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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1988

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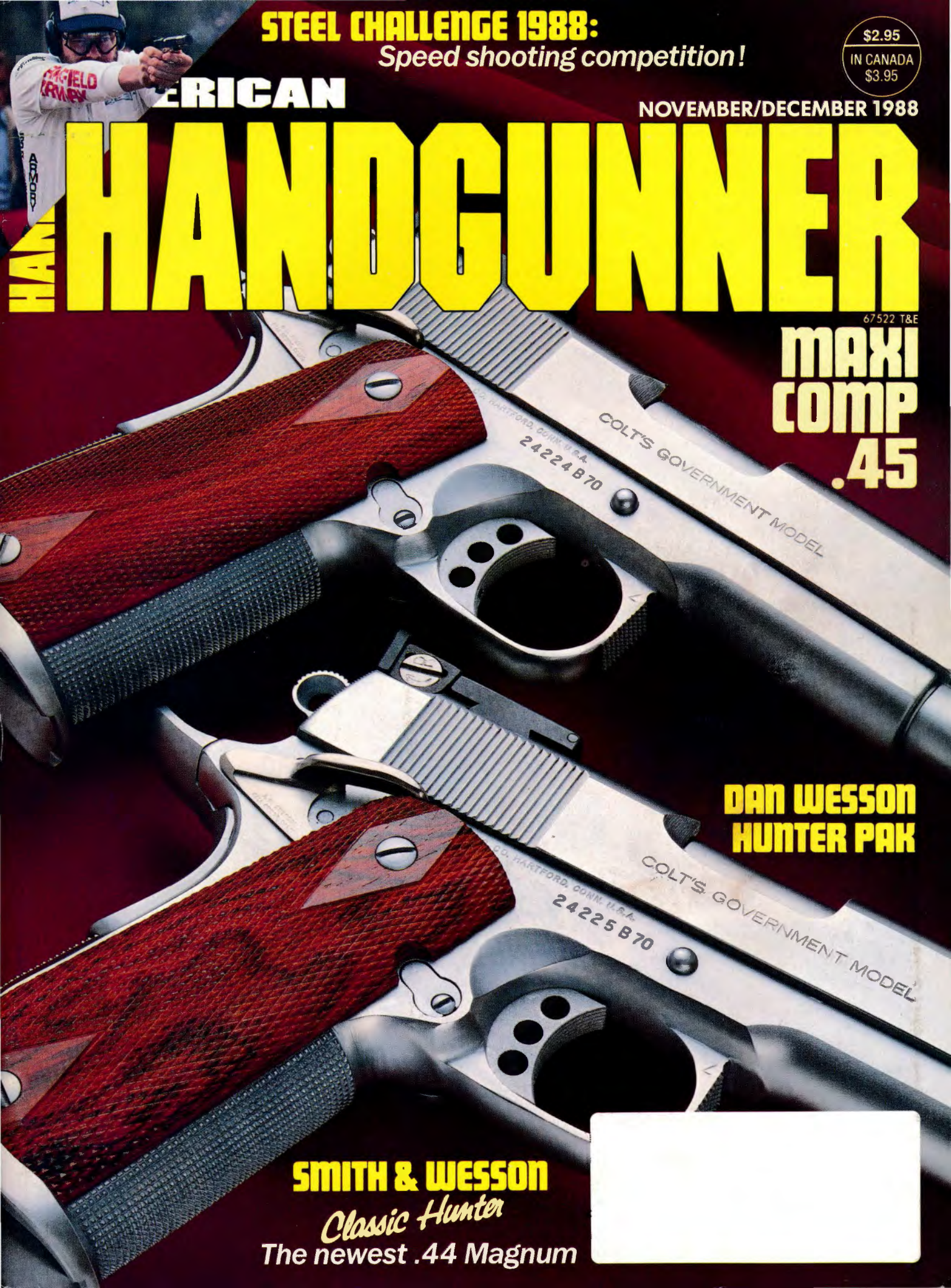
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**DAN WESSON
HUNTER PAK**

SMITH & WESSON

Classic Hunter

The newest .44 Magnum



He's Got Everything He Wants

I hate to keep handing you the same old line, but it's true and I hear it every year about this time. It goes like this, "I just don't know what to buy, (fill in your name), for Christmas." "He's so hard to buy for." Your wife and/or sweetheart says it, I'll guarantee it. Then she says, "he has everything he wants." Now you know damn well that's not true, but she says it. The end result is that we've gained a reputation for being hard to shop for and most of it is our fault, because we never tell them what we want. Maybe it's because we think they won't understand and if we explain it to them it takes some of the fun out of it. I don't know, but I know this much, if we don't tell them, we'll wind up with some new socks and some damn silly neck tie we'll never wear. Well this year dare to be different, tell her what you want. Just leave this ad somewhere where she'll find it. Try the refrigerator, be inventive, maybe her lingerie drawer or the front seat of her car. Don't be bashful, just check the boxes in this ad, and don't worry, our guys will help her with the ordering to make sure you get the right caliber. Try it, all you've got to lose is another pair of socks!

THE SQUARE DEAL "B"

☐ Duplicating factory ammunition is no trick with a "SDB". This is how it works. The Dillon "SDB" arrives from the factory ready to reload. Our drop-in insert dies are adjusted, you determine how much powder you want the automatic powder measure to throw and select the bullet depth. You place a fired cartridge into station one, a bullet at station three and pump the handle. The Square Deal "B" resizes the fired round, installs a new primer, deposits powder in the case, seats the bullet, crimps the bullet, indexes and ejects the reloaded round into the attached collection box, all automatically. No mystery here, no hours of minute adjustments to get it just right.

The Dillon "SDB" is the most reliable progressive reloader in the world. It is the fastest. It is the most accurate. It is the easiest to use. It has the best warranty. It has a no strings attached 30 day return policy. It's what you're looking for. It's a square deal.

Factory Direct at \$162.50 complete with carbide dies in one caliber. The "SDB" is available in 45ACP, 9mm. 44 Spc., 44 Magnum, 38 cal, 357 magnum, 45 Long Colt, 41 magnum, .380 and 38 super.



MAGNUM FL 2000

☐ Designed by Reloaders who know the limits of the competition's machines. The new Dillon FL 2000 Vibratory Cartridge Case Cleaner outshines the competition. It is

the largest by far, with a 12 1/2 quart volume at full load. It does 1300 38/357 or 550 30.06 cases per hour. Not only is our capacity greater, but our motors are larger in horsepower, internally cooled, thermally protected, turning on precision ball bearings. This is no "hobby" machine. The bowl and frame are high impact ABS material over 1/4 inch thick. FACTORY DIRECT \$135.00.

☐ GFP 90. The first cartridge case finish designed to give a brilliant shine and a protective coating to reloaded ammunition. \$4.50 per 8 ounces.

☐ Rapid lube. Dillon's aerosol cartridge case lubricant. Simply lay your cases out, spray lightly and within minutes the lubricant distributes itself around the cartridge and your ready to load. \$4.50.

NEW! DILLON ELIMINATOR

☐ When Dillon Precision decided to market a reloading



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☐ All of the Dillon instruction manuals have warned the reader to wear safety glasses while reloading. We soon realized that many of you do not have easy access to this type of lens for either handloading or shooting safety. Once again customer requests have led us into a new field. Available in both "clip on" and aviator style with cable ear pieces; clear, amber or smoke lens. \$19.95 each, FACTORY DIRECT.



THE NEW SQUARE DEAL "B" Progressive Reloader

\$162.50

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Only Dillon Precision sells direct to the reloader, no middleman profits. Only Dillon has a 30 day money back guarantee. Only Dillon has this simple warranty: no fine print, no time limit, commercial reloader or hobbyist, 500 rounds or 500,000 or more. If it breaks, we'll fix it free! (All electric motors are covered for 12 months.)

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Now, at last, the announcement arms collectors have been waiting for . . .

THE WORLD'S FIRST COMMEMORATIVE PATERSON

The most spectacular, firing, limited edition that could ever be created of the Texas Paterson . . . specially re-issued in its 150th Anniversary Year



The first gun in "The Samuel Colt Golden Tribute Collection"

"The Texas Paterson is the only weapon which enabled us to defeat the mounted Indian in his own peculiar mode of warfare."

Texas Rangers—1850

Sam Colt's Paterson is the "Father of all Revolvers"—the world's first successful revolving-cylinder firearm. No arms collection is complete without one.

And the biggest and most valuable of all Patersons is the "Texas" model, introduced in 1838. This is the sidearm that revolutionized warfare in the hands of Capt. Jack Hays and the Texas Rangers, Gen. Zachary Taylor and his U.S. mounted troops, and helped shape destiny against every conceivable lawless element on that exciting, but savage, part of the frontier called Texas.

Due to the importance and great rarity of Texas Patersons, even plain originals bring more than \$20,000 . . . and engraved models are almost unattainable at any price.

Hand Engraved

Now, the leading organization in the field of military arms collecting is pleased to announce the world's first commemorative Paterson—a firing, hand-engraved, 24-Karat Gold plated, long-barrelled Texas Paterson—in the 150th Anniversary Year of its introduction.

This is the first gun in "The Samuel Colt Golden Tribute Collection," a series of hand-engraved, 24-Karat Gold plated commemoratives of famous revolvers originally created by—and now honoring—Samuel Colt.

The "first" is always of great interest to collectors. As the world's first commemorative Paterson, this is in a class of distinction which has seen many significant, well-documented price increases. This is destined to be an important classic.

Traditional features found in the finest Patersons—and present here—are: hand engraving in an authentic Texas Paterson pattern on both sides of the frame; beautiful hand-fitted burl walnut grip; and desirable, long, 9" octagonal barrel. The complete Revolver is deluxe

polished and plated with genuine 24-Karat Gold for lasting beauty and value.

Limited Edition: Only 950

Many arms collectors will recognize the significance of this commemorative issue, but only the first 947 to reply will be able to add one to their collection; only 950 are being made. Appropriately, Serial Nos. 1, 2 and 3 have been presented in Texas to notable officials. Each Commemorative is serially numbered from 1 to 950 and accompanied by a Certificate of Authenticity which attests to the edition limit and the purity of the 24-Karat Gold. You will also receive a written history of the Texas Paterson and the Texas Rangers.

Proof Tested: Fires .36-Caliber

Each gun is proof tested and fires five, .36-caliber lead roundballs, just as the originals. Because this fires blackpowder, it can be delivered directly to you; no Federal Firearms License is needed.

Because Colt hasn't made this gun in nearly 150 years and has no plans to do so, we commissioned Master Gunsmith David Pedersoli, with 50 years experience, to hand build each Paterson. His guns recently won seven top places in the international target competition in Canada. Each Texas Paterson is issued with a combination tool and extra cylinder, and is capable of being fired ten times in less than a minute.

An American Walnut display case is also available; it comes with a brass capper, brass powder flask, bullet mold and cleaning rod. The museum-style locking glass lid allows you to display the Revolver and accessories flat or wall mounted.

Satisfaction Guaranteed

To place your reservation, simply call, write or visit. A convenient monthly payment plan is available; satisfaction is guaranteed.

With its three military history museums in its National Historic Landmark Headquarters, "Columbia-Camp Casey," The American Historical Foundation has Members in 29 countries around the world, has a true dedication to military history and has earned the reputation as the leading organization in the field of military

In remembrance of the men who defended America's frontier with Texas Patersons, The American Historical Foundation has made the following presentations of Texas Paterson Commemoratives:

Serial No. 1 to the Governor of Texas
Serial No. 2 to the Texas Ranger Museum
Serial No. 3 to the General of the Texas Army

commemorative arms—your assurance of authenticity and quality. When you place your reservation, you will be made a Member.

This opportunity to turn back the clock 150 years in arms collecting is limited; prompt response is suggested to avoid disappointment.

RESERVATION

Satisfaction Guaranteed or Return in 30 days for Full Refund
To: The American Historical Foundation
1142 West Grace Street, Dept. D171
Richmond, Virginia 23220
Telephone: (804) 353-1812
TOLL FREE 24 hours: (800) 368-8080

Yes, I wish to reserve the firing, hand-engraved Texas Paterson Commemorative Revolver, plated with 24-Karat Gold, issued in a limited edition of 950. I will also receive a combination tool, extra cylinder, Certificate of Authenticity and membership in the Foundation. Satisfaction is guaranteed.

☐ My deposit (or credit card authorization) of \$95 is enclosed. Please ☐ charge or ☐ invoice the balance due . . . ☐ in five monthly payments of \$280. ☐ in full.

☐ My payment in full is enclosed (\$1495 per Revolver; display case with accessories, add \$195).

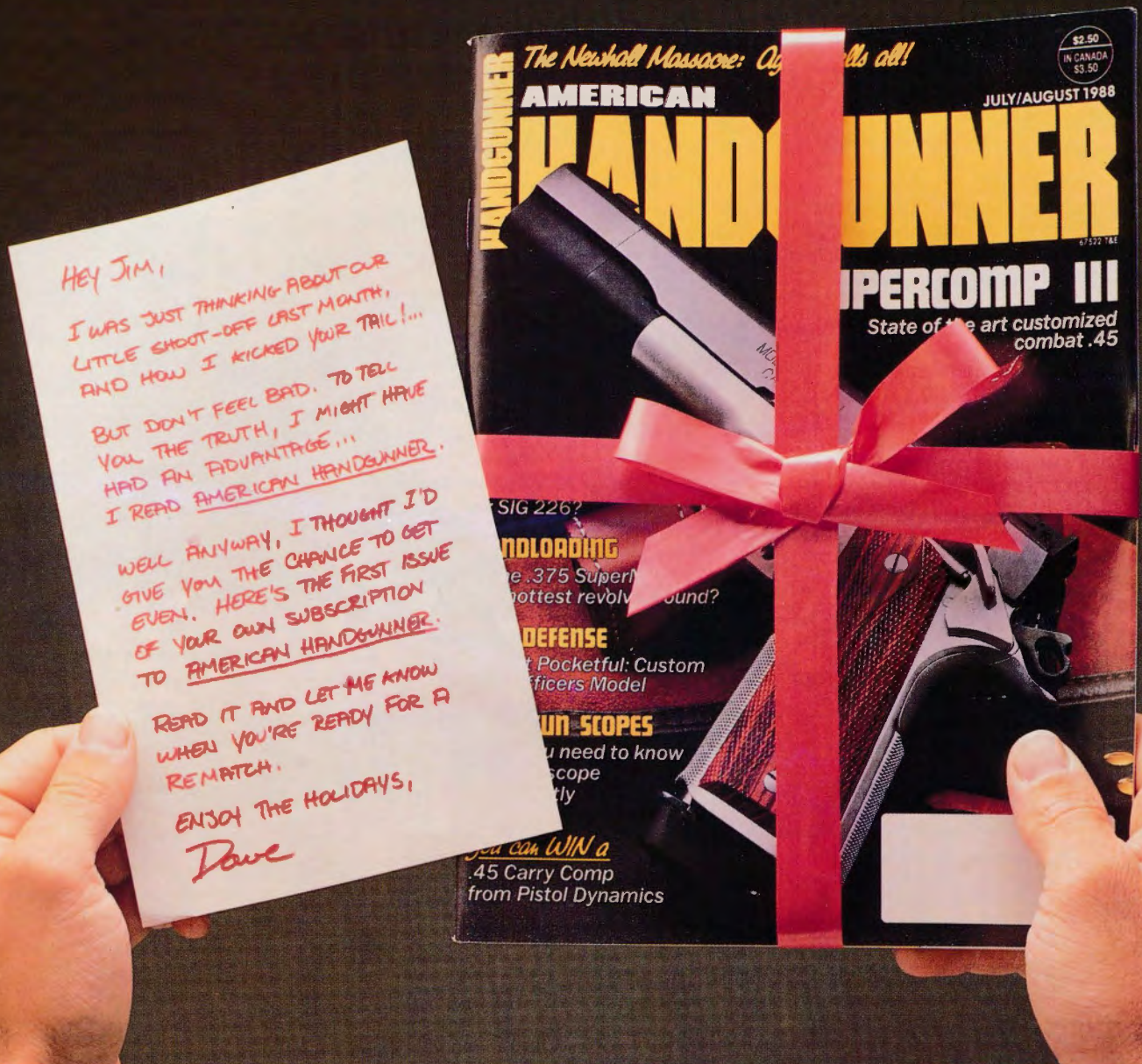
☐ Please send the optional Walnut Display Case with bullet mold, powder flask, capper and cleaning rod and glass lid, adding \$195 to my final payment.

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AMERICAN HANDGUNNER

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1988 Vol. 12, No. 72

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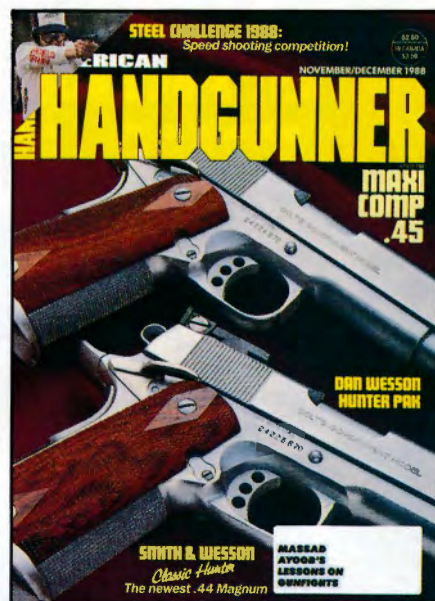
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Cover: A matched pair of consecutively serial numbered Brown Maxi-Comp .45 pistols. Photo by Ichiro Nagata.

GEORGE E. von ROSEN

Publisher

CAMERON HOPKINS

Editor

SYD BARKER

Art Director

JOHN HART

Graphic Design

ICHIRO NAGATA

Photography Editor

STEPHEN C. JUMP

Circulation Manager

JERRY LEE

Advertising Sales

JEROME RAKUSAN

Editorial Director Emeritus

FMG
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NATIONAL ADVERTISING:

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San Diego, CA 92108 (619) 297-8520
Telex 695-478, Cable VONROSEN SDG
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What do shooters like Rob Letham, Jerry Barnhart, John Pride, Charles Grabbatin, Brian Enos and Chip McCormick have in common, besides winning a pistol match or two? They all train with PACT Championship Timers. Now let's face it, these guys can have any timer they want. So maybe there's a reason why they choose PACT, over all others, for their vital practice sessions.

Why do I need a timer?

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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.

#07 1.03 3.48
FIND SHOT: 7

Advanced display

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

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Our 32 character display and 16 key keypad make the MKIII about as easy to use as your pocket calculator. For example to

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A few of our features

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Skyscreen Housings\$2.50 each 4 for \$9

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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

Cannon's Guarantee

I bought a used PPC gun from Andy Cannon of Victor, Montana. I had a problem with it almost a year later when it jammed up at a major match.

I was very upset, to put it mildly. One week after I returned the gun Andy wrote me a letter stating "our guarantee is 100 %

in place and we will build you a new gun."

Andy put my gun on the regular customer list and within six months I received a full-house Bianchi Cup/PPC revolver on a Model 64. The gun I got back was more than the one I originally had bought—used!

It should be noted that a pistolsmith such

as Andy Cannon really stands behind his work.

Robert Thomson
North Wales, Penn.

Army Pistol Boondoggle

I would like to take this opportunity to compliment you on the quality of *American Handgunner* as it does the shooting sports credit. I have collected every issue.

The ongoing controversy over the US service pistol is getting a bit thick. The need for a handgun in a modern military organization is so trivial that it seems a terrible waste of resources for our military to dwell on it in such detail. Frankly, the situation is attaining the proportions of another procurement boondoggle.

So what if we have a dozen different pistols in inventory? They are mainly tools of military law enforcement for which the revolver would suffice. In battle zones an Uzi, MP-5 or CAR-16 slung under the arm would be a better choice as a light weapon for an MP.

Although handguns are fun for various military teams in inter-service morale building, their tactical importance to the average soldier is zip.

The replacement for the 1911A1 could have been a simple, arbitrary order for Smith and Wesson 459's and 469's. With 30 years of police service behind it, the S&W is a proven design.

Bill Copenhagen
Richmond, Calif.

Are We Colonel Ayoob?

I would appreciate the opportunity to comment upon the Sillett-Ayoob correspondence.

It is evident from Mr. Ayoob's reply that he is rather thin skinned. As a reader of his columns over the years I have gotten the impression that he has become rather shrill lately.

Mr. Sillett's letter was an absolute joy to read. In fact, it is the best writing to appear in your magazine in quite some time. May I suggest that he be offered the opportunity to become a regular contributor? Look upon him as a safety check—he will prevent the buildup of excessive writer gas.

My last suggestion would be that Mr. Ayoob be watched carefully in case he starts calling himself Colonel and using the Imperial "We."

George E. Hosch
Concord, Calif.

Ding Dongs

I enjoy Massad Ayoob's articles very much and have never found any reason to doubt either his shooting ability or advice. I have *In The Gravest Extreme* and have enjoyed reading and re-reading it. I've loaned it out to many friends too.

Please do not allow the boilershop boys or similar ding dongs to in any way inhibit
continued on page 10



Radar detectors: Which are really best?

These days every maker says their radar detector is best. Who's telling the truth?

Freedom of the press

If you read movie ads, you know how each one finds a short phrase from a review that makes it sound like "the year's best." Well, some detector makers play the same game.

But we won't play games. Below are the overall results of the three most recent independent tests of radar detectors.

LATEST PERFORMANCE RANKINGS

Car and Driver April 1987	BMW Roundel June 1987	Popular Mechanics July 1987
1 st Passport (Escort not tested)	1 st Passport 2 nd Escort	1 st Escort 2 nd Passport
Cobra	BEL Quantum	BEL
Uniden	Whistler	TIE Snooper
Radio Shack	Maxon	Uniden
BEL	Radio Shack	Whistler
Whistler	Uniden	Cobra
Sparkomatic	Fox	TIE GUL
Fox	Cobra	Radio Shack
GUL	BEL Vector	Sparkomatic
	Snooper	Maxon
	Fuzzbuster	
	Sparkomatic	
	Sunkyoung	

Although each staff of experts used different methods to evaluate the detectors, their conclusions were unanimous; Escort and Passport are winners.

Here's the proof

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RING-NECKS
Harvey Sandstrom 1954



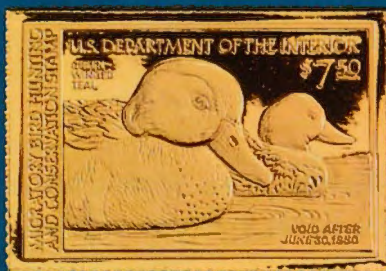
CINNAMON TEAL
Maynard Reece 1971



AMERICAN GOLDENEYES
Roger E. Preuss 1949



MALLARDS DROPPING IN
Jay N. Darling 1934



GREEN-WING TEAL
Ken Michaelson 1979



PINTAILS
Edward A. Morris 1962

Shown larger than actual size of 25mm long.

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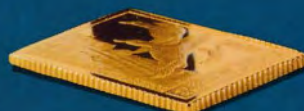
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12145-10

continued from page 8

your writing abilities, insights, professionalism, humor and experiences. You have unique talents and they should not be wasted, but shared.

Robert "Bob" Muske
Commerce City, Colo.

Stand In Front of My Gun

I would like to applaud the response of Mr. Ayooob to Mr. Gary Sillett's attack on Mr. Ayooob's credibility.

First, I didn't find Mr. Sillett's letter "entertaining" as you put it, however, I'm glad you printed it anyway because it gave Mr. Ayooob an excellent chance to so eloquently shoot down (yes, pun intended) a bunch of obviously armchair—or should I say boilershop chair—pistoleros.

I am by no stretch of the imagination able to compete with people like Massad Ayooob, Mickey Fowler and Ray Chapman, but I do compete regularly in pistol and rifle matches and am considered better than average. More importantly, I have a good understanding of firearms and their capabilities as a marksmanship instructor with the Army Marksmanship Training Unit here at Fort Bliss.

I have, on occasion, been able to demonstrate long range accuracy with a pistol.

Once such incident was witnessed by two people who had doubts as to the

accuracy of my newly purchased SIG P-226. Admittedly, a 9mm is not generally known for anything better than "combat accuracy" but nonetheless the P-226 fires better than most people standing behind it. From 200 meters (for Mr. Sillett, who admits to being a layman, that's just under 220 yards) I was able to place five shots in the black on a B-27 man-sized target. At dusk!

Also I have taken a coyote (witnessed) at a distance just under 100 meters with a S&W four-inch 686.

Further, I have taken two whitetail deer at ranges between 80 and 120 meters with a Ruger Super Blackhawk .44 Magnum.

As for Mr. Sillett's attack on Elmer Keith, I think it was Bill Jordan who said that anyone who had ever seen Elmer shoot wouldn't stand downrange at 600 yards and let Elmer shoot at him with a four inch .44 Magnum.

Well, Mr. Sillett, Elmer is unfortunately no longer with us. But you're more than welcome to come down here to Texas and stand in front of my gun at any distance out to 200 meters. Just let me know ahead of time where to ship your remains.

James S. Giunta
El Paso, Texas

Ridiculous Statements

In regards to the statements made by Everett H. Love in the Sept/Oct *Speak Out* that handgunners should only use one

hand, no scope and no ported barrels, I wonder when I read ridiculous statements like this if the man has ever shot a handgun.

The reason handgun hunters scope their guns is the same reason people put them on rifles!

If you're looking for recoil and muzzle lift reduction, a firearm should be Mag-Na-Ported for greater control.

And can you imagine trying to shoot an antelope at 200 yards with a one-hand hold? I use two hands plus trees, sandbags, legs, backpack or whatever for an accurate shot. I would even use three hands if I had them.

Just because someone taught this man to shoot a pistol or a revolver with one hand doesn't mean everyone should shoot one-handed. Nor does it give him the right to condemn a sport he obviously knows nothing about.

Larry Kelly
President, Mag-Na-Port
Mt. Clemons, Mich.

Living In Caves

The simplistic views of Everett H. Love ("Get Another Gun," Sept/Oct 1988 *Speak Out*) do not take into account those of us over 45 who cannot clearly see the front sight on a pistol.

If it were not for the electronic red-dot sights, my competitive bullseye shooting, which I've enjoyed for over 28 years, would have come to an end. It was very

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discouraging to watch scores slide from the high 280s into the 260s.

When the choice was between electronic sights or quit shooting, it was an easy choice to make. I've added years to this most enjoyable form of recreation and am once again able to compete in my class.

Perhaps Mr. Love is in favor of everyone using 18th century firearms, riding horses and living in caves.

Frank D. Shuster
Library, Penn.

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

Armed Citizen Says Thanks

Allow me to express my deepest gratitude to all the readers of *American Handgunner* who were generous enough and cared about justice enough to contribute to my defense fund.

The support I received, both financial and moral, was simply overwhelming and since there is no possible way to personally thank all my good friends from *American Handgunner*, I can only let you know that every single donation was greatly appreciated. Thank you all.

I am also happy to advise that on March 11, 1988 I was found Not Guilty in my justified self-defense shooting by Circuit Court Judge Donald R. Mullins.

This has been a very long and hard fought battle, one I surely would have lost without the support of a few special people who cared and believed in me enough to put aside their personal lives and fight for mine.

My deepest thanks to my attorney, Gene Compton and his wife Dolly; his legal assistant, Faye Stevens; his secretary, Diane Powers; and, of course, the redoubtable Massad Ayoob. I will never forget what you have done for me, but these people deserve the respect and acclaim of all law abiding armed citizens, for their kind is very rare indeed. My thanks alone seems extremely inadequate.

I also want to publicly thank my good friend Dr. Walter Gorski. Without his friendship and understanding I would not have retained my sanity during this three and a half year nightmare.

Despite what has happened to me, the American system of justice generally works. But the legal system, like any other system, is only as good or as bad as the individuals who work within it and are responsible for its ethics and honesty.

Again, my heartfelt thanks to you, the readers of *American Handgunner*.

Mark A. Branham

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JOHN LAWSON

FOUR METHODS TO ADD A FINAL TOUCH OF LOGO OR LETTERING TO A HANDGUN

A distinctive logo applied to custom handguns enhances professionalism by orders of magnitude, but more projects are ruined in this finish stage than at any other point. Nothing disrupts the symmetry of a beautifully executed metalsmithing job than misaligned and poorly spaced lettering, unevenly stamped lines or lightly impressed logos. All of these problems can be avoided by choosing an alternate method of application and by taking sufficient time to carefully lay out and align wording or designs so they seem to flow into the contours of a part. Even, symmetrical work is the mark of pride in workmanship.

There are four methods of applying lettering and designs to metal parts: stamping, impressing, engraving and etching. By using a magnifying glass, it is possible to identify each method.

Stamping is accomplished by placing the individual metal stamp, cut in exact reverse

of the desired letter or number, squarely on the surface to be marked in the exact location desired and striking the shank with a hammer. Several letter or number stamps are often clamped together in a special holder, the line thus formed carefully set squarely on the piece to be marked and the shank struck with a heavy hammer.

There are some side effects of this process: Under magnification, the lines look like furrows in a plowed field; impression throws up a parapet beside the lines and ends of the figures and numbers. Before blueing or plating, the surface must be carefully smoothed without making any of the lines shallower. This requires some extremely careful workmanship with stone and buffer.

When several stamps are impressed at once, it is possible that the hammer blow will not strike the shank squarely, resulting in a heavy impression at one end or edge and a light impression at the opposite hand.

Attempts to re-impress the line usually result in a double, or shadow, impression. It is essential that the stamp be held in precisely the right position, with the impression faces perfectly flat on the surface and that the hammer blow does not tend to move the stamp in any direction but straight down into the metal.

I have seen examples of makeshift holders for several stamps that had ends not precisely parallel to the required striking plane. The heavy/light impression of every stamp in the group is referred to as the stamps being "off their feet." A similar condition can result from using spacers that are too short for the stamps; they should be nearly as long as the stamp. Those striking faces must be perfectly square to the work.

Impressed lettering can be run peripherally around a part. A familiar example might be the lettering on a loading die. To impress the part, it is first knurled, the knurl's diamonds providing the necessary traction to turn the die as the letters and numbers pass over the surface, driven by a rack and pinion. Impression pressure is regulated by journal tension screws that regulate the distance between the letter stamps and impression surface, controlling depth.

A flat steel die can be impressed in a surface by using an arbor press, applying sufficient pressure to impress the lines of

Continued on page 103

Big League Hardball.

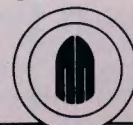
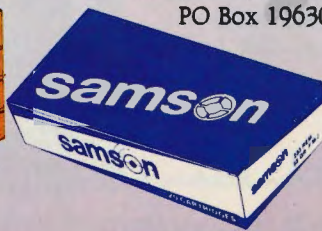
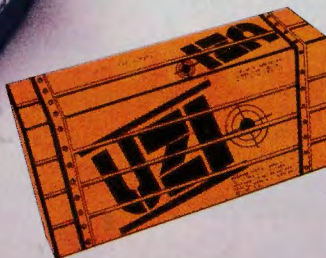
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The PACT PC's Glint Guard™ circuitry allows us to dispense with this silliness. Glint Guard™ **internally** compensates for changes in light conditions in much the same manner as the automatic exposure feature in a modern camera.



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HANDLOADING

CHARLES PETTY

RELOADING MANUALS, OFTEN TAKEN FOR GRANTED, OFFER WEALTH OF GOOD INFO

We would like to welcome Charles E. Petty as the new Handloading Editor and author of the Handloading column. Formerly the Special Projects Editor of American Handgunner, Charlie adds the responsibility of Handloading Editor to his portfolio, which also includes a position as Contributing Editor of The American Rifleman.

An experienced and knowledgeable shooter, Charlie served as an armorer in the US Air Force with his specialty being the accurizing of 1911 .45 pistols for use by the Air Force Pistol Team.

Regular readers may recall Charlie's frequent byline in American Handgunner and his pioneering research into the use of heavy bullet loads with the .38 Super. More recently, Charlie has developed a wealth of reloading information on the new 10mm Auto cartridge. He has invented a .41 caliber auto pistol wildcat cartridge and studied ballistics for over a quarter of a century.

Actively involved in PPC, IPSC and bulls-

eye competitive shooting, Charlie makes his home in North Carolina.

One of the most difficult decisions in reloading is deciding whose loading data to use and where to start and stop. Loading manuals are guides; cookbooks for shooters and, just like the kitchen variety, have room for creativity on the part of the chef, but there are limits. Two pinches of salt may be one too many for some recipes, but the worst thing likely to come of that error is dinner at McDonalds. Gunpowder is not nearly as forgiving.

On a shelf in my loading room are copies of every loading manual published by recognized sources. There are also a number of dog-eared books and quite a few older manuals that date back to my earliest loading days. Whenever I begin to work with a new cartridge, or one I haven't loaded in awhile, I check the data given in my most current source.

Most of the time this will be from the bullet makers and if it's a Hornady bullet I'll check their data first. The same is true for Sierra or Speer or whomever, for I believe they ought to know their own products best. But I'll also look at other comparable data to see if there is any discrepancy between the two that can't be readily explained. Most of the time the data will agree within a few tenths of a grain but sometimes it doesn't and it's hard to figure out why.

A great example is Speer's maximum load for the .44 Magnum with their 240 gr. lead bullet. They list a maximum charge of 7.0 gr. Unique. Hornady's latest book lists a max of 8.5 gr. with their similar bullet and Lyman's has something a bit over 12 gr. depending upon the bullet. Obviously, pressure can't be the reason for setting such radically different levels—some other factor must be involved. In this case the reason is barrel leading. Both Speer and Hornady sell swaged lead bullets and Lyman's data is based on bullets cast of linotype metal. If you drove a soft swaged bullet to the velocities you can reach with true maximum loads, most of it would stay in the barrel.

