handgun's sight picture in alignment while the weapon is moving.

One night in the badlands of the Kimberley mining district in South Africa, our host invited us to go out and shoot some rabbits. He needed pot meat for his work

Continued on page 74

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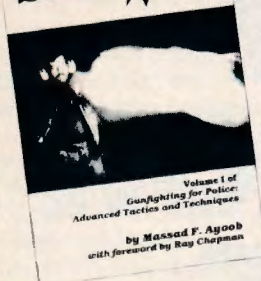
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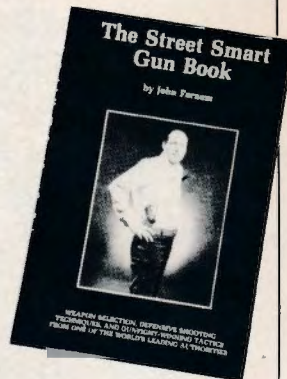
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THE AYOUB FILES

Continued from page 28

murder when he'd angered him two months before during the robbery at the other Burger King. This time, he had apparently decided he was not going to miss. As he raised the sawed off Savage at Johnson the manager had broken and run. "Get him," Stevenson had cried to his partner as he lunged after the terrified fleeing businessman.

But Stevenson had a surprise waiting for him.

As Stan Robinson comes through the doorway, he sees Robert Stevenson only eight feet away, by the milkshake machine. He sees the rifle. At the same time, Stevenson reacts to the sight of the protector's looming bulk, and brings up his sawed off rifle.

Robinson is one of the relatively few gunfight participants who does not experience tachypsychia, the sensation of things going into slow motion. Things are happening in real time for him. And, in that rapid real time, he sees the muzzle of the illegal rifle homing onto his midsection even as he brings up his own Smith & Wesson to fire.

But the gunman pulls the trigger first.

Stanton Robinson sees no smoke, hears no shot. But he does see the ugly lance of flame dart from the muzzle of the .22 rifle, pointing directly at his belly, and he feels a deep, burning pain knife through his abdomen left

of his navel, just above the beltline.

There is time for him to think, "Dammit, that (expletive deleted) shot me!" But now he is firing back. His first .44 Special round has boomed out of the Smith & Wesson less than a heartbeat after Stevenson fired the first shot.

Robinson is aware that he is falling backward. He consciously turns his body sideways, like the 90 degree stance used by the old-time bullseye shooters, in an effort to twist himself away from the line of fire. His left hand is flailing for balance as he goes down.

Yet he is still firing, one handed, the gun arm extended toward Stevenson as he shoots again and again, watching his enemy instead of the sights. He sees the scrawny rifleman topple backwards and fall flat on his back.

The stickup man turns in terror and runs for all he is worth, leaving the death scene behind him.

As suddenly as it has begun, the shootout is over. His ears ringing in the dying echoes of the gunfire, Robinson doesn't hear the running feet of LaRossa Mullins, the other stickup man. Survival instinct has tunneled his vision in so closely on Stevenson that he has not even seen the second thug.

But Mullins has seen him. The veteran armed robber delights in terrorizing helpless victims, but now he is horrified to his core at what he has seen: a huge good guy with a big handgun has just braved his partner's rifle fire and blown his accomplice to Kingdom Come. He has seen the good guy go down, *but he still has that humongous revolver in his hand!*

It is questionable whether suspect Mullins would have the courage to face even a wounded victim who was armed, with Mullins himself holding a real weapon. But with a replica gun in his hand, there's no question at all. The stickup man turns in terror and runs for all he is worth, leaving the death scene behind him.

Now only two men lie on the battleground, and only one will get up.

Stan Robinson has fallen onto his back. So has the robber Stevenson, most of whose body is sprawled out of sight behind the counter he'd jumped in his initial pursuit of his intended victim, the manager. Only his feet extend into Robinson's view, and they are motionless.

The pain in his abdomen is gone now. Robinson lunges to his feet. He believes he has emptied his .44, but something tells him not to lay the revolver down where it can be



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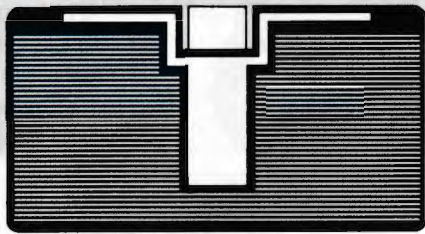
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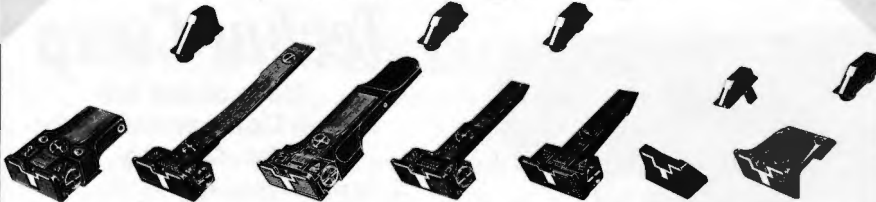
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picked up by someone else, and he knows it will take both hands to reinsert it in the shoulder holster. Instead, he keeps the big S&W clutched in his right fist as he reaches behind his left hip with his other hand and twists out his backup gun, the fully loaded .38 Chief. It is this he uses to cover the downed gunman as, cautiously, Stan comes up behind the counter.

*He keeps the big S&W
clutched in his right fist
as he reaches behind his
left hip and twists out his
backup gun.*

But the little revolver remains silent. Robert Stevenson lies motionless, unconscious. An occasional ragged breath heaves rattlingly inside his blood-splattered chest.

Robinson's concern now is his own wound. Still holding the snub .38 on the prostrate gunman, he is aware that the other employees realize the gun battle is over and are coming to his aid. He tells one of them, "Look and see if I'm bleeding," gesturing to where he'd felt the lancing pain in his belly as the robber fired.

The employee looks. There is no blood. No wound. Stanton Robinson has not been hit.

He shoves the two-inch .38 into a pocket,

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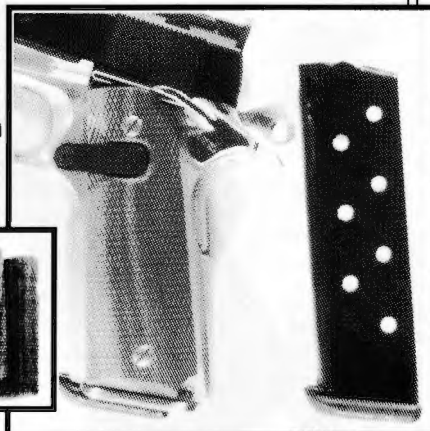
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and quickly, expertly, dumps the contents of the .44's cylinder and slaps in a fresh speed-loader of Silvertips. It is a movement that has become automatic with him from shooting in local combat leagues. At his feet are five spent .44 Special casings and a live Glaser Safety Slug. He has miscounted: the Model 24 was still "live" after all.

He reaches down and picks up the Savage

The man who had tried to kill him is dead.

rifle, pulling it away from the prostrate gunman. As he does so, he watches Stevenson take his last, gurgling breath.

The man who had tried to kill him is dead.

He holsters his gun, and then walks very calmly to the telephone to call the Cook County Sheriff's Office. When he hangs up he walks into the back room, fixes himself a cup of hot chocolate and a salad, and sits down to wait for the responding police officers.

The death of Robert Stevenson at the hands of Stanton Robinson was ruled a justifiable homicide by the Cook County State's Attorney's office, and did not even have to go before the grand jury. LaRossa Mullins was captured without bloodshed the following day and is now in prison for his crimes.

Analyzing the shootout itself, several interesting points emerge. Robinson appeared to witnesses to have been shot by Stevenson and to have been flung rearward onto his back by the impact of the gunman's bullet. Robinson himself was certain he had been shot and clearly recalls the burning pain that lanced through his belly as Stevenson fired. Yet he was not hit: the bullet, which was never recovered, had apparently barely missed him.

What accounted for the sensation of having been shot? Robinson had previously talked with several people who had been in shootings and was thoroughly familiar with the literature. A gun enthusiast and avid reader of gunfighting books and of firearms magazines, including this one, he was well aware that the insertion of hot lead into the body is generally accompanied by a deep burning sensation. Stevenson's rifle had appeared to be pointed directly at his abdomen. At the shot, his mind concluded that he would be hit, and automatically carried out the implanted suggestion of what it would feel like to be shot.

This phenomenon is far from unknown in gunfights, and with lesser men than Stanton Robinson, often has tragic results. Calibre Press in their book *Street Survival* document the case of a police officer who died after sustaining a superficial small-caliber gunshot wound of the arm. It is believed that the officer had been conditioned that when shot, one died, and that when he was hit, "His mind told his body that the only course of action was to lie down and die." Physicians and psychologists are equally aware of the phenomenon, which is known as "surrender death."

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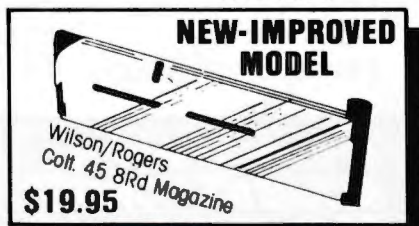
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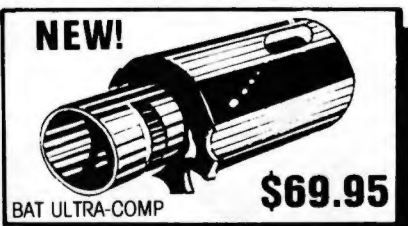
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Happily, Robinson had not programmed his mind to believe he would die if shot, nor was he conditioned to surrender and cringe and beg for mercy if he should take a bullet. He had thought about it, and the program he'd given himself was this: "If I am shot I will keep fighting; I will go down firing if I go down at all; and even if I think I am dying, I will take my murderer with me." There is no question in this reviewer's mind that it was this determined survival mind-set that allowed Robinson to return fire as he was falling, and kill his assailant before the cold-blooded gunman could shoot again, as he almost certainly would have.

If I am shot, I will keep fighting. I will go down firing if I go down at all. I will take my murderer with me.

Why did Robinson go down at all? Professionals believe that much if not all of the "knockdown power" witnesses testify to in gunfights is a function of "body alarm reaction." When the body is suddenly and severely threatened, survival instinct tells it to throw itself out of harm's way. Gunfight participant and researcher Richard Davis of the Second Chance body armor firm, who has himself been wounded twice, likens the phenomenon to the man who touches a hot stove and is observed to be flung backward as if by an electrical bolt. The hot stove exerts no impact; rather, the body violently and convulsively throws itself away from the pain and the danger in a paroxysm of survival reflex. The same had been noted in gunfights, where people appeared to be blown off their feet by gunshots that never came close to them, prior to the Robinson incident. It will happen again.