Sometimes there are differences that aren't so easy to explain. An example is when you find a powder charge that's the same or heavier than the charge listed for a lighter bullet. That may be understandable if you're looking at two different manuals but it's hard to figure if you happen to find it within the same com-

Continued on page 16



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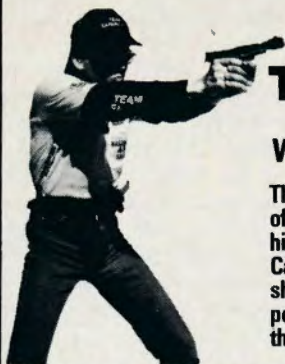
making them forever a part of the first year's production.

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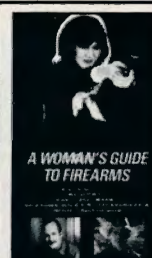
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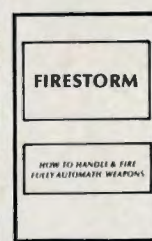
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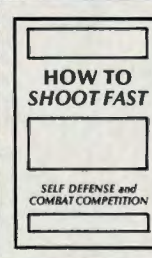
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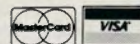
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pany's data. Conventional wisdom is that powder charge decreases as bullet weight increases, but if the bearing area of the heavier bullet is less it might well be okay. And there's always the chance of an undetected error or misprint. It may be that the load is absolutely correct, but I think it ought to raise a red flag in the mind of the reloader.

Some folks who have compared old editions of manuals with current ones have noticed that some previously listed maximum loads have been reduced. The reason is really pretty simple: we know more about pressure now than we used to. Within the industry there is a trend toward using newer tech-

nology for pressure measurements and the results have sometimes had a few surprises.

The new technology is the piezoelectric transducer which, when coupled with a computer, can show engineers things about internal ballistics that they never knew. The transducer provides a record, millisecond by millisecond, of pressure and has taught us a lot about how powder burns.

In the past all pressure measurements were made by comparing the change in length of a small copper crusher and, while they provided valuable information, they didn't always give an accurate measurement of peak pressure. The changeover is still going on and the only way the hobby reloader has of knowing which method was used is if pres-

sure test results are published. The units will then provide the answer, for transducer data gives results in pounds per square inch, whereas the copper crusher data is reported as C.U.P. (copper units of pressure).

These two are in no way interchangeable and pressures measured with the transducer will almost always be higher. That doesn't mean that old loads were unsafe, although some were, but our better knowledge has taught some needed caution. There's an excellent article in the current Lyman handbook that shows a comparison of the same loads measured both ways and is worthwhile reading for anyone interested in more information.

Another cause of differences may be whether the company used a pressure barrel or standard firearm for their load development work. Special pressure barrels are expensive (around \$500 each) and when you consider the number of calibers involved the cost can be substantial. If one company has a pressure barrel for a particular caliber and another doesn't, there may be considerable differences between their data. The guy without the sophisticated equipment is going to be basing his opinion on things like case expansion measurements or primer signs. Given the current climate concerning liability, the result may well be a more conservative load.

All the data books carefully list the specific components used. They show the make of case, primer, powder and bullet and any deviation from the exact list requires some care on the part of the reloader. All the manuals advise to work up to maximum loads with extreme caution, but I feel that a lot of loaders ignore that sage advice and get away with it most of the time. Even when you use exactly the same components, guns aren't identical and if you happen to have a tight chamber or bore, there's a real chance of hitting excessive pressure levels. But if you switch components and use a different case, primer or bullet (even if it's the same weight) things can get nasty.

One of the most popular component switches is to substitute magnum primers for the standard type. The times when such a switch would be beneficial are rare, to the extreme, and most of the time they either do nothing or are harmful. Their more rapid ignition can screw up accuracy and push pressures that were safe with standard primers to excessive or perhaps hazardous levels. Heavy loads of the slower ball type propellants are about the only time when magnum primers may be useful and then only if the data source specifies their use.

If your goal is a maximum load, the way to be safe is to begin at somewhere near the middle of suggested range and work up to the maximum in small steps. My practice is to use no more than 0.5 gr. increments at any time and if the load is near the top I'll reduce that to 0.2 or even 0.1 gr. Some powders have rather narrow ranges between starting and maximum loads and it isn't a good idea to start in the middle using half grain increments if there's only a two grain spread between top and bottom.

Continued on page 102

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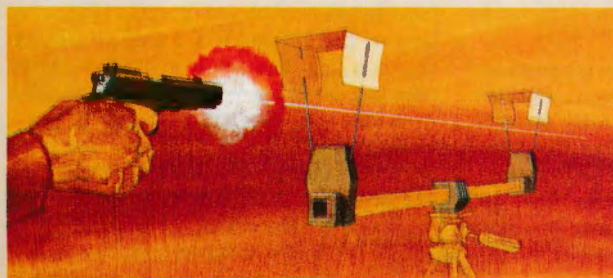
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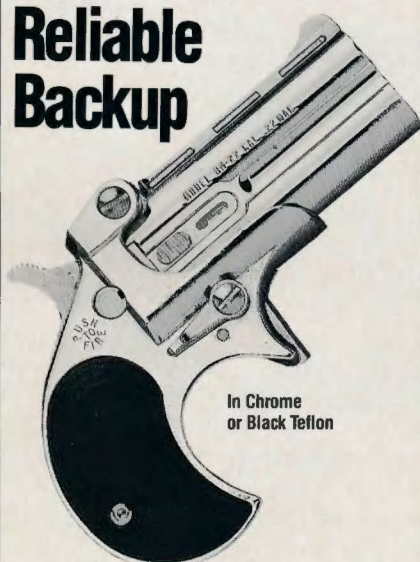
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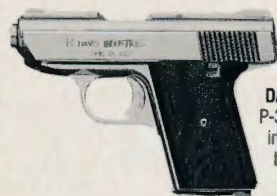


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COP TALK

MASSAD AYOOB

WEAPON RETENTION IS A MATTER OF BALANCING HOLSTER, TRAINING, GUN

Some regular readers have noticed that almost every time I write about this gun, that holster, or some tactical aspect of the discipline, I mention the factor of whether or not what we're talking about is conducive to retaining control of your gun when someone else is trying to take it away and shoot you with it. One or two have asked if I have a "thing" about it, and have I ever had my own gun taken away?

The answer is "yes" and "yes." I do have a "thing" about a syndrome that is known to kill perhaps one out of five police officers who are murdered in the line of duty, because that's the average quoted figure of cops slain with their own gun or a partner's. And I get my gun taken away hundreds of times a year.

Several years ago I was certified to teach weapon retention and disarming by the acknowledged police master of the art, Jim Lindell. I teach the discipline to hundreds of students in a given year. When you count the number of repetitions of each of the techniques with each of the students, from me taking their gun to wake them up at the beginning, to them disarming me in the final exercise, that's a lot of gun-grabbing. For a trial I was involved in last year in which an armed citizen tried to get a gun away from a suicidal girl and it went off and killed her—resulting in him facing a death jury for Murder One—I had to compute the number of times a year I struggle with someone for a gun. It came out to about 4,000.

The defendant in the case in question had zip for training. He pulled the gun away from the girl, she pulled it back, and *blam*. A young woman had died tragically and I wanted to cry for her, but a second tragic death wouldn't make up for the first, and frying the guy who tried to save her didn't strike me as justice. I explained to the jury why it was an accidental "Excusable Homicide," not Murder One, according to the fact evidence in question.

The prosecutor thought differently. He figured nobody small could get a gun away from a bigger, stronger male, the way the defendant said it happened. The prosecutor was a big, strong jock, about as much bigger than me as the defendant was bigger than the sad little 23-year-old girl who had died in his arms. In front of the jury, to show that the defendant and I were both full of it, he pointed a gun at me and challenged me to take it away from him.

I took the gun away from him and shoved it up his nose, rocking his head back. The trial transcript does not record the gales of laughter that burst from the jury. It does record the prosecutor's final words to me as he stood

with his eyes crossed on the gun muzzle: "That's very good. No further questions." The jury found the defendant Not Guilty, and freed him to pick up what parts of his life the tragedy has left him.

The point is this: while I've never been disarmed in the street, I *have* been through more than enough full power struggles for a handgun in training to be able to tell you a basic truth: ANYONE CAN BE DISARMED!

And, please, spare me the BS machismo. Lines like "Nobody's ever gonna get my gun away from *me*." Those are the words of someone who's never been fighting three to one and been whacked on the back of the head with a 2 x 4. The police defensive tactics researchers Bob Downey and the late Jordan Roth recorded 138 cops killed with their own guns in a 10-year period, and all of *them* would have said a minute before it happened, "Nobody's gonna get my gun away from *me*."

The assailant will try to kill you with your own gun in any of several patterns of attack. Maybe he'll wait 'til his buddy sucker punches you from behind, and you're out for a second, before he goes for your holster. Maybe he'll catch you off guard and attack from any angle across 360° to rip it out of the leather. And if he's really got chutzpah or is maybe just zonked enough and desperate enough, he'll try to rip it right out of your hand and shove it up *your* nose, as I did to that lawyer. The difference is, I used an unshootable gun, and this guy is gonna have yours fully loaded, and he *will* blow your brains out if you don't stop him.

Weapon retention is a multi-faceted discipline. It's not enough to have this magic holster or that magic gun or these other magic techniques. Depending on the pattern of attack, you might need a security holster *or* a gun the bad guy can't shoot *or* weapon retention skills, or you might need any or all of them in combination.

I'm a believer in the Lindell Method of Weapon Retention, the strongest and most proven such system ever developed. Hundreds of cops owe their lives to it after documented incidents. Sometimes the guns were in their hands when the attack came, sometimes in unfastened holsters, but the training held and the cops survived.

Does this mean that all you need is retention training? NO! It doesn't work if you've lapsed unconscious for a second, or if four mammoth scumbags are on top of you at once pulling in different directions.

Security holsters? I'm a believer. There are several street proven holsters out there,

Continued on page 20

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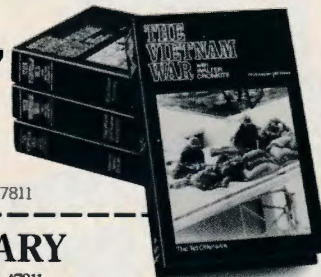
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Continued from page 18

with Bianchi and Rogers and Safariland leading the pack, that have saved multiple officers' lives when punks tried to rip the guns out and couldn't; the cop was out cold or off guard, but he was the one who "knew the combination to the trick holster" and the dirt-bag didn't. Does this mean that a security holster is all you need? NO! There are some criminals who *know* the combination, and some who find it by luck, and the holster matters not at all if the attack comes when the gun is in your hand. Too, the harder it is for a criminal to get your gun the harder it is for *you* to get it. While one in five who would kill you will try to do it with your gun, the other four will bring their own, and you'd damn well better have a fast answer for *that* situation.

A third answer, one I'm fond of, is a "user-proprietary" gun. The history of S&W and Colt automatics in the police service shows innumerable cases of crooks getting hold of a police gun and failing to commit murder with it because they couldn't find the safety catch. Perhaps the ultimate answer, though certainly not for everyone, is the MagnaTrigger conversion of an S&W revolver so it can only fire in the hand of someone wearing a special magnetic ring. But how many cops are really up for sending \$300 to Tarnhelm, 67½ Rumford St., Concord, NH, 03301 for the conversion, and ready to wear a ring on each hand every day, all day?

And an increasing number of police instructors have been made to believe that their cops are too stupid to release a safety catch as they draw and fire, and are telling their men to carry double action autos with the safety off or issuing autos with no manual safety at all. Back to square one: weapon retention training and security holsters.

I submit that there has to be a balance here. First, you need the weapon retention training: that's non-negotiable. A chief who sends his people on the street with guns hanging out in plain sight and *doesn't* train them in weapon retention has wrapped a case of culpable negligence around himself as soon as his first cop gets shot with his own gun.

Retentive holsters and proprietary guns? Remember, the safety slows you down a little and some holsters slow you down a lot. A security scabbard or a safety locked gun demands intensive training to make it reflexive for the officer to react swiftly and surely when suddenly attacked by an armed criminal.

A balance can be found. For me, after a lot of studying and teaching and testing, it came down to this: When my part-time job as a sworn police lieutenant (as opposed to my full-time job as weapons instructor) takes me on the street in uniform, I carry a conventional .357 in a security holster such as the Bianchi 27 or the Rogers Boss. I carry my MagnaTrigger .357 in a raked-back thumb-break Bucheimer Estes designed more for speed than security, since a snatch-resistant gun makes a snatch-resistant holster redundant. My cocked and safety-locked Colt .45 automatic is likely to be in a fast thumb-break

4500 holster by G. Wm. Davis. And my double action SIG-Sauer automatics that have no manual safety and shoot as easy as revolvers ride in security holsters, a new-model Bucheimer Auto Breakfront for the 9mm P-226 and the fine new Don Hume rig for the P-220 .45.

It would be easier with one gun, but my training function in a mixed-gun department requires me to carry different weapons. Suffice to say that a pattern of balance emerges: the gun with no safety catch rides in a security

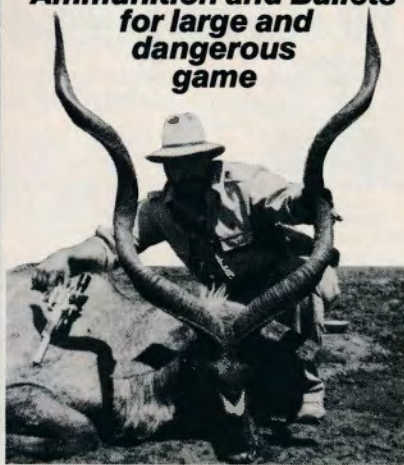


holster, the one that's user-proprietary goes into a speed rig. Speed of reaction on the one hand, reduced "snatch-ability" on the other. It's reflected on my department, too: the revolver carriers all have breakfronts, and virtually all the auto carriers pack "on-safe" in quick-access leather.

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SILUETAS

JOHN TAFFIN

DAN WESSON ANNOUNCES TWO NEW BIG BORES, THE .414 AND .445 ULTRAMAGS

In April 1981, *The Silhouette*, official paper of IHMSA (International Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association), announced a new handgun cartridge that was soon to have a significant impact on long range silhouetting. The new cartridge was to be called the .357 SuperMag and was simply the .357 Magnum lengthened to 1.600"

By 1983, Elgin Gates of IHMSA, in cooperation with Dan Wesson, announced the new handgun which would quickly become the Number One long range revolver for silhouetting. That handgun is, of course, the Dan Wesson .357 SuperMag revolver which has been the winningest revolver in long range silhouetting since its introduction.

Even before the .357 SuperMag became a viable revolver cartridge as chambered by Dan Wesson, Ruger and Seville, experiments were being carried on using the SuperMag cartridge in rechambered .357 Magnum Thompson/Center Contenders. Some wildcatters looked beyond the .357 Magnum chambering immediately to bigger (and bet-

ter?) chamberings. It was about this time, in 1981, that I made the acquaintance of one such wildcatter, Lew Schafer. Schafer had been working on his .444 Schafer Magnum chambered in the Contender—nothing more than the .444 Marlin case swaged and turned on a lathe to give the same outside dimensions as the .44 Magnum.

Schafer's major selling point was the fact that the powerful .444 Schafer Magnum could be used for hunting, and the shooter could drop back to the standard .44 Magnums when desired. A number of .44 Magnum Contenders were rechambered to .444 and many found their way to Alaska.

I contacted Schafer as soon as I heard that the .357 SuperMag was coming and he began to make plans to convert one of the first to what he would call the .44 Schafer UltraMag. I do not know if Schafer made the first .44 SuperMag or not, but we were experimenting in 1981 using .44 Magnum Contenders rechambered to a 1.600" "SuperMag .44."

Using a ten-inch Contender chambered for

the .44 UltraMag, we went to 2200 fps with Hornady .44 200 grain jacketed hollow points, and 2000 fps with both the Sierra .44 220 grain full metal jackets, and the Hornady .44 240 grain full metal jackets. All velocities were obtained safely with no dangerous pressure signs, and accuracy was excellent.

Schafer now had the cartridge, dies, chambering reamers and test results, but no revolver. It was to be only a short time for this to be remedied and the first .357 SuperMag Dan Wesson revolver to arrive hereabouts never fired a shot until it was rechambered to .44 UltraMag and fitted with a .44 Dan Wesson barrel and shroud.

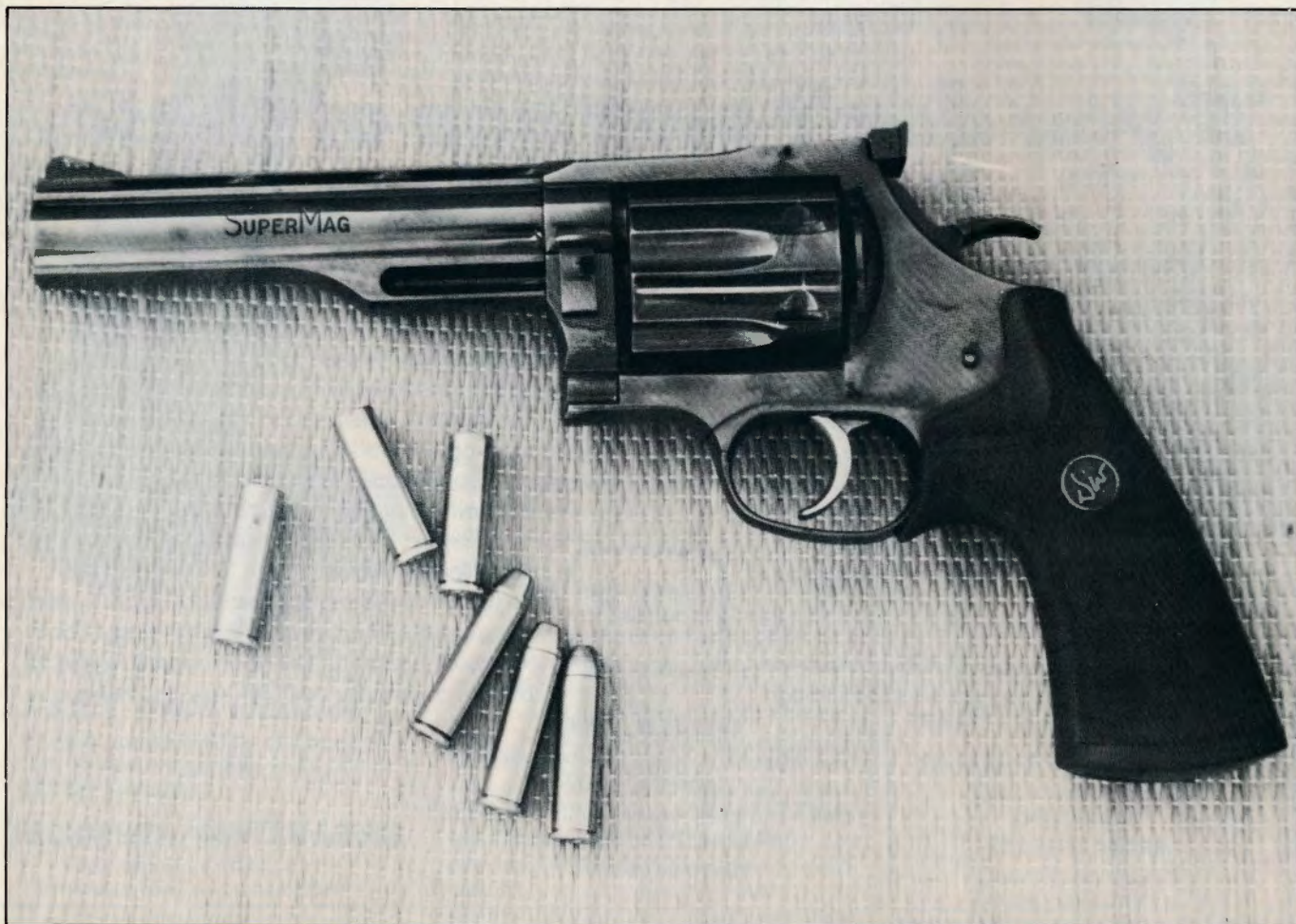
What was accomplished by coming up with the new long .44 Magnum? Using an eight-inch barreled Dan Wesson rechambered to .44 UltraMag, the following results were achieved:

200 grain Hornady JHP at 2000 fps
220 grain Sierra Silhouette at 1900 fps
240 grain Hornady JTC at 1800 fps
265 grain Hornady FP at 1650 fps

After a lot of talking, I finally convinced a reluctant Schafer that he was missing an important part of experimenting by not trying heavyweight—spelled 300 grain—bullets in his new pet. Finally he succumbed and we headed for the range with a supply of carefully worked up .44 UltraMag loads with 300 grain bullets.

Schafer screwed on the six inch barrel and handed me the big Dan Wesson allowing me the honor of firing the first rounds. With

Continued on page 24



America's two hottest shooters see eye to eye on only one thing:

THEY BOTH SHOOT SPRINGFIELDS

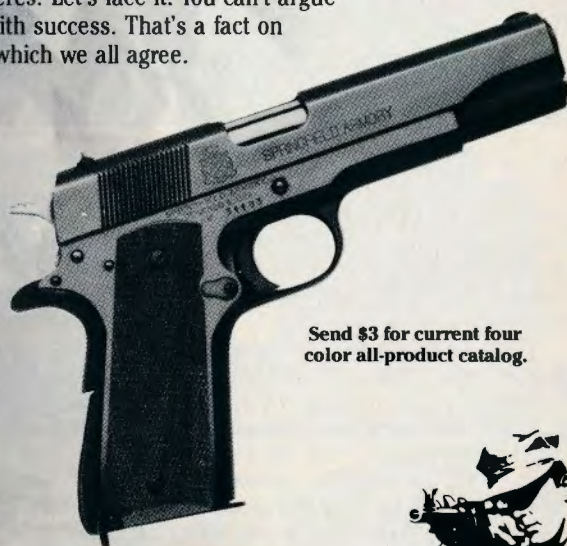


Rob Leatham and Jerry Barnhart are as different as two winners can be. For instance: ■ Jerry's not a big guy, but he used a Springfield .45 ACP to win the '87 Steel Challenge, and to smoke the field at the '87 USPSA Nationals. Although Rob's big and burly, he used a smaller caliber Springfield .38 Super to blaze his way to victory in the shootoffs at the '87 Steel Challenge, the '87 Bianchi Cup and the '87 USPSA Nationals. ■ Rob's a veteran, with four USPSA National Championships, two IPSC World Championships, and a Triple Crown win to his credit. Jerry's a relative newcomer to the pro circuit, but he's already become one of America's pre-eminent pistoleros. ■ On the firing line, Rob is cool as a cucumber. Jerry is the picture of intensity as he psyches himself into his shooting stance.

Differences aside, there's one thing on which Rob and Jerry do agree: To be the best, a shooter must use the best. That's why they're both shooting Springfield 1911-A1 pistols again in 1988.

They're not alone in their choice. In 1988 as in 1987, perennial winners like Brian Enos, Mike Plaxco, Chip McCormick, Wayne Bowker and Ken Tapp will be using Springfield pistols as members of Team Springfield's "A" team. And, America's most prominent master pistolsmiths are now building more custom Springfields than any other major brand.

Just how well did Springfield pistols perform in '87? Great! But this year, we'll do even better. Watch the results of America's most hotly contested competitions. You'll see more and more champions winning with Springfield pistols, and fewer and fewer shooting the has-beens and never-weres. Let's face it: You can't argue with success. That's a fact on which we all agree.



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Schafer running the clock, I settled the .44 UltraMag down on the sandbags. Before shooting, I had asked him to guess what the muzzle velocity would be. He was not prepared for the results we obtained, but I had shot enough 300 grain cast bullets in .44 Magnums to know what was about to happen.

His guess as to muzzle velocity was 300 fps low. From his squeal of delight as he read the first shot off the chronograph, I could tell exactly what was happening. Just as I had expected, the velocities with the 300 grain cast bullet were the equivalent of those that we had earlier obtained with the jacketed 265 grain bullet. The first five shots averaged 1589 fps with an extreme spread of 38 fps and this from a six-inch barrel.

While Schafer was watching the clock, I was concentrating on group size. My first shot struck about four inches to the right, and

January 1986).

At the time, Lew Schafer spent considerable time trying to interest Dan Wesson in bringing out a .44 SuperMag. They of course were just getting the .357 SuperMag off the ground and so were not really interested. Schafer did first-class conversions but they were expensive as the .44 Magnum Dan Wesson barrels did not have the same thread as the .357 SuperMag barrels so it was more than a matter of simply rechambering a .357 SuperMag cylinder and screwing on a .44 barrel. The cost was double the price of the gun alone. The .44 SuperMag has been a fairly popular wildcat chambering as done by Schafer and other gunsmiths.

Now the .44 SuperMag is about to be legitimized. Elgin Gates has worked with Dan Wesson in bringing out the third of the SuperMag cartridges, behind the .357 and .375 SuperMags. The new cartridge will not be called the .44 SuperMag but the .445 SuperMag.

220 grain silhouette bullet. This should open new vistas and write new chapters in the long range silhouetting game. The .445 should be an even more attractive package than the .357 SuperMag as it can easily double as a first-class hunting handgun. It will not be anywhere near as heavy as the .357 SuperMag and has the advantages of more caliber, more speed, and greater bullet selection.

I will be getting one of the first 10 tool-room .445 SuperMags from Dan Wesson. Elgin Gates, who is backing the project with a large order of the guns for IHMSA plus orders to BELL for brass, and Redding for dies, is sending along both brass and dies. Since I was on the ground floor of load development for both the .357 and .375 SuperMags, I am looking forward to working with this new big bore.

There could be one possible problem in using the .445 for silhouetting. Recoil. Will it be possible for shooters to maintain the concentration necessary to shoot 220-240 grain bullets at 1800-2000 fps without succumbing to recoil jitters?

Will the big Dan Wesson, which tames the recoil of the .44 Magnum, be heavy enough to do the same for the .445?

Will it be possible to come up with loads for the .445 that will allow 240 grain bullets at 1500-1600 fps without sacrificing accuracy?

All these questions will be answered soon. Watch the pages of *American Handgunner* for all the latest information.

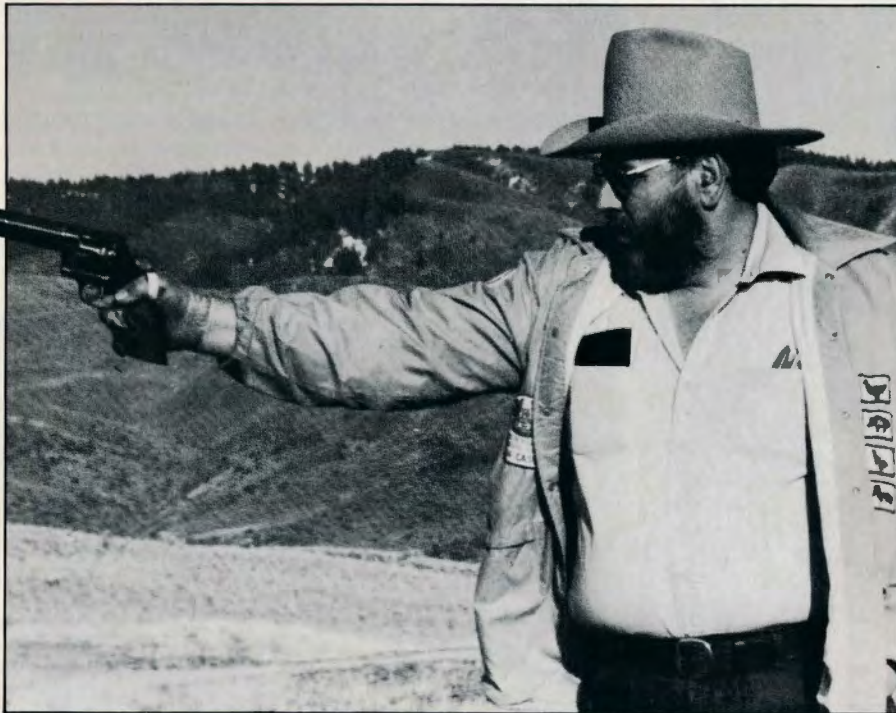
Even as I write this, I have received word that there will be two, not one, new big bore SuperMags. In addition to the .445 SuperMag, Dan Wesson is also introducing the .414 SuperMag, which is a lengthened .41 Magnum. And, I have also received word that I will receive one of 10 of each of the new SuperMags to be put out to the writers for testing and evaluation.

So hunters, silhouetters, and long range handgunners will soon have the choice of both .41 and .44 SuperMags to work with as the .445 and .414 become reality. Freedom Arms and Barnes are both already making .44 caliber jacketed bullets with the necessary .032" heavy jackets to withstand the pressures that these SuperMags will generate.

Remember the early problems with light jacketed .357 Magnum bullets in the .357 SuperMag? Hopefully the introduction of the .414 will see the same bullets available in .41 caliber.

With the introduction of the .445 and .414—and I do like the nomenclature, no confusion with the .44 and .41 Magnums—new excitement should be generated in the long range silhouetting game.

The .357 SuperMag, an excellent cartridge/gun combination and the Number One choice for long range revolver silhouetting, is a very limited choice whose main use is for long range silhouetting. The .445 and .414 should be much more versatile being as good for big game hunting as for silhouetting. It would seem that a new era of long range silhouetting is about to begin!



rather than adjust the sights, I decided to fire the rest of the shots just to see what kind of group I could obtain. On the second shot, Schafer announced that I had missed the target!

Now I am not the world's best shot with a handgun by any means, but how could I miss the target?

I really concentrated on the next shot, and Schafer started to announce that I had missed again, when he suddenly realized that the hole in the target was slightly oblong and we were getting a one-hole group with 300 grain bullets at 1600 fps. We finished with a $\frac{3}{8}$ " group for the first five shots with heavy bullets from the .44 UltraMag.

All of our experiments with the .44 UM were written up in GUNS (May 1984 and

In talking with the Dan Wesson reps at the SHOT Show, I heard claims of 2000 fps with the 240 grain .44 bullet from the new .445. This seems a little on the heavy side, but a lot will depend upon the brass that is used. Wildcatters have built .44 SuperMags using both .444 Marlin and .30-40 Krag brass cut to 1.600". The new .445 brass will be specifically made for the .445 by BELL and will not require trimming as was the case with the .375 SuperMag for quite awhile.

Soon, both silhouetters and hunters will have a new long range cartridge to work with. The .357 SuperMag can be loaded with a 180 grain bullet at 1400-1500 fps and the .375 SuperMag can deliver a 220 grain bullet at 1700 fps from a ten inch barrel. The .445 will probably do a safe 1900-2000 fps with a

What Is A Custom Firearm?

One of the most used and misused words in the firearms industry today is "custom." We could offer a dictionary definition, but to members of the American Custom Gunmakers Guild it simply means a firearm painstakingly made to your order and specifications.

A custom firearm is created from the finest components available. It is a combination of the latest in modern machining techniques and time-honored hand fitting. Fit and finish are of the highest standards. It is made to the particular requirements of the client, so it is one-of-a-kind. Various components, when necessary, are carefully modified or completely handmade to fulfill a specific functional or aesthetic purpose.

In other words, a custom firearm is first class all the way. But, it is more than that. A combination of advance planning and the subtle artistic use of the components results in a functional work of art, rather than an assembly of quality, but unrelated parts. A work of art that feels as good as it looks. A gunmaker's years of experience contributes subtle excellence in handling qualities as well as appearance.

To some people a firearm is an extension of one's personality, a place for personal ideas to become reality, a source of pride and pleasure.

True artistic beauty can be expressed in wood and steel, making your investment in a custom firearm a case of the sum being more than the addition of the individual components.

The American Custom Gunmakers Guild is made up of craftsmen from all areas of the United States who specialize in high quality custom work on firearms. Guild members, although diverse in their interests, share a common bond toward the betterment of custom firearms and the skills needed to achieve as near perfection as is humanly possible.

Each member is an individual craftsman with his own ideas and disciplines. Members have a wide range of experience and specialties and the high quality of their work is the result of their years of dedication to these high ideals in making custom firearms.

You may want to select a Guild member, or a combination of members, to turn your ideas of a custom firearm into reality.

For information about the American Custom Gunmakers Guild and members, please contact Jan Melchert, Executive Secretary, ACGG, Dept. AH, 220 Division Street, Northfield, MN 55057. Phone (507) 645-8811.

The ACGG members mainly produce custom rifles. There are a few skilled pistolsmiths, but readers interested in handguns are urged to contact the American Pistolsmiths Guild, Rt. 1, Della Drive, Bloomington, OH, 43910. If readers are interested in custom rifles or shotguns, contact ACGG. Editor.