Mental preparedness is the single most decisive component of gunfight survival.

What distinguishes the Robinson case is the defender's ability to hew to his own mental program, to return fire and survive even if he believed he was hit. He is living proof that mental preparedness is probably the single most decisive component of gunfight survival.

Robinson fired five shots, striking the suspect twice. His remaining bullets self-destructed harmlessly on the milkshake machine behind the suspect. A veteran match combat shooter, none of his shooting experience had prepared him to fire one-handed while falling backward. He feels that if he had been able to watch the sights he might have been able to fire more accurately even under the circumstances.

Many writers have speculated that the

Glaser Safety Slug might be a poor choice for defense and have suggested that it has little or no track record. This is 180° from the truth. This writer is aware of several Glaser shootings in calibers from .380 to .45, and has found the bullet to do everything in living tissue that its makers advertise.

The Robinson case was no exception.

The Glaser is a light projectile loaded at high velocity. The slug consists of a copper jacket filled with tiny #12 shot. The bullet enters the body and, at a depth of 1.0 to 1.5 inches, breaks up and disperses its shot charge inside the organism in a widening swath at residual velocity.

One of Robinson's .44 Special Glasers struck Stevenson in a finger, mangling it and leaving traces of birdshot behind. Given the location of the wound, no handgun bullet would have done any more. This was what medical examiners call an *adynamic wound*, that is, a wound that does not contribute to cause of death or to cessation of violent action.

The dynamic wound was the Safety Slug that struck Stevenson just over the left nipple, punching through the "Black P-Stone Nation" tattoo on his chest. One of the most feared organized street gangs in Chicago, Black P-Stone Nation was formerly known as the

After punching through the chest wall, the Glaser Safety Slug had done its thing, shredding the left lung and tearing into the heart like a lead whirlwind.

Blackstone Rangers and has since changed its name to El Rukn. The corpse also exhibited numerous needle tracks which confirmed Stevenson's history as a heroin addict.

After punching through the chest wall, the Safety Slug had done its thing, shredding the left lung and tearing into the heart like a lead whirlwind, completely destroying the left ventricle. The massive and devastating destruction of the cardiac complex had resulted in instant loss of consciousness and collapse, followed in seconds by clinical death. He could not have been saved. It was a classic "one-shot stop," a result that tends to be the rule rather than the exception in this writer's experience with the Safety Slug when delivered to the chest. No part of the bullet exited the thoracic cavity.

Robinson suffered no significant Post Shooting Trauma. I suspect this is largely because PST is less a function of having killed in self-defense, than a function of one's reaction to society's reaction to their having killed in self-defense. Stan Robinson was not abused by the sheriff's office, the state's attorney's office, or any part of the criminal justice system, or even the media. The less society makes you feel like a criminal for protecting yourself, the less you'll suffer post

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traumatic stress symptoms.

Still, less than satisfied with his performance, Robinson embarked on a training program soon after the shooting, and was soon attending courses from John Farnam, Chapman Academy, and Lethal Force Institute. Troubled by the strange phenomenon of the phantom gunshot wound, he was reassured to learn that it was not a unique occurrence. He continued to shoot in competition, and in fact fired a combat match the day after the shooting. (Advisors have mixed feelings about this. Some believe that it's healthy, a case of "getting back on the horse that threw you," and it certainly was healthy and therapeutic for Stan. On the other hand, in another Illinois case an officer who entered a pistol tournament the day after a justified fatal shooting found it thrown in his face by critics as evidence of a "Dirty Harry Complex.")

Tactically, could it have been handled better? Only with the 20/20 hindsight of those who weren't there facing the danger. Certainly, Robinson could have ensconced himself on the safe side of the swinging doors behind cover, and waited for the robber to follow the manager into an easy fire lane. But to do so would have been to leave customers

This the land of Morton Grove! Citizens here can't get to carry concealed weapons!

and employees outside at the mercy of a gunman who, within seconds, would prove himself to be homicidal. Robinson's action in emerging to engage the would-be killer may well have saved the lives of multiple workers and patrons.

Illinois readers are by now doubtlessly saying, "Wait a minute! This is the land of Morton Grove! Citizens here can't even get permits to carry concealed weapons! And you say this guy skated on this shooting?"

The fact is that while Stanton Robinson was acting as a civilian on the night of the shooting, in a part time security job for Burger King, his full time job was as a deputy of the Cook County Sheriff's Office with seven years standing. (His duty gun, as a point of interest, is a Smith & Wesson Model 27 with 5" barrel loaded with 125 grain .357 Magnum hollowpoint ammo.) Cook County officers, like all fully sworn police personnel in Illinois, are legal to carry concealed weapons 24 hours a day.

At the same time, he was not a law enforcement officer in the performance of his duties when he fired; he was an employee of Burger King defending himself and others with a concealed handgun that happened to be legal. The fact is that an off-duty police shooting, in virtually all of its dynamics, relates exactly to an armed citizen shooting; situationally, the off-duty cop is just another Joe who happens to have a badge where his gun permit should be. Only his greater

exposure to professional training and to street experience give him any advantage over the ordinary armed citizen.

It is significant that in one recent year, Chicago recorded 15 justifiable homicides of criminals by police, and 48 by private citizens: a more than 3 to 1 ratio. This, in a city where no provision exists under state law to issue concealed carry permits to citizens. One wonders what would happen if a permit law like the one recently passed in Florida were to make it through the Illinois legislature.

***Gun control is really
'Negro control' since
blacks in the inner city
are the first to be shorn of
their right to self-defense.***

Morton Grove, a suburb of Chicago, has become infamous for its treatment of handgun-armed citizens. Another suburb, Skokie, has been wracked by American Nazi demonstrations that express genocidal intent against Jews and blacks. From CORE director Roy Innes to liberal pro-gun spokesman Don Kates, realists observe that gun control is often really "Negro control," since socio-economically deprived blacks in the inner city are among the first to be shorn of their right to self-defense under stringent anti-gun laws. It is significant that this gun battle, taking place in a crime-ridden inner city neighborhood, had an all-black cast. Both perpetrators, manager Johnson, and almost all the innocent victims present including Stanton Robinson, were black.

Much of the violent crime in high-risk ghetto areas like this one of Chicago's Area 3 is committed by blacks, *against blacks*. The presence of a legal weapon in this case allowed many good black people to survive the savage onslaught of two vicious criminals. It is in neighborhoods like Englewood, Stanton Robinson's experience shows, where the right of decent people to keep and bear arms is perhaps more needed than anywhere else in America.

ON THE DRAW



Where's the trigger?

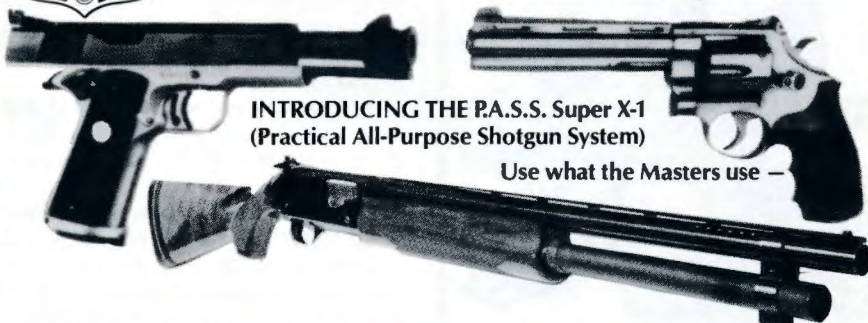


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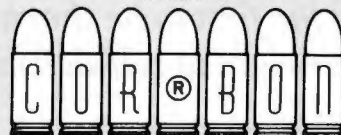
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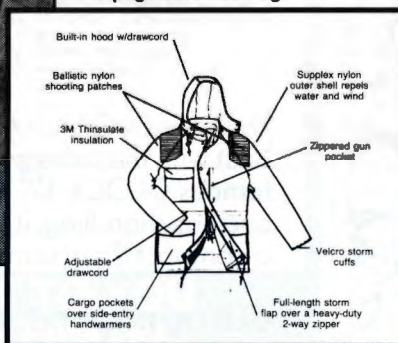
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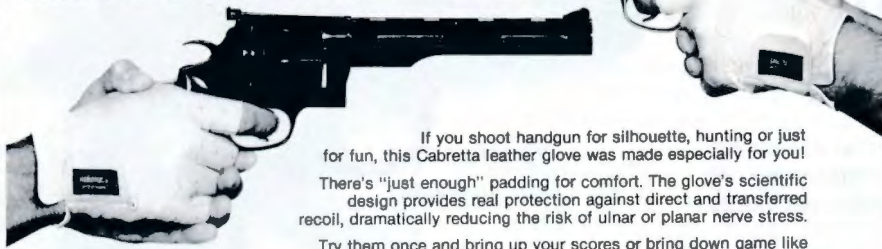
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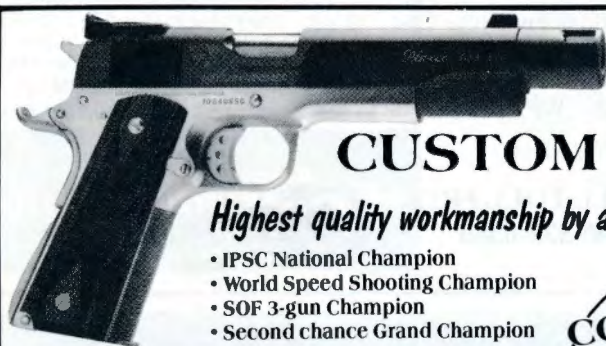
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Continued from page 62

crew, and besides, an overabundant hare population was doing a number on his gardens. While night shooting with spotlights from vehicles is prohibited by South African law for sport hunting, it is permitted for pest control.

My best shot that night was a bunny that was running south about 45 yards from me while we were driving north. A single round of the excellent Black Hills 240 grain JHP ammo from my 4" 629 neatly bisected him in mid bunny-hop. The observers were shocked, saying things like "A shot like that can't be made with a four-inch revolver and regular sights!" I'm not sure they believed me when I told them that the four-inch barrel made it *easier*, and that I probably couldn't have done it with the 8³/₈" version I'd left at home.

A single round of 240 grain JHP neatly bisected him in mid-bunny-hop. A shot like that can't be made with a four-inch revolver!

I have three of the guns I call "four by forty-fours." The first was a stock, blue Model 29, now highly customized. Gunsmith Russ Jefferson fitted a cylinder assembly that would take the .44 JAG, the "Jefferson/Ayoob/Grimmett" wildcat that approaches .44 AutoMag ballistics while allowing full moon clip reloading for speed combat revolver matches. Russ also glass bead-blasted the finish smooth and non-reflective, and fitted a high, undercut Patridge front sight.

S&W-trained armorer Rick Devold slicked up the gun with an ultra-short action and converted it to double action only. A regular .44 Magnum cylinder assembly is on standby for interchange. This is the gun I use in the only competitions I enter where a .44 Magnum gives an advantage.

Andy Cannon built a fine, late-model 629 for me with his super deluxe action hone. The front sight has been built up, all the sharp edges have been taken off, and the butt has been altered to the configuration of a Smith K-frame round butt. At the moment it wears the strikingly handsome "camo lamo" grips by Guy Hogue. Because of the grip-shape rework, it's the easiest of my 4 x .44's to carry concealed, and it also has the best action.

My workhorse is another 4" 629, factory-stock except for the Pachmayr grips. The DA pull is not nearly as nice as the

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Devoid gun or the Cannon, and the Cannon has a whisper better SA pull as well. But this heavy-duty revolver is one of those "1 of 1,000" guns, the specimen that leaves the factory set-up just perfect. This is the one I shot the "impossible" group with at a hundred yards. Early production in the 629 series, probably '79 or '80, it has the nice old-style pinned barrel and recessed chambers. This battle-scarred revolver "takes a lickin' and keeps on tickin'." While three of my other S&W .44 Magnums in the present battery have had to be re-timed after any serious degree of constant shooting with heavy loads, this one has not yet gone out of alignment. I turned down an offer of four times its US retail value for it in South Africa. This one is a keeper.

As a rule, though, the Smith .44 Magnums don't stand up as well as that to constant heavy-load pounding. I have the good fortune to have an S&W armorer on staff at the training school I run, Lethal Force Institute. If I had to live someplace where top-rate gunsmithing services weren't available and the .44 Magnum was being fired constantly, I'd go to a Ruger or a Dan Wesson. Unfortunately, both the Redhawk and the DW .44 are markedly bigger than the N-frame Smith, and cross over the ragged edge of portability into the "unconcealable cannon" class of handgun. Hence, my reluctant adoption of the 4" N-frame S&W.

Will the new S&W .44 with L-frame-configuration barrel and unfluted cylinder be tougher? Frankly, I doubt it. Where the Smith weakens under the jackhammer recoil is neither the cylinder nor the barrel; rather, the frame starts to stretch and the hand/pawl/ratchet contacts get battered out of alignment, and the bolt starts missing the bolt cuts. *The heavier, unfluted cylinder of the new gun, in my opinion, will accelerate that type of wear rather than reduce it.*

***Will the new S&W .44
with L-frame
configuration and
unfluted cylinder be
tougher? Frankly,
I doubt it.***

As the owner of five S&W .44 Mags at the moment, four on steady diets of heavy Mag ammo, I find it's like being the driver of a '52 MG/TD sports car: it's a great machine to operate, but it's a good idea to have a mechanic in the front seat with you to keep it up and running, and it's wise to plan on frequent downtime. Now you know why I have three of these 4" N-frame guns when I should only need one! Two are in the shop for rebuild from "road wear," even as I write this.

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For shooting or hunting, the four-inch Smith & Wesson .44 Magnum would be far down on my list of choices, as it would be for pure defensive shooting. But when the three requirements mix, the thinking man realizes that versatility and compromise are two sides of the same coin. When portability and controllability must blend with a need for maximum raw power in a sidearm, a Model 29 or 629 with four-inch barrel, properly loaded and kept in peak operating condition, may well be the compromise you are looking for.

DRY FIRE SAFELY

Continued from page 34

see fit: but above all, be consistent. Don't do a marathon, once-a-month dry-firing bout and expect it to suffice for the time of neglect in between. Shooting a handgun is decidedly not like riding a bicycle, and you have to stay with it to get good and remain good.

Objections have been voiced, and with some good cause, that dry-firing practice subjects a weapon to extra wear, and therefore should be kept to a minimum. To this objection I reply: a modern handgun made by a reputable firm is designed to be a durable shooting tool. Reasonable practice, live and "dry," won't cause it to wear out prematurely. Guns need normal maintenance anyhow; and if you'd hesitate to ride on bald tires in the winter, you should grin and bear the small

burden of necessary upkeep on your handgun.

In reality, regular handling of your pistol or revolver will tell you what state of repair it's in—and this can be vital. A street cop once loaned me his off-duty piece, a snubnose .38 to which a hammer-shroud had been fitted, sometime in the dim past. When I got home with the gun, I unloaded it for inspection

Guns need normal maintenance and if you'd hesitate to ride on bald tires in the winter, you should grin and bear the necessary upkeep on your handgun.

before sallying forth to use it at a PPC range. With the gun empty, I double-actioned it—and found, to my chagrin, that the hammer came to approximately full-cock, but would not descend! Needless to say, the shroud's "fit" had to be adjusted before this gun could be used for anything, let alone the possible salvation of a cop's or a citizen's life.

If you're really serious about handgunning, you can also use dry-firing time to check out your other gear—speedloaders, holsters and their safety-snaps—the whole nine yards.

I assume that most people who read this have learned a basic discipline with their gun(s) and know how to dry-fire. They will be able to keep track of their breath, their squeeze, their sight-picture, and eventually coordinate these with the happy result of more hits on-target when it comes to putting live ammo back in the gun, and stepping up to the firing line.

If you go about it right, this will take from months to years—it will be a continuing, upgrading discipline as you go through life and develop as a shooter.

And, sooner or later, you are going to have an accidental discharge (AD).

Let me repeat that: if you stay with shooting and gun-handling long enough, whether as pistolero, pistolsmith or policeman, you are going to fire a round—maybe more than one—accidentally. Something is going to happen: you're going to mix dummy ammo up with live fodder; a family emergency is going to distract you; or any number of other factors will conspire to cause it. But someday, a handgun in your hand is going to go BANG instead of CLICK.

The trick is not to destroy anything very valuable—especially human life—when this happens. My second (and hopefully last) AD occurred *after* a dry-firing session, when I had loaded the .45 auto and put it back in my desk drawer. I watched a little TV, took a phone call. Then I absently picked up the gun from the still-open drawer, cocked the hammer back, and slowly, deliberately, took aim at the charming scene on the label of a bottle of champagne that had been made into a

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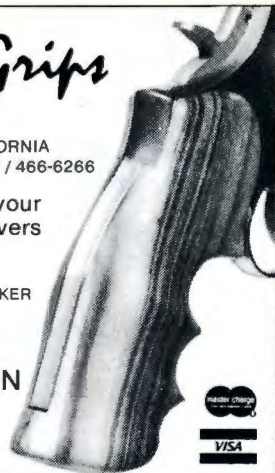
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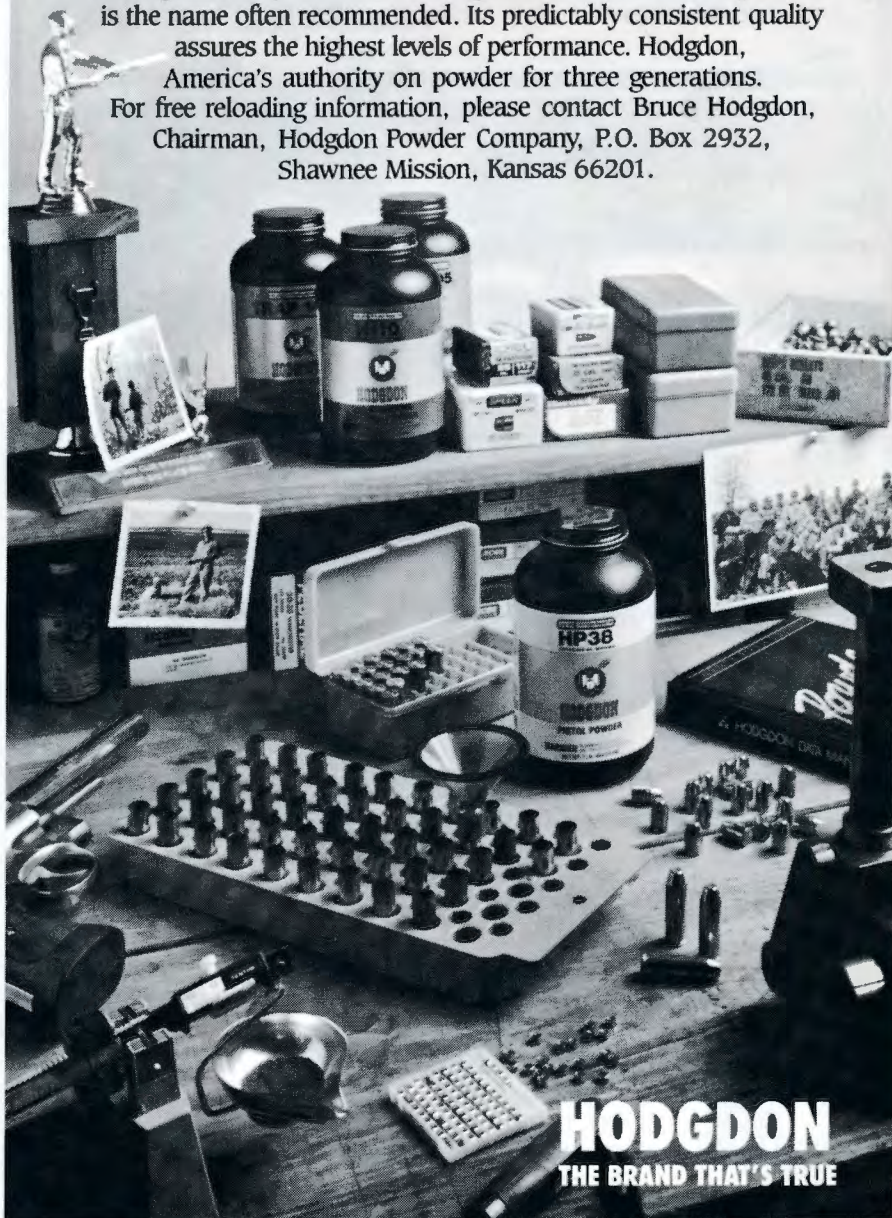
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table-lamp. One and a half seconds later, the shards of glass had mercifully missed my wondering eyes and the 185 grain Remington hollowpoint lay nestled in my den wall.

Luckily my den wall is also the ceiling of my house, and beyond it lies a hillside of solid rock. Had the slug penetrated the roof it would have done no further harm. But what if, at the moment of discharge, I had been permitting the gun's muzzle to cross the body of the family cat? What if I'd been aiming

***Someday a handgun in
your hand is going to go
BANG instead of CLICK.
The trick is not to destroy
anything valuable—
especially human life—
when this happens.***

downwards, into the house, where a woman and two children also dwelled? The one thing I had going for me was an almost iron-bound sense of "safe direction." Normally, we teach that a safe direction is down or up—not on the horizontal plane. The basic firearms courses, however, cover "normal" uses of guns, which means outdoors use.