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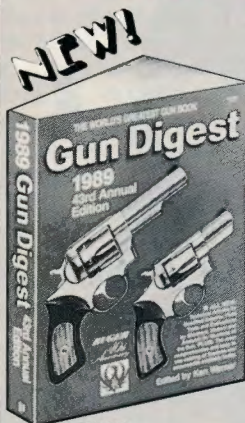


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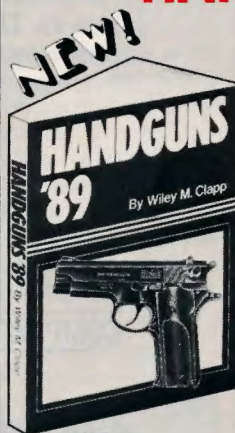


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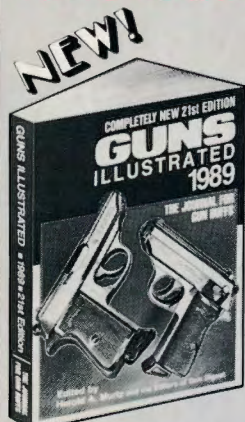


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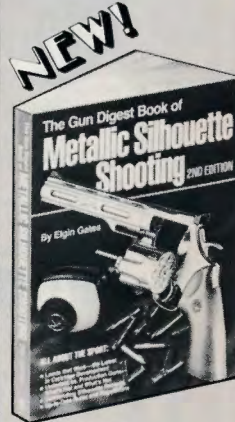


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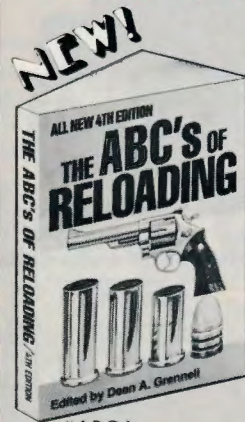


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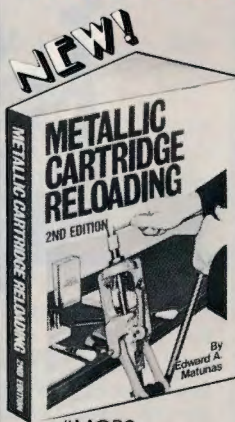


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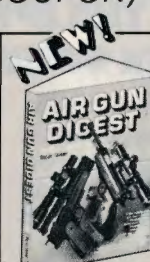
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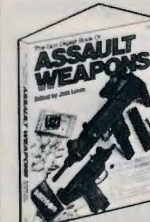
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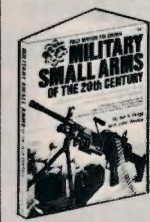
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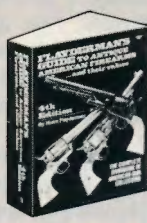
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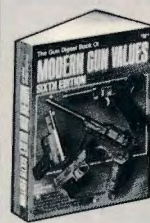
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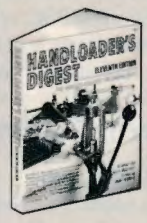
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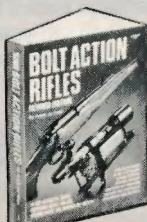
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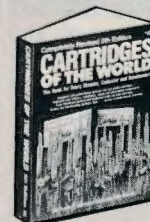
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INSIGHTS INTO IPSC

DAVE ANDERSON

SHOOTOUT AT THE IPSC CORRAL: POWER FACTOR DEBATE SPURS FIGHTIN' WORDS

An old spaghetti Western was playing on the VCR, and I was filling in the boring parts (i.e., no shooting) by paging through a stack of old gun magazines. I left Clint Eastwood trotting his mule into a dusty western town and was reading the 9mm side of a 9mm versus .45 ACP debate when I came across a reference to "the fatuous IPSC power factor." Fatuous! As IPSC competitors we get called names ranging from gun shop commandos to gamesmen, but this was going too far.

Still smarting from this bitter and unprovoked attack, I turned my attention to the screen, where ol' Clint was ridding the town of evildoers, which seemed to include most of the population. As he rode away to new adventures I dozed off, dreaming of how such an insult would have been handled in the good old days . . .

"What'll it be, stranger?" asked the bartender.

"Make it a sarsaparilla. Double." I tossed some coins on the scarred table and tilted my chair against the wall, scanning the saloon warily. It was late afternoon and there were only a few others present—half a dozen cowboys playing poker, and a couple of grizzled old timers at the bar. Outside a hot desert wind was swirling, occasional gusts rattling the windows and swinging the batwing doors.

One of the old timers left the bar and crossed to my table. "Mind if I join you, partner?"

"Set." I took a cigar from my pocket and gestured at a chair.

"Much obliged. Stranger in these parts, aren't you?"

"Just passing through. I'm with the IPSC bunch. From up north."

"Guess maybe I've heard of them. So what's your business in town?"

"Looking for a man named Bart—Black Bart Labrador. And when I find him," I patted the stocks of my holstered pistol, "there may be some shootin'."

"Might be I can't allow that, friend." He pulled back his vest to show a badge pinned to his shirt. "So happens I'm marshall around here. I know this Bart pretty well, he shoots strictly handguns. What's he done to get your bunch so riled?"

"Said we got a fatuous power factor."

The old man sighed dolefully, "I'm sure sorry to hear he used the f-word. That means you got to fight him, sure enough. It's the code of the west. But he does have a point about the power factor."

"Yeah? How so?" I stuck the cigar between my teeth and popped a match into

life on my thumbnail, blinking back tears of pain as a chunk of the match head lodged under the nail and burned itself out.

"Well, as I understand it, you calculate this factor by multiplying bullet weight by velocity. The result is momentum, not power, so you should call it a momentum factor."

I eyed the marshall with respect. He knew his physics. "I knew that," I countered, "But we use the term colloquially, to mean stopping power, and we estimate stopping power by measuring momentum."

"Okay, we won't argue the point. But there are lots of theories about stopping power. How did you get so, er, infatuated with momentum?"

"Because the man who founded the IPSC—El Jefe—felt that the research done by an army chap named Hatcher was the best available, and Hatcher concluded that there was a strong correlation between momentum and stopping power."

A couple of the cowboys had left the game and joined the conversation.

"Wait a minute, mister," said one. "Hatcher also felt that cross-sectional area and bullet construction were important."

Just about anyone would agree that the faster a bullet goes, or the more it weighs, the better—all things being equal.

"Yeah," said the other, "and besides, I thought you guys were sport shooters. What difference does stopping power make in a competition?"

"Good points," I tapped the ash from my cigar onto the floor. "It's a sport, all right, but it's based on the practical purpose of a handgun, which is self-defense. In order to be effective, a personal defense weapon has to produce a certain level of recoil, and part of the challenge of practical shooting is to develop techniques and equipment to handle this level of recoil. So long as we meet that requirement, though, things like bullet construction and shape are really irrelevant, because all we're shooting at is paper and steel."

The marshall had dug out the makings and was rolling a cigarette. "So you just want to make sure competitors are using full power loads. Sounds reasonable enough. But how did this major-minor business come about?"

"Well, El Jefe and the other IPSC founders felt that the least powerful gun they would rely on for their own use was a

compact .45 ACP—say a Colt Commander or Star PD. So happens that a 230 grain factory load comes out of one of these guns at about 770 feet per second. Multiply weight times velocity and you get about 177,000. Knock off the zeros and round to 175 and you have the major factor."

"So why not make everybody shoot major?"

"Because a lot of people, police especially, carried 9's and .38 Specials, either by choice or regulation. Didn't make much sense to tell them they couldn't use their duty gun in a practical shooting sport. A common .38 Special load in the old days was a 158 grain bullet at about 800 fps. Multiply that out and round it off and you get the minor factor of 125."

"What's the difference?" asked one of the cowboys. "Seems to me that bullet placement is still the key."

"There's no difference in a match, so long as you hit center. Start hitting the paper around the edges, though, and you get one more point with major than with minor."

The marshall struck a match one-handed (without burning his thumb, I noted enviously) and lit his cigarette. "So in effect the whole power factor business is an aid to administering and scoring matches, not an attempt to predict real-world effectiveness."

"Right. Look, the IPSC crew never set out to find what the most effective loads are. We leave that kind of research to law enforcement people like you and that lawman back east, Marshall Evans. IPSC set out to find what shooting techniques work best, with loads that have realistic recoil

levels. I think just about anyone would agree that the faster a bullet goes, or the more it weighs, the better—all things being equal. The major/minor system serves as an incentive to use heavier loads, it's easy to understand, and it's easy to administer."

One of the cowboys fished a .45 Colt round from his cartridge belt and tossed it to me. "Say, I want to try one of your matches," he said, "how can I be sure these loads will make your major factor?"

"Shouldn't be a problem with these," I replied, "but I can give you a couple of tips I got from the Mesa Kid."

"You met the Kid?" he said in awe. "Say mister, is he as fast as they say?"

"Bet your spurs on it, cowboy. He's the champ of the whole IPSC bunch. Anyway, the Kid says you should allow some margin for error. If you want to make 175, load to make 180. Run off 20 or so rounds of the load you're trying and check them on a chronograph. But don't be satisfied if the average exceeds 180. What you want is for every single round to be over. If not,

increase the load and try again— providing you can do so safely, of course. If all the rounds make it, it doesn't hurt a thing to run off another 20 rounds and check them on a second chronograph. Sure, your loads will be a bit hotter than necessary, but come match day you can concentrate 100% of your mind on shooting, rather than worrying about whether your loads will factor okay."

The tough-looking old marshall had a look of faint amusement on his face. "Stranger, if the Mesa Kid is so good, how come he ain't here to deal with Black Bart instead of a guy like . . . I mean, instead of you? No offense."



"None taken. You're right, I'm not nearly so good as the Kid, but we don't figure we need to send our best to handle this Bart character."

"Reckon we'll soon find out. He usually stops by about this time." The words were hardly spoken when the doors swung open and Bart stepped in.

I could see by his outfit that he was no cowboy, from the legend "Wondernines are Fine" on his T-shirt to the P-226 that swung low on his hip. Bystanders scattered for cover as he crossed to the table and spoke. "I hear there's a stranger in town, thinks he's practical."

"That would be me," I said, narrowing my eyes menacingly, which also served to keep out the cigar smoke.

"Oh yeah? Well, I say you ain't practical and your power factor is fatuous."

I rose slowly to my feet, pulling back the sheepskin vest to reveal the butt of the Wilson Accu-Comp in the Ernie Hill leather. "Smile when you say that, partner."

"I ain't a-smilin'."

"Then we settle this with our shootin' irons. You go first."

"That's fair, Bart," said the marshall. "It's the code of the west. I'll give the start signal."

He pulled a Pro-Timer III from under his vest and switched it on. "Are you ready? Stand by." Beep!

At the tone Bart spun to face a row of

Pepper poppers lined up along the back wall, in front of a sandbagged backstop. The SIG-Sauer boomed six times, slamming six poppers to the floor.

"Good shooting, Bart." The marshall checked the timer. "That was a 3.38. Stranger, maybe you better just ride on out. You ain't likely to beat that."

The others evidently agreed as they gathered around Bart, slapping his back and offering congratulations. I took a long, leisurely puff on the cigar and set it down.

"Hold it," Silence fell across the room instantly, "The opera ain't over until the fatuous lady sings. Bartender, set 'em up again. No, the Pepper poppers. Okay, marshall, whenever you say."

The timer sounded, and instantly the Accu-Comp was up and firing, the poppers falling before it. "The time," said the marshall, "is 2.45 . . ."

"Dave, wake up!" I recognized my wife's voice. "The time is 2:45, you fell asleep watching TV again." I came back to reality slowly and reached for the remote control unit. "I don't know why you watch those silly Westerns anyway," Simone continued, "You keep sitting up and munching on peanuts and chips and you're going to get . . ."

"Don't say it," I sighed, punching the off switch, "Fatuous."

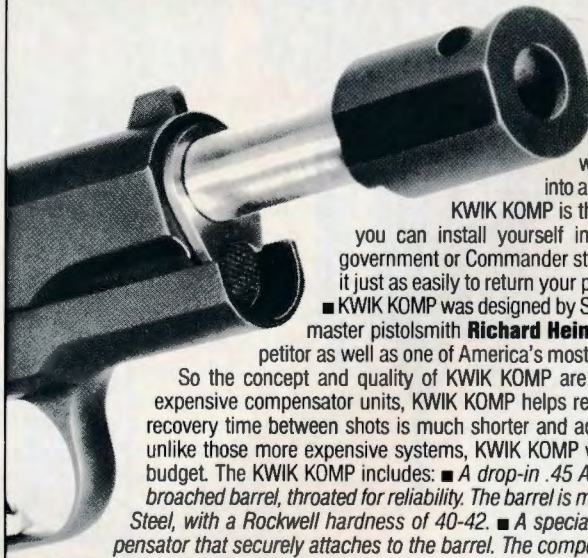


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Trick Out Your L-frame With



BOLT-ON ACCESSORIES

By Massad Ayoob

Since their introduction, Smith & Wesson's L-frame .357 Magnums have become enormously popular. The enthusiastic police and public reception of the models 586 and 686 with adjustable sights (chrome-moly and stainless construction respectively) and the fixed-sight service model 581 (681 in stainless) is well deserved. The guns have the heft and feel of the vastly more expensive Colt Python, and share that premium gun's ability to withstand heavy doses of .357 Magnum practice fire.

Yet even such an excellent revolver has room for improvement. Some of this upgrading can be done by the hobbyist, while some is best left to professionals.

Action Tunes. For single action fire, most L-frames have excellent letoffs just as they come from the little blue box. The most demanding double action shooters, however, often want an even slicker stroke in the trigger cocking mechanism. *In a police, security, or self-defense weapon, such modifications should ONLY be done by a skilled revolversmith or certified graduate of the Smith & Wesson Armorer's School!*

On my four-inch 686, I went with a modification package I worked out with Andy Cannon of Cannon's Guns, P.O. Box 357, Victor, MT 59875. Featured in the July/August '87 issue of *American Handgunner*, this "Cannon Street L/Ayoob" is converted to double action only and given Cannon's famous super-duty action tune. This includes his trigger stop designed to eliminate back-

lash (improving double action accuracy with a design that guarantees the stop can't come loose and impair functioning).

For a clearer, sharper-edged sight picture, Millett rear sights are installed, with a post front. The grip frame is altered to K-frame round butt configuration to improve concealability and better adapt to small hands. Cannon mills his trademark integral compensator out of the S&W barrel itself, creating the single most effective muzzle jump reducer I've ever experienced in my extensive .357 Magnum shooting.

Some other Cannon touches *can* be replicated by the careful enthusiast at home. These include: Rounding off the edges (especially lower edge) of the cylinder latch to prevent thumb bite and blocking of certain brands of speedloaders. Rounding the rear of the trigger guard at the frame to prevent "trigger finger pinch." Bobbing of the hammer spur for a snag-free profile and improved ignition characteristics.

The entire cost of the above package is \$275, done on your gun, with the springs calibrated for 100% reliability with Magnum primers in double action fire.

Barrel Weight. In 1987 the man they used to call "Mr. Gimmick," John Pride, changed his style and switched to a virtually stock six inch 686, mounting an Aimpoint 2000 and a Jarvis weighted barrel sleeve. He used that gun to win the prestigious Bianchi Cup. That was good enough for me, and I ordered a

Continued on page 86

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ANSCHUTZ EXEMPLAR FEATURES GREAT TRIGGER AND OUTSTANDING ACCURACY



A couple days after the last issue hit the stands, in which I lamented the delay in receiving an Exemplar, the Anschutz Exemplar arrived. This one has a 10" barrel and the bolt is on the left side of the action. Overall fit and finish appears to be quite good.

I shot it on several occasions with iron sights and found them to be more than adequate. Even with my vision problems with iron sights, I thought I was shooting way over my head with the Exemplar. I'm not at all fond of rear grip stocked XPs but the 3½ pound .22 held relatively well in the offhand position and is quite an advantage in the Creedmore position. The gun is large enough to catch the wind in the offhand position.

Most important about the whole rig is the simply superb trigger pull. It's a two-stage trigger, fully adjustable and advertised at under 10 ounces. The trigger was the key to my shooting the gun well offhand and I haven't changed the factory setting.

At that stage the rear sight was removed and a parallax adjustable Burris 7X scope was installed in Bushnell mounts. After sighting in, I found the accuracy to equal or exceed that of most .22 target rifles I've had the opportunity to use. Again, the light trigger is a very definite help even off sandbags.

I would, however, caution the use of such a light trigger in the field. While it is just the thing for prairie dogs it may prove a detriment to some shooters when you are out of breath and you can see your heart-beat in the scope.

Shooting from the bench at 100 yards I was able to keep most of the varieties of ammunition tested around ¾" for five shots and RWS in two varieties considerably under that. The worst five shot groups were under two inches.

Velocities of the ammunitions tested are as follows: Federal Silhouette, 1112 fps; PMC Zapper, 1179 fps; Super X HP's, 1190 fps; RWS Pistol Match, 1017 fps; RWS R50, 1061 fps; Remington Standard Velocity Target, 1151 fps; CCI Standard Velocity, 1083 fps; the velocity champ, WW Super Max, 1404 fps. A proof load recorded 1386 fps average and the worst groups.

Shooting at 200 meters in a fairly strong, gusting wind Blackie Sleevea knocked over three .22 turkey silhouette targets with five shots using Remington standard velocity ammunition. He just held over and into the wind using the 100 yard sight setting. That's some achievement for the first five shots he fired from the gun.

I've brought up the subject of barrel conditioning to ammunition on previous occasions. The Exemplar easily proved that shooting five or 10 rounds of ammo "A" for group and then switching to ammo "B" resulted in the first group of ammo "B" consistently running as much as double the size of the second group of the same ammunition. In this case, three shots usually settled the barrel-fouling combination down to produce what the gun and I were capable of doing.

Problems: Yes, a couple. First, unexplained flyers. I frankly don't know if they

are the fault of the gun or the ammunition. But they did occur. I probably was the cause of some of them that I couldn't call. I did note there were no flyers with the limited amount of RWS ammunition fired. I tried to shoot in absolutely still air but who knows if a stray puff drifted a bullet a half inch out of the group?

Second, the scope mount was subject to creeping forward in recoil.

Third—and it isn't just a trait of the Exemplar—the point of impact varied up to around four inches at 100 yards from ammunition to ammunition.

Fourth, initial feeding from the magazine was rough with the chamber edge shaving lead from the bullet. This straightened itself out in about a hundred rounds.

Comment: Having a supply of high pressure proof test loads handy, I found they gave the worst groups of any of the ammunition tested and Winchester Super Max HP ammunition gave higher velocity (1404 fps) than the proof ammo while grouping consistently around ¾". The location of the bolt handle doesn't mean much to me except the left hand bolt is handy when reloading while shooting from the bench. In the field the right hand bolt of an XP simply requires a right handed shooter to tilt the gun while operating the bolt with his left hand.

The Burris 7 X worked well as a test scope. The Burris 10 X might be a better test scope but it would not be as useful in the field. Unfortunately, a Shepard multi range scope did not show up in time for inclusion in the test.

At \$419.50 suggested retail price, the Exemplar isn't for everyone but I'd bet most of them are just as good as the test gun.

I'm somewhat bothered by the occasional flyers simply because I don't know the cause of them. I'm thinking of glass bedding the gun to eliminate that possibility and mounting a high power scope to do some extensive testing with a couple of other guns as a control to see what I can learn.

Conclusion: The Exemplar is at this point the most accurate over the counter .22 you can buy. It is well suited for competition and should excel in the type of hunting where extreme accuracy is desirable. Exemplar mechanically translates to head shots on groundhogs at 100 yards and 75 yards on squirrels as a practical achievement in the field for a decent shot. I took one groundhog under good shooting conditions with the aforementioned WW ammo with a brain shot at about 120 yards—which is stretching it a bit for any .22 LR.

It's the gun for the precision sniper not the kick-em-up-and-shoot-at-em-running-rabbit-hunter. At this point only some of the custom barreled T/Cs and auto pistols have much chance of staying with it on the score of accuracy.

The Exemplar is also available in .22 magnum and a .22 Hornet on a centerfire Anschutz action should be coming along soon.



Remington.

New (Unprimed) Rifle Brass

All Rifle Brass is Remington Brand, except 220 Swift which is Winchester.

NOTE: This is not loaded ammunition
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223 Remington	16.50	66.00
222 Rem. Mag.	15.75	62.50
22-250 Remington	17.95	74.25
220 Swift	19.95	84.50
243 Winchester	18.95	77.25
6mm Remington	18.95	77.25
25/20 Winchester	12.50	46.50
257 Roberts	18.95	77.25
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2506 Remington	19.95	84.50
6.5 Rem Mag	23.25	99.95
264 Win. Mag.	23.25	99.95
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7mm Mauser (7x57)	19.95	84.50
7mm Bench Rest	25.50	109.50
7mm/08 Remington	19.95	84.50
280 Remington	19.95	84.50
7mm Rem. Mag.	22.95	99.95
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30 Remington	16.75	67.75
30/30 Winchester	16.75	67.75
300 Savage	19.95	84.50
300/40 Krag	19.95	84.50
308 Winchester	19.95	84.50
30/06 Springfield	19.95	84.50
300 H&H Mag.	25.50	110.50
300 Win. Mag.	24.95	106.75
303 British	20.25	85.50
32/20 Winchester	12.50	46.50
32 Win. Spl.	16.75	67.75
8mm Mauser (8x57)	19.95	84.50
8mm Rem. Mag.	25.50	110.50
338 Win. Mag.	24.25	104.50
35 Remington	19.95	84.50
35 Whelen	19.95	84.50
350 Rem. Mag.	24.25	104.50
375 H&H Mag.	27.75	119.95
444 Marlin	23.15	98.95
45/70 Government	24.95	110.95
458 Win. Mag.	27.75	119.95

Remington.

Rifle Bullets

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NOTE: This is Not Loaded Ammunition.
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Items followed by * are W-W Brand

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17 Cal. 25 Gr. HP	\$29.95	\$51.95
22 Cal. 40 Gr. SP	26.50	47.75
22 Cal. 45 Gr. SP	27.25	48.95
22 Cal. 45 Gr. HP	27.25	48.95
22 Cal. 50 Gr. HP	27.75	50.25
22 Cal. 50 Gr. PSP	23.75	42.50
22 Cal. 55 Gr. HP	29.25	53.25
22 Cal. 55 Gr. PSP	24.75	44.75
22 Cal. 55 Gr. PSP *	25.75	46.50
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243/6mm 80 Gr. PSP	30.75	55.75
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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
6.5mm 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. Br. Pt.	56.95	104.50
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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 Carbine 110 Gr. SP	25.95	46.95
30 Carbine 110 Gr. FMJ	25.95	46.95
30 Cal. 125 Gr. PSP	37.50	68.50
308-30/06 147 Gr. FMJ *	37.25	67.95
30 Cal. 150 Gr. PSP	40.25	73.50
30 Cal. 150 Gr. Br. Pt.	59.50	109.25
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. BR. PT.	61.75	113.95
32/20 Cal. 100 Gr. SP	34.50	62.75
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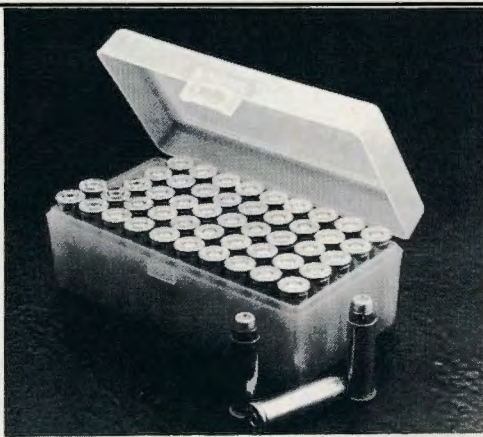
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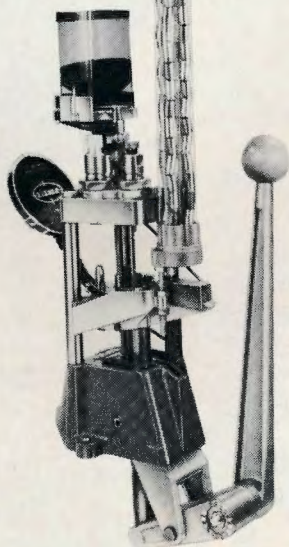


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38 S&W	35.50	64.95
9mm Luger	34.50	62.65
38 Special	34.25	62.50
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38 Super	35.25	63.85
357 Maximum *	46.75	85.00
10mm Bren Ten	56.75	104.50
41 Magnum	48.50	88.95
44 Special	48.50	88.95
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44/40 Win. *	61.95	112.75
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Remington.

BULLETS

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380 Auto 95 Gr. FMJ	20.95	37.75
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9mm Luger 115 Gr. FMJ	23.25	41.75
9mm Luger 124 Gr. FMJ	24.25	44.25
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38/357 125 Gr. JHP	23.95	43.25
38/357 140 Gr. JHP *	29.50	53.50
38/357 158 Gr. JHP	28.25	51.50
38 Super 130 Gr. FMJ *	27.25	48.95
41 Mag. 200 Gr. JHP	41.25	75.25
41 Mag. 210 Gr. JSP *	42.25	77.50
44 Mag. 180 Gr. JHP *	39.95	73.50
44 Mag. 240 Gr. JHP *	43.85	80.95
44/40 200 Gr. JSP *	37.50	68.50
45 Auto 185 Gr. JHP *	43.25	79.25
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Physical Conditioning for Competitors

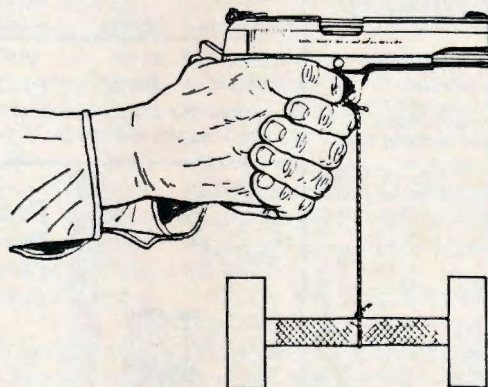
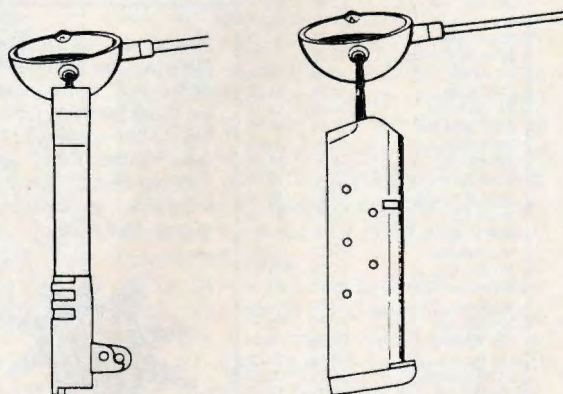
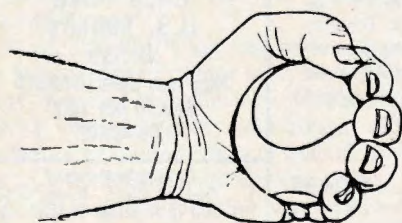
Don't overlook physical training just because shooting isn't strenuous. When you're in good physical condition you perform better. The stronger you are, the more control you have over distracting recoil and muzzle blast. And if the gun isn't jumping around in your hands, you have more control over it psychologically as well as physically.

Here are three ways to help you strengthen your hold and your "gunmount" — your arms and torso — through exercise and weight training:

1. Fill an old, worn-out barrel with lead. Likewise, take an old magazine, remove the follower and spring, plug the holes and pour it full of lead. Install the magazine and barrel in your gun, and practice drawing it from the holster as fast and as hard and as many times as you can. The exercise will build up precisely the muscles you need and help you to develop coordinated strength.

2. Suspend a weight from the bottom of the trigger guard and hold the gun in your normal shooting stance for as long as you can. Hold until your arms drop — the final few seconds produce the most benefit. As your endurance increases, add weight.

3. Even squeezing a rubber ball a few minutes a day will improve your grip.



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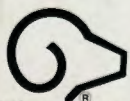
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A Christmas Turkey

By David Hart

While at work one afternoon a week or so before the Christmas Holiday, I spotted an advertisement from one of the local Sportsmen's Clubs on the bulletin board. "Turkey Shoot! Rifle, Shotgun, Blackpowder and Pistol." *Pistol.* Oh boy!

Only four bucks entry fee. I could handle that! Our family was having a reunion this year over the Holiday and I thought how neat it would be to help the folks out by supplying the turkey! Use my shooting skills to bag a bird. Just like in the good old days!

On the day of the shoot the dawn broke crisp and cool. A typical central California winter morning. I went to the gun room to fetch my trusty shootin' iron, a six-inch, blue, Smith and Wesson Model 19 affectionately referred to as "Mr. Smith." It's the target style with a patridge front sight and a set of wooden target grips that I had filed finger grooves into to fit my hand.

The previous day had been spent at the range. That evening was spent scrubbing the bore and thoroughly cleaning all the working parts. The bluing looked especially deep this morning under the thin film of fresh gun oil. I gingerly slipped Mr. Smith into his gun rug with a box of handloads. A double check of the four one dollar bills in my wallet and a kiss on the cheek from the wife for luck. As ready as I'd ever be, I was on my way.

I arrived at the Hosts' Club range a little early. The dew glistened on the grass and piles of broken clay birds at the far end of the skeet range. I could see my breath in the still

air. Wandering down to the pistol range I found that as of yet I was the only pistol aficionado to have arrived. I dug in my pockets for some change to purchase a steaming hot cup of coffee and a fresh doughnut from the Canteen. Knowing caffeine and sugar aren't conducive to fine marksmanship, a little something to break the chill seemed appropriate.

The skeet shooters were well into their relays. The running deer target for the high power riflemen was under way. The black-powder boys were beginning to gather and chew the fat. I just hung out at the pistol range eagerly awaiting the arrival of my competition. (Relays consisted of five shooters, five shots centerfire at a standard NRA 25 yard target.)

Alas they did arrive, slowly, one at a time. Not really being the shy type I greeted most of them. Seems that most of us in the shooting fraternity have no problem striking up a conversation.

It should be known what my attributes as a pistol shot are. At this time I had never shot in any kind of organized match. Casual plinking and the usual friendly competition among shooting buddies sums it up. What ever made me think I was competitive? I owned and shot just one handgun. I was hoping the old "one gun" adage held some truth!

The first gentleman to show up looked like a nice enough fellow. "Good morning," I say, "Here for the pistol shoot?" "You betcha!" he beamed.

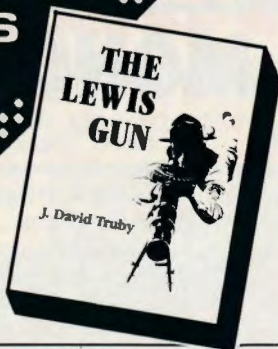
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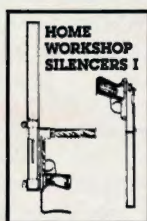
THE LEWIS GUN

by J. David Truby

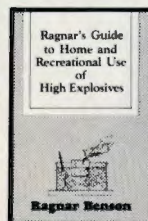
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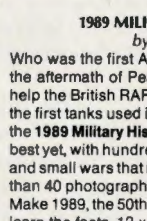
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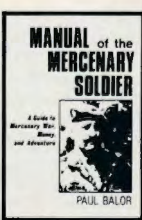
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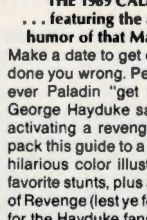
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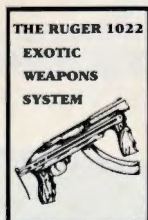
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HOGUE Cushioned Rubber MONOGRIP

By Charles E. Petty



Most American handgunners are familiar with Guy Hogue's classic one piece Monogrip. He's been making them for years and the combination of classy wood and orthopedic design has made them popular, but wood grips aren't always the best.

In the last few years there's been a trend toward rubber type grips for they are less likely to slip and they also help absorb a bit of recoil. Hogue's response has been to design a soft rubber Monogrip which combines all the features of his wood grips with the non-slip, recoil absorbing properties of rubber.

The heart of the entire system is the patented "stirrup" which holds the stocks in place via a single screw. Installation requires removal of the locating pin needed to secure two piece grips, for the stirrup occupies the same space on the frame. The stirrup slips over the frame and a special nut fits into holes on the stirrup to provide attachment for the single grip screw.

Since the stirrup has to slide all the way to the bottom of the grip installation can be a little tricky. The desirable non-slip properties of the material may make it hard to get everything just right. After a couple of tries I solved the problem with a drop of Break-Free. If you do that first, installation is a snap.

The rubber grip material is chemically bonded to a lightweight synthetic core that provides a degree of rigidity without the extra weight of steel inserts.

One of the neat things about Hogue's grips is the anatomical shape of the palm swells and finger grooves that allow shooters with both large and small hands to use them. The thinness of the plastic insert helps keep things from getting bulky.

For testing, a set of the new rubber Monogrips were installed on a S&W Model 29 that I was using for some handload development. The loads were hot and the session long, but I didn't find myself flinching as much as I often do after 100 rounds of hot .44s. This is a purely subjective opinion because by the time I get to the hundredth round I hate the damn thing anyhow and there's nothing that will make more than a few really hot .44 Magnums fun to shoot. I do, however, enjoy things a lot more if it isn't painful.

Since that first session I've shot the gun on several other occasions and my favorable first impression still holds. In fact, the more I shoot with them the better I like them.

For more information about the full line of Hogue Monogrips, call toll-free 1-800-GET GRIP.



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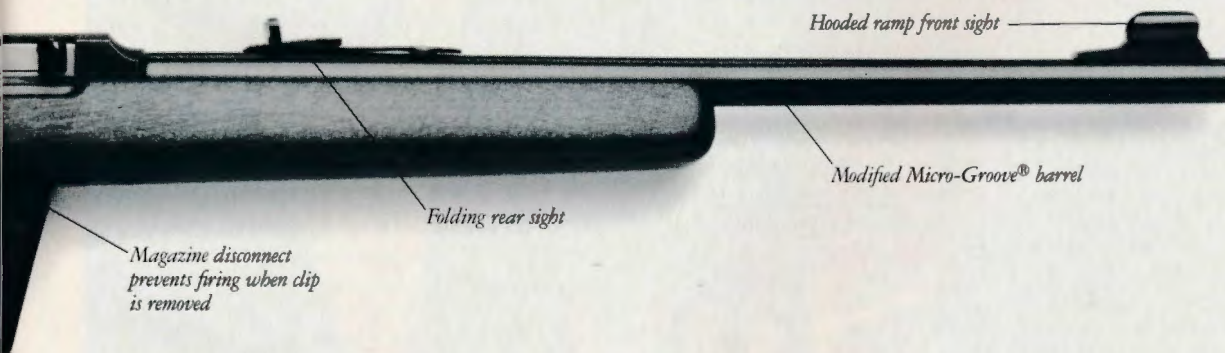


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Model 45 features a 7-shot clip.

So if you're looking for a rifle for targets, plinking, or small game, get yourself the Marlin Model 9 or the Model 45. Either way, you'll find out why we call it the world's most versatile can opener.