Dry-firing is an exception to these basics in that sense, and so one should be extra-sure of what one is doing at all times when practicing indoors. Why people belittle the basics anyhow, is beyond my comprehension. The key to developing and maintaining safe handgun practices is to never forget that a gun can only be pointed at something you are ready and willing to destroy. If that something should happen to be screened from you by a floor or wall, it doesn't excuse your destroy-ing it unnecessarily.

Let me not hesitate to throw mud at myself. The last AD I had was due to a violation of a simple rule of common sense. I did not *call a definite halt to the dry-firing session, and put my guns away.* You should always do this. When a session starts, it starts; when it's over, it's over. If you feel like doing something more with your guns that day, try cleaning them, or loading a few hundred rounds, or something. Don't go back into a dry-firing mode with the damn-it-I'm-going-to-beat-this-thing attitude. That's a recipe for failure—or disaster.

To sum up, now: there is no way to avoid forever a shooting incident. There are freak accidents, and one might happen to you. If you have an AD that does not result in significant property damage or personal injury, the first thing you should do (after calming down the witnesses) is *analyze it.* Don't have a stiff drink; sit down and *think.* Did you go into the session and then get interrupted? Did you let your mind wander to your girlfriend, your boss, your bills? Did you forget to segregate and label all your dummy ammunition?

Continued on page 80



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Duds Ammo and Supply announces their new line of dummy ammo for dry-firing and other safe gun handling practice routines.

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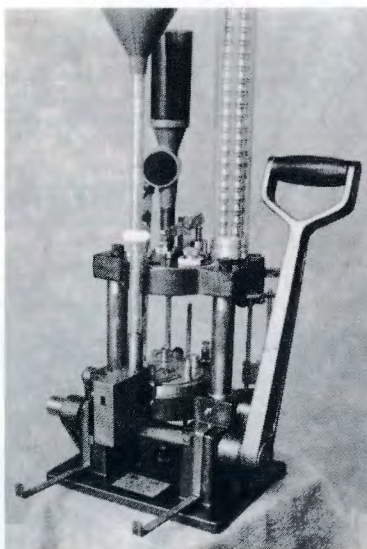
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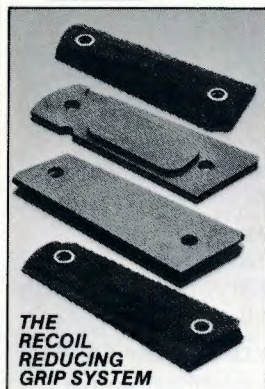
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Continued from page 78

By all means dry-fire, it's good for your shooting skills. But please dry-fire carefully and always, always, always in a safe direction. An AD is in your future if you dry-fire enough, so be prepared by aiming in a safe direction. Which reminds me of the classic old story about Jeff Cooper's AD.

The story goes like this: one day Jeff was dry-firing and had an AD in which he blew apart his gas meter. He had been standing on his back porch and dry-firing at the gas meter. Someone later asked Jeff why he shot his gas meter. His reply? "Because that is what I was aiming at."



XP-100

Continued from page 46

this worth its \$800 price tag. Just in case I've lost you somewhere along the way as a potential XP-100 buyer, you now have a choice of the following models:

Zytel Stock

XP-100 Varmint Special— .223 Remington
XP-100 Silhouette— 7mmBR, .35

Remington

English Walnut Stock

XP-100 Custom— 7mm-08, .35 Remington
XP-100 Heavy Barrel— .223

Remington

With an affinity towards the .35 Remington for future hunting needs, I placed an order through the Custom Shop for an XP-100 in this caliber. My XP came with a stock of medium color, profiled from knot-free English walnut expertly inlaid by the craftsmen at the Ilion, New York based Custom Shop. On one particular occasion while I was up at the Remington museum doing some research, I stopped by to see head honcho and good friend Tom McCormack and the boys for some photos and insights on the making of one each XP-100 custom.

There I watched Bill Keeler take a rough blank, whittle it down—both inside and out—to a near perfect XP-100 stock before the final semi-gloss finish was applied. The host action was in and out of the stock for critical fitness in all areas with the barreled action, then, as a finishing touch, was signed in the barrel channel by the artisan.

Overall stock design has been well thought out to provide the best of both worlds to all concerned. It's modern, yet not gaudy like some of the speckle-painted or pin stripped ultra-custom jobs. The finger grooves provide a good support even in the off-hand position with the semi-wide forend showing benefits if one decides to rest the gun (as it should be) before the shot. Scoped and stocked in this manner puts her right on the scales at about five pounds even; just where I want it when taming the meanness of cartridges like the 7mm-08 or .35 Remington.

Because of the very serious nature of potential recoil problems raising hell with both scope and mounts, careful attention

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was given to all phases during installation. Mounts were picked with care and in the final analysis the Redfield XP-100 3-ring mounting system was chosen. Consisting of two dovetail rings and a windage ring set, the complete system (#52002) is now available at your dealers. Like the mounting system, a Redfield Magnum Pistol Scope in 4-power was picked to complete this particular sighting package.

Installing the rings, mounts and scope commenced after the entire receiver was degreased in a cleaning solution to get rid of all factory cutting oil. Before immersing the receiver into the cleaner, receiver screws were removed to allow the solution to penetrate the tapped holes thus clearing out the threads. After the mounting screws were tightened home, the bolt was tried, making sure it cleared the bottom of these screws, then reinstalled with a bit of Loc-tite for security.

Taking the gun apart for cleaning or maintenance is accomplished by the removal of two screws. One is accessed through the bottom of the stock just rearward of the trigger guard, the other via the

You may find it next to impossible to get the gun back together without some fancy footwork with a few offset screwdrivers.

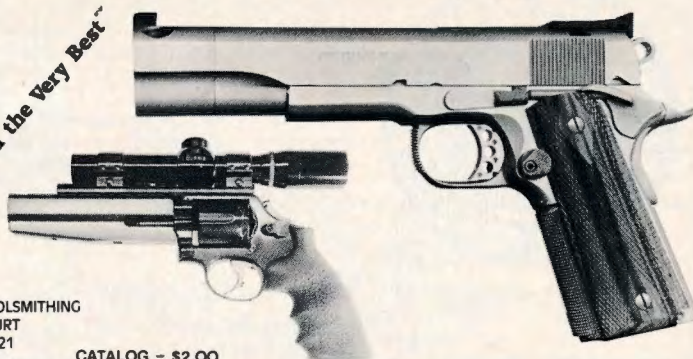
top of the receiver, behind the receiver bridge. On the latter, one should remember that if you decide to mount a scope, you do it *after* the gun is back together and not while the action is out of the stock especially with a 3-ring mount like the Redfield. As this type of mount does have a twin dovetail system of securing a scope, you may find it next to impossible to get the gun back together again without removing the scope or doing some fancy footwork with a few offset screwdrivers.

Working up handloads in any gun is always enjoyable, but especially in older cartridges given new life in modern or different firearms. Introduced in 1908 by Remington Arms, the .35 Remington is starting to see a turnaround in overall usage especially in shorter barreled weapons such as the XP-100. Originally chambered for quite an assortment of rifles, the .35 Remington is always on good terms with Eastern hunters in thick brush when the opponent becomes the deer or black bear. With good variety of bullets available, decent striking power all combined with excellent brush bucking abilities, the .35 Remington is still a fine choice for the deep woods sportsmen.

Brief specs on the case itself finds that while it is not as strong as, say, some of our higher powered entries, nevertheless that in all probability makes it so inviting to handgun users. It can handle pressures in

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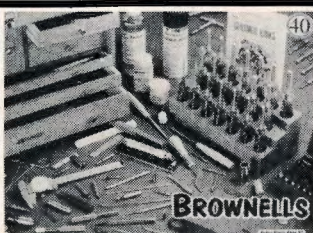
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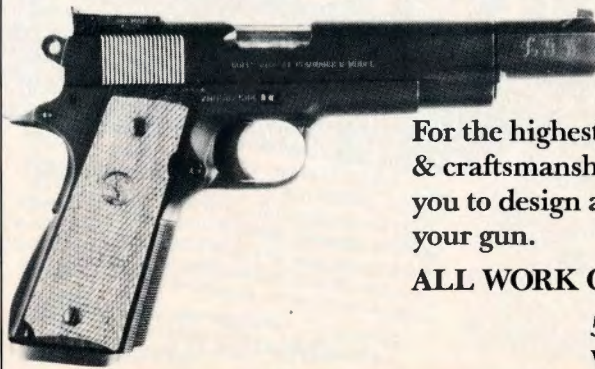


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the moderate 35,000 cup range, which is just about right for short barreled guns using charges of fast burning powders. Case length is 1.920 inches, but for practical purposes trim them back to 1.910 to allow for stretching. Because of the .35's almost non-existent shoulder area (as compared with a 30/06, for example) initial sizing should commence with a slightly less than full-size-only thereby letting the individual gun's chamber fire-form the case. After this is done with moderate loadings, smoke the neck-shoulder area with a candle, sizing the case in a reputable die set until the shoulder is just "kissed" by the die. This will then keep the case in a good relationship within headspace tolerances for a good case life.

After resizing the second time, serious loading began. For bullets, I chose the Sierra 200 grain roundnose, a trusted companion in many hunts and range test outings in both the XP and numerous other single shot pistols. Powders were also chosen by experience—here the nod went to IMR-4198 and Hodgdon H-322.



Granted, IMR-4198 does not give the highest velocities in its class compared to, say, Norma N200, but it is readily available in all sporting goods stores at reasonable price levels and is very accurate in shorter handgun "rifle" barrels. All cases checked for length, they were the primed with Federal's hot little #215 primers.

Overall length with bullet was then set for 2.500 inches and the powder started to flow. Going by the Sierra book, the IMR-4198 was loaded from 27.8 (1800 fps) to 31.0 (2000 fps) in .8 grain increments. The Hodgdon H-322 then took up the slack at 39.0 (2000 fps) to 43.0 (2200 fps) in 1.0 grain advances. It would be interesting to see how the book matched to my gun and loading techniques. Because of circumstances beyond my control, all groups were fired at the 50 yard marker, but looking closely at the figures doesn't take much to figure out this gun's potential at longer ranging targets. Remember, please, reduce starting charges by at least one full grain when fire-forming cases.