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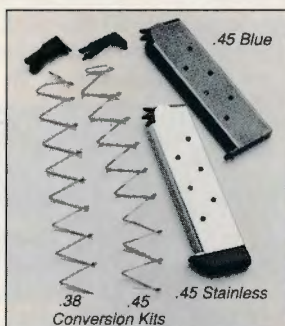
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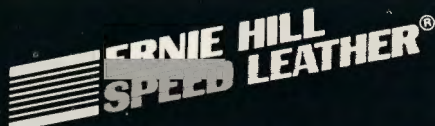
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Maximum effective range of the shot load is about 10 feet.

REMINGTON'S .45 ACP SHOT LOADS

By Charles E. Petty

There's always been a fascination among some shooters for using shot cartridges in things other than shotguns. Historically there have been any number of attempts to design shot cartridges for handguns or, in a couple of cases, specialized handguns themselves.

But automatic pistols have usually thwarted these attempts. The relatively light shot charges and early wads have simply not provided enough recoil impulse to satisfactorily function in most autoloaders.

The demand for shot cartridges is rooted in the desire of shooters for an effective means of dispatching snakes and pests without the aggravation or risk of using more traditional projectiles. When someone who wants such a cartridge also happens to be an R&D engineer at Remington's ammunition plant, the chance for success improves.

Joe Jakoncuk is the engineer and he also happens to be an inveterate bowhunter who spends a lot of time in the woods. Since bow season is during warm weather and Arkansas has its fair share of rattlesnakes and Joe is a fan of the Colt Government Model he set about seeing if it would be possible to make something that would work in the Colt.

For several years he experimented on his own, but when it began to look as if he might have something that would work, the project became an official Remington investigation. From the fall of 1985 through 1986 they experimented and refined the work Jakoncuk began.

At the heart of the new product are two features that come close to breakthrough

technology. Using the same principles and materials now common in shotgun shells, Jakoncuk designed a tiny wad that provides an adequate seal and allows enough pressure to build to function the gun. The other is the crimp which gives the cartridge dimensions that are quite similar to conventional ammunition although the loaded rounds are quite a bit shorter.

The shot shell's average length is 1.075" compared to a normal loaded length of between 1.165" and 1.265" for other ball and hollowpoint types. The difference in length does not appear to be a handicap.

The development of a crimp that would not interfere with normal operation was no small feat. If, for example, traditional cases were used there wouldn't be room for much shot, and longer standard cases would be too stiff. Early attempts using conventional brass suffered from collapsed mouths when the crimp was applied and it took a combination of special case drawing, annealing and reaming the case mouth to solve the problem. Considering how thin the case is in the crimp area, it is quite an accomplishment to get the six point fold needed without collapsing the whole thing. This becomes even more impressive when I learned that about 1000 lbs. of force is still required to form the crimp.

When the case opens up on firing it measures 1.165" which is about 0.27" longer than a standard case. The fired case actually extends out into the rifling a bit, and this was another problem for the engineers. If the brass is too stiff it will simply stick there and make a neat one-shot gun.

Continued on page 84



The Gold Standard

If you have been mining for gold in a pistol powder, pan some Accurate No. 2. Accurate is setting a new gold standard for reloading pistol cartridges. It's even labeled in gold, so dig around your dealer's shelf before the Gold Rush begins. And while you're there, look for the full line of Accurate powders:

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The AYOOB FILES

COVER AND CONCEALMENT: THE EARL GORRELL INCIDENT

Situation: You're arresting a drunk driver when, suddenly, he grabs a .38 snubnose and opens fire.

Lesson: Incredibly, the snubnose misses at point blank range. You take cover and return fire.

December, 1980, Frankfort, Kentucky. Outside the city limits of the state capital, the countryside quickly turns rural, and it's serenely lovely when Christmas season is in the air and the homes are adorned with lights. But when you're a 30-year-old Kentucky State Trooper with three years on the job, you've learned that the season so beautiful for most people is ugly for some. The chronic losers of society are feeling their anger all the more intensely in the reflected happiness of others, and are all the more ready to lash out against a society they feel hasn't given them a fair shake. And there's no more attractive lightning rod for that antisocial aggression than the uniformed police officer, the very embodiment of society and its powers.

It's not yet midnight. Earl Gorrell, tall and burly in his scrupulously pressed grey uniform, wheels his Ford interceptor off Interstate 64 toward the city. He spots a dark pickup truck weaving down the road. As he zooms in behind it, he notes a white 1960 Chevrolet sedan pulling into a liquor store that's about to close. That's another thing about the season, he reflects—too many citizens seem to think "the spirit of Christmas cheer" is a liquid, not a feeling.

He hits the toggle switch that triggers the emergency lights on his roof, and the pickup truck immediately pulls over. Gorrell is wary as he gets out of the car and approaches, but not unpleasant. He came on up in Martin County a few years before during the coal strikes, and quickly learned that a gentle voice defuses more violence than fast hands.

The driver of the pickup turns out to be sober. His little boy is in the front seat with him and keeps grabbing at the steering wheel. The trooper gives the lad a gentle admonition to let dad drive by himself, and motorist and cop exchange cordial season's greetings before each go on their way. False alarm, but kind words. Cop meets public. The sort of thing that always makes Gorrell feel good about his job.

Back on the road, Gorrell sees again the unmistakable Chevy that had pulled into the late-night boozery. The cop in him says, "Drunk driver stocking back up." The part of him that loves people says, "Nah, just a workin' man buying himself a nightcap to drink by the fire when he gets home." Still, it was his duty to follow, to observe the driving pattern for the signs of an alcohol-impaired motorist who might head-on a carload of innocent citizens before the night is over. Gorrell swung the powerful Ford pursuit car onto US 421, a discreet distance behind the Chevy.

A trained cop knows what to look for. Sudden, jerky corrections on the wheel as the car sways too close to the centerline. Too slow a reaction in dimming high beams in the face of oncoming traffic. Windows down in cold weather, as if to clear a fuzzy head. Gorrell watched for a minute or two, and when he felt he had probable cause to stop the driver and ask him to take a field sobriety test, he turned on the blue lights.

No response. The Chevy kept going.

Gorrell gave the man a few moments to realize what was going on. Then he reached for the switch that activated the siren. Before the unit could emit its distinctive wail, the Chevy lurched sideways and turned into a narrow, private lane.

Gorrell cut the wheel hard and followed, hitting the siren now. Still no response. Gorrell tightened. The lights of the highway were long gone behind them now. All he can see are the dotted rows of the Chevy's taillights in front of him, illuminated in the eerie high-candlepower blue flashes of his roof lights. On either side is nothing but woods.

The trooper can effortlessly keep pace; his Ford has a huge engine and heavy duty suspension. But he knows the narrow lane must soon come to an end, and he's not about to force a car off the road and crash it if it isn't necessary. He is about to reach for the radio mike and call for backup when the end of the lane looms in front of

Continued on page 95

THE BIG THREE CHRONOGRAPHS

Three makers of bullet speedometers dominate the market. PACT, Oehler and Competition Electronics each offers a chronograph for testing your handloads, but which one is best?

—By Charles E. Petty—

Advances in electronics have made it possible, and profitable, to make chronographs that sell for less than \$100 and for \$400 you can get one that will do everything but whistle "Dixie." The growing popularity of moderately priced units has also caused some confusion among consumers about their accuracy and operation.

Chronographs are nothing more than high speed clocks that time the passage of a bullet over a predetermined distance. Almost all of them use skyscreens that respond to the change in light caused by the bullet's passage

over a photo detector. One maker uses the term "shadow detector" and this is accurate, if a bit cumbersome. Some electronic gizmo then calculates the velocity using the formula $rate = distance/time$ and displays the result in feet per second.

There's a great line in Warren Page's classic book, *The Accurate Rifle*, that could be expanded to cover chronographs and their accuracy. "Considering that we have in our equipment itself at least eight elements, each with its own sub-elements that can vary, plus an unknown number of factors both physical

and psychological in the human term of the shooting equation, it often strikes me as a near miracle that we are ever able to hit a barn."

Since chronographs attempt to measure the result of an event generated by a system (firearm and ammunition) that is intrinsically variable, the result displayed for any individual shot is all but irrelevant. It is only when the average of a meaningful number of shots is examined that we can begin to make judgments.

I once rigged four different chronographs to measure the velocity of the same bullet. Never once did any of them display the same result for the same shot but, when the averages of ten of those shots were compared, their answers varied by only a few feet per second.

It isn't unusual to see velocity spreads of 25 fps with good ammunition and "average" ammo may show 50 fps or more. At an average velocity of 1000 fps (just to keep things simple) individual velocities would spread from 987.5 to 1012.5 fps, or plus or minus 1.25% with good ammo and the average stuff varies by 2.5% or more. Carrying that a step further a spread of 100 fps, again not that rare, would be a full 5%.

Most of that is within the ammo/firearm combination, but a small part of it is due to the chronograph itself. The root of the problem is that we can't conveniently know which is which. Chronographs are precision instruments used to measure imprecise events, so we shouldn't be unduly worried about small differences. It bothers me to think that somewhere out there is a shooter who is losing sleep over one or two feet per second when, given the variability of firearms and ammunition, it really doesn't amount to a hill of beans.

One of the most important things a chronograph will show you is the consistency of your reloads and while it is a laudable goal to have ammunition with a low extreme spread this doesn't guarantee that that ammunition is going to be superior in accuracy to a load with a higher spread. It may, but then I have seen too many loads that varied by 100 fps and shoot like gangbusters to let that deter

Continued on page 91



Handgunner Christmas Shopper Guide



Safariland's Final Option

Safariland has introduced a new generation competition holster for IPSC and other action shooting sports. The holster is the creation of combat shooting master and holster designer Bill Rogers.

The holster uses the patented Safari-Laminate process which insures a lightweight yet tough and durable holster. The front of the holster is cut away for a fast draw, an obvious speed advantage.

From outward appearance, it looks like the gun would be unstable and flop around, maybe even fall out of the skimpily cut design. But the secret of the ultra-sophisticated new holster is the small, unbreakable nylon block that locks the back of the trigger



Federal Hydra-Shok 9mm

One of the most awesome manstoppers, the devastating Hydra-Shok "maximum energy transfer" bullet, is now back on the streets, this time under the Federal Cartridge Company banner. Savvy citizens and street-wise detectives have long raved about the terrible destruction wrought by the savage little Hydra-Shok slugs, and now the man-stopping power of the Hydra-Shok is available in 9mm.

The new 124 grain Hydra-Shok jacketed hollowpoint features a vicious vertical post in the center of the hollow cavity to deflect hydrodynamic forces outwards for maximum shocking power and shredding of vital organs. Typically, the 9mm Hydra-Shok rips a horrible wound channel as it mushrooms out to .50 caliber.

The unusually effective bullet uses a combination of a notched cooper jacket and a vertical post to achieve superior penetration deep into vital organs while at the same time assuring maximum expansion. The result is deadly efficiency.

Federal also offers the Hydra-Shok in .38 Special with a 129 grain bullet.

For more information, check out the new Federal Hydra-Shoks at your local gun shop or write for Federal's catalog at 900 Ehlen Drive, Anoka, MN, 55303.

Springfield Drop-In Compensator

Springfield Armory has introduced another new competition accessory item to its 1911-A1 line. Kwik Komp is an easily installed drop-in compensator system designed to turn almost any 1911 style pistol into a compensated IPSC or "pin gun" at a very affordable price.

Kwik Komp is available for either .45 ACP, 9mm or .38 Super calibers in both Commander and Government models.

Kwik Komp was designed by world renowned master pistolsmith Richard Heinie. Because Kwik Komp installs so easily, the shooter can return his pistol to standard configuration quickly.

Much like the more expensive custom fitted compensators, Kwik Komp reduces muzzle rise and felt recoil by channeling hot gases upwards to thwart recoil. An efficient design it is too.

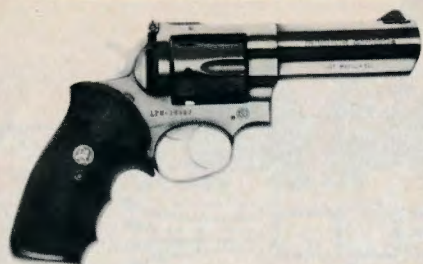
Kwik Komp retails for only \$189 from Springfield Armory, 420 W. Main Street, Dept. AH, Geneseo, IL, 61254.



guard and retains the gun securely.

Dubbed the Final Option, the new Safariland holster is in use by members of Team Safariland on the professional handgunning circuit.

For more information, write Safariland, 1941 S. Walker, Dept. AH, Monrovia, CA, 91016.



Pachmayr Pot Pourri

Pachmayr Gun Works introduces several new products of interest to the American handgunner. New Pachmayr grips are now available for the Ruger GP-100 and the SIG P-226.

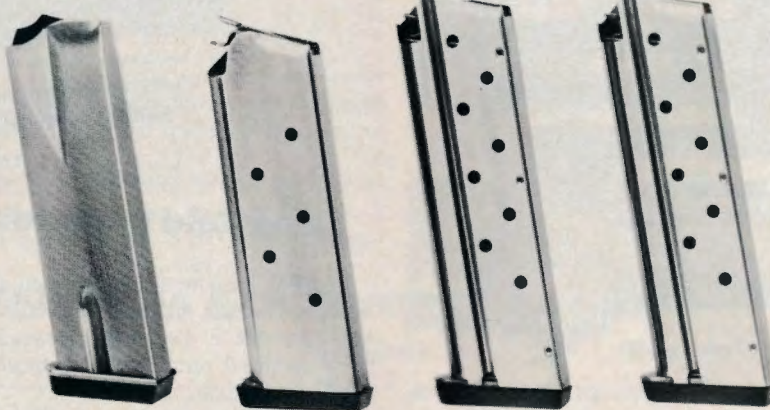
Four new Pachmayr magazines are out for the Colt Officers Model, Colt 9mm and .38 Super Government Models and the Browning Hi-Power.

Pachmayr offers dummy rounds for .45 ACP, 9mm and .38 Special. Great for dry

firing or test-cycling an auto, the Pachmayr dummy rounds are available now at leading gun shops.

A new contour-fit rubber holster is available for the Browning Hi-Power, Colt Government Model, S&W K-frames and S&W L-frames.

For a complete Pachmayr catalog and more information on these and other Pachmayr products, write Pachmayr Gun Works, Dept. AH, 1875 S. Mountain Ave., Monrovia, CA, 91016.



3-D Introduces 10mm

3-D Ammunition and Bullets has recently added the 10mm automatic cartridge to its Impact line of quality factory ammunition. With the current demand and interest in the hot new 10mm Auto among law enforcement and the general shooting public, 3-D quickly responded with their excellent 10mm ammo.

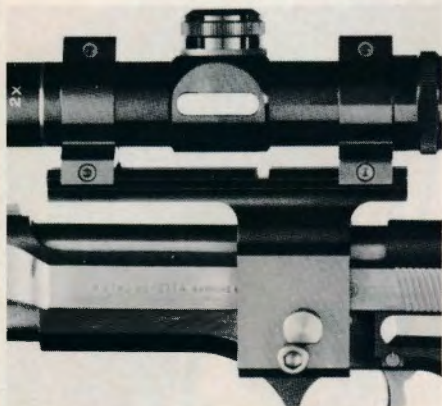
Featuring Sierra jacketed hollowpoint bullets of 150 and 180 grains, the 3-D 10mm ammo registers 1249 fps and 1173 fps respectively with the two bullet weights. The factory says chamber pressures are modest, under 30,000 cup.

Like all Impact ammunition, the new 10mm loads are manufactured to 3-D's rigorous standards of quality. For more information, contact 3-D at 112 Plum Street, Dept. AH, Doniphan, NE 68832 or call (402) 845-2285.

Beretta 92 Scope Mount

B-Square is out with a clever no-gunsmithing scope mount for the Beretta 92 and Taurus 99 semi-auto 9mm pistols.

The new mount is easily installed by simply replacing the gun's disassembly lever and release button. The mount has a standard mounting dovetail so any Weaver-type, Aim-point or Tasco sort of ring can be attached.



The gun's iron sights can still be used with the scope mount attached. The new B-Square mount lists for only \$69.95 (blue) and \$79.95 (stainless). B-Square's own one-inch rings are only \$16.95 in either blue or stainless.

Available at dealers and distributors nationwide, the new mount is in stock now. Write B-Square for more information at P.O. Box 11281, Dept. AH, Fort Worth, TX, 76110.

New MTM Handgun Case

The MTM Molded Products Company, maker of the fine MTM cartridge case boxes, announces the new MTM Case-Gard 1400, a tough case for carrying handguns.

Construction of Case-Gard 1400 is of high-impact polypropylene. The thick wall construction, combined with thick convoluted foam padding assures security and safe transport. The belted lip design protects the contents from moisture and dust. Hinge pins are of stainless steel.

The Case-Gard 1400 comes in Forest Green and Graphite Grey colors and sells for \$29.50. It measures 18½ × 13½ × 5 inches.

For more information, contact MTM, P.O. Box 14117, Dept. AH, Dayton, OH, 45414.



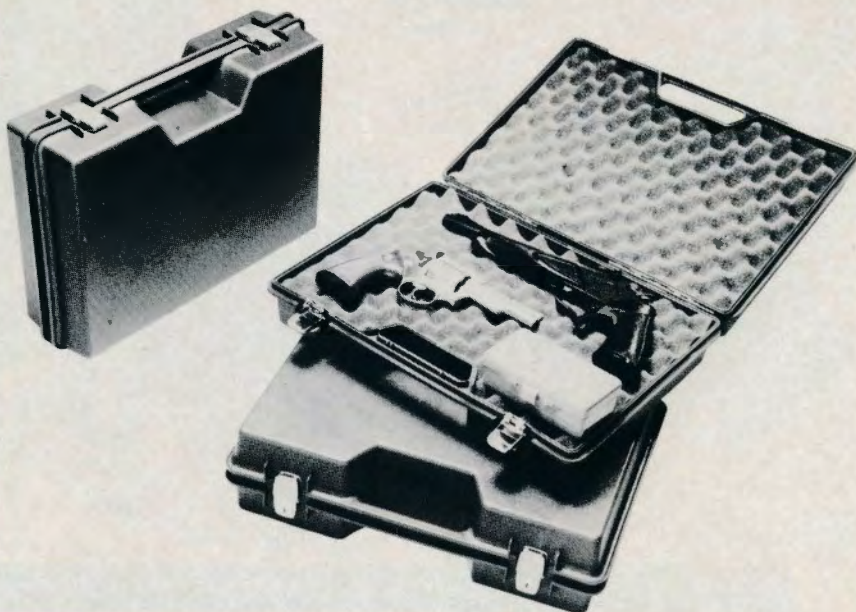
Redfield Expands Pistol Scope Line

Redfield introduces two brushed-aluminum pistol scopes in fixed power 2½× and 4×. Also new is the variable power 2-6× black anodized pistol scope designed primarily for handgun hunting.

With the introduction of their new brushed-aluminum scopes, Redfield offers the stainless steel handgun owner an attrac-

tive complement. Redfield has also introduced their famous "magnum proof" pistol base with three rings in the same brushed finish, for Smith and Wessons only.

Look for the new Redfield pistol scopes at your local gun shop, or send \$1 for a complete catalog to Redfield, Dept. AH, 5800 E. Jewell Ave., Denver, CO, 80224.



TAFFIN TESTS

matic Colt Pistol). Both the gun and the cartridge would eventually serve U.S. servicemen well in two world wars, Korea and VietNam and various brushfires around the globe.

My experience with the .45 ACP is much more limited than that with the various big bore revolvers. I've always had a .45, I just

the .45 ACP

The new army sidearm fired a 230 grain roundnose .45 caliber bullet at 850 fps, a cartridge still known as the .45 ACP (Auto-

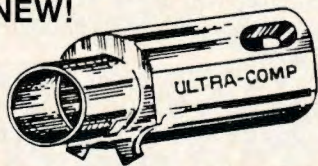
47

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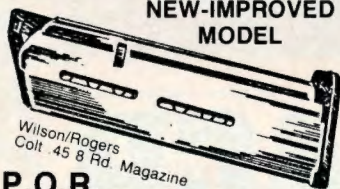
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"Shoot to Win" by John Shaw	\$11.95
"Combat 45 Auto" by Bill Wilson	\$11.95
"Hallocks 45 Handbook"	\$11.95
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have not shot it as much as a revolver because of the reloader's necessity of retrieving brass when .45 ACP empties are scattered all over the landscape. During the late '50s and early '60s, it seemed that everyone had a government surplus 1911, and if I remember correctly, these were sold through the DCM for \$7.50 to \$15.

In the early '70s I fell heir to both a new, unfired Colt Mk. IV Series 70 .45 and a Lyman four cavity mold dropping #452460, a 200 grain semi-wadcutter designed specifically for the .45 ACP. Now it was time to get serious about the big .45.

My first handload using the Lyman bullet and 3.5 grains of Bullseye was put together for use in an indoor 50 foot range. The first five shots out of that Colt with factory fixed sights, offhand at 50 feet, gave me a group that would have done an accurized Colt pistol proud. Four shots were in one ragged hole, with the fifth less than one-inch away. So much for the .45 ACP not being accurate.

Although I spend most of my shooting time with revolvers, the semi-automatics are getting more and more attention. A major part of my life is spent testing various handguns which necessitates spending a lot of time by myself in the desert, foothills and mountains. I always carry a .45 ACP no matter what gun I happen to be working with. So every testing trip includes at least a few rounds of .45 ACP as well as the particular cartridge I happen to be working with. I guess what I am saying is that I think enough of the .45 ACP to bet my life on it. I can't think of a better life insurance policy.

There is no such thing as a perfect handgun, but when it comes to versatility, the .45 ACP is way at the top. What other handgun cartridge can be put to so many different uses and do all of them so well? How many tons of Bullseye powder are expended each year by .45 ACP target shooters?

How many people, even as I myself, carry the .45 ACP for a much more serious reason: self-protection?

What other cartridge is better suited to Action Shooting?

And with all of these the .45 ACP can also be used as a short range hunting cartridge, and can even be pressed into service for NRA Hunter Pistol or IHMSA Field Pistol. Pretty impressive credentials for a cartridge that is 77 years young!

Handloading for the .45 ACP is not quite the same as for magnum revolvers. Anything that will fit the cylinder of a revolver will normally work satisfactorily, light loads, medium loads, heavy magnum loads. The parameters of the .45 ACP are much more narrow—too light a load and the action will not function, try to make a Magnum out of the .45 ACP and much more serious problems could surface.

For most of my .45 ACP shooting, I like to stay around 700-800 fps for plinking loads with 185 to 230 grain bullets. I go 900-1000 fps with 200 grain semi-wadcutter bullets for serious work, and when jacketed bullets are called for, I prefer the Hornady or Sierra

Continued on page 80



Dan Wesson

.44 Magnum HUNTER PAC

By John Taffin

Two guns in one! Interchanging barrels allow the handgun hunter to switch from a scoped barrel to an iron sighted barrel.

To paraphrase a famous advertising slogan: "When shooters speak, Dan Wesson listens." The first Dan Wesson was one of the most unattractive sixguns ever devised, but it worked and worked well. Dan Wesson listened to shooters and changed the profile by hiding the barrel retaining nut inside the shroud, adding a heavy barrel, and thus making the Dan Wesson .357 a very attractive revolver.

Dan Wesson was plainly evident in the early days of silhouetting as the first manufacturer to listen to shooters and bring out a 10-inch heavy barreled silhouette revolver. Dan Wesson continued to keep its ear tuned to the shooting public, gradually improving the sighting system until it became one of the best available.

Dan Wesson rear sights have easily detectable, positive clicks and the front sights have interchangeable front blades. Shooters spoke, Dan Wesson listened.

Silhouetters felt they needed a new long range revolver for their game. One with low recoil, but the capability of delivering high energy to 200 meter targets. Dan Wesson heard their pleas and the result was the top revolver in silhouette competition, the Dan Wesson .357 SuperMag.

The 1970's were tough times for .44 Magnum shooters. Double action .44 Magnums were in very short supply with Smith & Wesson Model 29's going for 50-100% above the retail price. Smith & Wesson continued to increase production but never caught up with the demand at the time. Dan Wesson listened.

I talked with Dan Wesson in 1978, just before his untimely death, and he told me of the work that was being done on the DW .44 Magnum. It took a few years to get it off the ground, but the DW .44 Magnum became a reality in the early '80's.

When the Dan Wesson .44 Magnum was introduced, silhouetters purchased the eight-inch Heavy Barrel Model and found themselves with a handgun that was illegal for silhouettes as it was over the four pound weight limit. Dan Wesson went to work and shaved weight from the shroud to get it down to the weight limit. This can be readily seen on the present Heavy Barrel .44 Magnum Dan Wessons as the bottom of the shroud has a step where metal has been removed.

Silhouetters wanted a 10-inch barrel and Dan Wesson listened again bringing out a long barreled .44 Magnum with a standard shroud that came in under the four pound weight limit. This gave shooters maximum sight radius plus maximum weight to help reduce felt recoil of the .44 Magnum.

I have had considerable experience with both the .357 Magnum and the .44 Magnum Dan Wessons with 10-inch barrels and found both of them to be superbly accurate. My early 10-inch barreled .357 Magnum Dan Wesson is one of the most accurate cast bullet revolvers that I have encountered in 30 years of shooting.

There are a number of features that contribute to the accuracy of the Dan Wessons. The barrels are interchangeable—barrels of different lengths, normally six, eight and ten-inch tubes, are available for each particular caliber and the shooter can exchange barrels at will. And since the barrels are locked at the front with a barrel nut, and each barrel is installed without being torqued up tightly at the factory, there is no problem with the forcing cone of the barrel being squeezed to the point of being tighter than the muzzle end. I recently measured another revolver manufacturer's barrel and found that the muzzle end was .005" larger than the diameter ahead of the forcing cone which is caused by the barrel being twisted too tightly when it is installed. This cannot happen on a Dan Wesson revolver.

Other features that contribute to accuracy are the fact that the cylinder locks at the front of the frame rather than at the end of the ejector rod, and the frame is a



The Dan Wesson Hunter Pak is available in (L to R) .22 Magnum, .32 Magnum, .357 Magnum, .41 Magnum, .44 Magnum, .357 SuperMag and .375 SuperMag.

solid one-piece style instead of being hogged out and fitted and a sideplate. Both these features help to keep the cylinder solidly aligned with the barrel as the revolver is fired.

Silhouetting and handgun hunting have both been responsible for many innovations in handguns. Now Dan Wesson has listened again and brought out a package that will appeal to the shooter that wants one sixgun that can be used for both.

The Hunter Pac consists of a standard Dan Wesson eight-inch barreled revolver that can be used for silhouetting or hunting if iron sights are preferred, plus an extra shroud that is already equipped with a Burris Mount, a set of Burris rings and the choice of a Burris 2X or 1½X-4X variable scope. Both scopes, of course, are Long Eye Relief (LER) scopes.

The Hunter Pac is available in all the magnum calibers: .22 Magnum, .32 Magnum, .357 Magnum, .41 Magnum, .44 Magnum, .357 SuperMag, and 375 SuperMag. As of this writing all except the .375 SuperMag are available in stainless finish as well as the standard Dan Wesson blue, which is one of the best in the business.

The test Hunter Pac that I have been enjoying for the past few months is in .44 Magnum caliber consisting of a standard eight-inch Model 44VH which is equipped with a Heavy Barrel shroud, plus an extra standard "V" barrel shroud that is fitted with a Burris 1½X-4X scope in Burris rings on a Burris base that is mounted on the extra shroud. The "V" in the Dan Wesson model number designation stands for "ventilated."

The standard barrel is fitted with a slot to accept the full range of Dan Wesson front sights. These are available with red (as supplied on the Hunter Pac model) white, or yellow inserts, with various heights and widths of plain black posts. The scoped shroud has a very clean look as there is no front sight, nor has a slot been machined to accept one.

According to my scale, the standard eight-inch Model 44HV weighs 62.5 ounces. Fitting the Dan Wesson frame with

the scoped shroud brings it up to 73.5 ounces.

Firing the Dan Wesson .44 Magnum is about as good as it gets with the big Forty-Four. With a weight of nearly four pounds even without the scope, felt recoil is reduced considerably. By felt recoil, we refer to the amount of recoil that the individual shooter actually perceives when the handgun is fired. The Dan Wesson 44VH minimizes this felt recoil not only by its heavy weight but also by the excellent factory stocks.

I am no fan of factory stocks. Normally. But the Dan Wesson designers have done an admirable job of coming up with a stock that does not transfer an inordinate amount of recoil to the shooter's hand. This is accomplished by a stock that has no check-

ering and fills in behind the trigger guard eliminating any problem with "knuckle dusting." The middle finger of the shooting hand does not get rapped solidly every time the Dan Wesson .44 is fired.

This is not accomplished without some trade-off, at least for this shooter. The same smooth stock and angle that minimize the felt recoil also makes it difficult for yours truly to keep the muzzle-heavy Dan Wesson aligned on target. I really have to concentrate, especially in a silhouette match, to keep the front sight from dipping low. This is a small price to pay for a stock and grip angle that controls recoil as effectively as the Dan Wesson design.

Coupled with the smooth stock is a smooth trigger, with an excellent trigger

Continued on page 68



Field Editor Taffin found the .44 Hunter to be extremely accurate and easy to shoot, thanks to the extra weight of the scope.

SMITH & WESSON CLASSIC HUNTER

*By J. B. Wood
Photos by Ichiro Nagata*

In May of 1987, the Research & Development department at Smith & Wesson completed the prototype of a new version of the famous Model 29. It had a six-inch heavy barrel with a full-length underlug, like the barrel of the L-frame gun. Other special features included an un-fluted cylinder and soft-rubber Hogue grips. The four-position adjustable front sight was of the same style used on the Silhouette version of the Model 29.

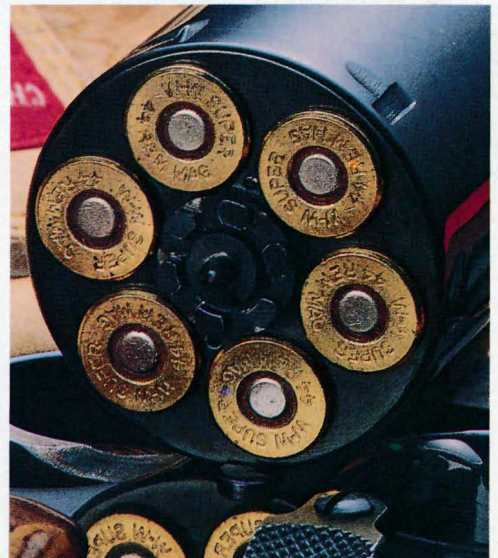
With the exception of the Distinguished Combat Magnum title applied to the Model 686, Smith & Wesson has in recent times avoided "names" for new guns, preferring to just give them model numbers. In this case, though, they decided that the newest variation of the Model 29 deserved a special designation. In keeping with its intended use as a hunting handgun, they called it the Classic Hunter.

All of its features should make it perfect for those endeavors, but they also will be an advantage in other areas of shooting.

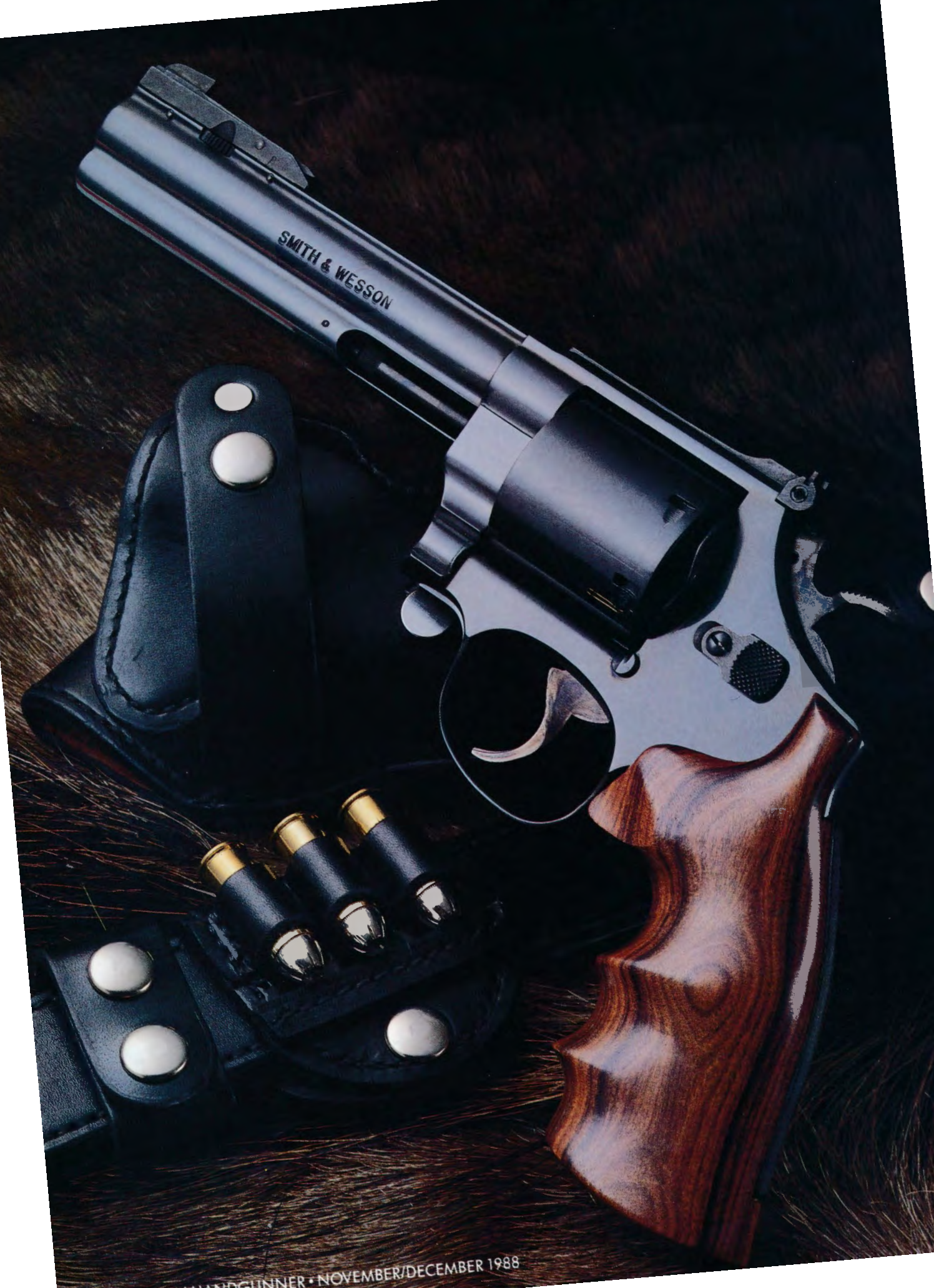
The added weight of the full-length barrel underlug and un-fluted cylinder tend to reduce the amount of felt recoil. And, the location of the main part of the added weight, up front, reduces the muzzle whip. So, you're back on target more easily after the initial shot. One afternoon recently I ran a hundred rounds of factory loads through a Classic Hunter, and I noticed a definite difference in the amount of muzzle rise. The ammunition used was by Winchester, PMC, and Super Vel.

From a casual rest—seated, two-hand hold,

arms rested on knees—the accuracy was excellent at 25, 50, and 75 yards. The maximum setting for the sight is 150 yards, and that's a bit further than the average handgun hunter should try with iron sights on medium game.



The front sight is click-adjustable by a serrated disc in its base, and the exact heights are controlled by four numbered Allen screws that can be pre-set to the point-of-impact at different ranges. Small numbers, one through four, can be seen on top of the disc on the left side. The rear sight is a standard fully-adjustable S & W





The adjustable front sight with four positions that can be pre-set for different zeros is from the "silhouette model" where ram-busters shoot at four different distances. One question is if a hunter would have time to dial from "1" to "4" in the field, if indeed he could estimate distance so precisely.



Overall fit and finish is good with a dull, matte tone to the bluing. The unfluted cylinder looks jazzy even if it does nothing to add strength.



type.

The hammer has a wide target-type spur, and the large target trigger has vertical serrations. The soft-rubber Hogue grips are going to be comfortable for every other shooter in the world, so when I remark that they do not fit my hand, keep in mind that the feel of a grip is a very subjective thing. After 24 rounds, I put on a P.A.S.T. shooting glove, and wore it for the rest of the session. I am not usually recoil-sensitive, and the Classic Hunter has less recoil than the regular Model 29, so I am guessing that in this case the relationship between the grip and my hand was the reason.

When they reduced the range of the sight system to 150 yards (from the 200 meters of the original Silhouette sight), there was a field-use side benefit: the rear sight blade was kept to a normal height, less likely to be damaged. The square notch of the rear sight has a white outline, and the rear face of the front blade is slightly undercut for a sharp picture.

For low-light hunting situations (which, in heavy growth, can occur at high noon), I think it

would be a good idea to offer an optional blade with a white bar or dot. For any other time, though, the sight system is excellent.

The fit and finish of the Classic Hunter I tried made me think of the "old time" Smith & Wesson guns. The single action trigger pull was a crisp $3\frac{3}{4}$ pounds, with absolutely no creep and only $\frac{1}{64}$ of an inch in soft overtravel. Though it is not likely to be used in most hunting situations, the double action pull is smooth and easy.

There's no reason, of course, that the gun can't be used for target shooting, personal defense, or even law enforcement work. For the last-named use, though, its extra weight could be a detraction. Carrying this beautiful monster in a duty rig all day (or night) might be a tiring exercise for an average-sized officer.

The Classic Hunter is as strong as any Model 29, and that means it is extremely tough. However, it would be a mistake to assume that the un-fluted cylinder will contain even higher pressures than a fluted one. The added material is for weight only, and it is all in structural areas

Continued on page 86



The bolt stop of the Classic Hunter (top) is small compared to that of a Ruger Redhawk (below) which is one reason why the beefier Redhawk can take hotter loads than the M-29. The M-29 is a "medium duty" .44 Magnum while the rugged Redhawk is a "heavy duty" magnum.



Specifications

Weight:	52 ounces
Length:	11.38 inches
Barrel length:	6 inches
Sight radius:	8 inches
Cylinder capacity:	6 rounds
Suggested retail price:	\$475
Manufacturer:	Smith & Wesson 2100 Roosevelt Avenue Springfield, Mass. 01102



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The Coonan .357 Magnum semi-automatic pistol is a marvel of engineering excellence, but noted pistolsmith Bob Cogan of Accurate Plating and Weaponry renders the stainless steel pistol into a finely tuned masterpiece. The Coonan pistol fires the .357 Magnum rimmed revolver cartridge, and the reliable chambering of a rimmed round in a semi-auto pistol is no small feat of design genius. Yet while it took Dan Coonan to figure out how to chamber the .357 Magnum, it required the savvy of Bob Cogan to tame the recoil of the powerful cartridge.

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For more information on the complete custom services of Bob Cogan write him at Accurate Plating and Weaponry, Dept. AH, 1937 Calumet Street, Unit 22, Clearwater, FL 33575.







Ed Brown's **MAXI-COMP**

The combat pistol reaches a new plateau of excellence as master pistolsmith Ed Brown customizes the 1911 .45 auto into a remarkable pistol. Accurate, dependable, powerful. The Brown Maxi-Comp is the latest evolution of combat handgunnery.

By Cameron Hopkins

Photos by Ichiro Nagata

Maxi Comp is a sophisticated conversion of the 1911 .45 caliber GI clunker into a combat competition masterpiece. Ed Brown is the creator of the Maxi Comp which he makes one at a time, individually, with the care and dedication that is only found in the skilled hands of a master craftsman.

Painstaking attention to the tiniest detail is the hallmark of a Brown Maxi Comp, from the tasteful blending of the compensator into the slide to the precise fitting of the revolutionary new Brown beavertail grip safety. Flawless reliability is the trademark of the Maxi Comp, superb accuracy its benchmark.

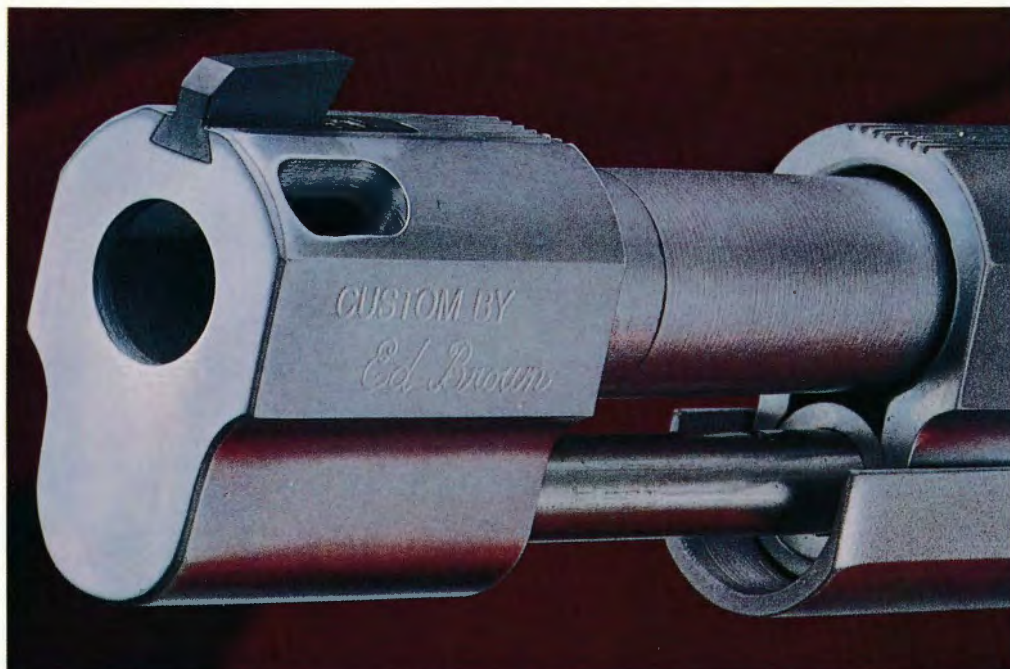
And those who would doubt that steel is a medium for the pistolsmith-as-artist need only admire the matched pair of consecutively serial numbered Colt Government Model conversions to the Maxi Comp that grace our cover. The gun shown in the photos surrounding this article is one from that stunning pair of pistols. We did not shoot the matched pair in the testing of the Maxi Comp for this report, but Ed Brown supplied a Colt Gold Cup customized as a Maxi Comp with identical features to those shown. We shot this one instead of the museum pieces.

There are only a handful of men with the talents of an Ed Brown, perhaps a dozen pistolsmiths with the consummate skill and knowledge born of experience who can rightfully lay claim to the title "master pistolsmith." An active member of the prestigious American Pistolsmiths Guild, Ed shares the common denominator that is nearly universal among the great .45 men.

He works alone, without apprentices and unaided by helpers. There is no "production custom" with a horde of assembly line



The Maxi-Comp is an expansion chamber design with dual gas ports. It's as effective as it is attractive.



workers cranking out pistols by the batch. Each and every Maxi Comp, and other flavors of customized .45s from the Brown workbench, are handfitted individually by the artisan himself.

And it's good work. Among the best in a field crowded with talent. The metalwork is exceptional, each flat surface flat, each square corner square. Metal checkering, perhaps the most exacting yet unappreciated aspect of truly fine pistolsmithing, is a study of perfection with the handcut diamonds of steel standing sharply independent of each other, their symmetrical shapes jutting from the steel frame like row upon row of miniature pyramids. The checkering is cut 20 lines to the inch.

The slide glides effortlessly on the frame like a figure skater's honed edges slicing smoothly across polished ice. Rack the slide and feel the ease of operation that comes from precisely mated parts working together in harmony. Retract the slide slowly and let it ease home gently, feeling carefully for any hint of stickiness or abrasion. None. Wonderfully slick and smooth, the result of careful fitting.

The Missouri pistolsmith is full of good ideas. Fitted to the Maxi Comp is a new beavertail grip safety that Ed designed and now shares with the trade. The Brown Beavertail not only features the enlarged, extended tang that serves as the part's namesake, but also incorporates an innovative new method of raising the shooter's grip on the gun closer to the bore line by elevating the fit of the beavertail. The upper surface of the beavertail's tang is recessed to allow the hammer to fit inside it, thus permitting the part to be fitted higher on the pistol.

The Brown Beavertail is so clever that Ed is now selling the part to other pistolsmiths and it may well obsolete other such spade-styles out there. It's that good.

He's also marketing his new magazine funnel, a weld-on part that elongates, stretches and expands the mag well dramatically, allowing for faster, more positive magazine changes. This too is a masterpiece of design for it does not add a millimeter to the overall length of the grip frame while nonetheless greatly enlarging the opening. It's called the Maxi Well.

The heart of the Maxi Comp is, of course, the comp. The compensator is an expansion chamber design, the most efficient of all recoil reducing muzzle brakes for handguns. An expansion chamber is a gas redirection collector, a carefully contoured cavity within a milled steel block that is affixed to the barrel and ported on the upper surface to channel hot muzzle gases upwards, thereby pushing the rising pistol downwards during recoil. The Maxi Comp is fitted to the end of an extended barrel, in this case a six-inch Bar Sto match-grade stainless steel tube.

There are two ways to attach a compensator to a barrel, and Ed favors the method preferred by most master pistolsmiths, popu-

larly known as the "cone style." The other method is the much simpler and less costly system of simply threading the barrel and screwing on the compensator. The barrel's lock-up in this method is achieved with a standard barrel bushing.

But the cone style, or tapered sleeve, method of attaching the compensator is better because extra weight is added which also helps alleviate recoil and muzzle flip. Looking like an inverted ice cream cone, a steel sleeve is threaded and locked onto the barrel. Out of this sleeve the expansion chamber compensator is





machined. Barrel lock-up is achieved without a bushing by means of the tapered sleeve with the fatter end of the cone fitting precisely to the inside of the slide. A good fit, as opposed to a sloppy fit, only comes from pin grinding the cone to the slide, a practice perfected by Ed Brown.

The Maxi Comp evolved in 1982 when the first one entered the competition arena at the Bianchi Cup in Ed's hands. Two years later he placed in the top 20 at the demanding Cup, the only shooter to do so with an iron sighted pistol. One reason for the Maxi Comp's success in the Cup, besides its thorough reliability, is its remarkable accuracy.

A properly fitted handmade .45 will group between 1½ and two inches off the sandbags at 25 yards. This Maxi Comp tested by *American Handgunner* consistently shot between one-inch and 1¼ inches. With a mixed bag of beautiful match and scuzzy practice loads!

Now the difference between a 1½ inches and one-inch may seem insignificant, a trivial half-inch. But—think about it—that's a reduction of group size by one-third! If your pet hunting rifle suddenly goes from three inches at 100 yards down to two inches, you're impressed. And it's similarly impressive when Ed Brown shrinks a target-grade pistol's groups by one-third.

With his extensive background in the precise profession of tool and die making, Ed begins work on a Maxi Comp with the slide-to-frame fit. The slide is first made exactly parallel with the frame along the rails. The goal is not a jammed-tight fit, but a fit with proper clearances and no uneven, rough spots.

The barrel is then mated to the slide, an operation so complicated in its details that Ed merely says he fits barrels "the way they're supposed to be," as recommended by master barrel maker Irv Stone of Bar Sto Precision Machine.

Many of the machining operations and most of the handwork are proprietary in nature based on methods developed by Ed and sometimes using jig fixtures designed by Ed. He employs a Sony digital readout mounted on a Bridgeport vertical mill that is accurate to .0001". That's one ten-thousandth of an inch!

The finish Ed prefers for his Maxi Comps is an electroless nickel that he offers as an in-house service. He likes Allied-Kelite's Niklad 794 finish which is very durable and known for its resistance to abrasion and corrosion.

A vital aspect of reliable function in a semi-automatic pistol is the relationship of the springs. In the 1911 .45 auto there are three coil springs (four if you count the mag release button's spring, and five if you count the leaf spring). The recoil spring is the most crucial to the gun's operation, although the mainspring that powers the hammer and the firing pin spring are also important. But most of the fine harmony between the mass of the slide and its smooth operation is balanced with the recoil spring.

The standard Colt spring is 18 pounds, but the basic Government Model is a far cry from the race-bred Maxi Comp. What with the compensator and the recoil spring guide rod and the carefully mated slide and frame, the recoil spring is considerably

Continued on page 73



The Brown Beavertail (above left) allows the hammer to sink into a recess in the tang for a higher grip on the pistol. The Brown Maxi-Well (far left) greatly enlarges the mag well for faster reloading. The checkered trigger guard (left) is cut 20 lpi. A skeletonized match trigger and enlarged mag release button add practical touches for competition shooters.

STEEL CHALLENGE

1988

Chip McCormick makes it a pair, the first man in the history of the world speed shooting championships to win twice.

Chip McCormick displays his winning form. He shoots from the isocoles stance.





Rob Leatham, left, versus Chip McCormick in the man-on-man shoot off. Leatham won.

By Nyle Leatham

It was a hit or miss affair.

And Chip McCormick wouldn't have it any other way.

For this lithe, sandy-bearded lightning-bolt from Texas, his win of the world speed shooting championships was a repeat of his 1986 victory. It was also the shooting down of a seven year hex on anyone surmounting the challenge twice.

"I love the Steel Challenge," says McCormick, "It is close to being the perfectly designed pistol match. The ring of lead on steel makes my blood run hot."

Good prizes also helped the shooters' blood to run hot. First overall paid \$5,000, second \$2,500 and cash awards down through 16 places. With additional prizes for the man-on-man Shoot-Off and other special categories, including the stage winners, shooters took home \$50,000 in cash and another \$150,000 in very nice merchandise.

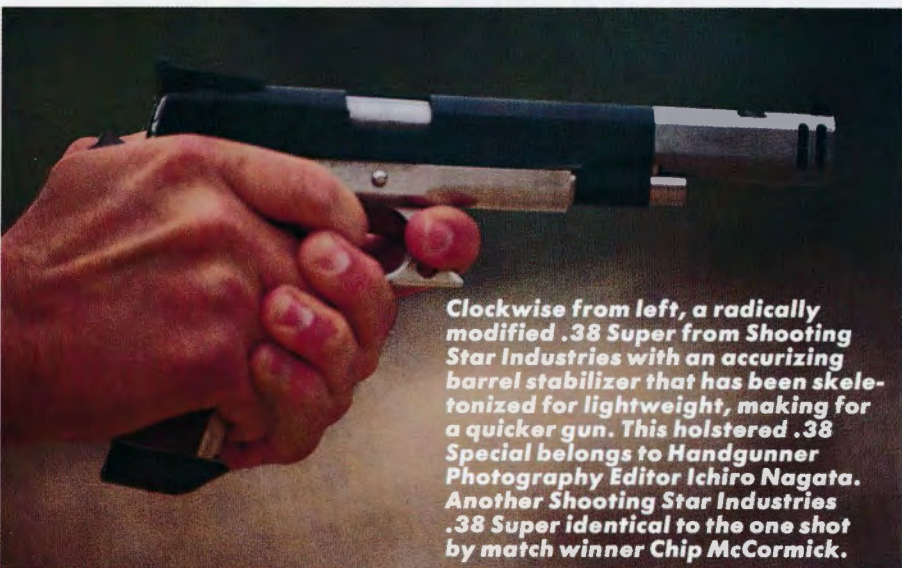
The trendy gun for this year's Steel Chal-

lenge continued to be a medium-weight, fast-handling, light-recoil auto on the basic 1911 frame modified to handle soft .38 Super loads.

A dozen of the top 16 fired pistols of Springfield Armory manufacture, and 14 of the top 16 drew their weapons from Ernie Hill holsters.

Many top shooters have a gun tuned specifically for this match while others shoot whatever gun they have for regular competition. Just to prove it's the man and not the gun, Top Revolver score was earned by Jerry Miculek with a stock Smith & Wesson Model 27 with 8³/₈ inch barrel. He placed 8th overall with a score of 90.07 seconds and he won the Show Down stage with a time of 10.82 seconds.

Steel Challenge guns have to be 9mm minimum caliber, centerfire and suitable for holster carry. With so few restrictions, a few wild designs have been tried. One was the Shooting Star "Scepter" model which has an open vented slide, like a small bridge girder,



Clockwise from left, a radically modified .38 Super from Shooting Star Industries with an accurizing barrel stabilizer that has been skeletonized for lightweight, making for a quicker gun. This holstered .38 Special belongs to Handgunner Photography Editor Ichiro Nagata. Another Shooting Star Industries .38 Super identical to the one shot by match winner Chip McCormick.

GUNS AND GEAR OF THE TOP 16

Place	Name	Home State	Pistol*	Pistolsmith	Holster	Sponsor
1	Chip McCormick	Texas	Springfield	Shooting Star	Hill	Shooting Star
2	Rob Leatham	Arizona	Springfield	Bill Wilson	Hill	Springfield
3	Rick Castelow	Tennessee	Springfield	Les Baer	Hill	Les Baer
4	Doug Koenig	Pennsylvania	Colt	Austin Behlert	Hill	Behlert Prec.
5	Brian Enos	Arizona	Springfield	Bill Wilson	Safari	Springfield
6	Mike Plaxco	Arkansas	Springfield	Mike Plaxco	Hill	Plaxco Custom
7	Michael Voight	California	Springfield	Voight Custom	Hill	Voight Custom
8	Jerry Miculek	Louisiana	S&W (rev.)	Out-of-the-box	Hill	Ernie Hill
9	Ken Tapp	Kentucky	Springfield	Paul Rice	Hill	Springfield
10	Michael Cundiff	Virginia	Springfield	Blake Gann	Hill	
11	Angelo Spagnoli	California	Springfield	Bruce Gray	Hill	
12	Joe Hamilton	Louisiana	Colt	Joe Hamilton	Hill	
13	David Cupp	Texas	Springfield	Shooting Star	Hill	Shooting Star
14	Donny Summers	Mississippi	Colt	Mike Plaxco	Hill	
15	Jerry Barnhart	Michigan	Springfield	Steve Nastoff	Safari	Springfield
16	Ted Bonnett	Texas	Springfield	Greg Ferris	Hill	

*All of the top 16 pistols were 1911 Models with the exception of 8th place finisher's S&W M-27 .357 Magnum revolver.

a barrel locking both front and rear for tack driving accuracy and a lightweight recoil system that functions with a pea shooter load as low as 600 feet per second.

Match winner Chip McCormick, who is president of Shooting Star Industries, himself stayed with a less radical design.

Chip's Steel Challenge gun is a basic Shooting Star model with the barrel mass thinned and one lug removed to get rid of more weight, mainly to allow retention of a strong recoil spring with light loads. The gun has a titanium muzzle brake, a long 9-inch sight radius, weighs in at an optimum 39 ounces and, Chip says, shoots two-inch groups consistently at 50 yards.

Chip loads the .38 Super with 3.7 grains of Winchester 452 powder and 125 grain Western-Nevada lead roundnose bullet which leaves the muzzle at 950 fps. Chip says the moderate load is an aid to hearing target strikes.

The strong side holster continues to be

Every one of the 252 finishers of Steel Challenge 1988 had their own story of victory and defeat, usually *not* to be measured on the score sheet.

"Slick Vic" Maehren of Mesa, Arizona, 144th place finisher, considers this, his fourth try, a banner year because, "I made it through a Steel Challenge *without my knees shaking*."

Probably no one had a better time than Malcolm Johnson from Lakewood, California. He finished 250th, drawing his Ken Tuttle Auto Ordnance .45 auto with KC Dual Comp and Aimpoint sight from an Ernie Hill holster belted around his knees to accommo-

in the web of his right hand. He suffered a deep cut in his shop from a sharp piece of steel. During the first day's shooting, the pounding of his .45 auto opened the stitches. Ken got permission to lay off a day. Then he caught up all the stages on Friday. He finished 9th. And Ken is of an age close to qualifying for restaurant senior citizen discounts!

The numbing cold rain that fell midway through the match wasn't much fun for shooters, but between stages they could retreat to shelter. The range officers who had to stay out in it had a worse time. Fellow ROs finally noticed J. D. Stewart's condition was getting



Stop-action of the cobra-quick draw of Chip McCormick. The initial draw comes straight up, lifting the gun quite high. Then the pistol is punched straight out toward the target as the arms extend to lock out.

popular and a special Ernie Hill model enables Chip to carry his weapon about four inches higher than most. That always tough competitor, J. Michael Plaxco, was also seen this year to be wearing his Ernie Hill holster in the extreme high position.

Ernie Hill leather continues to dominate the Steel Challenge and, in fact, most of the action shooting worldwide. The steel lining, double top and bottom tension screws and adjustable angle on the Fender System make his Model 666F holster so popular it is simpler to say who is *not* using it than who is.

The only exceptions in the top 16 of the Steel Challenge were last year's winner Jerry Barnhart, who took 15th, and Brian Enos, who placed 5th. Barnhart and Enos both used the new Safariland Final Option. Brian says he likes the innovative system the Final Option uses of gripping the trigger guard to retain the pistol, a far more sophisticated design than a simple tension-holster. The Final Option is too new to gauge its reception among the pro shooters based on just this one match.

date his wheelchair. In high glee Johnson said, "Our real contribution to shooting is to make guys like Leatham and Barnhart look good by contrast."

One intense competitor who climbed some 15 places to 96th over his last year's finish is San Francisco shooter Jim O'Young. With a straight face Jim will tell fellow shooters he is descended from a traveling Chinese princess and an Irish railroad hand who met in Utah in 1867 at the driving of the golden spike. Actually, he is a second generation Chinese, a Silicon Valley engineer and as American as apple pie.

Someone should have played *Baby Elephant Walk* when the big Texan John Dixon waltzed from box to box on Outer Limits, his leg still in the cast from the nasty break he suffered in England. He was there for the European Championships at Bisley and while walking down a London street with other US shooters was struck by a falling tree limb in the aftermath of a freak windstorm. John says he remembers nothing of the accident. But he still remembers how to shoot. He placed 44th, cast and all.

And speaking of pain, how about Ken Tapp? He came to the Challenge with stitches

serious. He was finally helped off the range in the beginning stages of hypothermia, about as stiff as one of the steel targets.

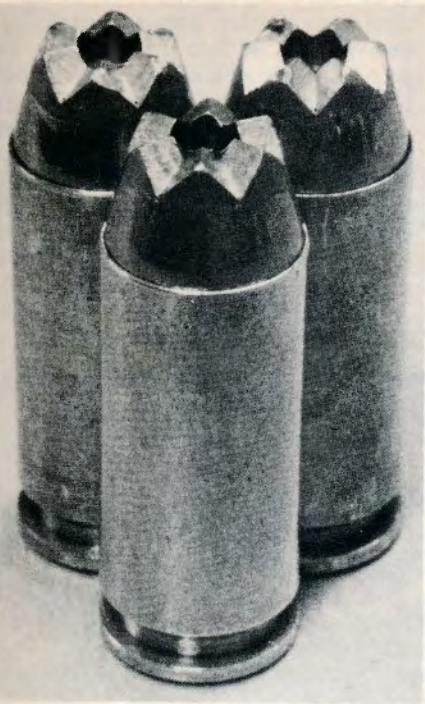
J. D.'s only wish was to soak in a hot tub but when they got him to his motel in Fillmore and started to fill the tub, the water heater was off and the tap ran ice cold. He finally got warmed up in bed and next morning in the sunshine was on duty on the range, cheerful as ever.

Most of the range drained pretty well from Thursday's downpour, but Friday morning Outer Limits was a lake where the shooter's boxes should be. Shooters looked, and left it for a lost cause. A job for the Army Corps of Engineers!

Ichiro Nagata, photo editor for *American Handgunner*, and his "Asian Invasion" of Japanese shooters and photographers took a look, grabbed shovels and went to work. Their hope was to dig a ditch off to the edge, into the canyon. About half the water was drained that way, but there was insufficient fall to get all the water trickled away.

Then some of the Mexican-American range help showed up, cast their experienced irrigator's eye on the problem and saw the

Continued on page 88



PIN GRABBERS!

New "flying buzzsaws" for blowing away bowling pins!

By Mark Moritz

Bill Kaswer is quite the inventor. In addition to coming up with a workable, reasonably priced magazine for the Bren Ten, he is also the creator and manufacturer of the fiercest looking ammunition you have ever seen, Pin Grabbers. Pin Grabbers are semi-jacketed hollowpoints, with six sharp nasty-looking teeth.

Bill came up with this bullet design specifically for use in bowling pin matches, like Richard Davis' Second Chance tournament. When a normal bullet hits the hard, slippery, rounded surface of a bowling pin, it tends to slide off, leaving the pin spinning on the table. This is just not good enough, because you get no score until the pins are completely off the table.

When a Pin Grabber hits a bowling pin, even right on the edge, the teeth dig in and grab the pin, and throw it off the table. More and more shooters are going to the Pin Grabber on match day (using an equivalent weight normal bullet for practice), and the results so far are impressive.

The first time Pin Grabbers were used at the Second Chance match was in 1987. Pin Grabbers were used to take two first places, and two second places. Lorraine Ferns used Pin Grabbers to set a new Women's world record, knocking off a full two seconds! Then she teamed up with Mike Plaxco to take first in Mixed Doubles, and she also took second in Mixed Doubles with Dave Wheeler. She and Susan Cooper took second in Women's Doubles. Not a bad day for Lorraine or for her ammunition!

Kaswer uses a special die and press made up by Dave Corbin to form the bullet all in one step—with about four *tons* of pressure. You can buy loaded ammo in a bunch of calibers: .380, 9mm, .38 Super, .38 Special, .357 Magnum, 10mm, .41 Mag, .44 Special

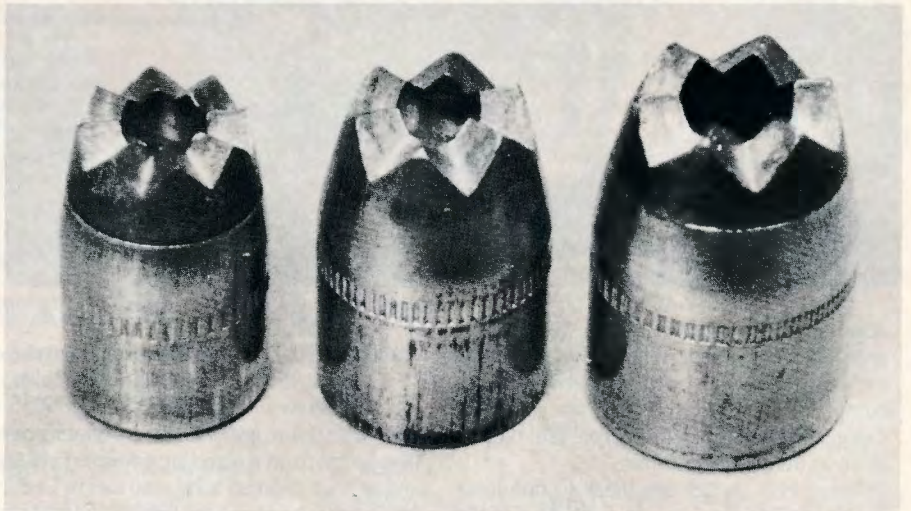
and Magnum, .45 ACP, .45 Colt, and .45 Winchester Magnum. He also sells unloaded bullets, but you will need to buy a special seating die (which Kaswer invented, naturally) to avoid deforming the bullet's teeth.

I tested some of the 10mm loads out of my Bren Ten, and according to the PACT chronograph, velocities of the 170 grain beasts ranged from 1114 to 1133 fps, with an average of 1124.

Kaswer is exploring other uses for his "bullet that bites." He tested a .30-06 version on a bowling pin and found that it grabbed

A jury of laymen would probably take one look and conclude that only a bloodthirsty maniac would carry such an evil-looking bullet for anti-personnel use (as if there were such a thing as a "nice" bullet).

My recommendation to Bill Kaswer is to find a noble-sounding name for them. Not "Devastators," or "Mayhem Specials," but something socially acceptable like "Low Penetration" or "Life Savers" or "Humane Self Defense." Glaser did this successfully when they called their exotic bullet the "Safety Slug" instead of the "Terminator."



Pin Grabber bullets have serrated edges for grabbing a bowling pin and hurtling it backwards, even with off-center hits. They're available in .38, .41, .44 and .45 calibers.

and stuck, as advertised, and sent the pin flying 30 feet through the air. In comparison, a regular hardball .30-06 penetrated three bowling pins. Pin Grabbers may be adaptable to hunting ammunition, then, provided they are used properly. In some situations, especially when hunting heavy game, like bear or buffalo, expansion is undesirable, and penetration without deformation is the *desideratum*.

Pin Grabbers would seem to be perfect for self-defense. They should be expected to expand instantly and reliably, and not exit, but there is one problem: they *look* so mean.

You won't go to court for shooting bowling pins, though. If that's your sport, Pin Grabbers are the way to go. Current prices for bullets are between \$20 to \$30 per 100, depending on caliber. Loaded ammo is between \$40 and \$50 per box of 50, with the unusual calibers (10mm, .357 Maximum, etc.) going higher. If you want to test some, before ordering a truckload of bullets, you can get boxes of 20 loaded rounds, at proportionate prices.

For more information, contact Bill at Pin Grabbers, 13 Surrey Rd., Brookfield Center, CT 06805.





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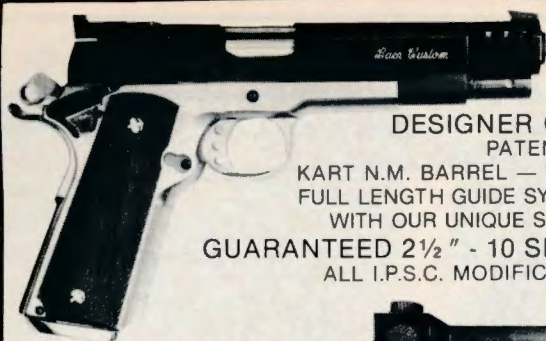
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BOOK REVIEWS

The Radom Pistol by Robert J. Berger. 108 pages, 41 illustrations. Softbound, format 6 by 9 inches. \$9.95. Blacksmith Corporation, Box 424, Southport, CT 06490.

The cover title is as shown above, but on the first page inside, the heading is "The VIS Pistol." The handgun has been known by several names, one of which was P-35, after the year of its adoption as the standard side-arm of the army of Poland. On page three, Mr. Berger clears up, once and for all, the correct names for the pistol, and their origins. Among collectors and shooters in America, the custom is to call it the Radom, after the arsenal where it was first made.

Mr. Berger tells the story of the Radom pistol from its beginning, in the minds of Piotr Wilniewicz and Jan Skrzypinski, and dispels the myth that there was design assistance from engineers of the FN factory in Belgium. For this background, the author acknowledges a debt to the late Professor Wilniewicz, who had written an article for a Polish publication that detailed the design and production of the pistol. His information was very complete, and all of it is reproduced here.

Collectors will find all variations of the Radom shown, with data on markings, finishes, grips, and proof marks. The World War Two Nazi production is covered in great detail, and holsters and other accessories are also shown. Even Mr. Berger's meticulous research could not find the elusive Radom shoulder stock, but everything else is given the full treatment. The original patent and the Polish Army manual for the pistol are included, along with several great old photographs of troops armed with the Radom. Also valuable are the complete production figures and serial number ranges.

For the shooter, mechanical details have not been overlooked. In the material from the army manual, complete disassembly and reassembly instructions are included. All of the separate parts are shown, and there is a phantom view showing the relationship of the internal parts. Whether you are a shooter, a collector, or just a firearms scholar, this is the reference book on the Radom pistol.