While I don't have the space to go into complete details relative to particular qualities of the .35 Remington, I think you can well see this round is no sleeper. I did manage to get up to almost 2350 fps with



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Hodgdon's H-355 without any punishment on my person, with a 1.25 inch group to boot. This translates to just about a 2.50 inch shot group at 100 yards, or 5.00 inches or less at 200 yards. Trajectory, figured at a 100 yard zero would see this bullet drop -2.29 inches at 150, just a hair over 7 inches at 200. Mighty fine performance from a handgun, and all without any undue pressure signs on any fired cases.

With all the fanfare going on about the XP's 25th anniversary with Remington, what's ahead for this novel pistol? While I don't have a crystal ball, my feeling is that the field is still wide open for this particular rig. A new fiber stock similar in design to the wooden Custom Shop version. Maybe. I certainly hope so. Happy Birthday, XP. And thanks Remington. We all appreciate the effort.

We have learned that Remington is considering a .22LR version of the XP for the rimfire silhouette matches. This might be the birthday present the author is hoping for! Editor.

TAURUS HANDGUNS

Continued from page 38

inch model weighs 35 oz. and is one inch longer while the six-inch version weighs 38½ oz. and has an overall length of 11½ inches. It has a ramped front sight while the rear is fully adjustable for both elevation and windage while stocks are of the large target type that encase the front of the grip strap.

Removal of the sideplate also revealed an internal mechanism that is very much like a K-frame Smith. The main differences are that the Model 66, like the Model 85, uses a separate rebounding firing pin mounted in the frame, although it does not have a transfer bar. In addition, its sideplate is much simpler than that of a Smith. The test Model 66 exhibited the same high quality fit and finish of the Model 65.

The actions of both revolvers were very good. The single action pull of the small Model 85, which broke at around 3½ lbs, was very good except for some slight evidence of creep. Its 10½ lbs double action pull was nice and smooth with just a slight hitch right at the end of the stroke. The larger Model 66 had an almost identical trigger. Single action broke just on 4 lbs and also had a very slight creep. Double action was excellent, being completely smooth throughout the pull, which was also around 10½ lbs. I did, however, find that, when returning the cylinder into the frame after loading and unloading, the front locking bolt plunger did not always engage the hole in the front of the ejector rod. A closer examination indicated some roughness around the edges of the hole in the ejector rod and, after I cleaned this up with stone, the bolt plunger slipped into place every time.

On the range both revolvers proved to be good shooters. In the accuracy department, the Model 66 turned in some tight groups



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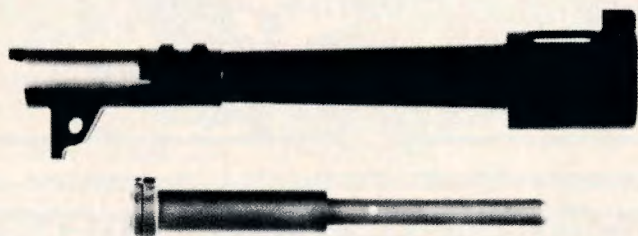
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with a variety of factory Federal, Winchester, Remington, PMC and Norma .38 and .357 ammunition. Shooting was done from an improvised bench rest at a range of 25 yards and groups with both magnum and .38 loads averaged between 2½ to 3 inches. Best groups of just over two-inches were obtained with Remington 158 lead JHP +P .38 Special and Norma FMJ semi-wad-cutter .357 Magnum ammunition.

Thanks to its smooth trigger, the Model 66 also performed well when shot in the double action mode. The gun pointed well and was easy to control with .38s. Recoil was more evident when magnums were shot, but the gun was still controllable. It was also extremely reliable, digesting all ammunition without any problems.

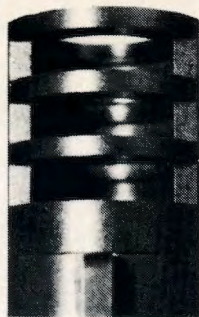
The smaller Taurus gave a good performance as well. Using the same brands of factory .38 Special, my single action groups at 18 yards averaged around 3 to 3½ inches. The gun was comfortable to shoot, thanks to the large grips, exhibiting relatively little recoil. At the closer ranges the gun was easy to control when fast double action strings were fired. Like many small-frame short barrel revolvers, the Model 85 tends to point a little high when shot instinctively. The revolver performed flawlessly with all the ammunition except Norma. With this ammunition, the odd misfire did occur. I should mention that I have experienced similar problems with the same Norma loads in my Python.

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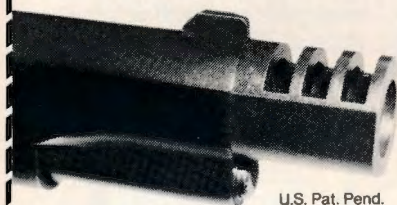
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If the test revolvers did anything, they convinced me that the present Taurus revolvers are a far cry from those I handled in 1978. They are based on a proven design and are extremely well finished. They are also accurate, reliable and very pleasant to shoot. The only question that I was not able to evaluate was how they will stand up to a lot of shooting. I was only able to put several hundred rounds through both guns and, while there was no indication of either loosening up, this is not enough to test of their durability and strength.

Still, they seem to be rugged enough and, best of all, they are relatively inexpensive. The suggested retail prices for the Model 66 and 85 are \$229 and \$248 respectively. If you want a well made revolver but have a limited budget, those prices are hard to beat. Further information can be obtained by writing to Taurus International, Dept. AH, 4563 S.W. 71 Ave., Miami, FL, 33155.



DILLON 1050

Continued from page 43

Station 6 is an inspection station. Nothing happens at this station, which is to allow the operator to remove the case to weigh charge when adjusting the powder measure.

Station 7 is for bullet insertion and seating, using a seating die borrowed from the Square Deal.

Crimping takes place at Station 8. Dillon dies sets have a taper crimping die for auto pistol cartridges, and a roll crimping die for revolver cartridges. The new Dillon Rifle Die Sets have a double-duty taper crimping die which is designed to double as a neck-sizing die for those who prefer it.

The shell plate, similar to that on the RL-1000, is self-indexing. Locator buttons, as in the RL-550 and the Square Deal, hold the cases in place at each station. Unlike the Spring clamps of the Model 1000, these small buttons can become easily lost. When calibrating the powder measure it's necessary to remove the button at Station 6 to remove the case. Likewise, to remove a case at any station in case of a jam, the operator must first lift out the button. It's easy to fumble and drop the smaller size buttons.

Unlike some presses that hang over the front of the bench, the RL-1050, like the more costly Model 1000, stands completely on the bench. Mounting requires drilling four holes for the mounting bolts, as with other Dillon designs. One drawback is that the operator must work the press standing up, unless he has a high stool, because of the location and the angle of the operating lever.

Changing calibers is quick. The tool head has seven hex bolts, a Delrin friction ring, and drop-in dies. The shell plate comes off by removing one large knurled nut. Adjusting the press for the new caliber

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is simplified because of the drop-in dies. The operator needs to adjust only the powder measure, bullet seating punch, and bullet crimp die. The Delrin friction ring eliminates the need for locking nuts. "The removable tool head plate holds the adjustments of the dies and allows a true 'drop-in' conversion," says Jensen.

*Buying an expensive,
high-tech machine and
using a 15-year-old die set
is truly false economy.*

A drawback is that changing calibers in the RL-1050 costs about \$120. This cost covers the entire deluxe conversion kit, including a powder measure, tool head plate, dies, and the shell plate. Changing calibers is also more intricate than it is with either the Square Deal or the 550, because of the greater number of bolts to remove to change tool head plate, and the eight locator buttons.

The 1050 owner who wants to change calibers is forced to buy Dillon dies, because the tool head plate is not threaded to accept standard dies. This denies the reloader his choice of die brand, but according to Mike Dillon, this is a purposeful design feature.

"In the past, many calls for service were the result of using die sets in poor condition with our presses. Making our dies non-standard gives us control over the dies used with our press, and also benefits the customers because a set of our dies costs less than those sold by most competitors. Our clients are assured of getting uniformly high-quality dies."

This viewpoint is logical, because ammunition that comes from a press can be no better than the dies used to process the cartridges. An insufficient radius on the mouth of the sizing die, for example, can cause case crumpling. All Dillon die sets come with separate seating and crimping dies, which eliminates problems, such as bullet shaving.

"Buying an expensive, high-tech machine and using a 15-year-old die set is truly false economy," says Jensen.

Unlike other presses, this one has two bins. One is for reloaded rounds ejected from the shell plate, and the other holds bullets conveniently close to the bullet seating station.

The operating lever is large, and works a crankshaft seated in roller bearings. A four-inch diameter roller bearing provides the first new linkage system in a reloading press since the "Rock Chucker." A connecting rod pulls the tool head down. The lever hub has an automotive grease fitting, and Dillon recommends periodic lubrication with automotive grease.

Automatic indexing makes operating the RL-1050 unusually easy. The operating

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lever has tremendous leverage and requires very little effort. In fact, there's a spring to provide artificial resistance to give a "feel" to the operator. Turning out complete rounds requires only inserting bullets into the case mouths and watching to be sure that the case feeder, primer tube, and powder measure don't run empty.

How many rounds will this press turn out per hour? This depends on the operator's level of skill, but Jensen points out that the speed can vary.

"Although the RL-1050 can attain a much higher cyclic rate of 1800 rounds per hour in pistol calibers, in a production run the machine can turn out 1200 rounds per hour consistently under average conditions.

Dillon's instruction manual is similar to the excellent and well-illustrated manuals that come with the RL-550 and the Square Deal. It's written in Dillon's traditional conversational style, and using both text and photos, takes the reader from installation through set-up, operation, and trouble-shooting. As with all other Dillon instruction manuals, this one lacks any specific loading data. It's necessary to refer to a standard loading manual for this information.

This is an excellent press. The first two versions of this article seemed incredible to the editor, who sent the author back twice to Dillon's shop to find some flaw in the press. Close examination, and operating the press, failed to disclose any major drawback.

The editor sent the author back twice to Dillon's shop to find some flaw in the press. Close examination failed to disclose any major drawback.

The price of the Dillon RL-1050 is under \$900. The press comes with the usual Dillon lifetime warranty and technical support. Unlike other reloading equipment manufacturers who specifically exclude commercial reloaders from their warranties, Dillon issues a blanket lifetime warranty, whatever the application of the press. Dillon urges that anyone who needs assistance with the press call the toll-free number. For more information, call toll-free 1-800-421-7532.



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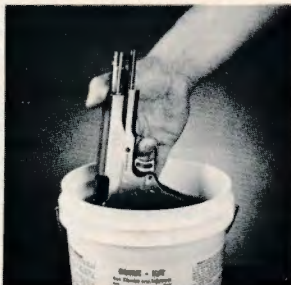
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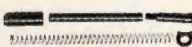
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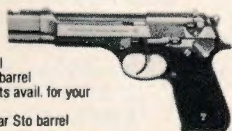
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NEW JORDAN GRIPS

Continued from page 39

AH: Were modifications still being made?
BJ: No. The only modifications were those made by Walter Roper from my comments and markings.