J. B. Wood

DAN WESSON .44

Continued from page 51

pull, both in double-action and single-action modes. This also is an area in which Dan Wesson has improved considerably. Those early .44 Magnums had very strong trigger pulls to say the least. This one is just about perfect as it comes from the box.

After installing the scoped shroud, I proceeded to do some initial testing. The

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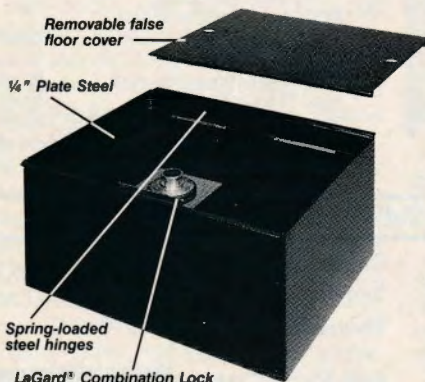
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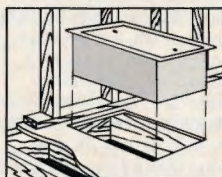
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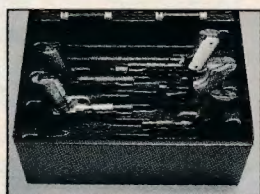
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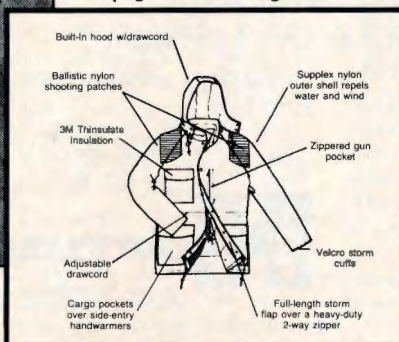
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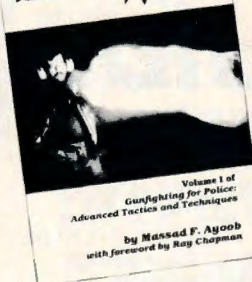
first shots gave me results that were disappointing. Groups at 50 yards looked more like casual off-hand patterns rather than groups fired by a scope sighted, quality handgun fired from a sandbag rest.

Could I have a lemon, that rare .44 that just would not shoot? Then it dawned on me: "Dummy, you forgot to check to see if the scope mounts are tight!" Sure enough, the back screws on both sides of the Burris base were loose and the groups were poor simply because recoil was causing the scope to shift. Tightening of the screws resulted in the groups tightening accordingly. Everyone knows that all screws should be checked for tightness, both initially and frequently thereafter; I was just anxious enough to get to work that I forgot.

While I was tightening the base screws I also took care of another potential problem. Scopes on heavy magnum handguns have a tendency to ride forward as a result of recoil. This was avoided by loosening the ring screws and sliding the Burris scope forward until the turret touched the front ring. Now the scope is solidly mounted in the rings and cannot move forward. This also gives the over-all combination a better balance as the scope is mounted farther forward instead of hanging back out over the hammer.

Once the scope was tightened down properly, two tests were necessary. Would the Burris 1½X-4X scope stay in zero at each power setting? And also, could the

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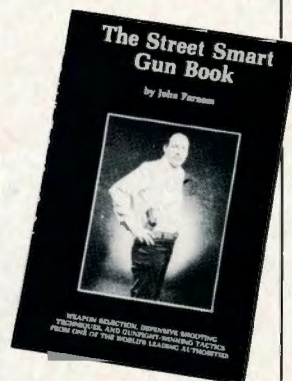
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shrouds be removed, replaced, removed, replaced, etc., and still have the gun sighted in?

The choice of a variable scope such as the Burris 1½X-4X is perfect for a .44 magnum revolver such as the Dan Wesson as it can be set on the lowest power setting for woods use, raised to the highest power for open country hunting, and any spot in between as conditions warrant. As an extra bonus, if the scoped shroud could be removed and replaced with the iron-sighted shroud and still have the gun retain zero, one more important hunting dimension would be added.

I set up a target with four bullseyes and proceeded to fire one group at each bull with the scope set at 1½X, 2X, 3X, and 4X. I could not tell the difference, all shots hit to the same point of aim. The Burris scope had passed the first test with a perfect performance.

I then fired a group with the scoped shroud in place, removed the scoped shroud, installed the iron-sighted shroud, and sighted it in for 50 yards. It was then removed, replaced with the scoped shroud, and a second group was fired. Then the iron-sighted shroud was returned and a second group was fired with it in place. The results? In both cases, the Dan Wesson .44 shot to point-of-aim.

This will only work by meticulously removing each shroud and carefully replacing it with the alternate one. Each

time a feeler gauge was used to set the barrel/cylinder gap, and I was particularly careful to exert the same amount of tension each time the barrel nut was tightened. I also checked to see that the shroud was always held to the farthest point to the left. Which way—right or left—does not make a difference as long as consistency is achieved. Left is easier as the barrel nut turns in the same direction. The feeler gauge can be eliminated if the barrel threads are Loc-tited to the frame. If neither is used the barrel will walk forward each time the barrel nut is removed, soon resulting in excessive barrel/cylinder gap.

Firing the Dan Wesson .44 Magnum for groups at 50 yards with the Burris scope set at 4X gave some unexpected results. For the past few months I have been testing a number of cast bullets supplied by Bullets By Bridges (P.O. Box 31742, Dept. AH, Amarillo, TX 79120). Since I have been very satisfied with the quality of these hardcast bullets and their performance in a number of .44 Magnums, I put their H&G #503 Keith 250 grain slug to work in the Dan Wesson .44. Groups were fired using both #2400 and H4227, powders which have proven to be very accurate in .44 Magnums. The results were groups that measured two and one-half to three inches.

I immediately checked to see if the screws on the Burris base had worked loose; all were tight, so the problem was not the scope. Using the same powder

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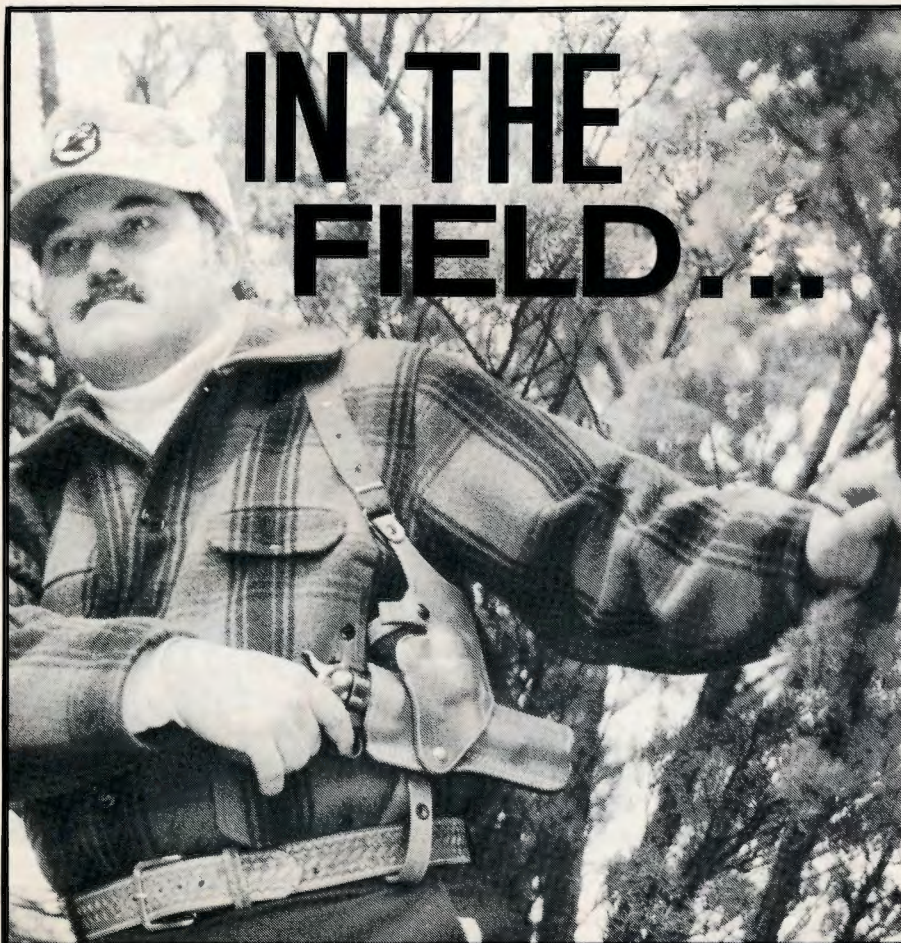
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charges, I switched to both the Lyman Keith #429421 and the NEI Keith #260.429. Results? Exactly the same. All Keith bullets in all loads tried continued to group in two and one-half to three inches.

I assumed that I had a barrel that just would not shoot cast bullets. I just did not expect this since my .357 Magnum Dan Wesson with a ten-inch barrel actually prefers cast bullets. Instead of giving up, I loaded the Lyman-Thompson #431244 over the same powder charges. This bullet is basically a Keith style bullet of 250 grains except it has a gas check.

Voila! Success! This particular Dan Wesson .44 Magnum simply needs to be fed gas-checked cast bullets for best results.

I should qualify that last statement by saying this did not prove true when I switched to *heavyweight* cast bullets. Utilizing either the NEI #295.429GC or the H&G #328KT (a plain base bullet also by Bridges) saw no difference in either velocities or group size when loaded over 21.5 grains of WW296. Both bullets shot into one and one-half inches and clocked out at 1300 fps according to my PACT PC chronograph. This makes them excellent candidates for assembling cast bullet hunting loads.

Switching to jacketed bullets also showed a marked preference for heavy-weight bullets. The best group turned in by the Dan Wesson .44 Magnum, of all loads

tried whether cast bullets or jacketed bullets, was that registered by the new Freedom Arms jacketed heavyweight bullet. This newest .44 is a 300 grain bullet with a flat point that is designed for big game. Like the jacketed bullets made for the Freedom Arms .454 Casull, their .44 Magnum bullet is constructed with a heavy .032" jacket for deepest possible penetration. Five shots with the Freedom Arms 300 grain JFP over 21.5 grains of WW296 clocked at 1300 fps according to my PACT PC and, more importantly, shot into one-inch at 50 yards.

The new Barnes 300 grain jacketed soft point bullet was not far behind the Freedom Arms bullet in performance. Since this bullet seats deeper in the case when the cannellure is used, it was loaded with 20.5 grains of WW296 and clocked out at 1228 fps and shot into one and one-fourth inches at 50 yards. This gives .44 Magnum shooters two more heavyweight bullets that should be excellent choices for assembling hunting handloads with jacketed bullets.

Also impressive is the performance of one of my favorite silhouette loads, the Hornady 240 grain JTC-SIL bullet over 23.0 grains of WW296. This load shoots into one and one-eighth inches at 50 yards and is followed closely by the Speer 240 grain FMJ over 23.0 grains of H110 which yields groups of one and three-eighths inches. This is astounding accuracy for a production line revolver.

And the fact that the Dan Wesson shoots both 240 grain and 300 grain bullets at the one-inch mark at 50 yards, makes this a very desirable revolver. It really is two guns in one as it performs admirably with both hunting loads and silhouette loads.

The iron-sighted Dan Wesson eight-inch Heavy Barrel revolver at four pounds is about one pound above what this shooter considers maximum for waist belt or cartridge belt carry. Fatigue sets in quickly once handguns get over the three pound weight limit, so I much prefer to carry them in a top quality shoulder holster that evenly distributes the weight between shoulders and the waist belt.

Such a rig has been discovered to carry the .44 Magnum Dan Wesson. Idaho Leather (18 S. Orchard, Dept AH, Boise, ID 83705) has the answer with their #41 Deluxe Shoulder Rig. This outfit consists of a spring clip pouch, and is made of top grain leather, with wide shoulder straps to distribute the weight. More importantly, it fastens on the waist belt both with a strap on the back of the holster and a 24-capacity cartridge carrier on the off-side. The complete outfit is secure, carries comfortably, and provides plenty of ammunition space for the handgun hunter.

When the Dan Wesson is utilized with the scoped shroud in place, comfortable carry becomes a little harder to achieve. I've been packing the .44 in a Bianchi

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HUSH rig that normally carries my scoped Freedom Arms ten-inch .454. This black nylon holster is longer than necessary but works satisfactorily. Actually for a scoped handgun, whether it be a revolver or single-shot, I prefer to have it fitted with swivels and a sling so it can be packed like a rifle.

The basic Dan Wesson 44HV, which the .44 Magnum Hunter Pac is built upon, is a well fitted, beautifully finished revolver. I can think of only two things that would improve the package.

Number one, the instructions for disassembly need to be more complete. Let's rephrase that—the instructions need to be more complete for people like me who have a hard time even when the directions are complete in every detail. It took me quite a while to realize that the small screw under the stocks was utilized to depress the mainspring allowing the Dan Wesson to be broken down into component parts.

Secondly, the Hunter Pac is provided with a protective case with cut-out foam padding. The only way the case can be utilized is with the iron-sighted barrel installed and the scoped shroud fitted into its special cut-out in the foam. It would be better to have solid foam padding that would allow the Dan Wesson to be carried with either barrel in place. Strangely enough, my Dan Wesson .32 Magnum Field Pistol Pac came in a case without cut-outs.

Dan Wesson revolvers are the winningest revolvers in long range silhouette competition. The introduction of The Hunter Pac could see them become even more popular for silhouetting and used in quantity by handgun hunters as well. For the silhouetter who is also a hunter, The Hunter Pac is an excellent choice to provide top service in both sports.



ED BROWN MAXI-COMP

Continued from page 61

lighter than normal. Ed installs a 10 pound spring for the usual load fired in action matches, a 200 grain semi-wadcutter at around 900 fps. For heavier loads like flat-nose 230 grainers favored by bowling pin shooters, Ed switches to a 13 pound spring.

"The gun needs to be balanced to the load," Ed says about choosing the proper weight of recoil spring.

Most Maxi Comps are ordered in .45 ACP, but the pistol is also available in 9mm, .38 Super and 10mm. The .41 AE could be had, but so far Ed has not received any orders for the rebated round. Given the scope of Ed's talents, I suppose he'd build you one in .30 Mauser or 9mm Kurtz if you waned enough green stuff in front of his face. But the .45 remains the hands down favorite.

A companion to the Maxi Comp is the Mini Comp, a compensated Commander



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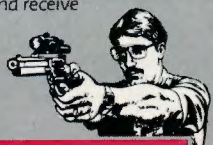
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model with the same overall dimensions as a standard Government Model. "The Mini Comp is my idea of what the smallest and lightest compensator should be," Ed observed.

The Mini Comp is primarily a custom pistol designed for personal protection, a carry gun. "The first few Mini Comps I sold never made it onto the streets as carry guns. Some people wanted a shorter, lighter version of the Maxi Comp for competition," Ed reflected, "In 1984 the compensated carry gun was a concept ahead of its time, but today I'm seeing a lot of people actually carrying the Mini Comp as a defensive sidearm."

Additionally, Ed Brown offers the full spectrum of custom work on the 1911 pistol, everything from the Officers to the Commander to the Government to the Gold Cup to the Delta Elite. In fact, Ed is doing a lot of work on 10mm's for carry guns. He just delivered a custom Mini Comp in 10mm to former IPSC World Champion Ray Chapman.

"That's just about the ultimate carry gun. You've got ten rounds of hot Norma 10mm in a controllable package the size of a standard Government Model," Ed said of the gun he just completed for the owner of the Chapman Academy of Practical Shooting.

Another unusual aspect of the Maxi Comp is the retention of the full slide dimension. More and more pistolsmiths today are cutting a Government Model slide back to Commander length and then fitting a compensator. Ed sticks with the full slide in his Gold Cup and Government models, but employs the Commander slide itself, instead of bobbing off a full-size slide, in the Mini Comp.

As a result, the Maxi Comp boasts a long sight radius of 8½ inches. I compared the sight radius to that of several other full-size custom Government Models and the Maxi Comp averages a full one-inch of extra sight radius. This aids in better accuracy because there is a finer sight picture with the greater distance between front and rear sights.

But the bonus inch of sight radius does not affect the Maxi Comp's ability to fit in any standard holster made for longslides. All the popular holsters from Davis, Safariland, Blocker and Hill made for six-inch "pin guns" fit the Maxi Comp.

The Maxi Comp Gold Cup conversion tested by *American Handgunner* weighs two pounds 13 ounces, or 45 ounces. This is five ounces heavier than an "average" weight based on weighing three similar pistols, a Nastoff SuperComp, a Wilson Accu-Comp and a Clark Bowling Pin Model.

The trigger of the Maxi Comp released at three pounds. It is crisp and responsive, an excellent trigger job. The trigger felt somewhat lighter than the Brownell trigger pull gauge indicated because of the wide Gold Cup trigger. Anytime you compare two triggers of identical pull weight, the

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wider trigger will "feel" lighter because the force required to break it is distributed over a larger area of the finger tip.

In test firing the Maxi Comp, a variety of handloads and our "control" ammunition, Federal Match hardball, functioned flawlessly. However, CCI Blazer ammunition, the aluminum cased non-reloadable fodder featuring the 200 grain CT (combat/target) bullet, jammed consistently. The jams were all failures to feed. Identical magazines were used with all the ammunition tested, Wilson magazines, so the blame does not lie there.

Included in the handloads were some rather grungy, dirty "practice" loads in non-tumbled cases. Not a few had large bulges around the case mouths where the grease from the cast HG 68 semi-wadcutter's grease groove had oozed out. These are poor reloads from the "reject box" and definitely candidates for serious malfunction-clearing practice.

We fired this junk intentionally to try to make the Maxi Comp jam—a worst-case testing procedure. Yet nary a bobble in the finely tuned Maxi Comp, which makes the problems with the Blazers even more mysterious.

The Blazer ammo was then fired in a Nastoff SuperComp that is retained as a "standard" testing gun because it has proven itself thoroughly reliable with just about any bullet configuration, with everything from powder puff Steel Challenge loads to full-house bowling pin loads. Guess what, more jams. The Nastoff choked on two rounds out of seven in every magazine, on average. The CCI aluminum cased ammunition was then tried in a stock Gold Cup. Same thing, Jam City.

American Handgunner therefore concluded that we have a bad lot of ammo and suspected the trouble lies in "sticky" aluminum cases that would not glide up the feedramp smoothly like clean, and even dirty, brass cases. We cannot hold the Maxi Comp to blame for these persistent failures-to-feed because the jams occurred in other guns.

The Brown Maxi Comp performed 100% with a wide assortment of handloads and hardball, however.

Combat .45 pistols share a basic recipe but the ingredients vary from pistolsmith to pistolsmith. For example, all the makers install a beavertail but some prefer a Safari Arms style while others opt for a Wilson variety and still others favor the new Brown hammer-recessed beavertail. Same song, different tempo.

Let's take a look at basic combat auto pistols using the Brown Maxi-Comp as an example and show the options available. More importantly, let's examine why each modification is performed and what function each of the many accessories serves.

I mentioned the beavertail grip safety, so let's start there. A beavertail grip safety replaces the standard grip safety and the

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main difference is that a beavertail is larger than the factory-standard. The tang of the grip safety, the rear protrusion, is much fatter, wider and longer for two reasons.

First, the larger "tail" of the beavertail protects a much greater area of your hand, specifically the web between your thumb and first finger, by covering the sensitive skin and keeping it from being pinched by the hammer during recoil. As the slide slams rearward from recoil, it automatically cocks the hammer for the next shot and it's this pesky hammer that can pinch the web of your hand without a beavertail in place.

Secondly, a beavertail distributes the recoil force over a larger area of your hand because, simply, it's bigger. This tends to make the gun "feel" softer on recoil although it's obvious that the gun still kicks the same amount.

A beavertail doesn't resemble a beaver's tail at all. Every beaver I've seen has a flat tail yet the "beavertail" is curved. Jeff Cooper says "ducktail" is a more accurate description because the piece curves upwards at the tang like a duck's tail feathers. Beavertail, ducktail, platypustail—whatever, it's a practical and popular accessory.

Ed Brown installs his own Brown Beavertail on his Maxi Comp and other custom pistols. Ed's new beavertail is the latest on the market and it differs in one major respect from others in that the upper surface of the tang is recessed to accommodate a cocked hammer. The purpose of this recess is to allow the beavertail unit to ride higher on the pistol. Other units would bottom-out against a cocked hammer, but the Brown beavertail solves this problem with the clever recess.

The reason why you would want the beavertail to be fitted higher on the pistol is to reduce muzzle rise and felt recoil through greater control. The higher your hand can be to the bore line, the greater leverage your hand exerts in controlling muzzle flip, and thus recoil. Ideally, the bones of your forearm would be exactly in line with the barrel, and you can come closer to this situation with a hammer-recessed Brown beavertail.

Another universal combat modification is the addition of a set of high-profile, rugged sights. The little black pimples that serve as sights on a GI .45 are hard to see and slow to pick up. Custom pistolsmiths install three brands of adjustable sights: Bo Mar, Wichita and Millett. There might be one or two other brands, but these three constitute the lion's share. Of those three, the excellent Bo Mar unit is by far and away the most popular because the Bo Mar sight features positive, audible clicks as you adjust the rear sight and it is also an extremely strong, durable sight. Bo Mar doesn't call it the "combat" sight for nothing!

I would guess that 85% of the custom .45s made in America have Bo Mars installed; 10% have Wichitas and 5% have

Milletts. Ed Brown favors the Wichita sight in part because Ed does a lot of customizing of Colt Gold Cups which have a larger dovetail cut in the slide than the Government Model for the adjustable Elliason sight that comes as stock equipment. The base of the Bo Mar sight is not large enough to fill the hole for a Colt-stock Elliason sight, so the larger base of the Wichita is often chosen for Gold Cups.

Incidentally, the reason why the Elliason sight is replaced is because the front pin that holds the hinged, adjustable portion to the sight's base has a definite tendency of flying away. My own Gold Cup shed its Elliason pin after 500 or so combat loads but I've seen other Elliason sights sail off the slide in as little as two magazine's of hardball. It's a flimsy sight and should be replaced. Either that or peen that pesky pin permanently in place.

Some pistolsmiths install fixed sights instead of an adjustable unit. The two favorites are the Swensight and the Heinie sights, both similar in that their sight blades overhang the back of the slide. Both are serrated on their blades to reduce glare from bright sun. Both are high-visibility, fast-to-pick-up sights.

The thumb safety is also subject to replacement with an improved "speed" safety. The standard, favored by the vast majority of shooters and pistolsmiths, is the famous Swenson Ambidextrous Safety. Ed Brown fit the Swenson safety to the test pistol and he favors this version of the extended, speed safety.

The reason for replacing the stock safety is because the little lever that comes out-of-the-box is too small for positive, reliable operation. I once saw a typographical error in a consumer survey referring to the Colt thumb safety as the "thump safety." I chuckled because this is often the case with the sometimes stiff, always hard to reach safety that comes on a GI pistol. The Swenson safety, and similar ones like the Clark, Wilson and Safari Arms versions, is both wider and longer than a Colt-stock safety, so the replacement safety is both faster and easier to hit.

Also some shooters need the ambidextrous feature. Southpaws and competition shooters, occasionally, must shoot left-handed, and many who carry the big .45 auto for personal defense like to have the starboard side lever available in case their strong arm is incapacitated for any reason. The speed safety is a good accessory to add to a combat pistol.

The magazine release button is usually replaced, either with an extended one or an enlarged one, or both. The reason is primarily for competition shooting where a high priority is placed on speed, especially speed of reloading. The small button that comes stock on the Government may be fine for those with large hands and long thumbs, but many shooters have trouble reaching the stubby Colt button and feel more confident with a larger, extended mag catch. Ed Brown installs a Heinie extended

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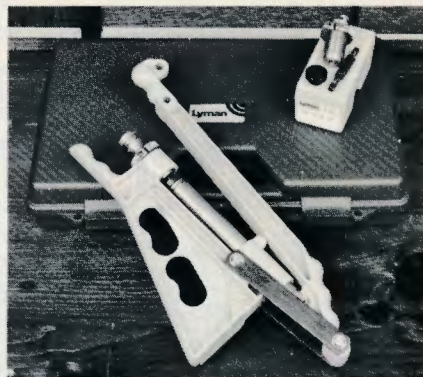
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mag release button. Wilson, Clark and Cylinder and Slide Shop all offer similar units. My favorite is the humongous button from Cylinder and Slide Shop, by far the largest mag release button of those named.

Naturally the trigger gets a good deal of attention, but this black art of pistolsmithing usually remains hidden in the frame, the careful polishing of sear and hammer hooks stay invisible except on the bill. Beyond the trigger job itself, most pistolsmiths install a longer trigger, an extended "match" trigger. This unit, often the popular Wilson Combat match trigger, is longer than the stock trigger and lighter as well. Made of aluminum instead of steel, the match trigger is usually reduced in weight further by drilling holes in it. This is also an attractive, distinctive touch.

The reason for replacing the stock trigger with a longer, match trigger is because the standard trigger is too short for the proper placement of your finger on the trigger. Only the tip of your index finger should touch the trigger because this is the most sensitive portion of your finger which gives far better control and "feel" for squeezing off a shot. With the squatty stock trigger, often your finger contacts the trigger at the first joint, which is a bad place to engage the trigger on a single-action pistol. (Interestingly, the first joint is the best place to engage a double action trigger.)

An enlarged magazine well, in days gone by, was achieved with a file. "Bevel the well" was the normal procedure which does not open the hole up to any significant degree. You're gaining perhaps a quarter inch, an eighth on each side. But today's combat pistols sport magazine "funnels" which turn that rectangular opening into something between the Grand Canyon and a gravel pit. The humongous hole that results from installing a funnel greatly enlarges the target for fresh magazines and drastically chops reloading time.

Rob Leatham says one of the three most vital improvements to a combat pistol is the mag funnel (the other two are sights and trigger).

The Brown Maxi Well is welded onto the bottom of the frame and the mainspring housing is radically beveled to blend into the gaping chasm that was a standard mag well. Ed's funnel is tastefully contoured and gracefully blended into the frame. It does not extend any further below the frame and the Hogue wood grips that Ed favors must be cut short to fit the mag funnel.

Other pistolsmiths might install a Smith and Alexander mag funnel, my personal favorite simply because this version does extend below the frame for an extra few ounces of recoil-absorbing weight and more grip surface for large hands. Some go with the La Rocca Mag Funnel, to my knowledge the first such accessory sold. I saw my first La Rocca funnel four years ago in a gun shop in Lubbock, Texas. Now Mike La Rocca has a full blown symphony jumping on his band wagon with many

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pistolsmiths offering the enlarged, extended funnel of one sort or another. Let's give credit where credit is due—La Rocca started this craze.

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And in case you're wondering why anyone would buy a matched pair of consecutively serial numbered Maxi Comps, here's Ed to explain in his own words.

The matched pair of Maxi Comps are interesting for many reasons. A wise old shooter once told me that you should have one of everything; that way you know what you want to buy two of!

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Ed Brown

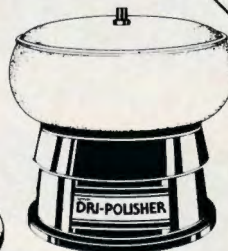
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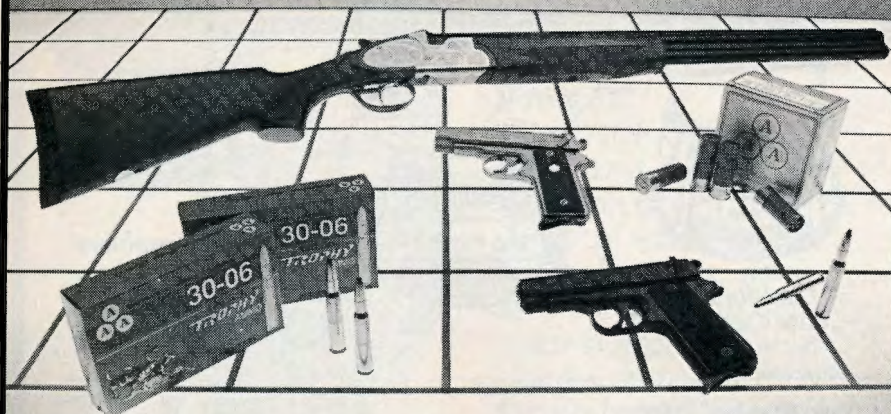
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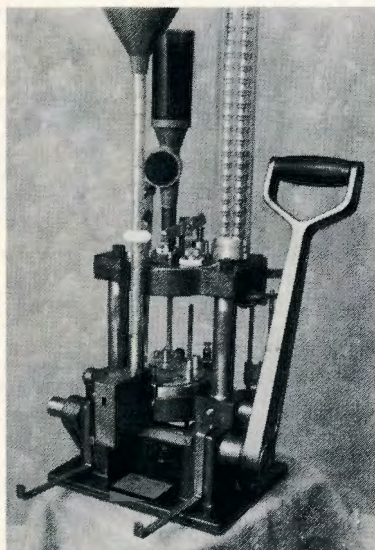
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TAFFIN TESTS

Continued from page 48

185 grain jacketed hollow points at around 1100 fps.

Lately I have been handling my .45 ACP handloading chores with a set of Hornady's Titanium Nitride dies. TN dies are less expensive than carbide dies and they really put a nice burnish on resized brass. Hornady dies are different than standard pistol dies in a couple of other ways also. The expanding button is not adjustable but is machined as part of the expanding die body. The only adjustment is the moving up and down of the die itself.

Loading the .45 ACP requires a tight friction fit as bullets are not crimped, and the Hornady expanding die allows a tight fit and also enough bellowing of the case mouth to avoid shaving lead as cast bullets are seated. Hornady's bullet seating die is also unique in that it performs much like a bench rest die. That is, the bullet rides in a collar as it is seated thus avoiding bullet tipping, crooked seating, or ruined brass.

Whether the choice be jacketed or cast, there are many excellent bullets available for the .45 ACP. I have three favorite cast bullets for the .45 ACP, all of them being in the 200 grain weight range, and all of them are of the semi-wadcutter variety. The particular three are Lyman's #452460, RCBS's #45-201 KT, and Hensley & Gibbs' #68. The H&S and the RCBS designs are virtually identical, both being fairly long in the nose and short in the body with one grease groove, while Lyman's design has a shorter nose and a longer body with two grease grooves.

I do not have the H&G mould, so I get #68s from Bullets By Bridges (Box 31742, Dept. AH, Amarillo, TX 79120). Owner Wesley Kornele supplies topnotch bullets in all calibers and bullet weights, with the H&B #68 being no exception.

Without question, my favorite load for all three of these bullets is 7.5 grains of Unique. This is a 1000+ fps load and should be worked up with care starting at around 6.0 grains and backing off at the first sign of excessive pressure. I do not see any future in trying to push this weight bullet at much over 1000 fps. For a slightly lighter load with these bullets, but one that still packs a lot of authority, I drop to 5.0 grains of Bullseye or 6.0 grains of WW231, either of which will give around 950 fps.

For plinking and fun loads, I prefer something a little more sedate, and lately I have been using the swaged 185 grain or 200 grain semi-wadcutters offered by Zero Bullet Co. (P.O. Box 1188, Dept. AH, Cullman, AL 35056). I save my cast bullets for more serious shooting and depend upon swaged bullets for the lighter loads. For either bullet, 6.0 grains of Unique or 4.0 grains of Bullseye give loads in the 700-800 fps range.

And for a hardball duplicate, Zero's 230 grain roundnose over 4.5 grains of Bullseye gets the nod.

Most .45 ACP pistols I have tried will feed just about anything—every .45 except my old lightweight Commander. It obviously is in serious need of special throating as the only bullet that will feed reliably every time is hardball or a handloaded equivalent.

I'm just getting into the Action Shooting game and have been using one of Bill Wilson's Accu-Comp guns. A precise piece of machinery like this could almost make me forget revolvers. Almost.

Bill's favorite loads are very close to mine. Using the H&G #68 bullet, Bill goes to 5.1 grains of Bullseye for IPSC shooting and 4.2 for steel shooting. Using the Wilson Accu-Comp, these loads clock at 948 fps and 842 fps respectively over my PACT PC. One of these loads, or somewhere in between, will be my load as I prepare to use the Wilson Accu-Comp in The Masters tournament this year.

Jacketed hollowpoint bullets for the .45 ACP have been vastly improved over the past few years. Both Hornady and Sierra 185 grain bullets have wide, deep hollowpoints to aid expansion. Velocities of 1000+ fps will also help to guarantee expansion.

Two bullets that are normally not thought of as .45 ACP bullets, but in my experience work very well in all .45's I have tried them in, are Elmer Keith's old revolver bullets: Lyman's #452423 at 230 grains and Lyman's #454424 at 250 grains. Both of these feed through most actions when they are seated with about .03" of the front shoulder exposed and the 250 grain is particularly business-looking in the .45 ACP. Using 6.5 grains of Unique with the 250 grain Keith gives a load that is slightly faster than hard ball and definitely hits with more authority.

Some of the best .45 ACP's are not semi-automatics at all, but revolvers. In 1917, both Colt and Smith & Wesson altered their New Service and Hand Ejector revolvers to chamber the .45 ACP for service use. Since that time, there has always been a small demand for revolvers that are bored for the service cartridge. While semi-automatics require that loaded rounds be left with only a taper crimp for proper headspacing, revolvers such as Smith & Wesson's Model 1955 can be used with full or half moon clips, thus avoiding headspacing on the front of the case. This allows a generous crimp, and more powder space with both the Lyman/Keith 230 and 250 grain semi-wadcutters. Either 15.0 grains of #2400 or 8.0 grains of Unique will give loads of 900+ fps with both bullets.