AH: So the grips turned out by Sanderson were the same as those made by Walter Roper?

BJ: That's right. So then Lew Sanderson died and Steve Herrett—Herrett Stocks—started making the grips, around 1965, I'd guess, and since Steve's death, his son has continued making those grips—of wood, and still the exact same design as those built by Walter Roper at my request.

AH: What revolvers were these grips used on?

BJ: Smith & Wesson and Colt, pretty much. Then Rugers came along and they started putting 'em on the Rugers, too. I don't know what others—I haven't been keeping up with 'em.

AH: During all these years the only material used was wood and, as you said once before, one of the problems inherent in using wood for grips is that the only size they can be made in is for a large hand such as yours.

BJ: That's correct, and the reason is that they have to be thick enough in the places where they cover the frame that they will not splinter or split. Along the backstrap, for instance, (in order) to fit smaller hands, the grips would have to be made much thinner, almost down to the bare metal on part of the backstrap and wood is too fragile for that.

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no checkering.*

AH: Now, thanks to new materials, Pachmayr can make grips which conform to your design, are stronger than wood, and will fit shooters with less than oversize hands.

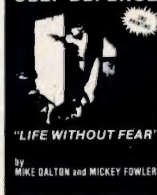
BJ: That's right. However, these grips of my design will be different from the traditional Pachmayr grips. They'll be made of a hard material instead of the softer-type of synthetic rubber typically used in Pachmayr grips. These grips will be the original Jordan design—with a smooth, hard finish, not shiny, and with no checkering.

AH: A hard material? Like fiberglass or graphite?

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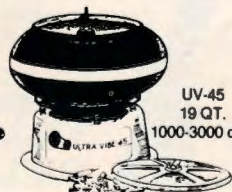
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BJ: Not exactly. It'll be a synthetic rubber called, I've been told, *Elastomer*, which is as hard or harder than wood.

AH: And they will be made to fit smaller hands than yours?

BJ: Yes—at least a standard size, I suppose you would call it. Then I'm sure they'll scale 'em down even smaller.

*You can't keep a .44
Magnum from jumping
up, but these grips keep it
from sliding down in
your palm when it
does jump up.*

AH: What advice do you have for shooters who want to improve their ability with a double action revolver?

BJ: A great deal depends on how he—or she—is going to use the gun. If you're going to have time to set the grip into your hand—it should be molded to fit your hand—keeping in mind those critical points, of having the top of the gun drop away from the web of your hand; forming a *bulge* into the palm of your hand so the recoil will be directed *there*; and having a wide, solid *filler area* between the trigger guard and the grip. Other than that, if you're going to hold the gun in one hand and place it firmly in the other before you shoot, such things as finger grooves can be of value. But if you've got to reach back and get a handful of gun fast, you don't want anything like finger grooves. You want to be able to shift your grip while you're drawing. That's of vital importance because, if it's in your hand *wrong*, you're not going to hit anything!

AH: When you speak of *filling your hand so the recoil comes into your palm*, that will also affect muzzle-jump, won't it?

BJ: Oh, certainly. It keeps the muzzle from jumping up and, more than that, it makes you move your whole hand. You can't keep a gun like a .44 Magnum, for instance, from jumping up some, but these grips keep it from sliding down in your palm when it *does* jump up. In other words, the gun maintains the same position in your hand as when you first grabbed it. With a .44 Magnum, after about three quick shots—with any grips I've ever tried, except these I designed—the gun is *jammed*, it's slid down or, as Dizzy Dean would say, 'slud down,' into your hand until the hammer is tight against the web of your hand and you can't fire it, the hammer won't go back. But I can take these grips of mine and shoot six shots out of a .44 Magnum as fast as I can pull the trigger—and I don't know of any other grips you can do that with.

AH: Have you any other comments to add about these, or any handgun grips?

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BJ: Well, I might add that, more or less
accidentally—I wasn't looking for a 'pretty'
grip, these are good looking, nothing fancy
about 'em, but a quite business-like, profes-
sional-looking grip.

AH: *Pachmayr's going to start by making
grips for the Smith & Wesson 'K' and 'N'
frames as well as the Colt 'V' frame mod-
els—am I right?*

BJ: That's my understanding, these will be
first. Then, if they're accepted and fulfill
the promise, they'll go ahead and make 'em
for other guns such as the Ruger, Dan
Wesson, Taurus and others. When they're
built for these smaller-frame guns, they
can be scaled small enough for women's
hands.

AH: *Which is increasingly important, isn't
it? Because more and more women are not
only getting into law enforcement, but
they're sure doing a lot of shooting in the
'action' games as well as traditional bulls-
eye matches...*

BJ: ... and shooting
very well, too!



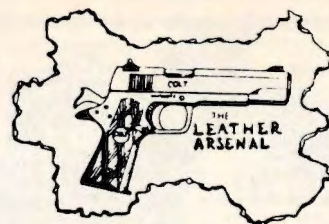
LYMAN T-MAG

Continued from page 40

when it is rotated to its station above the
ram. Tilt of the turret, as will occur during
resizing, is held to an insignificant mini-
mum of about .005". This, in my experi-
ence, is not enough to have an adverse
effect on the uniformity of brass. More-
over, bullet seating, where die alignment
is particularly critical, is virtually un-
affected. In fact, you will find that insuffi-
cient case-mouth expansion is responsible
for more improperly seated bullets and
deformed bullet noses (as often occurs
with hollow-points) than any other factor.
Case expansion of correct depth and diam-
eter should allow bullets to be seated with
little more than finger pressure.

All loading operations went well. The
Lyman carbides allowed full-length resiz-
ing without the mess of lubing each case;
the T-Mag, with its exceptional leverage
and six-hole turret was a joy to run; the
Lyman 55 measure, which offers the
advantage of infinitely adjustable charges
for rifle or pistol did well, as expected. The
only glitch surfaced when I let the sizing
die roll off the bench. Wouldn't you know
it'd hit the floor so the decapping pin would
be broken? It's happened in the past, and
the usual cure is to dig into the "mis-
cellaneous" drawer for a spare pin. I was,
however, stymied upon finding that the
decapping pin in the Lyman die was a spe-
cial kind, with a machined head. None of
the spare pins on hand would work, so it
was necessary to write for a replacement.
Considering the frailty and minor cost of
decapping pins, it would be a good idea if
Lyman were to include a couple of spares
with each set of dies.

Also included in this test session was
Lyman's Turbo 1200 case cleaner and pol-



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—Massad Ayoob

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isher. This is a vibrator, not a tumbler, but the results were good using Lyman's Corn Cob Recipe during fairly low-noise overnight polishing operations. The results seem to have justified the delay, because when cases are clean it's easier to detect insipient cracks, and feeding in auto-loaders is definitely improved. As to the medium of choice, I tried crushed nutshells, white rice, and small chunks of Masonite by themselves and in combination with the corncob pellets. None of them seemed to work any better—and perhaps

*All in all, the Lyman
combo amounts to a good
value. The T-Mag is top
of the line among multi-
station presses.*

not as well—as the corncob pellets. It is, however, better to clean and polish cases before they're decapped. If you don't, you'll be plucking polishing medium out of your primer pockets which, by the way, won't be completely cleaned by any amount of vibrating or tumbling.

The Turbo 1200, which has a four-quart capacity, sells for \$144.95. It is midline between the 600 (three pints, \$115.00) and the 3200 (2.2 gallons, \$210.00). The T-Mag is retail priced at \$129.95, and Lyman dies vary in price according to type. The No. 55 powder measure is \$67.95, but the reservoir tube is too small for lengthy reloading sessions so it's worth going the extra \$9.95 for the optional 7000-grain reservoir. All in all, the Lyman combo tested amounts to good value. The T-Mag is top-of-the-line among multi-station presses. Once you've bolted it to your reloading bench and found the rhythm of turning the turret and swinging the handle, you may be amazed at how progressive an old-fashioned, practical design



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DESERT EAGLE

Continued from page 56

wasn't my favorite. One round of that load could blast out an LZ for the 3rd Air Cavalry if it were fired close enough to the ground. Pulling the trigger on one of those cigar sized rounds produced one of the largest fireballs I've ever seen from a pistol, along with an accompanying blast that would do credit to an F-14 going through the sound barrier. The 200 grainer was also healthy, but a little

The Eagle appears to be a well-made firearm. It is a massive piece and almost too large for me to fire comfortably.

easier on the ears. Recoil with either load was a healthy, cushioned push, and not at all uncomfortable.

The Eagle appears to be a well-made firearm. It is a massive piece, and almost too large for me to fire comfortably. One shooter at our local IPSC club remarked that he wished he had a speed holster for it as it was the only auto he'd ever found that actually fit his hand. This guy's hands are not small.

For the silhouette game it should do well, although I don't believe that many have

shown up there as yet. It will certainly acquit itself well in search of game for those of you who reside in states where the use of these would be legal. For further information on the gun and available accessories, write direct to Magnum Research, 7271 Commerce Circle West, Minneapolis, MN 55432.



TAFFIN TESTS

Continued from page 31

was in 1907, but today it is neither more nor less accurate than any other properly loaded big bore sixgun cartridge.

In the past, the .44 Special has not been applicable to IHMSA silhouetting as the long range turkeys and rams were asking just a bit much of the Special. Now with the advent of Field Pistol and targets at a maximum of 100 meters, my .44 Specials may find a new application.

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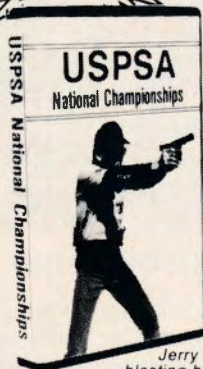
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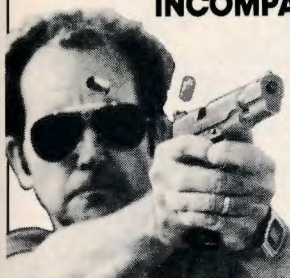
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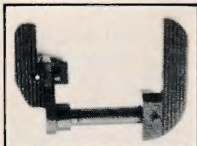
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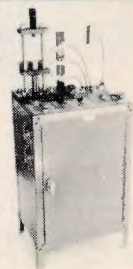
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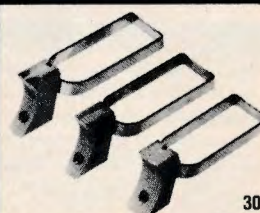


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- **THREE HANDGUNS FOR AFRICA**—Massad Ayoob takes his 10-year-old daughter and HANDGUNNER's editor on safari into the bush of darkest Africa. You'll get a detailed account of the adventure and what three handguns they choose for protection.
- **ASKINS**—Colonel Charles Askins recalls his rough and tumble days in the U.S. Border Patrol.
- **HIP HOLSTERS**—Massad Ayoob draws on his 27 years in carrying a concealed handgun for self-defense to tell you the best hip holsters for "packing a piece".