For the first time in its long history, the .45 ACP is facing a real challenge as King of the Semi-Automatics. The Army has adopted the 9mm as its official chambering to fall into line with other NATO countries, and police departments as well as civilians are going to the greater "firepower" of the double column 9mm's. The upstart 10mm and .41 Action Express give promise of being legitimate big bore challengers, and Action shooters are starting to discover the .38 Super.

However, while the Army has gone 9mm, it is quite interesting to note, as Massad Ayoob has recently reported, that the FBI is

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CHRISTMAS

Continued from page 36

Well, I proceeded with the conversation wanting to find out what he's shooting. Also to try and get a feel for his ability.

"What do you shoot?" I ask. With obvious pride he produced a Colt Gold Cup in .45 ACP. Oh brother! I was certainly aware of the fine reputation that the Gold Cup has among bullseye shooters!

Just to make small talk: "I had heard they're real accurate. How's this one shoot?"

"Great!" he says. Figures.

"Ah . . . how long you been shootin' it?"

"About three months."

Whew! My heart sailed. Three months isn't near enough time to master a tool like that. Well, at least that's what I told myself.

Soon shooter Number Two arrives. That makes three of us! I extend the same greeting to find this gentleman is a "circle cyler" fan like myself. As a matter of fact he shot a Model 19 also. Time to grill this guy a bit.

"How do you like your Model 19?"

"Just fine."

"How long a barrel?" I inquire. (A very pertinent question)

"A four inch."

Obviously noting my quizzical nature, he produced his revolver from its holster, opened the cylinder and handed it to me for further inspection and admiration. It looked brand new. It had a red ramp and white outline rear sights. I was breathing easy. Those fluorescent sights and barrel length were terrific for combat or law enforcement fellows. However, they were no match for "Mr. Smith." Its six inch tube, clean sight picture and super light single action let off were made for this game! (The action had been tuned by a very dear gunsmith friend of mine.)

Well, needless to say, I'm feeling a bit cocky. I figure I've got the competition beat handsdown. Nooo problem! So much for cocky . . . shooters Four and Five show up.

My elation was snuffed out like a cigarette butt tossed into a puddle of water. These two gentlemen hoist these rather heavy looking black boxes onto the tables at the firing line. Opened them up and attached spotting scopes to the lids. Pulled out the drawers exposing a battery of three or four autos with big fancy grips and heavy sight ribs. If these guys weren't seasoned bullseye shooters they sure as heck looked the part!

"Gentlemen load five rounds and you may fire at will!" was the range command. The 25 yard NRA centerfire bull was a familiar sight perched atop my front sight. I had practiced this one a lot. Confidence. Take your time. Breathe deep, exhale slowly, concentrate and gently squeeze the trigger.

Mr. Smith popped with his usual surprise. In the black! Second shot . . . in the black! Keep it up ol' buddy. Cock the hammer back. Put the bull on the front sight. Raise the rear sight even with the front. Begin to . . . POP! Oh no! That light trigger pull really surprised me that time! Dang it! A little spot appeared in the white just above the black at twelve o'clock! Is that shot going to cost me the relay?

My eyes wandered to the other shooters' targets. The fellow with the four inch was doing about as well as I had anticipated. The Gold Cup, obviously through no fault of its own, was printing all over the paper. The other two bullseye shooters were doing their thing with no shots visible outside the black. Double Dang!

Well, not to fret, just do your best. The last two rounds of the string found their mark. Four in the black, one out. Maybe, just maybe, . . . I'm thinking to myself as the judge and shooters walk to the targets to add up their scores.

The hit in the white appeared to be a seven count, one nine hit, three tens, two X's. My score 46-2X. Was it good enough? Onto the next target, one of the bullseye shooters'. Count 'em up. Three nines, two tens, one X. My heart sank. 47-1X against my 46-2X, he beat me by one point! That one hit in the white did me in. So much for illusions of grandeur!

Back at the table, Mr. Smith and my box of handloads got zipped back into the gun rug. One last envious look was cast upon those two fellows and their big black shooting boxes with the spotting scopes on the lids. I was about three steps from the line, gun rug in hand headed home, when the winner was announced. "The winner is . . ." I about fainted when my name was called!

That's me! "What do you mean me?" I ask incredulously. "I added them up and got a 46. The other guy got a 47."

"No, sir, you got a 47 also, but with one more X," the judge corrected. "You broke the line between the seven and eight ring. That counts as an eight." Well sure enough! The line was broken. Barely, and I do mean barely, but it was broken. I had won by an X count!

I let out a whoop and a holler of pure joy! (I think they heard me all the way down at the skeet range.) The judge was thanked with a vigorous handshake and a smile that could have lit up the whole day! I was beaming from ear to ear standing at the counter of the Canteen with my coupon for a frozen turkey.

The fellow behind the counter said, "You know, son, you could trade that coupon in for eight bucks and maybe win some more money." Well, that wasn't really the point. "No thank you sir, this turkey would just like his turkey!"



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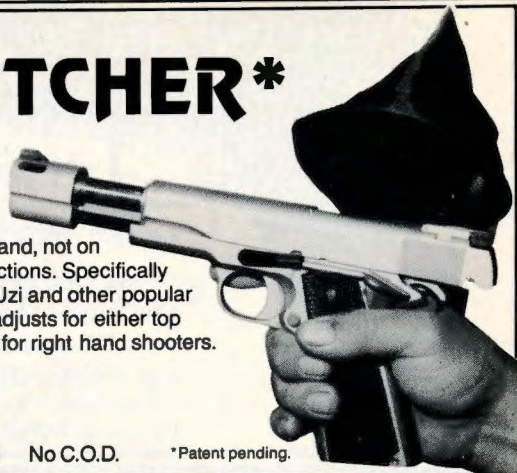
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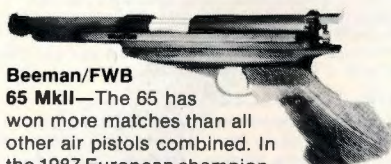
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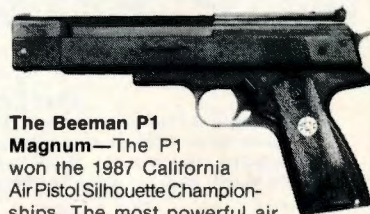
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.45 SHOT LOADS

Continued from page 41

The extra length needed for the crimp also means that the fired cases don't have a lot of extra room in the ejection port and a great many of those fired were crumpled on one side where they hit the slide on the way out. It's safe to say that the majority of ejected shells will be affected.

In an effort to get an undamaged case for photography, I fired a couple of rounds in a .45 revolver. I was surprised to discover that the fired cases set back against the recoil shield to a degree that made cylinder rotation difficult. This is easily explained considering the springy nature of the expanded crimp portion which tends to hold the case back against the frame.

Breaking a couple of the shot loads apart revealed a shot charge of approximately 120 grains of #12 shot. Remington says this is about 650 pellets and I'll take their word for it. The charge leaves a five-inch Colt barrel at 1200 fps. The powder charge was 7.3 gr. of a powder I could not identify. When I asked Jakoncuk about it he replied that finding the right powder was also a challenge. Over 20 different powders were tested before the current, non-cannister, type was found. Since the shells are not reloadable it probably doesn't matter anyhow.

The 2.5 grain wad is made of a red plastic material that is the same used in standard shotshell wads. It is quite thin with a skirt on either side for sealing purposes. The wadding does not form a shot cup and simply serves to separate the powder and shot, and seal the bore. But it is one of the technological achievements that makes the load work. The wad must provide an effective seal to retain as much gas as possible as it passes through the multiple diameters of the case, chamber, throat and, finally, rifling.

The load delivers recoil that seems to compare with .45 wadcutter loads and we all know that some guns will work with those while others won't. That's exactly what I found when I tested the shot cartridges.

Jakoncuk had warned me that extractor tension was crucial to proper functioning and I found that to be accurate. He pointed out that many guns have had extractors replaced or been assembled without proper fitting and have little or no tension on the extractor. This isn't particularly important with conventional ammo and gunsmiths frequently don't take the time to put the small bend in the extractor that John Browning intended.

As they come, extractors are basically straight, but when properly fitted they should not simply fall into the hole. There



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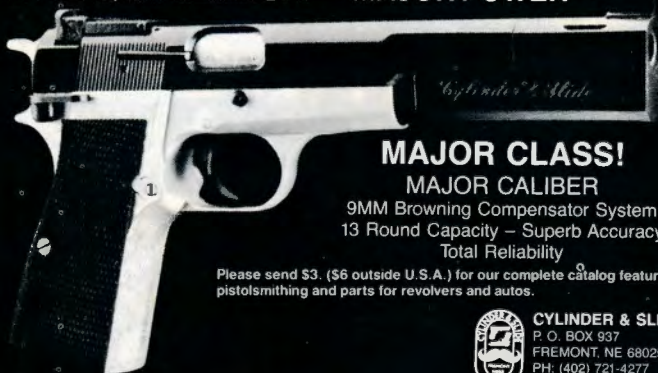
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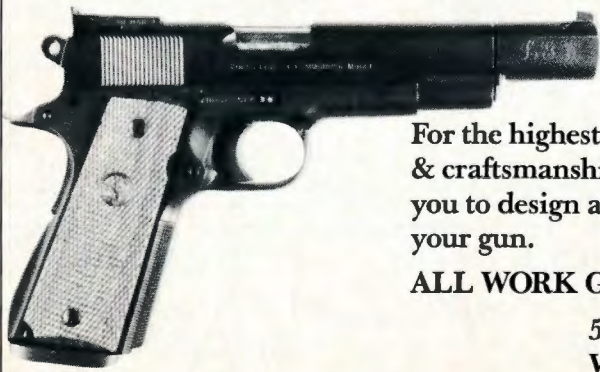
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should be a slight, very slight, bow to them that will move the extractor hook in just a bit to grip the case. If that tension isn't there, function with the shot shell is going to be iffy. Increasing the extractor tension may be needed for proper functioning with the shot loads, but this is something that the average owner can do.

Extractors are very hard and will break if too much force is used and the best way I can think of is to simply bend the thing between fingers. A change that doesn't produce a visible difference is usually enough and the best way is to do it at the range so the result can be test fired.

Testing of the shot shells was done with three pistols: a box-stock Series 70 Colt, an accurized GI gun and a stock Lightweight Commander. The Commander functioned perfectly from the beginning, but the accurized gun needed to have just a tad more extractor tension before it functioned perfectly.

The Series 70 gun, on the other hand, functioned at about a 50% rate and nothing I did to the extractor seemed to make much difference.

All three guns have standard recoil springs so that didn't seem to be a problem. After some head scratching I've come to blame the collet bushing on the Series 70 gun—you can feel a distinct kink in the slide movement when the bushing begins to do its thing. Apparently the springy effect of the collet bushing absorbs just enough energy to slow things down.

While my gun seems to be fairly typical I should point out that Remington's testing included a number of guns with the bushing that worked properly.

Everyone knows that rifled barrels do not produce the best shot patterns. But we're interested in a short range weapon and, at the five to ten foot range likely, the pattern is dense aplenty. A beer can, pretending to be a snake, was most satisfactorily perforated at those distances and a generous amount of dirt flew as well.

Pattern size, from a standard barrel, increased rapidly as the range lengthened. At five feet it ran from eight to 12 inches, at 10 it was 18-24 inches. At five feet the pattern was quite uniform but, by the time I got to 10 there were some gaps. Nothing large enough to cause concern over missing a snake, but enough to convince me that 10 feet is the maximum effective range.

The wad, which completely penetrated the cardboard target at five feet, *bounced off* at 10 feet.

Judging from the number of requests I get for shotshell data for various handguns, there is a considerable demand for this sort of product and I believe that anyone with a real need will be more than willing to do the minor adjustments that may be needed for reliable operation. Even to the point of having a spare GI bushing for this purpose if needed. For, by the way, when I replaced the collet bushing on that stubborn Series 70 with an old GI part, the functioning problems were solved.



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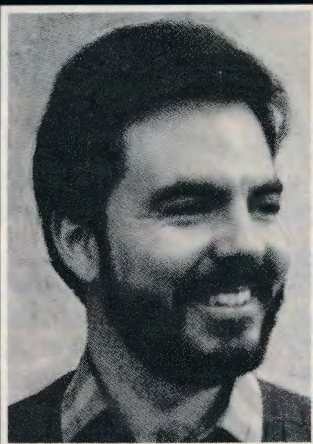
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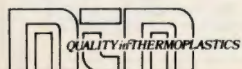
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CLASSIC HUNTER

Continued from page 55

that have no relation to pressure containment. So, to all of you who have looked at that lovely smooth-sided cylinder and envisioned hairy .44 Magnum handloads, one word of advice: Don't.

For the present, the Classic Hunter is available only in regular steel, with a particularly deep and rich blue finish. It is quite likely, though, that in time (and depending on the amount of interest) it will be offered in a stainless steel version. Also, while the six-inch barrel is standard, there will be those who will want other lengths. Here, again, whether this option may be offered will depend on the number of requests for it. Another possibility might be a scope-mounted version, for those who no longer see iron sights well.

For now, though, just as it is, this new version of the Model 29 is going to be welcomed by the serious handgun hunter. The name "Classic" is appropriate.



L-FRAME ADD-ONS

Continued from page 31

sleeve in the four-inch length from Bill Jarvis (4418 Larkstone Cr., Dept. AH, Orange, CA 92669). It weighs 6 ounces, while the six-inch version scales an ounce more.

Pride used a special one that was heavier, but he's also a powerful guy known for shooting matches with a revolver he calls "Heavy Metal" that weighs as much as a .30/30 Winchester carbine. The standard job balances much better for the average hand. Either length is \$53 in blue, \$59 in "silver" finish to match nickel or stainless. A single hole had to be tapped in the underweight of my gun's four-inch barrel, and being the sort of person who needs an owner's manual to change a lightbulb I had that done by gunsmith Nolan Santy (Sanco Guns, River Rd., Dept. AH, Bow, NH 03301). Once installed I was delighted with the improved "muzzle feel," and there was a palpable reduction in felt recoil now.

The flat side of the Jarvis bolt-on also facilitates Bianchi Cup-style barricade shooting in which the hand holds the barrel against the wall. (Note: if you shoot that way without using both protective gloves and light loads, you can be injured by barrel/cylinder gap gas blast).

I found the Jarvis barrel sleeve a most worthwhile accessory. It may, however, require you to go to either a custom-made holster or a "universal fit" one, since it completely changes the barrel configuration.

Glassware. I had been looking forward to trying the new ProPoint electronic sight by

Tasco. Designed with much input from consultant and '86 Bianchi Cup winner Riley Gilmore and his fellow shooters, this is a vast improvement over Tasco's previous entry in the field and one I'd finally be comfortable shooting at the Cup itself. It held adjustments well and I particularly appreciated the extremely large field of vision, the most comfortable I've worked with so far.

Though not so compact as, say, the Mark V, it did not deleteriously affect handling. I'm told Tasco has already offered an improved version with an even more visible dot, though my early one showed up just fine, especially when the detachable Polarizing filter was employed during bad glare conditions. I think Tasco's deep commitment to research and solicitation of shooter feedback has paid off with a well-deserved winner in the \$250 ProPoint.

Mount. While our Star Wars sight worked fine, I'll probably never get over my instinctive distrust of any battery-operated electronic sight. I'm familiar with too many cases of ace shooters like Tom Campbell and Mike Fischman losing national championships they'd had in their pockets when, at a critical moment, they levelled their electronic sight and the little dot went out. Most mounting systems give you no fail-safe, and indeed require removal of the revolver's iron sights. This is why I like the Clark scope mount for 1911 autos: the metallic sights can be used as auxiliaries.

In a revolver, the same advantage can be had from the Aimtech mount, \$60 from L & S Technologies, Inc. (P.O. Box 223, Dept. AH, Thomasville, GA 31799). It screws right onto the sideplate of a Smith & Wesson revolver, with a hole for adjusting the iron sight's windage and enough room to do the same for elevation with an L-shaped screwdriver. If the battery or connections fail, or if like many Bianchi Cup competitors you just find it more expedient to use iron sights up close and glass for distance, this American-made product gives you the choice. The only alterations you'll need might be shaving off the front corner of target or custom grips.

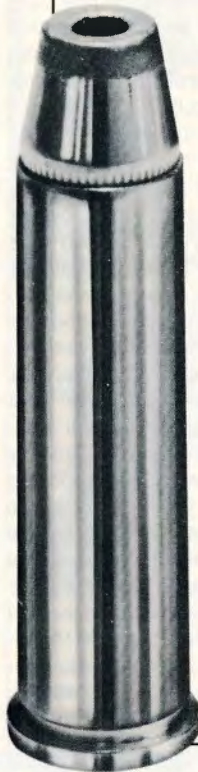
Our test Aimtech mount set the Pro-Point far enough back to easily clear the integral compensator of the four-inch .357 so that blast particles were kept safely away from the objective lens. A small amount of shimming or peening might be necessary, but nothing the "home gunsmith" can't handle.

Grips. The world is your oyster for this kind of bolt-on. Cannon had originally installed beautiful Hogue Monogrips in the striking "camo lamo" finish. However, like S&W's own optional finger-grooved grips they weren't angled just right for my fingers (though both makes fit most hands very well).

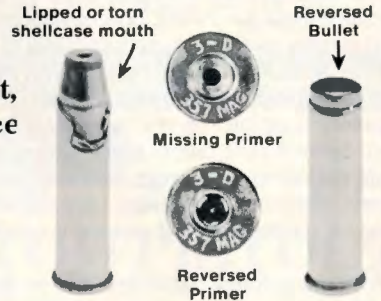
I switched to Pachmayr, winding up with two designs. For two-handed shooting I chose the standard Presentation version, also my choice for Magnum shooting because of the cushion effect between backstrap and hand. For Cup-style shooting where the support hand may be in the barrel or scope area instead of reinforcing the firing hand, I chose

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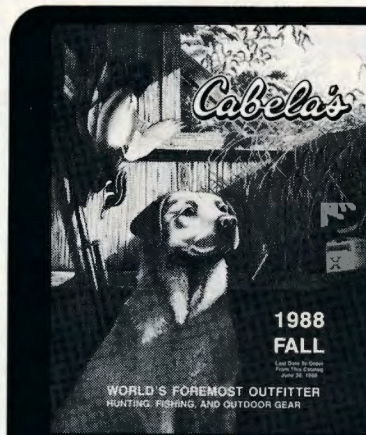


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Pachmayr's Professional style which leaves the backstrap exposed. This permits the unaided shooting hand to more completely encircle the grip area with flesh and bone for increased control.

Coupled with the customized K-size round butt, these grips also maximized concealment of the .41-framed 686 when carried concealed. Replacement grips are among the handgunner's most productive avenues toward versatility. Both styles of Pachmayr needed to be trimmed on the right front (a Buck knife can do it judiciously if unpretily) for proper fit with the Aimtech mount.

Leather. Too vast a subject to cover for any single handgun model, holster selection is yet another route to maximum versatility. I use Ted Blocker leather primarily with this 686: an inside-waistband holster for scopeless concealed carry, a modernized black basketweave thumb-break for occasional police uniform wear, and Blocker's superb open-front competition rig for when money is on the table and a scope is on the gun.

With the L-frame S&W revolver or any handgun, always remember that if reliability or safety are ever in question, go with a professional to do the work for you. When the gun is being modified strictly for sport, and safe handling is a given, the hobbyist has a lot more latitude. Anyone who passed Metal Shop 101 in junior high school should be able to install a Jarvis barrel weight and the optical sight of choice in an Aimtech mount.

The test gun became more than the sum of its parts. Quite apart from the bolt-on accessories you've chosen giving you a sense of having designed and to an extent "custom built" your own revolver, you have a single revolver superb for multiple purposes yet with the same familiar feel and trigger action for more effective skill transfer. Our test gun went from being a good general purpose .357 as it left the box to an unexcelled gunfighting revolver after the Cannon package. From there, it became a gun capable of winning an action shoot like the Bianchi Cup, capable of taking any game animal that falls within the humane purview of .357 Magnum ballistics, and just plain a whole lot more fun to shoot. Changing its identities is accomplished as quickly as you can grab your screwdriver.

Finally, the tricked-out L-frame had developed the "personality" of a customized gun, something that always seems to enhance the handgun owner's enjoyment of its use and possession. Even when you don't do the work yourself, the gun you conceived for your personal needs and put together to your specifications has become "your" custom gun, as surely as the mag wheels and paint job and interior decor made your custom van uniquely *your* van. The gun modified by you and for you tends to share your personality a little bit, creating a stronger bond between man and machine, in turn leading to the sort of symbiotic relationship between handgun and shooter that helps to eke out that extra telling edge in your ability to perform together.



STEEL CHALLENGE

Continued from page 65

only hope as a ditch leading back to the access road. When the water began to successfully flow, it was silence and shovels as Japanese and Mexicans began to work together.

Mud underfoot or no, there was almost as much fun in the exhibitors tent as on the stages. Tom Reese of Springfield Armory must have given away about as many T-shirts as he sold. Finally there wasn't much left except a big stack of shirts of a color described as watermelon pink.

They were only \$5 and the shooters wanted any additional clothing for warmth, in that bitterly cold rainstorm. But that color!

A Texan held one and shook his head. "Texans don't wear pink," he said sadly.

"Oh yeah," someone else said and pointed, "Look at John Dixon!" Sure enough, there was big John limping through the exhibits draped in one of Springfield Armory's bright pink numbers.

At that point the pink T-shirts went like the blue light special in a K-Mart and some folks consider theirs the best trophy of the match.

With the saucy blue-gray valley quail whistling *wow!* across the range, the soft California spring was perfect weather for the match opening Wednesday morning. Until the storm on Thursday.

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Many top shooters approach this winning and losing business from one of two basic viewpoints. Chip McCormick sets his goal as starting out even with everybody else and building points with the best possible shooting, kind of a positive attitude. He with the most points wins. Simple.

Rob Leatham thinks the handgunning professional has to meet his own established performance standards. He who goofs most loses. Sounds like the same thing in reverse, but each will defend his philosophy. Chip figures he won by consistent shooting, nearly up to his practice scores. He wanted to shoot the match in 79 or 80 seconds and he did it in a very close 81.85.

Rob also wanted to break 80 and knew it was possible because he had done it in practice. Rob not only intended to break 80, but also he thought for a professional to shoot in more time was in some degree a failure. His goal was not just to win, but to shoot to his own capability.

The key point in the match was Outer Limits, the only stage requiring movement. By luck the so-called "Super Squad" came to Outer Limits on Thursday in the rain. And, by luck, Chip's card came up near the top of the shooting order.

Chip blazed through for 15.44 seconds total of the best three out of four runs. Then David Cupp came to the line and found the increasing rain was bouncing off barrel and sights sufficiently to completely obscure the targets. The officials decided to wait, but when conditions only worsened decided they had no choice but to order that shooting continue.

Muddier and wetter Rob shot 17.62 seconds. The loss of 2.18 seconds to Chip was a gap Rob knew he could not close. But Rob does not accept anyone's offer of the weather as an excuse. He simply says he did not shoot well enough.

Chip said he was "glad to sneak by that out-of-luck Outer Limits." With a new record and the stage win apparently in the bag for Chip, a little known shooter 16 years old from the Philippines named Jethro Dionisio, who placed 72nd overall, got it all together on Outer Limits. He set the new record at 15.30 seconds.

Going into their final stage, Rob studied fellow Super Squad shooter Stu Mullins' unofficial hand computer tally and decided Chip was uncatchable. Rather than risk all for the win, Rob decided a more realistic goal was to calculate his pace to knock Rick Castelow out of his slight lead for second place.

Rick Castelow shot a 12.32 and Rob did it in 11.35 to pass him in the final tally by .72 seconds.

Then it was all up to Chip. The match officials decided to give the crowd a thrill by having that last stage shot in reverse order of highest score. Thus Chip, the apparent winner, had to shoot last under that tremendous match pressure.

Chip shot a beautifully controlled 11.86 to hold his lead.

Chip said, "This time I decided to forget



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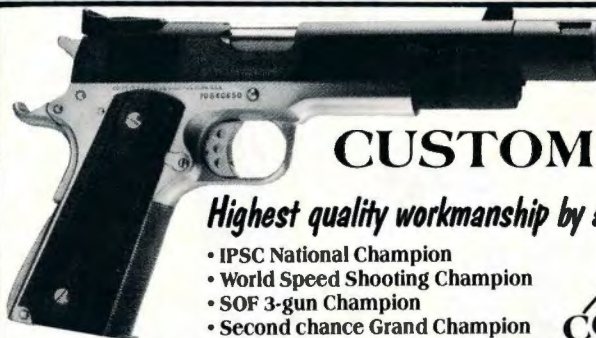
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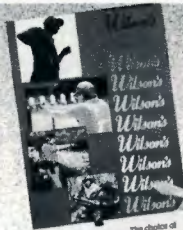
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about winning or losing. This year my life and my business are in good order and I just decided rather than let the match pressure get to me to just relax, shoot well and have a good time."

Brian Enos, when it came his turn among the circle of well wishers, summed up the match as he shook Chip's hand, "Congratulations. You shot the kind of match we all came to shoot."

Captain James Walter McCormick of the Texas Rangers would likely be proud of his grandson Chip McCormick, first two-time winner of the Steel Challenge, the world speed shooting championships.

Chip in turn treasures his personal family ties to the American heritage of skill and pride in firearms and the freedom to use them in which all the shooting fraternity has a share.

Chip attributes a measure of his success directly to his grandfather even though Captain Jim died in 1950 when Chip was only six.

An upright, sturdy figure and a deep timbre of voice is about all that Chip remembers. Later, from his own father and from his grandfather's younger peers, he was captivated by the stories of his grandfather's daring against great odds in the rough and tumble, lawless badlands of northeast Texas.

In the early Thirties Jim McCormick almost single-handedly backed up his ultimatum to the bootleg gangs terrorizing San Augustine, Texas.

"Get out or get shot!"

When peace was restored grateful citizens presented the young ranger with a matched pair of silver mounted .45 Colt Single Action pistols in his favored barrel length of 4 3/4 inches.

Usually wearing a single action on each hip, Jim added a pair of double action revolvers, one on the ankle and one under the arm when action seemed imminent, multiple weapons being more certain than reloading in those days. He did not trust automatic pistols, unlike his grandson.

The story goes that once in Wichita Falls Jim McCormick had to deal with a drunken cowboy shooting up the streets and swearing he would not be disarmed or taken alive.

Furthermore, the man was reputed to be wearing some sort of bullet proof vest which may have been a type of World War I body armor. Jim faced the man in a saloon, gave him a chance to surrender and then put two in the body and two in the head to end the matter.

In a more peaceful but no less skilled use of firearms, Chip McCormick has adopted key features of his grandfather's style to his own competition shooting. He studied photographs of the very high on the waist and slightly forward of the hip positions, muzzles slightly rearward in which Grandfather carried his single actions.

Chip carried his Shooting Star .38 Super in the Steel Challenge in that identical position in a specially built holster by Ernie Hill. His very fast, consistent draw thus perfected, Chip says, was the starting point for his suc-

cess in adding a second Steel Challenge trophy to his cherished collection of proud momentos, which include his Grandfather's silver .45s.



CHRONOGRAPHS

Continued from page 43

me. Chronographs tell you nothing about accuracy . . . they tell you how fast the bullet got there . . . the target tells you accuracy.

One area where chronograph results take on awesome importance is practical shooting. A load that doesn't make the major power factor subjects the shooter to the serious penalty of minor caliber scoring. Travelling shooters face problems when a load that worked fine at home doesn't measure up at some other location. The blame may be placed on the chronograph, the powder, the gun, or the whatever when, in fact, the difference may be caused by something uncontrollable like temperature, humidity or barometric pressure. Regrettably, practical shooting imposes an absolute standard on something that isn't absolute. But the problem isn't caused by chronographs; it's source lies with all the variables I've mentioned in gun, ammunition and meteorological conditions that are, for the most part, beyond the shooter's control.

If there is one thing that shooters can do to improve the results generated by their chronographs it is simply to shoot each bullet over the screens in the same place. If the bullet doesn't travel a path parallel to the axis of the screens there will be a small error introduced and, just because the bullet can be detected in a relatively large area over the screens doesn't mean you should introduce another variable by shooting randomly. The best suggestion I can make is to always use a down-range target for an aiming point and adjust the location of the screens to insure that a well aimed shot will pass over them in the same place.

I am confident that any properly functioning chronograph on the market today that is operated in compliance with the maker's instructions will yield results that are more than accurate enough for the purposes of anyone outside a full scale ballistics laboratory. So, with that settled, the decision on which one to buy can be made on more useful facts like price, features and operational convenience.

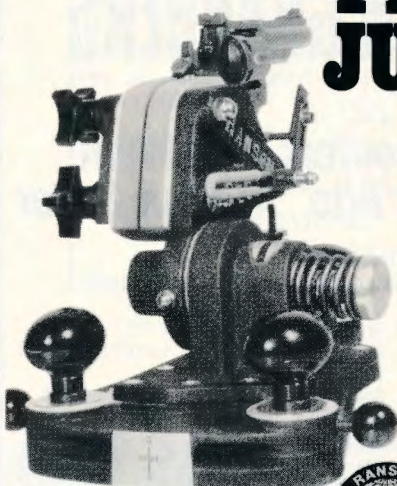
With apologies to those not mentioned, I think there are three makers who can claim the bulk of the chronograph market. They are:

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Please note that they all have those neat toll free phone numbers and they are willing and able to answer questions or provide assistance. Since they are relatively small businesses, it is possible to get the boss on the phone. In fact he may be the one who answers it. So with all that out of the way, I'd like to describe the products of the Big Three.

COMPETITION ELECTRONICS

Competition Electronics offers two models: the Pro-Tach and the Pro-Tach Classic. The Pro-Tach is the only product from the Big Three that is a downrange box. This simply means that all the chrono components are housed in a single unit. I must confess a personal bias against launching bullets at something that costs so much money but it is, of all those tested, the simplest to set up and operate. (Competition Electronics will repair or replace bullet damaged units for a flat fee of \$25 plus shipping.)

All you have to do is put it on a camera tripod, turn it on and shoot. In order to do anything more than record the individual shot values you must pass your hand over the start screen and the unit will then display the number of shots and their average. The unit performs no statistical calculations. It sells for \$169.95 (less batteries) and an optional remote control (to activate the average function) is available for \$30.

The Pro-Tach Classic is a newer product that follows the more conventional style of having the screens and chronograph as separate units. Unlike the others, the screens come pre-mounted on a bar that is equipped with a bracket (3' screen spacing) to allow mounting on a camera tripod. The Classic is also more sophisticated electronically and will display: average velocity, high and low velocity, extreme spread, standard deviation and up to 24 individual shot values. The unit can perform calculations based on up to 211 shots, but only the first 24 can be edited although all stored values will be used in the statistical calculations. It sells for \$219.95 (less batteries).

OEHLER RESEARCH

The Oehler Model 33 Chronotach has been on the market well over ten years and is the granddaddy of those tested. It is the industry standard for hobby chronographs. It's one of those good news, bad news things. The good news is that it is a tested, proven design that is accurate and reliable. The bad news is that the technology is aging and it's relatively expensive.

I don't think anyone will argue that Oehler's Skyscreen III is a superior product, but the mounting system is a little awkward. While most others use a camera tripod, Oehler screens are mounted on a piece of electrical conduit supported by two photographic light stands. The Model 33 has a "forget button" to eliminate a questionable

velocity from consideration, but this must be done at the time the shot is fired, for it does not possess review capability. The Oehler's other failing is the display which, unlike the other two that use liquid crystal displays, uses the older LED (light emitting diode) type. The numbers are small and difficult to read if bright sunlight is falling on them. The display shows the current velocity and shot number and presents all the statistical information when the "Summary" button is pushed. It sells for \$380 complete with mounting stands, skyscreens and diffusers.

PACT INC.

The PACT Precision Chronograph is, at \$199 complete with screens, the least expensive of the units tested, although the screen mounting bracket (a \$24 option which establishes a 2' spacing) pushes the unit cost to \$223 plus shipping. All their units have a lifetime warranty.

The display is the most informative, for it shows the shot number, velocity and running average velocity (updated with each shot). It will store over 300 shots in memory and these may be reviewed and edited at will. As long as the unit is not reset, all the shots are there.

The 300 shot feature sounds good but probably isn't particularly important—few people shoot 300 shot groups. It is important, though, that these values can be edited after shooting is done and, since the individual shot values can be reviewed, you don't have to stop shooting to write them down. This feature probably won't matter to someone who chronographs small numbers of shots, but for someone who does a lot of shooting it can be invaluable. You burn an awful lot of time putting the gun down, picking up the pencil, etc.

The latest advance from PACT is an optional wireless, battery powered printer. It is the utmost in convenience for it will print all the statistical information as well as each shot value. The permanent record means you never have to stop to write anything down. You can't imagine how much time this saves if you develop a lot of loads. All you do is shoot, press "Review" twice and start loading magazines. As the printer does its thing, watch the results and if there's one that doesn't seem right, it can be edited and the amended result printed as well. All you have to do is jot down the load information and there's room on the paper for that as well.

Of course you pay for this convenience, but if it is something that you need, the cost is not prohibitive. There's a \$25 charge for the printer driver that's installed in the chronograph and the printer itself is \$125. Extra paper is \$12 for six rolls. PACT is also offering a Mark III version of their timer with the chrono/printer option.