Also in the '88 Annual—Ruger's BIG BAD .44 Magnum, Police handgun training, new handguns for 1988, the truth about Chronographs and tips on how NOT to cast bullets.

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THE CASE OF THE "NEWSSTAND NEUROTIC."

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Suspect enters Bill's Books & Magazines on 5th and Main and immediately proceeds to magazine rack where he picks up the last copy of GUNS Magazine.

11:03 a.m.

Two unidentified males enter store, also proceeding directly to magazine rack. Suspect nervously peers over shoulder, obviously disturbed by their arrival.

11:04 a.m.

Witness sees one of the unidentified males reach for magazine rack. Suspect obviously mistakes sudden movement for an attempt on his copy of GUNS. Suspect reacts by assaulting both men with a rolled up magazine.

11:16 a.m.

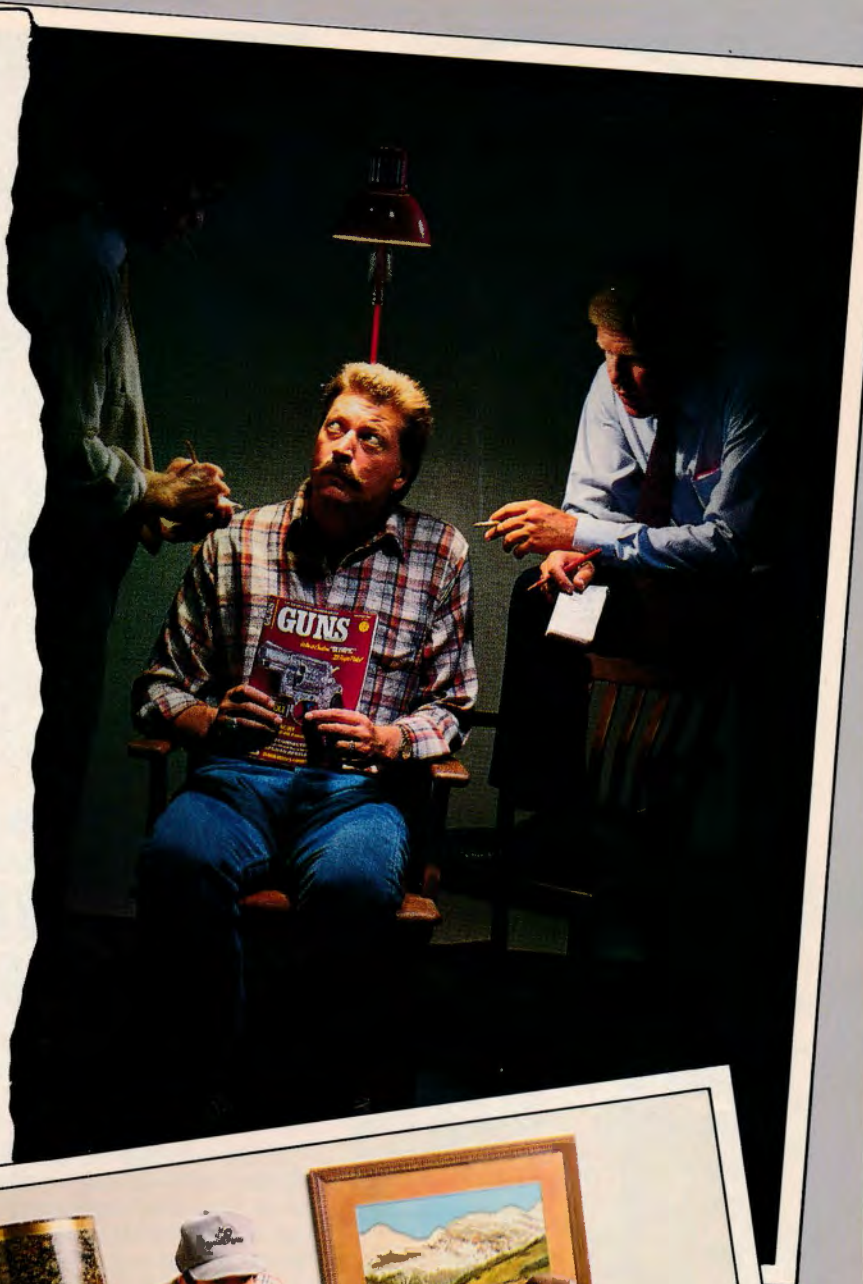
Suspect flees the scene and is quickly arrested for needlessly magazine whipping two innocent fishing enthusiasts.

12:43 p.m.

Suspect confesses to criminal acts. His reason? Nothing was going to come between him and the only magazine he trusted for the latest gun and shooting sport information. He wanted the facts . . . just the facts. He wanted GUNS Magazine.

1:05 p.m.

Suspect is released on his own recognition promising to never frequent newsstands again and agreeing to subscribe to GUNS instead.



CASE FOLLOW UP:

1 month later, suspect seen sharing his subscription copy of GUNS with two unidentified gun enthusiasts—proof positive that GUNS subscribers get the facts every month.

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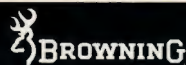
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TEST REPORT



It was only a matter of time until one of the better optics manufacturers decided to get into handgun scopes. I've been anxiously awaiting the arrival of the Bausch & Lomb 2× and 4× handgun scopes since last year. These two new offerings from B&L are destined to be classed as the "Cadillacs of Pistol Scopes."

BAUSCH & LOMB PISTOL SCOPES

By Mike Barach

Upon receiving the two test samples, I showed them no mercy. After unpacking them, they were immediately immersed in hot water, with the turret caps off, to check for leaks, with no sign of water seeping into either tube, I dried them off and placed both in the freezer for approximately one-half hour. After the deep freeze routine, they were hauled back out into 72° room temperature to check for fogging. No problem here either.

With that accomplished, they were ready to mount on a couple of handguns—which I'll discuss in a bit—but first some discussion on the features of these two excellent scopes.

Actual magnification of a scope differs from one company to another. What it says isn't necessarily what it is. The Bausch & Lomb scopes' actual magnification is as described: 2× and 4×. Both feature one-piece tubes for the utmost in strength. They also have the same eye relief of 10-20 inches, overall length of 8.4", and click values of 1/4" at 100 yards.

The maximum adjustment range of both windage and elevation is ± 65 inches for the 2×, while 40 inches for the 4×. The field of view at 100 yards is 22.4 feet for the 2× and 15 feet on the 4×. Technically, the weights of the two scopes differ by a third of an ounce, but we'll call it 7 ounces for both.

The B&Ls use hard surfaced, multi-coated optics for maximum light transmission. The objective lens on the 4× is 28mm, while a straight 1" (20mm) is on the 2×. At the rear of the scope the eyepiece is fully adjustable for proper focusing of the reticle. Crosshairs are of the Multi-X design only, but offer a good distinction between the thicker and thinner posts. At the present time, only the black satin finish will be available, but I suspect that a silver satin finish will be introduced sometime in the future.

The B&L 2× was mounted on a Mag-Na-Port custom Ruger Redhawk .44 Mag. using the integral ring mounting system. The 4× was mounted on a 14" T/C Contender barrel chambered for the .35 Remington cartridge, using Weaver/Omark one-inch scope rings and base. After zeroing-in at 50 yards, both were tested for their ability to return to the original point of impact by walking the group around the target and coming back to dead-center. The first move was 20 clicks up and right, then another 20 left, and so-on. Both of the B&L handgun scopes exhibit excellent repeatability.

Looking through them offers a clear, bright field of view, with no notable distortions, even to the outer limits of the lens circumference. The 2× is set to be parallax-free at 50 yards, while the 4× scope is parallax-free at 100 yards. I could detect no movement of the reticle against the target in the test samples. Naturally, at any other distance you will note some parallax, but don't be overly concerned as its effect on point of impact is negligible closer-in and might only amount to an inch or so at 250 yards. At long range, if your needs are more stringent, you'd better go with a handgun scope offering a parallax-adjustable objective lens. For the majority of handgun hunting, these Bausch & Lomb handgun scopes will by far outperform even the most proficient and demanding handgunners.

Naturally, the B&Ls carry a lifetime warranty. Suggested retail of the 2× is \$239.95, while the 4× goes for \$249.95. See them at your local gunshop or for a catalog write: Don Robertson, Bushnell, Dept. AH, 300 N. Lone Hill Ave., San Dimas, CA, 91773.



AYOOB, READERS TEAM UP TO BATTLE FOR ARMED CITIZEN

By AH Staff

On November 24, 1984, Mark Branham heard shots in the woods behind his home on Hootowl Mountain in Grundy, Va. It was night and Branham, an ex-cop who was now a security sergeant, took his Smith & Wesson Model 19 service revolver and a flashlight and went to investigate. Branham, 28, was a gun enthusiast and NRA member.

On the hillside he discovered his neighbor, Burton Owens, with a stray cat Owens had shot. When he asked the man why he'd shot the animal Owens, whose .18% blood alcohol content made him more than legally drunk, became abusive. As Branham turned to leave, Owens struck him on the head with the miner's lantern he was carrying.

The two rolled down the hillside, struggling. Owens smashed Branham several more times on the skull, causing more than 50 stitches worth of lacerations, and Branham tried to fight him off by striking Owens on the head with the barrel of his own .357 Magnum.

When Owens snarled "You sonofabitch, I'll kill you!" Branham jerked his gun out of Owens' grasp and fired one shot, killing his assailant instantly. The loaded .38 Special revolver that Owens was armed with fell to his feet as he collapsed. Mark Branham, dazed by post-concussion syndrome, staggered down the hill to his sister's home, where he called the sheriff and the paramedics.

Branham's case was brought before a local judge, who ruled that there was no probable cause to believe anything other than self-defense. However, the family of the dead man hired a special prosecutor, who pursued an indictment and brought the case to trial.

In August of 1985, Branham faced a jury that, due to an anomaly of law, included a friend, a relative, and a co-worker of the deceased. Even this jury refused to find him guilty of second degree murder as charged, instead coming in with a verdict of involuntary manslaughter. This verdict was overturned by the State Court of Appeals in February, 1987 on the grounds that photographs of Branham's injuries had not been admitted into evidence. On November 24, 1987, three years to the day after the shooting, the case went to the jury again. This jury hopelessly deadlocked.

The prosecutors have stated that, as Virginia law allows, they will try Branham a third time.