All the units tested do what they're supposed to with more than enough accuracy for practical purposes. There's been some mud slinging within the industry lately (there'll probably be more as competition

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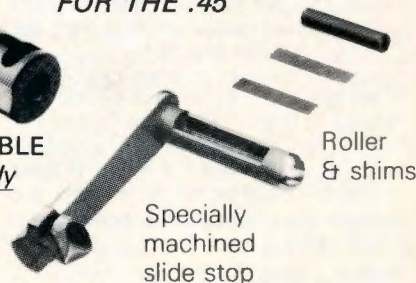
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increases) and this prompted me to compare the Pro-Tach Classic, Oehler Model 33 and PACT PC. I have a lot of Federal Champion .22 long rifle ammo that is reserved for reference use and I fired 20 shot strings with this ammo over all the units from a S&W Model 41. This is my reference gun and the combination has delivered around 1100 fps for years over a number of different chronographs. I was fortunate to have two Oehler Model 33s, so I set them for two and four foot screen spacings and measured the same 20 rounds at both settings. Here are the results:

	PACT (2')	Pro-Tach (3')	Oehler (2')	Oehler (4')
AVG.	1098	1073	1098	1111
HI	1146	1134	1135	1147
LO	1019	995	1030	1043
ES	127	134	105	104
SD	29	32	24	24

Note: ES = extreme spread

SD = standard deviation

Screen spacing is shown in parentheses.

I then set up all three units, one behind the other, and fired a ten shot string of PMC Zapper .22 long rifles through a 4" S&W Kit Gun. There were no missed readings and the statistical summary looks like this:

	PACT (2')	Oehler (4')	Pro-Tach (3')
AVG.	964	998	962
HI	989	1023	985
LO	921	955	919
ES	68	68	66
SD	22	24	21

One would expect that, since the distance from the muzzle was different for each chronograph, this might have shown a slightly lower velocity from the unit farthest away (Pro-Tach) and that might be true but, since it agrees within 2 fps with the closest unit (PACT) I doubt that it matters. I think that it's interesting that in both tests neither chronograph had exactly the same average velocity but they agree quite well on both standard deviation and extreme spread.

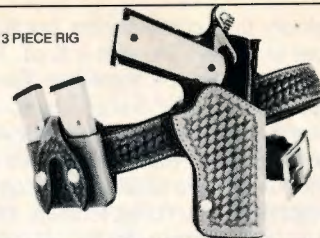
One of the biggest problems with hobby chronographs is the effect the variations of ambient light levels have on skyscreens. Strong, direct sunlight is a real killer, for the light falling on the screens is so bright that they simply can't detect the small change that the bullet's passage causes. There's been a lot of talk about the use of glint shields with chronographs lately and both the Oehler and Pro-Tach units come with them. The Oehler unit is furnished with an arrangement that reminds me of venetian blinds with a piece of translucent plastic. Again, this is cumbersome but is almost mandatory if the unit is used in bright sunlight.

The Pro-Tach uses a much simpler arrangement to accomplish the same thing, although it does seem to restrict the area over which shots can be measured. This isn't entirely bad, for consistent shot placement is a great asset in accuracy.

PACT has taken a different approach and compensates for variations in light levels through an electronic circuit that functions much in the manner of a camera's automatic exposure system. But cloudless skies and a high sun angle can play havoc with any chronograph whose screens aren't shielded somehow.

There's also some discussion about how far

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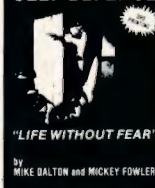


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apart skyscreens should be for best results. Among the units tested this ranges from two to four feet. While it is true that a larger separation may offer some improvement in accuracy the gain is going to be small and the longer spacings require more elaborate set-ups. A few years ago, ten feet seemed to be a "standard" but today units operate at as little as one foot with good results.

Both the Oehler and PACT units allow the user to select from a number of preset distances and the PACT Mk. III can be programmed to almost any distance. The use of higher clock speeds within the electronics of the unit has made the effect of spacing less important. One suggested rule of thumb is to use one foot of separation per 1000 fps of expected velocity and for a nitpicker this is probably a good idea but, I've measured rifle velocities of over 3500 fps at both two and four foot separations and can't say that there was any significant difference. Both averages agreed within 10 fps and I think the convenience of the shorter spacings offsets any theoretical gain in accuracy.

After using all three chronographs for this test, and a lot more shooting I won't bore you with, I conclude that they do just what they're supposed to. The comparative accuracy of one chronograph versus the other isn't something the average shooter is likely to be worried about. Velocity is, after all, a relative sort of thing. There will always be some degree of error, no matter how small, within the chronograph, but since the combined variance of the firearm/ammunition system is so much greater these really aren't cause for too much concern. Instead, the individual shooter can concentrate on producing reloaded ammunition that is as consistent as it can be using measuring equipment that best suits his own shooting needs.



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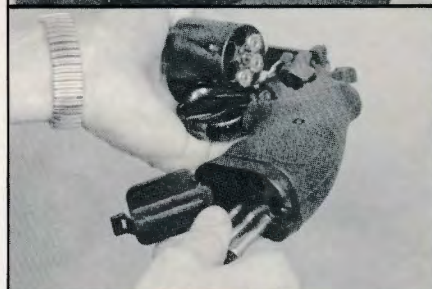
Continued from page 42

him, and the tailfined white sedan lashes sideways into the driveway of a frame house that is almost hidden by the trees. As he jerks the wheel to pull in behind the suspect, standing on his own brakes, the trooper sees his headlights play upon a creek just behind the house.

He's out of the car now, ready to go for his gun if he has to. The driver of the car bounds from the left front seat, stocky and powerful looking in a heavy overcoat. Gorrell can see he's a black man, about five feet nine and maybe 50 or 60 years old. It's already apparent that he can move with surprising speed. But his hands are in sight, and Gorrell leaves his four-inch stainless Smith & Wesson Model 66 Combat Magnum in its holster.

Then the driver yells, "Sic 'em!"

The Doberman Pinscher explodes from the back seat, a deadly brown projectile, fangs bared. Gorrell's hand closes over the checkered, oversize wooden stocks of the Combat Magnum. It's not a big Dobe, maybe



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60 pounds, still a pup. He'll shoot it if he has to, but there is time for him to think, "Don't let me have to kill this beautiful animal."

Perhaps something passes between the gentle trooper and the powerful dog. A mutual understanding of respective duty, or maybe a reciprocal realization that it is not a killing situation. We know only that at this moment, the dog freezes a few feet away from Gorrell. Probably, it is simply that the dog is not yet "hard-trained."

The trooper is now free to turn his attention to the original quarry. The bulky man is loping toward the frame house. "I want to talk to you for a minute," the trooper yells, but there's no response. Gorrell sprints after him, jumping up onto the porch and catching him by the shoulder. He can feel the power of the muscular man beneath the heavy coat . . . and he can smell an overpowering odor of alcohol.

The big trooper places his hand lightly on the man's arm. He knows a powerful grab panics some people, and he senses this might be one. Gorrell says in an even voice, "We're going to jail."

The suspect replies instantly, "I'm not goin' anywhere with yuh!" He jerks his arm out of the trooper's grasp, and the fight is on.

Gorrell weighs 210 pounds. He figures the shorter, older man must weigh the same, because his strength is incredible. They go to the ground, rolling. Finally Gorrell gets the suspect's left arm up behind his back and the man says "All right, I give up."

The trooper takes him at his word. He and the suspect get to their feet, Gorrell still holding the man's arm in a firm but gentle hammerlock restraint. He begins to walk the man back toward the Kentucky State Police car.

And then it happens.

The older man pivots with a violent, twisting movement, tearing himself away from the big grey-clad trooper. He darts a couple of fast steps away, and then spins to face the startled policeman. And at that moment the world goes into slow motion for the trooper, because he sees the older man's right hand come up out of his waistband holding an ugly, short barrel, blue steel revolver.

"It seemed as if all the time in the world had condensed right there," Gorrell would say later as he described the tachypsychia effect (slow motion sensation) that occurs in the majority of life-threatening incidents.

Slowly the gun came up. Slowly it pointed at the trooper. Slowly, the index finger came back on the trigger.

The blast of the shot was explosive, deafening. Incredibly, at a range of three feet, it missed Gorrell, but the blast jarred him loose from the reverie of tachypsychia, "galvanized him into action" as he would say later.

There was no time to draw and fire. The trigger was already coming back again. There was no cover. Instead, the trooper lunged forward, bumping heavily into the gunman as the second shot went off.

That bullet, too, roared harmlessly off into the night woods. There was time for Gorrell to realize that if he'd stayed in position trying

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to draw from his duty holster, that bullet would have torn through the middle of his body before he could clear leather.

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The scene was now pitch blackness save for the eerie glow of the cruiser's headlamps. Gorrell was behind the stone wall now, the Combat Magnum up and ready in his big right hand. He crouched behind the pile of rocks, the knees flexed deep. His opponent was invisible. They were playing a lethal game of cat and mouse, and he wasn't sure which of them was which.

His hand groped for the flashlight at his belt, found it, withdrew it. He hesitated to turn it on. He knew if he couldn't find his antagonist immediately the light would give away his own position and draw fire. Flashlights are great for searching unknown areas, but useless for moments like this.

Well, almost useless. Gorrell heard a movement up ahead of him, near the two parked cars. He thought it was the man with the revolver. If the man could find him and see him and outflank him, the hard cover of the stone wall would be useless. Besides, the trooper knew, he'd have to come up and over the wall, exposing his head and a good part of his body, to get off a shot of his own. The darkness that concealed him seemed a better ally, but that would last only as long as the gunman didn't know where he was.

Unless the gunman could be fooled . . .

Another step in the darkness. Gorrell was more convinced now that he knew where his opponent was, and his plan formulated itself instantly. He set the flashlight silently on the ground, its globe pointed toward where he'd heard the sound. Then, in a single movement, he pressed the button that locked the light on, and sprang away toward the side and into the deeper darkness.

The powerful police flashlight lanced through the gloom and toward the darkened shadows by the white Chevrolet from whence the sound of movement had come. The beam illuminated a chunky figure crouching behind the hood of the Chevy, the stubby black gun in his left hand. Gorrell saw the man swing the revolver from where he'd seen the trooper disappear over the wall, toward the suddenly-glowing flashlight. The man was exposed over the hood from the chest up.

As Gorrell came into firing position, he experienced a flashback to a training film he'd seen in the police academy, a film that had told the cops that they'd never have time to aim their gun, only time to point and fire. His stainless .357 extended toward the target, and in the last instant Gorrell remembers the thought, "Aim for the left chest, for the heart."

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of the powerful load lit up the scene like a strobe, forever etching the final moment of the deadly duel in the mind of Trooper Earl Gorrell.

The bullet went high right from point of aim, entering near the outside edge of the suspect's left shoulder. It spun through the heavy coat fabric at a velocity of more than 1400 feet per second and impacted the flesh of the shoulder, the soft lead nose mushrooming on contact with the muscle. The bony complex of the shoulder shattered under the bullet's force, sending countless tiny shards of skeletal shrapnel whirling through the adjacent muscles, nerves, and blood vessels.

The bullet mushroomed farther as it went, peeling back the pre-cut copper jacket until the slug was more than twice its original width as the shockwaves that followed its path ripped open capillaries and nerve endings. At last, having passed through less than three inches of human tissue, the bullet exploded out through the back of the shoulder and tore through the coat, seeking its final resting place in the dark forest behind the gunman. The exit hole it left in its wake was more than an inch in diameter.

Earl Gorrell knew nothing of that. He couldn't. All he knew was that in the hellish orange glow of the giant muzzle blast, he'd seen the gunman jerk backward as if side-kicked by a karate master and topple onto his back, down behind the car. He landed with a sickeningly heavy thud. Gorrell saw him writhe for a moment as if he was trying to crawl under the Chevy . . . and then the body of the gunman went limp.

The echo of the Magnum's blast died away into the forest, leaving behind it a ghostly silence. Even the dog had disappeared. But Gorrell knew that the man who had tried to murder him seconds before was still armed and dangerous.

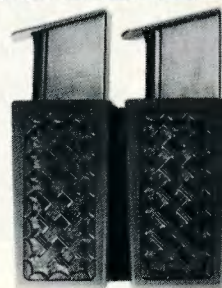
Moving back into the deep concealment of darkness, the trooper worked his way around the scene in a wide circle until he came up behind his cruiser. After he radioed headquarters and advised of the situation, he described another backward moving circle through the darkness to find his flashlight again, then moved to a different cover position by the stone wall, and waited.

Seven minutes later, Trooper Paul Johnson arrived, taking a position to cover the downed gunman. One more minute and Trooper Terry Clancy was at the scene, leap-frogging forward to join Gorrell as they moved in on the suspect with Johnson covering from a safe angle of fire that didn't endanger his brother officers.

The suspect, who had been unconscious most of the time, now came to groggy wakefulness and crawled out from behind the fender where he'd been lying. He managed to get his back to the wall of the frame house in a sitting position. Clancy covered him across the hood of the Chevy with his own drawn .357 as Gorrell shouted, "Where's the gun? Throw it out and let us help you." There was no response.

The right hand was visibly empty but the

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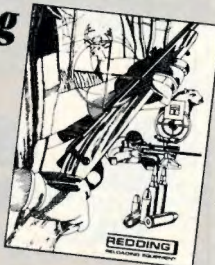
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left, which had last held the .38, was hidden from view. Gorrell kept talking, holding the man's attention, as Clancy crept around the side of the Chevy and then lunged for the suspect, pinning the potentially deadly left hand under his Wellington boot as he levelled his Model 66 on the gunman, out of reach of the suspect's other hand.

It was over. The suspect's revolver, an RG .38 Special containing two fired casings and live rounds in the rest of the cylinder, had skidded under the front wheel of the car when Gorrell shot its owner. The three troopers secured the suspect and were giving him first aid when the ambulance pulled in behind their cruisers.

Gorrell knows now the importance of handcuffing a resisting suspect as soon as he has been subdued. The hammerlock-type armlock transport is easily escaped by someone who knows what he's doing. Gorrell's attacker had a decades-long history of violence, prison time, and association with the hardest criminal elements. The sequence is *subdue, handcuff, search, and transport*.

Gorrell would say of the incident later, "Something I had never thought would happen to me was happening now, and I could scarcely believe it." This "It Won't Happen To Me" syndrome has been the causative factor in uncounted deaths of police officers. Gorrell survived partly because he had good reflexes, and partly because he had the suspect by the dominant left arm when the encounter began and the suspect was apparently unfamiliar with weak-hand shooting when he fired the first two shots right-handed at Gorrell. Note that the left-handed suspect had switched the gun to his dominant hand by the time Gorrell shot him down.

The trooper's use of his flashlight as a decoy certainly worked this time, but some tacticians would argue it. The various "flashlight and gun" techniques are designed primarily for search of potentially contaminated premises or for instant reaction against attack in the dark (depending on which technique you use), not for use against a suspect who is known to be there and armed and is known to be trying to get a fix on your position. Gorrell's gamble paid off, but he'll tell you candidly that the trick he used with the flashlight was just that: a gamble.

The involved officer is grateful that the shot he fired neutralized his attacker without killing him. At the same time, he was concerned that he hit his opponent in the shoulder when he was aiming for the heart. With the 20/20 hindsight of the Monday-morning quarterback, we can see three reasons why the trooper's single bullet went slightly awry, high and to the shooter's right.

In 1980, when the shooting went down, Kentucky State Police did not encourage custom grips on issue service revolvers. Gorrell's factory-stocked K-frame was designed for the average male hand by Smith & Wesson in 1899. At 210 pounds and well over six-foot, the trooper in question had a proportionally larger-than-average hand that would cause the trigger to extend too far into



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the trigger guard for the ideal double action control that is achieved when (a) the barrel of the revolver is in line with the bones of the forearm, and (b) the farthest joint of the index finger contacts the trigger. With too much finger through the guard, the gun tends to be pulled to the right in the hands of a big man like Gorrell. Grips that extend back from the frame to push the web of the hand rearward bring the trigger finger back to the proper contact, Pachmayr being the classic example.

Second, Gorrell vividly recalls deciding to fire by pointing rather than aiming as per the advice of the training film he'd recently seen. The film in question was put together by non-police-trained journalists in the 1970s, who apparently were not aware (as most trained police weapons instructors today are) that unsighted "point shooting" from eye level under stress tends to make shots go high unless extensive hands-on live fire training has been undertaken to remedy the problem. This was not the case here. Gorrell acted upon arguably bad advice, taken in good faith. The shot probably would have gone more true if the lawman had taken the "flash sight picture" taught by Jeff Cooper on the suspect silhouetted in the flashlight's beam.

Finally, as Gorrell admits, he fired on the incorrect assumption that the heart was on the left side of the chest. In fact, like all Kentucky State Troopers trained in advanced first aid and in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, he well knew that the heart is located in the center of the chest, between the nipples and directly behind the sternum. It is a myth in the common perception that the heart is somewhere behind the left breast. Yet, under stress, Gorrell's mind reverted to perceptions programmed before he took his police training, and misled him.

This is why it is so important for training to be *deeply ingrained*. Indeed, the difference between education and training, in my opinion, is that the first is intellectual knowledge while the second is a *physically programmed, understood response*. Kentucky State Police firearms training, which has been upgraded considerably since this incident under several capable instructors assigned to Academy director Dennis Goss, now addresses the anatomical concerns of aiming at a homicidal human foe.

Before being too hard on Gorrell for not hitting precisely where he was aiming, let's go back to some basic truths. He hit the man with the first shot, compared with a 25% hit potential in police shootings with double action .38 Special revolvers nationwide, according to the Police Foundation, and he did it with an extremely potent .357 Magnum load. His post-shooting tactics and those of the backup officers were quite good. The only improvement might have been the policy mandated by NYPD: the officer who initially had to shoot the fallen suspect stays back to provide cover, while fresh and emotionally less involved troops move in to secure the wounded perpetrator. In this case, everything turned out fine.

The incident also showed the importance of all field patrol officers—municipal, county, state, or federal—being provided with porta-



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ble transceivers carried on their person. Once Gorrell was away from his cruiser, he was away from communications and fighting alone without anyone knowing he was in trouble until he shot his way back to the patrol car. As this episode shows, there is not always time to radio in your situation when a routine traffic stop turns into a pursuit and then a gun battle.

The 125 grain Remington SJHP .357 load performed superbly. Kentucky SP had led the nation in adopting that load for duty. Gorrell's shooting was approximately the 20th in which the KSP used it on the street. We are advised by the agency that all shootings since have been instant one- or two-shot stops, with no officers being hit by return fire after shooting an opponent once with this round. The Kentucky troopers call it the "magic bullet."

The peripheral hit in this case was the only one KSP spokesmen are aware of in which the bullet exited. In well over 30 shootings with the 125 grain SJHP (mostly Remington, some Federal, a few Winchester) the department has become convinced that it is the ultimate fight-stopping handgun cartridge.

The suspect, Dudley Tillman, turned out to be 69-years-old and to weigh only 170 pounds. Gorrell, who had felt the man's strength and vitality, was shocked by the news. The fact is that a significant number of violent men killed by police are over 60. They bring to the fight considerable life experience and, sometimes, decades of hostile bitterness that explode against the officer or armed law-abiding citizen they face.

Tillman's record began in the 1930's and included multiple crimes of violence. Two years prior to the attempted shooting of Gorrell, he had allegedly used the same RG .38 in a murder but had not been indicted due to lack of evidence, and the gun had been returned to him.

Though surgeons saved the limb, Tillman lost most of the use of his left arm to Gorrell's bullet. A perhaps sympathetic jury found him guilty only of "wanton endangerment in the first degree" in the attempted slaying of the Trooper. Tillman was sentenced to a term of two years out of a possible five.

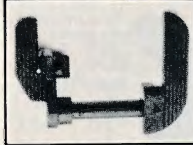
Cited by his agency for heroism, Gorrell showed a mix of courage and compassion that apparently was not lost upon Lt. Governor Martha Layne Collins, who had him assigned to her executive protection detail. Collins is now the Governor of Kentucky.

Pro-cop and pro-gun, she is often spoken of as a potential presidential candidate in 1992. After speaking with her, I for one would be ready to vote Collins in '92.

Gorrell's training and ability to quickly formulate a plan of action had kept him alive to continue a distinguished police career. Use of combined cover (the stone wall) and the concealment of darkness, plus his ability to control the light and his courage in risking the flashlight ploy, had permitted him to survive.

The author wishes to thank Earl Gorrell, former KSP superintendent Billy Wellman, and Don Hughes and Jack Sharp of the Kentucky State Police Professional Association for making this article possible.

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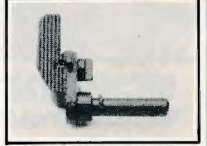
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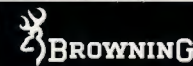
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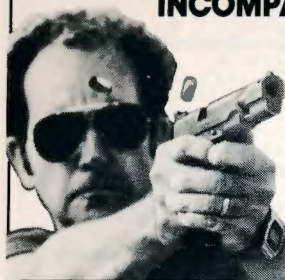
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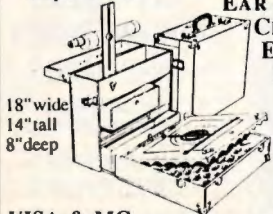
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HANDLOADING

Continued from page 16

Reloaders are always told to, "check for signs of pressure" when working up loads, but subjective pressure signs are not as apparent in handguns as they are in rifles. For this reason, pistol reloaders often rely on the appearance of the fired primer.

Unfortunately, current research suggests that maximum pressures may have already been exceeded before the primer shows marked flattening or cratering. Primer pocket enlargement is a very good sign although it may not be readily apparent until you reload the case. If a primer seats with less than usual effort it's an excellent hint that the case has been subjected to high pressure and should be discarded. It's not uncommon to find brass lying around at the range either. Those cases may have been left there for a reason, so carefully inspect any brass that you find before using it. The same is true for used cases bought at gun shops or shows.

With revolvers, the best sign of impending problems is effort of extraction. You quickly learn how much force it takes to kick out six empties and if a reload requires more effort, the chances are good that pressure is too high. With automatic pistols there are some other signs. One very subjective indicator is ejection. If a pistol that routinely throws brass five feet suddenly starts throwing it ten, pressure may well be the cause. I always inspect the first few fired cases from an auto-loader for any sign of expansion in the area of the case that is unsupported by the chamber. Any swelling there is an absolute indicator of trouble. Cases may also pick up marks from the ejector and extractor and these are something else to look at. I don't mean to infer that you should ignore primer signs, but rather that you should examine the whole case.

If you've ever had the chance to chronograph some handloads, the chances are that the actual velocity was something less than the data indicated. There are so many variables involved that, even if you're using the identical components the manual states, your result may be a bit different. Publishers sometimes use a gun for testing that may not be representative of what the majority of reloaders have, and sometimes I think they use longer barrels to make the velocities more impressive.

I'm not picking on Speer, but their .44 Magnum data is based on a Dan Wesson .44 barrel, so someone with a 6 1/2" barrel isn't going to get the same results. See what the test gun was before deciding to use someone's data and, if possible, find data that was developed in a gun similar to yours. A chronograph is just about indispensable to really prove that you're getting the most out of the load and a few groups over sandbags aren't a bad idea either.

I don't think you can have too much information when it comes to reloading and, of all the things on which reloaders spend money,

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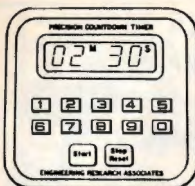
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Finally, there's an area in reloading that I call, "never-never land." That's where we get into things that haven't been done before (or at least not published). Sometimes this happens with new cartridges before data can be circulated or when you use substantially different components such as bullets that are heavier than normal. A good example is the .38 Super where IPSC shooters commonly use 150-160 gr. bullets. Until recently the heaviest bullet for which loading data was published was 130 gr.

Any time you depart from published data you enter never-never land. I liken it to the earliest maps, where unexplored territory had the warning: "There they be dragons." Well, there are real honest-to-goodness-fire-breathing-dragons out there.

PISTOLSMITHING

Continued from page 12

the die to the required depth. Impressed lettering or designs result in the same plowed field parapet effect, requiring the same careful stoning and buffing to bring the surface level. Many expert workers disagree, stating that if pressure is carefully regulated, it is not necessary to level the parapets, since they will be minimal. A very sharp die impressed slowly does seem to result in a flatter impression.

Pantagraph engraving can be detected with the glass easily: the ends of the lines will have a radius, rather than being square like a stamped figure. This is caused by the rotation of the tiny milling cutter used to cut the lines to the desired depth. Some recent Colt pistols have serial numbers stamped, while others are engraved. The equipment necessary for pantograph tracer engraving is found mostly in large shops or factories because it is extremely costly and beyond the means of most pistolsmiths.

Hand or machine engraving is seldom used in the shops except by a qualified engraver, who may elect to combine lettering with designs or figures. This kind of engraving actually removes chips, resulting in little or no parapet beside the lines. It can almost be compared to wood checker-ing, though the process is much more difficult to accomplish because of the hardness of steels used in firearms.

The etching processes described in older books on gunsmithing are seldom used by pistolsmiths, due to the spotty

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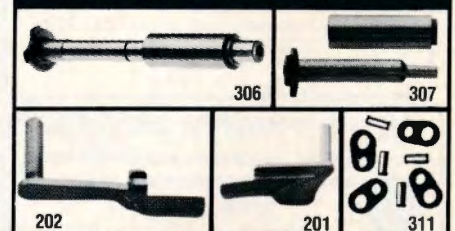
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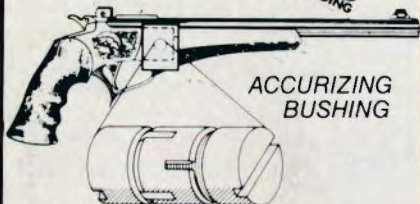
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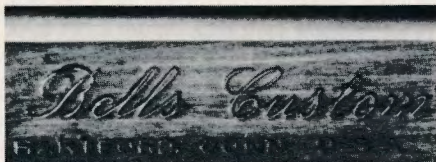
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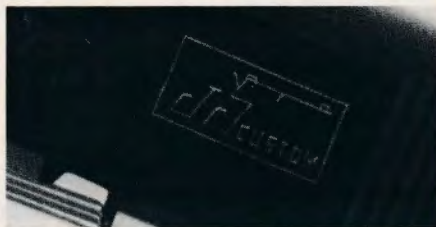
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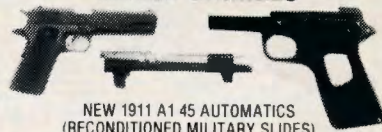
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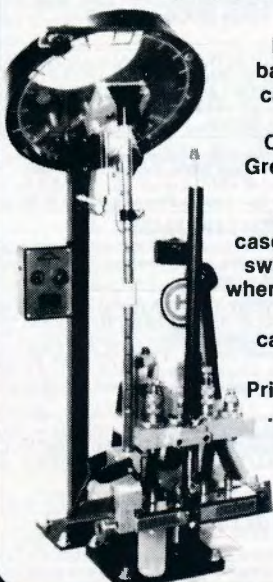
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BOOK REVIEWS

Police Defensive Handgun Use and Encounter Tactics, by Brian A. Felter, 368 pages, illustrated, paperback, \$24.95. The Brady Company, Rt. 9 W, Englewood Cliffs, NJ, 07632.

In the preface, the author describes his book as "a college course" in the police use of the service handgun. If that was the author's purpose in writing this book, he has succeeded. The text goes far beyond the often shallow treatment of the subject and looks deep into areas that are not well covered in most other texts currently available.

After beginning rather lightly with a historical overview of the spectrum of defensive handgunning, Felter moves from theory into an in-depth look at the types of service handguns, and how they work, as well as the matter of safe gun handling. Chapter 2—Safe Gun Handling—should be required reading for every police officer.

There is one thing that sets this book head and shoulders above most other defensive handgun manuals. Nearly every contemporary police writer preaches his own brand of true religion, and has nothing but scorn for the "other guy's school." In this book it all gets equal time.

Revolvers, double action autos, single actions autos—the validity of each type is recognized. And it is well summed up by recognition of the fact that, in the final analysis, the user is more important than the type weapon.

In the same way, the ongoing (and overdone) discussion of the Weaver stance, the Turret stance and point-shooting, is well covered in a realistic manner, and although Felter's personal preference can be determined, the reader is not beaten over the head with it.

Mental set and survival, tactical reloading, left handed reloading, weapon malfunctions and clearing stoppages are included for the defensive handgunner.

If this book is so good, what is not here? It is not a good book for beginning shooters. The author assumes a certain amount of basic knowledge. It is not a book for casual reading. It is a text book, and must be read and studied like one. It is not a book full of pretty pictures. In fact not one photo graces the entire book. Instead there are hundreds of line drawings by the author's talented wife. At first this was a turn-off. But upon closer examination the drawings—carefully done from actual photographs—show needed detail in a way that the photos themselves never could have.

And it is not a book for the IPSC gamesman. It is directed at those men and women—police or civilian—who anticipate the possibility of using a handgun defensively. And considered in that arena, it is an overwhelming success.

Charlie Smith

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INDUSTRY INSIDER

CAMERON HOPKINS

HANDGUNNER'S BONANZA—WILDEY AUTO, RUGER REVOLVER, S&W AUTOS

Massad Ayoob broke the news in *American Handgunner* of a rumored "compact" version of the S&W M-645 floating around the FBI training center. While Smith and Wesson spokesmen hesitate to confirm our scoop outrightly, they hint that the new chopped version of the double-action .45 ACP semi-auto may be introduced at SHOT Show 1989.

But that is not the hot news from Springfield. Two insider sources, my eyeballs, verify that Smith and Wesson is improving and upgrading the entire line of 9mm and .45 pistols, from the 39 to 59 to the 469 to the 645. The changes are for the most part ergonomic to address the frequent lament that the grip angle of the 39/59/645 is awkward and uncomfortable.

I was browsing through my local gun shop, which also happens to be an S&W law enforcement distributor, when a Smith rep strutted in proudly to show off an aluminum case full of the newly designed autos.

The grip is now a one-piece plastic wraparound style with little goose bumps for checking that fills in the area beneath the tang and gives a much more "pointable" feel. The gun felt like a SIG P-226 to me, a noticeable improvement over the old grip angle.

Additionally, the revamped S&W's have improved sights and a larger trigger guard for shooting with gloves. I didn't get the chance to inspect the new Smiths thoroughly because just then my good friend the owner of the gun shop courteously thought to introduce me to the Smith rep.

"Joe, meet the editor of *American Handgunner*," he said politely. The rep's face bleached white, and he snatched the gun from my hands. "Nice to meetcha, but this thing's a secret. No press!" he sputtered.

I don't really like to hammer on politics, but this is the last issue before the November presidential election. I remind you that Mike Dukakis said:

"I don't believe in people owning guns, only the police and the military, and I'm going to do everything I can to disarm this state (Massachusetts)."

And that says it all about this gun-grabber for president.

The **Wildey Auto Pistol** is in production at last! This massive semi-auto chambered for the potent .475 Wildey Magnum weighs 58 ozs. with a six-inch barrel and features a clever gas system to operate the dual cam bolt. The gas system is patented. Other cartridges for which the Wildey is chambered include the .44 Wildey Magnum, .45 Winchester Magnum, .357 Peterbuilt, .44 Auto Mag and .41 Wildey Magnum.



The next Wildey design is called the **Ringmaster** and it is scheduled for production in 1989. Made of stainless or blue (your choice), the Ringmaster is similar to the Auto Pistol. Precise details on the differences are not available at press time. For more information, write Wildey, Dept. AH, 28 Old Route 7, Brookfield, CT, 06804.

The **.41 Action Express** cartridge languishes with no guns chambered for it, other than a few custom 1911s, while the rival 10mm Auto thrives in the Colt Delta Elite. Both FIE and Action Arms say their respective clones of the CZ-75 in .41 AE are coming, but still no guns. The .41 AE is a semi-auto pistol cartridge of .41 caliber with a rebated case head to fit a 9mm size breech face.

The long awaited 5-shot revolver from **Sturm, Ruger and Co.** is here. The little revolver is dubbed the **SP-101**, and I presume the "SP" stands for Special as this gun is chambered in .38 Special. The lockwork is from the GP-100 design. The first

impression one gets of the SP-101 is, *stout*. For a little gun, it's big.

Our sample has a three-inch barrel with a round-butt, slimmed-down grip of the rubber-in-wood style of the GP-100. I tested the SP-101 for concealability with a standard exam—drop it in the front pocket of a pair of Levis and see if it disappears. Nope, the three-inch barrel is too long for this little revolver to qualify as a pocket pistol, unlike my J-frame S&W Chiefs Special that hides in a jeans pocket nicely.

I think the SP-101 can take all the +P loads you would care to shoot. The top strap is beefy and the frame is robust. It's awfully big for a little gun which makes it a strong, rugged design although not the most discreet of pocket pistols.

In the last issue I noted that **Federal Cartridge Company's** new rimmed 9mm, the 9mm Federal, had hit a snag because the round would chamber in old .38 S&W top break revolvers. Federal notes that, yes, the round does fit in the old top breaks and, yes, Federal cautions against shooting the new 9mm Federal in these old guns, but, no, Federal is not re-designing the 9mm Federal.

Charter Arms now has the **Pit Bull** revolver chambered for the new 9mm Federal cartridge and **Sturm, Ruger and Co.** says it will have a GP-100 in 9mm Federal before the year is out.

And speaking of Federal, the new **Hydra-Shok** line of "maximum energy transfer" ammunition is now available. We will be sending our Special Projects Editor to tour the Federal facility and bring you an exclusive report on this and other exciting new loads from Federal Cartridge soon.

Ram-Line has a new magazine for high capacity 9mm pistol that adds an additional two rounds over and above the standard factory mags. Your Beretta 92, Ruger P-85, SIG P-226, S&W 659 and Taurus PT-92 can now take 17 rounds instead of the 15 in the factory mags with the new Ram-Line magazines. Browning Hi-Powers, Kasnar PJKs and Beretta Compacts rise from 13 to 15 rounds with the Ram-Line blue or stainless magazines. They sell for about \$25 each.

If you're looking for a reasonably priced pocket pistol, check out the new **Bersa Compact** .380 and .22. Weighing less than 24 ozs., the Bersa pistols are all-steel with walnut grips. I'm not so sure about the Bersa claim of "pin-point accuracy" in their press release, since an accurate pocket pistol is an oxymoron. Perhaps we can use that hackneyed old cliché of gun writers: "acceptable combat accuracy."

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