In both jury trials, Branham was

defended by Honaker attorney Eugene Compton. Too proud to declare himself indigent, Branham, who has been unemployed since the shooting, scraped up \$5,000 to pay his lawyer. Compton was assisted by Massad Ayoob, a well known court expert on self-defense shootings who was so outraged at the situation that he took the case for free, paying his own expenses.

As the young armed citizen faces his third jury trial and his fourth time before the judicial bench, his lawyer comments, "It's an overwhelming situation. We have no funds, and are up against the unlimited resources of the Commonwealth of Virginia, which through two trials has brought in four paid experts each time, often flying them in from Roanoke by State Police plane. In the first trial, there were four prosecution attorneys to the one defense attorney, two to one in the second trial. In each trial, there were four state's experts to the defense's one. I would estimate that more than \$100,000 of the Commonwealth's tax dollars has been spent in the fruitless effort to send Mark Branham to prison for what is clearly a self-defense shooting. The defense has spent about \$8,500. Of that, \$2,500 came from the Mark Branham Defense Fund established through the Second Amendment Foundation. The defense team desperately needs funds to pay for the transcript of the last trial and prepare for the final one, scheduled for early spring of 1988."

Massad Ayoob added, "There is not a shred of evidence to indicate anything but that Branham fired in self-defense. Every bit of fact evidence supports his claim; he was clearly facing a violent drunk, armed with a gun and a club, suffered permanent head injury when he tried to subdue the man with the gun barrel instead of shooting him, and fired at the end when there was no choice. Even with a better than 10 to 1 financial advantage, the Commonwealth has been unable to honestly convict him."

Contributions may be sent to the Mark Branham Defense Fund, P.O. Box 1450, Honaker, VA 24260-1450. The \$2,500 already contributed by gun owners paid for the appellate brief that kept Branham from going to prison after the first trial.

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INDUSTRY INSIDER

JERRY RAKUSAN

SMALL IS BIG FOR 1988 WITH CHOPPED DOWN MODELS FROM GLOCK, RUGER

Evidently the Russians have not been paying attention to Jeff Cooper and all of the others who are touting the .45 as the ultimate military sidearm cartridge. According to *National Defense* magazine, the Russians have adopted a new pistol, the PSM (*pistolet samozaryadiny Malogabarimiy*) for their security police and other special security troops. The caliber of the PSM? Well, it is a unique bottleneck 5.45x18. Yep, a .22!

We received a rather obscure press release from Denmark, telling of a new pistol from the makers of the Agner M-80 international target pistol. Called the Agner Police, the prototype is in .32 ACP. However, the release states that a 9mm "breech lock type" is in the works. The gun is a double action, and the release hints at a trigger mechanism that eliminates, or at least reduces, the heavy first shot and light second shot which is common with double action pistols.

It is in the description of the safety mechanism that the release gets a bit obscure. I quote, "The safety is achieved by means of the firing pin mechanism that should look totally different from what you are used to. The firing pin is separated from the cartridge without the possibility of engaging with it as long as the trigger is not pulled to the firing position. In fact the firing pin is forced behind the cartridge when you pull."

The release indicates that negotiations are in progress with "alternative buyers of the total project." Just how innovative is the Agner Police pistol? Well, the release states, "Some arms pros consider the Agner Police the first real new innovation in handgun construction for decades. And some are afraid it will take too much of the market—be too much a competitor."

Nomenclature Lesson

For all of you who thought that you knew the correct nomenclature of revolver mechanisms, here's something startling from the latest Colt catalog. In describing the King Cobra, it states, "The King Cobra has offset bolt notches which rotate the cylinder clockwise into the frame for maximum strength." I wonder how they get the bolt notches to rotate the cylinder?

SHOT Show

My first impression of the 1988 SHOT Show, the firearms industry's trade show, is that it was, for handgunners, the "almost" show.

We almost have the AT-84 in .41 Action Express from Action Arms; we almost have the British-designed Victory pistol

being offered by Magnum Research; we almost have the Ruger P-85 (some few may already have one, but they are far from being widely distributed at this time); we almost have the new Wildey pistol in .475 Magnum. There were some other new guns shown, and some of them may or may not be available in the near future.

In other news from SHOT, the New Detonics Manufacturing Corp. had a display. According to the new president, Bruce R. McCaw, they will be producing the Combatmaster, Servicemaster, and Scoremaster pistols. Federal Cartridge was showing their new match quality 9mm Luger ammo, and their new loadings of .38, 9mm, .357 and .45 ACP with the Hydra-Shok bullet. Lyman is offering a carbide die set and a 175 grain flat nose bullet mould for the 10mm cartridge.

My second impression of the SHOT Show is that less is more. Small is big these days with several popular handguns "chopped" for 1988. The Glock folks have introduced a shorty version of the Glock 17 with a shorter grip, shorter barrel and a bobbed-off magazine (two rounds less than the Glock 17, 15 shots).

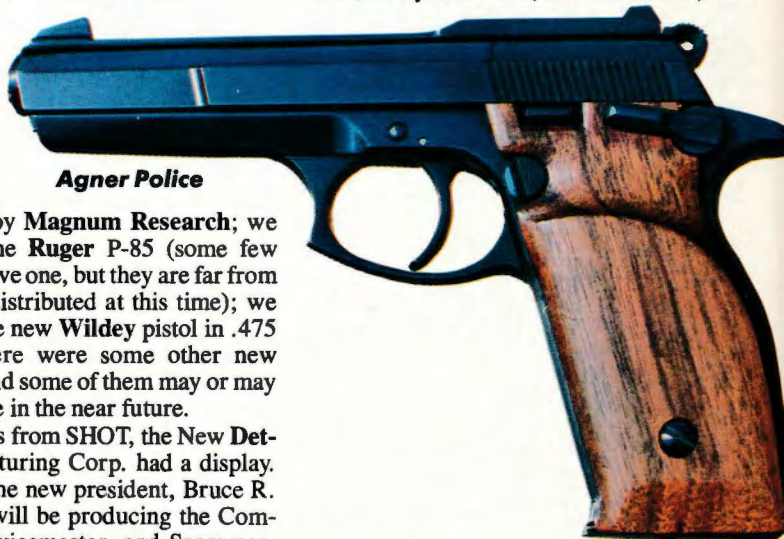
AMT is riding the crest of the .22 Magnum AutoMag II success with a trim version of this innovative gas operated pistol. The mite-sized AutoMag II is slightly larger than the Colt Mustang and appears to be directed to a personal defense mission. It would make a dandy pocket pistol.

Perhaps the biggest news in small guns is the introduction of a five-shot J-frame type revolver from Sturm, Ruger and Co. It is a chopped version of the popular GP-100 revolver and the sample at the show was made of stainless steel. However, the new revolver is not shown in the 1988 Ruger catalog which suggests that we might be in for a long wait.

The P-85 semi-automatic 9mm pistol is now frustrating dealers and handgunners in 1988 with precious few samples in the marketplace. Looking at the P-85 delays and considering the two year wait on the Super Redhawk, we don't look for the five-shot J-frame version from Ruger for another two or three years. It appears Ruger really is serious about a military contract for the P-85 because the gunmaker has copied the famous military strategy—

hurry up and wait.

The SHOT Show saw the "official" introduction of the new Model 29 from Smith and Wesson with the L-frame barrel underlug and unfluted cylinder. The "Classic Hunter" is the model designation and S&W appears to be courting the handgun hunters. Some have grave reservations about the claims S&W makes for the unfluted cylinder and, for that matter, the



Agner Police

Model 29's design itself. Look for our story on the Classic Hunter, *The Myth of the Smith*, in the July/August issue to clear the air of a lot of advertising hype.

Walking the miles of aisles (yes, miles) at the SHOT Show, I met gunmaker after gunmaker with a beaming smile on his face. The dealers were placing orders like bidders at a Texas bankruptcy auction. Freedom Arms reports banner sales in the new Field Grade .454 Casull with dealers buying five times more guns in 1988 than the same time last year. Mel Forbes at Ultra Light Arms happily told me he'd already sold more guns in a day and half at the Show than in all of 1987.

The optimism was nearly universal, the bah-humbuggers being restricted to the foreign gunmakers smarting over the fluctuating dollar. We can all look forward to a good 1988.

An unconfirmed rumor floating around the show floor was that H&K, maker of the squeeze-cocking P-7 semi-automatic pistol, is pulling up stakes and quitting the American market. No one with the authority to address this question was in the H&K booth when we popped in, but we rather doubt the rumor. Despite a retail price of over \$1,000 for a P-7 pistol, the Germans are too pragmatic to ignore a market of over 200 million consumers. However, the low dollar will certainly hurt sales because you can buy two, three, maybe five American-made 9mm pistols for the price of one P-7.

On a final, sad note, it was announced at SHOT Show that Skeeter Skelton has passed away from a lengthy illness. The next time you go shooting, bust a cap for Skeeter. He's gone, but not forgotten.





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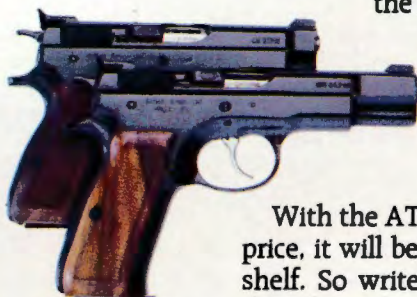
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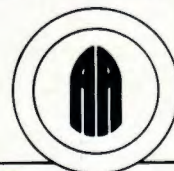
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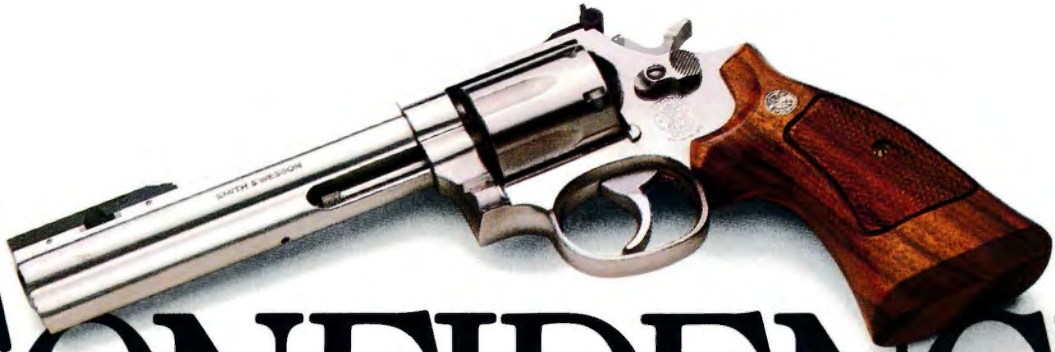
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